

Rail Unions to Open Drive for Higher Wages

CLEVELAND (AP) — The four big independent rail unions, representing nearly one-third of a million men who operate the nation's railroad trains, opened a drive Thursday for higher wages.

The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers announced Wednesday night it is seeking a flat 30 percent increase. General chairman of the union on each road will present the demands to the individual railroad offices Thursday.

The Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen, the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen and the Order of Railway Conductors are seeking a wage increase of 37½ cents an hour. Their demands had been announced earlier and notices of their desire for a change are going out in the mail. The engineers' announcement

5,000,000 Food Parcels Given to East Germans

BERLIN (AP) — West Berlin's distribution of food parcels to hungry East Germans hit the five million mark Wednesday night.

City officials disclosed that many packages of lard, flour and milk — all scarce in the Russian Zone — have been given out since the program, conceived by the late Lord Mayor Ernst Reuter and financed by the United States, got underway July 27.

Distribution will stop as planned Saturday, just about the hour of funeral services for Reuter, who died of a heart attack Tuesday night.

The five million packages far given out represented 15,000 tons of food staples worth \$5,950,000. Distribution of winter clothing to East Germans is in the planning stage.

hinted the demands would be backed up by strike action if necessary.

Strauss Says Russia Began H-Project First

NEW YORK (AP) — Chairman Lewis L. Strauss, of the Atomic Energy Commission said Wednesday night he believes Russia started development of the H-bomb some time before we did — with the help of "espionage and treason."

Strauss, in a speech at a dinner of the National Security Industrial Assn., said it was a "fortunate decision" that led the United States to begin active development of the hydrogen bomb in 1950.

"It proved to be a wise decision," he added, when "the Soviets with their smaller industrial establishment were able to test a thermonuclear device within nine months of our own."

"If one concedes our industrial and technical superiority," Strauss said, "I can only deduce — and here I speak solely as an individual — that the Soviets had begun their development of the weapon some considerable time before we did — benefiting through the espionage and treason of which we have been the victims."

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