

Rail Strike Canceled After Government Seizure

IT SEEMS TO ME

By Charles A. Sprague

The taking over of the railroads of the country by the government to avert a strike is a rescue effort, saving the country the disaster which a stoppage of railways would cause. It offers no solution to the impasse which threatened to bring a tie-up of rail transportation. While the public may breathe a sigh of relief at escaping the immediate calamity it ought to be distressed over the failure of collective bargaining plus the working of the elaborate machinery of the railway mediation act.

The attitude of the brotherhood was expressed by Alanley Johnston, chief of the engineers, who said: "We have endeavored to get a settlement by cutting down to limit our demands. We've done all the giving. They want to make a compulsory arbitration board out of the fact-finding board." This statement invites analysis. The government board is in law and in fact a mediation board. It recommended a settlement which gave the operating brotherhoods a raise of 15 1/2 cents an hour. The railway representatives accepted the board's recommendation. The brotherhood representatives refused. Undoubtedly there was pressure to get the workers to accept this award. To the public strike in the face of a favorable award by a government board seems quite unjustifiable, jeopardizing as it (continued on editorial page).

70-Group Force Agreed; Draft Near Approval

WASHINGTON, May 10 (AP)—A senate-house conference committee today agreed on legislation providing \$22,000,000 to get a modern 70-group air force started. This means that the program will go to the White House despite Secretary of Defense Forrestal's objection that it is so large as to throw the armed services out of balance.

Meanwhile, a combination draft and military training bill neared final approval today by the senate armed services committee. It is scheduled for quick senate consideration after its introduction as a committee bill.

Chairman Gurney (R-SD) told reporters only "about three" items in the measure remain to be passed on. He predicted formal approval by tomorrow for the measure which would:

Require registration of all men 18 through 25 and doctors through 45.

Authorize a two-year draft of men 19 through 25.

And provide a year's military training with the war forces but not as a part of them, for 18-year-olds.

Nation's Best Crop Forecast

WASHINGTON, May 10 (AP)—An official report indicated today the nation will produce its third largest wheat crop in history.

The important winter wheat crop made good progress in April, except in parts of the southern great plains, said the report issued by the agriculture department.

Prospects on May 1 were for a total of 1,117,000,000 bushels of bread grain. The largest crop was 1,364,000,000 last year. Production on the 1934-45 period averaged 890,000,000.

Stockyard Strike Off; Raise Gained

CHICAGO, May 10 (AP)—A strike of 400 livestock handlers was called off tonight at the world's largest stockyards here.

Frank Monaghan, president of the CIO Stockhandlers union, said the new contract gave the workers a six-cent-an-hour increase, but "all things considered we got about 12 cents more."

Animal Crackers

By WARREN GOODRICH



"You're lucky—baby sitters are expensive these days."

Weather

| | Max. | Min. | Precip. |
|---------------|------|------|---------|
| Salem | 60 | 44 | Trace |
| Portland | 63 | 41 | .00 |
| San Francisco | 59 | 50 | .00 |
| Chicago | 48 | 43 | 1.24 |
| New York | 66 | 57 | .00 |

Willamette river 5.2 feet.

FORECAST (from U. S. weather bureau, McNary field, Salem): Partly cloudy tonight. High today 64, low tonight 46. Near excellent weather for all farm activities today.

NINETY-EIGHTH YEAR 12 PAGES

The Oregon Statesman

The Oregon Statesman, Salem, Oregon, Tuesday, May 11, 1948 FOUNDED 1851

Dewey, Stassen Agree to Debate

By R. L. Livingstone
BEND, Ore., May 10 (AP)—Thomas E. Dewey agreed tonight to a nation-wide radio debate with Harold E. Stassen on the subject of communism.

Fry, DeArmond on Council; Street to Get New Lights

By Robert E. Gangware
City Editor, The Statesman
Salem's city council Monday night voted to improve downtown street lighting, to put an elevator in city hall and to grant two limited franchises for rail tracks.

Zoning Changes Delayed: Rail Permit Limited

These were the developments: (1) An agreement with Portland General Electric company was approved to replace present street lights with brighter mercury vapor lights (similar to present high street lights but with two brackets parallel to curbs) for Liberty street from Center to Ferry streets and for the Liberty-to-high blocks of Chemeketa, Court and State streets.

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Moscow Says Talks To Air Differences Between U.S., Reds

LONDON, Tuesday, May 11 (AP)—The Moscow radio said early today the Russian government has agreed with a United States proposal for "discussion and settlement" of existing differences between the two nations.

The broadcast disclosed a diplomatic exchange between the two countries concerning relations between the wartime allies.

Anthracite Operators Warned; Boeing Union Augments Picket Line

WASHINGTON, May 10 (AP)—It was the hard coal operators' turn today to get the bad news from John L. Lewis.

Withdrawing

WASHINGTON, May 11 (AP)—Communist legislators walked out today as the third ballot began to choose the new Italian republic's first president.

China Reds Said Speeding Drive

NANKING, May 10 (AP)—A half million communist troops were reported marching towards Mukden today.

French Bread Ration Held by American Aid

PARIS, May 10 (AP)—Thanks to American aid France will be able to maintain its bread ration of 200 grams (seven ounces) a day, Premier Robert Schuman said today.

Politics on Parade . . .

Who's Running for What in the May Primaries!

Korean Ballot Rioting Fatal

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Italy Train Wrecks

VENICE, Italy, May 10 (AP)—The Trieste-Rome express jumped the track north of here today, killing nine persons and injuring 60. A split switch reportedly caused the accident.

Truman to Employ Farm Problem as Campaign Issue

WASHINGTON, May 10 (AP)—President Truman seized upon the farm problem as a 1948 campaign issue today with plans for a message to congress this week on long range agricultural legislation.

SP Removes Perishables Shipping Ban

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Dixie Choice Council Ballots 8 Times; Slates Budget Meeting

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City Editor, The Statesman
Salem's city council Monday night voted to improve downtown street lighting, to put an elevator in city hall and to grant two limited franchises for rail tracks.

Jewish Reopen Convoy Route To Jerusalem

JERUSALEM, May 10 (AP)—Jewish sources said their troops battered through all Arab resistance tonight and opened the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem highway to a rattle convoy of Jerusalem's hungry Jews.

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Shipment Embargo Dropped

WASHINGTON, May 10 (AP)—The coast-to-coast railroad strike was called off tonight. Three resisting unions bowed to a court order not to go ahead with the strike which was set for 6 a.m. tomorrow.

Charles G. Ross, presidential press secretary, announced: "John R. Steelman, assistant to the president, has just received official word from the rail union leaders that the threatened strike has been called off."

Workers Notified

Ross declared: "Robertson, speaking for the group, stated that messages are going out immediately notifying the railroad workers of the action just taken."

Network Seized

To pave the way for this order (a type of preliminary injunction) President Truman seized the whole vast network of tracks and trains in the name of the federal government at mid-day today, and turned them over to the army for operation.

Mr. Truman said seizure was necessary in the public interest, that the nation could not stand "a nationwide breakdown such as a crippling railroad strike."

The government petition said that the strike, if permitted to occur, "will imperil national health and safety."

The court order was obtained by Attorney General Tom Clark from Judge T. Alan Goldsborow.

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By the Associated Press
The threatened nation-wide railroad strike was called off Monday night, but some industries and railroads already had encountered some confusion.

Many of the embargoes clamped down by 85 class-one railroads were speedily being lifted, but not before many shipments of perishable foods, running into thousands of carloads, had been delayed.

Blaze Destroys Roberts Pullets

ROBERTS, May 10 (AP)—Fire early this morning completely destroyed a 500-chick brooder house and nearly 500 four-week-old pullets of the Hansen White Leghorn strain at the J. W. Isley place six miles southeast of Salem.

Roar of the fire awakened Mrs. Isley about 1 a.m. The brooder house was heated with pressed sawdust and the fire started in the floor under the "hover," Isley said. He placed the loss at \$350.

China Reds Said Speeding Drive

NANKING, May 10 (AP)—A half million communist troops were reported marching towards Mukden today.

A Chinese government spokesman predicted a "decisive battle" for that biggest Manchurian city.

Government dispatches said the national air force had started its heaviest Manchurian operations in many weeks, bombing and strafing the communist supply lines north and south of Mukden.

