

# Steel Wage Negotiations Collapse

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### Industry Charges Mockery

NEW YORK (UPI)—Steel wage negotiations collapsed today with less than 10 hours remaining before the midnight strike deadline. R. Conrad Cooper, chief industry negotiator, turned down a last-minute union bid to avert a strike. He said no further meetings had been scheduled for today.

Cooper said it is "a mockery" for the union to pretend it wants to reach an agreement before the deadline while refusing to agree to a contract extension.

He told reporters the strike is already started. He said the steel furnaces will be shut down by midnight.

The new bid to break the contract deadlock had been made by David J. McDonald, president of the United Steelworkers Union. McDonald said the union would agree to writing into the contract a statement that it was not opposed to technological progress in the plants. His offer was an effort to appease a major industry demand.

The industry had demanded contract language revision and other technological advances in line with an overall request for changes in the contract designed to eliminate "waste and inefficiency."

McDonald's dramatic bid to end the deadlock came during a one-hour morning negotiating session. In Washington, President Eisenhower conferred with Secretary of Labor James P. Mitchell about the steel crisis.

Asked about any new White House developments on the situation, Press Secretary James C. Hagerly said that Monday's presidential statement urging labor and management to continue efforts to reach agreement "is applicable to each."

One Contract Extended McDonald revealed the union signed a contract extension with Granite City Steel Co., East St. Louis, Ill., one of the nation's smaller steel producers.

Eisenhower could avert a strike tonight only by persuading union and management to continue negotiating. He could seek an 80-day injunction against a strike under the Taft-Hartley Law, but that procedure takes more time than is available before the strike deadline.

Earlier, the negotiations had reached a stalemate. McDonald had met with the 171-man Wage Policy Committee to fill them in the situation.

Each side blamed the other for the impasse.

### Farm Bureau Meeting Is Set For Thursday

A joint meeting of the La Grande Farm Bureau Center and the Union County Farm Bureau has been planned for Thursday.

Recognizing the fact that farmers are at their busiest at this time of the year, the La Grande Center invited the county group to meet with them in Island City the next two months.

Plans for persons attending the Farm Bureau mid-summer meeting in Bend July 30, 31, August 1, will be made at the 8:00 p.m. meeting.

## Eastern Oregon Fire Danger Climbing To Critical Level

### Pondosa Blazes Again

By NEIL ANDERSEN  
Observer Staff Writer

The ghost town of Pondosa erupted into flames again Monday as the fire danger in Eastern Oregon continues to rise. A grass fire near Boardman and a small forest fire in the Union district caused forestry officials to cast a critical eye on possible fire danger areas.

Pondosa, which has been smoldering since the one-time lumber town burned a month ago, caught fire again and sent fire crews from Baker racing to the scene. Men worked at controlling the blaze in the geographic center of the United States through out the day. A bulldozer was kept busy ploughing through sawdust piles as spot fires kept breaking out.

A Pacific marine pump and a 500 foot lay of hose was used to focus fires and dampen the inflammable sawdust. The fire was under control at all times and there was never any danger of it getting away from eight fire-fighters.

Officials said if the wind had come up the fire could have been hazardous to the range land grass around the area.

Some 2,500 acres of grazing land were blackened by a wind-whipped range fire near Boardman Sunday.

John Hunt, bureau of land management fire control officer said the fire was apparently started when a pickup truck overturned and burned in a ditch four miles west of Boardman on highway 30.

An unoccupied ranch house and several smaller buildings were destroyed, according to officials.

A forest fire covering about one and a half acres was controlled by employees of the Ronde Valley lumber company about 25 miles from Union yesterday. The fire in the West Eagle timber sale area was started when a power saw used for cutting in the area caught fire.

Fifteen men from the lumber company, under the direction of two forestry service men, fought the blaze "It was in good shape last night when we left," said Leonard Rampton, assistant district ranger.

The fire involved trees that had already been cut although standing trees were damaged and will be marked for cutting.

The forest fire hazard in the Grande Ronde river canyon from Minam to Troy is critical, officials reported. As a result of recent dry weather cheatgrass and brush covered slopes of the river canyon are considered highly inflammable. The condition of the shrubs plus the rough condition of the ground make this area extremely difficult for fire crews to reach. The Grande Ronde river canyon is considered one of the most hazardous fire areas on the Umatilla National forest.

People who plan on camping in the area between Minam and Troy are asked to confine camp fires to river bars and to make sure all grass and burnable material is removed from the fire area.

Local forestry officials said the fire danger around La Grande is critical. The grass and brush have

See PONDOSA on page 8



### CAST REHEARSAL

Les Edwards, far right, who plays Marcus Whitman, explains to his future father-in-law who is played by Nephi Combs, seated, why he wants to be a medical missionary. Standing above Combs and on the left, director of the play, "Doctor in Buckskin Clad," Richard Hiatt concentrates on Les's speech while Roberta Miller, at right of Hiatt, who plays Whitman's wife, notes changes in the script. (Observer)

### Lighting Unit Ready For Use In Local Play

The new \$1000 portable lighting unit purchased in conjunction with the Centennial production of "Doctor in Buckskin Clad" will be used for the first time when the production opens in the college coliseum, July 24.

With Roberta Miller and Les Edwards in the leading roles, the play by Al Kaiser is the story of Dr. Whitman and his wife.

The new lighting equipment comes from the play's budget. The group received \$3,000 from the Centennial Commission and the Advancement Association gave \$500.

The mobile lighting unit gives dimming control in the coliseum for 12 circuits. The unit can also be used in the theater and will double the dimming capacity there.

Although the lighting was purchased primarily for this show, it will be used in conjunction with existing equipment.

The play will run for three consecutive weekends.



HEY, NARCISSA!—Les Edwards, who plays a little action into last night's rehearsal. The play, written by Al Kaiser, will open July 24 and run for three consecutive weekends. (Observer Photo)

### Hoffa Threatening To Sue Rackets Committee Counsel

WASHINGTON (UPI)—Teamster President James R. Hoffa threatened today to sue Rackets Committee counsel Robert F. Kennedy if he links him with accused Communist union leaders in future speeches.

He issued the threat as Kennedy fired questions about the teamsters' alliance with left-wing leaders Harry Bridges and Louis Goldblatt of the International Longshoremen and Warehousemen's Union.

The issue arose after the committee clashed with Hoffa over a series of "I don't recall" answers he gave to charges that he approved a deal to have union monitor Godfrey P. Schmidt, his foe, resign in exchange for \$105,000 in legal fees.

Bridges and Goldblatt were in-

involved in the deal. Hoffa said they tried to help Schmidt get his fees after Bartley C. Crum, Schmidt's New York lawyer, asked them for help.

Crum testified Monday that Bridges and Goldblatt talked to him on behalf of Hoffa.

Hoffa insisted his dealings with the ILWU, ousted from the CIO in 1950 on grounds it followed the Communist line, were in the interest of workers. He angrily denied that he is a Communist and said Communism "is not the issue" in his pact with the West Coast dockworkers union.

Kennedy said there was no question about Goldblatt being a Communist although there may be a question about Bridges' party membership.

### Rebellious Convicts Threatening To Blow Up Mine If Demands Fail

PETROS, Tenn. (UPI)—Prison officials resume negotiations today with 95 rebellious convicts armed with 200 sticks of dynamite who have threatened to blow up a prison mine, and perhaps themselves and three hostages, if their demands for better food and pay are not met.

The convicts are holed up 1,300 feet underground in the mine shaft. A.W. (Pat) Patterson, assistant state commissioner of correction, said.

Patterson, who talked with the prisoners Monday night from a

distance of 15 feet, would not reveal "general grievances" made by the striking convict miners. But he said they want better food and more pay for mining coal.

The rebellion, which began at 7 a.m. Monday, came close to ending Monday night when six convict spokesmen, three white and three Negro prisoners, agreed to give themselves up and promised to talk others into surrendering. But they later backed down.

Patterson said the convicts had threatened to "set fire to the mine or blow it up" with dynamite in the mine while they were standing.



GOOD FOOD, TOO—Powell Graham, right, and Everett Reynolds enjoy the food prepared by the Union Women's Club at the Eastern Oregon Experiment Station during yesterday's Farmer-Merchant tour. Ground round on buns, potato salad and baked beans were featured on the menu. (Observer Photo)

### West Germans Suggest Summit Conference If East-West Talks Fail

GENEVA (UPI)—West Germany has suggested that the Big Four recess the Foreign Ministers Conference again and go straight to the summit on the broader issues of security and disarmament if Russia deadlocks the talks on Berlin, diplomatic sources disclosed today.

It was a surprise about face by Chancellor Konrad Adenauer, who previously had been adamantly opposed to a meeting of the Big Four chiefs of government without firm agreement on Berlin by the foreign ministers.

The United States accused Russia today of trying to freeze the East-West talks in deadlock by the sudden attempt to blackmail the West into recognizing Communist East Germany.

An American delegation spokesman labeled as "obstructive" the Soviet demand that the East Germans sit in on secret negotiating sessions of the Big Four foreign ministers.

New Soviet Demand The diplomatic sources said West Germany suggested that details of the Berlin problem, in case of a stalemate here, should be "put over" to a third Big Four Foreign Ministers Conference to be convened after a meeting of the heads of state.

The Bonn government actually framed its informal recommendation before the East-West talks resumed Monday and were promptly plunged into a new impasse over the Soviet demand for Communist German representation at the private talks.

The sources said the suggestion was made in a written memorandum delivered Monday morning to Secretary of State Christian A. Herter, British Foreign Secretary Selwyn Lloyd and French Foreign Minister Maurice Couve de Murville.

Held Two Meetings The western Big Three ministers discussed the paper with West German Foreign Minister Heinrich von Brentano for the first time this morning, and again at a second meeting this afternoon.

No formal conference session was scheduled for today but the western ministers held two strategy meetings to discuss the situation.

Arrested For Vagrancy John Robert O'Brien is in jail after being arrested between 10 and 11 p.m. last night on a charge of vagrancy.

His hearing time was set for 3 p.m. today.

WEATHER

Mostly sunny Wednesday; low tonight 35-40; high Wednesday 74-79.

### Humphrey Announces Candidacy

WASHINGTON (UPI)—Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey of Minnesota formally put himself in the contest for the Democratic presidential nomination today.

His entry came in simultaneous news conferences by Gov. Orville F. Freeman of Minnesota at St. Paul and Sen. Eugene F. McCarthy (D-Minn.) here. They announced that a Humphrey-for-president campaign organization will be set up this week at St. Paul.

It was the first announced campaign for the presidency.

Although Humphrey was not present, McCarthy told newsmen that "He knows we are making the announcement and, of course, approves it." Freeman and McCarthy will be co-chairmen of the campaign organization, which will be under the active direction of Lt. Gov. Karl F. Rolvaag of Minnesota.

McCarthy said Humphrey was ready to begin campaigning now to the extent that Senate duties permit and also was ready to compete in state presidential primaries.

### New Colors For Hydrants

Fire hydrants will now come in colors.

In an effort to make the water flow per minute from a fire hydrant instantly determinable, the hydrant tops and smaller side caps are being painted code colors.

This is just one of the many improvements being made in the city fire department, according to city manager, Fred Young.

The code colors will consist of green for those hydrants that produce over 1,000 gallons per minute, orange for the ones producing between 500-1,000 gallons per minute and red will be used for everything under 500 gallons per minute.

The firemen have 166 hydrants all together to paint. But before any of them can be given a coat of green, orange, or red all of the hydrants must be tested.

Because of the lower water pressure in the summer, the firemen are painting mainly the hydrants they are sure of, and will leave those that must definitely be tested until next spring or fall.

Most of the mains in town will be colored green since the pipes feeding them are large.



TECHNICOLOR HYDRANTS Fireman Gale McDaniel paints code colors on fire hydrants. This water outlet gets a green top signifying that it can produce over 1,000 gallons of water per minute. (Observer Photo)

### Steel Mills Preparing For Strike

PITTSBURGH (UPI)—The nation's steel industry became a crippled giant today.

Across the country, mills which a month ago had reached post-recession production peaks were engaged in the tedious and costly process of shutting down.

From Gary, Ind., East Chicago, Mo., Pa., Birmingham, Ala., as well as this steel capital, came reports of banking of blast furnaces, sealing of coke ovens and cooling of open hearths.

And with steel — the nation's economic lifeline — not flowing, practically all other business and industry sooner or later would be affected.

The effects of the impending strike became evident on the faces of merchants and city officials in the steel-making districts and, probably more than any others, the steel workers, themselves.

Store owners and bartenders throughout Gary, East Chicago and South Chicago reported that their business volume had begun to feel the impact.

At the gates of U.S. Steel's Gary Works and South Works, Republic's South Chicago Works and at Youngstown Sheet and Tube's Indiana Harbor Works at East Chicago, anger and depression were reflected in workers' faces.

"What are we striking for?" one young worker asked. "We don't know what we're asking for and what we'll get." He asked not to be identified.

### Tourist Arrested

Kellen Quint Angel, Pikeville, Tenn., was arrested for failure to stop or leave his name and address at the scene of motor vehicle accident.

His bail was set at \$100.