



THE LOCAL NEWS

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LIBRARY PROPOSES TIME CLOCKS

EMPLOYEES

SMASH THE IDEA

Over five hundred Library of Congress employees spent their lunch breaks on Wednesday, Aug. 4th, protesting the Library's management for stalling and obfuscating on the current contract negotiations. The rally was called by both AFSCME locals in response to management's mid-July contract counterproposals which called for lengthening the work day to nine hours, shortening the flexiband, signing in and out for lunch, and punching time-clocks. AFSCME members at the rally smashed several time-clocks with sledgehammers to show their contempt for management's proposals.

LC employees also protested poor health and safety conditions, management's lack of sensitivity to child-care needs, and management's refusal to settle grievances in a meaningful manner. Jim Mundy, executive director of Council 26, stated in his speech that the Library's two older buildings had been declared fire-traps in 1975, yet management had since then done nothing about it. He told listeners that rather than settle the most obvious grievances, the Library had taken cases to arbitration which it knew it would lose. He added that Library management had lost every case in arbitration and that taxpayers were not willing to support an irresponsible administration that squandered its funds on costly litigation settlements and on meaningless contract negotiating sessions.

Bargaining on Contract II has been going on for 20 months with agreement reached on only 4 of the 45 articles. Management has stated that it would rather keep the old contract, which expired on June 14th, 1980, in effect during a foreseeable 5 more years of bargaining than reach agreement on currently proposed articles. On August 19th, 1982, the Guild countered this by calling an impasse and seeking a mediator from the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service.

