

Strike Of Engineers On L. I. Railway Ended

NEW YORK (AP)—The Long Island Railroad resumed normal service Wednesday after a two-day engineer's strike forced thousands of commuters into New York's worst traffic jams in years.

Settlement of the strike came late Tuesday just as suddenly as the start of the walkout. Full agreement was announced between the road and the striking members of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers (Ind.), issues involved working conditions and rules.

Apartment House Fire Claims Seven Lives

NEW YORK (AP)—Seven persons died when fire swept a four-story apartment house in Brooklyn early Wednesday. A woman and her three children were among the dead.

A cripple, his wife and two children, trapped in a second-floor front apartment—were rescued by a neighbor in a dramatic flight through bursts of flame along a ledge 1 1/4 feet wide.

Congress Chat

By HARRIS ELLSWORTH, M. C., 4th Oregon District

This letter is written earlier in the week than usual for the reason that Mrs. Ellsworth and I have been called out to Los Angeles because of the sudden death of Miss Margaret Gildes. Miss Gildes has been a foster mother to Mrs. Ellsworth since her childhood after her own mother passed away. We are flying out and back, and will be gone but a few days.

The Defense Production Act, the law which carries the authority for material allocation and for price and wage controls, has been under consideration in the Senate. It will be brought up in the House soon. The law will expire at the end of June unless extended. I think it is safe to predict that there will be very few, if any, basic changes made in it although it seems likely the renewal will be for a shorter term than a full year—perhaps until March 31, next year. At that time a new Congress and (presumably) a different President can take another look at the situation.

The Russian communist government and its stooges on both sides of the world are kicking up a lot of trouble. Whether it may get big or stay little no one knows—at least no one in the free world knows. The agreement by the Western powers on a treaty with the West German Republic was a serious blow to the Kremlin. This, coupled with the growing military defense in Europe, apparently leaves the Russian rulers in a state of frustration—if not fear. They would, if possible, frighten all concerned as much as possible in the hope that one or more of the parliaments would be afraid to ratify the German agreement. Although during this month Americans are quite preoccupied with our own political problems, it must not be overlooked that right now is a time of world tension equal to none since the end of World War II.

Washington, D. C. has been swarming with visitors for the past few weeks. From the standpoint of climate, the months of May and June are about the best of the year here. (Although a few days ago we suffered a brief hail storm with hailstones as big as marbles!) It is a pleasant sight to see the crowds of visitors in the corridors of the THEIR Capitol.

And speaking of Washington being crowded—the Joint Committee on Reduction of Nonessential Federal Expenditures (the Byrd Committee) reports that civilian employment in the Executive branch of the government increased by 10,665 during the month of April. The total number of such civilian employees on April 30, the Committee said, was 2,549,714.

Remember the signs we used to see during the war: "Is this trip necessary?" Possibly it might be good psychology if in the head offices of the various departments there could be some signs reading something like this: "Are all those new employees necessary?"



ALL "SHARKED UP" FOR A WALK—Floyd Adams, diver at Marineland, in St. Augustine, Fla., goes for a "stroll" with a 10-foot shark. It was a duty promenade, not a pleasure. Exhausted by its struggles to escape capture, the shark had to be kept in motion to force water through its gills before being placed in viewing tank.

Merchants Close Shops To Pick Strawberries

ST. HELENS (AP)—Merchants here closed their shops at noon Wednesday and went to the strawberry fields to help pick the quick-ripening crop.

There are about 900 pickers working the 1,000 acres of fields around the city, but the Chamber of Commerce says 500 more are needed.

U. S. POPULATION UP

WASHINGTON (AP)—U.S. population climbed to 156,602,000 on May 1, the Census Bureau estimated Wednesday. That was a gain of 819,000 since Jan. 1. The figures included members of the armed forces stationed overseas.



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