

Teamsters Here Bar \$1 Increase in Dues, Vent Anger on Beck

By **EMANUEL PERLMUTTER**

Angry members of Local 804 of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters overwhelmingly vetoed yesterday a request by their officers for a \$1-a-month dues increase.

At a turbulent meeting in Manhattan Center, Thirty-fourth Street and Eighth Avenue, they told the local's officials to reduce the administrative payroll and expenditures to help balance the union's finances.

Uncomplimentary references to Dave Beck, the union's international president now under investigation by a United States Senate labor-management committee, were shouted from the floor. The local's officers were accused of "outlandish living."

More Disclosures Forecast

In Washington, Senator John L. McClellan predicted that the Senate committee would soon have "a great deal more" evidence of wrongdoing on the part of Mr. Beck than had so far been revealed in public hearings. The Arkansas Democrat, who is chairman of the select committee, said it was "presently anticipated that Mr. Beck will be back before the committee."

At the meeting here, rank-and-file teamsters made it clear they were taking some new looks at the union leadership. After Leonard Geiger, Local 804 president, had pleaded for the dues increase from \$3 to \$4 a month because the union was assertedly operating on a deficit of about \$50,000 a year, he was asked what would happen if the local went bankrupt.

"It would probably be taken

Continued on Page 19, Column 6,

The New York Times

Published: April 1, 1957

Copyright © The New York Times

TEAMSTERS VETO DUES RISE HERE

Continued From Page 1

over by the international," he replied. "Then you will have Beck instead of me."

"We'll see him in jail first," somebody announced in the rear of the hall.

Mr. Beck has been accused by the Senate Select Committee on Improper Activities in the Labor or Management Field of misusing possibly \$322,000 in union funds. He has refused to answer most of the committee's questions, pleading constitutional guarantees against incriminating himself.

The vote against the Local 804 dues increase was about 1,400 to 100. It was taken by a show of hands. The local represents 2,500 of the United Parcel Service's 3,200 employes and approximately 1,500 other workers in F. W. Woolworth and other department store warehouses.

Efforts by Mr. Geiger and other officers to delay the vote produced a stormy outbreak from the assemblage. The members shouted "Vote, vote, vote!" until the local president was forced to call for the expression of sentiment.

The dues increase had been recommended by the local's executive board and a majority of the shop stewards. Dues of other teamster locals in the metropolitan area average between \$4 and \$5 a month.

Loss of Members Cited

Mr. Geiger said the union had lost between 1,000 and 1,500 members in the last few years because of the closing of Wanamaker's, Hearns and other local department store warehouses. He said that in addition to this loss in dues, the local had suffered from increased membership taxes and assessments

levied by the international union.

He was asked whether the international union had given the local organizational assistance to compensate for the higher levies. Mr. Geiger said no such assistance had been received.

This information was greeted by catcalls from the local's members.

Mr. Geiger, president of Local 804, is also a vice president of the Teamsters Joint Council. He was a running mate of John J. O'Rourke, the new council president. Mr. O'Rourke is generally considered to be the Eastern representative of James R. Hoffa, Midwest teamster boss now under indictment on charges of bribing a Senate investigator.