

# The Washington Post

WASHINGTON POST, December 5, 1988

## Union Accord To Establish Housing Fund

By Michael Rezendes  
Special to The Washington Post

BOSTON—A union representing more than 3,000 hotel workers has become the first labor organization in the nation to win establishment of an affordable-housing fund as a contract benefit, union leaders said.

Under terms of a three-year agreement Thursday between Local 26 of the Hotel Restaurant Institutional Employees and Bartenders Union, AFL-CIO, and owners of nine downtown hotels, employers will pay more than \$250,000 annually into a trust fund that could be used to help union members and their families buy homes or rent apartments.

"To the best of our knowledge, it's the first time that a housing trust fund has been put into a collective-bargaining agreement," said Lorrie McHugh, an AFL-CIO spokeswoman.

Domenic Bozzotto, president of Local 26, said, "We've opened the door a crack. Maybe the larger unions will be able to swing it wide open."

Bozzotto said money would be paid into the fund at a rate of 5 cents for each hour worked but will remain in an escrow account while the union seeks an amendment to the federal Labor Management Relations Act.

The measure allows establishment of various kinds of jointly managed trust funds but not one providing housing benefits.

Alan Miller, a negotiator for the hotel owners, said, "It's the employers' position that a housing trust

fund is presently illegal." The contract was signed shortly after the union's midnight strike deadline.

Union leaders here said they will ask Rep. Silvio O. Conte (R-Mass.) to sponsor the amendment because he is seeking changes to the labor relations act and is the only Republican in the Massachusetts congressional delegation.

If the labor relations act is not amended in 18 months, the housing money would revert to the union's health and welfare fund.