

# Both sides see 'progress'

By ELIZABETH SCHILLING  
STAFF WRITER

Negotiators from both the Teamsters and Richard Shaw Frozen Foods agreed yesterday, following a five-hour meeting, that progress had been made.

Meanwhile, only minor disruptions occurred on picket lines, as strikers marched for the third day outside the Shaw plant off Riverside Drive and the Watsonville Canning and Frozen Foods plant on Ford Street.

At a press conference held at the Shaw plant immediately following negotiations yesterday, company officials said they felt encouraged that the union had been "willing to listen to economic issues for the first time."

"We gave them our audit," said Steve Shaw, company vice president. "We told them in order for us to survive we need to take so many dollars out of our budget and we welcomed their guidance in how to make the cuts in labor."

Shaw said his company has reduced operating costs across the board — including selling company trucks and tightening the belt on management — and that "labor is one of the few costs the company can control."

Richard King, secretary-treasurer of Teamsters Local 912, said the meeting was "significant."

"Things moved a little with Shaw, but we've got a long way to go," said King. He said he did not expect another meeting with Shaw this week because both sides would be busy analyzing figures.

Both plants continued to operate at minimal staffing levels today. Shaw said enough people have reported to work to enable him to run lines of lima beans and spinach that have been delivered to the plant.

"We cannot make off-limits part of the city just because of a labor dispute," Fahey told the council.

Superior Court Judge Bill Kelsay's order limits the number of pickets to four around each entrance to the processing plant. The order was issued late Monday night, and police and sheriff deputies herded several hundred strikers away from the entrances shortly after it was issued, Belgard said.

Fahey contended that restricting a citizen's right to walk the street of his choice was unfair, and that the order has "made Ford Street off-limits to all union members, and now Walker Street is included, too."

Fahey said the order and the police department's enforcement was "anti-union." If the city does not respond to the limitations placed on union members, who are also Watsonville residents, then the city is no longer a neutral observer of the labor dispute, he said.

Police are not taking sides in the dispute, Belgard told Fahey.

City Attorney Don Haile advised the council to take no action until further review of the situation. He said that if the council chose to respond to Fahey's request, it would forfeit its neutrality by not at least hearing arguments from Watsonville Canning officials.



Kurt Ellison

## STEVE SHAW At press conference

He said about 20 regular employees have crossed the picket line to report to work and that he has hired 40 new temporary employees.

Shaw said the new hires are people the plant would normally have hired at this time of year anyway in order to handle the peak harvest.

Union officials said they expected Shaw officials to obtain a temporary restraining order today. The order would be similar to the one Watsonville Canning obtained Monday night, limiting the number of pickets to four at each of the company's eight entrances.

Shaw confirmed that "all the paperwork is ready to go" for such an order. He would not say when he would call upon the court and the Santa Cruz County sheriff to reduce the

hundreds of pickets who have surrounded his plant since Monday.

"Right now, I am just observing the picket line," Shaw said. "I don't think it is my workers causing the trouble, but people are being harassed when they go through the gates. There has been some bottle-throwing and vulgar language directed at employees trying to get to work."

Watsonville police reported only minor disruptions at the two struck plants yesterday. Two pickets at Watsonville Canning were cited last night for violating the court order limiting the number of pickets. They are Benjamin Aponte Crespo, 36, of 13 Brooklyn Ave., Pajaro, and Maria A. Yasen, 34, of 1900 Salinas Road, also in Pajaro.

Police stated that Yasen "placed her right foot in front of a car" that was entering the Watsonville Canning plant.

Crespo, police said, picketed in front of an entrance after he had been repeatedly warned not to.

Another man, Manuel Moreno, 28, address unknown, was arrested last night at 10:20 p.m. on a charge of brandishing a weapon after he allegedly threatened pickets with an eight-inch kitchen knife.

Police Chief Ray Belgard, however, said the strike was continuing "quietly" this morning.

"We've had a lot of little calls," he said. "Nothing major yet."

Belgard said officers will continue with 12-hour shifts on six-day-a-week schedules. Officers' vacations and days off have been canceled.

Officials from Watsonville Canning had no comment on the strike and no negotiation sessions between the company and the union are set.

# Strike talks give hope

## City says it won't interfere

The Watsonville City Council last night declined to support strikers at Watsonville Canning company, who complained about a judge's restraining order limiting the number of pickets.

Joe Fahey, who is active in Teamsters for a Democratic Union, asked the council to schedule a hearing at the next meeting so the city could determine the fairness of the restraining order. The council took no action on his request.

City Manager John Radin and Police Chief Ray Belgard told Fahey they believed union lawyers were better equipped to challenge the judge's order and that as long as it stands, city police must enforce it.

But Fahey, who was accompanied by union organizer Karen Osmundson and several plant workers, argued the city had a responsibility to get involved.

## REFERENCE

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WATSONVILLE  
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