

Third firm seeks own bargaining

By ELIZABETH SCHILLING
STAFF WRITER

There are indications that a third company intends to break away from the Frozen Food Employers Assn. and will attempt to negotiate a contract on its own with union officials.

Richard Shaw, secretary-treasurer of Teamsters Local 912, said that representatives from Del Mar Food Products Corp. called him this morning and declared interest in having separate negotiations.

Contacted at his Redwood City plant, Del Mar president Charles Buchwald would neither confirm nor deny the break but said he would have a statement tomorrow morning.

Unlike the workers at Richard A. Shaw Inc and Watsonville Canning who are now in their second week of a strike protesting wage and benefit reductions, the 600-plus workers at Del Mar continue to work under an extension of the old contract, which expired June 30.

Del Mar had been attempting to negotiate a new contract with the association which now includes only J.J. Crosetti Frozen Foods, J. M. Smucker, and New West.

When a contract was negotiated between the Teamsters and frozen-food processors in 1982 the association included Del Mar and Richard A. Shaw Inc. That year Watsonville Canning broke from the alliance and negotiated a contract that included lower wages.

In other developments Shaw returned to court this morning seeking a stricter limit on pickets.

Shaw was granted an order limiting to 52 the total number of Teamsters union pickets at the company's Harvest Drive plant.

The attorney for Shaw's sought a tougher order than one obtained Friday that set no limit on the number of pickets. Today's order sets a limit but not as stringent as what the company sought.

According to today's temporary restraining order signed by Santa Cruz County Superior Court Judge William Kelsay, no more than four pickets may

cross the Harvest Drive entrance to the plant and they must stay 10 feet apart. Two pickets are allowed between the entrance and the corner of Riverside Drive. Any other pickets must stay 15 feet from the plant entrance.

Company attorney Peter Lucey sought an order limiting pickets to 14 in all. But that was changed in discussions with the judge and attorney Kenneth N. Silbert, representing local 912.

As it stands, no more than 52 pickets may be around the plant at any one time.

The new order was based on declarations filed in court today which included a statement from a hydraulics mechanic who said he was hit on the arm and leg by pellets Friday night. Douglas Swarthout said he believes the pellet were fired from the picket line.

Another employee, Paul Shaw, stated sharpened chopper blades were thrown in his direction as he worked Friday. Further, he said he saw a picket with a pellet rifle Friday night. Police were called but no rifle was found, according to Shaw's declaration.

Lawyers for the union and the company are ordered to appear in court Friday for further hearings on an injunction regarding picketing.

Lawyers for Watsonville Canning and Frozen Food have been ordered to appear the same day to argue their position for an order on picketing at the Watsonville Canning plant on Ford Street.

Teamsters officials said no negotiation sessions were firmly set but that separate meetings with Shaw and the association are expected to take place.

REFEREN

APTOS BRANCH LIB
7695 Soquel Dri
Aptos, California