00:00:03 (Chairman) Seventy-two years of age. He got beat out of his pension and any disability. He campaigned and went broke with his last dime, campaigning for Jock and Elmer Brown and he came to Wheeling today. At this time, I would like to introduce the chairman of Disabled Miner’s Association, Robert Payne. (applause)

00:00:27 (Robert Payne) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And good, good, uh, evening ladies and gentlemen. Brother [inaudible] I don’t have too much to say this evening, but I do want to say one thing. And I was very glad when this time comes, and all this corruption would be straightened out in the bounds to the UMW. 00:00:47 Back in nineteen and seventy, when I was telling some of the people, some of them didn’t, uh, didn’t understand, didn’t want to believe and we did have certain things that exist in the United Mine Workers of America. The corruption that we have had in this great organization. And I was hoping and praying that the day would come and all this corruption would come to an end. And now I have seen that these things have, uh, come to pass. It’s like I’m always telling me innovation, and I’m a most, um, hard earning, praying man. You gotta pray for these things and always remember, ladies and gentlemen, that you never get nothing in this world without you putting God in front, always remember that. 00:01:30 I know from self-experience, and over the years, and ever since Mr. Boyle has been in as United Mine Workers President, even Mr. Lewis, see why he made a mistake. He said it was a mistake ever made in his life when he nominated the man they call Tony Boyle (applause). And I’m going to say this, and I have said it time and time after time, that Tony Boyle and along with his henchmens, that sooner or later that they gonna get put where they belong. I have said and Tony Boyle would take a twenty-dollar postage stamp to reach him; he be so far back and behind the bars that’s exactly what it’d take to reach him. (laughing / applause) 00:02:17. But the way he has discriminated against the widows, disabled miners, and all of us. And also, the working miners. But now, since that this year union is going to be overturned, that I do hope that the disabled miners and widows will receive a hospitalization and pension. And I do know that we’re going to have the right leadership will do that, and that’s all I have to say ladies and gentlemen, thank you. (applause) 00:02:49

(audience) Mr. Chairman

00:03:03 (Chairman) Tom Owens of District 28.

(Tom) District 28, Local 1534, I want to [inaudible]

(Chairman) Speak closer to the mic please.

(Tom) Is it on?.

(Chairman) Yes, we hear you now Tom.

00:03:21 (Tom) Uh, I’d like to [inaudible] remarks to the platform committee that in our contract, our contracts, states cases are to slow [inaudible] two or three weeks find a case [inaudible] three or four months find a second case [inaudible] I would like to see [inaudible] contracts should be more quicker than that [inaudible] one day [inaudible]. And then another thing that would empower miners is to change some of the contract, now take all the data out of the contract [inaudible] hundreds and hundreds of pages. And uh. So, I think that would be all the deadwood took out of it, our contract, make it more effective, so that everybody, even a third grader in school could understand our contract. The way it is, the lawyers, not even the judge can understand it. I’d like the platform committee [inaudible] 00:04:54

00:04:54 (Chairman) Very well, let the platform committee heed the remarks and recommendations of Tom Owens from District 28. Before I recognized you as [inaudible] remark, I want to make to the Credentials Committee because we are going to adjourn very shortly. I want to know if the Credentials Committee has any of their report ready. You shouldn’t have too long of a report and if you are ready, indicate to me and we’ll breeze through it. And if you don’t have it ready just don’t come up to the podium. If you are ready, please come up to the podium while Ed Monborne is making his remarks. I recognize that Monborne

00:05:32 (Monborne) Mr. Chairman, myself and the delegation committee have something to announce at this convention, which, um, is very important to us and possibly the greatest thing to happen this week too since the organization, the organization is not aligned with us, was the granting of autonomy of District 2 on May the Tenth. Most of you people know about this and I think it’s the results of this sanction, the other districts, and United Mine Workers were also going to [inaudible]. What we want to say here at this convention and we’d like to have it on record is we greatly appreciate and thank Joe Round [SP], Jim [inaudible], Kenny [inaudible], Marie [inaudible], and all those who helped and worked hard to help us get autonomy in District 2. And I wish to thank to convention for giving me the floor. Thank you very much. (applause) 00:06:30

00:06:35 (Chairman) Thank you Brother Monborne. Naturally your remarks are going into the record, it’s going on tape, and all of your remarks will be on the record. Microphone four.

00:06:47 (Holbrook) Well, I’m from District 19 and Local 3892. My name is Holbrook Grayo [SP] and I’m not one of average passion, William [inaudible] board. (applause). There’s not but 2 of us from District 19, and so I didn’t think it seems fair to come on this[inaudible] and not represent 19, cause you know we’ve got a weak District and weak leadership [inaudible]. So, here’s what I want to say; We’ve had a mis-convention but districts like 19 that is weak, we’re gonna have to have some help, and then we’re going to win in December. And so, I thank you. (applause) 00:07:44.

00:07:44 (Chairman) May I remark to you Brother Grayo, from District 19, when you say about receiving help into District 19, you may know that with the leadership of Arnold Miller, a black lung chapter was established in District 19 and if you have people like Arnold Miller in our organization, I am sure you’ll have a setup set up in District number 19. The Credentials Committee is ready to make their report. I don’t know all the names who are on it. I know most of the people. The chairman of that committee is the president of the local union he represents in District 5, Local Union 1197. For a short time, I had the honor working at that mine, that’s the Cokeburg Mine, Bethlehem Steel and um, I’m delighted to see him here today, the president of that local is the Chairman, and I turn it over to him, Merkla Dessie [SP] (applause) 00:08:55

00:08:59 (Mr. Dessie) Thank you very much. Mr. Chairman, guests, fellow workers, I would like to, uh, introduce the rest of the committee if you will bear with me one moment. Mr. James Torma [SP] from District 4, will you please stand? (applause); Walt Harris [SP] from District 2 (applause); Joe Malae [SP], District 29 (applause); John Winnick [SP], District 6; and by the way, District 6 has a, uh, delegation of a hundred and thirteen here (applause). Walter Leaper [SP], thirty-one (applause); Laverne Lawrence [SP], District 12 (applause); 00:09:45 Frank Yarniski [SP], District 25 (applause); Fred Wilson, District 28 ; Myself, District number 5 (applause); Arnold Miller, District number 17 (applause).

00:10:05 (Mr. Dessie) Fellow workers, what we’re going to do on this committee is, uh, we’re going to have a report from each district and, uh, after the report has been made, if there are any challenges to any of the, uh, delegates after the, uh, list has been read we wish that you people will get on the floor and challenge them. And also, if there is any challenges to the vote strength of any district after it is read, we would like you to comment on that also. At the, at the MFD Steering Committee meeting on May seven, nineteen seventy-two, held in Charleston, West Virginia, the system for credentials was voted upon and approved. The system is set up, so that each district is given a voting strength proportionate to the number of votes listed on the official tally of the 1969 election, plus an added factor dependent upon the type of number of elected, election violations found by Judge Bryant in the election case. Everyone here would agree that if the 1969 election had been fairly held, we would not be here today. Therefore, we could not rely on the tally vote alone. It was determined in Charleston that this would be the fairest system; allotting to each district the voting power it would have had if the election had been fair and honest. 00:11:38 The system of delegate apportionment cannot be challenged here today. What can be challenged, is a fact or figure for each district and its voting strength. In order that this would be an open convention, it was decided that every UMW member not subject to individual challenge, would have the right to vote and that the votes would be computed by each district. For example, if a district has ten delegate votes, but only one member attends, he casts all ten votes. If ten men vote, each has a single vote. If one hundred vote, each has one tenth of a vote. We will now go into the districts and after he has read out the names of the delegates, if there are any challenges, please hold them until after he has, uh, notified you of the delegates.

00:12:45 (Mr. Dessie continues) District 2, they have 11 votes. They have 33. They have 33 delegates here. Mr. Walt Harris, will you please step up?

00:13:11 (Mr. Harris) I’ll read these names out. Right on the top here I have a name in my book, up in District 2, he’s one of the greatest leaders that I think I ever known, is Ed Monborne (applause). Ray [inaudible], Andy Serma, George [inaudible], Wilmar Gamble, Arnold Prestilli [SP], Bernard [inaudible], Joseph [inaudible], Joseph J. Sapinko [SP], Casmiere Denise [SP], Joseph T. Monko [SP], Steve [inaudible], and John Haluka [SP]. He’s a pensioner out there. Raymond Daniel, Stanley Pinkus [SP], and Robert Burnett [SP], Thomas A Smith, Andrew Ginner [SP], Alfred [inaudible], Thomas Pinka [SP], and Peter Krump [SP], Charles [inaudible], and Joseph Binoski [SP], Frank Paszuski [SP], William Yarly [SP], George Arnett [SP], Francis L. Holtz [SP], and Robert J. Girly [SP], Steve Deskavich [SP], Fred Scott, Joseph Pinelli [SP], Michael Watts, James Dawson, and Walt Harris. (applause)

00:15:37 (man) Are there any challenges, Brothers?

00:15:39 (man) None.

(Chairman) We announce District 3, not represented. District 4, seven delegate votes, twenty delegates, Mr. James Forman [SP].

(James Forman) [inaudible] Local District 10, Nathan Jordan, [inaudible], John Chenille [SP], Mike, Michael [inaudible], John J. Kelly, Mike [inaudible], Vick Shy [SP], Frank [inaudible], Harry [inaudible], Albert Yanko [SP], George Kohlar [SP], Keith [inaudible], Edward P. [inaudible], Joseph Mulnoch [SP] Michael [inaudible], Earl G. Mayfield, Robert Wayne, Kang [inaudible], George Paluka [SP], and myself James Forman (applause).

00:16:56 (Chairman) Are there any challenges? District number 5, has twelve votes, sixty-nine delegates. Andy Vahaylee [SP], Martin Remish [SP], Vincent Smota [SP], William Berkley, Mike Orchich [SP], David Thomson, Victor Pizoni Jr. [SP], Lesbo Gobay [SP], P.A. Simonetti [SP], Julius Talegedi [SP], Nick Davince [SP], Nick Petroff [SP], John Chesney, John F Gacey Jr, Gary Bacowski [SP], Larry F. Rougazinski [SP], Elon Matovich [SP], Robert Finn, William E Taylor, William [inaudible], Peter Sabo [SP], Patsy Bevin [SP], Joe Valinski [SP], William A Flemee [SP], James J Mullen [SP], Cletus Maconville [SP], John Stoufa [SP], John A Vangus [SP], Mary Ladisick [SP], Burt Mickolas [SP], Michael [inaudible], John C Michi [SP], Thomas Webb, James P Simola [SP], Thomas Tessi [SP], Walter Plevnick [SP], Martin E Connors Jr., Mike Teahigh [SP], Thomas Brady, Michael Britavich [SP], Albert P. Morgajon [SP], Harry Nicklo [SP], Tony Pasquale, Tom Cunningham, Andrew Stoufa [SP], Thomas Whoddock [SP], John P. Curtick [SP], George Ranish [SP], Joseph Asdeck [SP], Miriam Pellegrini [SP], Guido L. Simbolli [SP], Marty Connors, Frank Skerwood [SP], Bob Koval [SP], George Havey [SP], William Finley, John Regent [SP], Lloyd Rudkey [SP], Leon Yablonski, Charles Worshlag [SP], Richard Seesigh [SP], Steve Kovach [SP], Steve Segetti [SP], Louanne Tell [SP], Frank Bosich [SP], Bruno Kaminski [SP], Mike Makita [SP], Tony Doeshack [SP], and Nick Cecil [SP]. Are there any challenges.

(audience) No. None (applause)

00:20:03 (Chairman) District number 6, eleven delegate votes, a hundred and fifteen delegates.

00:20:25 Mr. John Winning [SP]

(background discussion) After District 6 group. You want to read them all?

00:20:33 (Mr. John Winning) Would District 6 want me to read all these names? Would District 6 want me to read all these names?

(Audience) No.

(Mr. John Winning) But I would like for District 6 then to stand up and if there’s anyone here that should be challenged, I wish they would mention it to the Chairman. (applause)

00:20:54 (Chairman) Brother, uh, maybe we oughtta go through with the rest of this delegates and then bring this up after we, we’re through. Would that be satisfactory?

(audience) Okay.

(Chairman) Thank you. Approximately sixty-five votes to carry, to carry the, election. Whoever, whoever will be, uh, nominated and elected, it would take approximately sixty-five votes. To the delegates of the first convention of the Miners for Democracy, United Mine Workers of America, we are committee on credentials recommend that the following persons who are registered and spelled out this afternoon, this morning and this afternoon, be seated as delegates. Do I hear a motion?

00:21:51 (Guido) I’ll make that as a motion. Guido Simbolli, District 5, Local 9873. I may so move that as a motion.

00:21:59 (Chairman) Do I hear a second?

00:22:01 (audience) I make a second

00:22:03 (Chairman) Motion made in second that we will, that you will accept a partial report from the Credentials Committee. Any questions or remarks?

(audience) Remarks

00:22:13 (Chairman) Remarks

(audience) I have one remark. How many districts are being represented here today?

(Chairman) How many districts? We have one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, eleven, twelve, thirteen, fourteen, fifteen districts present. Any more remarks?

(audience) uh, yeah

(Chairman) Fellow back at microphone number two.

(audience Dave) Mr. Chairman, Dave [inaudible], 26, I brought it to the attention of the floor before, seeing as this is a partial report, will that include any delegates if they come tomorrow. Because from our local, I know that there’s going to be three delegates coming in tomorrow.

00:23:12 (Chairman) Yes, Brother. Then we will have a full report after the convention is over.

(audience Dave) Will these delegates be seated?

(Chairman) Yes, sir.

(audience) Mr. Chairman

(Chairman) Any more remarks? Pete?

(audience – Pete) I think you said 65 for majority. I’d think it would be 70. Sixty-five would be only 130. You got 130 to take 70 for majority.

(audience) I think you want to correct him

00:23:36 (Chairman) I think I made a mistake. I’m sorry. (audience laughing) Any more remarks?

(audience) Question

(Chairman) Question being called for. All those in favor will [inaudible] and say I

(audience) I

(Chairman) Those opposed?

(silence)

(Chairman) Thank you gentlemen. Oh, we have one more complaint about District 6. Would the fellow get on the [inaudible] and complain again?

00:24:07 (audience member) Mr. Chairman, Brother, the reason I challenge this vote [inaudible] for West Virginia [inaudible], but I tallied the votes of District 6, where you all received 4,577 votes, next twenty-four, 2,747 votes, not that I’m prejudice against those districts. District 5, you all lost, you got 4 votes. District 29, you all lost, you got 4,518. [inaudible] 8,836. District 31 [inaudible] and received the same amount of votes as District 6. I would like to know how these votes were distributed [inaudible]. 00:25:02

00:25:03 (Chairman) Chip would you care to answer that? I think you brought it up at the Charleston meeting. Maybe you could enlighten him on it?

00:25:24 (Chip) Art, it was my understanding, um, from Charleston, and um, perhaps those delegates here today who attended there, uh, that, I think what you’re doing is you’re challenging really the system, because I don’t think there is an inequity, uh, in the basic voting patterns. They same numbers of, of, of, votes that, were received in ‘69, even though that tally would have been fraudulent. The figures are relatively the same. You, uh, you say that, uh, you should ob represent, um, District 29, but the, uh, the number of votes cast are relatively similar. I think you would agree with that.

00:26:22 (Chip) Now, the system that was adopted tries to take into account the number of violations that were committed as found by Judge Bryant and to try and reduce that wherever possible to some sort of a mathematical figure. If you are saying that because we won in District 6, you’re entitle to some sort of a bonus, I think you’re challenging the system, and I don’t think you can do that. If, at this point, it seems to me that was agreed, agreed upon in Charleston, that this would be the system. You are free at this point to challenge the factor that has been supplied and is in each packet.

00:27:18 (Chip) In other words, District 29 received a factor of eighteen hundred votes. District 6 received half that amount as a factor, nine hundred votes. Uh, if you’re challenging that, I’d be prepared to address myself to that question. If you are challenging whether the district was won or lost for the margin of victory, though I would have to agree, uh, in many delegate apportionment systems that is a valid way to approach it. That is not the task that was given me at Charleston. That is not what was agreed at Charleston, and any delegate that’s hear that, uh, um, could re-, could refresh my recollection, that was my understanding. 00:28:08

(audience member) Well Chip [inaudible] the number of votes [inaudible] Jock Yablonski received. Now that was the understanding of the delegations of District 6, where we did win that 2 to 1. Now that’s the understanding that we had.

00:28:26 (Chip) Well, okay, no that wasn’t the understanding. The understanding was that it would be based upon the vote received in ’69. But you can’t rely on the vote received in ’69 in a crooked election. You’ve got to try and analyze Judge Bryant’s decision and the evidence presented to him and try to determine what the result would have been. As we’ve determined, this result, is we have tried to factor in the District 6 vote, 900 additional votes. It would have meant, essentially, that if they hadn’t poured $70,000 into this district from the international in 1969. If they hadn’t maintained that bogey locals. If they hadn’t hired five full-time payrollers to go out and campaign for Boyle, we would have beaten him in this district three to one. That’s what, that’s what we’ve hypothesized. Now if you disagree with the 900 figure, uh, that’s essentially my justification for it.

(audience member) It’s not that I agree with you Chip, I think [inaudible] you’ve made it clear here, and [inaudible] I think you explained it to me, I will withdrawal my challenge. I thank you.

(Chip) Let me say, let me say this, Art um, Walter Leaper [SP] uh, was very concerned about this system and Walter Leaper said it’s not a good system, and I’d have to agree with Walter Leaper, it’s not a good system, but dammit I just can’t think of one that’s any better and neither can anybody else.

(audience member) [inaudible] It’s a hell of a job to do and I think you did it to the best of your ability, and I still thank you for your time.

(Chip) Thank you. 00:30:12 applause.

00:30:17 (Chairman) Are there any more challenges? We would now like to have a vote on the whole package. Do I hear a motion to accept the whole package?

(audience) I motion

(Chairman) second?

(audience) second

(Chairman) Motion made and second that we shall accept a Credential Report as a whole. Any questions or remarks?

(audience) question

(Chairman) Question being called for. All those in favor will [inaudible] say I

(audience) I

(Chairman) Those opposed

(silence)

(Chairman) That concludes the Credentials Report.

00:30:55 (Chairman) The committee on the credentials, uh, are excused. The Chairman wishes to compliment the platform committee, the credentials committee, on a fine and splendid job they have done. In addition to that, the Chair wishes to compliment the membership in the orderly manner in which you’ve conducted yourselves.

(audience) Thank you

(Chairman) Thank you very much Arthur Nelloms [SP] of District 6, my home district. You’ve always justified my confidence in your judgements, and the judgement you just now displayed, increases it all the more. I have some announcements to make, and we’re going to prepare for adjournment, but please don’t adjourn and start scuffling, because there’s something very important turned up. I am going to ask John Winney [SP], if you’re still in the hall, for a little favor. I want John Winney to station himself for the door, for one worthy purpose, to take a collection for some of our pensioners and disabled miners who’ve come so far to help pay their room rent, and I want the membership to give generously. Whatever is left over will go into the Miners for Democracy fund or Miner’s Voice, whichever the committee decides, but $7.00 is mighty high for a man who hasn’t even had a job, but unfortunately this is the cheapest we could get here. The Holiday Inn and the Howard Johnson wanted $20 and the Miner’s Voice, uh, staff selected a college campus, so as you file out, John Winney will be there asking for a collection for our pensioners and disabled miners, and they, in turn, will turn that money into the Miner’s Voice to pay for the rooms. And also, do not forget, supper’s being served from 6:30 to 8:30 in Benedum Room of Swint Hall, and at 9:30 there tonight, in the same Benedum Room till 1:00 AM, there will be entertainment, music, and movies.

00:33:06 (Chairman) For those of you who like beer, there will be beer served there. There’ll be a movie on Tony Boyle and some things, and we urge you to go there and if possible spend some money at the college dining room.

(audience) Is that rated X?

(Chairman) No, no X movies here my friend. Not on a Catholic campus. Incidentally, I want to tell you people, in conclusion, before we adjourn for the day. We have expedited some very important matters for today. The purpose of the expediency was that so we will have until 1:00 tomorrow for you people to discuss the fundamental purpose of your being here, the selection of the slate. That will consume the latter part of this convention. Tomorrow afternoon, the nomination begins. We have disposed of about seventy-five percent of our business the first day. If there are not any further remarks, I would like Bill Wall to come up here, I want to give him a message from District 12. This convention stands adjourned until one o’clock tomorrow afternoon. (applause) 00:34:29

00:34:30 – 00:35:20 (silence)

00:35:21 [inaudible]

00:35:30 very well, District number 4, very well

John Debias [SP] the president.

testing one, testing two, one, two, three, testing one, two, three. [inaudible] one, two, three. [inaudible] testing one, two, three. [inaudible]

00:36:08 in one of these programs, and that will directly [inaudible]. Is the platform committee about ready?

(man) [inaudible] requested [inaudible] I may run short of breath. It’s quite lengthy, but I’ll try to do my best. But first is the administration of the international. Second is the welfare and [inaudible]. Third is autonomy. Fourth is Health & Safety. And fifth is strip miners. So, I’ll read this now, and any questions that I don’t feel that I can answer truthfully and answer right, I’ll refer back to our Chairman Mike Trbovich.

00:37:02 (man continues) No group is more concerned about protecting our country streams and countrysides than members of the UMW. Coal miners must live with the coal mines and they are the group that suffers when the land is [inaudible]streams polluted. There is no question, that every fossil coal operator [inaudible] responsibility. There are many areas, particularly in mountain terrain where coal companies have failed and reclaimed [inaudible] land. This has resulted in the destruction of coal miners’ homes and property. The UMW Miners for Democracy believe that strong reformation laws are required to force the coal operators to reclaim the land [inaudible] strip mines. Our most primary concern, is to ensure first and foremost, that both jobs and land are protected. We believe that the proper reformation reforms are essential and that [inaudible] jobs will be created if the state laws [inaudible] and enforced. Loopholes in the laws on strip mines that have allowed lawmakers to escape their responsibility to reclaim the land must be [inaudible]. Strong enforcement of state laws [inaudible] UMW [inaudible] government officials that refuse to enforce the law are exposed and replaced. The expanded reformation reform [inaudible] all reformation work must be done by UMWA members under contract. 00:38:35 Many coal operators believe that the word reformation means [inaudible] on an enclosed lot. Where at the MFD reformation means restoring the land to constructive use. Union members and their families suffer when this isn’t done. The UMW must be swift on this [inaudible]. The regulations [inaudible] coal operators should not be allowed to ravage the land. [inaudible] jobs of our union Brothers in strip, the UMW Miners for Democracy believe that strong efforts [inaudible] strip mines. [inaudible] coal production [inaudible] coal operators [inaudible] have encouraged UMW hierarchy [inaudible]. If they are organized [inaudible] reformation efforts will be even more effective. MFD also supports local [inaudible] irresponsible abuse of the coal industry. In Kentucky for example [inaudible] coal operators. It has been used to provide the operators with the legal justification to brutally destroy the land and not [inaudible]. Many of whom are union men. Local residents know [inaudible] their own area. [inaudible] Kentucky. Now in other areas, [inaudible], and others. And it must be dealt with. All over the coal fields, UMW men must suffer through the [inaudible]. 00:40:28 The UMW must support local efforts that members and other affected individuals would stop being abused.

(Chairman) so, next, uh, we got one more here, ah, 49. [inaudible] well go over that next. Is there any questions on this platform for strip mines?

(man 2) I’d like to ask. Do you want to adopt it piece-by-piece or do you want to adopt it as a whole in the platform committee report?

(man) as a whole

(man 2) Continue Bill.

00:41:13 (Bill) Well I just started to talk with the administration of International. United Mine Workers [inaudible] demands of the coal operators. Under Tony Boyle, our crooked leadership has chosen to protect the operation [inaudible]. It is time to return [inaudible] to the rank and file. The days of [inaudible] refuse to leave the mahogany-panel office in order to see [inaudible]. The day of sweetheart contracts and sellout [inaudible] is over. The days of [inaudible] big salaries, big bank accounts is over. The days of under-the-table payoffs and policy [inaudible] favors are over. Our corrupt leadership prefers coal operators dead to the coal miners [inaudible]. They have [inaudible] financial instability. Last year our treasury was depleted by $22.6 million because of irresponsible leadership. This cannot go on if our union is to remain strong. UMW Miners for Democracy believe a number of changes must be made in the way our International is run.

00:42:22 And, one, it is time our International Headquarters was moved to the heart of the coal fields where miners would have a chance to go to the headquarters and speak to their leadership. Washington D.C. is too far away from the coal miners. The union leadership should be where the men are. The [inaudible] office should be kept open to monitor government activity, but the headquarters should be moved back to the coal fields. And, nonessential district offices should be closed and consolidated.

The salaries, number two. The salary for the UMW president should be reduced from $60,000 to $35,000 a year. And the salaries for the vice president, secretary, and treasurer should be reduced to $30,000 each. The current salaries [inaudible] Boyle [inaudible] identifies more with the big coal executives than the coal miners. Reducing the salaries but still keeping them at a sufficient level to encourage men to seek these offices must be done.

00:43:23 Number three, there must be a [inaudible]. Union leaders must not be allowed to hire their own kin for jobs. Boyle, for example, has his daughter on the payroll in Montana, $40,000 a year and his brother’s getting paid $27,000 of our money. Yet, there are only 260 working members in their district. There are many other payrollers who received their jobs, not because of their ability, but because of their relations.

Number four, the number of payrollers must be reduced. There are too many free loaders at district and international offices [inaudible] who collect big salaries for doing nothing.

Number five, the officers of the United Mine Workers must always be open to members. Members, union leaders must be available to talk to men about equality, and the men must get answers instead of the runaround.

Number six, end the full-salary requirement. The best way to get pensions for miners up to a decent level is to make the payrollers receive the same pensions as the members (applause).

00:44:38 Number seven,

[inaudible / audience chatter]

Later please, after we finish this report. Then you can bring it to one of the platforms, maybe.

00:45:08 (Bill) Number seven, all district and international officers should retire at age 65 to make room for younger miners to advance to positions of leadership (applause). Something else you’re all interested in, welfare [inaudible] Those groups deserve more credit for building UMW into a strong [inaudible] then the men currently on pension. The 80,000 engineers, devoted their lives to building the union. UMW Members for Democracy recognizes union brothers [inaudible] in bringing much needed change to the UMW leadership involved.

Engineers have given all your lives, but in many cases, cases are held to produce coal for America’s needs. The men who have given so much, we owe more than platitude. UMW Miners for Democracy believe that we [inaudible] retired coal miners deserve a pension that will enable them to live, not just decently, but well, and they deserve benefits such as high-quality medical care for themselves and their family. These should not be viewed by [inaudible]. They are rights earned [inaudible] hard work.

The [inaudible] major changes in the UMW welfare retirement fund. It has recorded the effort of disabled miners [inaudible] reform the fund and the relationship with the international union. The successful court case Blankenship v. Boyle was a major victory for the reform move and will mean a stronger and more responsible fund.

00:46:47 But irresponsibility in the whole Boyle leadership and the selfish denial of pensioners’ rights can only point to the need for change at the top [inaudible] and the funds policy. The hazardous working conditions coal miners face each day have resulted in disabling injuries for tens of thousands of union brothers. We believe the first priority must be to improve working conditions so that disability is a rarity, rather than an (stumbles on word) inevitability. Well sooner or later. [inaudible]

ahh, but this is important if the responsibility to provide substantial benefits and care to disabled miners and their families. Too often our leaders and the coal operators are given a chance to discard these brothers as if they’re worn-out pieces of machinery instead of human beings. Instead of preventing the disease that caused this outrage our current leadership of [inaudible] and in many cases [inaudible] disability benefits and pensions they’ve earned.

UMW Miners for Democracy believe [inaudible] benefits. Some of the most important, we believe are most important, are as follows: 00:48:18 number one, any UMW member who has worked 25 years should be eligible for his pension no matter what his age. Twenty-five and out would enable men to enjoy a healthy [inaudible]. Number two, any member who is 65 and has worked 20 years should be eligible for his pension (applause). Better yet, number three, the pension should be raised to a base figure of $200 a month and for each year over 20 years an additional $10 a month. This for a miner who has worked 25 years would get $250 a month, a miner with 30 years would get $300 a month, so on and so forth (applause). 00:49:15 The current requirement that a man must work his last full year under agreement regardless of how many years he’s been a UMW member should be absolved (applause).

Number five, if a miner becomes permanently disabled he should be eligible for a pension immediately, no matter what his age (applause). Number six, [inaudible] sick-pay benefits of the full miners’ wages should be instituted immediately. Management [inaudible] that miss a day because of sickness don’t miss days paid. The same should be true of working miners. [inaudible] provided each year and the unused days should be carried over each year so a man with a bad injury would be covered for a longer period of time (applause). 00:50:15

Number eight, a brother disabled on the job should not be forced to give up his welfare card. Under our current leadership the very [inaudible] that made [inaudible], the mothers are cruelly and unfairly cutoff after 1 to 4 years of disability. These benefits must be contained as long as the man is unable to work (applause). Any questions? 00:50:43

(audience member question) [inaudible]

(Bill) No, you get $150 a month now

(audience member responds) [inaudible]

(Bill) Every year [inaudible] I, I believe you may be out of order there as far as the rules of the committee [inaudible]

00:51:35 (Chairman) I want to remind you of the rules. I think that, uh, uh, uh we don’t, uh, permit, we’re not going to permit, a delegate to jump up two or three times unless everyone else has a chance to speak. Then we’ll permit you to have the floor, but I wish you would refrain from, uh, uh, jumping up two or three times on a point, uh, we have to expedite this if you want to give everybody a chance here to speak on, uh, whatever he has to speak on pertaining to the platform report. So, I wish you wouldn’t do this, and let the Secretary continue to read the report of the platform. Thank you. 00:52:13

(audience member) Walter Paxton [SP], I’m Local union 803, District 25. There’s a question here, I was wondering if the disability and pension also pertaining to the after-site miners?

(committee) They will. As we go on with this platform, the after-site miners are mentioned in here.

(audience member) Thank you.

(committee). If you please, I’d like to continue with this.

(audience) [inaudible]

(audience] Mr. Chairman, I’ve got a question.

(Chairman) just a minute sir

(audience] I make a motion for Henry just to read it aloud and just answer questions after.

00:53:02 (Henry) Alright, please be in order. I’ll read this complete platform, then if there’s any questions, then we’ll all in an orderly manner, will ask your questions. Then it will be up to the full platform committee to answer the questions. Oh, I’ll go on and read the rest of this report.

(Temp Chairman, Carl) Can I inject one thing? As temporary Chairman, I want you people to please understand, I want to read the names out of the tempor, of the platform committee. This is Bill Kelly, Mike Trbovich is a member of that platform committee, Harry [inaudible] is a member of that platform committee, Kenneth Daas [SP] is a member of the committee, Leon Yablonski on the extreme right is a member of, and as Chairman Kelly has said, go through the report and the matters that you wish to bring to the platform’s attention, save it, make notes if you will, so we can move along with the report.

00:54:05 (Bill Kelly] Thank you, Carl. The next one here is autonomy and the history of autonomy. When the United Mine Workers was formed in 1890, its structure was molded from our federal system that there would be a national union like the federal government, but that its district-like status would be autonomous, though subject to control by the international. This system remained intact until the 1920s and 30s when a series of reversals and organizing occurred and, and splinter, splinter unions were formed to challenge the UMWA. Most of the districts saw their autonomy disappear. Appointees responsible only to the international, were installed in office throughout the coal fields. This centralization may have been necessary then, but after Labor’s Magna Carta, the Magna Act was passed in 1935 and after, ferocious organizing battles were won in the 30s, miners came to each successive union convention demanding the right to elect their district officers. Many of our members now in pension wage ba-, wage battles on the convention floor, only to suffer one humiliate, humiliating defeat, that, after another. The resolutions by their locals never made it to the floor. Every convention from, I can’t make this word out, from then on saw that the resolution committee suffer a, offer a substitute resolution providing for the restoration of only partial autonomy if a substantial number of the district’s members wanted it. No one ever defined what substantial meant. In 1959, congress passed the Landrum-Griffin Act, which was intended to provide autonomy for long disenfranchised UMWA members, but the law needed to be enforced. In 1962. ’63. And ‘64, members from District 4, 6, 7, now 25, 17, 23, 30, and 31, petit, petitioned the secretary of labor to sue for them. It was not until December 1964 that pursuit was finally fought, five years after the Act was passed. Two years after the secretary had received some of the complaints and after backroom negotiations with Boyle and his lawyers had failed. The Johnson-Humphrey Administration showed no [inaudible] to prosecute perhaps because, prosecute perhaps because, perhaps they, uh, here’s an error, perhaps because, perhaps because, union dues money was being illegally spent in their company. Nor has the Nixon Administration been any different. In the nearly three and a half years of his term, judgement has only just been entered in that case. 00:57:03 In 1971, miners in Districts 2, 28, and 12 went to court on their own. In the District 2 case, the federal court has already ruled that elections must be held. Similar judgments are expected soon, involving all the other districts. 00:57:21 And the MFD position is, that MFD has supported the government litigation and MFD leaders in Districts 2, 12, and 28 are responsible for the private trusteeships [inaudible] After 35 years of trying, it was and is clear that full autonomy would never be restored to this, the districts without resort to court. 00:57:42 We make no apology for seeking a judicial solution to, an otherwise insoluble problem. We will. We will support and encourage our brothers in Districts 3, 10, 14, 15, 18, 19, 20, 21, 27, and 29 to bring similar cases for it is our belief, that elected officials must serve the interest of the membership. Lawyers, accountants, former government officials, hotel owners and other parasited, parasite, that have affected UMWA, do not know coal mining and do not represent the miners. If these appointed officials are so certain that they have fully and properly represented a member, then they have nothing to fear from standing for election. Democratic elections are as traditional as apple pie. They’re just as appropriate in the UMA as in the USA. If forty qualified people are elected, they can be impeached, or most surely will not win re-election. The sad state of our union today is the district outgroup of these illegal trusteeships, but just as sure as these trusteeships are responsible for the restoration of the UMA, UMWA, to its position of pre-eminent in the American Labor Movement.

00:59:10 Now, we gonna do Health & Safety. A safe and healthy working environment is the first, most basic right of all coal miners. Safety, in fact, is the right to life itself, but today, safety remains only a hope instead of a reality. Corporate greed, [inaudible] ineptitude and union laxity have resulted day after day in health and injury to our union brothers. UMW Miners for Democracy believes that coal miners should enjoy working conditions as clean and safe as those enjoyed by coal operators. The myth that coal miners must continue to be maimed and killed because mining is inherently dangerous is not acceptable to us. The superior safety records in other countries makes it clear that coal mines can be made safe, if people are put before profit. The price and profitability of coal has skyrocketed in recent years, but the price paid by, by, the men who mined that coal has been far too high. More than 100,000 coal miners have been slaughtered on the job this century, making coal mining America’s most dangerous industrial occupation. 01:00:26 While many industries improve job safety conditions, profit-hungry coal companies and union leaders are more comfortable in the boardroom, than the bath house, did nothing. The mechanization of the mines in the 1950s not only cost the jobs of more than half our union brothers, it also caused health and safety conditions to worsen. In 1949 for example, one miner out of every 830 was killed on the job. In 1970, with greater emphasis on mechanization and production, one out of every 648 miners died. With the tremendous technology progress made by America, coal miners have a right to expect their safety conditions to improve. If we can send men to the moon and back safely, we can send men into the mines and bring them back home safely. Vigorous enforcement of Mine Health and Safety Act, and other laws, is the place to begin. In the two years since the Act was passed, more than five hundred miners had been killed. Investigations have revealed that the required inspections were not occurring and fines for violations were not being collected from the operator. MFD believes that the leadership the UMW has responsibility to watch all these enforcements of Mine Health and Safety laws, and to make it clear to companies and government, that no coal will be mined unless it is mined in working conditions that meet the letter and spirit of the law.

01:01:55 Crime on the job is no more acceptable than crime on the street. It is time our great union assures its members that law and order will be applied to protect them on the job. The failure of the current production-orientated union bureaucrats divide on any level for Mine Health & Safety is among the most compelling of the many reasons they must be replaced. For years under Tony Boyle, the union has a one-man safety division. For years under Boyle, union brothers were inhaling dust and having their lungs destroyed while he did nothing. Then 78 men were killed in Farmington. He went before the widows and orphans and praised the safety record of the Consolidation Coal Company. When rank-and-file reformers marched on Washington to demand that the Federal Mine Health & Safety Act be reviewed. When disabled and active miners went to the state capital in Charleston, to demand a black lung compensation law, he was silent. Then 20,000 miners struck in 1970 to enforce that law. It was Boyle and District 20 stating names and license numbers of the UMW members fighting for safety. 01:03:07 The success of the rank and file in achieving no protection under law, but accord, in spite of, rather than [inaudible] UMW hierarchy. We believe it is time to replace [inaudible] union leadership, with tough and militant rank and filers, who know what the inside of a coal mine looks like now and what it should look like in the future (applause). Jock Yablonski called safety the foremost issue when he sought the leadership of a great union three years ago. It remains the foremost issue today. Miners for Democracy believes many specifications must be taken to guarantee the coal miners right to safe and healthy working conditions. Some of the most, most important changes MFD supports, and they include the following:

01:04:01 Number one, there must be total and full support for the safety committees from the local, district and international levels. No safety committee should ever be fired by the coal companies as a reprise for enforcing safety and health regulation. There should be a full-time safety committeeman on the local level, whose sole responsibility must be to protect their union brothers from unsafe working conditions. No man must ever be forced to work in unsafe conditions. The best way to make the mine safe is not to work when they are unsafe. This is often the only language profit hung, profit hungry operators understand. The safety committee should be paid a full salary by the company. When the local union must pick them, and they should be responsible only to their union brothers (applause).

Number two, complete and detailed safety requirements should be a part of the contract. There should be constructural safe guards to protect members from the risk and hazards of mechanization. Safety must never be arbitrated. Number three, the UMW safety division must be greatly expanded to include no less than a dozen experts on phases of Mine Health & Safety. Doctors, engineers, lawyers, and men who have been working miners all should staff the division. The budget should be greatly expanded. 01:05:37 The days of the one-man safety division under Tony Boyle are over. The safety division should be computerized so that accident and fatality records for each company and each mine can be made available to the rank and file (applause). These statistics will be made available to the, uh. These statistics will be made available in the UMW Journal each month. Yeah, that’s something, I, I’d like to see change, I’d like to see that the UMW Miners Voice (applause). The many irresponsible operators should, should be exposed and this should be a job of the safety division.

Number three, the division should provide information on every mine fatality in detail, and the causes and recommendations should be printed in the journal. The UMW should have a hotline which any miner could call to get an immediate response from the union on an unsafe condition. The safety division should be charge, should be charged with the responsibility of monitoring government enforcement of health and safety laws. The union leadership must be militant and must demand that the laws be enforced completely and totally. The union should take independent legal action when they are not (applause) 01:07:11

Number four, mine workers should have the same right as railroad workers to sue coal companies in court for on-the-job injuries. And, the UMW should provide legal assistance in these cases (applause).

Number five, when the operators fail to provide safe working conditions, they must pay men for ship-loss when the mine is closed for safety violations. The men should never be penalized for the operator’s failure to keep the mine safe (applause).

Number six, the UMW should establish a special Black Lung assistance program aimed at helping black lung victims and widows apply for and receive black lung compensation. Disabled miners and widows could be, this print isn’t very good, could be trained as late advocates and paid by the union to aid others in applying for compensation. Legal help where necessary should be provided. The union should also encourage the social security administration to apply standards fairly to all miners applying for black lung and act quickly on all claims (applause). 01:08:34

Number seven, the UMW must insist on tough, dust control standards and see that they are enforced. Current regulations must be enforced more stringently and safety committees must be empowered to protect men from working in high-dust situations. All dust samples must be taken by union men. The union should demand that the emphasis on current production-orientated research be stopped and a massive new commitment be made to health and safety research, particularly in areas such as dust control. It is totally inadequate merely to pay a man once his health has been destroyed by dust. The conditions that, that cause black lung, must be stamped out (applause). Another one I like.

Number eight, the next contract should include a six-hour day, with four work day shifts, including a mandatory safety maintenance shift. This would increase employment opportunities and at the same time would force operators to take to proper time to do the safety maintenance work (applause).

Number nine, widows and dependents should not be cut off from the welfare cards. They should be allowed full medical benefits until such time as a widow remarries or the dependents reach age 22, unless these dependents are handicapped or retarded, and in which case, the card would be kept permanently.

Number ten, all union brothers should get the same pension no matter what kind of coal they mine. The bituminous, (applause). The bituminous, anthracite, and Canadian (applause). The bituminous, anthracite, and Canadian welfare and retirement funds should be merged to make this possible. Right now, brothers in the anthracite receive on $30 a month in pension as they take there, oh they don’t get that much. Because of the failure of the Boyle hierarchy to collect over $7 million in outstanding royalty. Now this is an outrage and must be rectified. Merger of the funds would not be a significant drain on fund resources. 01:11:07 It would be roughly $2 million a year would be paid to our anthracite brothers to bring them up to the same pension soft coal miners now receive (applause).

Number eleven, widows and survivors’ benefits must be raised to reflect the increased cost they paid, and the funeral allowance should be increased to $700.

Number twelve, all union officers should receive this, receive the same pension allotted to the rank and file. Tony Boyle under current regulations will retire on a fifty thousand dollar a year, a fifty thousand dollars a year while a coal miner gets only eighteen hundred. This is unacceptable (applause).

01:12:05 Number thirteen, an expanded clinic program should be instituted so that miners and their families should have first grade medical care at all times. These clinics should be set up to give black lung examination, and to provide for the specific health needs of disabled miners. In addition to providing regular, regular medical services with sound management, miners clinics could be run economically and without danger of closing down (applause).

Number fourteen, now to this, I believe there’s one more item that is going to be added. Dental benefits should be included under the welfare fund for miners and their families. A royalty increase would provide funds for such a program. And, also, I think, I meant glasses should be provided along with that dental care.

Number fifteen, sound and responsible management must be applied to assure that the fund is healthy and solid. The irresponsible practice of our current leadership, such as keeping up to $73 million dollars in a non-interest-bearing checking account must end (applause).Uh, if there’s any questions, uh.

(man) Does that complete the partial report?

(Bill Kelly) This, uh, this is a completion of, uh, partial report, and if there’s any questions, uh, maybe Chairman, Mr. Trbovich can, uh, answer them., and I thank you and I hope we get all of this. (applause)

(Chairman) You’ve heard the report of the platform committee.

(audience) Mr. Chairman.

(Chairman) One minute please. District 2. Um, I’d like to have it move for adoption and then under remarks, if you have some remarks. If you’d like to bring something up that you’d like to talk about, then we’ll go ahead and put it in there.

(audience) Mr. Chairman, District 2, unanimously approved the platform of the Miners for Democracy at this convention tonight, and I move at this time to adopt the partisan plan.

(audience) I second the vote.

(Chairman) It’s already on the move, the second that we adopt the platform committee’s report. Questions or remarks on that, report.

(audience shouting) Questions

01:14:32 (Chairman) Question being called for all in favor, say I.

(audience shouting) I

(Chairman) [inaudible] the motion of the platform committee report has been accepted.

(man) Thank you (applause).

(Chairman) Again, I want to remind you that is a partial report, and you have approved of that segment of the Platform Committee’s report. They will have more, I presume, to report tomorrow. Not much more. I, as the Chairman, wish to compliment the members of that committee, who prepared that report, along with our two fine members of the Miner’s Voice staff in the preparation and the clerical work. Ed James and Don Stillman, I, again, deserve compliment (applause).

(Chairman) Deeply complimentary are the members of the committee who I, again, want to give you recognition. Mike Trbovich, Chairman of the platform committee, along with his associate Chairman Bill Kelly, who read the report. Kenneth Daas, Harry Patrick and Leon Yablonski were the members (applause).

01:16:00 (Chairman) Speaking of reports, I want to call your attention to the tape recorder here, and why it’s here. The tape recorder was taking down all the proceedings of what goes on here, and in time, our people on the Miner’s Voice will prepare in written form. It is much easier that way, and um, I believe it’s Brother Andersen from 1110 who has provided the tape recorder. Local 1110, District 6.

Here’s an announcement. Subject: Welfare & Retirement Fund. Number 5. It should read that if a miner becomes totally disabled and is unable to retain or secure a job in the industry should be eligible, be eligible for his pension immediately.

Most organizations, most organizations do have such a prorated system. Unfortunately, in the United Mine Workers they do not at the present time. There was someone wanting the floor in that area over there.

01:17:08 (audience) Mr. Chairman, are we to take that as it stands now at this point this platform is frozen or are remarks still in order.

(Chairman) No they’re remarks. No, uh, I would rather have the platform chairman answer that. We have adopted that partial report. Is there anything you want to remark on it?

(audience) a number of points [inaudible]

(Chairman) Very well.

(audience member) Alright, my name is [inaudible]. I’m a member of local 6025, District 29. Um, question of salaries for the international officers. I’d like to point out a number of things and also tie in the salaries of district officers. That [inaudible] that if the job of the highest paid could bring up the lowest paid to the level of the highest man or else the person that is paid the lowest could drag the highest paid on down. And also, that the person driving around in a Cadillac and has a high salary [inaudible] drives a Cadillac and has a lot of money in his pocket thinks. And I think that’s the way that the leadership of our union is today. I personally believe he thinks the way the he lives and I believe that all our officers, district and international, should be thinking the way the working miner thinks. And should be living the way he live too. And I would suggest that the salaries of all international and district officers be made equal with that of the lowest paid inside man. This is actually the way it is in some unions. Some of the best paid unions in this country, where the leaders doesn’t get a high salary way above that of the rank and file. 00:19:10 Also, regarding the pension, I would believe that when the working miners pay goes up, the [inaudible] go up. And, [inaudible] pensions and social security, have to pay the right prices without any consideration of their position. I believe it should be that the pensioners should receive a raise along with each contract raise that the working miner gets and our goal should be that the pensioner is able to live and get paid all along with the working person. Just because a person’s disabled or old doesn’t mean that they should have to live at the poverty level. They should be able to live just as good as somebody working.

(audience member continues) 01:20:00 On the sick leave, I believe that the way that we have it now, miners are treated like naughty children, not like adults, Have to bring in doctor’s notes. I believe that the number of days sick leave that a person is given a year should be for sick leave or personal business. They shouldn’t have to bring a note to the company like little children, going to school. We’re adults and its our time and we should be able to use it and judge the 14 days the best we need. There’s no mention at all in this platform about the vacations that we’d receive. Not only [inaudible] in this country, but compared to our other miners overseas, we get very little. In New York, most miners get a month off in the summer time and a week off in the winter time, and they can spend it with their families, instead of working like dogs all the time and if you can’t offer a few extra dollars just to help [inaudible]. 01:21:02 Last thing I wanted to say is about the [inaudible] and safety of the mines. You all know that the Department of Interior is having [inaudible] campaign to put the blame of accidents on the individual mine. Saying, it ain’t the company’s [inaudible]. It ain’t the company’s fault. Now, the operation of the mines is in the hands of the company. If they’re outranking, we should say it’s the job of the company to make the mines safe. If they can’t do it, then we should see, someday legislation which takes the operation away from those people that can’t operate the mine safe. That’s all I got to say (applause).

01:21:46 (Chairman) Now, brother (applause) Brother (audience member name) from District number 29, I’m going to recommend, as Chairman, that your remarks be submitted to the platform committee Chairman to be considered on and with their additional report that is incomplete. Is that satisfactory with the brother from District 29? Very well, I see you nodding, I presume that’s satisfactory with the body? (applause) The man from District 2.

(Bill Wall) Mr. Chairman, I’m, uh, Bill Wall from 1487 District 12. And uh, first thing I’d like to say that, uh, District 12 will have a meeting in, in our meeting room immediately after this adjournment, and I’d like to comment one thing on, on this too. Keep in mind. I think that the working miner should have something to say when a contract, after it’s negotiated, he should have something to do with whether the coal mines rotate or whether they don’t rotate. The way it is now, we have nothing to say, and, uh, they work the mines in our district, couple who work the six, five, six, seven days a week, and uh, the company under this contract got the uh, the dismissal back in and we’re going to have trouble with this, and uh, when a man, uh, a man’s rotating three shifts, especially over again, this is part of the topic, we should have something worked out for us, so frankly all members should have a vote whether he wants that mine rotated or he doesn’t (applause).

01:22:33 (Chairman) Thank you, Bill Wall from District 12. Again, I want to remind you. I want to remind you, members of District 12, that your room is 318 at Donahue Hall. We’re going to refer your remarks to the Platform Committee too Brother Wall from District 12. Victor Stein from Local 6330, District 4.

[inaudible]

(Chairman) I’m sorry, Victor Stein. Alright, go head Vic.

01:24:06 (Victor) Mr. Chairman, District 4, Local 6330, Vic Stein. I’m here with a recommendation for the Platform Committee in regards where contracts are being accepted or rejected by the rank and file. I mean, I stress this point. I was on the Steel Committee. We had 125 that told 100,000 miners how they should work under one contract. [inaudible] miners clearly have something to say by accepting or rejecting the contract (applause). Mr. Chairman, the reason I was pointing this out. I’m among friends today. Wish I had this many friends down in New York City. When I was down there, I was a little [inaudible] lonely man down in New York City. And that’s the reason I say should be many from our platform because when 125 men tell 100,000 men under what terms they should be working. I thank you. (applause)

01:25:12 (Chairman) Uh, Brother Victor Stein I do know this, the platform committee, that is going to be in their final report. That is one of the major items and they’re discussing that at the present time and it will be in their final report, an answer to you. The brother from District 17.

(audience) Jack [inaudible] Local Union [inaudible] District 17. If I understand correctly, the Platform Committee will be in the [inaudible] Hall tonight. And any changes we need or looked directly at [inaudible] for them [inaudible].

(Chairman) Well, in answer to that, the platform committee, many of them are active as officers in MFD and they’ll be going around various areas. Now it will be difficult to locate them, but that’s why I continually mention their names and identify them. Harry Patrick with the checkered coat on, and Mike Trbovich are members of it and you should contact them at, along with the others.

(audience – Jack d17) inaudible

(Chairman) That’s correct, in additions.

(audience – Jack d17) ok

(Chairman) Along with Bill Kelly, who is right there behind you.

01:26:37 (audience – Jack d29) Jack [inaudible] District 29. [inaudible] on this pension thing because on the last contract [inaudible]

(Chairman) Well in the new, and future union of MFD, Brother, I am sure that the membership, wherever they are, in any District for this jurisdiction shares your sentiments that the rank and file should approve the contract in the future. This gentleman over here.

(audience – Tom) Tom [inaudible] District 2. [inaudible] I thank you.

(Chairman) Mike Trbovich will answer that one.

01:27:50 (Mike) I hope that, uh, I think that it was said here today by Joseph [inaudible] who is here, but this is one of the things that we are asking Judge Bryant in the election case, and we want to make it clear that we are not trying to stop the pensioner from voting. Judge Bryant will rule on that part, which is in violation of the constitution. This is what we are, we are asking. We are asking that these people in the inactive locals be put into active local unions. We are not trying to stop them from voting. We are trying to stop Carson [inaudible] from 28 from voting all of these inactive locals, or other district presence. Lieber in District 29, [inaudible] District 26, Nova Scotia. Now, the question that unions asked, I hope that I, I hope that I have answered that, this decision will be made by Judge Bryant, one way or the other, but we’re hoping that these people would be put into active local unions. Thank you. 01:29:01 (applause)

(Chairman) I want to make a few more announcements. People bring these remarks up and that’s what we suggest to do. Things that are important. I want to give. We would like to give additional recognition to the Sheriff’s Department of Ohio County, West Virginia, which has jurisdiction here in [inaudible]. The Sheriff’s Deputies are also part of our security. Some of them are over there. And we welcome you. And we feel safe in your presence. (applause)

(Chairman) Another news item, newsworthy for the news media I want to announce is someone was distributing literature outside without the permission of the rules committee and the rules committee has this statement to make from the chair. There’s a little red paint on it, in their opinion, and we don’t want any red paint on our organization. They can make no contribution to us whatever, other than jeopardize our worthy objectives, so they were asked to leave by the authorities. The police department [inaudible]. We cannot have that. If there’s anyone in here that wants to distribute, please save us the embarrassment of asking you to leave and if there’s anyone here who wishes to distribute the Daily World, the official publication of the communist party of the United States, please do not. There are some of you attending here, I presume, but do not do that. If you would spare us the embarrassment of asking you to leave, you would be doing us a favor. In addition to that, in this locality, somebody is mailing the Daily World to certain members of our organization. They ask me how they get the addresses, well, it’s not difficult to get addresses. A good sweeper salesman or a [inaudible] can get those addresses out of a phone book. So, fellas, the Miners for Democracy goes on record, here and now, as saying, they do not authorize that mail coming to you. And those of you that have received it, just send it back rejected, and they have to pay the postage, and you, and they won’t mail it anymore. If you don’t want it. Most of it comes with just your address, no return address. Again, we stress that very emphatically. 01:31:57 (applause)

(Chairman) New recognition, is due to the man that painted our signs. He’s a local coal miner of Local 7690, District 6. This sign directly behind me, UMWA, Miners for Democracy was printed by him and also, some of the others throughout this room, such as Local 7690 where he is a member. I would like Ted Birch to stand up for recognition from District 6. (applause).

(Brother Kelly) Mr. Chairman.

(Chairman) Brother Kelly, Local 7690 [inaudible] if we keep this around, and I tell you some of my fears about it [inaudible]. Our vacation pay, I believe the taxes on that money should be paid to the government. If we’re entitled to 390 hours, we should receive 390 hours and also, while we’re on vacation, when we come back, we will have [inaudible] vacation. That’s my opinion.

(Chairman) Thank you Bill Kelly. (applause)

01:33:22 (Chairman) As we breeze along [audience chatter] I want you people to understand about a certain group that had been cast out, like refuse on a slag-deep or slate dump in this organization. Some of those peoples are members of the black lung association, but there is another group who has suffered tremendously, who were once members of our organization and some are still members of our organization. And my admiration goes out to them for their contribution they made in the 1969 campaign for Jock Yablonski and Elmer Brown. Specifically in the southern jurisdiction of this union, District 17, 29, 30, and 28. Those people, some of them have died, and one of the most compassionate men I knew, who was a disabled miner, was C.B. Odom. That man went to Illinois with us and he didn’t have the breath to blow up a balloon. And, C.B. Odom died of black lung, deprived of his pension. And with his black, with his last breath he once told me, I can still mention Jock Yablonski. We went to Alabama, C.B. Odom, and Elmer Brown, and I. And C.B. Odom was broke, didn’t have a dime, but he wanted to help, he knew Alabama miners. And I mentioned this once in District 6, he said to me, he goes, ‘can we go to Hueytown, Alabama?’ I says, well sure, but the mines are all dead locals and abandoned, Odom. 01:35:15 He says, ‘yes, I want to go and I want to see my parents’ graves.’ I says, why sure, we’ll make time for that. If we don’t have time for that, we don’t have time for anything. He said, ‘well I don’t want to hold you up.’ I said you’re not holding me up, Odom, we’re going. We went in that old cemetery, those people in the days of the depression when his parents were buried, they didn’t have money for a tombstone. He located the graves where they were sunken and growed up with briars and brambles, but the nicest tombstone in the cemetery, that depressed me so much, was one that was erected by the daughters of the confederacy per his grandfather who died as a result of wounds at Gettysburg, and he told me then, he said, that then and there, he says, ‘if I give my last breath for the Yablonski-Brown campaign, I’ll be happy to join my loved ones here.’ But he died in Hensley, West Virginia six months later.

### END OF FILE