

# Technological Advances Are Involved in SP, Union Dispute

By WILEY S. MALONEY  
 United Press International  
 San Francisco — (UP) — The dispute between the Southern Pacific Railroad and the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks involves a bitter fruit of technological progress, the displacement of man by machine.

Southern Pacific has undergone sweeping modernization in the past few years with innovations in technology and organization covered loosely by the term "automation."

Roughly 5,000 clerks (meaning a wide variety of office and station employees) have been displaced in the Pacific Division of the railroad since 1957.

Many of their jobs were made unnecessary by installation of computers and such office equipment as high speed calculators, photo copy machines and electric typewriters.

But others lost their jobs in more subtle ways, through technological advances which did not affect them directly, but which reduced their workload.

Electronics, for example, has made possible installation of central traffic system which permit a single dispatcher to control all trains on lines as long as 300 miles. This indirectly contributed to the loss of clerk jobs.

**Gig Telephone System**

Electronics also has made it possible to classify freight cars automatically. And electronics have been used in automatic mail sorting facilities which handle up to 3,600 sacks an hour.

Even installation of a private direct dialing telephone system has reduced the human work load. Southern Pacific has the largest private telephone system of any single company, enabling many executives to avoid letter writing by making phone calls.

Such is the cause of the problem, as both union and management agree on it. Disagreement sets in when they try to find a solution.

The union's primary concern is to put a stop to the job losses.

In a notice to the railroad Sept. 28, 1958, the union demanded employment stability. Unsuccessful negotiations followed during the next four years until President Kennedy created an emergency board to hear both sides and make recommendations to him.

The union, meantime, has voted to strike, but the President's action prevented this until Jan. 31 this year, 30 days after submission of the emergency board's report.

That report recommended a "stairstep" plan under which the railroad would augment unemployment benefits for clerks displaced by automation. Furloughed employees would get 70 per cent of their earnings for up to one year, based on length of service, and then 60 per cent up to four years.

The board suggested that a retraining program be set up, but left the details to the parties involved. It also presented a complex set of further recommendations relating to such matters as maintenance of fringe benefits, moving expenses and protection against real estate losses in job moves.

**Areas of Disagreement**

Because labor bargaining is a give-and-take process conducted largely in secret, there's no way of telling precisely where each side stands at this point on specific issues in the tremendously complicated dispute. But here, based on past statements by representatives of both sides, are the basic positions of union and management on some of the key issues:

—The union wants a program of "controlled attrition" of jobs, meaning guarantees in the number of positions to be kept in existence. The railroad says this amounts to featherbedding and a limitation on layoffs might hurt the company's competitive position economically.

In its original notice the union asked that displaced employees be given the option of five years' income protection or severance pay of up to 1,800 days depending on the seniority. The company regards this as excessive, but agrees to the emergency board's "stairstep" plan.

In any retraining program, the union demanded that a specific number of employees be continuously assigned on a straight seniority basis to nonworking but paid training positions, regardless of the need for the training or the ability of the individuals to qualify for the work. The company indicated it would be willing to negotiate a retraining program based on actual requirements, taking into consideration the talents and abilities of individuals involved.

# Try and Stop Me

By BENNETT CERF

A TINY PLANET broke out of orbit, zoomed a few million miles into space, and ended orbiting around the moon. There the mother planet eventually spotted her child and cried, "Junior, what in the world are you doing down there?"



"Where," axulted the tiny planet. "Look, mom — no gravities!"

Cartoonist Al Capp was sauntering down the Place Pigalle in Paris when a disreputable character stepped out of a doorway and whispered, "Hey, mister, you want to see a dirty movie?"

"How much?" demanded Capp. "Fifty francs," ventured the character.

"Hm," mused Capp. "Who's in it?"

**QUOTES:**  
 "Only a mediocre person is always at his best."—Somerset Maugham.  
 "A baby is God's opinion that the world should go on."—Carl Sandburg.  
 "If you want to keep respect for your government, like sausage, you should not look into its making."—Disraeli.  
 "A child bride of 14 is entitled to alimony; she is too young to go to work."—A Judge in South Carolina.

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# GOP Issues Report On 1962 Election; Lists Nine Lessons

Washington — (UP) — The Republican National committee has issued a report on the 1962 election campaign that lists nine "lessons" for study by GOP strategy planners.

The review of the party's showing in the 1962 congressional and state elections was contained in a 55-page document released by the committee's research division.

GOP National Chairman William E. Miller said the report provided "a detailed, factual basis for satisfaction with the results of last fall's election and optimism as Republicans prepare for the campaign of 1964."

In line with these preparations, GOP officials opened two days of closed meetings Monday to hear bids for their 1964 national convention. Representatives of Philadelphia, Detroit, Chicago, Miami Beach, San Francisco and Dallas — and possibly others — planned to make a pitch for the convention.

**Raise New Warning**

The report raised a new warning signal about Democratic big city strongholds, which the GOP had blamed for its loss of the 1960 presidential race.

The GOP said "the big city problem of the Republican party remains." With rare exceptions, it said the Republican vote for the House of Representatives showed little change from 1958, a black year for the GOP.

Other lessons included:

—The GOP is firmly established in the South "as a going business with a substantial growth potential."

—The big city suburbs "are increasingly crucial" to Republicans in pivotal states to offset Democratic majorities in the cities.

—Young voters are moving toward the GOP and encouragement of this swing should be emphasized.

—Older voters are sticking with the Democrats, indicating "need for greater attention to senior citizens."

—Ticket-splitting in 1962 showed that candidate selection is becoming more important, that the party label and "coat-tail" candidates are weaker than in past years.

—Over-all, the GOP is hurt more than helped by the way congressional districts now are drawn by the state legislatures.

Salem — (UP) — Dr. Eleanor B. Gutman, a member of the Oregon hospital staff, died Saturday at her home. She was 58.

# Former U. S. Steel Executive Dies

New York — (UP) — Irving S. Olds, 76, who guided U.S. Steel Corp. in the mighty task of helping to arm the nation during World War II, died Monday following a long illness.

The soft-spoken champion of free enterprise, whose "steel trap mind" enabled him to win price increases without a public uproar was \$200,000-a-year board chairman of the nation's largest steel company for 12 years.

Olds retired in 1952, just as former President Harry S. Truman's famous seizure was ushering in the era of U.S. Steel's trouble with government.

Often looked upon as a business liberal, he raised wages along with prices in 1948, thus preventing a collision like the one between President Kennedy and Big Steel. But he was a stockholder's man and a Yale man of 1660 Puritan American stock, and labor once called him a Scrooge.

Olds, born in Erie, Pa., reached the heights not only in business, but also in legal, academic and cultural fields.

# Congressional Press Releases Appear to Be on Upgrade in Style and Content

By DICK WEST  
 United Press International  
 Washington — (UP) — The U.S. Congress has been catching a lot of criticism this year, but there is one area in which I personally would give our lawmakers very high marks. I refer to congressional press releases which seem to me to be on the upgrade both in style and content. I can't recall another session with so much literary merit.



Consider, for example, the fine work of Sen. Herman E. Talmadge (D-Ga.) in the field of interlocking and overlapping cliches.

**Trims Opponents**

Within a single sentence of a recent press release, Talmadge accused certain groups of "grinding political axes and honing in the heat of a political passion a double-edged blade which poses a dangerous threat to the very tap roots of our republican form of government."

I don't know enough about the timber business to affirm that a two-bladed axe is the best tool to use on tap roots, but I'll certainly give Talmadge credit for a bit of vivid writing.

Even so, it did not fire my imagination quite as much as a press release in which Rep. Robert T. Stafford (R-Vt.) described a certain bill as "an unrealistic potpourri which will never get off the ground."

I have spent a good bit of time trying to picture to myself just what an airborne potpourri would look like, but I haven't been able to visualize anything very realistic.

What I mainly got is a vision of flying hash, so as far as I'm concerned the potpourri can stay earthbound. In fact, I hope it develops tap roots.

**Gets Committee Posts**

Another press release that intrigued me was distributed by Rep. K. W. (Bill) Stinson (R-Wash.) upon the occasion of his being appointed to membership on the government activities subcommittee and the intergovernmental relations subcommittee of the government operations committee.

"With typical fervor," it said, "Stinson commented that he felt his two subcommittee assignments will provide a real challenge."

I have always admired fervent comment and I am equally impressed by eyeball bravery, an example of which can be found in a press release from Rep. Carl Elliott (D-Ala.) describing an inspection tour he made of

the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo, Cuba.

"Elliott advanced to within 50 feet of the Cuban guards on duty at one Communist outpost," it related. "The Red soldiers glared at him. He glared back."

That is what is known as "instant retaliation."

**TO VISIT U.S.**

Washington — (UP) — Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, president of India, will visit the United States sometime this summer, the White House announced Monday. The date has not been set.

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**Your Money's Worth**  
 By SYLVIA PORTER  
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Editor's note: Sylvia Porter is on vacation. During her absence a column by Ralph McGill is being substituted. McGill is currently on a tour of African nations, about which he is writing.

Accra, Ghana: Here on what was the old Gold Coast one finds time to cast up experiences. Before leaving for the West Coast of Africa the Westerner receives considerable advice. He is warned that the ancient coast is not really much subdued as a killer of men (it once was called "the white man's graveyard") and to be careful about the sun, water and the food. Reminders that only mad dogs and Englishmen go out in the noonday sun were frequent.

The truth is another thing. Europeans all seem to go baredheaded. The newcomer picks up sunburn, but no heat strokes. It is hot in the noonday sun, and also under the midnight moon. But it is no worse than, say, Little Rock, St. Louis, or Washington, D.C., in August. There are humid areas, but on the coast there are breezes and even a few air-conditioned spots.

Now and then, however, one is reminded that the forces of the old graveyard, while tamed, are not all gone. The tables of most Europeans and educated Africans include bottles or small canisters of malarial-depressant pills. One of the minor conversation subjects concerns the relative merits of taking a small pill daily or a larger pill once a week. The everyday advocates seem in the majority because of their argument that one is unlikely to be exact with a weekly schedule. To forget is almost sure to bring one down with malaria. One young man I encountered, pale and shaken, had been three days late with a pill and spent one week in bed, ravaged with fever and shaken with chills.

Africans in the back country, or bush, have developed a sort of immunity in an impressive substantiation of Dr. Darwin's theory of the survival of the fittest. But a mosquito, biting such a person, can nonetheless transmit a full-scale case of malaria to one newly come to the coast.

When one does encounter mosquitoes, which is frequently, they are apt to be ferocious and skillful in attack. Also, they have no sense of fair play. They do not hum. They come silently. One night, while sitting talking with some Ghanaian journalists, each with a section of bare shank showing above the short socks men wear nowadays, we were troubled by a swarm of mosquitoes. The Ghanaians pointed out the disadvantages of a white skin, saying the winged monsters could see it much better. Whatever the merit of the statement, there was no doubt but that they found the target quite easily indeed.

The old days, before the pills and the injections against yellow fever, must really have been ghastly. The death rates confirm it.

At this writing, looking out in the adjacent garden, this reporter sees a number of lizards, each about six inches long, but with an overall length of at least a foot because of a tail, dutifully scuttling about the grass and up and down trees. They eat insects. The male of this species is quite attractive. He has a red head, a brown body, and his tail, save for the very end, also brown, is a brilliant orange. The females, poor wretches, are a dull, mottled beige. Small lizards in the house are prized. They are, for the most part, rather charming, being relatively tiny and yellow. It is my studied opinion that while these creatures in garden or house do well with flies, spiders, and beetles, they have yet to lick up a mosquito.

Accra is a cheerful city, pleasant and happy in aspect. The visitor may find too many police to be about, but that is because of the hand grenades thrown some months ago. The people are gracious, naturally courageous, and good natured. The women have a very definite grace, and sometimes the sight of one of them carrying a burden on her head, with the torso muscles at work maintaining the balance, produces a picture of fluid grace as stirring as that attained in some carefully contrived dance choreography.

There are suburbs, slum sections, modern buildings, a really fine hotel, and houses which reflect the architecture of the English, Dutch, Lebanese, and North African. The sun, the seething vitality of the markets, and the more crowded streets give the city a flavor which is attractive and picturesque.

# Convict Labor Suit Dismissed by Judges

Salem — (UP) — A suit seeking to halt the use of convict labor at the new women's prison here was dismissed today by a three-judge Circuit Court panel.

Judges George R. Duncan, Vale D. Sloper and George A. Jones ruled that the state constitution prevents such suits.

The suit was brought by James E. Marr, executive secretary of the Oregon AFL-CIO, and Charles Westergard, secretary of the Salem Building and Construction Trades council. It charged that the use of convict labor was in violation of state law.

The suit was filed against the three members of the Oregon Board of Control.

The judges' action allowed a state motion to dismiss the charge on the basis of the state's sovereign immunity against suit.

# Walters Appointed Dam Administrator

Portland — (UP) — Appointment of Robert P. Walters as Portland area manager of Bonneville Power administration was announced today.

Walters has been acting manager since reassignment last fall of Jack N. O'Neal. The Portland area includes Western Oregon and southwest Washington. Walters has been with BPA for 22 years.

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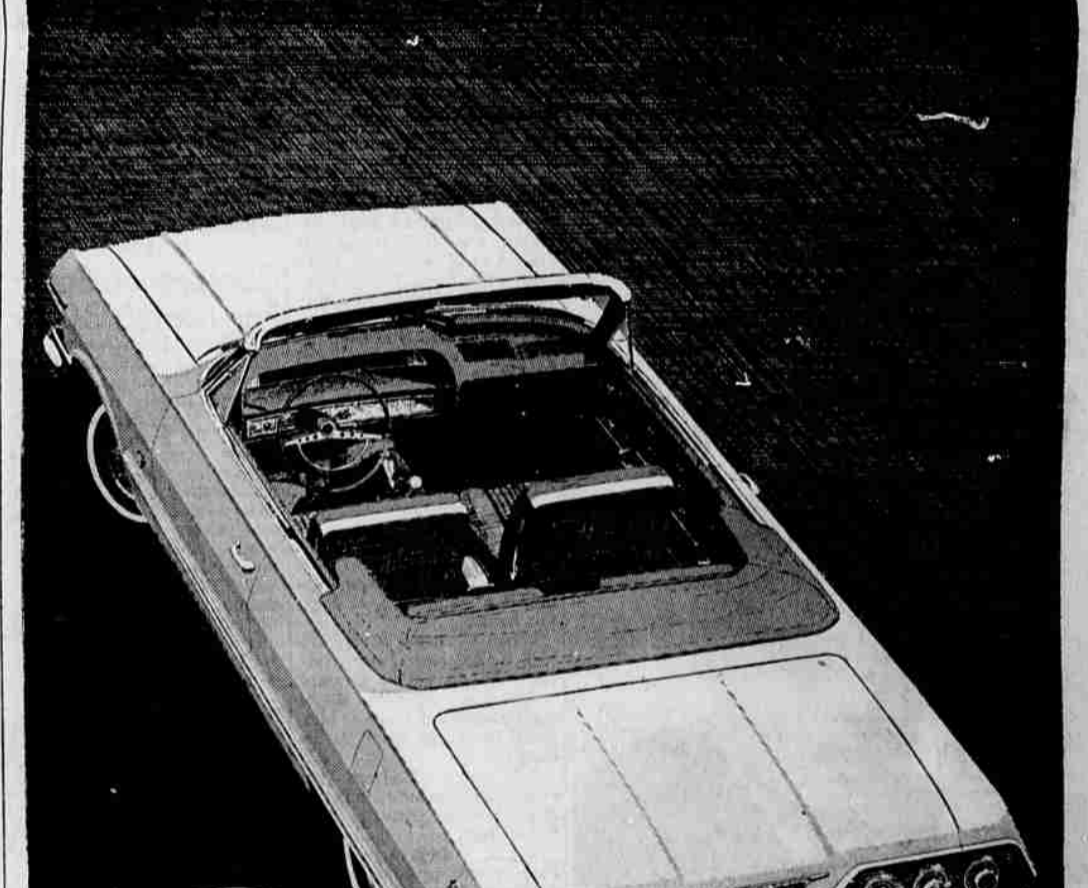
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