

# Union Chief Denounces WEA Stand

New York Strike Defended in Talk

By FELIX B. WOLD  
Of the Associated Press

DETROIT—President Carl J. Megel told the American Federation of Teachers (AFL-CIO) convention Tuesday the National Education Assn. is trying to exterminate the teachers union.

Megel, keynote speaker at the convention, said in a prepared address: "The NEA does not expect to compete with us. It intends to exterminate us."

The AFT president's speech to approximately 750 delegates to the 46th annual convention contained his promised reply to attacks from the NEA on his union's policies.

### New York Strike

He defended teacher unionism and pledged increased organization of the AFT, inviting aid from the AFL-CIO.

The NEA, which claims 800,000 members in the teaching profession, condemned the AFT's one-day strike last spring against the New York City public school system.

In contrast to the 70,000-member AFT, the NEA policy calls for settlement of teacher grievances by negotiation only.

At its Denver convention earlier this year, however, the NEA approved a program of sanctions against offending schools or school districts. This would have a blacklisting effect. Megel said the NEA should be condemned "by every thoughtful teacher in the nation" because of its attitude toward the teachers federation.

### 'An All-Out War'

"Instead of mobilizing its energies to resolve our common educational problems, the NEA chooses rather to declare an 'all-out' war against another teachers organization. For this the NEA should stand condemned by every thoughtful teacher in the nation."

Megel said the issue is "not unionism versus professionalism but unionism versus NEAism."

"The fact is," he said, "that only through the forthright and democratic procedure of the union teacher movement can teaching become truly professional and respected."

Megel, defending the New York strike, said it was undertaken only after exhaustion of "all possibilities of honorable negotiations." He said the AFT prefers to negotiate all disputes.

### Roll Damper Fails During X15 Flight

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. (AP) — Electronic gremlins hampered the X15 rocket plane as it scorched through a heat wave with its metal skin glowing red and the fuselage making sounds like pistol shots.

The gremlins caused Air Force Maj. Robert Rushworth's roll damper to fail three times Monday as the plane streaked five times the speed of sound, he said.

The roll damper is a device designed to overcome rolling motions automatically. A backup control system enabled Rushworth to complete the flight safely.

Pilot Joseph A. Walker reported similar trouble after a flight in another X15 last Tuesday. The jaw damper—which curbs side-to-side motions—failed on that flight.



## Flame Flares

This huge tongue of flame shoots more than 100 feet skyward from the unoccupied Carson-Union-May-Stern building in St. Louis, spreading a series of satellite fires over the heart of the downtown section. The satellite fires were quickly brought under control.

(AP Wirephoto)

## Spectacular Blaze Destroys 8-Story Building in St. Louis

ST. LOUIS (AP)—A spectacular fire destroyed a vacant eight-story building and set fires in eight other buildings, which firemen quickly brought under control, in downtown St. Louis Monday.

Assistant Fire Chief Robert Olsen Jr. said "If things had gone wrong, we could have a regular storm."

Fire Chief James J. Mullen, 12 firemen and one spectator were injured or stricken with heat exhaustion. The fire came during the worst St. Louis heat

wave in eight years, with a high of 104 degrees.

More than 300 firemen and 40 pieces of equipment were used as embers were blown to roofs of other buildings as far as five blocks away. About 100 policemen handled huge crowds and rerouted traffic.

Firemen still poured water on the ruins Monday night. Director of Public Safety Robert W. Duffe said the main blaze was tuffed off by sparks from cutting torches being used to wreck the structure.

## Seven Killed As Express Crushes Auto

TEMPLE CITY, Calif. (AP) — A crack passenger train whipping through the darkness Monday night plowed into a car killing seven persons including a family of four, sheriffs deputies reported.

The train, Southern Pacific's Sunset bound for New Orleans, ground on for nine city blocks before it came to a halt. The auto was lodged partly under it, compressed nearly flat.

None of the train's 20 cars or three locomotive units were derailed.

All the dead were traveling in the auto. The body of one man was thrown clear. The others had to be cut from the wreckage with torches.

Engineer E. F. Knoff said he didn't see the car coming, "but I felt it hit and saw sparks flying from the front of the train engine."

He said he was traveling 40 to 45 miles per hour.

The victims were identified tentatively from papers found on them and in the car as all from California:

Joe Kendall Donnell, 22; his wife, Dixie Lee, 19, and their children, Kathleen, 2, and Kendall, 1, of La Puente; Stanley Earl Peacock, 19, and Madonna L. Finlay, 18, both also from La Puente, and Wanda Carol Boatwright, 18, of Ric Linda, Sacramento, County.

The auto bore a South Dakota license registered, sheriff's deputies said, to a Mike Bollinger of Timberlake, S. D.

## Party of Tourists Chances On Youth Trapped 3½ Days

HILL CITY, S. D. (AP) — "I made some bargains with God—but I always was sure that, somehow, I'd be rescued," Airman Gerald Becker said in telling about the 3½ days he spent trapped in an abandoned gold mine pit near here.

The chance halt of a tourist party brought his rescue Monday.

Becker, 18, of Mapleton, Minn., had last Thursday night off from his duties as a mechanic at nearby Ellsworth Air Force Base. He decided to go swimming in Sheridan Lake.

"But it was too cold and I started exploring instead," said Becker Monday night at the base hospital, where he is under observation.

"I came across this big hole in the ground in the woods and started walking around it, peering down. All of a sudden the edge gave way and I fell 50 feet to the bottom."

After recovering from the initial shock, Becker looked for a hold on the shale and slate walls to enable him to climb out but found none. Then he started shouting for help.

When darkness fell, he gave that up and made himself a primitive bed out of brush that had fallen into the pit.

"But I couldn't sleep very much because it got pretty cold," he said. "It must have

fallen to about 50 or less and I only had light trousers and a T-shirt."

Friday, Saturday and Sunday took a long time to pass. "Every time I heard, or thought I heard, the faintest noise, I'd start shouting again—but nobody came," Becker said.

He had no food. For water he took the batteries out of his flashlight case and used it to gather ground drops that filtered down the sides of the pit.

With the hope that smoke might attract attention, Becker tore up papers from his billfold and started a fire. But he soon had to stamp it out because, with no ventilation, the fumes began to choke him.

Early Monday the vacationing Pete Ptacek family from Phoenix, Ariz., stopped in the area to let their youngsters exercise. Becker heard them and called out.

### Temperance Union

WARSAW (AP) — Poland has a temperance union to encourage sobriety among transport workers on duty. The newspaper Trybuna Ludu says since the society was founded two years ago no member has been found drunk at work and drunk driving accidents have decreased.

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### Violations Revealed

SALEM (AP)—State police said Tuesday that 219 persons were caught fishing or hunting without a license in Oregon during June. Another 239 citations or warnings were issued for angling or hunting out of season, and other violations.

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### Long-Time Resort

Portofino, a fishing village on the Italian Riviera, has been a resort since ancient times. The Italian Government requires that all new building and exterior alteration be in keeping with Portofino's old-world charm. Quayside apartments and hilltop villas, however, have modern equipment and furnishings.

### Congratulations to Tom White

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