

# HOUSE OKAYS POSTAL RATE HIKE

## Soft Coal Fact-Finders Abruptly End Hearings

### Action Paves Way For President To Seek Court Order

#### Nothing Accomplished, Board Maintains

Washington, Feb. 9—(UP)—The soft coal fact-finding board today abruptly ended its hearings, paving the way for President Truman to seek a court order sending striking miners back to work.

The board met briefly for 15 minutes this morning, and then said it felt nothing could be accomplished by long, drawn-out hearings.

#### Best To Do

It said it felt the best thing to do was to close the hearings and report speedily to the White House.

Board Chairman David L. Cole cut off debate and testimony. He told John L. Lewis and coal industry representatives who were present that they could file by 1 p. m. (EST) statements of their position.

Mr. Truman's investigating board expects to report to the White House this week end the facts in the coal wage dispute. President Truman then can direct the attorney general to seek a federal injunction to return the miners to the pits for about 80 days.

The board tried late yesterday to get negotiations going again in the soft coal dispute. But after nearly nine hours of conferences—which lasted until early this morning—it decided Lewis and the operators had gotten nowhere.

#### Learned Facts

Cole said the board, which sat in on negotiations, learned "many interesting and cogent facts" about the dispute.

But, Cole added: "They will have to make an agreement and they will have to make an agreement through their own devices."

### Central Point To Ask Sewer Time Extension

Central Point, Feb. 9—Central Point city council this week voted to ask the city of Medford for joint use of the former Camp White sewage treatment plant.

According to the agreement, Central Point is to be connected to the Medford trunk to Camp White by February 22. However, weather and bond issue technicalities have delayed construction of the pumping station and connecting line here, city officials said.

Excavations have been made, concrete poured and a well dug for the pumping station, and pressure pipe distributed along part of the right-of-way. Councilmen indicated they will ask six months extension although the work should be completed in much less time. Groesbeck and Hickson is the contracting firm.

### Submarine Command Convicted In London

London, Feb. 9—(UP)—The commander of the British submarine Truculent, which collided with a Swedish tanker and sank with a loss of 64 men January 13 was convicted by a court martial today of "hazarding his ship."

The officer, Lt. Charles Bowers, was sentenced to be "severely reprimanded."

Bowers was exonerated, however, of a charge of negligently losing his ship.

Prosecution Officer Capt. H. C. Browne told the court that Bowers had altered course when "the rules of the road at sea required and navigation conditions permitted" the Truculent to maintain its course after sighting the tanker Divina.

Bowers had pleaded innocent to charges of negligence.

### Widespread Rains Present Ohio Valley Flood Threat

Chicago, Feb. 9—(UP)—Widespread rains today posed a new flood threat to the Ohio river valley. Murky weather elsewhere in the midwest snarled highways and impeded air travel.

Heavy snow fell in upper Michigan and northern Wisconsin. Flurries pelted the northern Rockies, and it was cold along the north Atlantic seaboard.

Elsewhere around the country, the weather was more mild.

The swelled Ohio threatened to rise again along the Ohio-Kentucky sector of its course under heavy rains in the Cincinnati, Louisville and Evansville, Ind., areas.

About two inches of rain had fallen at Louisville since noon yesterday and it was still raining early today.

The river, which had been

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### Railroad Union Members Vote To Authorize Strike

#### Walkout Date Would Be Set This Week

Chicago, Feb. 9—(UP)—Two unions representing 250,000 trainmen and conductors announced today that their members have voted to authorize a strike against the nation's railroads.

No strike date was set but officials of the two unions said a date probably would be announced this week.

Results of the strike vote were announced by W. P. Kennedy, president of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, and Harry Fraser, president of the Order of Railway Conductors.

Strike If Necessary They said members voted by a 95 per cent majority "to strike if necessary" to gain their demands.

Their wage and hour dispute with the railroads now is before the national railway mediation board, but Fraser and Kennedy said "there is no basis in sight for a satisfactory settlement."

"If a settlement is not reached in mediation shortly the two organizations will fix a strike date they said.

The unions seek no general wage increase, but instead want changes in work rules which would mean more pay.

Seek 40-Hour Week The trainmen seek a 40-hour work week for yardmen now working 48 hours and in some cases more. They also seek time and a half for hours worked over 40.

Conductors and trainmen both seek a reduction in the basic work day from the present 150 miles or 7 1/2 hours to 100 miles or 5 hours.

The strike threat came as the railroads were cutting service and laying off employees because of the coal shortage resulting from the soft coal strike.

However, there was no possibility of an immediate rail strike under the national railway mediation act. "Cooling off" provisions would delay a walkout for at least two months.

### Portland Democrat To Talk On CVA Tonight

State Sen. Austin Flegel, of Multnomah county, will speak on "Why Oregon Needs CVA," at a meeting at the Ashland senior high school at 8 p. m. today.

The meeting is under sponsorship of the Jackson County Democratic Central committee, and is open to the public.

Flegel, who has been one of the most prominently mentioned possible democratic candidates for governor, is president of Willamette Iron and Steel company and a Portland lawyer. He has been a proponent of the Columbia valley administration since it was first proposed, and has talked in favor of the proposal in many sections of the state.

The senator spoke to the Lions club here last night.

He said today that he has found no great interest in CVA, one way or the other, in the Rogue valley, and attributes this fact to the private utility (California Oregon Power company) which he said is doing a good job in the area, and which has relatively low rates.

Santiago, Chile, Feb. 9—(UP)—Two strong earth tremors shook Santiago at 2:20 a. m. today but no damage or casualties were reported.

### Success Is Hope In Polio Drive

Dick House, Jackson county chairman for the March of Dimes, said today that "we are within striking distance of raising the largest amount of money to meet the greatest need in the history of the March of Dimes in Jackson county."

But to achieve this goal, House added, it will require the continued participation and generosity of all individuals, particularly those who have charge of the March of Dimes scrolls distributed to various business houses and firms, and those who have forgotten to mail their contributions in the "dime cards" mailed out recently.

State Drive Legs Dr. E. T. Hedlund, Portland, state drive chairman, said today that the effects of the state's worst winter weather were reflected in unfavorable campaign reports from many parts of Oregon. The state's two most populous counties, Marion and Multnomah, were "far short" of their goals, the chairman said.

The need for the polio fighting funds has not diminished. Hedlund added, since last year was one of the worst polio years in the state's history. Commitments of virtually all counties are considerably larger than last year at this time and many of them have commitments larger than the amount of funds on hand.

Family Of Five Die As Flames Sweep Home Albany, N. Y., Feb. 9—(UP)—A family of five burned to death today when fire swept their home.

Those killed were Norbert Hepple, 32; his 24-year-old wife, Margaret, and their children, Theodore, 3; Gail, 16 months, and Henry, three months.



Ray F. Marks Hat In Sheriff Race

### Ray F. Marks To Seek Nomination For Sheriff Here

Ray F. Marks, 47, Medford real estate and insurance man, today announced that he will be a candidate for the republican nomination of Jackson county in the primary election May 19.

Only other announced candidate for the office of incumbent Howard Gault, who is also seeking the republican nomination.

Here 23 Years A native of Boise, Ida., Marks has been a resident of Medford for 23 years, coming here in 1926 from La Grande, where he was a Union Pacific railway employee. After coming here, Marks was a salesman for the Shell Oil company from 1927 to 1946.

When he opened his own successful insurance and real estate business.

Marks is married, and the couple have one daughter, a student at Southern Oregon college. He owns his own home in the Oak Grove district.

His affiliations include the Masonic lodge, Eagles and American Legion.

He said he would file his statement of candidacy with the county clerk today.

Considerable speculation about other possible candidates for sheriff has been heard in Medford. C. Lyall "Flash" Fidler, another realtor, has said that he may file for the office, either seeking the republican nomination, or as an independent candidate following the primary election.

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### Vendor Ban Not Yet Passed By Council

The proposed ban on downtown vendors, who sell articles from parked vehicles, passed its first reading at the Medford city council meeting Tuesday evening, and did not receive final passage, as was reported incorrectly in a Mail Tribune story yesterday.

The bill will come up for second reading at the next council meeting on February 14, according to City Recorder Ralph Woodford.

### Two Men Arrested In Billy Rose Robbery

New York, Feb. 9—(UP)—Police Commissioner William O'Brien said today that the Billy Rose jewel robbery had been solved with the arrest of two of the bandits.

Two other men whose identities are known, are being sought, and a fifth man, said to be the receiver in the \$25,000 hold-up, is being questioned, O'Brien said.

### Jewelry Salesman Loses Diamonds Valued At \$200,000

#### Loot Consignment From Employers

Los Angeles, Feb. 9—(UP)—Two gunmen robbed a jewelry salesman's apartment of diamonds valued at \$200,000 retail after one of them posed as a telegraph messenger to get inside.

Salesman Milton Cohen, 35, said the loot was a recent consignment from his employers, the New York wholesale jewelry firm of I. Hamburger. It was completely insured and had a wholesale value in excess of \$60,000, he said.

Pistol Pulled A man dressed as a messenger rang the Cohens' doorbell last night, he said, and told Mrs. Anne Cohen, 35, he had a package for which only her husband could sign.

Mrs. Cohen kept a chain latch on the door until her husband arrived to let the delivery man in. Once inside, the messenger pulled a pistol and herded the couple into the kitchen.

The bandit forced them to lie face downward on the floor, then admitted his confederate through a rear door.

"Where is the stuff?" Cohen said one of them demanded repeatedly.

They paid no attention to the salesman's answer that all his merchandise was in a bank vault. The second bandit, dressed in a blue jacket and gray trousers, started ransacking the apartment.

Hidden In Case He finally found the jewels hidden in a black traveling case under a bathroom towel, Cohen said.

The case, secured by a combination lock, contained cut and uncut diamonds, some of them mounted.

The bandits then stole a coat and shirt as a change of clothing for the one disguised as a messenger.

They also took jewels and a watch owned by Mrs. Cohen worth a total of \$1,580, although they left the gem salesman's watch and wallet.

### Truman Approves Probe Of Monopolies

Washington, Feb. 9—(UP)—President Truman today approved congressional investigation of alleged monopolistic practices by certain firms in the steel, newsprint, chemicals, soap, airline, and theatre industries.

Chairman Emanuel Celler, (D., N.Y.), of the house judiciary committee said after a White House call that Mr. Truman had endorsed the inquiry. Celler said a judiciary sub-committee will investigate.

The newspaper industry, which Celler said is monopolized by Canadian firms "with the connivance" of U. S. paper companies.

The soap industry with special attention to Lever Bros. and its parent corporation, Unilever.

Pan American airways. Alleged control of the whiskey-barrel manufacturing industry by distilleries.

The Shubert theatrical holdings.

### Water Supplies To Be 'Excellent'

Prospects for water supplies for 1950 are "generally excellent," the federal-state cooperative snow survey said today in the second monthly report of the season. Only exceptions are on eastern Oregon snow courses.

The snow blanket on the Cascade mountains is already considerably above normal in water content, the report said, and could "produce extremely high winter or spring overflows" particularly in the Willamette basin.

The possibility of floods was hinted at in the report, which said that heavy rains and above-normal temperatures over the ranges could produce the high streams.

Supplies of reservoir water were said to be generally "good" to "excellent" with the exception of five central and eastern Oregon reservoirs.

### Bridges Describes Jurisdictional Strife

San Francisco, Feb. 9—(UP)—Harry Bridges, fresh from making his fourth sworn denial that he is a communist, sketched for a jury at his perjury-conspiracy trial today the bitter history of AFL-CIO jurisdictional strife and said both sides frequently pinned the red label on their opponents as part of a smear campaign.

"Wasn't John L. Lewis called a communist by the American Federation of Labor after he split with the AFL?" Attorney Vincent Hallinan asked Bridges.



'DON'T JUMP!'—Police and firemen shout "don't jump!" as they direct men trapped on blazing hotel roof to wait for a longer ladder to be placed against the old wooden building in Oakland, Calif. All 15 residents of the two-story hotel were saved. Including the hotel, a half block of old wooden structures were razed in the \$500,000 fire.

### New School District Election Necessary

Central Point, Feb. 9—Because of an interpretation of law by the bonding attorney that school district No. 6 was a first class district when the merger election was held in August, the school board at a meeting last night called for a re-vote on the consolidation between district No. 6 and district No. 98 (Tolo).

Following this re-vote, it will be necessary to re-submit the \$500,000 bond issue proposition for a confirming vote, school board members stated.

The August consolidation election was held under the law governing second class districts.

School board members pointed out that there is considerable difference of opinion on the law governing the time that a district changes classification. Rather than take the matter through the courts to the supreme court for decision at much expense and loss of time to the district, board members decided on the expedient of re-vote.

Petitions must be presented to the county boundary board before an election can be called. It will set the election date. The district No. 98 petition must have at least five signatures of legal registered voters and the district No. 6 petition must have at least 100 signatures. The school officials asked that all who sign petitions, write their names the way they are registered. Women are reminded to use their own first names.

Petitions Available District No. 6 petitions will be available in several Central Point and Gold Hill stores and will be circulated by interested citizens.

Time of the election will be published and posted in the districts. Time of the bond election will be set following the merger vote.

The elections, if expedited, are not expected to delay construction on the new high school since architects still have considerable work to do on plans and specifications.

The original bond election was held in November and United States National bank and Blyth and company, Portland, were successful bidders.

These re-votes will delay completion of the high school naming contest, it was said.

### Custody of Child Actress Awarded to Foster Parents After Corridor Brawl

Hollywood, Feb. 9—(UP)—Child Actress Lora Lee Michel prepared today to leave the screen for life as a "normal child" with the foster mother who waged a hair-pulling fist fight with her real mother.

Lora Lee's adoptive mother, Mrs. Lorraine Michel, 59, engaged in an all-out slugging match yesterday with the 9-year-old child's mother, Mrs. Lena Brunson, 40, in a court corridor.

Minutes later, juvenile Judge A. A. Scott awarded custody of Lora Lee to Mrs. Michel, turning down a plea of Mrs. Brunson for return of her daughter.

The fight came at Lora Lee Michel's mother's court appearance, accompanied by matrons.

When Mrs. Brunson caught sight of her, she rushed toward the girl, hugged her madly and sobbed: "my baby, my baby."

Mrs. Michel and a group of friends struggled through a throng of spectators and tried to pull the embracing mother and daughter apart.

## BILL TO UP INTAKE \$130 MILLION YEARLY IN HANDS OF SENATE

Washington, Feb. 9—(UP)—The house today passed by voice vote and sent to the senate a bill raising postal rates approximately \$130,000,000 a year.

Passage came after the house rebuffed, 217 to 150 on a roll call, an attempt to shunt the bill aside by sending it back to the committee.

The house met an hour earlier than usual today to get final action on the measure.

Protesting that the increase will hurt publishing and other major mail-user businesses, the bill's opponents used a technicality to hold off the vote after five hours of debate yesterday.

House democratic leaders, who generally support the measure, immediately set today's session for 11 a. m. EST to dispose of the issue as quickly as possible.

Postal Rates Would Be Increased To Two Cents The bill, which also will hike postcard rates from one to two cents, is designed to go part way toward meeting an annual post office deficit running upward of \$500,000,000. President Truman originally asked the rates be increased by \$400,000,000.

When repeated efforts to hold down the rates failed, Rep. James G. Fulton, (R., Pa.), demanded a copy of the bill printed with all amendments—the privilege of any member under house rules. That resulted in an overnight delay in a showdown.

Rep. Robert J. Corbett, (R., Pa.), protested that the increase was another tax and "just a way of covering up inefficiency." Other members predicted it might drive some newspapers and mail order firms out of business.

Exemption Provided One amendment adopted provided a new exemption for agriculture publications and religious, scientific or educational publications designed only for education, regardless of whether they make a profit. Only non-profit publications are exempt from postage under present law.

The house also voted discretionary authority to the postmaster general to raise or lower some special charges, such as that for special delivery.

Proposal Beat Down The house beat down a proposed exemption from the rate raise for newspapers up to 150,000 circulation. The bill carries such an exemption for publications with up to 10,000 circulation.

The raises included: Postcards, \$40,000,000; second class (news-papers and magazines), \$15,000,000; third class, \$23,600,000 and fourth class, \$40,000,000.

### Rescuers Push Toward 10 Downed Aviators

Whitehorse, Y. T., Feb. 9—(UP)—A sure-footed rescue team in the wake of a bulldozing weasel plodded toward a mile-high Yukon mountain shelf today where 10 plane-wrecked Americans and Canadian airmen huddled in 60-below-zero weather.

The ground party, composed of Arctic-seasoned Canadian and American mountain troops, hoped to reach the survivors 85 miles west of here by evening. Only three men were injured in the crash.

The U. S. air force C-47, sighted yesterday, crash-landed between the 5,000 and 7,000-foot level Tuesday night while taking part in the two-week search for an American C-54 transport missing with 44 persons aboard.

The ground party moved on snowshoes in the tracks of weasels plowing paths through brush and deep snow. Officers said the parka-clad rescuers must advance slowly to avoid breaking into a sweat.

Salem, Ore., Feb. 9—(UP)—Howard Morgan of Monmouth, Ore., today filed his candidacy for commissioner of the bureau of labor. He will seek the democratic nomination at the May 19 primary election.

Chicago, Feb. 9—(UP)—The Burlington railroad today planned a \$23,000,000 improvement program for 1950.

### Russians Rule Out March, Is Claim

Berlin, Feb. 9—(UP)—Western intelligence officers said tonight they had received reports that the Russians had ruled out a scheduled march by 500,000 youths against west Berlin next May 28.

The reports said the Soviets decided against the march because violence seemed certain and it might involve western and Russian troops in grave incidents of far-reaching consequences.

### As They Entered the Courtroom, Lora Lee Michel Said 'I Want My Mother, I Want My Real Mother'

Courtroom observers believed, however, that Lora Lee was referring to Mrs. Michel.

Going To Texas After the judge issued his order giving Lora Lee to Mrs. Michel, the foster mother announced that she was taking the girl out of pictures to return to Texas for schooling "as a normal child."

Scott decided Lora Lee's mother had no right to her because she signed adoption papers five years ago. Mrs. Brunson, who lives at Nederland, Tex., said she was persuaded to give up the child by "fraud, trickery and under duress."

When Mrs. Brunson caught sight of her, she rushed toward the girl, hugged her madly and sobbed: "my baby, my baby."

Mrs. Michel and a group of friends struggled through a throng of spectators and tried to pull the embracing mother and daughter apart.

Mrs. Brunson resisted and the two women scratched, kicked and pulled each other's hair while bystanders and officers tried to break up the fight.

Black and Blue Mark When they finally were separated, Mrs. Michel nursed a big black and blue mark on her shin. Mrs. Brunson's coiffure was shredded. Lora Lee's former dramatics coach, Mrs. Ona Wargin, displayed a bruised eye. Mrs. Michel later filed a battery warrant against Mrs. Brunson.