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T-H Law Controls Reds

By JAMES THRASHER. This is only a guess. But we wouldn't be surprised if both President Harry Truman of the U.S.A. and President Joseph Curran of the National Maritime Union feel less bitter about the Taft-Hartley Law than they seem to.

Mr. Truman may not like the law. But at least it allowed him to halt damaging strikes on the railroads and in the coal mines, and now a third strike, only slightly less damaging. As for Mr. Curran, the injunction may also have saved him from a strike that might have got out of hand.

Mr. Curran has finally broken with the NMU lefties, after years of hand-holding, but he has not broken their power.

An indication of this was the rather conflicting statement that came from Ferdinand Smith, NMU secretary and a leader of the union's pro-Communist group, on the same day that Mr. Curran said he would not defy the law.

The Smith statement, issued on behalf of the NMU national council, said nothing about respecting the law in the event of an injunction. And its tone was decidedly more belligerent than that which Mr. Curran used.

Naturally, the NMU leftists would love to pull off a strike. With it they could tie up the European aid program almost completely. More than that, they would probably influence a portion of public opinion in the ERP countries, with a twisted propaganda version of the issues behind the strike. Together, these actions would seriously prejudice the American position abroad.

The Taft-Hartley Law may not stop this strike. But it can offer some valuable time to get the maritime situation straightened out. It can give Mr. Curran and his anti-Communist majority a chance to rally their forces.

The ship operators contend that the Taft-Hartley Law bans this practice, which requires operators to hire union crews through union hiring halls. The NMU holds that if this comes under the law's ban on the closed shop, then the law works unfairly in the employers' favor. It also charges that the operators have not bargained in good faith.

These are legitimate points. And if the Taft-Hartley Law can make the parties sit down for further bargaining on wages and working conditions, while a court is deciding the closed-shop controversy, then the union charges of discrimination by the law and its administrators seem exaggerated.

But the big point in an injunction's favor is that it would spike the Communist guns. If, on top of the House cut in ECA appropriations, a Communist-inspired strike should stop the flow of American goods abroad, the bipartisan supporters of that foreign policy would have a hard time justifying it with the actions of the American right and left wings.

We should not like to think that every industry-wide strike might be subject to injunction. But in this case there are good reasons why the maritime workers should be kept from becoming the political tools of

a pro-Communist minority, which is what would happen.

Forgotten Comrades

A Russian writer named Kozelsky informs readers of the Young Communist magazine that he recently visited Cincinnati, where "everything except the air is the property of the Tafts."

Must be nobody told Comrade Kozelsky about the Cincinnati Reds. They may not be subversive but, judging from their standing in the National League, they show symptoms of going underground.

WASHINGTON LETTER

BY PETER EDSON NEA Washington Correspondent

He Went to Fish---

WASHINGTON—(NEA)—The real reason why the U.S. ambassador to Moscow, Lieut.-Gen. Walter Bedell Smith, was sent to see Foreign Minister V. M. Molotov at this particular time had nothing to do with world politics. It had to do with going fishin'.

For two months, Ambassador Smith has been wanting to go fishing. He had been cooped up in Moscow all winter, and he had a vacation coming. He wanted to spend it with a few close personal friends—not diplomats—angling the streams of Normandy in the soft spring air of France where nearly four years ago the GI's had hit the beach for their second-front invasion.

In Washington, Secretary Marshall had a chore he wanted Smith to perform in Moscow. He wanted Smith to go see Molotov and straighten out a few wrong ideas the Communists seem to have about American politics and American foreign policy.

Marshall's problem was whether to have Ambassador Smith do this job before he went fishing or after. Marshall finally decided that, if Smith had poor luck on his fishing trip, it might spoil the negotiations. So the ambassador was told to go call on Molotov before he went fishing.

Thus are the great decisions of diplomacy made. Note the sly, Machiavellian cunning, the keen sense of timing, the careful weighing of all psychological factors in this delicate game of international intrigue. Note now how the Russian chess masters played it.

Meetings Followed Established Protocol The Smith-Molotov conferences were handled strictly according to protocol rules. Smith first had to notify the Soviet Foreign Office that he wanted to come and talk to Molotov. Smith also had to tell in advance exactly what he wanted to talk about.

That gave Molotov a chance to decide whether he would see Smith. It also gave Molotov a chance to study up and see what he would say in reply. After that was figured out, Smith was told he could call.

He came and delivered his piece by word of mouth. Molotov then replied, orally. Smith then made his reply to that, orally. But afterwards the two diplomats sent each other written memoranda, outlining what each had said to the other.

All this monkey business is accepted practice. In negotiations of this kind, it is customary for the exchange of views to be kept secret, unless both parties agree to publication. There was no mention of making their remarks public in this case.

Having done what he was told to do, Ambassador Smith was ready to leave Moscow for his fishing trip. And right there is where Molotov pulled a double cross. Without asking Smith's permission, Molotov gave out through the Moscow press and radio the text of Smith's original remarks and Molotov's reply.

Conference Was Minor Point in Discussion This was given to the world at a time when all the American officials were at home in bed. They had to be routed out at midnight to set the record straight and to bring out the fact that Molotov had twisted Smith's statement around to give the impression that its principal purpose was to ask for a conference to talk things over.

This was actually a minor point in Smith's presentation. It was merely a repetition of what President Truman had said in his speech of last March 17: "The door has never been closed, nor will it ever be closed, to the Soviet Union or to any other nation which genuinely co-operates in preserving the peace." It was nothing new. But the Russians made it seem new and world-shaking.

U.S. diplomacy was caught flat-footed by this propaganda trick. President Truman had to issue a new statement next morning and the State Department had to give out that part of Smith's remarks which Molotov had not chosen to make public.

But, as in all these things, denials and corrections never catch up with the original mistake. The Russians scooped the world and gave everyone the wrong impression by diplomatic trickery. This is one of the risks that has to be taken in dealing with the Communists, and by now this kind of behavior is expected.

The important question is how much damage this may have done to the cause of peace. Secretary Marshall admits that, in the long run, it may have helped it.

Blaze Wrecks Stratton Home

A fire which firemen traced to a gas hot water heater Sunday morning caused the near-total loss of a small residence located on an alley at 662 1/2 Eleventh Ave. E.

A neighbor heard steam escaping from the hot water tank at 4:02 a.m. and flashed an alarm to the fire department.

The blaze already had consumed one wall of the house and was breaking through the roof when the firemen arrived.

Firemen reported it fortunate that the Roy C. Stratton family, occupants of the house, were not at home when the fire occurred. The Strattons, however, lost most of their personal belongings and they were not covered by insurance.

Estimated damage also exceeded insurance coverage on the building, firemen reported.

Two other damaging fires were quelled by fire department crews Sunday. At 2:27 p.m. they answered an alarm from 1367 Jefferson St. where a pan of pitch boiled over on a hot plate and set fire to a floor in the Clarence Crocker residence.

A daveno was set afire at 7:01 p.m. in the home of Milton Marey, 1522 Sixth Ave. W. Firemen reported that the loss in these fires was not extensive, and no damage was done by a flue fire at 10:41 a.m. at 508 Pearl St.

Johnson New Office Chief

Paul F. Johnson, former assistant manager in Sacramento, has been appointed manager of the Social Security Administration field office in Eugene, it was announced Monday. He, his wife, and two children arrived in Eugene Monday, and Johnson will take over the management of the Eugene office immediately.

Johnson succeeds Carl D. Monroe, who has been manager of the local office since 1939. Monroe has been promoted to the assistant management at the large Long Beach, Calif., field office.

The new Eugene manager has been with the Social Security Administration for nine years. He received a law degree in Washington, D.C., and joined the administration staff shortly thereafter. His first two years were spent in the main office at Washington.

Johnson came to the West Coast in June, 1941, as assistant manager of the Spokane, Wash., office. He held a similar position at Long Beach before joining the Sacramento field office.

Monroe Leaves Monroe will leave Eugene the latter part of this month to assume his new duties on July 1. He is a native Oregonian, born and raised at Cottage Grove, and graduating from the University of Oregon in 1933. He obtained his degree in economics.

In 1938, Monroe joined the Social Security Administration, working in Portland. Three years later, he came to Eugene, as manager. He was absent from the Eugene office for nearly three years during the war while serving with the armed forces.

Prized Possession Saved from Flame

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—The house was in flames, Margaret Sides reached through a broken window to make the rescue.

Margaret cut her arm—but the 12-year-old's doll was saved. A fireman went into the basement and rescued Margaret's German shepherd dog, too. The fire, caused an estimated \$5000 damage.

Earl Suffers Fractured Leg

Sylvester Earl, 20, Springfield, was reported in good condition at the Sacred Heart Hospital Monday after being admitted Sunday evening with a fractured leg.

Earl was injured when his coupe left the road at 6:15 p.m. Sunday at the intersection of Riverview St. and Judkins Road. The car was reported a total wreck by city police who investigated the accident.

Clair Irwin, Springfield, was a passenger in the car. He was treated for facial bruises at the hospital Sunday night and released.

Sentence Scheduled In Larceny Trial

Robert Jessie Younger, 35, found guilty last week by a circuit court jury, will be sentenced larceny.

Younger was convicted of stealing \$250 worth of electrical equipment from his employers, a mill near Florence.

Monday in a circuit court Laura Margaret Miller, 31, was given a year's probation after she pleaded guilty to a charge of larceny in a building.

She admitted stealing 40 magazines from the Delight Valley School.

Police Arrest Driver

C. S. Jarvis, Eugene, was arrested by state police at 9:50 p.m. Saturday and charged with driving under the influence of intoxicating liquor.

Officers said his auto ran into a parked car on the south overhead at Judkins Point.

The word cattle, now used to describe domestic members of the ox family, originally meant property or wealth.

10,000 X-Rays County's Goal

The Lane County Public Health Assn. will attempt to X-ray more than 10,000 persons in Lane County the end of this month and in the September and October programs, Mrs. Leda H. Smith, executive secretary, has announced.

Of the 9243 people X-rayed in the county in 1947, 153 had questionable or positive returns, with more of these in the older group. In 53 others there were discoveries of tumor, cancer, abnormal heart or other chest conditions. Currently there are 32 Lane County patients in the sanitarium, with only one of these under 20 years of age.

Mrs. Smith pointed out that in

1946 the tuberculosis death rate for the United States was 9.2 per cent less than that of 1945, but that 50,911 persons died of the disease that year. More than 40,000 of these were persons more than 30 years of age, and there were twice as many men as women. Every effort will be made during the Lane County X-ray program to get into the industry and upper age groups, Mrs. Smith reported. April hasn't always been the fourth month of the year. The earliest known Roman calendar had a year ten months long and placed April after March the first month.

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Extension Work Declared Great Influence in Aiding Farmers

By ELDON BARRETT SALEM—(AP)—Even the most rugged individualists among Oregon's farmers have a deep regard for the Oregon State College extension service which has been aiding agriculturalists for more than 33 years.

As F. L. Ballard, associate director of the service, puts it: "The imprint of more than 30 years of extension work can be seen in every community in Oregon."

Accomplishment This work is visible in the cover crop seed industry of the Willamette Valley; the potato-barley-clover rotation of the rich Klamath Basin; the carefully planned development of the new irrigated area in Central Oregon; the grading of bulls in Eastern Oregon range areas; 4-H Club work and increased egg and milk production—to mention only a few examples.

Ballard likes to think of the extension service making every farm in Oregon a part of the Oregon State College campus. The service, he explained, brings the results of research laboratories to the farms where they can be used and brings the problems of the farms to the laboratories where they can be investigated.

He listed three broad objectives of the extension service: 1. To contribute to the individual development and collective welfare of rural people. 2. To aid in efficient production and distribution of food and fibre for the nation's needs. 3. To aid in maintaining and increasing the productive capacity of the nation's soils and the wise use of water resources.

The number 1 problem, according to Ballard, is utilization of land so the farmer can sell his crops outside the state. This is because Oregon's population does not consume the production of its 63,000 farms. This is where the extension service assistance comes in—to help the farmer get the most out of his land.

The service is a cooperative enterprise among the state, county and federal governments. It was established in Oregon by the state legislature and the federal Smith-Lever Act of 1914.

To obtain the board objectives of the extension service, a state program has been set up.

The state program embraces the following 10 major activities:

- 1. Increasing net farm incomes through scientific production and marketing practices. 2. Use of added farm income for better living. 3. Increasing the efficiency of farms through labor-saving methods. 4. Development of marketing and purchasing facilities and methods. 5. Developing a better understanding and more effective participation in community, county, state, national and international affairs. 6. Continued development of an effective conservation program. 7. 4-H Club work. 8. Health Education. 9. Development of rural school facilities. 10. Assisting persons to be better informed consumers.

'OAP' Gives Route F The Word on Sweet Pea

A representative from Gilham Road, who coyly signed his name "OAP," brought a note and a bunch of sweetpeas to the desk of the union editor Monday. The note pointed out that Rt. F had better watch its step, since there were four perfectly formed sweet pea blossoms on one stem. The union ed found that many of the stems supported four blossoms—more than OAP had discovered himself.

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