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<td>The Gas Service Company</td>
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<td>W. R. Grace &amp; Company  Construction Products Division</td>
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<td>Kansas City</td>
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<td>Portland Cement Association</td>
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<td>The Ruberoid Company</td>
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<td>Rust Sash &amp; Door Co.</td>
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<td>The Sherwin-Williams Company</td>
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<td>The Stanley Works</td>
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<td>Westinghouse Electric Corporation</td>
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<td>Weyerhaeuser Company</td>
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<td>Wilson Concrete Company</td>
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**Notes:**
- **Kansas City Power & Light Company**
  - Will Owens, Ext. 444
  - Jerry Custead, Ext. 448
  - 1330 Baltimore
  - 913-0000

**Kentile Floors, Inc. Hightstown Carpet**
- R. B. Koob
  - Cal Caldwell
  - Suite 1000
  - Kansas City, Mo. 64105
  - 221-0820

**Kawneer Company**
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  - 1500 East 12th Avenue
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  - 221-3911
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KANSAS CITY ART INSTITUTE DORMITORY

ARCHITECTURAL PHOTOGRAPHY

WILLOW 2-5146 / 1507 MEWS DRIVE
KANSAS CITY / MISSOURI 64131
HILTON HOTEL, Omaha, Nebraska
ARCHITECT: Leo A. Daly, Omaha, Nebr.
GENERAL CONTRACTOR: Peter Kiewit Sons' Company, Omaha, Nebraska

The typical floors of the structure are precast interior partition walls and corridor walls. The bath walls are also precast, being cast as four-sided box units.

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HOUSING PROJECT NO. ILL.-38-2, Christian County, Pana, Illinois
DEVELOPER: Pieper Construction Company, Jacksonville, Illinois

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SPECIAL STRIKE ISSUE

commemorating the
SECOND ANNUAL KANSAS
CITY CONSTRUCTION
STRIKE!
Mr. William W. Hutton  
Managing Director and General Counsel  
Builders' Association of Kansas City  
632 West 39th Street  
Kansas City, Missouri 64111

Dear Mr. Hutton:

I have been apprised of the current wage demands for commercial, industrial, and residential construction work in the Kansas City, Missouri, area. I think that many of the demands being made by the various trades are extremely detrimental, not only to the health of the construction industry, but particularly to the ability of the industry to produce housing at prices people can afford to pay.

The public interest must always be the third party in any collective bargaining situation. It is my deep felt hope that in the negotiation process in Kansas City contractors and unions alike concern themselves in a real way with the long-term needs and interests of the construction industry, especially where it effects housing production for low and moderate income families. Short-term benefits to the few which may lead to permanent damage to the industry as a whole are really of benefit to no one at all.

Sincerely,  

George Romney
Kansas City, in the Spring of 1970, is the scene of yet another major construction strike.

We, the architects of this community, believe that the general public is unaware of the excessive wage and benefit demands being made by the four striking unions. The long term effects of acquiescence to these demands could be disastrous to the projected growth of Metropolitan Kansas City.

We have spoken out.

We oppose labor's excessive demands!

We ask that you join us in fighting labor's inflationary demands.

William M. Linscott, President
Kansas City Chapter, American Institute of Architects
April 17, 1970

REPORT NUMBER ONE: KANSAS CITY CONSTRUCTION STRIKE

The Kansas City Chapter of the American Institute of Architects is very much concerned about the current construction strike in Kansas City. Early last week the Chapter Executive Committee appointed a Task Force to study this matter. It is the initial conclusion of the Task Force and the Executive Committee that the general public is unaware of the excessive demands being made by the four striking unions and the long term effects that would result from acquiescence to these demands by area builders. The accompanying graph illustrates the disproportionate increase in wages that would be paid to the Construction Laborer if the current wage demands of his union are approved. It is our understanding the current requests of this Union would result in an immediate wage increase including fringe benefits from $4.01/per hour to $8.01/per hour with additional increases to a total of $10.01 per hour by 1972. This would be a 150% wage increase over a three year period. Other requests include a hiring hall and major changes in the requirements for field supervision by the Laborer Foremen. These changes would virtually eliminate Contractor control of work by this trade on a given job.

Similar graphs could be presented for the bricklayers, lathers, and cement finishers.

The four month strike in 1969 by Ironworkers, Sheetmetal workers and Painters substantially raised the wages of each of these trades. Since that time, other unions have had contracts reopened and have negotiated wage increases. These settlements are the result of unusual pressures to maintain work schedules at KCI, the Sports Complex, Hospital Hill and Crown Center. Work on these projects has been complicated by a shortage of trained workmen in almost every building trade. Such circumstances and immediate area needs favored striking unions in 1969 and collective bargaining was one sided in favor of union requests for unusually high wage increases.
The Kansas City Community responded to the 1969 strike with frequent requests for a compromise settlement and an early return to work. This type of comment was restated on the Editorial page of the Kansas City Star as the 1970 strike entered its third week with no sign of settlement by either party. It is our considered opinion that this type of passive involvement cannot be tolerated in 1970.

We would concede that the four striking union will have to be given wage increases. It is our opinion, however, that present wage demands are in far excess of last years settlement and must be resisted by all persons and by all groups concerned with the basic economy of Kansas City. Current demands would place the four unions among the highest paid construction groups in the entire United States. If these demands are met and the other building trades are given corresponding increases consistent with traditional relationships it could result in total chaos in the construction industry. The combination of high interest, tight money, and excessive costs could stop new construction completely in Kansas City.

New work of recent months has fallen to all time lows in many Architectural Offices. Many projects have been abandoned completely and others have been withdrawn after determination of current Construction Costs. The impression of a sound Construction Industry in Kansas City is not substantiated by work in planning stages by area Architects.

We would like to make the following recommendations as they pertain to the current construction strike.

1. That wage increases not exceed the pattern of 1969 settlements to Ironworkers, Sheetmetal Workers and Painters.

2. That every effort be made to reestablish traditional wage relationships based on experience and work skills.
3. That the striking unions consider the staggering effect of their requests on the future of construction activity in Kansas City.

4. That the Kansas City Star, School Boards, Public Officials and the General Public evaluate this particular strike and comment on its direct and indirect affects on them.

5. That the Community refuse to make bland pronouncements so common to strike issues and demand a reasonably non-inflationary settlement of this strike at the earliest possible time.

The Architect works with labor, with the Contractor and with the Business Community. We must exhibit a concerned objectivity to all items which affect the construction industry. We have discussed the current strike with labor and construction Leaders prior to formulating this statement. It is our opinion that the current dispute must be settled at substantially lower wage increases than those requested by the striking unions. This is the only hope for a renewal of the Construction Vitality that was so abruptly halted by a similar strike just one year ago.

Distribution: KANSAS CITY STAR, TOWN SQUIRE, KANSAS CITY KANSAS, WEDNESDAY MAGAZINE, PLAZA MAGAZINE, RAYTOWN NEWS, SCOUT/SUN, JOHNSON COUNTY NEWS, KBEA Radio, KXTR Radio, KMBZ Radio, KFEQ Radio, WHB Radio, KCKN Radio, KXTR Radio, WDAF Radio, WDAF TV, KCMO TV, KMBC TV, Kansas City Chamber of Commerce, Missouri Society of Professional Engineers, American Institute of Real Estate Appraisers, Kansas City, Kansas Real Estate Board, Producers' Council, Kansas City, Missouri Real Estate Board, Mid-West Concrete Industry Board, Inc.
# Kansas City Comparative Wage Rates

## Oilermakers

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Percent Increase</th>
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<tr>
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## Carpenters

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<td>101.9</td>
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## Electrician

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## Iron Workers (Reinf)

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<th>Percent Increase</th>
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<tr>
<td>1960-70</td>
<td>97.2</td>
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## Laborers

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Year</th>
<th>Percent Increase</th>
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<td>1960</td>
<td>56.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>1970</td>
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## National Average

- National Construction Laborers Wage Rates from "ENR", April 2, 1970, Page 39
May 4, 1970

REPORT NUMBER TWO: KANSAS CITY CONSTRUCTION STRIKE

On 14 April 1970, the Kansas City Chapter of the American Institute of Architects sent a CONSTRUCTION SURVEY Questionnaire to member firms. The purpose of the questionnaire was to determine the general effect of labor settlements in 1969 on New Projects. One week later 80% of the firms had returned and completed forms to the Chapter Task Force appointed to study the current construction strike in Kansas City.

The Kansas City Chapter of the AIA has some 300 members and represents virtually all architectural firms in the metropolitan area. Chapter members report that work on 110 projects representing 288 million dollars of construction has been held in abeyance since the Ironworkers/Painters wage settlement in the summer of 1969. Since that settlement, 128 new projects with an estimated volume of 178 million dollars have been started by those firms answering the Questionnaire. The same group estimates that 179 additional projects would have been started in a period of normal construction activity. These figures relate to an average volume of work in the Kansas City Area of $650 million per year over the past six (6) years. This type of figure has been required to sustain work levels of sufficient capacity to support area trades. This unusual decrease in work on new projects is directly related to restrictions on interest rates, the lack of available financing, and an unstable period of rising construction costs. It is estimated that the cost of construction in the Kansas City Area has increased 20% since July of 1969. This one year increase is two times the 9% increase estimated for the previous year and up to four times the increase per year for the period 1965 to 1967.

Chapter members were also asked to comment on the construction situation as it applied to their individual firms and to the industry in general. Most firms expressed a deep concern about future construction activity in Kansas City. Virtually every firm has experienced substantial reductions in new work. This condition is not realized immediately by the contractor or by the building trades. The large construction projects presently being built in Kansas City were planned long before the 1969 strike. It is reasonable to expect an unusual slowdown in available work as soon as these projects are completed.
Most AIA firms felt it mandatory to protest the excessive wage increases sought by the four striking unions. It was a general opinion that current fluctuations in interest rates represented a minor problem to new projects compared to the prospect of an immediate increase to a given union and the predicted demands for similar increases by other trades. One architect commented that the "poor policies of our local unions are killing the growth of Kansas City . . . labors short-sighted demands with their hold over three or four major projects will price future construction and Kansas City out of the long range development." Another architect commented that "if not for government spending, private building would be insufficient to maintain any sizeable labor force in Kansas City." Still another architect predicted an eventual boycott of all new construction as a public protest to inflation and to spiralling costs of building projects.

The Executive Committee of the AIA presents these findings and comments as a further public service to those persons affected by the current construction strike. We wish to restate our conclusion that the wage demands of this particular strike are short sighted in respect to the overall picture of current and future construction activity in the Kansas City area. One architect made the comment that "our office would be seriously crippled if it wasn't for out of town contracts." The problems represented by this statement are not limited to our profession or to the construction trades but to every single person in the Kansas City area.

The profession of architecture has always served as a barometer to future construction and to the resultant effect on the economy of a given area. It is a conclusion of our survey that many factors have combined to project a difficult period ahead for all persons in the construction industry. We propose that this is an improper time to accelerate this problem by further increasing the cost of construction. It remains our considered opinion that the wage settlements of 1969 should be a maximum criteria for settlement of the current strike. We call on City officials, professional groups, businessmen, responsible labor leaders, and the general public to evaluate the consequences of capitulation to the current demands of the four Unions and to take a position of record in regard to this strike.

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KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Everything still is up to date in Kansas City — but they’ve hardly gone as far as they can go.

In April a handful of unions proved they weren’t fooling. Like a furious blizzard they roared out of nowhere with a demand for a package increase of $5 an hour — or $210 — hike per man per 40-hour week. That’s for 4,000 men over a three-year contract. They didn’t raise their voices over the howl of the storm. Leaders of five unions — three of them from the Laborers International, one from the leathers and another from the Cement Finishers — simply told their people they were on strike.

They did have a compassionate moment. At the last minute they shaved down the “request” by cutting it to a $5.50-an-hour hike or $220 a week per man increase.

This would bring their scale up to more than $10 an hour, and in some cases $13 and more.

And so at lunch the other day, one of the city’s civic leaders, truly as earnest as he is dynamic, was justifiably doleful when he predicted that in a “mighty few years,” the construction rate in this river city will run toward $20 an hour per man. This would mean $800 a week per construction worker in the skilled or tightly held trades. That $800 pay would be before overtime. At that rate who needs a master’s degree or a doctorate? Hand me my hammer.

In New York City some sheet metal workers are getting $10.45. This is cash. Fringes are on top.

“You see, no city in the world has as high a per-capita construction program under way as we have,” said the community leader. “We’ve $3 billion in backlog building. We’re working on our new International Airport, the fantastic Harry S. Truman Sports Complex which will have two stadiums alongside each other, the 40,000-seat baseball structure and the football field which will be able to seat 75,000 people. The diamond should be open by ’72 and the gridiron by ’71. But who knows what will happen at this rate?”

There are plans for a vast 10-block redevelopment, a $43 million medical center, hotels and a posh Plaza "central," as he put it.

There simply is too much work. The men can go where they want in or out of town. There’s just no unemployment in this area or anywhere else, for that matter, except among some operating engineers in California and some road-building unionists in the Montana-Idaho sector.

So this city gets whipsawed. Virtually no one but the specialists watches the phenomenon. Each year hundreds of millions of dollars are tied up. Last April was no fooling matter either. The iron workers struck — and stayed out for 122 days. In the end, some of them wound up with a $156-a-week increase over a three-year contract. And the “rodders” got $162 dollars more in their package. Beginning April 1, 1971, the structural steel workers will receive $9.05 an hour. This will be the year of the leap frog. In ’69, the iron workers hit hard and got their bundle. This became the precedent, the base, the “look at what they got” argument. This year, the laborers and the others will reach for a big piece of the action in their new three-year contract. Soon enough the iron workers will be around again.
Memo
by Stan Rose

used to be that the golf course was one place a fellow could go to get away from the pressures of the rat race. It was an unwritten law that anybody who brought his business problems to the club and aired them to other members of the foursome was some kind of a nut who hadn’t learned how to relax. It was also an unwritten law that anybody who couldn’t zone out the rest of the world and concentrate on getting that little white ball into the cup wasn’t even fit company for a Sunday duffer.

Now it looks like the unwritten laws have been repealed. It’s getting so that unless you’re lucky enough to get in a foursome with three doctors or three retired executives who don’t have to live on their shrinking dividends from stocks and bonds, somebody is bound to bring up his business problems, or at least some of the world’s problems, before you’ve reached the third tee.

Joe Zilch misses an easy straight-in three-foot putt and mutters, “I can’t understand it. I’ve been playing every day lately and I just don’t seem to get any better. Course the reason I’m playing every day is I’m a manufacturer’s rep and nobody’s buying anything right now.” You begin to commiserate with Joe and pretty soon you’re missing easy three-foot putts too.

Fred Smith is a stockbroker. He’s missing two-foot straight-in putts with regularity. But he doesn’t mind telling you that the market is finding its level and will be on the upswing soon. He tells that to you just as you’re about to tee off, and you watch your ball as it sails into the air, takes a sharp right turn and lands somewhere out of bounds. But you don’t say anything because you’re so happy to know the market will soon be on the upswing.

The next time you go out you’re in a foursome with Bob White. Bob White is a builder. Need I say more? He really doesn’t need the exercise because he’s usually up all night pacing the floor since the construction strike started. He used to have a nice easy swing and his drives were usually good for 200 yards. Now every drive looks like it’s bound to bring rain. Bob just isn’t with it. “Can you imagine common laborers demanding over 20 grand a year? We offered $3 an hour increase and they laughed at us.”

Ed Banks is a builder too. Never get two builders in the same foursome these days. “The whole area is paralyzed again this year. Only this time, it looks like the strike will last for six months or more. We couldn’t settle even if we could afford it. All the other crafts are waiting in line to nail us.”

You show your sympathy by swinging too hard at the ball. The clubhead hits the ground behind it and the ball bounces into the creek.

“Do you have any idea what kind of reputation Kansas City is getting?” Bob asks of nobody in particular as we walk up to the next tee? “It’ll be a ghost town if this keeps up. No contractor will touch it with a ten-foot pole.” He hits the ball straight down the fairway.

“First good shot I’ve hit today. Too bad this is the last hole.”

The conversation is picked up in the locker room. A fellow you haven’t met says business is lousier than he’s seen it in 20 years. He has a service business that caters to well-to-do clientele and he complains that his former customers are hanging on to their money.

“It’s Nixon’s fault,” says another fellow who’s name escapes you. “He had no business tightening up on credit without putting on wage and price controls.”

Sam Doaks is an insurance man and a good Republican. “Wage and price controls wouldn’t do any good,” he scoffs. “Too many people would be paying off under the table and we’d have another black market situation like we had during World War II. Besides, why blame Nixon? Johnson caused the inflation.”

“The real trouble with the stock market is Vietnam and Cambodia,” says Fred, the stockbroker. “People are scared, but it’s only a temporary thing.”

“Sure they’re scared,” says another newcomer to the group, as he sits down to take off his golf shoes. “But it isn’t temporary. They’re scared of black power and the crazy kids causing all that unrest on the campuses. They could care less about Vietnam and Cambodia.”

Bob White shakes his head. “Listen, you guys, I’m telling you these strikes are our biggest problem. Organized labor is killing business and killing itself. We’ll never control inflation until Congress passes a real anti-strike law with teeth in it and sets up a compulsory arbitration board.”

“Not a bad idea,” somebody says. “But would labor and management stand still for it? And who could you get on that arbitration board people could trust? The trouble with this country is nobody trusts anybody anymore.”

Bob White shakes his head. “George Meany may tell the President to mind his own business, but if Congress passes a no-strike law, Meany and everybody else had better observe it. We’re coming to compulsory arbitration sooner or later and it might as well be sooner. I’d rather trust a college president and a computer to tell me how much I can afford to pay labor than some union business agent!”

Sam Doaks gets up. “Fellows, I don’t know what you’re all griping about. I’ve sold more life insurance the first quarter of this year than I did in the first six months of last year.”

“Sure,” somebody cracks. “All your clients are planning to commit suicide.”

You leave, remembering how much fun golf used to be, and as you drive out of the parking lot you know that in spite of it all, you’ll be back out on the course again the very first chance you get.
Rites of Spring: Strikes and Growing Labor Costs

Greater Kansas City is getting quite a history in the area of the construction industry's labor-management relations. Unfortunately, it is not the sort of history that promotes pride or inspires confidence in the future of the community. In three of the last four building seasons—counting this as the fourth—there have been major strikes that have stopped or dramatically slowed the industry.

Moreover, the construction unions involved appear to be engaged in a game of economic one-upmanship, each in its turn trying to far outdo past settlements. The over-all result has been a national black eye for the area. Kansas City is getting a reputation for being a strike-happy city, and consequently a very expensive city in which to build.

A brief review of the recent strikes and settlements illustrates the point. In 1967 it was the Plumbers and Pipe Fitters who began the trend. After a 2½-month strike, they settled for what was then an eye-popping sum—$1.65 spread over a 2-year contract. It was predicted then—and accurately so—that this would have a domino effect. It has.

In 1969, after a 4-month strike, the Iron Workers settled for $4.05 which left persons in and out of the industry stunned by its enormity. At the time this was widely considered to be an absolute lid, an industry-wide ceiling. But a few weeks later this lid had been knocked off by a $5.35 settlement the Heavy Constructors association made with several unions, including their Laborers.

Now the city is almost six weeks into another strike, which is still far from settled. The demand this time is for $6. The striking Laborers working for the Builders association want to do a bit better than their brothers in the Heavy association did.

In this way, a little snowball has grown into what may already be an avalanche. One danger is that all this could crush the construction industry here. And that would hurt the union members every bit as much as the contractors.

The community is already in trouble. Each settlement has spiraled costs upward, causing the taxpayer to have to dig deeper into his pocket to pay for public improvements. Every public project that is either under construction or in the planning stage will cost more than originally believed.

There are other area-wide repercussions during such strikes. Almost 30,000 workers are employed by the construction industry here. Last year all were off their jobs. But only about half are out of work this year—so far. Nevertheless, this kind of economic paralysis is becoming so frequent that the community has not had time to recover from one before it is hit by another. Obviously this is not the sort of thing that is conducive to economic growth. In truth, it can result in only one thing—economic setback. For everybody. For the contractors. For the unions. And last but not least, for the public.

What is the answer to this recurring dilemma? We have no magic answer. Certainly the immediate goal must be to end the present strike, and end it on reasonable terms. But there is a need also to think in long-range terms. It is clear now that something needs to be done to make the word "strike" a little less synonymous with the word "spring" in Kansas City.

Perhaps it is time for the parties involved to consider the possibility of having all construction contracts expire in the same year. While virtually eliminating strikes except in that particular year, this also might be a way to govern out-of-control wage escalation. This action, or something like it, seems to be needed to stabilize the construction industry here. Otherwise, it is only a matter of time until progress—public as well as private, affecting both business owner, union worker and the public—will be priced out of reach.

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'Who's Going to Have the Honors?'

Reprinted from the KANSAS CITY STAR Monday May 11, 1970
The 1970 construction strike may lead to community poverty

The already four-week long construction strike by Construction Laborers has implications more far reaching than the obvious slow down in building projects and inflationary trends. Although the Laborers may be justified in demanding higher wages to maintain a certain standard of living, the potential effects of these requests may prove devastating.

According to the Kansas City Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, the current requests of the Union would result in an immediate wage increase including fringe benefits from $4.01 per hour to $8.01 per hour with additional increases to a total of $10.01 per hour by 1972. This would be a 150 per cent increase over a three-year period. Other requests include a hiring hall and major changes in the requirements for field supervision by the Laborer Foreman.

In 1969, Kansas City was seriously set back in construction plans by the four-month long strike by the skilled Ironworkers, Sheetmetal workers and Painters' unions. Budgets for construction ran in the red and workers, observing the pickets, either starved or sought work in another field or outside the city.

Economists in Johnson County fear that the construction strike will damage the financial situation even more seriously than in 1969. The combination of tight money, high interest and excessive costs could stop new construction completely.

Reports have been circulating that once the major construction projects already under way in Kansas City and the metropolitan area have been completed, the contractors may refuse any more jobs under the present circumstances. One Johnson County contractor has stated that his present job will be the last here or in the immediate vicinity. There are other places to build. Companies seeking new plant, warehouse or office sites are not compelled to locate in Kansas City. Again, there are other places where the financial and constructional situations are more enticing.

We urge both parties work toward a compromise settlement and strive for an early return to work. The need for higher wages may be an immediate pressure to the Laborers, but the long-range economic stability of the entire community should be the primary consideration on both sides.
WAGE GOAL HIT
BY ARCHITECTS

Increases Sought for Laborers Too High, Group Says

AS THREAT TO BUILDING

Statement Released by Institute Calls for Reason

By Kathy Stephenson

Kansas City architects urge that wage increases being sought by striking construction laborers' unions "must be resisted" and advocate that "substantially lower" increases be awarded.

Other Cities Compared

In a statement released last week, the executive committee of the Kansas City chapter of the American Institute of Architects labeled the increases being sought in negotiations with the builders association "disproportionate" to laborers' wages across the country.

The architects' group, which represents about 90 per cent of the city's architectural firms, cited wages of laborers in major cities throughout the country as of July, 1969, and compared those with $10 an hour the laborers here are asking by 1972. The figures cited, however, did not indicate what wage hikes are being sought this year by laborers in other cities.

The A. I. A. executive committee appointed a task force early last week to study the present labor negotiations.

"It is the initial conclusion of the task force and the executive committee that the general public is unaware of the excessive demands being made by the striking unions and the long-term effects that would result from acquiescence to these demands by area builders," the statement said.

The architects referred to the following unions which struck the Builders Association April 1:

Laborers union locals No. 264 and 1290; Mason and Plaster Tenders local No. 535; Cement Finishers local No. 518; and Lathers Local No. 27.

The Architects recommended that:

- Wage increases not exceed the pattern of 1969 settlements to ironworkers, sheetmetal workers and painters.
- Every effort be made to re-establish traditional wage relationships based on experience and work skills. (Laborers traditionally have made about $1 less an hour than the more specialized crafts. However, the laborers this year apparently are looking to 1972, when the other crafts will negotiate new contracts that likely will leave laborers more than $1 an hour behind the others.)
- Striking unions consider the staggering effect of their requests on the future of construction activity in Kansas City.
- The Kansas City Star, school boards, public officials and the general public evaluate this particular strike and comment on its direct and indirect effects on them.
- The community refuse to make bland pronouncements so common to strike issues and demand a reasonably noninflationary settlement of this strike at the earliest possible time.

William M. Linscott, president of the A. I. A. chapter, said a paucity of projects on the drawing boards of local architects already indicates construction activity in the area has been—and increasingly will be—slashed.

Hikes as 30 Per Cent

The estimated construction costs went up 30 per cent one year after last year's 4-month strike, compared with annual cost hikes of 2 or 3 per cent in the past.

The architects pointed to community pressures to keep work going on major local projects as the reason for "unusually high wage increases" given ironworkers, sheetmetal workers and painters at the close of last year's strike.

"These settlements are the result of unusual pressures to maintain work schedules at Kansas City International airport, the (Harry S. Truman) sports complex, Hospital hill and Crown Center," the statement said. "Such circumstances and immediate area needs favored striking unions in 1969 and collective bargaining one-sided in favor of union requests for unusually high wage increases."

The statement noted the community responded to the 1969 strike with requests for a compromise settlement and an early return to work.

"It is our considered opinion that this type of passive involvement cannot be tolerated in 1970," it said. "It is our further opinion . . . that present wage demands are in far excess of last year's settlement and must be resisted by all persons and by all groups concerned with the basic economy of Kansas City."

The group currently is conducting a poll of architects to determine how many area projects have been abandoned or withdrawn because of construction costs. The results are expected to be available next week.

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Crisis for Kansas City
(An Editorial)

This is a time for straight talk.

Another prolonged construction strike this year would bring Greater Kansas City’s economy to the point of disaster.

But so would a settlement, however soon, if the unreasonable demands of the Laborers union were accepted. On top of that cost, there inevitably would be a demand by skilled craftsmen for proportionately higher wage scales.

Together, both increases would raise construction costs here to intolerable levels.

So there the matter rests, with occasional brief sessions with federal mediators. One by one, in the last five weeks, construction projects have shut down: New airport, stadium complex, schools so badly needed this fall, housing projects and so on.

But have the people—the city—no rights?

No right to expect of the Laborers union leadership and the members that they scale down their demands to the point of reason?

No right to expect of the construction industry a constant examination of its own position with a view to the future good of the whole community?

No right to suggest to other crafts—many of their workers idle through no fault of their own—that they stand up and be counted?

Or to expect of city, county and even state officials some head-knocking action about the destructive effects of the strike?

Greater Kansas City faces a real crisis. It is a short step to disaster for public, industry and labor alike. It is a time for action by an aroused city.