

Judge Shelley Chapman
Bankruptcy Court
One Bowling Green
New York, NY 10004

Dear Judge Chapman

I retired in 1998 from Arch Coal's Hobet mine in Boone Co., W.V. after having worked 18 years in the mines. I am a breast cancer survivor and have three stents in my heart arteries because of coronary heart disease. I also have a neck injury that was caused by my work driving trucks at the mine. The Hobet mine is now owned by Patriot Coal, and Patriot is responsible for my retiree health care, even though I never worked a day for them.

I attended the UMW A's rally in Charleston with thousands of my union brothers and sisters on September 11th.. The next day, I sat in the courthouse and watched the second day of your hearing about moving this case to Charleston, W.V.

I was told that you did not believe there were thousands marching in the streets

of Charleston, calling for this case to be moved here. I am enclosing copies of news articles and pictures from the media with this letter that proves there were thousands of us.

Judge, I depend on the health care I get to survive. If I can't get my medication for my heart disease, I won't be around much longer. If someone is going to take my health care away from me through the courts, I think I ought to be able to watch them do it with my own eyes. And I think they ought to have to see me sitting there while they do it. Wouldn't you want to be able to do that? I'm sure you are a good Judge, but I ask you to please help us and do the right thing by sending this case to Charleston.

Sincerely

Shirley Sloman

P O Box 442

Madison, W.V. 25130

Friday, September 21 2012

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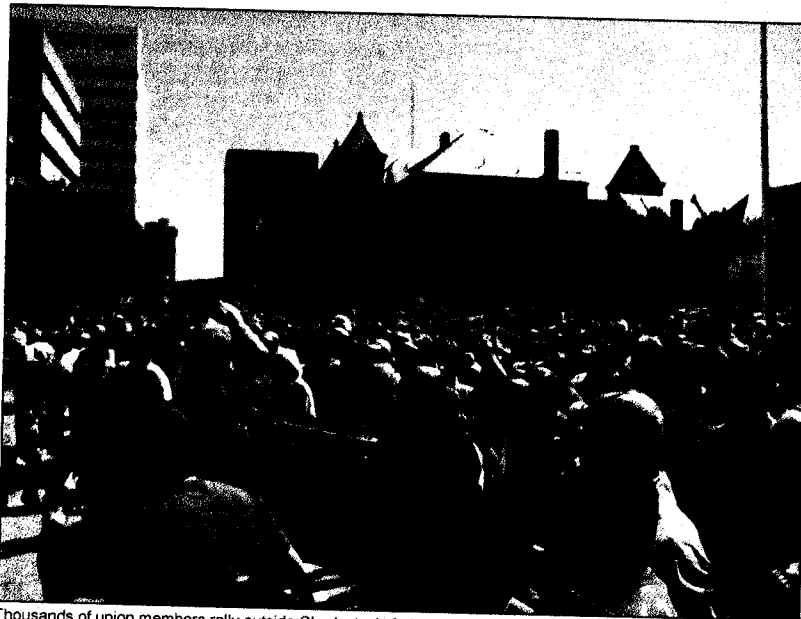
Warner Law Offices High School Game Night Ticker

09/12/2012

UMWA Ready For Fight with Patriot

Chris Lawrence
Charleston

Exerpts From Rally Speakers Caputo and Roberts 00:00 00:00



Thousands of union members rally outside Charleston's federal courthouse on the street in the battle with Patriot Coal

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The United Mine Workers Association appears poised for a strike against Patriot Coal, Arch Coal, Peabody and anybody else involved in a current struggle over retiree benefits. Several thousand members of the union gathered at Charleston's riverfront Tuesday bracing for what they say will be a long and bitter fight.

"We didn't want this fight," said one union leader who revved up the crowd at Charleston's Haddad Riverfront Park. "But if they were looking for one, they came to the right place!"

UMWA members are angered over movements by Arch Coal and Peabody Coal Corporation. They claim those St. Louis based companies deliberately established Patriot Coal as a subsidiary in 2007, and then quietly moved all of Arch Coal and Peabody Coal retirees under the Patriot umbrella. Patriot earlier this year filed for bankruptcy. Union leaders say that was the plan from the beginning.

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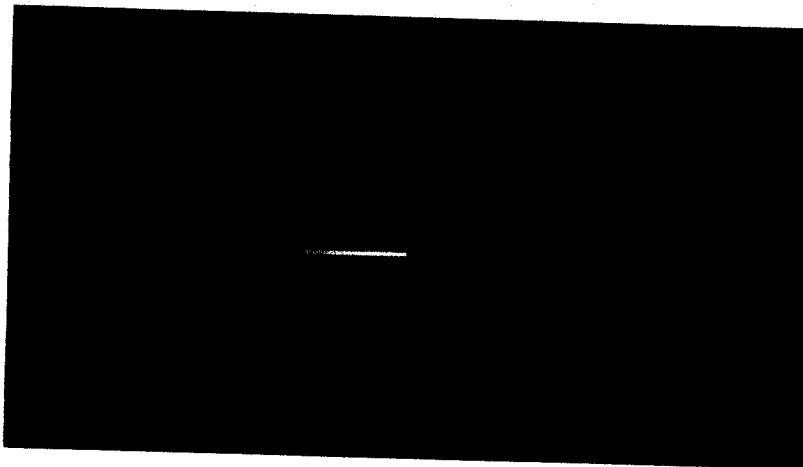
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"Only five percent of the pensioners who are retirees of Patriot Coal ever worked for Patriot Coal," said UMWA President Cecil Roberts at the microphone Tuesday. "How can you be retired from a company you never worked for?"

Tuesday's rally moved from the riverfront into the streets of Charleston. The union members streamed down Virginia Street and amassed in front of the Robert C. Byrd Federal Courthouse. While they rallied outside, inside the courthouse a change of venue hearing was underway via teleconference in a New York City federal courtroom. The union wants the court proceedings in Patriot's bankruptcy case, along with their challenge, to be moved from a federal court in New York City to Charleston Federal Court.



"Is there coal in New York City? Is there a coal mine in New York City? Is there a longwall in New York City? Is there a pensioner in New York City?" Roberts railed as he whipped up the crowd. "This hearing needs to be moved right over here, don't hide in New York."

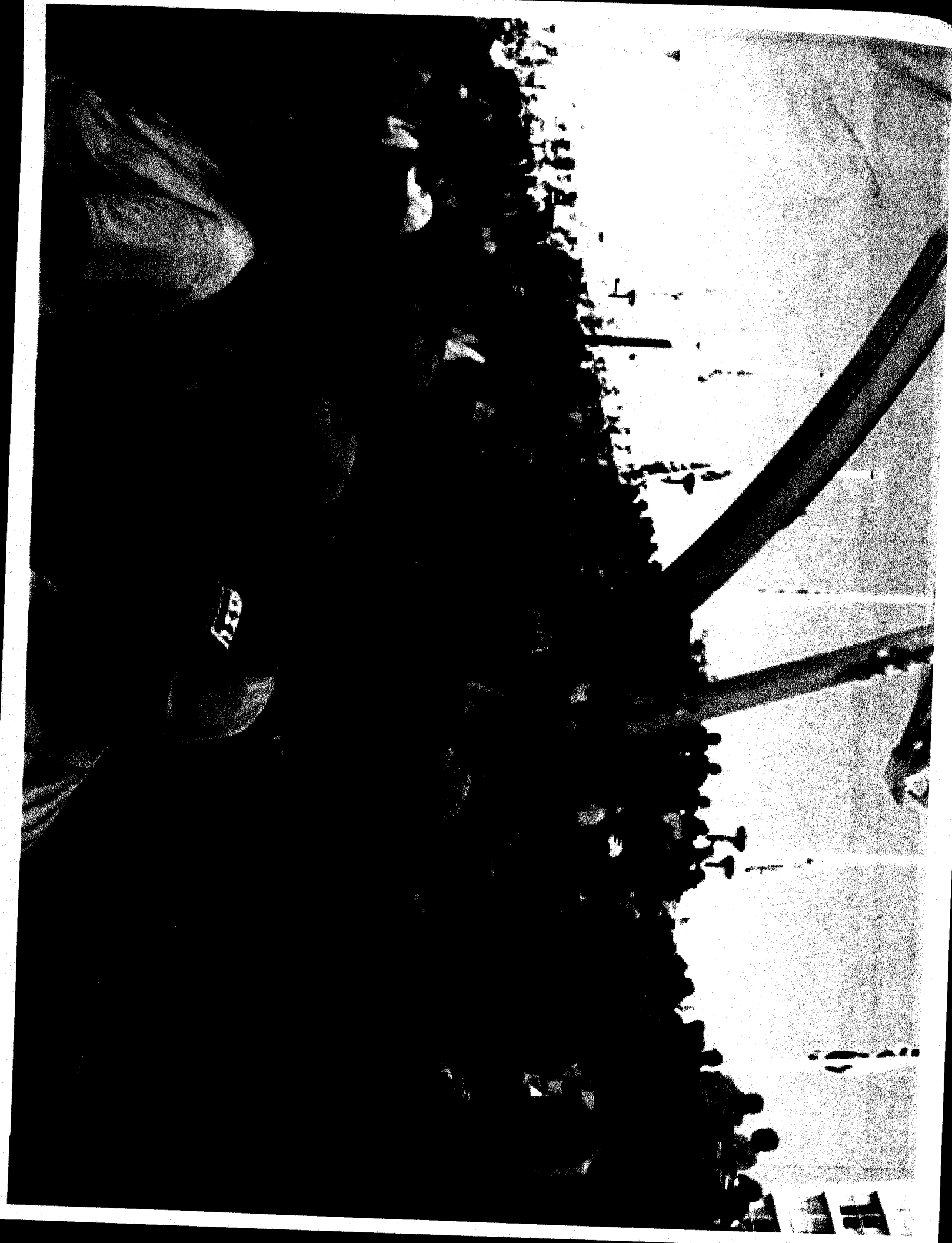
UMWA officials maintain those most impacted by the bankruptcy would stand a better chance of getting a fair hearing in Charleston where Patriot does business rather than far away in New York City where they believe their voices will never be heard.

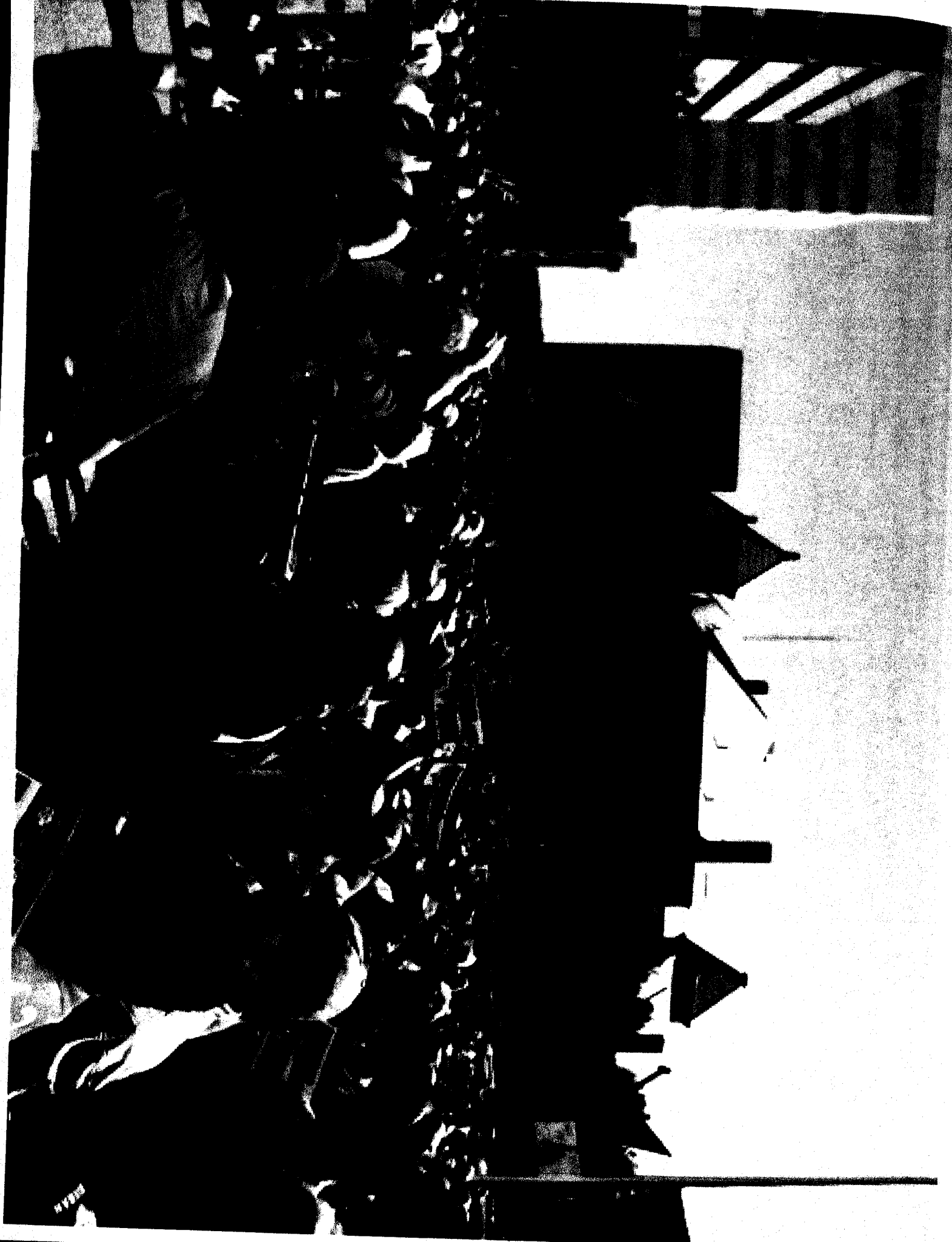
Throughout the crowd rank and file miners talked openly about the possibility of the dispute turning into a strike. Many UMWA miners currently on the Patriot payroll, but presently laid off, said they were ready to man a picket line today.

"They're threatening to take everything I've got," said one worried miner only months away from retirement. "They could take every single one of our benefits and if they do, those non-union miners who are working for Patriot will lose their retirement and healthcare too. The only reason they have it now is because of what we've done."

UMWA top official and state House of Delegates member Mike Caputo was more direct in his discussion of the matter.

"I have a message for Patriot, Peabody, and anybody else who wants to get in the way," Caputo said in a fiery speech from the podium. "I will go to Federal #2. I will go to any mine in southern West Virginia and we will SHUT YOU DOWN. They cannot win this fight!"





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