

Automation May Move at Faster Pace As Result of N.Y. Newspaper Dispute

By H. D. QUIGG
New York (UPI)—How will the New York strike change the newspaper business? If the present militant stand of the printers union here should become a pattern across the country, some sources believe automation would move at an ever faster pace into the composing rooms of newspapers and commercial print shops.

A strike of local 6, International Typographical union, is a record breaker. The newspaper publishers have charged that the union months ago adopted long-term warfare—"A predetermined long-strike policy"—as a principal weapon for this year.

The strike-shutdown of New York's nine major newspapers is in its fifth week. They have lost an estimated \$1.3 million daily in advertising in the pre-Christmas weeks and

about \$300,000 a day in circulation revenue. Their 20,000 employees are estimated to be losing \$3 million a week in wages.

According to the magazine Business Week, eight of the affected newspapers—all except the Daily News, which has the largest circulation in America—had strike insurance. But the magazine said they expected to recoup from insurance only 30 to 50 per cent of their fixed costs, and none of the lost advertising and circulation income.

May Work Together
The insurance provided a maximum indemnity of \$2.4 million for all papers in one city or under one labor contract. The magazine said the New York papers would run through that limit early in January.

One student of American

labor has suggested that the situation—with automated equipment on the increase and the boundary line between the craft unions in printing getting more wavery—might lead to a more centralized bargaining structure for all newspaper unions.

The New York publishers have charged that the ITU "is determined" to impose on them "wage increases and conditions which, combined, will be beyond the earning capacity of the newspapers to sustain, and could bankrupt one or more of the city's newspapers as well as touch off a nation-wide wave of increased costs in the newspaper business."

They further assert they will resist increased costs which would endanger the very existence of newspapers in New York and "have wide-

spread repercussions extending far beyond New York."

The American Newspaper Publishers association, representing dailies in the United States and Canada, was more guarded in comment. Its Labor Relations committee in Chicago said there were 24 strikes against newspapers in 1962. It said U. S. dailies are

local in character and labor negotiations should reflect that status.

"However," it added, "it can be surmised that repercussions of the New York strike may well be felt in negotiations in other areas of the country."

Automation is prominently in the picture in the New

York situation. Amory H. Bradford, head of the publishers' negotiating committee, has said that in more than four months of bargaining Local 6 "made no concessions to the publishers, though they know that we need relief in the form of increased production, through changes in our typesetter (typesetting through punched tape that is fed into a machine) clause and through a reduction in the amount of bogus or made work in reproducing unneeded advertising."

A startling instance of automation was announced two weeks ago by the Los Angeles Times, which said that for a month it had been producing 50 columns of type for each daily run with an automatic typesetting system built around an electronic computer. The system takes tape that

is produced by the reporter's typewriter and runs the news copy through the computer and into automatic typesetting machines that eliminate the immediate human operator.

Some industry observers see the union's strong stand in New York as an opening round in a national move by the ITU not only to regain the dominance the printers once had among newspaper unions—and lost in recent years to the pace-setting American Newspaper Guild of editorial workers—but to control new processes. They include photo offset printing and other photo reproduction methods.

13 Programs Are Offered in Courses

Thirteen different educational programs totaling over 130 different courses in data processing and graphic arts will be offered at the Friden Educational Center at Rochester, N.Y., in 1963, Clifford C. Voigt, manager of the Friden agency in Medford, reported.

Free instruction in data processing is available throughout the year in four new areas, Voigt said. These areas are government data processing applications, insurance agency data processing, computer input-output programming, and output programming for Friden add-punch numeric encoding.

Five expanded courses from last year's program will also be offered.

Indonesians Chased By Erupting Volcano

Jakarta, Indonesia (UPI)—Nine more villages have been evacuated on remote Ternate Island following the eruption of Gamalama Volcano.

The official Antara news agency said Tuesday hundreds of panicky refugees have crowded into the main town on Ternate Island. Preparations were being made to move them to refugee camps on the nearby Isle of Tidore.

Math Institute Is Slated at U of O

Eugene—The University of Oregon has received a \$65,300 grant from the National Science Foundation for the sponsorship of an eight-week summer institute for high school mathematics teachers.

The session, from June 17 to Aug. 9, will allow 50 teachers from throughout the state, to participate. Stipends of not over \$75 per week are to be awarded.

The program of the institute is designed to enrich the mathematical backgrounds of the participants and to acquaint them with the most modern developments in their field.

Dr. A. F. Moursund, professor of mathematics and head of the department at the University of Oregon, will direct the institute.

LAW STUDENT DAY

Salem (UPI)—The State Justice Department will hold its fourth annual law students day Feb. 8, Atty. Gen. Robert Thornton said today.

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