

Threat of Tragedy Forced U. S. to Be 'Strikebreaker'

By JAMES THRASHER
"If the government is going to step in as a strike-breaking agency," says the president of the Switchmen's Union of North America, "it's about time that the American people start thinking of what they are going to do for the American working man deprived of his bargaining weapon."

That is an imposing generality, but it doesn't square with reality. And it doesn't justify a railroad strike, as it apparently was meant to.

From the practical viewpoint, there is no such composite creature as "the American working man," any more than there is a similar one called "the American employer." Even in the restricted sense of the working man as a union member, the generality does not apply.

Union members have varying responsibilities, just as they have varying jobs and wages. That may not be right, but it is so. As this country becomes more industrialized and urbanized, its people become more interdependent, and at the same time, more dependent on a few basic industries and activities.

It may not injure the public for the workers in a pottery factory or even an automobile factory to go on strike and stay out until they get what they want. It does injure the public if union leaders, in industrywide bargaining, shut down all the coal mines or all the steel mills or all the railroads to enforce their demands.

In the case of the railroads, the government has entered the picture as what the switchmen's president chooses to call "a strike-breaking agency." It did so because, as President Truman rightly said, "a strike on our railroads would be a nationwide tragedy, with worldwide repercussions; and because, as Justice Goldsborough said, such a strike would cause the country 'to suffer irreparable injury for which it has no adequate remedy at law.'"

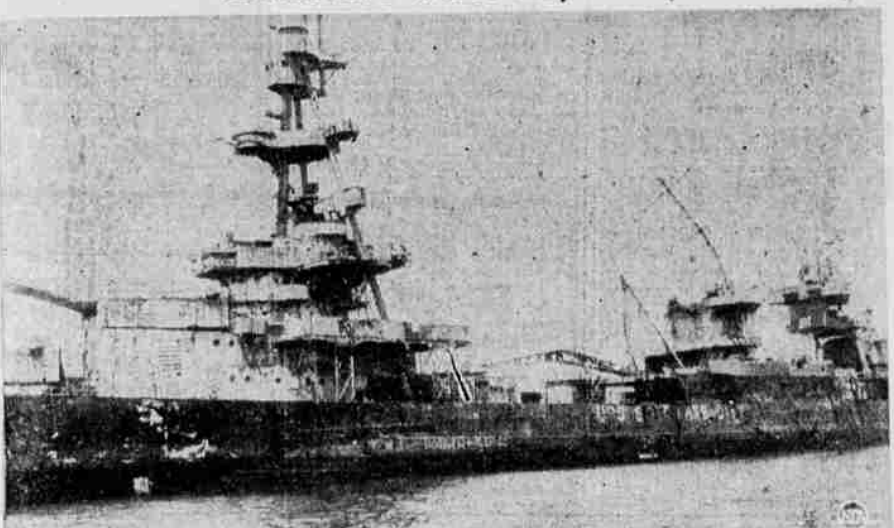
It should be pointed out that the owners of these basic industries and activities have the same responsibilities as their organized employees. They have no right, by industrywide agreement, to shut down all the railroads or steel mills or coal mines.

We are sure that the threat of a railroad strike started the American people thinking, but not about what they were going to do for the American working



RIOTS FLARE AS CURTAIN RISES ON 'IRON CURTAIN'—Fighting flared in front of Roxy Theater, New York, as mounted police, officers on foot, avowed Communists and Catholic War Vets tangled during disturbance as jeering crowd of more than 4,000 congregated at theater where anti-Communist film, "The Iron Curtain" opened. (NEA Telephoto)

Radioactive White Elephant



Still radioactive two years after it was used in atomic tests off Bikini, USS Salt Lake City awaits disposition by Navy off Terminal Island Naval Base in Los Angeles Harbor, San Pedro, Calif. Rusty sign on its side warns "Danger. Keep off." Superstructure is badly damaged. Ship's name was painted on side (right) for camera identification at Bikini. (NEA Telephoto)

man deprived of his bargaining weapon. We imagine that many of them were thinking how dangerous that weapon would be if it could not be silenced, in a crisis, by the government's "strike-breaking" power.

Even the "American working man" must have considered what such a strike could mean—paralysis of the nation's commerce, tens of millions unemployed, severe damage to our foreign policy, shortages, skyrocketing prices and, if the strike lasted long enough, actual hardship and danger to health.

It may be theoretically wrong to limit the use of the "bargaining weapon" and to force the government into the artificial process of seizure. But the realities are still there to be faced.

If present ways of preventing paralyzing strikes are bad, then good ways must be found. We don't know what they will be—a ban on industrywide bargaining (which wouldn't halt a railroad tie-up), compulsory arbitration with settlements enforceable by law, or something not yet proposed.

There will be objections to any such solution. But so long as the workers in our basic industries are willing to gamble with the nation's health and welfare to get what they want, something must be done.

We hope that a cure can be found that is bland and effective. But if it turns out to be bitter, labor will have to realize that the prescription is the result of some unions' self-indulgence.



SINGER—Betty Harris, a red-head, began her radio singing career at Canton, O. She's a native of Salem, O.

Grizzly Sought As Slayer of Cattle

OMAK. —(AP)—Cattlemen of this north central Washington area have put a \$1,000 price on the head of a huge stock-killing bear. It is believed to be a rare grizzly.

They blame him for the major

share of an estimated \$22,000 loss in Okanogan stock last year.

Frank Randall, official wildlife service predator hunter, and Bud Morris, a professional hunter, expressed the belief the big marauder is a grizzly after getting its "fingerprints." They got plaster casts of the big footprints near the scene where Willard Fritz saw the bear last week. It was the first report of the animal. A steer was killed near the spot that night, near Synarep.

Randall and Morris trailed the critter into the Omak Mountain area Saturday before losing it. They said an airplane was being used in an effort to get a glimpse of it.

"We know the grizzly killed two cattle since last Tuesday night," Randall said, "and four others may be attributed to it."

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LETTER FROM WASHINGTON

By HARRIS ELLSWORTH
Congressman, 4th Oregon District

After a short lull in excitement following the very satisfactory outcome of the Italian elections, the international situation hits the spotlight again. This time a written exchange of views between the United States and the U. S. S. R., plus a comment by the President of the United States, calls for the use of the big black headline type.

It is obvious, I think, that differences, whether they be differences between nations or differences between individuals, cannot be settled without discussion. We must be on guard, however, lest what we say increases rather than decreases the present lack of understanding between the two governments. We must also be on guard against entering into any agreements toward relaxing our present firm policy. The Russian attitude (Communist principle) toward international agreements is to use them as powerful sedatives. Give the victim some knock-out drops and then steal his bankroll and his shoes—that theory seems to be the essence of Russian diplomacy. The Russian policy has been to move in and occupy all vacant seats. Apparently, they would now like us to relax our policy so as to provide more vacant seats for them to take over.

U. S. Expenditures Soar
During the past fifteen years, federal government expenditures have increased alarmingly. Our present annual budget is six or more times the pre-war budget. The 80th Congress is the first Congress since 1932 which has had, as a policy, the reducing of federal expenditures. We have made considerable progress, but the going has been difficult. One of the reasons economy efforts have not met with more success is that, while the Congress is economically-minded, the administration has consistently opposed economy efforts. After all, if the executive department which has authority over the agencies that spend the money will not cooperate, it is extremely difficult for Congress to know where economies can be most advantageously made.

The nature of many of the sharp increases in federal expenditures also presents a problem. To illustrate this point, let me give you some figures which were presented in testimony before our committee recently. In 1938, appropriations made to the U. S. Public Health Service, for the purpose of combating degenerative diseases totalled two million dollars. Appropriations for this purpose in 1947 were \$32,748,000. Obviously, it is wise public policy to spend public funds for the purpose of combating tuberculosis,

cancer, polio, venereal disease, and others. Should we now spend fifteen times as much as we spent in 1938? I suspect that, in this case, the increase may be warranted. Laudable increases may be found scattered through the entire federal budget.

Law Bans Strike
A disastrous railroad strike was narrowly averted when the government seized the railroads and obtained an order from the court enjoining the unions from striking against the government. It should be noted that the legal basis for this action was based on a law passed in 1916 which reads as follows:

"The President, in time of war, is empowered, through the Secretary of War, to take possession and assume control of any system or systems of transportation, or any part thereof, and to utilize the same, to the exclusion as far as may be necessary of all other traffic thereon, for the transfer or transportation of troops, war material and equipment, or for such other purposes connected with the emergency as may be deemed or desirable."

Many attorneys believe this is very thin legal authority. Nevertheless, the transportation systems of the country continue to operate.

Recipe Books Offered
The Department of Agriculture has just published a pamphlet entitled, "Money-Saving Main Dishes," designed to bring both economy and variety to the family dinner table. This handy publication contains some 150 recipes, tested by the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics, all intended to help the consumer.

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Awards Presented For Human Relations Work

CHICAGO, May 19. — (AP) — Screen star Madeleine Carroll and Dr. Gerty Cori, 1947 Nobel prize winner for medicine, yesterday were presented American Brotherhood awards for their contributions to bettering human relations.

The awards were presented at

a luncheon of the national conference of Christians and Jews. Dr. Henry Noble McCracken, president emeritus of Vassar College, made the presentation. Dr. Cori and her husband, Dr. Carl F. Cori, are both on the faculty at Washington University, St. Louis. She received the award for her work in medicine and human betterment.

Miss Carroll, who quit the screen to serve in Army hospitals during the war, received her award for her work in improving inter-Ally understanding.

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