

U. S. Chamber Probes Wages

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23 (AP)—The United States chamber of commerce disclosed plans today to marshal its 2000 member organizations behind a drive in congress to relieve employers from possible "portal-to-portal" pay liabilities dating back to 1938.

Spurred by the snow-balling claims of workers in mass production industries for pay—at twice normal overtime rates—for travel and other non-production time not hitherto paid for, the chamber will submit a referendum Friday to its entire membership.

These members in turn will poll some 30,000 companies on a series of proposed amendments to the fair labor standards act of 1938.

It is this act which makes the back-pay suits possible. It established a 44-hour week for the first year, a 42-hour week for two years, then a 40-hour week after 1940 for employes engaged in producing goods for interstate commerce.

Earlier this year the supreme court—in a case involving 1200 CIO United Pottery Workers at Mt. Clemens, Mich.—held that employes are entitled to pay for time spent preparing for their jobs on company property.

Junction Smashup Injures Two

Two persons suffered injuries when the car in which they were passengers overturned near the Lakeview junction shortly after 8 o'clock Sunday night.

In Hillside hospital is Helen Jackson, 16, 2206 LaVerne, her injuries undetermined. It is thought she has several fractures. Treated at the hospital was Bill Ledbetter, 17, 1750 Burns, who suffered a cut on the right side of the head. Driver of the car, according to state police, was Roderick Allis, 20, 3135 Eberlein. He suffered only slight hurts.

Investigating officers said the Packard sedan which Allis was driving toward Dairy overturned when Allis apparently applied the brakes. The machine traveled 120 feet before coming to rest upside down on the side of the highway. No other car was involved.

Tulelake Youth Leaves Hospital

Christmas will probably be a happier day for 12-year-old Eldon Rung than was that other recently celebrated holiday, Thanksgiving Day.

Early Monday morning Hillside hospital attendants were busy getting Eldon ready to go home. He has been a patient since Thanksgiving, when he was brought into the hospital suffering from severe burns about the body received when he started a fire in the kitchen stove with oil.

Eldon is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Lin Lomax of near Tulelake. The boy's father is employed at Lepley Motors in that town.

Thieves Snitch Christmas Lights

The least Christmas-minded person in town is at work again. City police have received a number of calls from people who reported that whole strings of Christmas tree lights or bulbs have been stolen from outdoor lighting arrangements.

One outraged resident voiced the feelings of all this morning when he said that he's "going to take down his outdoor holiday decorations before someone walks off with the rest of his lights."

Baldock Named To Highway Position

SALEM, Dec. 23 (AP)—State Highway Engineer R. H. Baldock was elected first vice president of the American Association of State Highway Officials at its convention in Los Angeles last week. Baldock said today on his return from the convention.

After a year in his new office, he will become association president, and will be the second Oregon man to be president of the AASHO in 10 years.

Former State Highway Commissioner Henry F. Cabell was association president in 1937.

Christmas Anthems Sur.g By Youthful Voices



Members of the recently organized Junior Choir of the First Methodist church presented a beautiful program of music Sunday morning when they sang Adeste Fideles, Waits' Carol and Infant Holy, a Polish carol. Officers of the group are: Frances Stearns, president; Maurice Deller, vice president; Ronald Juniper, secretary-treasurer. June Murphy is accompanist for the group and sponsors of the choir are Mr. and Mrs. Dexter Elliott. Jack O'Connor is director. Members are: David Deller, Maurice Deller, Virginia Smith, Diane Binkley, Randal Binkley, Gloria Stolk, LaVonne Spear, Frances Stearns, Billy Morris, Janice Larson, Gwen Seiber, Carol Guderian, Jacky May Murphy, Carrie Sue Heilbronner, Wayne Elliott, David Cummings, Wayne Angel, Willard Robinson, Bonita Heddart, Sheila Gillen, Charles Rice, Don Rice, Dorothy Baker, Reva Snell, Jack Schulze, Greg Schulze, Marsha Wilson, Ronald Juniper, Patsy Clark, Don Harvey, Kurt Uerlings, Arlene Lynch, Nancy Lynch, Richard Balsiger, Gerry Barker, Malcolm Jackson, Patsy Taylor, Jean Condreay, Robin Bithell, Eddie Mahan and George Vlahos.

Quadruplets Born To British War Bride Today

BALTIMORE, Dec. 23 (AP)—Charles Henn Jr. was casting about today for names and a house big enough for a family suddenly increased to seven by the birth of quadruplets—three boys and a girl—to the British girl he married during the war. The babies were placed immediately after birth yesterday in individual oxygenated incubators as a precautionary measure, although Dr. Thomas J. Bowyer, who made the deliveries, said the quads' chances of survival were "very, very good."

Russ To Publish Roosevelt Book

MOSCOW, Dec. 23 (AP)—An informed source said today the Soviets would publish Elliott Roosevelt's book "As He Saw It," in the Russian language early next year.

The late president's son gave Prime Minister Stalin an autographed copy of the book Saturday night. The decision to publish the book in Russian was made earlier, it was said.

Roosevelt and his actress wife flew from Moscow toward the United States Sunday, expecting to spend Christmas with Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt at Hyde Park, N. Y. They landed at Berlin en route and took off later for London.

Roosevelt's interview with Stalin on the generalissimo's 67th birthday was the first public indication that Stalin had returned to the Kremlin from a prolonged vacation. Roosevelt said Stalin appeared fit and in good spirits.

Bevin Optimistic On World Peace

LONDON, Dec. 23 (AP)—Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin, Britain's treaty negotiator and part-time United Nations spokesman, is optimistic over the chances for "friendship and co-operation between great powers," which he terms "the surest basis on which to build peace."

"I believe we have entered the first stage of establishing concord and harmony between great powers," he told the people in a radio speech last night—adding later: "Friendship and co-operation between great powers is the surest basis on which to build peace for all time." But he warned that peacemaking would take several years.

The 65-year-old labor-government diplomat in his 20-minute BBC address reported on the Big Four foreign ministers' treaty-making and the United Nations general assembly session in New York, from which he returned last Thursday, and laid down his aims for the foreign ministers' next meeting in Moscow March 10.

The 23-year-old mother also is in "good condition" after the delivery which was performed without anesthetic in 55 minutes at the St. Agnes hospital.

The couple, who have another son, Johnny, about 15 months old, met and married in England while Henn was a sergeant with the 84th division and Mrs. Henn, the former Dorothy Geast, was serving in the British equivalent of the American Wacs.

Mrs. Henn was one of the calmest persons in the hospital and after the delivery asked for a "British cup of tea" before taking a sedative.

The quads were not weighed, but Dr. William H. Sawyers, who with Dr. Walter Benavent assisted at the delivery, estimated they were "approximately half normal size, or about four pounds apiece."

Henn, who didn't get his first look at his new offspring until three hours after their births, said he and his wife had picked no names, although they were informed by X-rays last November that quadruplets were on the way.

"We didn't want to tempt fate," he said. "Now that they are all here and living we'll give them names. This is sure a case of four of a kind meaning a full house."

The 28-year-old bookbinder was referring to his housing problem. At present he and his wife and their 15-month-old son are living with his parents, three of his brothers and a sister.

\$323,000 Loot Taken From Store

MODESTO, Calif., Dec. 23—(AP)—Police hunted today for four gunmen who kidnaped the entire family of a Modesto store manager and robbed the store of \$323,000 after telling their victims they had planned the bold crime for six months.

Chief of Police Urbane Pickering said the thieves forced Morley Theaker, manager of the Sears-Roebuck retail store, his wife and two teen-aged sons to leave their home and drive them in the family car to the store Saturday night.

Theaker said he was forced to open the safe and remove the money by flashlight. He said \$50,000 in another compartment of the safe was overlooked.

YOUTHS APPREHENDED IN ILLEGAL SHOOTING

Three teen-aged boys, 14 and 15 years old, were apprehended by city police and a California Oregon Power company representative Saturday afternoon for shooting rifles on the bank of Link river in town.

The weapons, two .22 cal. rifle and a .22 pistol, were taken to the police station, and the boys were turned over to the juvenile office for an appearance today.

CHRISTMAS TREE THEFTS COME HIGH

ASTORIA, Dec. 23 (AP)—Don't steal your Christmas tree in northwestern Oregon. It's too expensive.

Harold Tonole, assistant district forest warden, reported that two men were fined \$200 each for chopping down Christmas trees on state lands. Two other tree hunters were arrested in Columbia county.

Jap Quake, Tidal Wave Death Toll Nears 1125

TOKYO, Dec. 23 (AP)—The toll of dead calculated as high as 1125 so far, thousands of wretched, shivering Japanese tonight huddled around fires near the waterlogged wreckage of their homes destroyed by the earthquake and tidal waves early Saturday.

The home ministry listed 1926 dead, with reports still coming in from previously isolated areas in Southern Shikoku island and the Wakayama peninsula. Kyodo New Agency reported its count at 1125 killed, Kyodo listed 2700 killed, missing and injured.

A bitter cold wind blew steadily across Japan from the Manchurian plains, adding to the miserable discomfort of Japanese who lost their homes and their relatives or friends in the tragic dawn Saturday.

The homeless—tens of thousands—were living under railroad trestles, in forests and along the beaches, stoking little fires against the biting winter weather, as relief crews sought

to deliver emergency food, clothing and medical supplies.

The home ministry listed 1926 as dead, 145 as missing and 1935 injured, and reported that well over 100,000 persons were made homeless in one of the world's worst natural disasters.

Lt. Gen. Robert L. Eichelberger, commander of the U. S. eighth army, announced meanwhile that no American personnel had been killed or injured. Less than 100 Yanks in the Wakayama peninsula area—center of the quake zone—will not be evacuated immediately, army headquarters said, because they are in no danger and "have a job to do there."

Food and fresh water was dropped by air to the American garrisons.

American army pilots who flew over Shikoku said the Kochi area appeared to be the worst damaged—considerably harder hit than Wakayama peninsula of Southern Honshu, which also was battered by the six tidal waves.

Homestead Letters Sent

Reclamation office workers began the tedious job today of preparing notification letters to the 1305 veterans who participated in the Tulelake homestead drawing.

Veterans whose names were drawn from the pickle jar last Wednesday will be notified of their status as a result of that affair. The remaining applicants will be told that their names are being held in reserve, but that if it is possible to obtain 86 qualified homesteaders out of the first 172, they will not obtain land in this opening.

The job of sending out the letters will probably not be concluded until after the first of the year.

Meanwhile, the homestead examining board has begun rechecking the applications of the first 86 drawn last Wednesday.

Supreme Court To Hear Lewis

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23 (AP)—The supreme court today granted John L. Lewis and the United Mine Workers a hearing on a new appeal questioning the validity of the preliminary injunction issued against them during the recent soft coal strike.

The effect is to broaden the issues of law before the court in Lewis' appeal from the \$10,000 fine imposed on him and the \$3,500,000 fine on the union for contempt of court.

In earlier petitions, Lewis and the union challenged the validity of temporary restraining orders issued in the same case by U. S. District Judge T. Alan Goldsborough here.

The supreme court, in accepting the latest appeal, consolidated it with the appeals granted earlier. Argument on all of the issues will be heard January 14.

Mrs. Cummins' Death Reported

Mrs. Lillian Bell Cummins, 84, for more than 62 years a resident of the Klamath basin, died at the home of her son, A. B. Cummins, 2004 Ogden, at 11:15 p. m. Sunday. Mrs. Cummins had been in ill health for the past two years.

Born March 6, 1862, in Woodland, Calif., she came to the southeast of Tule lake in Modoc county with her parents, the late Mr. and Mrs. Hiram Cornell, who for many years ran the old stage depot known as Cornell on the Fremont trail. Mrs. Cummins' husband, Albert, died in 1922. He had homesteaded on Dry lake in 1882 and spent most of his life there.

Final rites will be announced by Whitlock's.

Winecoff Fire Work Of Arsonist

ATLANTA, Dec. 23 (AP)—A special agent for the national board of fire underwriters told a Fulton county grand jury today that the rapid spread of flames in the Winecoff hotel fire December 7 indicated the work of a skilled arsonist.

Charles M. Huguley, who has been investigating the blaze ever since 119 persons lost their lives in the conflagration, told the grand jury that a veteran arsonist may have laid a thin trail of gasoline from floor to floor, causing the fire to spread beyond control.

He said he believed it impossible for the fire to have started from a cigaret without guests in nearby rooms smelling the smoke.

Bricker-Taft Decision Asked

COLUMBUS, O., Dec. 23 (AP)—Friends of U. S. Sen. elect John W. Bricker disclosed today he wanted an early decision on whether he or Sen. Robert A. Taft should step aside in the coming presidential race.

"The question should be decided quickly," a spokesman, requesting anonymity, quoted Bricker as saying.

Bricker, the 1944 republican vice presidential candidate, declined to verify the report at his office here.

"I have no agreement with Bob Taft and I've authorized no one to negotiate for me," Bricker stated.