

The strike at Obici Hospital is one of the most important strikes of our time. It is a strike for the basic survival of the black people at Obici, a strike against white supremacy. It has become a fight for the right of a poor laborer to scratch out a decent life while working for management which advocates subsistence level wages. If this battle is won, it will open the door for working class men and women all over the state. The failure of the local newspapers to inform the public as to what is happening has hindered the strikers tremendously. They need the support of the white community in Tidewater to end this strike and make working conditions better all over the state.

1. The hospital workers at Obici were being paid \$1.30 an hour when negotiations began. The hospital then gave the workers a raise of 15 cents an hour, but refused to discuss any of the other issues.

2. A union had been formed-Local 26 of The National Council of distributive workers of America.

3. On August 1, Brendell Madison, one of the employees at Obici and a leader of Local 26 was fired. This happened while grievances were being discussed, and was considered a breach of promise on the part of the hospital.

4.

4. The Union went on strike and immediately the picketing began in the front of the hospital.

5. Workers and sympathizers banded together to pressure the hospital into reopening negotiations. But, they refused to recognize the Union. Negotiations were again broken off.

6. The scabs who are replacing the strikers are white workers from North Carolina and the outskirts of Hansemond County. They are being paid \$1.60 an hour.

7. Downtown stores and the A&P grocery are being picketed as a result of discriminatory practices, and in the hope that the management will pressure the hospital. Sympathizers are needed to picket downtown Suffolk to show support of the hospital strike and downtown boycott.

This has been a long strike and the workers need more support. Letters to the hospital management would be a great help and money is desperately needed. The majority of strikers have found temporary work, but 45 people are being supported by the Union, which is at the time broke.

Come out and march with us. For more information or for contributions call or write:

Local 26 DWA
809 Washington Street
Suffolk, Virginia
Phone: 539-9400

The Union demands are simple and basic to decent working conditions:

1. \$1.45 an hour now. \$1.60 an hour at this time next year.
2. Hospital pay 5% gross wages into Security Plan to give workers benefits above what they have been in the past.
3. Immediate hiring of Prendell Madison.
4. Three weeks vacation with pay after five years. Four weeks after ten years.
5. Ten paid holidays per year, including Martin Luther King's birthday. (6 paid holidays now)
6. Proper promotions from within.
7. Guarantee opportunities for upgrading and training for advancement.
8. Grievance machinery that would include outside arbitrators.