

# THE TELEPHONE STRIKE

**We did our best to avoid this strike.**

**The Telephone Company is endeavoring to carry out its responsibilities to employees and customers alike.**

**It takes both to keep a business going.**

**During the strike, most local calls will be handled as usual.**

**We will do our best to handle as many Long Distant calls as possible.**

**We will continue to do everything we can to settle the strike.**

## ***Here Are Two Important Issues of the Strike:***

### **1. WAGES**

The Unions demand a general increase of \$12 per week for every employee, plus other wage adjustments.

#### **Here is what the Unions' demands mean.**

Increases to employees ranging from \$12 to \$31 per week.

\$10,341,000 annual increase in the cost of providing telephone service in Washington.

This amounts to an average of \$5.08 per month for each subscriber we serve—or \$2.23 per month per telephone.

It is 3 times the total earnings of the Company in 1946.

#### **Here is the Company's position.**

Employees should be—and are—well paid. Wage adjustments in the last 6 years represent a 55% increase in basic wages.

Telephone wages should compare favorably with wages paid by other businesses in this community for work requiring similar skill and training. To make sure they do, we are continually comparing telephone wages with other wages in the community.

Based on these comparisons, we can find no justification for increases in telephone wage rates.

## ***Here Is What The Company Has Offered***

We have offered to renew with the Unions our liberal contracts, which would continue in effect ALL EXISTING WAGE and WORKING CONDITIONS, including SENIORITY and PROGRESSION INCREASES, for 3 or 6 months or longer. At the end of the renewal period new contracts would be negotiated in the light of the then existing conditions.

**THIS OFFER STILL STANDS.**

### **2. NATIONAL BARGAINING**

The Unions demand that bargaining be done on a national basis for the entire Bell System.

#### **Here is what this would mean.**

A few selected representatives of the Telephone Companies and the Unions would bargain the wage rates to be paid employees located in thousands of towns and cities throughout the United States.

The Unions want the concentration of power that would come from a national Union. National telephone bargaining would give the Unions nation-wide power over such an essential public service as the telephone—but without regulation.

#### **Here is the Company's position.**

The Telephone Company believes that telephone wages, like telephone rates, should be settled locally.

The major portion of the service we furnish is local in nature. The rates you pay for this service are regulated by the Public Utilities Commission.

In the past, this Company has always bargained and made contracts locally with representatives of the local Unions. The Company and the representatives of these Unions are familiar with Washington conditions and they are in the best position to negotiate contracts to meet conditions in this community.

**The acceptance of either proposal would have averted this strike and even now would stop it immediately.**

**The Chesapeake & Potomac Telephone Company**

