

# BECK DETAILS PLAN OF TEAMSTER DRIVE

Labor Leader Maps Strategy for Two-Million Membership —Invasion Set in This Area

By STANLEY LEVEY

Dave Beck, executive vice president of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, AFL, and one of the nation's most aggressive labor leaders, served notice yesterday on labor and industry that his union was on the verge of a major organizing drive. Mr. Beck made known his program at a press conference at the statistical offices of the IBT at 264 West Fourteenth Street.

But before the teamsters go out looking for members, Mr. Beck said, the pioneer craft union will alter its traditional structure and refashion itself along generally national and industrial lines. Plans have been drawn to tighten the sprawling 900,000-member organization into a series of semi-autonomous units.

The units, which will be known as national trade divisions, will encompass the fifteen general fields acknowledged to form the jurisdiction of the teamsters. Beginning next week in Chicago, a series of meetings to animate these divisions will be held and procedures for the organizing campaign will be outlined.

Mr. Beck, who has put many of these ideas into practice in the Pacific Northwest, expressed high hopes for the program on a nationwide scale. He said that within five years the teamsters would increase their membership to 2,000,000, all but eliminate jurisdictional disputes, and negotiate contracts on a national or industry-wide basis.

## Sees "End of Turmoil"

For industry, in Mr. Beck's view, the significance of the change in the union's structure was that it would "end the turmoil caused by jurisdictional disputes." Creation of a "national organization conference structure" with bargaining nationally, would be welcomed by industry, he predicted.

For New York City, Mr. Beck's announcement had many implications. For one thing, he made it clear that the emphasis of the program and organizing drive here would be in the department store warehouse field. With the local store situation in a state of flux as a result of the entry of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers, CIO, into the field and a number of National Labor Relations Board elections pending, the advent of the teamsters was not expected to clarify matters.

Mr. Beck's appearance in New York during the past week had set off many rumors concerning the teamsters' intentions in the store field. Yesterday the 54-year-old West Coast chief made his intentions quite clear.

Mr. Beck said yesterday that he considered all store workers, with the exception of clerks, who handled or moved stock, as belonging properly within the jurisdiction of his union. That was the way it was in stores on the West Coast, he said, where the teamsters had organized, and that was the way the union planned it here.

"We are going to organize the New York department store warehouse workers regardless of what that entails," he said.

## Expects No Trouble

Pressed for an opinion on what effect this attitude would have on relations between teamsters and the Amalgamated, Mr. Beck said that he expected no trouble and that he did not expect the clothing union to "infringe on our jurisdiction." But if it did, he went on, "we are capable of taking care of ourselves."

From the regional office of the National Labor Relations Board it was learned that it had long been board policy not to cut off warehouse personnel from sales people by setting up two bargaining units. In most local department stores stock workers are united with clerks in one unit except for Macy's, whose warehouse workers are represented by Local 804 of the Teamsters.

For other sections of the labor movement, Mr. Beck's program meant that warfare might break out for control of workers who were believed by the teamsters to belong within their jurisdiction. He declared that the teamsters structure had been "threatened" in a number of places, and that where this occurred, his union would take action.

"We cannot sit idly by and wither on the vine," he said. "We intend to erect a structure to protect our interests in any field. We intend to organize to the fullest extent in every city in the United States the jurisdiction allocated to us by the American Federation of Labor."

## Claims 100,000 Prospects

Mr. Beck estimated that there were in the New York area 100,000 workers presumed to be within the jurisdiction of the teamsters. Twenty-five thousand of these, he said, were warehouse workers. He also indicated that New York brewery workers, most of them members of the United Brewery Workers, CIO, would be included among those his organizers will seek to reach.

The fifteen trade divisions which the teamsters will set up are as follows: automotive trades, bakery, beverage, building and construction, cannery, chauffeurs, dairy, general hauling, laundry, sales drivers, produce, warehouse, over-the-road trucking, drive-away and truck-away drivers and log hauling.

Mr. Beck emphasized that none of these divisions was new to the teamsters. He stressed also that the plan meant no interference with the locals or joint councils already set up.

He said he hoped to have all the divisions in action by spring. For two years after that, Mr. Beck declared, national meetings would be held every six months to coordinate the work. After that they would be held once a year with the union's national convention scheduled for once every four years.

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