Dress Fact
Is Ratified,
Strike Ends
11% Package To
Increase Prices

By M. Jay Racusin

The seven-state strike of 104,000 workers in the dressmaking industry was ended yesterday for the great bulk of the 2,200 shops affected by the six-day walkout.

The end of the stoppage, the first in the industry in twenty-five years, was signaled by ratification of an agreement by the union forces and three of the five employing groups involved in the strike. The agreement was reached by labor and management leadership at 2:50 a.m. yesterday after an all-night negotiating session at the Park Sheraton Hotel.

Win 11% Package

The 3,500 stewards of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union approved the agreement, which gives the employees an average 11.14 per cent package increase, at a two-and-a-half hour noon meeting at Manhattan Center.

The three jobbers and manufacturing groups which ratified the new three-year contract were the Popular Priced Dress Manufacturing Group, Inc., headed by Louis Rubin, general spokesman for industry management; Affiliated Dress Manufacturers, Inc., headed by Abe Katz, and the National Dress Manufacturers Association, Inc., of which Israel A. Agree is executive director.

However, the United Better Dress Manufacturers Association, which lost picketing jurisdiction at 10 p.m. until 10 a.m. today in a court order to ratify the contract, said that it would hold a meeting tomorrow to consider the pact. The agreement, endorsed provisionally over the weekend, the United Popular Dress Manufacturers Association, of which Nat Boriskin is executive director, is also expected to take up ratification of the pact today. Mr. Boriskin said he thought his group would ratify the agreement.

Mr. Rubin said that the agreement will go back to the workers today on receipt of instructions from the business agents of the four unions involved, which are associated with the Dress Joint Board. He said that all the cutters, pattern makers and shipper's helpers in the industry today and that some of the employees of the construction who have not yet ratified the agreement would also be sent back to work "at the discretion of the union leaders."

The main contingent of the 165,000 strikers, however, are expected to return to their jobs tomorrow.

Mr. Dubinsky said that the agreement does not apply to the 6,000 workers of the 200 plants of the Pennsylvania Garment Manufacturers Association, which withdrew from the employees' front on the expiration of the last contract on Jan. 31.

Accepts Challenge

"For these shops," said Mr. Dubinsky, "the strike is not over. This also includes some non-union shops in New York. They have challenged our union and I accept the challenge. They must settle for the same terms."

Mr. Rubin told the dress union leaders at the meeting that he did not consider the three-year pact a "victory," but that it was a settlement that gave the union "things I never dreamed of getting." "We got more than we ever got in the life of our union," he said.

Mr. Dubinsky said after the meeting that because of the terms of the settlement, there would be "justification for a slight price increase of dresses."

"But I hope," he said, "that the manufacturers won't profit."

Cost Pressed

On this point, Mr. Rubin, after ratification by his group at a meeting at the Governor Clinton Hotel by a "slight margin," as he expressed it, said that the settlement would cost the industry much more than the 11.14 average per cent increase announced by the union leadership.

"The expense to the garment manufacturers of this agreement is much larger, very large, and the