



"Watch How She Takes This Hill"

Steel Strike Faces Industry

By TOM CAMPBELL
Editor in Chief, The Iron Age
NEW YORK (UPI) — If we lived and worked in a vacuum there would be no steel labor-management hassle this year. And if we were logical in our actions there would be little or no chance of a wage increase or a price increase—this year.

But we don't work in a vacuum and logic is one of the last things that is being used by many labor leaders today. But when was it ever different?

There is a 70-30 chance of a long and bitter strike in the steel industry this year. Of course there probably won't be one if there is a war on in East Germany. But that should be so obvious that it is not a point in trying to judge ahead of time what the steel labor-management climate will be at midnight June 30.

True, the government has called upon both sides for a settlement that will be non-inflationary. Also, Senator Kefauver will do his best—with political overtones—to attempt to scare both sides into an agreement that will, in his eyes, be non-inflationary.

But the administration and the senator are but small factors in the coming labor hassle. The reasons why steelworkers' union chief Dave McDonald must get a raise with fringes are many. And the reasons why the steel industry this year must stand up and fight

to the bitter end are many too. For the first time since the celebrated pension strike in 1949 the immovable will meet the irresistible this year. Something will give—and it will be both sides after a strike that this week seems almost certain.

The strike is a weapon of the union. There is nonsense in the statement that industry "forces" a strike. It "takes" a strike and it is not so dumb but that it knows it must think long and seriously before it submits to a strike.

Economically there is, according to many steel leaders, nothing to negotiate this year with steel labor. While this may be a pose on the part of some steel officials, others actually and sincerely believe that to be the case.

Their point—and it is well taken—is that a steel wage raise with more fringe will require a steel price increase. They also argue that steel labor is about the best paid in the country and that more wage increases will only give us more inflation. They also assert the high wage rates are pricing American steel out of the foreign markets and also to some extent out of home markets.

Dave McDonald will lend a deaf ear to all this logic. He is a first class labor man well trained by the late Phil Murray and also by his experience before and since then. His job is to get the boys a

raise and fringe. They may claim they are not for a strike. But if a strike well get them more of the green stuff they will take that rather than an economic treatise from either Dave or the steel industry.

There is also the little question of Dave's reelection as president of the USWA coming up in 1961. Of course he wants to be reelected to his \$50,000 a year job. There is no difference between him and his counterparts in the steel industry except Dave has to be elected to the job. Naturally he will have to think of this when he goes for a big package this year. He also has George Meany's blessing to get the best contract possible.

Then there is the age old reason why Dave has to get something: Any labor chief who comes away from a negotiation—or a strike—without a raise and fringe can pretty well expect to be replaced by the opposition at the next election.

And it has to be remembered that the steelworkers union is a well run and relatively democratic union.

Dave is no dictator; he has to bring home the bacon. Of course this law does not necessarily apply to a leader of a union in a depressed industry. But even there the law of "produce or get out" has some effect: Unless the top man is an entrenched dictator,



PONDERING—President Eisenhower appears lost in deep thought while he waits to make his address to Gettysburg College's spring convocation at Gettysburg, Pa. In his speech the President cited Vietnam, Japan, and Berlin as examples of the need for firmness in the face of Soviet challenges.

Paraguay President Fears U. S. Aid Cut

By PHIL NEWSOM
UPI Foreign News Editor
NEW DEAL? — From the foreign news editor's assignment book:

ASUNCION, Paraguay — The Colorado Party which has governed the country for 12 years under a state of siege and with one-party elections officially has asked President General Alfredo Stroessner to restore democracy by stages. It would include a lifting of the state of siege, declaration of political amnesty, elections and constitutional reforms. Stroessner gracefully accepted in a speech last week.

However, informed Paraguayans say the government has gone through this act before. They believe the present activity stems from the tide running against dictators in America generally and from the fall of Batista in particular. Top government men fear Stroessner's bad press may influence a Democratic Congress in Washington to cut off Paraguayan aid.

Moving Day — The Soviets appear to be preparing to move their Berlin troops out of the city. Intelligence sources say the Soviets are building barracks and homes at Bernau, about 12 miles north-east of Berlin. It is believed various army headquarters now in East Berlin will be moved to Bernau if and when the Soviets carry out their threat to turn over occupation controls to the East German government. The generally accepted date now is May 27.

Change In The Weather — LONDON — Watch for Russia to choke off quietly its ambitious promises of economic and military aid to Egypt. Yugoslavia was cut off when it disagreed with Moscow. Now President Gamal Abdel Nasser of the United Arab Republic is even more openly condemning Moscow for its intrigues in Iraq.

There have been protestations from Moscow that there are no strings attached to the aid promises to Egypt. But it was significantly leaked in the Soviet capital last week that Russian "letter to the editor" writers are attacking aid to Egypt. In Russia, such letters are often the first step toward definite action.

Off With The Old? — TOKYO — With the approaching wedding of Crown Prince Akihito and his commoner sweetheart, Michiko Shoda, rumors persist that Emperor Hirohito is planning to abdicate. Perhaps no one, except the emperor, knows how much truth there is in these rumors. But it is not expected to come — if it comes off at all — before the wedding of Princess Suga, his youngest child, some time in the fall.

Commie Propagandists Use Article

By LOUIS CASSELS
WASHINGTON (UPI) — Propaganda sparks are flying in Russia because of the latest issue of "America Illustrated," the Russian-language magazine distributed in the Soviet Union by the U. S. Information Service.

The article which touched off the sparks is a two-page spread of text and pictures depicting the "generally improving status" of America's 18 million Negroes.

The text tells of the dramatic progress U. S. Negroes have made in recent years in income, education and housing. Sample statistic: The average dollar in-

come of Negro workers has gone up 415 per cent since 1940, while the average income of white workers has risen 277 per cent.

Accompanying pictures show mixed Negro and white groups at work in offices and scientific laboratories, worshipping in church, playing basketball, attending school and participating as equals in civic meetings.

The article directly contradicted the stereotyped picture of Negro life in America which the Soviet press has assiduously created. It promptly came under heavy propaganda fire from the widely-circulated Soviet youth newspaper "Komsomoles."

"Komsomoles" published a full page spread purporting to show "what the magazine America was silent about." It featured pictures of a white-robed Ku Klux Klansman carrying a hangman's noose, and the body of a lynched Negro hanging from a tree.

The Soviet newspaper charged "America Illustrated" with "juggling figures" and "hiding facts" in an attempt to "prove that a paradise for Negroes has been created in the United States."

But, it said, "reality tells us quite the contrary."

It then went on to give a lurid description of "Negro ghettos" in New York, Washington and Chicago, laced with accounts of attacks by "racist hooligans" on any Negro family which seeks to move into "the prohibited areas reserved for whites only."

U. S. propaganda analysts are intrigued by the vehemence of the Soviet reaction to the "America Illustrated" article.

"It indicates," said one official,

"that we drew blood. They wouldn't have been so upset unless a good many Russians were reading — and taking seriously — the articles in America Illustrated."

He said this is the first time the Soviet press has attacked the monthly U. S. magazine since it went on sale in Russia in October, 1956.

Under an agreement negotiated in 1955, Russia permits the U. S. Information Agency to sell 50,000 copies of "America Illustrated" in Russia each month. In return, Russia is allowed to circulate in this country an equal number of copies of its English-language magazine "USSR."

"America Illustrated" is sold at news stands in 80 Russian cities at a price of five rubles per copy — \$1.25 at the official rate of exchange. A British newspaper, the Economist, reported in a dispatch from Moscow last month that the U. S. magazine is so popular with Soviet readers that "it is snapped up the moment it appears on the bookstalls and thereafter changes hands briskly at three times the published price."

The avowed purpose of "America Illustrated" is to "promote better understanding of the United States in the Soviet Union. To tell the story of America today: What American people are doing and saying... how they live work and play."

About half of each month's 60 pages of pictures and text consists of articles reprinted from leading U. S. Magazines. The remainder is produced by the USIA staff. The article on Negroes was in the latter category.

Quotes From The News

WASHINGTON—Gen. Thomas S. Power, head of the Strategic Air Command, warning the United States must impress upon Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev the fact that he cannot attack this country with impunity:

"I think the minute he thinks he can strike this country with impunity, we will 'get it' in the next 60 seconds. The only thing to keep him honest is full knowledge of what will happen to him."

NEW YORK—Rep. Cornelius E. Gallagher (D-N.J.), expressing confidence this country will not bow to the Soviet ultimatum to get out of Berlin by May 27:

"I am confident we will be there this May 27 and the next May 27. The honor of the United States is being tested on this issue."

NORWALK, Conn.—Alva I. Cox Jr., director of the audio-visual and broadcast education division of the National Council of Churches, expressing approval of a jazz Mass at St. Paul's Church on the green:

"But the music is so bad I hope the experiment is not judged on the quality of the product."

LONDON—Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery, expressing concern at adverse British newspaper criticism of his impending visit to Moscow to talk over East-West affairs with Soviet Premier Khrushchev:

"I am always being criticized. I am used to criticism. I should feel unhappy and think there was something wrong if I were not being attacked in some way."

Letters To The Editor

The Observer welcomes letters from its readers. All letters must bear the name and address of the writer, but will be withheld on request. Letters should not exceed 300 words.

To the Editor:

Your editorial on Bob Auferheide in the Observer of March 30, was much appreciated.

I did not have the pleasure of knowing Bob Auferheide but in my three years in Oregon I have heard many nice reports about him from colleagues.

The nature of a Forest Supervisor's work, a balance wheel among special interest groups, does not often bring him before the public in a favorable light.

As a subscriber to the Observer, I have enjoyed your editorial column. We need frank discussion of local and national issues.

Very truly yours,
John M. Wiek,
District Ranger
La Grande, Ore.
March 31, 1959

To the Editor:

What happened to our pioneer stories entitled "Do You Remember?" We enjoyed reading the articles very much, having been residents for around 50 years in this valley, a wonderful place to live. The story is also scrap book material.

signed
Mrs. Clara L. Johnson,
2104 N. Fir St.,
La Grande, Ore.

To the Editor:

I was pleased and impressed that one of our local musicians should have been chosen to be a soloist in the secular cantata, "Carmine Burana" in Portland this month. It is disappointing to find the account of the selection being given no better place in our local paper than on the page with the classified advertisements.

Very truly yours,
Fred J. Young
City Manager

Employment Report May Halt Spending

WASHINGTON (UPI)—Administration officials hope that a report on March unemployment would blunt Democratic and labor demands for multi-billion-dollar spending programs to spur the economy.

The government was expected to issue a report Tuesday showing that the number of jobless in March declined by about 300,000 from the 4,449,000 unemployed in February. This would be more than the normal seasonal drop.

The Democratic Advisory Council charged Sunday night the United States is headed for disaster unless the Eisenhower administration stops trying "to balance the budget without balancing the economy."

In a special statement on unemployment, the 27 Democratic Party leaders called for new programs to improve schools, housing, medical care, transportation facilities, natural resource protection and slum clearance.

Similar demands for government action were expected from the AFL-CIO conference on unemployment opening here Wednesday. The decline to three million, he said, would be "practically full employment" in the U.S. economy.

Power Struggle

BUENOS AIRES — A tremendous behind-the-scenes struggle for power is going on in Argentina. President Arturo Frondizi's austerity program has created new converts for the Communists, and unemployment threatens to create even more. Meanwhile, former Peronistas are drifting into soft Trotsky-type direct action groups because of bewilderment and contradictory orders purporting to come from former President Juan Peron in exile in Santo Domingo. The Catholic Church is concerned about the Communist gains. In another arena, the church is engaged in a battle with Free Masonry. Many officers in the armed forces, as well as some politicians, are Masons.

EDITORIAL PAGE

LA GRANDE OBSERVER

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Born 20 Years Too Late

Our Eastern Oregon neighbor, the Baker Democrat-Herald, comments on a recent timber sale in the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest and voices a fear that timber in the forest will go to an out-of-the-area lumber company.

The Baker newspaper fears the interest expressed by the Boise-Cascade company, an Idaho firm, in a recent sale, in which the Idaho firm was outbid.

The Baker daily notes that even with the closing of the Pondosa operation of La Grande's Mt. Emily Lumber Company the milling capacity of the Wallowa-Whitman forest "is at least 25 per cent over the volume of growth."

These are facts, of course. But this area fares no worse than other Eastern Oregon areas—excepting the Burns-Hines locality—in this regard. Over-installation of milling capacity is common throughout the west and has led to the continuous running fight on the part of some logging interests with the U.S. Forest Service.

But, our Baker colleague has suggested a solution to this problem.

"It is the opinion of the Democrat-Herald that in the case of a forest such as the Wallowa-Whitman, where the growth and normal cut are out of balance, that it would serve the best interests of the geographical and economic area lying within or contiguous to the boundaries of the forest as well as the national government to impose some type of restriction favoring established mills within the area over those outside it."

This is quite a mouthful. It means that outside bidders should be kept from bidding in future Forest Service sales in the area.

It's also quite an idea. The only trouble is that our Baker colleague is 20 or more years late in suggesting it.

A law allowing just what the Baker newspaper suggests was passed by Congress a number of years ago.

But the present administration of the Forest Service refuses to schedule the necessary hearings to allow establishment of the "sustained yield units" which can be set up under the law. If it could, the USFS would do away with the few sustained yield units now in operation.

And we're not sure the Forest Service is wrong.

The sustained yield units have had the effect of lessening bidding competition on Forest Service timber sales in their areas and lowering the price received for stumpage.

Much as there have been times when we'd like to see the sustained yield unit or some version of it enforced in other communities, we are being practical when we note that it is a dead issue.

The Baker daily had better come up with some other solution to the problem of outside bidding on the Wallowa-Whitman.

It's idea of the other day came about 20 years too late.

Looking Out For The Wrong Party

When members of the Oregon State Bar passed the lawyers' indemnity proposal at their convention a few months ago the move was hailed as a forward-looking step.

The proposal was that each lawyer in the state pay \$15 annually to build up a fund to reimburse clients bilked by the occasional bad egg among lawyers.

The plan would cost the taxpayers nothing, but under the peculiar form of self-government enjoyed by the lawyers, the legislature would have to approve the plan.

A bill to set the program up was introduced in the lower House of Oregon's legislature. It was referred to the House Judiciary committee, whose members are lawyers.

This, one would think, would really set the whole thing up. Since the majority of the state's lawyers favored the proposal, and since it had been called selfless by almost everyone who had heard of it, the Judiciary committee would recommend its passage right away.

But apparently the lawyer members of the committee are more interested in saving themselves the \$15 the plan would cost them each year than they are in looking out for the wronged clients of the wrongdoing few.

That, at least, is the answer which immediately comes to mind when one wonders about the strange unwillingness of the Judiciary committee to report out the bill.

He'd Gladly 'Shoot Them' For Us

Premier Castro of Cuba is still a difficult person for Americans to figure out. He is alternately friendly and antagonistic. Sometimes, too, he displays a sense of humor.

The other day, for example, he said U.S. authorities have asked him to arrest American gangster gamblers in Cuba. He replied that he would not only be glad to arrest them, but he would "shoot them" too, if asked to do so.

Then he complained that the U.S. is providing refuge for what he described as "Cuban war criminals." He indicated he would like to trade some gamblers for his own enemies who fled the country.

Some might have expected that he suggest a procedure that would save transportation costs—we shoot his war criminals and he shoot our gangsters.

Neuberger Wants Billboards To Go

PORTLAND (UPI)— Sen. Richard L. Neuberger (D-Ore.) says he hopes an Oregon group will go to work and get a measure placed in the 1960 general election ballot to limit billboards on federal highways.

A similar measure died in committee at the Oregon Legislature last week.

Neuberger said he was sorry the bill was tabled and predicted that it would pass by "at least a four or five to one vote" if submitted to the people in 1960.

"Oregonians are proud of their wonderful scenic grandeur and deplore billboard jungles along their highways," he said.

Broadway Bank Makes Move To Broadway

NEW YORK (UPI)—The Broadway Savings Bank has opened a new branch office at 239 Broadway and the event was a banner one for the 108-year-old institution.

The opening marked the first time in its entire history that the bank has actually had a location on Broadway.

Side Glances



"I always come to the supermarket on rainy days. It's a grand place for the kids to run off their energy!"