

December 15, 1964

M E M O on the Atlanta Scripto Strike

Scripto workers have been on strike since November 26th here in Atlanta. Most of the strikers are Negro but there are some whites. The plant employs 900 people 700 of whom are Negro. All but 6 of the 700 are classified as unskilled and earn \$1.25 an hour. The remainder of the 900 are classified as unskilled and earn more. The company offered a raise of 2% to unskilled workers and 4% to skilled; the union charges that this is a differential based on race since many of the unskilled are actually doing work classified as skilled and that people are brought in to fill vacant skilled positions rather than promote a qualified Negro.

The Union started off four months ago asking for an across the board increase of \$0.25 and has lowered its demands to \$0.08. The company offered its percentage increase in lieu of a Christmas bonus which the union charges leaves the workers with the same yearly income since the 2% and the 4% are roughly what, in the past, have been the Christmas bonus. Other issues in the strike concern working conditions and seniority.

Recently a woman died outside the plant after she fell inside the factory. The foreman ordered her placed on the ground outside the factory rather than take her to the factory clinic. He claimed the clinic was not open. Other workers have lost fingers and the like because of poor working conditions. There is also no seniority in the plant at all. The union is also requesting the dues checkoff which the company has flatly refused even though the union presented 700 signed slips from employees requesting it. Scripto is trying to maintain production during the strike and is advertising in the papers and on radio for strike breakers.

On December 6th the local (#754 of the International Chemical Workers Union) passed a resolution calling for a boycott of scripto pens, pencils and cigarette lighters. So far SNCC, SCLC, a local ministers group in Atlanta called Operation Breadbasket and the Atlanta AFL-CIO are backing the boycott. The Teamsters are also participating.

On December 1, 1964 the General Services Administration of the U.S. Government renewed a Scripto contract for supplies ("unspecified" amounts) for all ten U.S. Federal districts (there are only ten).

YOU CAN DO THE FOLLOWING TO HELP: Write Mr. Bernard I. Boutin, Administrator, GSA, General Service Building, Washington, D.C. and ask him to suspend the contract until the strike is settled.

Write the President of Scripto. Tell him you are boycotting his products until the strike is settled.

Picket Stock Exchanges. Scripto is a stock company. Picket stores which sell scripto pens, pencils, lighters -- asking that people not buy those products. Approach store managers asking that they write Scripto distributors indicating that they will not stock Scripto goods until the strike is settled, etc.

from Walter Tillow, labor coordinator