

Ford Prepares 'Package Offer' In Wage Dispute

Detroit — (U.P.) — Ford Motor Co. faced with a possible strike deadline in just one week, put the final touches today on a "package offer" to the CIO United Auto Workers.

The "offer" will be spread before the union Thursday morning after a 1½ day recess in talks to give the company time to put it into writing.

The recess was requested by the company to ready its "package plan" for a new wage contract. The union is seeking a guaranteed annual wage, a pay boost of at least 10 cents an hour, bigger pensions and a larger health insurance program.

Neither company nor union negotiators would discuss the recess nor the offer under a "silence pact" which has been in effect since early April at both Ford and General Motors talks with the union.

With a possible strike deadline drawing close, the silence has produced jumpy nerves in Detroit, a city that has been accustomed to noisy automobile talks, fought in the open with pithy quotes and full page ads.

The Ford contract runs out at 12:01 a.m. June 1. The General Motors contract ends six days later. The union, which has said it won't necessarily follow a "no contract, no work" policy, would be free to strike at any time after those dates.

The union already has obtained strike authorization from locals at both Ford and General Motors. But in calling for the strike votes, the union said overwhelming approval would be "the best insurance" against strikes by "showing the companies we mean business."

Union President Walter Reuther said less than a week ago he saw no need for calling in mediators. That statement, plus the continued refusal of all parties to end the "silence" pledge has been interpreted generally as a sign progress is being made.



SALEM, OREGON—Governor Paul Patterson this week signed into law the bill which makes an Oregon Centennial Celebration in 1959 a fact. The last session of the legislature created an Oregon Centennial Commission of nine members to be appointed by the governor and whose task it is to work with non-profit organizations to stage a state-wide centennial or world's fair in 1959. Seated with Governor Patterson at his left is James A. Mount, General Chairman of the Governor's Oregon Centennial Committee who spearheaded the drive for the legislation. Others standing left to right are Charles Bollinger, State Senator John C. F. Merrifield, finance chairman Anthony Brandthaler, Fred Packwood, Jack Flaucher and State Representative Fred Meek.

1955 Version of Old Folks' Home Found Doing Much To Help Aged To Enjoy Life

By ELIZABETH TOOMEY
United Press Correspondent

New York — (U.P.) — The men and women who sat on the leather bar stools were white-haired and not so young as they'd like to be, but they were gay as they sipped before-dinner cocktails.

The setting: An old folks home, 1955 version.

The scene was the little bar at the Mary Manning Walsh residence for old people in Manhattan, operated by the Catholic order of Carmelite Sisters.

The faces reflected in the mirror behind the bar were just a few of the 750,000 men and women in old age institutions who have benefited from the spreading theory that a home for old folks helps them enjoy life, not just stay alive.

Many Departures Found
All across the nation equally starting departures from rocking chair routines can be found. Churches, lodges, labor unions, local governments and private citizens have built homes of all sizes and designs in the past 10 years.

They ranged from those free of charge or based on the ability to pay to luxurious institutions where a wealthy older person may turn over \$28,000 in return for a guarantee of complete care the rest of his life.

The problems of aging have become one of the nation's No. 1 concerns as the life span is lengthened by science. There are almost 15 million Americans 65 or over and the rate goes up by 400,000 each year.

Poor Houses Change
Most of them are in their own homes or living with children or relatives. But an ever-increasing number are living in homes for the aged that bear little resemblance to the once dreaded "poor house."

"The 'poor house' was the gateway to oblivion for old people," says Dr. Murray Federber, assistant professor at the University of Pittsburgh and a leader in planning one of the nation's most modern county homes for the aged.

It is a \$20,000,000 home and hospital which will be completed

next summer. The building is designed so that 1100 of the 2000 residents will have rooms accessible directly to ground level. Those who aren't bad patients will live in "colony" style and have a solarium, snack bar, shuffle board rooms, TV rooms, beauty parlors and an auditorium.

Hope Dwindles In Finding Little Michigan Child

Kalamazoo, Mich. — (U.P.) — Police said today hopes of finding 8-year-old Jeanie Singleton alive "are fading with every passing minute."

The lame, brown-haired Jeanie disappeared while on her way home from school Monday. Her disappearance caused little alarm at first because she makes friends easily and her parents believed she had decided to stay at the home of a new-found friend without calling home.

Death Feared
But police said they became "really alarmed" when the girl failed to show up for school on Tuesday. They said they feared she had accepted a ride from a sex deviate and he had killed her.

"I think the chances she is dead are greater than those that she is alive," Kalamazoo Police Capt. Riley Stewart said after state and local police, National Guardsmen, volunteers and Civil Air Patrol planes scouted the area without success.

Full Force Turns Out
Only a handful of almost 1,000 persons who joined in the air and land search for the 4-foot, 50-pound girl continued operations through the night. But a full force turned out again this morning to search "every inch" of Kalamazoo county if necessary.

"We'll keep going until we find her or at least until we're satisfied she's not in this territory," Stewart said.

He said he was directing his men to press the hunt on the presumption the child is the victim of a sex fiend.

That huge project contrasts with the 46 old timers living in a one-story, ultra modern building of glass and brick completed two months ago in Bensenville, Ill., by the evangelical Reform Church.

Apartment Completed
In Portland, Ore., an eight-story building containing 240 apartments was completed six months ago for tenants who average 69 in age. The first ones paid from \$4,500 to \$15,000 in advance. They have a river view, their own theater, a library and horseshoe courts.

At the Walsh home here there is careful attention to keeping the senile or chronically ill from the active men and women who are encouraged to keep busy.

This week they gave a Gay Nineties Review in their auditorium. It was written, produced and performed by the residents. They have instructors in pastel painting and needlework, a room for carpentry, looms for weaving and weekly movies.

Performers from New York night clubs entertain them. The owner of the Copacabana sends his performers to the home. Martin and Lewis put on a skit in the small auditorium. Joan Weber sang two weeks ago. And when the home's only 100-year-old resident celebrated her birthday, Dennis Day dropped by to sing.

Grant High School Picks Brownette as Princess

Portland — (U.P.) — Leah Bartcher, a pretty brownette from Grants high school, was yesterday named by her student body as the sixth princess in the court of Rosaria.

The hazel-eyed girl, who moved to Portland from Albany when she was four, said she'd "always wanted to be a Rose Festival princess."

Her ambitions are to become a professional model and work in a florist shop.

Patterson Lists Good, Bad Parts of Jobless Compensation Measure

Salem — (U.P.) — Gov. Paul Patterson, who yesterday signed Senate bill 465, making changes in the unemployment compensation law, said the measure contains several features which are "objectionable to me."

Worst of the objectionable features, Patterson said, is the provision for forfeiture of eight weeks of a claimant's benefits in the event that he shall be discharged for cause, quit without cause, or shall refuse to take suitable work.

The measure which the governor signed into law increases maximum benefits from \$25 a week to \$35.

Another objection the governor raised was:

"A further feature of the bill is the new formula to determine who are qualified under the act. This has been increased from \$400 to \$700 a year and, in addition thereto, not more than two thirds of the wages may be earned in the calendar quarter where the employee earned his greatest amount of wages. The alternative of 37 times the weekly benefit, in my opinion, is so high it excludes many cases that the law is designed to relieve."

Good Points Listed
"On the other hand," the governor said, "there are many fine points in this bill." He listed these as:

"1. The seasonability restrictions, which have been the object of great objection and dispute, are removed.

"2. The maximum weekly benefit is increased from \$25 to \$35 which makes the amount more closely approximate the 50 per cent of the weekly wage, which is the aim of the federal law.

"3. The benefits are now gear-

ed to the quarter in which the worker has his best earnings.

"4. The base of the law is extended to cover all employers of two or more. Present law has been four or more.

"5. The financing of the law is strengthened to give it greater solvency under varied economic conditions.

"6. The person on unemployment is now permitted to accept some part-time work without thereby losing his benefits, thus adding a great incentive to people to work and help themselves as much as they can.

"7. Employers will be eligible for an experience rating at the end of 12 consecutive months, which will put new employers in a much better competitive position at an earlier date.

"8. The provisions as to the requirement for a beneficiary to actively seek work during this period of unemployment have been strengthened.

"9. The tax base has been extended to \$3600 from \$3000, which, in my opinion, is justifiable in view of the increased wages and devaluation of the dollar during the life of the act in the past."

Governor Patterson concluded: "Over all, the bill represents constructive changes toward accomplishing the original objectives of unemployment compensation. I have concluded to sign it, notwithstanding the objectionable features thereof. By careful administration and a close study of the law, it is hoped that a complete picture can be presented to the 1957 Legislature and the objectionable features proven and remedied."

Heartbroken Father Grieves for Child

Banning, Calif. — (U.P.) — Heartbroken Roger Deason, 27, awaiting trial on a burglary charge, asked permission to attend funeral services today for his nine-year-old son, who committed suicide after playmates taunted that his father was a "jailbird."

Officials at county jail in Riverside, where Deason is being held on charges he burglarized a West Riverside market with an accomplice, George Bell, of \$1587 in cash and \$8100 in travelers checks said they were considering his request.

Roger Jr., who idolized his father, killed himself Monday night with a 12 gauge shotgun, using a piece of string to pull the trigger. The coroner's office ruled the death a suicide and did not schedule an inquest.

Truman Dodges Political Questions

Denver — (U.P.) — Former President Harry S. Truman, here for a \$25 a plate dinner to raise funds for his archives library at Independence, Mo., dodged newsmen's attempts to pin him down on political predictions for the 1956 presidential election.

"I'm not here for a political appearance," said the former President. "Besides, I'm not in a position to prophesy what either convention will do. I would like to see the Democrats win in '56."

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