

PAPCUN DEFIES STATE TROOPERS

Progressive Forces to Continue Meetings

SCRANTON, Pa., (FP), May 8. — "Who's running this union," asked angry coal diggers.

"We're running it right now," shot back state troopers, as they ordered union members from their own hall after breaking up a meeting of 1,200 members of Local 1487 at Pittston.

1,000 members of Local 1495 at Hughestown were voting on officers. State troopers didn't like the way the vote was going. They assumed charge of the meeting and ordered all miners from the hall.

At other union meetings, state police frisk all miners entering the hall, then post themselves in strategic positions. When speakers say things distasteful to the officers, they are warned and later ejected, if necessary. If the meeting is not run to the troopers' satisfaction, the chief steps to the front and adjourns the session without explanation. Guns reinforce the troopers' determination.

Save-the-Union Committee meetings are also under the police ban. 100 miners gathered to discuss union problems at Dickson City, near Scranton, were ordered to disperse from the hall they had rented. No charges were presented. The miners were simply warned to get out, and not to meet again.

George Papcun, secretary of the anthracite Save-the-Union committee, has defied state and local police, declaring the committee will hold meetings at will.