

DK-2, "AVCO-1960's – Atmosphere – Wildcat Strikes"

Transcript: pp. 4-5

Text portion for pop-up/audio alternative

Time-Line location: Labor time-line, 1963, "24 Hour Wildcat Strike at AVCO"

DK Well, the relationship, labor management relationship was very rocky relationship for many years. When I first came there, Avco Corporation was probably, in relation to other aerospace companies nationally, the wages were somewhat lower, considerably lower. They did not have the kind of benefits that were typical of aerospace. Our international union based in Detroit representing a lot of aerospace companies around the country, they did a lot of research. There was a very intense, very militant, confrontational type of relationship for many years. It was characterized by numerous wildcat strikes, rank and file strikes, particularly on the night shift...

These strikes were, as a matter of fact, I think we hold the record, we've held the record for wildcat strikes than any local union in the country. They used to point to a factory out in Ohio where they had a militant rank and file, but ours, in its own quiet way, was...I think we had over, well over a hundred wildcat strikes. The problem with that was essentially anarchy, industrial anarchy. There was no functioning grievance procedure. It was felt that out of frustration the only way they could get a problem resolved was by taking this direct action. Eventually the company in late 1966 was able to get a permanent restraining order, an injunction against the local union and a lot of the individual officers and members, permanently restraining us from engaging in wildcat strikes, which were illegal under our contract. But that in itself was a bit of, I think, legal precedent, I don't think anybody...