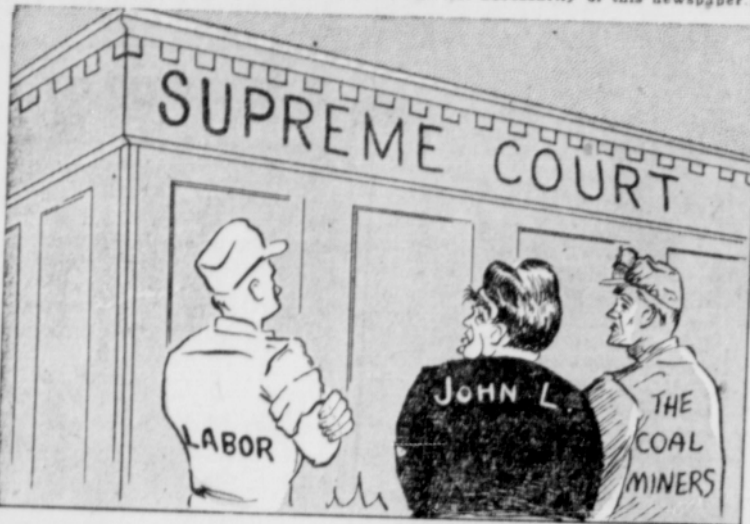


WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

Packers Sign Wage Agreements; Grant Carriers Rate Relief; Labor Awaits High Court Decree

(EDITOR'S NOTE: When opinions are expressed in these columns, they are those of Western Newspaper Union's news analysts and not necessarily of this newspaper.)



LABOR: Packer Peace

Meat conditions continued to look rosy for the American housewife with the AFL and CIO packinghouse unions coming to terms with the big packers on new contracts without resorting to costly strikes. The AFL Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butchers Workmen set the pattern for peace in the industry by agreeing with Swift on a 7½ cent an hour wage increase, higher pay for night work, a better vacation plan, pay for eight holidays and reduction of geographical wage differentials. Including all benefits, the total hourly increase amounts to 12 cents.

Not to be outdone, the CIO United Packinghouse Workers of America then signed with Cudahy for an average wage increase of 15 cents, extra night pay, a sick leave plan, compensation for eight holidays and elimination of geographical wage differentials. At the same time, the CIO union also reached agreement with the Tobin Packing company of Fort Dodge, Iowa, on a new contract providing for guaranteed employment of 52 weeks.

Sue for Back Pay

As a result of a Supreme court decision of last June 10 decreeing that employees of the Mount Clemens Pottery company were entitled to compensation under the fair labor standards act of 1938 for walking to their jobs on plant property, American industry faced the prospect of being forced to shell out hundreds of millions of dollars of back pay.

Wasting no time in taking advantage of the court ruling, the CIO United Steelworkers and CIO Auto Workers filed suits in the Cleveland, Ohio, federal court for back pay for 180,000 union members. The Steelworkers asked 56 million dollars for 148,000 employees of Republic Steel company and 38 million dollars for 30,000 workers of American Steel and Wire. The Auto Workers seek 12½ million dollars for 2,000 employees of Ohio Crankshaft company.

At least one employer, faced with the prospect of being forced to pay help for time spent in reaching their jobs in the plant, settled with the union. Dow Chemical company of Midland, Mich., agreed to pay 1,200 employees of John L. Lewis' UMW's District 50 a total of \$4,656,000.

FREIGHT RATES: Grant Boost

Interstate Commerce commission was unanimous in granting rail and water carriers an average 17.6 per cent freight rate increase and permitting railroads to maintain a 10 per cent passenger fare boost.

Noting that wage costs alone since 1941 have mounted by \$1,382,000,000 annually, ICC declared that the new rates were necessary (1) for maintenance and development of the transport system to meet national needs, and (2) to assure the movement of a high volume of traffic efficiently.

Rates on commodities other than those especially treated were increased by 20 per cent under the ICC order while tariffs on agricultural products and livestock (except fruits and vegetables) were boosted 15 per cent. Maximum increases were allowed on many items to maintain the competitive balance between different regions.

SUPREME COURT: Weighty Decision

In calling off the costly soft-coal strike, John L. Lewis of the United Mine Workers was content to leave determination of the issue to the U. S. Supreme court. Said John L.: "The Supreme court is, and we be-

lieve will ever be, the protector of American liberties and the rightful privileges of individual citizens."

Having agreed to consider the case directly from the federal district court, the high tribunal set January 14 as the date for government and defense arguments. Upon the final decision not only rested whether the heavy fines against the UMW and Lewis would stick but, more importantly, whether government-operated industries could prevent workers from striking.

Legally, the issue boiled down to this: Could government operation of an industry be considered essential to the running of the government? As the ruling power, the government said all its actions were necessary; on the other hand, the UMW said the running of coal mines was not within governmental province.

BRITAIN: Royal Romance

Great Britain, which takes its royalty seriously, was bubbling all over with the latest regal romance, this one involving Prince Philip of Greece and Princess Elizabeth.

Long rumored, the engagement of the royal couple loomed as more and more of a possibility as the British press continued to build up the handsome, blond prince. Much ado was made of his application for British citizenship. Steamed up over the ballyhoo, bobby-soxers joined otherwise staid Britishers in believing the match was "super."

While the prince and princess made a fitting couple, the rumored romance was not without its politi-



Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip shown as they attend reception in London.

cal implications. Such a royal marriage would bind Britain more closely to Greece, which occupies a strategic position in the eastern Mediterranean and presently is a diplomatic battleground between Britain and Russia in the fight for control of the Near East.

FOREIGN MINISTERS: Germany Next

Having cleaned up the Balkan peace pacts, the foreign ministers of the Big Four agreed to undertake the thorny issue of a German treaty in Moscow next March.

The decision came as the U. S. and Britain determined to unify their two occupation zones to speed up the economic recovery of western Germany and trim their relief burdens, and continental Europe, once dependent upon the Reich for essential supplies, continued to lag in reconstruction.

U. S. consent to conduct the parley in Moscow was forthcoming only after Russian Foreign Commissar Molotov promised Secretary of State Byrnes that newsmen would be given both freedom and facilities for reporting the meeting. Byrnes insisted that newsmen had not been afforded suitable accommodations during the last confab in the Soviet capital.

Whooping Cough Takes Surprising Toll

Whooping cough kills more children each year than infantile paralysis and scarlet fever combined and many hundreds of unnecessary deaths occur annually because of exposure of children to this dangerous disease, according to a health warning from Northwestern National Life Insurance company.

In 1944 the United States Public Health service recorded 1,878 deaths

from whooping cough, compared to 1,361 deaths from polio and 422 deaths from scarlet fever. Preliminary figures for 1945 show 1,728 deaths from whooping cough, compared with 1,189 from polio and 349 from scarlet fever.

The number of cases of whooping cough climbs steadily throughout the winter months, reaching a high in March or April, it was said



THIS has been an odd and unguessable season in college football, outside of Army and Notre Dame, but its greatest mystery moves in the direction of the Rose Bowl, the Pacific Coast conference and the Big Nine. Here we have something that passes all understanding. It was perhaps a trifle foolish in the first place to think that the Big Nine would pass up the \$100,000 or more it could collect from the coming Rose Bowl game and give Army its proper chance to meet the wishes of both U.C.L.A., Southern California, the entire west coast and practically 100 per cent of this country's football lovers.

Grantland Rice

The Big Nine's only interest was in \$100,000. This can be understood in a great game that is getting to be more and more commercial, with sportsmanship now a mere sideline. The Big Nine is not alone in this commercial angle, although it is one of the leaders. But what we can't understand is how the Pacific Coast conference suddenly turned and passed over the Rose Bowl to Big Nine control. For many years the Rose Bowl delegation has been trying to get the Big Nine in line.

A Sudden Change
Year after year the Big Nine or the Big Ten has handed the Pacific Coast conference the dead eye and the frozen hand. It has completely ignored the Far West. Apparently the Big Nine, awaking suddenly to \$100,000 revenue which had been going to southern teams, most of them also commercialized, had a startling change of heart. The Big Nine has decided to shut off this revenue from southern teams in the honest belief that such teams were using this important cash to "take care" of players, many of them from the Midwest.

But the mystery is this—why should the Pacific Coast conference suddenly decide to turn over the running of the Rose Bowl to the Big Nine, after so many years of back-handed action? Why should the strong Pacific Coast turn yellow? Every one who follows football knows that Army should have been the only possible selection—a great team, playing its final game, keen to go—the team both U.C.L.A. and Southern California wanted.

With this chance to regain its bowl leadership, why should the Pacific Coast conference suddenly decide to make this just another inter-sectional game, secondary once more to the Sugar Bowl as far as class and general interest go?

The Major Mystery

But this isn't the most baffling point of the five-year arrangement. In the future the Pacific Coast conference will enter its Far West champion. The Big Nine will play its champion the first year but, if this champion repeats, another team will be named. This may be the second or third Big Nine entry. It won't be a champion who repeats. And later on the Big Nine will select the opponent to face the Pacific Coast conference champion—from the Midwest or from the East—or from anywhere else. This gives the Big Nine control of the Rose Bowl game, a game the Pacific Coast conference started and developed and placed on top. The Big Nine, hostile to the South's system of paying or recruiting football players, hostile to the South's financial benefit from bowl games, now becomes the South's greatest benefactor. From now on the Sugar Bowl, the Cotton Bowl and the Orange Bowl will benefit considerably from the recent Rose Bowl action.

The Biggest Thrills

This has been a sporting season, now moving swiftly into ancient history, that has known more than its share of ups and downs, of dull spots and of thrills, of brilliancy and second-rate effort.

But, it still has given us sport thrills that will hang on in memory. A few of these in the order of their appearance were:

Assault's great stretch run in the Kentucky Derby, the opening shot for the Triple Crown.

Two others came in the solitary, but solid, punch that Tami Mauriello threw at Joe Louis, in the first few seconds of their meeting, and the melodramatic melee between defending champion, Tony Zale, and challenger, Rocky Graziano, in their middleweight brawl, a super production in its fashion.

Then there was the final game of the last world series where, in the closing two innings of the seventh contest, the Cardinals and the Red Sox with slim Harry Brecheen called on for the third stand, put on a show that came near tearing the human pulse out by the roots.

The two final thrills belonged to the last two football games I saw: The Pennsylvania-Cornell contest and the Army-Navy game. In each case the underdog, given from 25 to 30 points the worst of it, battered and beaten, came from far back to steal the show.



PILOTED ROCKET PLANE . . . Chalmers (Slick) Goodlin, 23, after he piloted Bell XS-1 rocket-powered plane, which in tests at Muroc, Calif., reached a speed of 550 miles per hour. He will later try for record of 1,700 miles per hour.



AWARDED SEVEN MEDALS . . . Ex-army T/Sgt. Llewellyn M. Chilson, Akron, O., and Malvern, Pa., who accounted for more than 300 enemy in fighting, is shown with wife and daughter after he had been decorated with seven medals by President Truman.



DUCHESS SEES QUEEN KISSED . . . The Duchess of Windsor served as judge at "Little Sister Beauty Contest," held at Boys' club, New York. Victoria Dobrowski, chosen queen, is being given a regal kiss by her proud brother, Francis.



TO SWEDISH POST . . . Louis G. Dreyfus Jr., 57, Santa Barbara, Calif., who sailed recently from New York City to take up his new duties as United States ambassador to Sweden. He was appointed a consular assistant in 1910. He is a careerman.



HUNDRED YEARS OLD . . . Mrs. Maria Busalacchi, Milwaukee, Wis., as she celebrated her 100th birthday anniversary. Nearly 200 relatives attended the birthday party.



LUCKY SEVEN . . . Left to right, front, Barbara Jones, Dawn Rae Dixon; second row, Joyce Erikson, Louise Campbell, Norma Christopher; top, Jean Rogers and Beverly Lobes. These seven students of Pasadena Junior college were chosen as members of the royal court, which included the queen, of the Tournament of Roses, at the annual New Year's Day celebration.



BLIND GOLFERS HOLD TOURNEY . . . Excellent scores were made when blind golfers held their championship meet at Inglewood, Calif. Left to right, caddy Bruce Schwartz; ex-blind golf champion, C. F. Russell; caddy Billy Fincher, and Marvin Shannon, present champion of the blindmen golfers. They were aided by their caddies in obtaining the proper line and distance to the cup on the putting green, as a guide dog looks on in approval.



CUSTER HERO GETS PURPLE HEART—FINALLY . . . Charlie Windolph, 95, first sergeant under General Custer's command, one of two living survivors of the battle of Little Big Horn, finally has been decorated with the Purple Heart for wounds received in the historic engagement in July, 1876. The award is being pinned on by Col. Paul W. Mapes at the Windolph home at Lead, S. D. Windolph is the oldest living holder of the Congressional Medal of Honor.



MEXICO'S NEW PRESIDENT . . . Newly-installed president of Mexico, Miguel Aleman and Mrs. Aleman are shown as they arrived for the diplomatic reception at the national palace during the inauguration ceremonies. Aleman succeeded Gen. Manuel Avila Camacho. Inauguration ceremonies were the most colorful and elaborate in the history of the republic. Representatives of 29 countries attended the diplomatic reception.