

# World's Merchant Marine To Begin Paying Suez Canal Clearing Costs

United Nations, N.Y. — (UPI)—The world's merchant marine next Monday begins paying the cost of clearing the Suez Canal, blocked by Egypt when it was threatened by the advancing forces of Israel, Britain and France in the fall of 1956.

All shipping passing through the strategic waterway will pay a 3 per cent surcharge on normal tolls from that date. United Nations Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld, who negotiated the arrangement with President Gamal Abdel Nasser's United Arab Republic government, hopes the costs will be paid off within three years.

ately and the balance due on the loans will be repaid from the 3 per cent surcharge.

**Nations Contribute**

The United States advanced \$5 million. Canada put up \$1,044,045.68. Australia, Norway and West Germany each loaned \$1 million. Sweden advanced \$772,201, the Netherlands \$503,947.37, Denmark \$500,000, Italy \$399,525.68, Liberia \$4,000 and Ceylon \$3,733.49.

The full U.N. salvage fleet was 32 vessels and pieces of floating equipment mustered from Dutch, Danish, Belgian, Swedish, German, Italian and Yugoslav resources as well.

The Ralph M. Parsons company of the United States surveyed the damaged workshops necessary for the canal's operation and the International Telegraph and Telephone company and the International General Electric company surveyed the needs for the waterway's telecommunications system and navigational lighting.

The trickiest jobs in the operation were the raising of the cement-laden blockship Akka and the salvage of the Egyptian frigate Abukir and the tug Edgar Bonnet. The two latter vessels carried dangerous explosives and at first Cairo refused permission for work to proceed on the Bonnet. That delayed completion of the salvage almost two months.

**Only One Casualty**

A U.N. crew of 479 men, including 45 divers, completed the project by dredging the canal to a depth for 33-foot draft ships and turned it over to the Cairo government for maintenance. The job was finished without fatalities, except for one workman who drowned while off-duty.

The canal is doing more business than ever now and is being charged to take bigger ships. The canal carries an average of 48 ships daily, three more than the pre-nationalization daily average.

On Sept. 1, the canal was opened to ships of 35-foot draft, as it was prior to the Suez crisis and the ensuing blockage. The canal will be open soon to ships of 36-foot draft.

Three American firms are carrying out the widening and deepening operations, which will open it to super-tankers drawing 37 feet within two years.

# Furniture Industry To Make Bid For Bigger Share of Business

By ELMER C. WALZER  
UPI Financial Editor



Elmer C. Walzer, UPI financial editor, is seen here in a recent photograph.

New York—If yours is a typical family, you probably spent more on liquor and cigarettes in 1956 than you did for furniture.

And 1956 was a good year for almost everything else. As a matter of fact, the furniture industry notes that in 1956, 83 per cent of the nation's families bought no furniture at all. In other words only 17 families in a hundred—or one in six—bought furniture in that year.

With this information down on paper, the Home Furnishings Council of America plans to crusade for a bigger share in the nation's spending power.

The costs of the campaign will be financed through markups on furniture of one-tenth of one per cent. That means five cents would be added to an item costing \$50 and so on.

Wall Street experts have noted the failure of furniture sales to rise in proportion to the rise in home building.

Standard & Poor's notes that sales of stoves, rugs, furniture, linoleum and other household furnishings fluctuate over a wider cyclical range than sales of general consumer products "because they are relatively durable

# Ford Preparing To Make Offer on One Of Union's Demands

Detroit — (UPI)—Ford Motor Co., threatened with a nationwide strike, is preparing an offer on one of the United Auto Workers' four major contract demands, an authoritative source said today.

The source said Ford was preparing the offer only as an opening gambit to start the talks moving.

Ford and the union began intensive, top-level talks on a new contract Thursday after the UAW named it as the target of a strike which will begin next Wednesday if an agreement isn't reached by then.

A strike at Ford could halt production of 1959 model cars by all the "big three" companies, who have been operating without union contracts since the end of May when the old contracts expired. There was a possibility General Motors and Chrysler might shut down their operations if Ford were struck.

The offer will be made "sometime this week end," the source said.

These points included an 11-cent hourly pay hike, pension improvements with a cost-of-living adjustment to protect retired workers from inflation, extension of the supplemental unemployment benefits plan from 26 to 52 weeks, and company-paid moving expenses for workers where jobs are shifted to new plants in other parts of the nation.

**Girl Injured When Car Involved in Crash**

Anne Leslie McDuffee, 16, of 2000 Hillcrest rd., suffered minor injuries when the vehicle she was driving collided Wednesday night with a parked vehicle on East Main st. between Willamette and Vancouver aves., Medford police reported.

The parked vehicle belonged to Alva E. Leopard, 1112 East Main st., police said. A passenger in Miss McDuffee's vehicle, Eloise Harbert of 49 Valley View dr., was not injured they added. Police issued no citations.

**PETROLEUM MAN DIES**

Media, Pa. — (UPI)—Lloyd G. Smith, 74, retired vice president and director of the Creole Petroleum Corp., died of a heart attack at his home here Wednesday.

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**SP's Rate Cut Proposal Protested**

San Francisco—(UPI)—Southern Pacific Railroad's proposed lumber rate cuts drew protests Thursday during a hearing before the Interstate Commerce Commission.

The railroad is seeking permission to cut lumber freight rates between Southern Oregon and Southern California-Arizona markets. The cut would benefit Southern Oregon lumbermen by equalizing their transportation costs with Northern California for markets in the Southwest.

Northern California truckers, with water shippers, appeared before the ICC this week to protest that the reduced rates would hurt their chances of competition with the railroads.

Truck operator Al Blasi of Healdsburg told the commission Thursday that lumber rate cuts would reduce his gross revenues from lumber by 10 per cent.

**Stayton Man Gets 60 Days in Jail**

Salem—(UPI)—Daniel George Cole, 60, Stayton, was sentenced to 60 days in jail and fined \$250 in District Court Thursday.

He was convicted on a charge of assault and battery on his 88-year-old father, Eugene, whom police found living in squalor in a trailer house within an electric fence enclosure behind his son's home.

Notice of appeal was immediately given by the younger Cole's attorney, William Gehlen.

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