



SCENE OF NEW YORK TRAIN ROBBERY—Mail-baggage-freight train of New York Central Railroad was boarded by two masked bandits at underground freight terminal at 33rd St. (A) Wednesday night. Bandits manacled mail clerks, seized two pouches containing cancelled checks, and apparently left train before shouts of clerk were heard and train was stopped at 72nd St. (B).



DESCRIBES HOW TRAIN WAS ROBBED—New York Central Railroad mail clerk Thomas Mason tells police Wednesday night in New York City how two masked holdup men bound and gagged him and made off with eight mail sacks in an open cut on Manhattan's west side. Police said the bags contained worthless cancelled checks.

Gunmen Get 8 Bags of Worthless Checks

NEW YORK (AP)—Two masked desperadoes held up an outboard mail-express train Wednesday night as it stopped briefly in an open cut below the Manhattan street level near the Hudson River shore.

As in a Wild West movie scenario, they bound and gagged a mail clerk and dumped eight mail sacks on the tracks. Then they disappeared into the night with the bags.

Police said Thursday the bags contained worthless cancelled checks, each bag insured at \$50. The bandits apparently jumped on the 11-car New York Central train when it stopped for inspection of its air brakes.

An interstate alarm was flashed for two men described as in their 20s and wearing dark suits and hats. Both were armed. The FBI joined in the hunt.

Buffalo, N.Y., was on duty in the next-to-the last car when he saw two men loom in front of him. Their faces were hidden behind handkerchiefs and both held guns, he said.

"THIS IS A STICKUP!"

Later, he gave police this account: "This is a stickup," one of the men told him. "Where is the money? Don't yell or we'll kill you."

When he refused to tell them, they pulled his arms behind and bound his wrists with a pair of handcuffs they brought with them. They rolled him over and one of the bandits put his foot in the small of his back.

"I wasn't frightened until I got a good look at the guns," Mason recalled. "At first I thought they were fooling—I thought they were a couple of kids, wise kids,

until they said: "If you open your mouth we'll kill you." Then I saw the handcuffs, and I knew they weren't fooling. I was haphazardly when they got off the train."

TOOK EIGHT BAGS

He said he told the gunmen the money was in the bags. They discarded some of them—among them one containing \$2,700—and dumped eight outside. The sacks were reportedly en route to the First Trust Bank and Deposit Co. of Syracuse from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

The robbers tied Mason's ankles with a cord, stuffed his railroad cap into his mouth and fled.

It was not immediately determined whether the train had started to move when the two jumped off.

Mason said the train was moving when he managed to free his

legs and spit out the cap. Then he screamed for help.

A tower signalman heard his plea. The train was stopped at the next signal. Mason was taken to a hospital with severe bruises and a possible rib fracture.

Mayor of Chicago Orders Fluoridation

CHICAGO (AP)—Fluoridation of Chicago's water supply has been ordered by Mayor Richard J. Daley "for the good of the children."

The mayor this week instructed the city purchasing agent to buy fluorides for addition to the city's water as soon as possible. The city budget includes \$700,000 for the fluoridation program.

Fluorides are chemicals designed to help prevent tooth decay.

'BRAZEN AND CLEVER'

"They were brazen and clever," said Deputy Police Commissioner James Kennedy. "They knew exactly what they were doing."

Police said, however, that the bandits discarded a mail pouch containing \$2,700 in small bills and silver.

The train was heading for Albany, Utica, Rochester, Troy and Syracuse, all in upstate New York. Six of the cars carried mail.

Mail Clerk Thomas Mason, 60,

Congressmen Shrug Off Fistic Clash

WASHINGTON (AP)—Peace-of-a-sort—followed Thursday in the wake of fisticuffs between two members of the House Education Committee over proposed inclusion of an anti-segregation ban on a federal school construction bill.

The clash, coming at a closed session of the committee Wednesday, featured 60-year-old Rep. Bailey (D-W.Va.) and Rep. Powell (D-N.Y.), a 46-year-old Negro. The antagonists later shrugged off the clash as non-existent.

It provided a preliminary to later committee defeat of Powell's amendment to deny federal school funds to states or local school districts practicing racial segregation.

With the segregation issue settled, the committee moved Thursday toward final approval of a measure authorizing a four-year \$1,600,000,000 program of federal-state school construction to overcome existing classroom shortages.

The Bailey-Powell clash, however, was viewed by many committee members as the forerunner of equally bitter differences likely to erupt over the bill if and when it reaches the House floor.

Though losing in committee, Powell told newsmen he intended to offer his anti-segregation amendment from the floor as a "moral and legal" necessity under the Supreme Court's school integration ruling.

With the session rapidly drawing to a close and congressional tempers already on edge over the racial issue, there was no assurance the bill will be cleared for action by the rules committee or the yeas.

Sharp Earthquake Rocks Latin Towns

QUITO, Ecuador.—Numerous persons were reported injured Wednesday in a sharp earthquake that struck the north central Ecuadorian town of Cotacachi.

Interior Minister Cesar Plaza Giron reported that the town of Cotacachi and a number of other nearby towns were damaged severely. There were "numerous" injuries but had no estimate of the number hurt.

Cotacachi, a town of 4,200 persons 46 miles north of Quito, was described as the epicenter of the quake. The tremor was felt here

Date to Be Set On \$1 Wage Compromise Due On Minimum Pay

WASHINGTON (AP)—Only Senate-House agreement on an effective date stood in the way Thursday of final congressional approval of a 21-an-hour federal minimum wage.

The House Wednesday overrode, 188-145, President Eisenhower's request for a limit of 90 cents an hour and by a top-heavy 362-54 vote approved the higher wage floor for most workers in interstate commerce. The present minimum is 75 cents.

The Senate, which previously had approved the same \$1 figure, had voted to make it effective next Jan. 1. The House voted for March 1.

TWO DAYS OF DEBATE

The House sent its bill immediately to conference with the Senate for a compromise on the date.

Wednesday's House action climaxed two days of debate in which supporters of the administration's 90-cent top limit predicted a new inflationary spiral would be touched off if a higher pay figure was enacted.

Rep. Halleck (R-Ind.), leader of the GOP forces, told the House the President would be "gravely concerned over the consequences to the economy of a figure greater than 90 cents." Republican spokesmen, however, gave no indication that the President would veto the higher level.

2 MILLION AFFECTED

Democratic House Leader McCormack of Massachusetts derided Republicans' appeals as "the same old argument we have been hearing for years."

About 24 million workers in interstate commerce, with certain exceptions and exemptions, now come under the law's provisions. The approved increase would mean a pay hike for an estimated 2,100,000 of them.

Pretty Vermont Jeweler Wins Miss U.S.A. Title

LONG BEACH, Calif. (AP)—Miss Vermont, the prettiest Republican you ever saw, is Miss U.S.A. Carole King Johnson, of Rutland, won the crown Wednesday.

(Picture, Page 1)

Eight over 14 other pretty finalists. The runners-up were the Misses Arkansas, Nebraska, California and Georgia.

Miss Johnson, a 22-year-old blue-eyed blonde who looked 16, is also the prettiest business woman you ever saw. She runs her own jewelry business in Rutland.

RESTFUL BUSINESS

"The business is resting," she said, "because I am designer, creator, distributor and salesman."

Two years ago she was Miss Vermont in the Miss America Pageant at Atlantic City but only placed 13th. Thursday night she enters the Miss Universe semifinals.

Asked if she were a traditional Vermont Republican, she replied: "Is there any other kind?"

Doll-like, she stands 5 feet 8 in her high heels with the perfect Miss Universe measurements—bust and hips the same at 35 inches and the waist 11 inches smaller at 24.

When reporters questioned her after the contest Miss Johnson answered all questions freely ex-

cept those pertaining to the boy friend she has home. She said: "I prefer not to comment on that."

Her father Dr. Norman Johnson is a dentist in Rutland, which she said had 19,000 population at the last census, adding proudly: "It's the second largest city in Vermont."

Asked what her family thought about her entering beauty contests, she replied: "Well, as you all know, the East is very funny about beauty contests. We're a very conservative people but my family goes along with me, as does the town as long as I don't get a lump on my head."

Her big prize is a six-month contract with Universal-International Studios.

"I've thought of the movies only as something on top of my dream world but I'm ready to take a crack at it. As long as my business is a one-woman enterprise, I think I'll just move my stock out to California."

ROUGH COMPETITION

Miss Vermont got rough competition from Miss Arkansas, the first runner-up, Margaret Anne Raywood, of Jonesboro, a neat little blonde package, was a popular favorite with the audience.

Miss Nebraska, Donna Streever, of Grand Island, placed next. She is a sixth-grade school teacher and must have a hard job keeping the boys in her classroom paying attention to books.

Wiley Expects Ike to Report On Geneva

WASHINGTON (AP)—Sen. Wiley (R-Wis.) said Thursday he "fully expects" President Eisenhower to make a report to the people when he returns from the Geneva Big Four conference.

Wiley, senior Republican on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, added that as far as he knows no arrangements yet have been made for the President to report by television and radio on his meeting with the prime ministers of Britain, France and Russia.

Sen. Humphrey (D-Minn.), meanwhile, termed "very discouraging" the Big Four decision to shunt the problems of German unification and European security to future lower-level conferences.

"The unification of Germany is the heart and core of the problem of European security," Humphrey said in a separate interview.

"There can be no effective work at the second level unless there is agreement at the top on the desirability of having a united Germany."

Wiley, however, said he saw "nothing discouraging" in the decision to have the foreign ministers work out arrangements for future conferences on the issues, and he added:

"I have felt all along that the Big Four meetings could be only exploratory, that they would be only the beginning of future consultations on these problems."

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