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Civil Service

City Employees Set Union Meet

By Don Righetti
Sentinel Staff Writer

Santa Cruz City employees served notice last night that their flirtation with union affiliation is no idle threat.

They will meet with organizers of two unions on July 5 to discuss relative advantages of joining one of the two organizations.

The decision came at an impromptu meeting called last night after employees were rebuffed in a last ditch bid to get the city council to reconsider a wage hike slash.

Councilmen listened to the employees' appeals, but then went ahead with the adoption of a pay plan that calls for an across-the-board increase of 3.75 per cent during the coming year.

The employees association had asked for 5 per cent.

More than 100 employees filled city council chambers to overflowing as Sam Gaub, association president, and Kenneth Doler, salary committee chairman, made their pleas for council consideration. When those appeals failed, the workers trooped across the street for a meeting of

their own in the civic auditorium.

Frank Boze, member of a four-man committee which had met earlier in the day with representatives of three unions, led the discussion. He described the relative merits of three unions — the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO; the International Teamsters and a plumbers and steamfitters union.

The latter was dropped from consideration, since it cannot admit all city employees.

Boze favored the Teamsters

over the AFL-CIO organization because of the sheer weight and power of the Teamsters union. "If we go to the Teamsters we'll have the same backing as a truck driver in San Jose or anywhere else. We'll have the backing of one of the largest unions in the world.

"It seems obvious we've gone as far as we can go through the (employees) association. But I'm sure the mention of the word 'union' would have had an active effect on the council a few minutes ago.

"The mere mention of the Teamsters Union scares man-

agement to death," Boze continued. Then he hinted at the brute force the Teamsters could bring to bear against the city in the employees' behalf:

"Everything coming into Santa Cruz comes in on wheels."

He emphasized, however, that city employees have no inclination to strike. Gaub joined in that opinion and urged workers not to be hasty in their decision to join a union.

However, an employee from the audience commented, "The best part of unionization is the ability to negotiate with the hardheads."

Bill Schuette, former president of the employees' association, snorted: "The only thing wrong with our working relationship with the council is it just doesn't work."

Another comment from the audience regarded the outnumbering of city employees by the voting public. "You've got 300 against 25,000 — that's what it amounts to."

Mayor Samuel Leask III today confined his comments on the coming meeting of the association with the unions to the single statement: "They have the right to meet with anyone they want to."

Kosygin, Fidel Disagreement

Havana (AP)—Soviet Premier Alexei N. Kosygin and Prime Minister Fidel Castro have disagreed in their talks, the official Soviet news agency Tass indicated today.

Tass reported from Havana that the two leaders had "a frank exchange" of opinions yesterday on a number of questions of mutual interest.

Kosygin interrupted his journey to New York for the U.N. General Assembly session on the Middle East to confer with De Gaulle. The French sources said the meeting Saturday, like the one on June 16, was requested by Kosygin.