

Bethlehem, Republic Join U. S. Steel at Bargaining Table on Wage Increases

'Big Six' Expected To Set Pattern For Other Firms

Pittsburgh —(U.P.)— Bethlehem and Republic Steel corporations, the nation's second and third largest producers, joined top-ranking U. S. Steel Corp., at bargaining tables with the CIO United Steelworkers today to hear the union state its case for a sizeable wage increase.

While the USW continued talks with U. S. Steel that opened the 1955 wage negotiations Tuesday, Steelworkers President David J. McDonald formally began bargaining with Bethlehem today and was scheduled to meet with Republic later today.

Joseph Larkin, vice president in charge of industrial relations, headed the Bethlehem negotiators and Thomas Patton, Republic's industrial chief, was his company's principal representative.

Unprecedented Maneuver

In an unprecedented maneuver, the USW is negotiating with all of the "Big Six" steel producers in Pittsburgh this week. Still to enter the talks were Jones and Laughlin, Youngstown Sheet and Tube and Inland Steel.

The "Big Six," which employs some 400,000 steelworkers, was expected to set the pattern for wage settlements with 90 smaller basic steel concerns, employing another 200,000, and hundreds of fabricating firms, employing 600,000 other USW members.

The union, without specifying the size of the increase it wants, has said its target would be a "substantial" boost. The guaranteed annual wage won by the CIO United Auto Workers in the Ford negotiations was conspicuous in the background to these talks, but it is not at issue this year since the contract limits bargaining to hourly wages.

Prosperous Steel Industry

The USW's major arguments for a healthy pay increase are the current prosperity of the steel industry and the increased productivity of workers in the industry.

As the talks opened Tuesday, both McDonald and John Stephens, Big Steel's industrial relations vice-president, expressed "hope" that an agreement would be drafted before midnight June 30, after which the union would be free to strike. Stephens said U. S. Steel desired a settlement "fair to steelworkers, fair to our stockholders and fair to the public."

Steel industry leaders have said that no matter how great or small an increase the USW gets, the price of steel will rise, largely because of a necessity for expansion.

Hitchhiking Results In Sentence for Woman

Salem —(U.P.)— A sharp reminder that hitchhiking is illegal in Oregon: A 30-year-old Arizona woman was sentenced to five days in Marion county jail after pleading guilty to hitchhiking north of Salem on Highway 99E.



STEELWORKERS OPEN WAGE BID—Around the conference table in Pittsburgh, Pa., in the opening round of the 1955 wage talks with the booming basic steel industry are, left to right: John A. Stephens, vice president of industrial relations of U. S. Steel; David J. McDonald, president of United Steel Workers, and Clifford Hood, president of U. S. Steel.



PEACE ON THE FORD FRONT—These Ford workers pause on their way back to work in front of an entrance to the Ford Rouge plant in Detroit to look over some of the details of the settlement reached between the United Auto Workers and the Ford Motor Co.

Police Cleared In Symonds Death

Singapore—(U.P.)—A coroner's inquiry ruled today that United Press Staff Correspondent Gene Symonds, who died at the hands of a Communist-inspired mob here last month, was murdered by "a person or persons unknown."

The coroner cleared Singapore police of any criminal responsibility for the newsman's death.

Coroner K. T. Alexander read his ruling immediately after the conclusion of the three-day inquiry.

While holding the police blameless, Alexander made a special point of praising, as a "good Samaritan," a Chinese youth who went to Symonds' aid and took him to the hospital.

Evidence presented during the inquiry showed that Symonds was assaulted by a mob on the night of May 12, about 200 yards

from police who made no move to go to his aid and who did not call an ambulance in spite of at least three appeals for aid from a taxi driver who had driven Symonds to the area where he was attacked.

Symonds, after being left beside the road for some time was picked up by two young Chinese students and taken by them to a hospital where he died the next day from injuries received at the hands of the rioters.

The United Press retained attorney Kenneth Seth and asked for a full and fair inquiry into the death in the interests of protecting American foreign correspondents all over the world.

The six remaining olive trees in the Garden of Gethsemane in the Holy Land are known to be well over 2000 years old.

Soviet Delegation To UN Parley Rent Suburban Mansion

Hillsborough, Calif. —(U.P.)— The Russian delegation to the United Nations meeting in San Francisco will live in a \$400,000 mansion in this exclusive suburban community.

Arrangements for housing the Russian delegation were concluded yesterday by a five-man Russian house-hunting party and Leo J. Taylor, San Francisco real estate agent. The Russians inspected more than a score of homes in and about San Francisco.

\$4000 Rent for Two Weeks

The house they finally chose is owned by Neal McNeil, a San Francisco wholesale auto dealer. He will receive \$4000 rent for the two weeks the Russians occupy the house.

For the rental fee, the Russians will have the use of the swimming pool, four acres of ground and the elegantly furnished two-story house, including dishes and silverware.

McNeil will take his wife and three children on a vacation while the Russians are there.

Bedrooms Plentiful

The house itself has 12 bedrooms and 10 baths, while another three bedrooms and baths are located over the nearby three-car garage.

The Russians are bringing their own cook and gardener. They will be guarded by local police, the FBI and their own security agents.

During the Japanese Peace Conference four years ago, the Russians occupied "The Uplands," the former Crocker mansion, in Hillsborough.

During the founding conference of the U.N. in 1945, the Russians stayed at the St. Francis Hotel in San Francisco.

Trainmen To Ask Daily Wage Increase

Chicago —(U.P.)— The Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen announced today it will seek a \$2.50 daily wage increase for its 215,000 members.

W. P. Kennedy, brotherhood president, said formal notice of the wage demand would be served on more than 300 railroads June 16.

Kennedy made the announcement after a meeting here with the BRT's Wage Policy Committee.

All classes of brotherhood members would receive the increase, Kennedy said. The BRT represents brakemen, switchmen, freight and passenger conductors, dining car stewards and baggagemen.

Grange

Griffin Creek Grange

Griffin Creek Grange will meet June 9 at 8 p.m., Mrs. Werner and Mrs. Knight serving. HEC will meet June 16 with Mrs. Minier for dessert luncheon at 1 p.m.

Mrs. Gutches will be hostess.

Spectator Dies While Watching Seattle Fight

Seattle —(U.P.)— George E. Hardenbergh, 79, Seattle, president of Stoneway Sand and Gravel Co., collapsed and died here last night while attending a fight card at Civic auditorium.

Hardenbergh was attending the fights with his cousin, J. W. Jones. Jones said Hardenbergh was standing up, cheering a bout prior to the featured Pat McMurty-Bob Albright heavy-weight match when he collapsed.

Hardenbergh had been in a rest home for a heart condition and had been recently released.

GONE AGAIN

Tokyo —(U.P.)— U.S. military police captured AWOL Pfc Jack Thompson, Bucklin, Mo., Tuesday after a six month search and took him to the provost marshal's office for questioning. When the office telephone rang, the guard turned to answer it, and Thompson escaped.

Settlement Hopes Increase in Britain

London —(U.P.)— The British government agreed today to meet with striking engineers and firemen in an attempt to end Britain's disastrous 11-day-old railway walkout. Settlement hopes rose.

The meeting will be the first direct contact between the British Transport commission, which operates the nationalized railways, and the strikers since the walkout began May 31.

Previously the government had insisted that there could be no negotiations until the striking Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen called off its work stoppage.

Today Sir Brian Robertson, chairman of the British Transport commission, agreed to meet with Jim Baty, general secretary of the striking union.

Molotov Invited To Lunch in Paris

Paris —(U.P.)— Premier Edgar Faure today invited Soviet Foreign Minister V. M. Molotov to lunch here tomorrow to explore the Russian friendship bid to West Germany.

Molotov immediately accepted the invitation.

Molotov is expected here tomorrow en route to San Francisco for the 10th anniversary of the United Nations.

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