OFFICIAL CIRCULAR

United Mine Workers of America

TO THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS,
ALL LOCAL UNIONS, U.M.W.

GREETINGS:

There seems to be such a varied difference of opinion throughout our District regarding the discontinuance of the Four Per Cent, that the District Executive Board feels that they should have an expression from the various Local Unions as to their wish in the matter. The District Board is perfectly willing at this time to submit the matter to a referendum vote in any way that a goodly portion of our membership sees fit.

We have at this time, some three Locals who expressed a desire for the matter to be submitted to a referendum vote to discontinue entirely. We also have request from three Local Unions that the Four Per Cent be left as it is at present, with the provision that it be equally divided among all unemployed, stating as their reason, that during the Winter months there will be more men to pay this Four Per Cent, whereas the burden was carried by only a few during the Summer and Fall. We have request from two Local Unions to reduce this Four Per Cent to Two Per Cent. We also have request from two Local Unions that the Four Per Cent be left on, but that the entire amount be sent to Oklahoma, to be used in their fight there. We also have request from some five Local Unions, that it be submitted to a vote for discontinuance, to take effect the first of December, the last months assessment to be diverted to the General Fund of the District, thereby eliminating a special assessment for the General Fund.

Kindly let us have your Local Union expression on this matter before October 25th, as the District Executive Board expects at that time to submit the matter, in some form, back to you for a vote, and we want to submit it in the way it is most acceptable to our membership.

Without question of doubt, this Four Per Cent has saved your District from being in a like condition as your sister District, Oklahoma, and has protected the Organization and the Jacksonville Scale of Wages.

For your further information, we have at this time, not counting our membership whose mines will start within the next week or ten days, approximately Fifteen Hundred idle men, One Hundred and Twenty of whom are on strike in opposition to a reduction. The Board also feels that it will be necessary, through out the coming months, to call mines on strike from time to time. However, we are not suggesting the payment of relief to mines so called, unless they are idle in excess of thirty days. The idle miners of the Crowe mines at Croweburg, about Three Hundred and Fifty in number, is a serious situation to be left without aid of any kind. Knowing that you will give this matter your serious consideration, we are

With best wishes,
Fraternally yours,
DISTRICT EXECUTIVE BOARD,
H.L. Walters, Pres.
Dan O'Donnell, V. Pres.
Henry W. Burr, Sec'y.