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Salem, Oregon, Monday, August 21, 1950

Quibbling Over 'Last Resort'

The United States can't afford to have a railroad strike—but it is having one, nevertheless.

Trainmen and conductors went on strike today against three small but vital railroad companies as the first step in a threatened nationwide railway strike.

Leaving aside the arguments of the roads and the unions in the dispute which has dragged on for 17 months, this token strike is certain to affect the effort the nation is making to win the war in Korea.

The White House, however, doesn't want to seize the railroads involved. As this is written, the president wants no part of seizure "except as a last resort."

It ought to be plain to the White House by now, however, that there can be no let-up in the effort, moderate as it is, to get material to the forces fighting in Korea and to equip the men now being put into new units at home.

It doesn't make any difference that the unions have asked three times that the railroads be seized. The unions have been free to strike since last year when a presidential fact-finding board made its recommendations.

What does the president consider a "last resort"? How can Truman quibble about a definition of "last resort" when Yank foot soldiers are still desperately fighting to push the Korean Reds back?

The strike must be settled immediately either by the railroads and the unions getting together, or by the president seizing the lines.

The United States has asked tens of thousands of its men in the armed forces to do their duty to their country in Korea. The nation can ask no less of the president, the railroads and the unions at this time.

The United States can't lose any momentum by shut-downs in the effort to arm and mobilize for the Korean war.

'Traffic Virtually Beyond Handling'

The actual figure of 21,100 cars daily passing on the two-lane road north of the main Hollywood intersection is an astounding one in itself. That a two-lane road would carry that many cars is really something.

But to a driver of one of those 21,100 vehicles, that figure would probably not be surprising. He has been aware of traffic congestion along that section leading to Highway 99E that gets so bad at times during the day he would be willing to go along on any staggering figure.

This latest traffic count affecting the inadequate two-lane stretch leading to the road to Portland should be impressive enough to encourage the state highway commission to do something now about widening the Portland road to four-lanes.

As Highway Engineer Baldock says, any sizeable increase now in traffic at the north entrance point to the city from Highway 99E will make traffic virtually beyond handling with the existing two lanes.

Baldock's fears of increased traffic are certain to come true in the near future, with continued growth of the Salem area assured. In that connection, it is interesting to note the increase in the traffic count for the section of Fairgrounds road that leads into the Portland road.

In 1939 the traffic count there was 9500 vehicles per 24-hour period. By 1950 that average had jumped to 21,100 daily. With the United States again gearing for war, can there be any doubt that the traffic will continue to gain at an exceptional rate?

It is unfortunate that it becomes necessary to compare this particular section of road with other roads throughout the state or nation as to which is the "worst." But only by bringing out to the highway commission the unbearable condition of the road can the communities in the central Willamette valley hope to get relief in the form of four lanes to New Era—or at least a good part of the way north out of Salem.

There can no longer be any doubt that the two-lane Portland road is the worst for congestion in Oregon.

The communities and farmers along Highway 99E to Portland will present their case to the highway commission tomorrow for four lanes. Then the next move will be up to the commission. Judging from the expected size of the protesting delegations and the scope of the case, the proposal for four lanes to New Era should be impressive.

The commission's reaction and recommendations will be awaited with unusual interest.

Baby Sitters Have Problems, Too

Portland, Aug. 21 (AP)—You think you have troubles with the baby sitter? Well, she has problems, too.

A 14-year-old called police Saturday night to plead for help. When a patrol car arrived, one window—among other things—was broken at the house and six children were staging a near riot.

All threats were needed to send the youngsters—ages two months to nine years—off to bed.

BY BECK

Parental Problems



KRISS-KROSS

Here We Go—Everybody Getting Into the Act

By CHRIS KOWITZ, Jr

Ho, hum... here we go... the channel swimmers are at it again... more people than ever are getting into the swim of things... there seems to be some queer type of fascination in attempting to conquer the chilly, choppy waters between France and England... channel swimming has become the latest outlet for publicity seekers...

A few years ago it was gold fish swallowing... then photograph record eating... flag pole sitting came into prominence next... now everybody's ambition seems to be to swim the channel... there are still a few screwball specialties... such as the guy who set the world's record for the most parachute jumps in 24 hours...

Water seeks its own level," they say... how, then, asks a doubting Thomas, can the surface of the ocean be curved?... a level surface is one that is horizontal, so it is at right angles to a line toward the center of the earth... over a small area, a level surface is practically flat, but if it is extended far enough it follows the curvature of the earth... when you say that water "seeks its own level," you mean that all points on its surface tend to reach the same distance from the center of the earth... so the curved surface of the ocean is really level... see?

A Battalion is born in Salem... no, the army hasn't organized a new group of men here... a daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Battalion, 2030 Jelden avenue.

Carl Saunders, who won a special \$250 award for performing without a relief driver in the 24-hour auto race at Jantzen Beach in Portland over the week-end, was a hungry man when the checkered flag was waved... during the marathon, Saunders ate only two bananas... and drank lots of water... he explained that he can stay awake when he's hungry.

Monkey Outwits Trainer Sanford, Fla., Aug. 21 (AP)—Zookeeper B. J. Davis, who set out to teach his monkey a thing or two learned something himself. Because Monk refused to let his mate eat, Davis spanked him and made him sit in a corner. Davis turned his head and monk slashed at his arm. This brought another spanking and another corner-sitting session.

Davis started out of the cage. Monk made for the keeper, and took the seat of Davis' trousers out with his teeth. Davis' doctor took two stitches. The trousers required more.

POOR MAN'S PHILOSOPHER

Grandpappys Are Sure Proud; Correspondent No Exception

By DON WHITEHEAD (Substitute for Hal Boyle)

Korea (AP)—This is how it feels to be a war correspondent grandpappy...

And to meet the most frustrated soldier in the world... And to stare a white rabbit in the eyes: Becoming a grandpappy comes first. A cable from home told me that my daughter Ruth had given birth to a fine son—and I was now the only grandpappy among the correspondents on the Korean front.

Suddenly I found it was wonderful to have a grandson. I hadn't quite known what it would feel like to be a grandpappy at 42.

But then I discovered I was just as proud of this new member of the family as when I first looked at my daughter 19 years ago.

I was in the mood to be sentimental over the big news from home. But that same day the Marines arrived in Korea, and I was among the group of correspondents who met their transports at a southern port.

Our pilot boat swung alongside a transport with the deck high above us.

Now, a grandpappy should be permitted to board a ship with proper dignity and decorum. But my colleagues below me were shouting for me to hurry up. Topside a tough lieutenant was screaming that correspondents would not be allowed to board the ship.

I don't know the rules on what a grandpappy should do in such a case so I ignored the lieutenant and kept going up the ladder to get the interviews we were after.

One of these days I am going to take time off and be sentimental about that blue-eyed grandson. But up to now I just haven't had time and my hardened colleagues refuse to give me the authentic grandfather treatment.

WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

Eleanor Roosevelt Suggests Truman Fire Sect. Johnson

(Ed. note—While Drew Pearson is on a brief vacation, his column will be written by members of his staff.)

Washington — President Truman has received some blunt advice from the former first lady, Eleanor Roosevelt, suggesting that he fire defense secretary Louis Johnson.

Mrs. Roosevelt expressed her views last week in a confidential letter to the president, following his categorical statement that he would keep Johnson and Secretary of State Acheson in his cabinet as long as he remains in the White House.

Writing as a private citizen, the former first lady suggested that Truman might have qualified this by saying he would keep Johnson and Acheson "as long as they do a good job." She pointed out that every President occasionally finds it necessary to make changes in his cabinet and it isn't a good idea to "freeze" a man in an important position.

Injecting a more personal note, Mrs. Roosevelt wrote that it was apparent to her from the tremendous volume of anti-Johnson mail she was receiving that the public had lost confidence in the secretary of defense.

In view of this sentiment and in the interest of national defense, she suggested firmly that Johnson should be replaced.

U. S. imperialistic aggression," wrote Mao.

Political observers attach significance to reports from the Chinese capital indicating that Mao Tse-Tung left Peking on August 11 for an "unannounced destination."... This could mean Moscow or somewhere in Korea.

The prestige of the United Nations is still troubling communist leaders, judging by their propaganda efforts to conceal the fact that Americans are fighting in Korea under the U. N. flag. No reference is ever made to United Nations authorization of American action in Korea.

Despite careful censorship, reports are trickling through the iron curtain that communist officials must resort to desperate measures to make labor to the mark. For example, in Rumania, a recent law has made "illegal appropriation and negligence at work" punishable by the death penalty.

When house and senate conferees on the District of Columbia appropriations met behind closed doors, Cannon's sharp eye detected GOP Congressman Earl Wilson of Indiana sitting in "democratic territory" near the head of the table.

The Missourian crisply ordered Wilson to move to a humbler spot at the republican end of the table.

"Okay, I'll move," snorted the Hoosier Congressman, angrily pushing back his chair. "It must perplex the chairman to see a thorn among his democratic roses."

NOTE: In the hope that public opinion may still shame the hoarders and profiteers, we have been urging patriotic Americans to organize "home front" committees and to campaign through the local press, radio and civic groups against war greed.

At one point, Sen. Bill Langer, North Dakota republican, noted that Redding claimed to be a "writer of fiction."

"Yes, he was director of publicity for the democratic national committee," dryly remarked Sen. Zales Ecton, Montana republican.

President Truman won't take the proposed 10 per cent, across-the-board slash in government spending with his bat on his shoulder.

At a recent meeting with federal agency chiefs, Truman strongly indicated that he might send a special message to congress if the two houses don't reconsider the 10 per cent reduction.

"This so-called 'economy' cut is one way to destroy government agencies without outright abolition," declared the President. "You can cripple an agency so badly by chopping off its personnel that it cannot do the job. This is a grave situation."

"It's all the graver in wartime," broke in federal communications chairman Wayne Coy. He explained that his agency was engaged in top-secret projects, vital to the war effort.

"We cannot do the job right if we are deprived of key personnel," he added.

"The same applies to my agency," broke in Thomas Buchanan, acting chairman of the federal power commission. "The FPC must see to it that our war plants have enough gas and electric power to keep them going. We must establish a balance between consumer and war use of fuels and power."

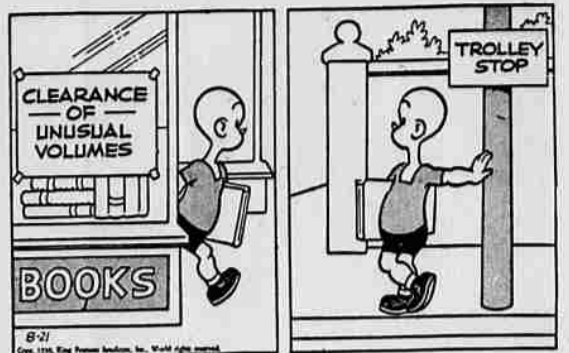
Buchanan pointed out that government departments, like agriculture and interior, might be able to withstand the 10 per cent cut by spending less on "construction contracts," such as road building and reclamation projects. But regulatory agencies, like FPC, would be dangerously crippled, he said.

"I would like to get a memo from all agencies that will be crippled by the 10 per cent reduction," Truman finally decided. "We've got to do something about it—right away."

Concrete evidence that the Chinese communists are openly supporting North Korea is contained in a message from Chinese communist leader Mao Tse-Tung to Korean prime minister Kim Il Sung. The Chinese people warmly support the Korean people in the just war against

BY CARL ANDERSON

Henry



MacKENZIE'S COLUMN

UN Members Should Rush Ground Troops to Korea

By DeWITT MacKENZIE (US Foreign Affairs Analyst)

General MacArthur's call for more ground troops from the United Nations membership, to bolster his badly outnumbered forces in Korea, has brought to light a lot of interesting facts—some a bit disconcerting.

While there have been numerous offers of various kinds of aid, there has seemed to be a considerable reluctance on the part of some nations to send ground forces.

As a result, thus far only eight countries have been announced as offering to send such troops. The rest are still considering the matter—or have decided to let Uncle Sam do it.

Another pertinent fact is that Washington has been proceeding circumspectly in handling details. Up until Friday three offers of troops had been formally accepted—those of 4,500 men from Turkey, 4000 from Thailand and about 5000 from the Philippines. Also accepted "in principle" were offers of troops from Britain, New Zealand and Australia.

Naturally many details have to be discussed. Twenty-three days elapsed between Turkey's offer and the formal acceptance.

And even after offers have been accepted, there still remains the great problem of transportation for troops, equipment and supplies. Logistics are a major consideration.

One thing which has delayed the sending of troops has been the desire of the donors to train new units for the Korean theatre. That takes a lot of time, and General MacArthur has urged that organized units already in existence be sent, rather than spend time training new troops.

Signs are that the magnificent job which MacArthur's American and South Korean troops have been doing has blinded the outside world to the urgency of more ground troops. There even has been a request that America send troops to western Europe to bolster spirits there—a request which isn't likely to be met at this juncture.

We once more are getting a striking demonstration of the fact that it still takes infantry to win wars. And MacArthur hasn't anything like the infantry he needs.

He is up against the bitter fact that North Korea is a red cornucopia through which pours a never ending stream of fighting men. The forces of the U.N. commander in chief could knock out every last mother's son from North Korea, and still Manchurian and Chinese communist fighting men could pour down.

Thirty thousand or more ground troops already have been pledged. And presumably a good many more will come from countries which haven't fully recognized the emergency and have been moving slowly. MacArthur's report should help to put that right.

So much for the physical aspect of this call for U.N. help. There remains another side of vast importance. That is the psychological effect of a powerful United Nations stand in Korea.

The members of the Soviet bloc are watching every move in the Korean war, to see how the democracies stand up to the job. That also is true of nations which thus far have been trying to maintain neutrality in the East-West clash.

Failure of the U.N. forces to turn the trick in Korea could be disastrous to the anti-communist world. Success would go far toward winning the cold war.

Grogan Wasn't in Ireland

Syracuse, N. Y., Aug. 21 (AP)—Thomas Grogan produced a driver's license in traffic court, but he still paid a \$25 fine on a charge of driving without a license. The license Grogan carried had been issued in Ireland—and had expired in April.