

**MEDIATOR FOR TEAMSTERS**

# EMC Dorm Changes Studied

A bricklayers and contractors wage dispute continued Tuesday while architects looked into using other building materials for Eastern Montana College's dormitory.

The seven-week-long dispute has almost stopped work on the dormitory. Only about six workers remain of about 60 employed before the work stoppage.

Teamsters, in the meantime, set a meeting Thursday with Federal Mediator Carl Clavatscher of Great Falls.

They and five beer distributors will discuss an expired contract and wage increases at 2 p.m., said the Teamsters business agent, Don Warren.

Pickets have been at the distributors since Friday morning.

William Lowe, president of Lowe Construction, said architects are looking into substituting metal lath, studs and plaster for the concrete block and plaster interior walls planned in the dormitory. That would allow other crafts to do the work.

The walls would be the same thickness, have the same fire rating and perhaps would block sound better, he said.

"We think it could be done just as cheaply," he added. "It's a very feasible change."

He said architects had not indicated when they would decide on the application.

Work on St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Laurel, a Pierce Packing Co. addition and finishing work on Coca-Cola Bottling Co. were halted.

Keith Brown, owner of Concrete Products, said workers have been stocking up blocks "but you reach the point the yard is filled up."

He said if construction projects outside Billings aren't started he will have to consider laying off employees in about two weeks.

"When we reach a settlement," Lechner said, "the pay increases go into effect immediately. That additional money for the bricklayers isn't added to the contractor's price for the building. It's paid out of his pocket."

"This is affecting the rest of the trades, too," he said.

He said the council would like to see the wage dispute arbitrated but brickmasons have refused.

"If it went to arbitration everyone goes back to work and

new wages could be paid retroactively," he said.

Brickmasons are asking a 45 cent an hour raise over two years. The current rate is \$4.35 an hour.

The council's offer would give them the highest wage rate in the state, he said. The offer is for 15 cents on settlement and 20 cents more next year.

He said the raise would bring the pay to \$4.50 an hour. He said his information shows Butte workers are paid \$4.50, Great Falls workers \$4.40 plus 12 cents hourly benefits, Helena \$4.25 and Bozeman \$4.40.

His information also showed Boise, Idaho, workers are paid \$4.37½, and Salt Lake, Utah, \$4.19, plus 29 cents in benefits.

He quoted a Department of Labor publication saying the average increase to bricklayers last year was 14.1 cents an hour, or a 3.1 per cent increase.

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## Salvation Army Eyes

# Wage Dispute Hinders Dorm Completion

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