

Recommended reading in today's Mail Tribune is a story about a one man campaign to have shoes labeled as to the materials they are made of. The story, which appears on Page 14, tells how Wilbur Gardner is working to have shoes containing imitation leather or paper so labeled.



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Searchers Uncover 11 Bodies In Mine

Amonite, Va.—Coal miners groping through rubble and poisonous fumes 500 feet underground found the bodies of 11 fellow workers at dawn Saturday 13 hours after a gas explosion in a mountain coal mine.

Transit Workers Hold Strike Vote Over N.Y. Tie Up

New York—The threat of New Year's eve transportation paralysis in New York sharpened Saturday with an announcement by transit labor boss Michael J. Quill that he saw "little hope" of averting a subway bus strike over wage demands.

Quill, fiery president of the AFL-CIO transit workers union, led his union in bargaining sessions Friday and Saturday that resulted in two different wage offers—and two sharp rejections.

Quill said that 32,000 workers would be authorized to take a strike vote today. He has set a strike deadline of midnight Tuesday—the moment the new year begins.

The first offer rejected by the union called for wage increases of eight cents an hour now and five cents in a year. The second spurned offer called for 10 cents the first year and eight cents the second.

The two-hour negotiating session Saturday afternoon was described as friendly. Both sides were said to be bargaining in good faith. They agreed to meet again Monday.

Quill went into the negotiating session after meeting with the 45-man executive board of his union's Local 100. The meeting broke up with Quill renewing his threat of a New Year's eve strike.

Quill also disclosed that 140 bus drivers in the local have voted to strike against the Yorkville Railroad company, which operates feeder bus lines from subway terminals in the Bronx to suburban Yonkers.

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Pace Stepped Up By British Team In Antarctic Race

Goal 250 Miles Away For New Zealanders

Auckland, New Zealand—A British expedition Saturday stepped up its pace across "most treacherous" soft snow of a virtually uncharted Antarctic wasteland in an effort to beat a New Zealand team to the South Pole.

There was little doubt that the New Zealanders under Sir Edmund Hillary, the conqueror of Mount Everest, would reach the pole first. The odds were too great for Britain's Dr. Vivian Fuchs and his 10 companions.

But he cabled the London headquarters of the commonwealth trans-Antarctic expedition that he had ordered "stepped up daily runs" with less time spent on scientific study. Fuchs reported he planned to abandon his eight Sno-Cat tractors one by one at set points to conserve his dwindling supply of fuel.

Fuchs cabled that he and his men have developed an "almost incessant feeling of frustration" crossing "probably the most treacherous route over which vehicles have traveled in the polar regions."

Within 500 Miles

Fuchs and his men were within 500 miles of their goal moving through soft snow and over hidden crevasses with generally poor visibility.

Hillary, shooting "hell bent for the South Pole," was believed less than 250 miles from the goal.

Regardless of which party gets there first, both are engaged in an overall effort to trek across 2,000 miles of the frozen continent. The two groups will team at the pole and continue on to the coast in a different race against the elements. They must complete the dangerous crossing by March, before the Polar winter sets in. At the Pole both teams will rest at a base established by an American expedition which flew in.

Fuchs and his 10 men have covered 350 miles from Shackleton bay.

Hillary and three other men, using three Sno-Cats, trekked from the Ross sea to a point 400 miles from the pole over terrain that was considerably less difficult than that which the Fuchs group had to cope with. Hillary was scheduled to wait at the 400-mile point, but decided three days ago to make a dash for the pole.

Officials still denied the two groups are racing. But both Hillary and Fuchs themselves in their cables indicated that they know it was a race.

Meeting Scheduled On Highway Action

The Medford city council will consider action on the Highway 99 freeway with the state highway commission at a special meeting at 4 p.m. Monday in the council chambers, City Manager Robert Duffy has announced.

The city sought several modifications in interchanges and access roads along the proposed freeway, which is planned along the Bear creek-Hawthorne park route through Medford.

A group of a dozen bird watchers from Medford and vicinity took the annual Christmas bird count Friday, in spite of early snow and later continuous rain.

They counted 62 species and about 4,467 individuals. The number of species is eight more than last year and constitutes a new record for the present series of bird counts. The number of individuals is much less than last year because the robin and starling roost just north of Phoenix where great numbers were seen last year was not included in the area of this year's count.

The area of this year's count was a 15-mile diameter circle centering just south of White City. It included an area stretching from Medford to Eagle Point, Old Military rd. to Roxy Ann, and Gold Ray dam to the Gardner reservoir on Yankee creek. Most of the roads in this area were traversed by the four parties travelling by car and

Secret Session Set On Arms Race Status

Washington—The House Armed Services committee soon will call services chiefs in closed session and demand the full, secret story of where the United States stands in the arms race with Russia.

House investigators disclosed plans for the new round of Congressional hearings Saturday.

They said the first administration witnesses will be called Jan. 10, three days after Congress reconvenes.

The inquiry probably will last several weeks. It will overlap discussion of President Eisenhower's new defense budget as well as the administration's anticipated request for one billion dollars to speed missile and air force development in the next six months.

Secret Hearings Planned

The House hearings will differ in one major respect from those conducted recently by the Senate Preparedness subcommittee headed by Sen. Lyndon B. Johnson (D-Tex.). Johnson's hearings were public. The 37-member House committee headed by Rep. Carl Vinson (D-Ga.) plans to meet behind closed doors "from beginning to end," a committee source said.

It is not yet certain what arrangements, if any, will be made to keep the public posted on testimony which does not wander too deep into secret information.

Meeting Scope Given

Committee sources said the review will cover:

1. The status of missile programs—particularly the 5,000-mile Atlas and Titan and the 1,500-mile Thor, Jupiter and Polaris.

2. All other facets of defense, ranging from the Pentagon's structure to the roles and missions of the Armed Forces.

A key controversy to be aired is whether there should be changes in the make-up and the functions of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

This four-man group consists of the chief of staff of each service and a chairman drawn from one of them. Currently, the chairman is Air Force Gen. Nathan F. Twining.

The joint chiefs system has come under fire from several quarters lately. Lt. Gen. James M. Gavin, Army research chief, told the Johnson subcommittee that the civilian defense secretary isn't getting the right kind of advice from the military chiefs.

Mrs. Ekaterina Furtseva, only woman member of the presidium, last week was removed from her position on the local Moscow party committee to concentrate on her work as secretary to the National Party's central committee.

Sources said she apparently found it impossible to carry on her national work and do a regional job at the same time.

Another old-line party member brought closer to the Kremlin was Frol Kozlov, the new premier of the Russian Republic, the "mother" state in the 15 republics making up the U.S.S.R.

Unlike his predecessor, civil servant Mikhail Yasnov, who now is his deputy, Kozlov is a professional party official. To take up his new job in Moscow he had to give up his position as head of the party in Leningrad.

During the fiscal year ended last June 30 the biggest chunk of non-military aid for the far east went to South Korea. It received \$305,664,000 (M). Vietnam got \$259,438,000 (M).

The other far east recipients were Nationalist China \$83,749,000 (M), Laos \$44,458,000 (M), Thailand \$34,500,000 (M), Cambodia \$34,480,000 (M), Philippines \$33,808,000 (M), Indonesia \$11,718,000 (M) and Japan \$2,297,000 (M).

Los Angeles — North American Aviation Inc. announced today that it has ordered cost of living wage increases for more than 50,000 employees in January.

black-capped chickadee, 2; plain titmouse, 4; white breasted nuthatch, 6; brown creeper, 3; Bewick's wren, 1; long billed marsh wren, 1; robin, 35; varied thrush, 18; hermit thrush, 3; western bluebird, 119; ruby-crowned kinglet, 1; water pipit, 21; cedar waxwing, 12; loggerhead shrike, 1; common starling 240; Audubon's warbler, 5; house sparrow, 78; western meadowlark, 287; red-winged blackbird, 171; tri-colored blackbird, 6; Brewer's blackbird, 989; brown-headed cowbird, 19; purple finch, 3; house finch, 9; lesser goldfinch, 36; spotted towhee, 30; brown towhee, 18; savannah sparrow, 13; Oregon junco, 738; golden-crowned sparrow, 738; white-crowned sparrow, 236; song sparrow, 12.

Those participating were Mrs. Howard Bush, Ralph Browning, Maj. Gen. and Mrs. J. H. Hicks, Betty Jo Hicks, Mrs. V. A. Turpin, Tom Turpin, Mrs. Robert Hubbard, Miss Mabel Moore, the Rev. and Mrs. Thomas McCamant and Dr. John Reynolds.

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Report of U.S. Weakness Denied By Administration, Press Secretary States

"Boy, These New Cars Will Do Anything"



Missile Base Ruling Requested At Meeting

Cairo—Delegates to the unofficial 39-nation Afro-Asian solidarity conference Saturday demanded a ban on missile and atomic bases on foreign soil.

The proposal criticized the recent NATO summit conference and United States plans to arm Western Europe with ballistic missiles.

It was made by the conference's disarmament committee, which then overrode Lebanese objections to appoint Russia to a five-nation committee to draft a final disarmament resolution.

Disarmament chairman Kaoru Usui of Japan said the group also called for the unconditional and immediate end to all nuclear tests and the destruction of existing nuclear stock piles.

He said the ban on missile bases was demanded because of the "alarming proposals put forward at the Paris NATO meeting earlier this month."

He referred to the NATO agreement in principle on the construction of American intermediate ballistic missile bases in Western Europe.

Usui said a five-nation board, including delegates from Egypt, India, Iraq, Japan and Russia, was created to write the final draft resolution. He said Lebanon objected to the Soviet Union's presence on the board because it is not neutral in the cold war and is a producer of nuclear weapons.

The committee overrode the objections after the Russians said, "The Soviets use the atom for peaceful uses only."

The Soviet delegation's dramatic offer Friday to provide unlimited economic aid on a "brother to brother" basis seemed to lose some of its glamor following overnight consideration by the other delegations.

India's Anup Singh, one of

the conference's main organizers, said, "It was a forceful presentation... but I think it would have been better without an attack on United States aid."

The proposals, he said, "seem to contain some new elements, but they are largely a reiteration of the old stand."

Water Districts Set Ballot Date

Absentee ballots for the Rogue River Valley and Medford Irrigation districts' special election Jan. 14 must be in the irrigation district offices no later than Jan. 6, district officials have announced.

The election is to authorize the costs to the districts in taking full advantage of the Talent project.

Work includes rehabilitation of large areas of the RRVID distribution system and enlargement of the canal and lateral systems in the MID. Approval of sums to pay the Talent project's share of the Talent project costs also will be sought, which will guarantee to the districts large additional water storage supplies.

The total sum involved is \$1,544,500, to be divided between the two districts.

If the proposed contract is approved at the Jan. 14 election, costs to water users of the two districts would not increase immediately, according to the two district managers, Jack Hoff-buhr of the MID, and Harold Sexton of the RRVID.

Printed Stories Citing Report Claimed Untrue

Accounts' Main Theme Not Denied By Hagerty

Gettysburg, Pa.—The White House denied Saturday that the United States "at this time" is militarily weak compared with Russia.

Press Secretary James C. Hagerty made the statement in raising slightly the curtain of secrecy around the so-called "Gaither Report" on the future of the arms race.

"Stories that have been printed which indicate the United

States is in a position of weakness at this time are not true," Hagerty said. "They are not in the (Gaither) report and are completely contrary to the report."

He indicated that President Eisenhower is particularly concerned about published accounts of the still secret report which suggested the United States already is in a woefully weak world power position.

Hagerty did not specifically deny the main theme of the accounts "leaked" to several newspapers last week: That the Eisenhower administration's Gaither committee called for tremendous increases in spending on defense, civil defense shelters and foreign aid to avoid the "catastrophe" of Soviet nuclear-rocket dictation.

He made three points:—The Gaither report has been misrepresented in stories suggesting that it describes the United States as in immediate peril.

—"The president will give in his state of the union message (to congress Jan. 9) his estimate of the military posture of our country as it is now and what has to be done in the future to continue that strength."

—"As far as I know there is no factual information in the been available to the committees of congress, particularly the Johnson committee. This referred to reports that the senate preparedness subcommittee, which has been investigating the U.S.-Russian arms balance, was denied a copy of the Gaither committee's findings and recommendations."

The subcommittee is headed by senate Democratic Leader Lyndon B. Johnson of Texas, who, since the hearings, has issued repeated warnings about the United States' military position.

Rome Embassy Jewelry Removed

Rome—Jewelry valued at \$30,000 has been stolen from a case in the dressing room of the U.S. ambassador's wife in the well-guarded American embassy here, officials revealed Saturday.

Embassy spokesman said the personal maid of Mrs. James D. Zellerbach discovered the jewelry missing 10 days ago and Italian police and embassy security officers were immediately called in. The gems apparently were stolen during the night of Dec. 18.

All 15 members of the Zellerbach household staff were questioned. Suspected jewel thieves and known fences were called into police headquarters for interrogation.

The embassy, known as the Villa Taverna, has a high wall around it and has a U.S. Marine Corps guard and security system commensurate with its size and diplomatic ranking. Tommy-gun totting Italian federal police also guard the rambling villa and its cypress-studded garden.

Lennox, Calif.—A 13-year-old boy was fatally wounded Saturday when his best friend accidentally dropped a rifle and it discharged, sheriff's deputies report.

Colombo, Ceylon—Nations around the world rushed aid to Ceylon Saturday to combat flood and landslide disasters that have taken more than 300 lives.

Police said 300,000 persons had been forced from their homes by rising river waters in central and northern Ceylon and that 50,000 homes had been washed away.

The Singapore and Malayan governments announced Saturday they each were sending 10,000 Malayan dollars for flood victims. India already has sent four planes to help in rescue work and Israel has shipped medical and other supplies to the Ceylonese government.

Russian ambassador to Ceylon Vladimir Yakovlev told Prime Minister Solomon Bandaranaike that the Soviet union was ready to give any help needed.

Similar offers were made by the United States, Britain, and Canada.

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COLLEGE
San Jose 71, Arizona St. 52
San Francisco 60, Oklahoma City 45
California 60, Dayton 55, overtime
Temple 63, Los Angeles St. 61
Temple 71, Seattle 73
Washington 67, Cal Aggies 38
Washington 66, Yale 51
UCLA 98, Ohio State 78
San Diego 60, Redlands 50
PREP
Coquille 67, Crater 42
Medford 52, Astoria 49 (overtime)
Oregon state 65, Utah 63