

Board OKs Coal Cost Increase; Fuel Crisis Eyed

Meeting in regular session Tuesday, the Marquette Board of Light and Power authorized the payment of an additional \$6,131 to Peabody Coal Co., St. Louis, Mo., for coal supplied last year, in the face of what has been labeled a U. S. fuel crisis.

The board also:
● Awarded a bid on the sale of a ton and a half of bare scrap copper.

● Heard reports on stolen mercury vapor globes, status of the revenue bonding program and a scheduled reappraisal of the utility.

● Authorized attendance by Utility Director Wilbert W. Wiitala and a maximum of two board members at a tri-state (Michigan, Indiana and Ohio) meeting of public utilities April 22-24 in Toledo, Ohio.

● Approved for payment bills totaling \$32,119.89, including \$10,217.62 in invoices and the payroll of \$21,902.27.

Union Wages Factor
Power board members acted on Wiitala's recommendation in approving the payment of \$6,131.86 to Peabody as additional cost on the 15,329.65 tons of coal supplied to the municipal utility in 1969 by that company.

The difference reflects an escalation in the price per ton from \$4.60 to \$5 and was requested by Peabody to off-

terms of a power board purchase order executed last May. The purchase order was based on Peabody's April 20 quotation of \$4.60 per ton.

The utility was notified in September of an increase in the price per ton because of the UMW wage increase.

Not Required To Pay
Wiitala said he discussed the matter with City Attorney Robert M. Bordeau and they agreed that the board was not legally required to pay the increase. The utility subsequently paid Peabody on the basis of \$4.60 per ton.

Peabody, however, has since asked the utility to pay the difference between the per ton price of \$4.60 quoted in the spring and the \$5 per ton price fixed in the fall. The company said it would require payment of the \$6,131 before submitting a bid on Marquette's future coal needs.

Lack Of Bids?
The utility is in process of asking for bids on coal for the next 10 years and has been informed by prospective coal suppliers that, because of previous commitments, many will not be able to bid.

Wiitala advised the board that, "in anticipation of real difficulties in obtaining any bids on our coal requirements, and although in our

quirements for the next 10 years."

On motion of James Scullion with support from Albert Sanderson, the power board concurred with that recommendation.

Fuel Situation Cited
A fuel crisis exists nationwide, according to Electric Light and Power, national trade magazine for power utilities.

Its generation editor, Ken Owens, has pointed out that coal stockpiles are dwindling to half their normal size. There is no shortage of coal; the real problem is lack of production and uncertainty within the coal industry, he said in the January issue.

The coal industry's over-reaction to an oversell on the future of nuclear power (billed as clean, abundant and cheap) was rated by the magazine a major factor in what it called a virtual two-year moratorium in the coal industry — no new exploration, no new development money, no new equipment and a slowdown in mining technology.

Long Term Contracts
EL&P said the nuclear oversell came at a period when the coal industry was still producing more coal than the market could use. Demand has since increased but coal suppliers will not put themselves back into a buyers market, the magazine said.

It points out that most coal being produced today is committed for at least 10 years, the minimum arrangement acceptable to suppliers. Some contracts run 20 and others 30 years, with the output of the mine going to a single plant, or unit within a plant. The risk is too great for the coal industry to

Five Black NMU Students Appear In Court Here, But Arraignments Postponed

Five of the six Northern Michigan University black students charged with creating a disturbance at the Dec. 17-18 sit-in in the office of the dean of students appeared Tuesday in Marquette District Court and were granted a one week postponement of the arraignment in order to obtain legal counsel.

Judge George E. Hill of Marquette told the students that they would have to be in court "with or without" an attorney to face arraignment on Feb. 17 at 11 a.m.

Blacks Charged
The six charged with the misdemeanor are Vernon Smalls, Marquette; David Williams, Detroit; Patrick Williams, Saginaw; Christopher Poole, Clarkston; Phillip Harper, Inkster; and Loren Lobban, New Rochelle, N.Y.

It was reported that David Williams was in Detroit student teaching and will arrive for the arraignment early next week to face the charges.

rest and conviction of persons stealing the globes had been publicized.

The latter move is expected to be an aid to the city in its probe of the thefts, which have cost the utility hundreds of dollars in recent months. The director also told the

Bond was set at \$100 and the students were released on their own recognizance.

Black Acquitted
During the second night of hearings conducted by the NMU Faculty-Student Judiciary Committee, Jesse Allen, Inkster, was found not guilty on all charges of breaking university regulations during the occupation of the offices.

Dr. Allan L. Niemi, vice president of student affairs, charged that Allen violated four-university regulations during the 19 hour sit-in in his office.

Allen pleaded not guilty to the charges, saying he was in his dormitory room studying after 9 p.m. on the night of protest. He produced two witnesses who testified that they saw him in the dormitory.

Niemi, Kafer Testify
But Niemi argued that he saw Allen during the time he was held for 45 minutes in his office walking around.

Testifying against Allen, Dr. Lowell Kafer, dean of students, also said he saw Allen in the offices about one hour before Niemi was alleged held by the 94 black students.

The hearing lasted four hours, with much of the time devoted to determining if the students were actually told they could remain in the offices while waiting for an appeal decision

on the case of a suspended black student.

McClellan Appears Again

Dr. Robert McClellan, a history instructor at NMU, testified for the second night that it was his impression that NMU President John X. Jamrich did not mind the students occupying the offices while waiting for a verdict.

He also said that Jamrich had more than one opportunity to tell the students directly to leave the offices but didn't.

Kafer then produced a letter from Jamrich which said that, at no time did he give permission to occupy the building and that by not obtaining an injunction, did it imply that the students should remain in the offices.

More hearings are scheduled to continue Thursday night and carry on through next week.

Police Probe Burglary At Cliffs Ridge

Marquette police are investigating a burglary at the Cliffs Ridge Sport Shop Tuesday night. A quantity of clothing and equipment was taken from a display case.

Det. William G. Lusich said it was the ninth time there has

At These Theatres **DELVIS**