

Negotiators Seek To Avert Nationwide Railroad Strike

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Negotiators sought today to head off a nationwide railroad strike with only hours remaining before removal of the last legal obstacle to a walkout.

A 30-day cooling-off period under the Railway Labor Act expires at midnight, EDT, Tuesday. At that time, the railroads will be free to put into effect work rules changes that union leaders say will result in a strike on 195 major railroads.

The railroad and union negotiators held a Sunday session, with Labor Secretary W. Willard Wirtz sitting in on the talks, and were scheduled for another meeting today.

In spite of the possible seriousness of the situation, recent negotiations have been marked by an absence of a crisis atmosphere in the daily sessions.

Crucial to Unions

The proposed work rule changes are crucial to the unions, since they would eliminate thousands of firemen, on diesel engines and make sweeping changes in pay systems for 200,000 operating employees.

One hope for delaying a strike was that the railroads might announce that the changes will go into effect after a period of, perhaps, 30 days. This would provide time for renewed efforts at settlement or for Congress to enact legislation to block a strike.

One government official who has participated in the talks, which began May 30, said "there is no real basis for optimism" on agreement. Other sources called the negotiations "an exercise in futility."

Dispute Years Old

The dispute between the railroads—which are seeking to remove so-called "featherbedding" practices—and the five railroad unions is now three years old.

It has included a year's study by a presidential railroad commission, which supported many of the proposed job changes, and a more recent study by a three-man board of experts appointed by the President.

The board said a railroad strike would deal an inestimable blow to the U.S. economy even if it lasted only a few days. The board also recommended a special referee to settle unresolved issues, but the unions traditionally have opposed such arbitration.



LEAVING FOR TRAINING — Thirteen Naval Reservists from the Electronic Division Facility 13-7, Roseburg, left Saturday by West Coast Airlines for San Diego for two-weeks recruit training. Pictured, front row, left to right, are Glen D. Townsend Jr., Louis K. Weikum, Michael J. Bryson and Wilber J. Behrens. Back row, Jack P. Bathrick Jr., Lawrence J. Rust, Victor L. Teal, Noble J. Goss, George E. Finney, David A. Ross, Lawrence B. Inman, Victor E. White, and Arthur M. Garrick. Behrens, Garrick and Townsend will stay at San Diego for 80 days. Inman, White and Ross will return after two weeks to San Francisco to start a two-week cruise aboard a navy ship. The others will return home after recruit training. (News-Review photo)

Teamster Head, Others Answer Jury Conspiracy Charges Today

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UPI) — Teamsters president James Hoffa and 10 other persons appear in federal court here today to answer charges of attempt to bribe "corruptly influence" jurors and prospective jurors at Hoffa's \$1 million conspiracy trial last year.

The defendants, indicted by a special grand jury last month, were to be arraigned before Federal Judge Frank Gray Jr. Hoffa said he would plead innocent.

The arraignment was scheduled for 11 a.m., EDT. Hoffa was named in all five counts of an indictment returned May 9. He could receive up to 25 years in prison and a \$25,000 fine if convicted on each count.

The Teamsters chief, on his arrival here Sunday night, complained he could not get a fair trial anywhere in the United States.

It would be impossible to find an unbiased jury, Hoffa told newsmen when he got out of his private plane here.

He said Atty. Gen. Robert Kennedy had gone on television and said "Hoffa is guilty of this, and

Hoffa is guilty of that, and juries who didn't convict him didn't know what they were doing."

Charges Bribery Attempt

The indictments returned by the grand jury charged that bribes totaling at least \$75,000 were offered to influence jurors and prospective jurors to vote for Hoffa's acquittal.

Henry F. (Buster) Bell of the Bronx, New York, was accused of conspiring to offer bribes totaling \$55,000. The indictments alleged Bell offered a prospective juror \$30,000 and offered a Nashville man \$25,000 to persuade two jurors to vote for Hoffa's acquittal.

Lawrence Medlin, a Nashville businessman, was charged with offering a prospective juror \$10,000, and Thomas Ewing Parks of Nashville was accused of offering the son of a juror \$10,000 to be split with his father.

The government also contended that Ewing King, president of Teamsters Local 327, offered to assist the husband of a woman juror in obtaining a promotion in the highway patrol if he would

persuade his wife to vote for Hoffa's acquittal.

Other defendants in the case were Allen Dorfman, Chicago insurance broker; Larry Campbell, business agent for Teamsters Local 299 in Detroit; Nicholas J. Tweel, Huntington, W.Va., and three Huntington detectives, Herman A. Frazier, Alfred Paden and Albert P. Cole.

The indictment alleged the three detectives attempted to influence the outcome of the trial by calling prospective jurors on the telephone and telling them of the "publicity and national importance connected with the case." They allegedly made the calls while posing as reporters of the Nashville Banner.

Hoffa was tried here last year on charges that he and the late Owen (Bert) Brennan, an international Teamsters vice president, accepted \$1,008,057 from Commercial Carriers, Inc., a Detroit-based automobile hauling firm, in violation of the Taft-Hartley law.

The nine-week case ended in a mistrial when the jury was unable to agree on a verdict after hearing eight weeks of testimony.

Portland Hopes To Keep Civil Defense Equipment

PORTLAND (UPI) — Portland Mayor Terry Schruink has stated that he hopes to keep as much civil defense equipment as possible despite the City Council's recent decision to do away with the CD program.

Schruink made the statement during a meeting of city officials and Oregon and regional Civil Defense representatives to discuss the phasing out of Portland's program.

"It is my hope and desire to keep every bit of equipment possible in the community for use in disasters, natural or otherwise," the mayor said. "I'm not the least bit interested in turning back any equipment to the federal government."

It was revealed at the meeting that neither the city nor the federal government is yet in a position to make proposals on disposal of CD equipment located here.

Kennedy Signs 'Equal Pay' Law Today

WASHINGTON (UPI) — President Kennedy planned to sign into law today a bill extending equality of the sexes to the pay window.

The new law will forbid the employers of 27.5 million U.S. workers to pay women less than men for doing the same work.

The legislation does not cover all women workers and will not take effect for one year. But despite its limitations, advocates of women's rights called the measure their most significant advance in many years.

No one knows now how many of the nation's 24 million women workers eventually will get higher pay as a result of the new law. Advocates of the bill cited specific examples of wage discrimination

because of sex, but made no estimates of the totals.

The equal pay bill passed Congress with little controversy after years of futile efforts to establish wage parity in the law. The breakthrough came when a compromise method of extending the equal pay principle was advanced by Republicans and accepted by administration Democrats eager to pass a bill this year.

USE POOR JUDGMENT

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. (UPI) — Seven youths whose aim was better than their judgement recently faced charges of disturbing the peace for throwing water-filled balloons at police Magistrate Al Grabs and his wife.

The compromise tied the new ban on wage discrimination because of sex to the existing federal minimum wage law. Under it, only women working in factories, stores and service establishments covered by the minimum wage law will have the new equal pay protection.

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