

NON-OPERATING RAIL STRIKE THREATENS

Call for Walkout Over Wage Dispute Looms As Union Leaders Meet

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—(UP)—Leaders of 1,100,000 non-operating railway employees expect to issue before night an order for a strike Dec. 30, it was learned today. The five operating brotherhoods already have ordered their 350,000 members to begin a strike on that date.

Disclosure of the non-operating threat was made shortly after President Roosevelt had told a news conference that a railway strike would be the worst imaginable against the war effort. The president revealed he had urged a compromise proposal averting a strike of the five operating railway brotherhoods by allowing them four cents an hour in addition to four cents awarded by an emergency board.

Session Today
Representatives of the 15 non-operating groups met today while executive committees of the five operating unions were meeting in the same hotel to discuss the administration proposal. There was an announcement from the non-operating group, but it was learned that the officials were planning to issue a strike call for Dec. 30. The non-operating unions' decision to force a showdown came only one day after they were defeated in their efforts to obtain an immediate house vote on the Senate-approved Truman resolution to boost their hourly rates by eight cents an hour.

The non-operating leaders, it was said, complained that while they had had three understandings with the president during the past six months for settlement of their wage dispute, none had materialized.

Meanwhile it was understood that the non-operating group does not favor the house interstate commerce committee's proposed modification of the Truman resolution to strip Economic Stabilization Director Fred M. Vinson of authority over railway wage rates.

Special Treatment
The union leaders were said to have put them in a position that the proposed modification of seeking special treatment through congress. They have insisted throughout the long controversy that the eight-cent hourly rate, which was recommended by an emergency board and vetoed by Vinson, did not violate the wage stabilization program.

Officials of the five operating unions held a three-hour morning session and announced at its conclusion that they would go to the White House at 2 p. m. for their third meeting of the week with President Roosevelt. The non-operating group has not been participating in these conferences.

The solution of the operating employees' wage issue proposed by Roosevelt would retain a four-cent-an-hour increase which was all that Vinson would grant for straight time. To that the president would add another four cents an hour, on the average, by payment of time and a half for overtime.

Lane Taxpayers Flush This Year

Tax payments on the 1943-44 have far exceeded those in previous years, County Treasurer Grace Schiska said Tuesday. Many of the property owners of the county are paying their taxes in full immediately this year in order to obtain the three percent rate rather than paying by quarterly and running a risk of a penalty for not paying on time.

Tuesday the sheriff's office made a turnover of the treasurer of more than half a million dollars, collected on the current roll. The total of \$548,713.73 has been segregated as follows: State and county taxes, \$181,643.77; city taxes, \$105,662.62; school district taxes, \$182,350.23; union high school districts, \$62,471.34; county high school tuition fund, \$6665.14; forest fire patrol, \$5368.21; water districts, \$3392.01; fire districts, \$1192.

Rogers Reappointed To State Bank Post

The state banking board today reappointed A. A. Rogers of Eugene to a four-year term as state superintendent of banks. Rogers was appointed in 1939 during the term of former Gov. Charles A. Sprague. He was engaged in banking at Eugene from 1917 to 1923 when he went to Spokane with the federal land bank. The state banking board is composed of Gov. Earl Snell, Treasurer Leslie Scott, and Secretary of State Robert S. Farrell, Jr.

Weather

U. S. Weather Forecast: Oregon—Partly cloudy today, tonight, and Wednesday with valley fogs tonight. Little change in temperature. Local Statistics: Minimum temperature, Tuesday morning, 28 degrees; maximum temperature, Monday, 46 degrees; stage of Willamette river at 10 a. m. Tuesday, 4.3 feet.

WIND TIDES (FWS)
Wind: Light, variable, 10-16 p. m.
Tide: 3:02 a. m., 4:33 p. m.
Wind: Light, variable, 10-16 p. m.
Tide: 10:14 a. m., 11:16 p. m.
Wind: Light, variable, 10-16 p. m.
Tide: 9:27 a. m., 9:16 p. m.

Eugene Register-Guard

LANE COUNTY'S HOME NEWSPAPER. VOL. 101 TODAY'S NEWS TODAY EUGENE, OREGON, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1943 ON STREETS—5c NEWS STANDS—5c NO. 174



WOUNDED GUNNER PULLED FROM PLANE—Rear Gunner Kenneth Bratton of Mississippi, wounded in the Nov. 5 raid on Rabaul, was pulled from the turret of the Avenger torpedo plane after it landed on the carrier Saratoga. Bratton retained consciousness until lifted from the plane by Lt. Julius Bescoe (USNR), former University of Southern California football ace. (AP Wirephoto from U. S. Navy)

ANOTHER INVASION SEEN IN RAID ON NEW BRITAIN

ADVANCED ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, NEW GUINEA, Dec. 21.—(AP)—A record 414-ton American raid that shattered Japanese defenses on Cape Gloucester touched off speculation today that Gen. Douglas MacArthur may be planning an invasion of the northwestern tip of New Britain in an attempt to tighten the blockade of Rabaul.

Hundreds of American Liberators, Mitchells and Marauders, striking in two formations, spread fire and destruction through the Cape Gloucester area, 275 miles southwest of Rabaul, Sunday in the heaviest attack of the war in the southwest Pacific.

The raid exceeded in weight the 356-ton assault, previously the heaviest in the southwest Pacific, that smashed the Arawa peninsula defenses 50 miles to the southeast less than 24 hours before sixth army troops swarmed ashore last Wednesday.

Capture of Cape Gloucester would cut the northern barge line from New Guinea to Rabaul and leave that key bastion dependent entirely on Truk, Japan's Pearl Harbor, some 800 miles to the north, for supplies and reinforcements.

Sixth army patrols were revealed to have pushed nearly six to nine miles northeast of the Arawa peninsula on the southwest coast of New Britain to the approaches to the Sigul and Pule rivers.

Gasmata, 82 miles east of Arawe and a trans-shipment point on the southern New Britain coast, also was hit by allied bombers.

Some 90 miles across Dampier strait from Arawe, Australian jungle forces drove across the Masaweng river, previously considered a natural defense line, in pursuit of Japanese fleeing northward around New Guinea's Huon peninsula.

The modification of the decree permits the planing mill to install a control device on its burning equipment.

Powerful Red Drive Likely To Isolate Finns From Nazis

Note—During the temporary absence of DeWitt MacKenzie, this feature is being conducted by William Frye of the Washington bureau.

By WILLIAM FRYE
Associated Press War Analyst
The great red army offensive now rolling southwest of Nevel, whatever its immediate tactical aims, is clearly a major blow aimed eventually at collapsing the German left flank.

It is, moreover, in all likelihood only the first of a series of winter drives by the Russians calculated to speed up considerably the probable intention of the German staff to withdraw by spring to the so-called Riga-Odessa line.

The power of this northern lunge is indicated by German confession of losses long before the Russians disclosed progress, or even admitted the drive had started. And the Russians probably expect to keep moving, with growing momentum, until the red army, reaching the Baltic, has relieved the long siege of Leningrad and isolated Finland from her Nazi ally.

There is in some Washington circles a rather strong belief that the "main" Russian show, presumably timed to coincide with invasion of western Europe, is still to come, and will come in the south,

aimed through the Ukraine and toward Rumania. Such an offensive probably will be launched. But that should not minimize the importance of the push already undertaken in the north. The truth is that the Germans probably used up their last real armored striking force in the counterattacks in the Kiev bulge, and now that those have failed, have lost the initiative to the Russians along the entire front.

That calls for some line-tightening by the Germans. It calls for it particularly because the nazis are scraping the bottom of the manpower barrel, and cannot replace their lost divisions with equally strong fighting units. Already men past 40 have been thrown into action on the Russian front, a sufficient indication of Germany's manpower straits. The figure of 300 divisions still is used for German army strength, but many of them are no longer first rate divisions.

All of this points to the likelihood that the Nazi high command will pull back, partly by plan but obviously as the result of Russian pressure, to a line pegged on Riga in the north and the Dniester river in the south. By shortening their line that much, the nazis probably could man the Russian front with 30 less divisions.

Death Rained on Nazi Cities; Reds Peril Foe at Leningrad

Ban on Press Second Front Guesses Looms

LONDON, Dec. 21.—(AP)—British and American censorship authorities were understood today to be preparing to ban publication and broadcasting of all speculation originating in either country on the opening of a second front in western Europe.

Speculation originating in neutral countries or picked up from axis radio broadcasts or newspapers would not be affected by the order, it is believed.

Military authorities in London and Washington are said to be dissatisfied with the widespread discussions over where, when and how an invasion of western Europe will be launched.

British Policy
British newspapers have been adhering fairly well to broad censorship directives permitting them to speculate only along the line suggested in official announcements or speeches of high government authorities and to report foreign speculation of any kind.

The censorship discussion reached a new degree of urgency over the week-end with the appearance of dispatches telling of convoys shuttling big detachments of the American troops to Britain and speculation over whether

SEE BAN ON PRESS STORY PAGE 3

Planing Mill Case Upheld, Modified

Maintenance of an open sawdust fire with no device or apparatus for control should be enjoined but a reasonably controlled burner or furnace should not be included in an injunctory decree, the state supreme court held Tuesday at Salem as it upheld and modified the decree of the circuit court for Lane county in the case of Linus W. Lindley vs. Wilbur H. Hyland and others (Eugene planing mill).

The case, which came to the court here on appeal by the defendants, involved claims of the plaintiff that smoke and refuse from the mill's fire enveloped his home and caused him to suffer physically. Lindley had asked for \$500 damages in his suit for an injunction, and received the injunction but not the damages.

Since he had not appealed, the supreme court could not award him the money asked, the opinion, written by Associate Justice Percy R. Kelly, points out. However, the opinion continues with an expression of belief that the plaintiff had suffered damages.

The modification of the decree permits the planing mill to install a control device on its burning equipment.

U. S. Consulate In Spain Invaded

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—(AP)—The state department revealed today that two members of Generalissimo Franco's falangist party invaded the United States consulate at Valencia, Spain, on Saturday, tore down photographs and harangued visitors there.

The report of the incident was received from the U. S. ambassador to Spain, J. H. Carlton Hayes. He said "appropriate representations" were being made both in Madrid and in Valencia.

The report did not describe the photographs other than as being "press" pictures.

The falangists recently broke into the British consulate at Saragossa and abused the consul there.

Churchill Improves

LONDON, Dec. 21.—(AP)—The condition of Prime Minister Churchill continues to improve, an official announcement said today, and his cabinet colleagues expected momentarily the resumption of the flood of directives which normally pour in when he is abroad.

TROOPS GUARD BOLIVIA MINES AFTER REVOLT

LA PAZ, Bolivia, Dec. 21.—Troops guarded Bolivia's tin ore mines today as a nationalist junta which yesterday overthrew the government of Gen. Enrique Penaranda announced that it was firmly entrenched and discounted rumors that a counter-revolution had begun.

The troops were stationed at the mines, producing a large portion of the tin ore used in the manufacture of United States and British arms, in one of the first acts of the new government which pledged, however, to live up to Bolivia's commitments to the United Nations.

Victor Paz Estensoro, leader of the coup and new finance minister, told an interviewer that "the Atlantic Charter and other obligations of Bolivia will be respected and maintained" and "the new government in no case will alter the international situation at the side of the United Nations." Similar sentiments were expressed by Maj. Alberto Villarroel, the new president.

To Affect Output
(Dispatches from Santiago, Chile, note that the nationalist revolutionary movement from which most of the new leaders are drawn has long campaigned against control of the mining industry by three major producing companies. These advances said the coup could hardly fail to affect the production of tin.

It was announced in Washington that, pending direct word from La Paz, negotiations between the Bolivian government and the United States Metal Re-

SEE TROOPS GUARD STORY PAGE 3

Five Ex-Leaders Of France Seized

ALGIERS, Dec. 21.—(AP)—Five Frenchmen formerly high in their nation's political life, including former Premier Pierre-Etienne Flandin, paced cells in Algiers' military prison today, charged by the French national committee with treason.

Justice Commissioner Francois de Menthon, who acted at the direction of the committee following an investigation of the five cases, said the arrests of the five—Flandin; Marcel Peyrouton, former Vichy interior minister; Pierre Tixier-Vignancourt, former Vichy secretary-general of information; former Gov. Gen. Pierre Boisson of French west Africa, and former French Deputy Andre Albert—began two days ago and were completed this morning.

The white collar workers turned down an offer from the provincial government, through the Quebec municipal commission, for an arbitration board to investigate their wage demands. A week ago today employees of the police, fire and public works departments staged a 14-hour strike that won them union recognition for the Canadian congress of labor.

Those striking today are members of the national syndicate of municipal workers and two smaller unions who joined forces with the syndicate, recognized by the white collar workers.

The vote was 950-40 to strike at last night's mass meeting.

More City Workers In Montreal Strike

MONTREAL, Dec. 21.—(AP)—Montreal's second strike of municipal employees within a week started today, with an estimated 2,000 city hall clerks and stenographers out to enforce demands for higher wages.

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MacArthur Declines Political Comment

ADVANCED ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, New Guinea, Dec. 21.—(AP)—No comment was available from Gen. Douglas MacArthur or his staff today on the latest Washington press stories suggesting that MacArthur would accept the republican presidential nomination.

The southwest Pacific commander and his senior officers were described as too occupied with the current New Britain campaign to have time or opportunity for comment on political issues.

British Lose 42 Planes In Big Raids

By Associated Press
British bombers "in very great strength" rained more than 2000 long tons of explosive death on the German city of Frankfurt last night in one of the most massive war assaults in history and mounted a secondary attack on the Rhineland chemical cities of Mannheim-Ludwigshafen.

Striking from another direction, other allied planes bombed the Bulgarian capital of Sofia for the fifth time, concentrating on the rail yards. Ensnaring air battles cost the allies 11 planes and the enemy 28. Other planes attacked the Eleusis airfield near Athens, a principal spring of German air power in the threatened Balkans.

"First reports indicate the bombing was effective and large fires were left burning," the British air ministry said of the assault on Frankfurt.

The British lost 42 planes in all night operations which included Mosquito stings at unspecified points in western Germany and Belgium, mine laying and attacks on coastal shipping.

The heavy British bombing blows followed daylight assaults yesterday by U. S. Fortresses and Liberators on Bremen, the German submarine and shipbuilding base which has become the leading Nazi port since Hamburg was knocked out of the war. We lost 25 heavy bombers and eight fighters and destroyed 40 German planes.

The increasingly violent air offensive came as the first Baltic army of Russia was reported within 20 miles of Vitebsk. The week-old offensive in the Nevel area of white Russia threatened to isolate German armies and also imperiled the whole German position before Leningrad.

Dispatches said the Russian offensive in the north had forced the Germans to divert troops from the Kiev bulge and areas farther south. Some 3600 Germans were reported killed on various fronts and 70 more hamlets toppled in the Nevel area.

Polotsk, as well as Vitebsk, was threatened, and the capture of both these rail centers would force the Germans to rely on communications between the center and north on rail lines far west in old Poland.

Another indication of closer relations between Russia and her allies was the abandonment of the "Internationale" as the soviet national anthem, in favor of a new song glorifying Lenin and Stalin.

War In Brief

By United Press
Air War—Hundreds of RAF bombers blast German chemical centers with 2000-ton raid on Frankfurt and subsidiary attack on Mannheim-Ludwigshafen, 42 bombers lost; Mediterranean-based American heavies pound Sofia and Athens airfield, lose nine bombers and fighters, down 28 enemy fighters.

Italy—Americans gain 1 1/2 miles on right wing of 5th army front, seize mount Spincucio overlooking main inland road to Rome; British reported fighting in streets of Orsoina, inland anchor of Nazi Adriatic line.

Russia—Red army advance continues through 30-mile gap in German defenses below Nevel; Soviets outflank Vitebsk, drive within 40 miles of Polish frontier; Germans abandoning guns and equipment.

Pacific—Record 414-ton bombing raid on Cape Gloucester air-drome foreshadows possible new allied landing on northwest coast of New Britain; Americans seize Arawe air strip on south Coas, extend beachhead to as much as nine miles; Japanese seen evacuating Bougainville strongpoints.

FORMER COACH DIES
PORTLAND, Dec. 21.—(AP)—Funeral arrangements were under way today for Earl P. W. Harding, 63, one-time chemistry instructor and football coach at Oregon State college, who died yesterday.