

DK-4, "President Johnson – 1960's Negotiations with Union"

Transcript: p.7

Text portion for pop-up/audio alternative

Time-Line location: Labor, 1967 – April 16: "AVCO Strike Begins"

DK The mid-60's. We did have probably the highlight of the confrontations that the union had with the company was in 1967. We had one of the last, the last Taft-Hartley injunction in the country. It was at the height of the Vietnam War. The local union had been in bargaining for a new contract. The contract expired on, was due to expire in April, the middle of April, April 15th, and President Johnson signed a fact-finding, a Taft-Hartley Act. He was down in Quinta Del'este in Argentina or somewhere in South America for Alliance for Democracy or Alliance for Progress conference. And he signed the Taft-Hartley injunction putting the local restraining order or putting us back to work after about four days, and so the bargaining then was transferred down to Washington, D.C. It was very intense, high level government involvement for the next three or four months. The contract was finally signed, finally resolved almost at the brink of the expiration of the 80-day, the so-called 80-day cooling-off period. It came down maybe about three days before that. Congress was poised to legislate new no strike legislation to put or force the local back to work. And it was basically, the issues were basically, as I say, a catch-up contract. The union felt we were far behind most other aerospace companies in the country. A lot of other companies in the community, we were way behind them in terms of wages and benefits and things like that. And this was the best opportunity we were going to have to rectify it.