

Pioneers



EDITORIAL PAGE

LA GRANDE OBSERVER

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"Without or with friend or foe, we print your daily world as it goes"—Byron.

RILEY ALLEN, publisher

Grady Pannell, managing editor George Challis, advertising director Tom Humes, circulation manager

Grads Called Medical Mechanics?

Everyone from Congressmen to the family doctor is worried over increasing costs of medical care for the average family. For medical costs have more than kept up with the increase in general cost of living in recent years.

This is true of every facet of medical costs. Doctor incomes have risen faster than the income of the rest of the population. Hospital costs have skyrocketed. Drug bills have gone up and up.

There is only one bright spot in the picture. Some illnesses, through new drugs and treatments, are less expensive than formerly.

The whole problem has been gone over rather thoroughly, and all sorts of answers have been suggested.

The latest idea has come from a group of New York labor unions, who are very much involved in the problem. A total of 26 unions, all with various health and welfare programs, are considering starting their own hospitals and founding their own medical school.

The hospital approach is not too new. The United Mine Workers operates a string of hospitals in coal-mining areas, built with health and welfare funds raised through a royalty collected on all coal mined.

A string of hospitals, built, owned and operated by a group of unions would be somewhat similar to a string of hospitals operated by a single union.

But the idea which is new is the founding of a union medical school.

It's true there is a shortage of good medical schools in this country. The

number of medical schools is not increasing nearly so rapidly as the population.

The answer, intriguing as it is, is not simple.

Medical students, and potential students, are plentiful. It is a rare medical school which does not have up to a dozen qualified applicants for each vacancy which exists.

But medical schools are terribly expensive to build and operate, even for a big business organization like some of the big labor unions. Medical training is long, and nearly three times the cost of regular college training.

Gathering a faculty is not an easy job. A medical school must have at least one hospital connected with it. The training of doctors requires students, teachers and sick people.

There are fewer than a hundred medical schools in the United States. This has resulted in an artificial shortage of doctors.

But the shortage is going to take tremendous sums of money to cure.

A new medical school recently was opened in California. It can turn out about 75 doctors per year. And the school, and connected hospital and laboratory facilities, cost 20 million dollars to build and will cost about \$2 million per year to operate.

There are possible answers to the problem which are better and cheaper than building a single new medical school, which will only provide drop-in-the-bucket relief.

The Bear Makes A Lair With A Lamb?

Russia and the United States allied? Combining their armed might instead of threatening each other? The suggestion, made by British philosopher Bertrand Russell Monday, seems outlandish. Yet, let us remember, it was only 15 short years ago that just that condition existed.

Russia and the United States had nothing in common in 1941. But suddenly they did — a common enemy. So they

fought a war together, on different fronts, but nevertheless together.

Russell foresees an alliance between Russia and the U. S. in the near future that would be in effect a world government. It would be based on mutual fear of a rapidly rising world power in the Orient — Red China.

Let's remember this prediction. It may seem fantastic. It could be more prophetic than seems possible now.

They Won't Change Horses In Mid-Stream

The Conservatives in Britain were conceded an edge, but the landslide by which they won the election was a surprise. Few thought that they would actually throw some Labor party M.P.s out and replace them with Tories, but that is what happened.

The results can be considered a repudiation of socialism, which the Labor party stands for, as well as proof anew that when times are good voters are reluctant to change governments. The Laborites talked like the extremists in the

Democratic party in this country, calling for higher pensions, more liberal welfare payments and more government help generally for all those who are in any way in need. And they promised all without any mention of higher taxes to pay the cost.

But this sort of appeal failed to get votes. It wasn't convincing. The Macmillan government is in for another five years, and because of its generally good relations with the government of this country we can be glad it is.

DREW PEARSON SAYS:

Steel Execs Not Together On Strike Issue Settlement

WASHINGTON—Steel executives aren't advertising it, but there's some secret dissension in their ranks regarding a strike settlement.

In this category are Kaiser Steel at Fontana, Calif., and Jones and Laughlin near Pittsburgh.

White House observers who have been asked to report on the strike's alarming economic repercussions say that Kaiser has one of the most modern plants in the USA, is paying a heavy carrying charge on its borrowed money, is not anti-labor, and was dragged into the strike against its better judgment.

Jones and Laughlin is reported as feeling it's better to get a settlement now rather than after the 30-day Taft-Hartley work resumption because it takes time and money to open and close the plants, also because expensive machinery might get cracked up by men who are now in no mood to be as careful as before.

Some of the younger steel executives feel that labor's backbone has stiffened, and it will cost more to get a settlement today than last summer. They believe Roger Blough, tough top executive of giant U. S. Steel, has been unwise in ignoring this.

Note—Wonder what the public reaction would have been had Ike spent a week golfing in California with Walter Reuther just before trying to settle an important labor dispute? He spent a week as the guest of George Allen, an influential director of Republic Steel, just before moving to invoke the Taft-Hartley act against labor.

Chairman Oren Harris of Arkansas, a Baptist, went to church toward the end of his investigation of rigged TV programs. Three women came up to him separately, and each said:

"Oh, please don't investigate Mr. Charles Van Doren. He's such a nice man."

Patently, Congressman Harris explained that he had not subpoenaed any quiz contestants to appear before his investigating committee; all had volunteered. However, Mr. Van Doren had gratuitously stuck his nose into the probe by sending a telegram that he had never received any coaching on the spectacular quiz program "21," now shown to have been rigged.

Since Van Doren had taken the initiative, it was necessary for the committee to get the truth.

Harris did not tell the church ladies this, but his committee debated long and carefully behind closed doors before issuing a subpoena for Van Doren. They had received indications from Van Doren's friends that he might have a breakdown if faced with the humiliation of a public refutation of the spectacular days when he was headlined as the most learned young man in the USA.

However, other witnesses who previously had lied were subpoenaed and the committee decided that no exception could be made, regardless of Van Doren's family background.

"We subpoenaed one man who was a member of a labor union," Harris told his committee. "We can't exempt a professor merely because he comes from the ranks

REMEMBER WHEN

15 years ago, Mrs. C. C. Lilly hosted local Baptist women at her home. Mrs. Roscoe Clark gave a book review, assisted by Miss Doris Williams.

Miss Alta Lund, North Powder, wed Albert Harrison, also of North Powder. She was former student at Eastern Oregon Normal; also wed was the former Miss Amanda Hartly and Leonard Nelson, both of Union County, married at the home of William Driskell.

"The Goose Hangs High" was the name of the senior class play at La Grande High School. The play was under direction of Miss Kathryn Sartain, drama teacher.

15 years ago, La Grande High School Tigers were jiriding for their all-important football contest against Mac-Hi. Unbeaten, the Tigers were expecting their toughest tilt of the season.

U.S. ground and sea forces staged re-invasion of The Philippines under Gen. MacArthur; in Europe, it was announced that 174,700 Americans were casualties of war. Almost 90 per cent of them were from the Army Infantry.

A giant hurricane was battering Florida. A wide path of death and destruction was noted.

Shirley Miles, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Miles here, won voice contest in Union County competition. Eighteen, she was a freshman at Eastern Oregon College.

OBITS

PHILADELPHIA (UPI)—Dr. Joseph J. Toland Jr., 72, a prominent Roman Catholic layman, died Monday in Temple University Hospital.

VADUZN, Liechtenstein (UPI)—Dr. Joseph Hoop, 64, top political figure in Liechtenstein, died Monday in Chur, Switzerland, after an operation.

Result Of Lengthy Steel Strike On U.S. Economy Is Staggering

EDITORS' NOTE: What are the long-range implications of the steel strike? What effect is it having on the economy? Why can't management and union reach an accord after nearly six months of negotiation? UPI Labor Reporter William J. Eaton answers these and other questions in the following analysis of the nation's worst steel strike.

By WILLIAM J. EATON UPI Staff Writer

WASHINGTON (UPI)—The nation faces a double dilemma—legal and economic—because of the steel strike.

Congress undoubtedly will consider a new law next year to deal with critical labor-management disputes because of widespread disenchantment with emergency machinery of the Taft-Hartley Act.

The legal dilemma is how to preserve free collective bargaining and yet protect the public interest when the giants of basic industry and organized labor clash head-on.

Cost In Billions

Cost of the nation's worst steel strike already is counted in the billions of dollars and that figure is expected to mount even if the

QUOTES FROM THE NEWS

United Press International

LAS VEGAS, Nev. — Charles Coburn, 83, to his nervous 41-year-old bride, the former Mrs. Winnifred Gean Clements Natzka, during their wedding ceremony: "Calm down. I'm not going to bite you—at least not very hard."

JOHNSON CITY, Tex. — Former President Harry S. Truman, denying he has named anyone as the leading candidate for the 1960 Democratic presidential nomination: "I am neutral. But I'll tell you this. I'm going to see a Democrat elected next year."

HOLLYWOOD — Mrs. Florence Aaland, mother of Errol Flynn's "protégé" Beverly Aaland, disclosing that she has advised her daughter not to attend the actor's funeral: "I doubt if anyone will attend the funeral who really loved Errol."

WASHINGTON — George W. Taylor, chairman of the presidential fact-finding board that tried to settle the steel strike, admitting that negotiations had collapsed: "We find that the differences are of such a nature that it's simply not possible to get a meeting of minds tonight."

government seeks an 80-day truce through court injunction. The economic dilemma is how to prevent chaos in steel markets when the strike ends and get laid-off workers back on their jobs despite problems in cranking up production.

A less obvious effect of the walkout will be its impact on union demands and management reactions in future negotiations.

The unyielding stand of spokesmen for the "big 12" steelmakers in seeking greater power to revise "wasteful" working rules is the central issue in the dispute.

Steelworkers Stand Firm

Leaders of the Steelworkers' Union reported the 500,000 strikers were determined not to give in to management's demands for changes that could affect every detail in a millhand's life from crew sizes to coffee breaks.

While the stalemate continues, the economy has begun to feel the pinch. More than 85 per cent of steel production has been choked off, with the following results: —Nearly 250,000 workers in coal mines, railroads, oreboats and related jobs have been laid off because of the strike. These workers and the strikers have lost about three-quarters of a billion dollars in wages.

Auto Production Curtailed

Production of 1960 model cars have been curtailed because of shrinking steel stocks. General Motors says its layoffs alone will surpass 37,000 by Friday.

Time has grown short for shipments of iron ore on the Great Lakes in the ice-free shipping season.

Direct and indirect losses in lost wages, sales, taxes and other items could easily reach \$6,500,000,000, Steel Magazine predicted.

Starting up the mills will take time—perhaps up to six weeks to hit 90 percent of capacity—sources in the industry said.

Why? Because four-man teams representing the "big 12" and the Steelworkers could not agree in nearly six months of negotiations on changes in their 1956 contracts.

Atmosphere Tense

Even before formal sessions started last May, both sides took full-page newspaper ads to present their case to the public. The steel industry proposed a wage-freeze to battle inflation. Union spokesmen countered with vows to seek the biggest increase in Steelworkers' history.

The atmosphere was tense when contract talks formally opened. They got nowhere, despite repeated appeals from President Eisenhower for hard bargaining.

Contracts were extended two weeks to July 14 at White House request but the uneasy truce collapsed and the strike began the next day.

Federal mediators moved in, unsuccessfully. One of them has

described the sessions as polite but grim. Finally, the President said the strike "must not continue" and called in management and union leaders on Sept. 30 to urge resumption of negotiations.

Invokes Taft-Hartley

The talks began again but blew up in less than a week. Three days later, the President invoked the Taft-Hartley law and named a fact-finding board to investigate the issues in dispute.

Much to Board Chairman a George W. Taylor's surprise, he could not find out what the issues were. He sadly declared that only a "miracle" could bring a settlement.

Under Taft-Hartley provisions, the President may seek a court order to halt the walkout for 90 days with no guarantee that it will not be resumed on the 91st day.

The inflexibility of the law and the court-ordered return to work have troubled observers of labor-management relations for some time.

Many Solutions Suggested

Its application in the steel strike, however, seemed to create more demands for changes than any of the 16 other times the Taft-Hartley law has been used since it was passed in 1947.

There have been suggestions for compulsory arbitration, seizure of industries, compulsory fact-finding and other solutions to the emergency strike dilemma.

The steel dispute has put the Eisenhower administration in an uncomfortable position far from the "hands-off" philosophy the President once advocated.

There seems to be little doubt that it also has nipped in the bud the business recovery from last year's recession. Some government economists fear it may trigger a new rise in unemployment this winter.

HST Will Name His Choice For Demo Candidacy

WASHINGTON (UPI)—Former President Harry S. Truman has promised to name "a little later on" his personal choice among the dozen Democrats he believes could be elected president in next year's election.

Arriving here Monday from Independence, Mo., for the funeral today of Gen. George C. Marshall, Truman was peppered with questions from reporters about the campaign.

He told them that he hoped the Democrats would select a candidate "who can win — and I'm sure we will."

"We've got a dozen men who could win. But you can't trick me into saying who they are," he said. "I'll tell you my choice a little later on."

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