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Pressmen Ratify Pact At New York's Struck World Journal Tribune

Vote of 263-208 Removes Last Big Hurdle to Publication of Merged Paper; Sept. 6 Start Mentioned

NEW YORK—(AP)—The rank and file of the Pressmen's Union narrowly approved a contract with World Journal Tribune, Inc., removing the last major barrier to publication of the new corporation's afternoon and Sunday newspaper.

The vote, announced yesterday shortly after the longest newspaper strike in the city's history entered its 127th day, was 263 to 208.

Nine other unions still must negotiate readjustments in contracts agreed upon before the demise of the morning Herald Tribune, Aug. 15, but union leaders saw little difficulty.

Tuesday, Sept. 6—the day after Labor Day—has been held but as the possible date for publication of the first World Journal Tribune.

The Pressmen's Union contract calls for a 7½-hour Saturday night work turn. The length of that work turn had been the key snag, with the union holding out for 8½ hours and the publishers for 8—the same as at the News and Times.

In a memorandum on the contract, signed by the union's president, William J. Kennedy, the union leaders said they agreed "to pay a sum of \$14,000 plus the elasticity of the lunch period for the reduction."

Under the agreement, management can send pressmen to lunch anywhere from 2½ hours to 5 hours into the work turn.

Mr. Kennedy announced after the stormy meeting that "there is a possibility that we might all return to work by Sept. 6."

The publishing company, formed this spring through a merger of the afternoon Journal American and the World Telegram & the Sun and the morning Herald Tribune, was to have published its first paper April 25. But the New York Newspaper Guild struck on April 24, and nine craft unions followed suit. One by one the unions settled, until only the pressmen were left.

With talks at a stalemate, the publishers announced Aug. 15 that they were folding the Herald Tribune, a newspaper with roots going back 131 years, and would publish only an afternoon and a Sunday paper, each to be called the World Journal Tribune.

The contract also calls for extra severance pay for pressmen displaced by the merger, vacation credits, and additional welfare and pension benefits.