

CIO Asks Investigation of Price Increases in Steel, Automobile Industry

Gouging Could Be Breeding Ground For Inflation

Detroit—(U.P.)—The CIO has asked Congress to investigate the increase in steel prices and the "rumored increase" in prices of 1956 model automobiles, CIO President Walter Reuther said last night.

Reuther, commenting on the Bureau of Labor Statistics report that the cost of living index rose three-tenths of one per cent in July, said the union asked for the investigation to "get to the bottom of any price gouging which could be the breeding ground of a new inflationary spiral."

Price Hikes Blamed

The CIO president blamed the steel price increase and other "needless" price hikes for the increase in the cost of living, which he said would "mean shrunken savings and a wage cut for millions of American workers."

The union chief, who also heads the huge United Auto Workers Union, said the increase in the cost of living index would mean one cent hourly pay increases for 650,000 General Motors and Ford workers and 200,000 in other industries.

Greater Hardships

But, he said, it will mean that persons on fixed incomes won't be able to buy as much for their dollars as they could previously. It means even greater hardships to the 3,000,000 persons now unemployed, he said.

"The need is for lower, not higher prices. We need to decrease the spread between what farmers get for products and what consumers pay for them—not increase it. We need to pass along to the American consumers their proper share of the benefits of the lower production costs made possible by new machinery," Reuther said.

Schmidt Happy To See Mother

Portland—(U.P.)—Airman Daniel C. Schmidt, 23, said today "it feels wonderful to see mother" after spending 32 months in a Red China prison camp, but he refused to discuss his mixed-up marital life.

Schmidt slipped into Portland last night and immediately went into seclusion at his mother's small auto court apartment in suburban Hillsdale.

In an interview today, Schmidt said "It feels wonderful to see mother. I was very worried about her. She seems in much better health than I expected. It's wonderful to see her as happy as she is."

But concerning his marital trouble with his 20-year-old wife, Una, the airman had little to say.

"I still can't say anything," he told a newsman. "My problem still isn't worked out. When it is, I'll be able to say something."

Schmidt's mother, Mrs. Nellie Peters, shared his joy at their reunion.

"I couldn't be any happier," she said. "I was crying all over the plane when he pulled in. I thought he would be a lot thinner. He looks like he is in pretty good shape."

Grain Combines Active In Jefferson County

Madras, Ore.—(U.P.)—Grain combines have swung into action this week in Jefferson county, two weeks behind last year.

Early returns indicated that the crop would be below the last five years average of 10 to 15 bushels per acre.

About 22,000 acres of wheat and 17,000 acres of barley will be harvested in the area this year.

Milton-Freewater Rites Set for Boat Victims

Milton-Freewater—(U.P.)—The bodies of Bailey Stevens, a banker here; his wife, Sally, and daughter, Sonia, will arrive here today and funeral services have been set for tomorrow.

The trio drowned last Sunday at St. Mary's Lake, B. C. in a boating accident.

Stevens was vice-president of the Valley National bank founded by his father.

BLUE LAW ENFORCED
Hackensack, N.J.—(U.P.)—The Fair Lawn Service Center filed an appeal Tuesday from its conviction on a violation of Fair Lawn's blue laws. The company, an auto laundry, was charged with washing automobiles on Sunday.

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ENLISTING FOR ANOTHER 6-year hitch, Lawrence Cnosson, 65, muleskinner at Fort Carson, Colo., stands with Ham-bone, 19, famed jumping mule, now in thirteenth year of service. Cnosson has 31 years in U. S. Army. (International)

Japanese Flood-Fighters To Aid in Mass Prevention

Tokyo—(U.P.)—Fifteen thousand Japanese flood-fighters are holding mass drills this month in an attempt to cut down this country's annual \$800,000,000 (July) flood damage figure.

Civilians and members of the Japanese army are checking emergency communications, transportation and facilities for aiding possible flood victims throughout southwestern Japan.

They are making on-the-spot surveys of the areas expected to be hit—the same every year—and for about the first time in Japan's flood-ridden history, organized advance steps to prevent national disaster are planned.

The threat of floods this year is the same as in 1953 and 1954 when overflowing rivers made havoc in southwestern Japan. The repair of broken bridges, dikes and levees in the area has not kept up with seasonal damage.

Long-Range Effects

With heavy rains and a rough monsoon season already striking at river sources, efforts are being made to bolster the levees. But only 25 per cent of the anti-flood measures have been completed under this year's \$100,000,000 flood-fighting budget—an insufficient stop-gap allocation.

The rainfall in southern Japan averages five feet annually.

Every year loss of life from drowning, landslides and ensuing sickness ranges from 250 to 1,000. And damage to farms and homes runs close to one billion dollars.

The long-range effects mean more than the visible damage. Japan's delicate balance of food gets thrown off and scanty supplies from the drier areas have to be diverted to aid the flood sufferers.

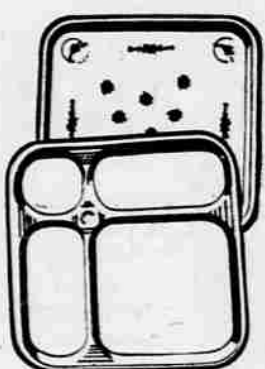
Rationed rice disappears and the "open market" price zooms.

The United States has been coming to the aid of flood-stricken areas every year with food, medicine, manpower, clothing and construction equipment. But American authorities here are beginning to feel Japan should do more to prevent floods instead of going through a yearly emergency after they happen.

Various opposition Japanese political parties, notably the Communists, blame the government for not taking adequate flood-control measures and for campaigning while making publicized donations to the sufferers.

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Wife Uses Lockout Tactics on Husband To Force Strike End

Chicago—(U.P.)—Mrs. Esther Quigley used lockout tactics today in her battle to make her husband quit striking and go back to work.

The redoubtable housewife is waging a one-woman battle against her husband and other leaders of the CIO United Auto Workers strike at the Hamilton Sheet Steel Co.

The slight, blonde housewife told her husband yesterday that their home was too small for both of them as long as the walk-out lasted.

He Left Instead

She said she was leaving. Like a dutiful husband, Quigley left instead.

Mrs. Quigley said the "sight of my empty refrigerator is keeping me going" in her battle against the strikers.

What's more, she isn't too sure she will take her husband back when the strike ends.

She said he promised her three years ago that he would give up union activities, but "now I find that he's been a shop steward for a year and a half and is partly responsible for the fact that the workers didn't stay on the job during negotiations."

Rallying Other Wives

Mrs. Quigley, the mother of two small children, is rallying

other strikers' wives in her fight to get the 400 Harrison employees back on the job while negotiations are in progress.

The men walked out last week demanding a 20 cent pay boost and other benefits. Mrs. Quigley, 35, said she had already had enough of it.

"Our kids need milk and so do the families of all the other strikers," she said. "We got our last pay checks Friday and there won't be more money until this is settled."

Portland Furniture Firm Padlocked by Creditors

Portland—(U.P.)—The Multnomah county sheriff today padlocked the doors of Gilbert Bros., downtown Portland furniture and appliance store, in attachment proceedings brought by the firm's creditors.

Sheriff Terry Schunk said he did not know whether the store would be reopened to satisfy creditors' claims or would be placed on the sheriff's auction block.

Attachments totalling \$19,789 have been filed against the company, in addition to a county tax lien of \$34,735.

Average length of a sugar stalk is about 12 feet.

Two Youths Admit Series of Thefts

Two 17-year-old Ashland boys have admitted the theft of several gallons of gasoline and equipment from at least four establishments in the southern Jackson county during the past few months, according to Jackson county sheriff's officers.

Among establishments which were burglarized was Dunham's Warehouse on Valley View rd., Ashland, where the boys admitted taking about 35 gallons of gasoline, an air hose and a knapsack, officers said.

The youths also admitted taking gas from cars on the Lithia Motor company's lot in Ashland, and from White Fir Lumber company trucks in Ashland. Of-

a logging operation location off Hiatt lake rd.

The thefts occurred between February and last week, officers said.



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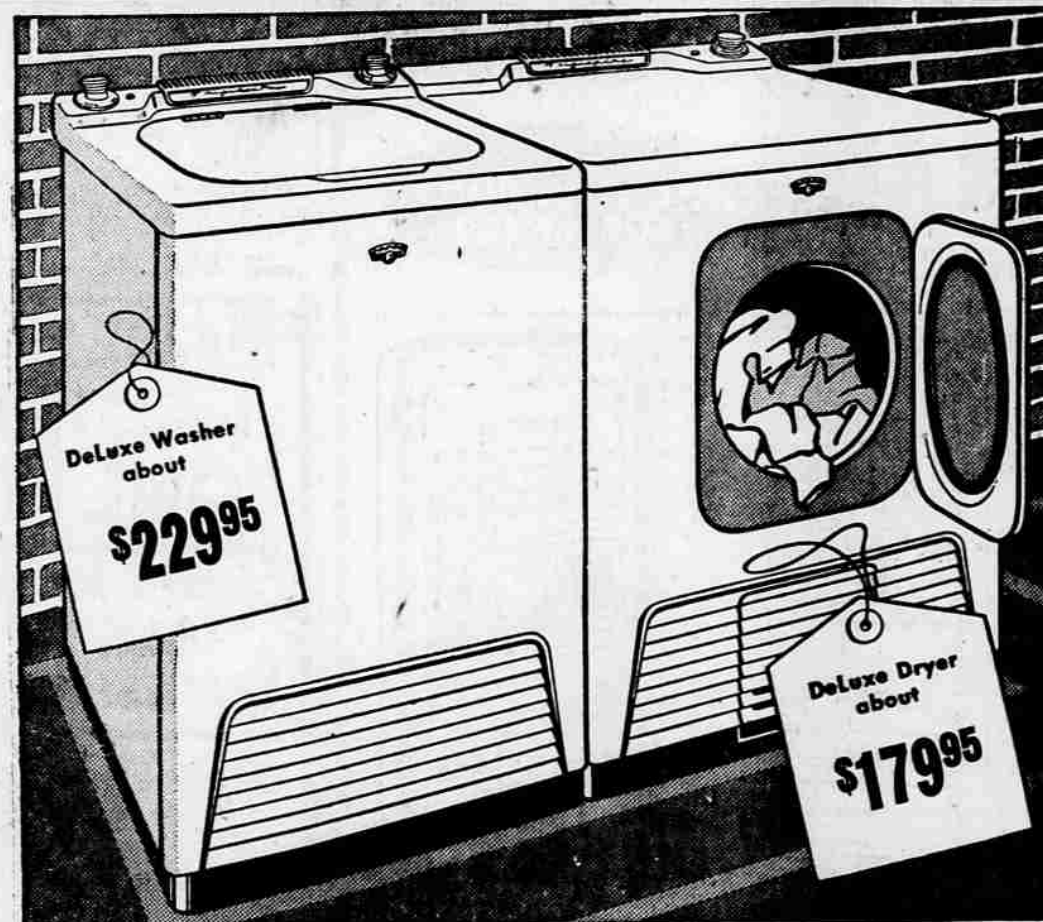
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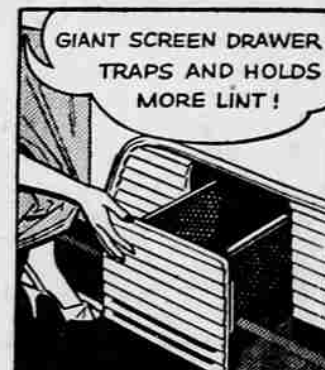
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