

Issue of 'Featherbedding' Tossed Back to Administration

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MEDFORD TRIBUNE
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Changes in Work Rules Suggested By Board Vetoed

Foreign Briefs

LOYALISTS KILL COMMUNIST GUERRILLAS
 Saigon—UPI—The government press agency reported today that 187 troops killed 33 communist guerrillas and captured 107 in two battles in the Mekong Delta region, south of here.

Seventeen Reds were killed and 91 captured Tuesday and Wednesday in Kien Hoa Province, about 46 miles south of Saigon. The other communist losses were sustained in neighboring Vinh Long Province.

JAPAN EXPRESSES REGRET AT SLIGHT
 Tokyo—UPI—Japan expressed "regret" today that it had not been consulted in advance about the movement of U.S. aircraft based in Japan into Thailand in connection with the Laotian crisis.

Japanese Vice Foreign Minister Ryujii Takeuchi summoned U. S. Ambassador Edwin O. Reischauer to state Japan's position.

217,000 MOSLEMS TREK TO MECCA
 Amman, Jordan—UPI—An estimated 217,000 Moslems made the pilgrimage to Mecca this year, according to radio Mecca. The radio said yesterday that all the pilgrims were in "good health and are properly cared for."

LeMAY ARRIVES AT SPANISH BASE
 Torrejon Air Base, Spain—UPI—U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Curtis E. LeMay arrived at this American-Spanish air force base Thursday. LeMay is visiting Spain for several days.

KHRUSHCHEV PLANS TO VISIT GHANA
 Accra, Ghana—UPI—Soviet Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev will visit Ghana "in the very near future," the Evening News reported Thursday. The newspaper is the organ of President Kwame Nkrumah's convention peoples' party.

SPANISH MINERS GIVEN WARNING
 Madrid—UPI—Gen. Francisco Franco's labor chief today ordered striking miners in northern Spain back to the bargaining table, warning them their 43-day old strike is "destructive to the national economy."

Chicago—UPI—The sudden collapse of talks between the nation's railroads and five unions tossed the controversy over "featherbedding" back to the Kennedy administration today.

Railroad bargainers walked out of the negotiations Thursday, charging that the five operating (on train) brotherhoods refused to give ground on work rule changes recommended by a presidential commission.

The recommendations included proposals that would eventually eliminate the jobs of some 40,000 firemen, who allegedly are "featherbedding" on diesel engines.

J. E. Wolfe, top bargainer and spokesman for the carriers, said the railroads would tell the unions within 10 days whether they would put the commission recommendations into effect.

If such a move is approved by the railroads, Wolfe said, the work rule changes would become effective within 30 days of the notification.

The brotherhoods, representing 211,000 employees, have rejected the recommendations as a basis for negotiating new contracts.

Faces Strike Threat

Thus, if the proposed work rule changes are put into effect, President Kennedy may be faced with the job of heading off the first nationwide rail strike in 16 years.

Wolfe said the railroads are free to change the work rules and that the unions are free to strike. This, he said, was because the agreement to create the commission stipulated that its operations and recommendations would replace mediation and emergency board processes required by the Railway Labor Act.

But he said the agreement "does not deprive the President . . . of his statutory right to appoint an emergency board."

At his news conference Thursday, Kennedy said that Labor Secretary Arthur J. Goldberg was keeping a close check on developments in the controversy.

Blame the Other

In separate news conferences, both union and management blamed the other for the breakup of the negotiations.

"The unions' flat refusal to face up to the public responsibility and their continued defiance of the presidential work rules commission leaves us no alternative," Wolfe said.

"The unions have announced both publicly and informally that they intend to defy the presidential commission and in their meetings with us have steadfastly refused to come to grips with the subject."

He called the negotiations, which have passed through 20 sessions since April 2, a "travesty on the collective bargaining process."

The brotherhoods called the railroad action unprecedented and charged the carriers with violating a pledge to "discuss and negotiate all issues in the dispute."

"This is not the way to negotiate an agreement and certainly does not represent good faith collective bargaining," the unions said.

Not Talking Strike

Both sides, however, indicated there was no immediate strike threat.

A spokesman for the brotherhoods, which include firemen, engineers, conductors, trainmen and switchmen, said they "are not talking strike at the present time."

Sam C. Phillips, assistant president of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Engineers, and he foresaw no "wildcat" strikes. The unions will make a decision on their next move later, he said.

Wolfe said, "We do not expect a strike. We do not intend to lock anybody out."

"We expect that eventually, with the assistance of the administration or otherwise, an agreement will be reached within the framework of the presidential commission report."

United Press International

President Kennedy's decision to send combat forces to Thailand appeared today to have cooled down the crisis in Southeast Asia.

With U. S. Marines established within striking distance of the Laotian border, pro-Communist rebels gave ground to the royal Laotian army.

A battalion-sized force had reestablished the control of the pro-Western government in the Laotian Mekong river village of Houei Sai.

American military advisers ventured up to 25 miles out of the village with Laotian army patrols without encountering the rebel force that

Kennedy's Decision To Send Troops To Thailand Cools Southeast Asia Crisis

drove the royal army across the Thailand border last week.

The rebels proclaimed over their clandestine "Voice of Laos" radio they would not give up the strategic towns of Nam Tha and Muong Sing although they were on the government side of the cease fire line proclaimed last year.

Nevertheless, no fighting has been reported in northwestern Laos for nearly a week, raising hopes that the rebels were ready to sue for peace.

U.S. Air Force transports ferried equipment from Bangkok to the forward positions taken up Thursday by American Marines. The Marines set up a tent camp on a dry plateau surrounded by rice fields about 35 miles from the Laotian capital of Vientiane but well within Thailand.

The Thai government was considering offers from Britain, Pakistan, New Zealand, Australia and perhaps the Philippines—all members of the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO)—for token forces to reinforce the free world's determination to contain communism.

President Kennedy indicated at his news conference Thursday that the United States was agreeable to a cease fire at present positions without the rebels necessarily giving back the territory they have wrested from government forces this month.

"Obviously," he told a questioner, "we would prefer as great a withdrawal to the line that was in effect a week or so ago as we could get. I think, however, that the peace along the line which now may exist, of course, is essential."

In Knoxville, Tenn., Secretary of State Dean Rusk told newsmen Thursday night that the Laotian people would settle their own problems peacefully if "foreigners . . . would just leave them alone."

"The three princes are now converging on Laos again—two of them have been out of the country in the last few days—and talks may resume at the beginning of this next week," he said. "We hope that they will find some agreement on a coalition government."

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Stocks Drift Lower With Losses Noted Throughout List

New York—UPI—Stocks drifted slightly lower today. Dips of a point or more were sprinkled throughout the list and were evident among the stores, foods, utilities, aircrafts, metals, rails, tobacco and electronics.

Steels were narrow and autos easier. Virginia-Carolina lost about a point in an otherwise fractionally lower chemical section.

Stocks recovered about a third of their early losses in late trading Thursday but still closed lower in moderate trading.

Investor sentiment was bolstered during the afternoon when the government reported an 8 per cent jump in housing starts last month.

State Police Report Accidents in Area

State police reported two non-injury accidents yesterday afternoon and one early this morning.

A rear-end collision occurred on Highway 99 yesterday at the Willow Springs rd. Cars involved were driven by Lewis Ray Williamson, 37, of Medford, and Josephine Peters, 45, Medford.

A one-car accident occurred at Miller's Gulch on the old Highway 99 north of Gold Hill about 2:10 o'clock this morning, involving a car driven by Le Roy Brown, 51, of 4710 Rogue River highway, Grants Pass.

DOW JONES AVERAGES

New York—UPI—Dow Jones final stock averages: 30 industrials 649.79, off 4.25; 20 railroads 136.58, unchanged; 15 utilities 122.19, off 0.31, and 65 stocks 224.55, off 0.96. Sales Thursday were about 2.95 million shares compared with 3.36 million shares Wednesday.

Thursday's prices on selected stocks:

Allied Chemical	42 1/2
Alum Co Am	34 1/2
American Air Lines	19 1/2
American Can	44 1/2
American Motors	15 1/2
A. T. & T.	44 1/2
American Tobacco	44 1/2
Anaconda Copper	45 1/2
Arco	38 1/2
Bendix Corp	64 1/2
Bethlehem Steel	38 1/2
Boeing Air	45
Brascan	32
Caterpillar Corp	36 1/2
Chrysler Corp	50
Chick Cola	39 1/2
C.I.B.S.	20 1/2
Continental Can (nd)	41
Crown Zellerbach	47 1/2
Crucible Steel	17 1/2
Curtis Wright	17
Dow Chemical	32 1/2
Du Pont	32 1/2
Eastman Kodak	107 1/2
Firestone	40 1/2
Ford	90 1/2
General Electric	70 1/2
General Food	81 1/2
General Motors	52 1/2
Georgia Pacific	44 1/2
Greyhound	28
Gulf Oil	39 1/2
Homestead	31
Idaho Power	32 1/2
I. B. M.	44 1/2
Int. Paper	49
Johns Manville	36 1/2
Kennecott Copper	76 1/2
Lockheed Aircraft	45 1/2
Martin Co.	23 1/2
Merck	82 1/2
Montana Power	36 1/2
Montgomery Ward	32
Natl. Discount	41 1/2
New York Central	15 1/2
Northern Pacific	37 1/2
Pac Gas Elec	32 1/2
Penney J. C.	46 1/2
Penn. RR	14 1/2
Perma Cement	18
Phillips	32 1/2
Procter & Gamble	77 1/2
Radio Corporation	55 1/2
Richfield Oil	38 1/2
Safeway	48 1/2
Sears	82 1/2
Shell Oil	38 1/2
Stetson Mobil Oil	52 1/2
Southern Co.	51 1/2
Southern Pacific	20
Sperry Rand	10 1/2
Standard California	58 1/2
Standard Indiana	48 1/2
Standard N. J.	53 1/2
Sun Mines	14 1/2
Texas Co.	54 1/2

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CUBAN REBELS ESCAPE

Miami—UPI—Six hundred inmates of a Castro concentration camp in Oriente Province have rebelled and fled into the Sierra Maestra to take up active warfare against the government, the Cuban Institute for Democracy, an anti-Communist front, said Thursday. The institute said it got its information from the Cuban underground.

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