

No Modern Joshua in Sight as Wall Battle Enters Second Year

By WILLIAM L. RYAN
Of the Associated Press

When Joshua fought the battle of Jericho, the people shouted, the trumpets blared and The Wall came tumbling down.

The modern battle of The Wall, a year old today, is entering a new and sinister phase, with no modern Joshua in sight. The barrier cutting Berlin in half looks more permanent than ever.

When The Wall went up, the Communists gambled that they could get away with it. Now, a year later, the Kremlin may consider the opportunity at hand for the next gamble for big stakes in Germany.

The Wall was costly in terms of propaganda. Around the non-Communist world it was denounced as a monstrosity, a device designed to imprison people and turn East Germany into a concentration camp. Why, then, was it built?

West Berlin was to the Communists, as Premier Khrushchev put it, "a bone which sticks in the throat." Walter Ulbricht, Red boss of East Germany, claimed it had cost his regime, in 1961 alone, 40 per cent of what would have been its national income because of the steady drain of young skilled labor, specialists and intellectuals who fled West. The Wall was a

galling demonstration of Communist failure.

For years Berlin was the escape route for hundreds of thousands. Hundreds of refugees fled westward every day. In 1961 alone, before The Wall went up, 195,000 East Germans escaped to West Germany.

Ulbricht at one time hoped to buy \$500 million worth of goods on credit from West Germany. Any such deal seems unlikely while the Wall remains. But Ulbricht's problems, terrifying as they are, seem not big enough to persuade him to knock The Wall down again in hopes of finding a way out of economic chaos.

The Wall has to remain. It

is an instrument of Soviet policy. Its appearance has increased tensions, and apparently that was one of its purposes.

Without tension, there had been little Western inclination to negotiate on Berlin. With The Wall, there was a chance of using fear as a weapon to divide the Allies or force negotiations — or both.

Recently, President Kennedy told the Soviet ambassador in Washington that the presence of Allied troops in West Berlin was not negotiable. The Russians insist there is only one stumbling block to accord in Berlin: The presence of Allied troops. There is the impasse.

Suppose now tension is whipped up again, creating new hot war jitters. Suppose Khrushchev then provides the Allies with a loophole by creating some reason to retain direct Soviet control over what happens in Berlin. In return, Khrushchev would have an asking price, perhaps just a small concession regarding recognition of the East German regime's existence. Khrushchev could bring about a crisis by going through with his threat to sign a separate treaty with the Ulbricht regime, forcing the satellites and urging the neutrals to do likewise.

West Germany apparently suspected this was in the wind. A week after Ulbricht

left for the USSR, probably to talk about the next Berlin move, West Germany warned neutral nations against signing a separate treaty. But Khrushchev can create the crisis without the neutrals, and then demand negotiations.

From the talks, Khrushchev can hope the Red position in Germany will have advanced yet another small step. Berlin then could be allowed to rest for a while, before the next step in the campaign.

Kremlin policy is notable for its tenacity. When it establishes a goal, though it may twist and wriggle and maneuver for years, it never gives up. In this case, the goal

obviously is the eventual neutralization of all Germany, with the heavy political and economic impact that will have on Europe.

The wall is likely to remain until the Kremlin sees hope of accomplishing that objective.

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Two Issues To Dominate Labor Talks

CHICAGO (AP) — The AFL-CIO National Executive Council opened its summer meeting Monday amid demands for showdowns with the Kennedy administration on the shorter work week and with the Teamsters Union on raiding.

When both George Meany, AFL-CIO president, and his strongest rival for leadership, the United Auto Workers' Walter Reuther, favoring a reduction in the national work week, it was felt the 29-member council will endorse a cut in working hours as a mean of cutting unemployment.

5.3 Per Cent Jobless
July estimates indicated 5.3 per cent of the U.S. labor force remained jobless at the start of this month. This was a reduction from the June figure but most of the amount represented teenagers who found jobs.

Pressure for militant action against James Hoffa's Teamsters, expelled from the AFL-CIO five years ago, will come from the Communications Workers of America (CWA) and the Seafarers International Union (SIU).

A CWA union trial board last week convicted 21 CWA leaders of conspiring to withdraw 18,000 members and affiliate them with the Teamsters. Joseph A. Beirne, CWA president, will demand that the AFL-CIO establish a rival Teamsters' union to raid the Hoffa organization.

Two Clashes
The Seafarers have already clashed with the Teamsters in Chicago, granting a charter to a rival taxi drivers local which won bargaining rights for 4,000 cabbies from Teamsters Local 777.

In retaliation, during a recent jurisdictional clash with a Canadian seamen's union, the Teamsters offered at Detroit, Mich., to unload freighters picketed by the Seafarers.

President Paul Hall of the Seafarers wants approval from the AFL-CIO for plans to raid the Hotel and Restaurant Employees and Bartenders International Union Local 610 in Puerto Rico. The Hotel and Restaurant Employees is an AFL-CIO union but the Seafarers claim it turned over control of Local 610 to the Teamsters.

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