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10,000 stand in line for 46 jobs, circa 1977

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10,000 stand in line for 46 jobs, circa 1977

Abstract

Newspaper article about job seekers interested in the Anaconda American Brass job openings, Buffalo, NY.

10,000 stand in line for 46 jobs

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — About 10,000 job seekers showed up at the Anaconda American Brass plant to apply for openings for 26 skilled tradespeople and 20 production workers, the company says.

Five hundred people camped outside the employment office to make sure they were at the front of the line Saturday.

"When we heard from our security people that applicants were camping out overnight and using bonfires to keep warm, we realized we had to

open up a lot earlier," said David Velmosky, the company's labor relations supervisor.

Anaconda, the Arco Metals division of the Atlantic Richfield Co., had planned to start accepting applications at 9 a.m. Velmosky and others began handing out forms at 5:30 a.m. and by 10 a.m. had distributed more than 7,000.

The company said an estimated 10,000 forms were distributed.

"We promised everyone we wouldn't begin screening for the new jobs until Friday, which would give

all of them a chance to get their applications back," Velmosky said.

The openings, part of an \$80 million expansion, were announced by the company last week.

Anaconda currently employs some 730 workers at the plant. About 535 are production and maintenance workers represented by Local 593 of the United Steelworkers of America.

The unemployment rate in Buffalo and surrounding Erie and Niagara counties is more than 14 percent.