

Steel-Coal Strikes Affecting All Phases of U. S. Business

By SAM DAVIS

New York, Oct. 29 (AP)—Steel workers have been idle for four weeks today. Coal miners out of the pits for 40 days. What has it cost the nation so far—in output, in wages, in earnings? Some say it's already a national emergency, others say—not yet.

How long will the bad effects be felt after the strikes end? How much justification is there for the view, apparently held by some who are bidding up stocks in Wall Street, that out of the strikes will come a business boom around the first of the year, when the nation tries to catch up again?

In the steel mill towns, in the coal states, the effects are plain for anyone to see—in the stores, in the banks, at the unemployment insurance and relief agencies.

Elsewhere, in widening circles, men are being laid off, or their working hours cut, because steel or coal is short at their mill or factory.

And farther afield, in rural sectors or those only loosely tied to coal and steel, the effects have yet to show up.

But looking at it, nation-wide, here is what we find:

Retail store sales down 14 per cent from last year and falling—the strike hitting hard in steel centers, with sales off 24 per cent in Ohio.

Bank clearings off more than 9 per cent from last year—off 33 per cent in Pittsburgh.

Railroad freight loadings off 36.5 per cent from last year, and the lowest since May, 1946. Railroad earnings sharply lower.

Electric power output below the similar period in 1948 for the first time this year.

Money in circulation down \$89 million this week, as payrolls shrink.

Some 600 coal-burning locomotives stalled by government order, to save coal.

Perhaps six million tons of steel production lost; coal production cut from eight million tons a week before the strike to two million this week.

Price cuts and reduced sales of lead, zinc, tin and antimony, all linked closely with steel.

But for the ordinary citizen, the matter of losses is pretty personal. It depends on whether he has a job or not, whether his take-home pay has been cut or is unaffacted, whether his store's sales are decimated or as yet untouched.

Farm Prices May Fall in '50

Washington, Oct. 29 (AP)—The Department of Agriculture predicts that the current price squeeze on farmers will be a little tighter next year but they still will be better off than before the war.

It said prices of farm products next year probably will continue to fall faster than the crop grower's production costs. This would mean another drop in the farmer's net income.

The department said the farm price-farm cost scissors has "definitely" cut net income this year. The extent of the decline depends much on the type of farm and the area.

Officials gave two examples: Dairy farmers—In the northeast it is estimated that 1949 net cash returns on a commercial family-operated dairy farm may average about \$3,970. That would be a drop of \$700, or 15 per cent, from last year.

This estimate was given for a farm with about 18 cows. The department estimated that "gross" cash receipts would be down about \$1,000 this year, mostly because of lower milk prices.

Wheat farmers—Net average farm returns on a commercial family operated winter wheat farm was estimated at about \$10,000 for 1949, a drop of \$2,500, or 20 per cent, from last year. This preliminary estimate was made for a 700-acre farm.

"Further declines are expected in 1950, with prices received declining again somewhat more than those paid," the department said.

Rural Phone Loan Bill Becomes Law

Washington, Oct. 29 (AP)—President Truman today signed a bill authorizing a loan program to expand rural telephone facilities and said it will fill a long-felt need and "strengthen our private enterprise system."

The measure provides for loans on the same principle now used by the electrification administration which will administer the new law. Congress already has provided \$25,000,000 to start the program.

"The need of our farm people for adequate telephone service at reasonable rates is second only to their need for dependable, low cost electricity," Mr. Truman said in a statement.

He said the importance of the new act is apparent because today only 40 per cent of the nation's farms have any kind of telephone service.

Gasoline Sales Drop
Gasoline sales in Oregon dropped sharply in September. Secretary of State Earl T. Newberry reported today.

The September total of 45,421,220 gallons was 4,000,000 less than in August, and was 3,000,000 less than in September, 1948.

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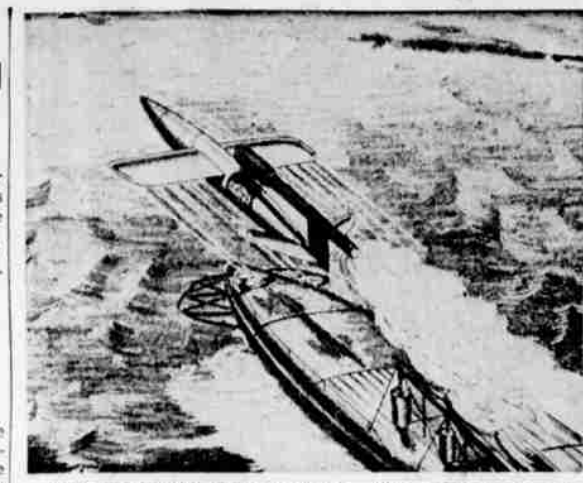
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Subs to Launch Guided Missiles—This sketch is an artist's conception of the scene off Hawaii Nov. 7 when the U. S. submarines Cusk and Carbonero will launch seven-ton guided missiles to show how they could deliver an atomic bomb if necessary. Missiles will be 30-foot "loons," electronically guided from the subs. They will be fired from launching platforms on the subs past a column of 80 ships stretched out for 35 miles. The ships will fire at them with anti-aircraft batteries. Loons will zip past the column of ships at from 400 to 500 miles an hour at an altitude of 4000 feet. (Acme Telephoto.)

Flood Control Problems Aired

Lebanon, Oct. 29 (AP)—Representatives of the Lebanon Chamber of Commerce met Oct. 27 in Albany with Willamette river basin officials and army engineers to take cognizance of the serious flood control problem on the South Santiam river.

F. L. Thompson, Linn county chairman, who called the meeting stated that "The situation should be brought more forcefully to the attention of our congressional delegation."

Col. Elligott of the army engineers explained that his group has gone as far as it can without additional appropriations from the next congress. The Portland district engineer pointed out that Green Peter on the Santiam and Cougar Creek on the McKenzie, while on first priority as far as the Willamette project is concerned, have merely been approved in a broad manner.

Ronald E. Jones, speaking as chairman of the Willamette River Basin commission, followed up the statement by Col. Elligott and urged the Linn county committee to stress to the Oregon congressional delegation the need of specific appropriations.

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Cost of Living Makes Big Jump

Washington, Oct. 29 (AP)—The cost of living between mid-August and mid-September made its biggest monthly jump in a year, the labor department reported today.

The department's bureau of labor statistics reported that the consumer's price index rose one-half of one per cent during that period.

However, the cost of living index on Sept. 15 was three per cent lower than a year ago. It was 27 per cent higher than June 1946.

All important prices of goods and services, except clothing, purchased by moderate-income city families contributed to the rise.

On Sept. 15 the price index was 69.6 per cent above 1935-39 average of 100. And it was 72 per cent above the August, 1939 level.

Food prices advanced eight-tenths of one per cent in the Aug. 15-Sept. 15 period. Fuel, electric and refrigeration showed a nine-tenths of one per cent rise. Prices of house furnishings advanced four-tenths of one percent, and rents and miscellaneous goods and services showed a three-tenths of one per

cent increase. Clothing for the seventh consecutive month showed a decline however. Apparel prices dropped one-tenth of one per cent.

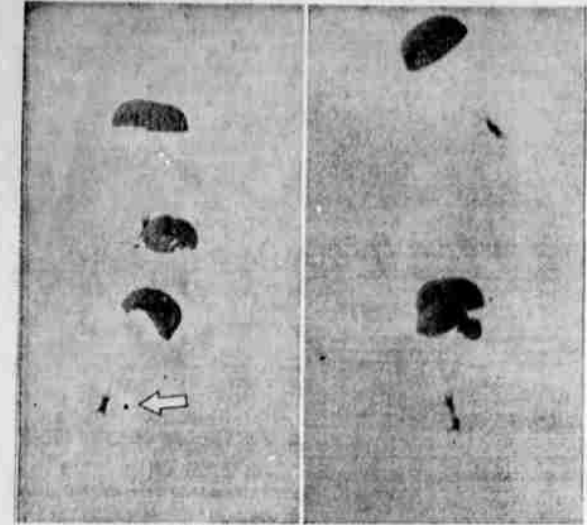
Teamsters Fight Clerk's Union

San Jose, Calif., Oct. 29 (AP)—Three hundred thousand members of the AFL Teamsters union in 11 western states were urged today to adopt a policy of "non-cooperation" with their fellow unionists enrolled in the Retail Clerks union.

A \$25,000 war chest to fight the retail clerks was voted by the 13th annual western conference of teamsters, which wound up its meeting here yesterday.

The \$25,000 was voted for the use of Einar Mohn, leader of the teamsters' fight for jurisdiction over "back room" workers in stores and warehouses now controlled by the clerks.

The conference elected Frank Brewster, Seattle, as permanent secretary-treasurer. Others elected included Sam D. Moss, Seattle, recording secretary; and Paul J. Jones, Los Angeles; Joseph Diviny, San Francisco, and Phil Brady, Portland, trustees.



Dramatic—Paratrooper Charles J. Dye (left) gives a warm handclasp of thanks to Sgt. Marvin O. Smith (right), who with a desperate snatch pulled Dye to safety when the latter's parachute collapsed during a training jump at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla. Top photos graphically show the dramatic mid-air rescue. His chute partially collapsed (upper left), Dye falls past Smith (arrow). A split-second later the rescue is climaxed as both men dangle from Smith's chute (upper right). Smith has been recommended for the Soldier's Medal for his alert action in saving his jumpmate. Official Air Force photos. (Acme Telephoto.)

NO CURE SEEN FOR SURPLUSES High Spud Prices May Bring Another Big Crop in 1950

By OVID A. MARTIN (Associated Press Farm Reporter)

Washington, Oct. 29 (AP)—Government farm officials foresee no cure—short of a drought—for costly potato surpluses.

That is, they can see no solution under present farm laws. About the only remedy, they say, is government authority to limit production through rigid marketing quotas.

Secretary of Agriculture Brannan recommended control legislation but congress did not take to his proposal.

Uncle Sam spent about \$225,000,000 in carrying out a grower price support program on the 1948 potato crop. By reducing the price support guarantee from 90 to 80 per cent of parity, and by requiring growers to abide by smaller planting allotment in order to be eligible for price aid, the agriculture department got a smaller crop this year.

The 1949 production still is greater than consumers will buy. As a consequence, the department expects to spend upwards of \$80,000,000 to support the 1949 crop.

But because this year's crop was smaller than last year's, grower prices have tended to hold near last year's levels, considerably above the price guarantees.

The fact that this year's prices have been more favorable than many growers had expected undoubtedly will lead many of them, officials say, to plant more next year than this. There is nothing the government can do about it except to deny price support aid to those who plant more than Uncle Sam says they should.

Officials say it is quite possible that 1950 production may climb back to the 1948 level of 440,000,000 bushels—or about 100,000,000 bushels more than consumers and other users will buy. (This year's crop is estimated at about 375,000,000.)

On the basis of present and prospective price relationships, the government probably would have to pay around 84 cents a bushel for the surplus.

Five University of Arizona football players are shooting for their fourth varsity letter this year.

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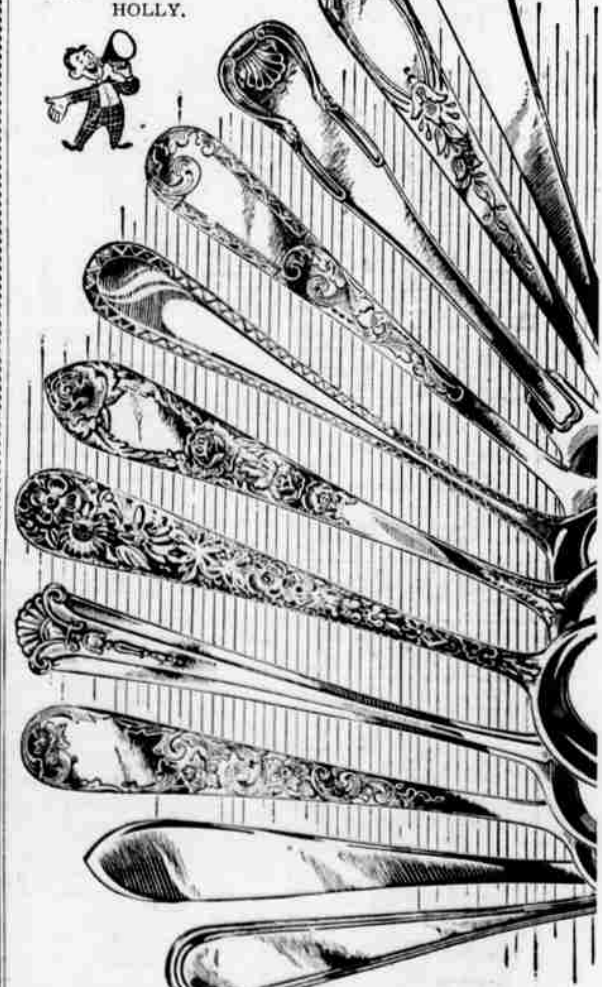
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