

MINERS OUT PITS IN PROTEST

Widespread Strike Seen

WASHINGTON, June 24 (AP)—Soft coal industry representatives, estimating that at least half of the nation's bituminous miners are idle, expressed fear today that the work stoppage might grow into a full-scale national coal strike.

The estimate on number of soft coal miners idle is based by the National Coal association on reports received from its members up until midday.

A spokesman for the industry told a reporter the work stoppage appears to be "a clear violation" of the new Taft-Hartley union-curbing labor law. He expressed fear it would grow into a nationwide shutdown.

Enactment of the new labor measure into law yesterday, when the senate overrode President Truman's veto, touched off mine shutdowns and brought calls for widespread protest strikes as labor reacted swiftly and bitterly.

Government officials, taken by surprise at the action of John L. Lewis' coal miners scheduled to begin a 10-day vacation Friday, but made no immediate move to meet the growing shutdown.

Under the new labor law, Mr. Truman could appoint a board of inquiry immediately to look into the situation. A shutdown was anticipated when the 10-day vacation period is ended July 7.

Navy Captain M. H. Collison, coal mines administrator in charge of government operation of the pits until the federal authority to run them expires June 30, admitted a lack of reports on the extent of the idleness.

Collison acknowledged the stoppage is "widespread."

At the United Mine Workers' headquarters, there was no comment on the situation from Lewis or his associates.

Irate union leaders, stung by the ease with which both house and senate overrode President Truman's veto, threatened reprisals at the polls against legislators who favored the bill.

Others promised to work for its prompt repeal and for quick court tests of its constitutionality.

Cries of anger and protest came from many of the nation's top union bosses. One said privately that 10 years of litigation is in store for organized labor and industry.

Shortly after the senate voted yesterday, mines began closing in Alabama and Pennsylvania. The shutdowns spread today and more than 50 pits, employing 31,000, were idle in those two states, Ohio, Illinois and West Virginia.

More Pits May Close

A United Mine Workers official in Pittsburgh predicted more coal pits would be closed today. John L. Lewis, UMW chief, remained silent on this development, as well as on passage of the labor bill.

The miners begin a regular 10-day vacation Friday. Those who have stayed off the job are "jumping the gun" a few days.

There was some scattered talk of a general strike by the more than 15,000,000 members of labor unions, but AFL and CIO headquarters have minimized the possibility of any such move.

PITTSBURGH, June 24 (AP)—With their union leaders hurling protests at final congressional adoption of the Taft-Hartley labor bill, more than one-fourth of the nation's soft coal miners—some 120,000 men—were on strike in seven states today, closing several hundred mines.

The walkouts began in Alabama last night—shortly after the senate overrode President Truman's veto of the union control measure—and spread swiftly through the big coal fields in other states.

Reports of the idle included: Pennsylvania, 33,170; West Virginia, 26,700; Illinois, 24,700 (including 1700 Progressive Mine Workers); Alabama, 17,500; Kentucky, up to 15,000; Ohio, 3473; Indiana, 3000.

The walkouts, apparently a spontaneous protest against passage of the labor bill, came at a time when wage negotiations between John L. Lewis, president of the AFL-United Mine Workers' 400,000 members, and the mine operators had been broken off pending final disposition of the bill.

Meanwhile, the miners had been prepared to begin a 10-day vacation at Friday midnight, just three days before the expiration of the interim contract of the UMW and the federal government, signed in May, 1947, to end a strike which began when management and union failed to negotiate an agreement.

One mine company spokesman said it was unlikely a new contract would be signed by July 8, the day the miners are scheduled to end their vacation, and that it was probable there would be some "confusion" in the coal fields then. He said he referred to the miners' long-time slogan of "no contract, no work."

At most points, UMW officers answered queries with a brief "no comment."

At Cumberland, Md., however, an unidentified UMW spokesman said: "The boys are very bitter about the slave-labor law, but we have planned no action here. The new law will probably be tested in court actions as a result of labor's protest in many places."

DETROIT, June 24 (AP)—The striking Foreman's Association of America asked the CIO United Auto Workers to respect picket lines around the Ford Motor company, a request which, if agreed to, would idle an estimated 85,000 production workers.

The same request was made to the UAW-CIO in connection with FAA strikes at the Gas Wood Industries, Inc., in Detroit, and the Midland Steel Products company in Cleveland.

President Robert H. Keys of the FAA, in a letter to Walter F. Reuther, head of the UAW-CIO, said the striking foremen were asking aid from production workers because "since the passage of the Taft-Hartley bill, the (Ford) company is determined to continue to operate its plants regardless of any financial loss and inferiority of their products."

Keys admitted that the 35-day strike of 3800 Ford foremen over terms of a proposed new contract had failed to close Ford plants as the FAA had anticipated.

Wilson outlined his views in a statement to the joint congressional committee on the economic recovery, and formally adopted a resolution regarding the bond issue. July 11 has been set as the date for receiving bids.

President of the board is L. Alva Lewis, and Clyde Williams is secretary. Other members are William S. Metter, Leon E. Judd and Cecil Praetner.

Fire District Bond Issue OK

With a vote of 63 to 7, voters in the south suburban area Monday put their okay on the special \$50,000 bond issue needed to create funds for the recently formed suburban rural fire protection district.

Bonded indebtedness will be undertaken to cover erection of a fire house, acquiring a site for a fire station, purchase of equipment, installation of water mains, hydrants, ponds, and reservoirs, and other necessary items.

Members of the board of directors met following the tabulation of votes, and formally adopted a resolution regarding the bond issue. July 11 has been set as the date for receiving bids.

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SEATTLE, June 24 (AP)—Two brothers, whose automobiles—both 1935 models of the same make—collided Saturday appeared in traffic court yesterday and each was found at fault.

Arnold Remestad, 23, truck driver, was fined \$50 for reckless driving, his license suspended 30 days and he was sentenced to 24 hours in jail, suspended. Edward Remestad, 25, a gardener, was fined \$25 for negligent driving.

Testimony showed Edward's automobile skidded to a stop and was rammed by Arnold's.

The two live at the same address.

Brigh, new street markings caught the 9 o'clock Special photographer's eye this morning as Tom Boyd was painting the stripes with an air gun on Main and 7th.

Times and News

PRICE FIVE CENTS KLAMATH FALLS, OREGON, TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 1947 (Telephone 8111) ** No. 10997

Missouri River Floods Farmland

Fire Devastates Harbor Area Following Tanker Explosion



Black columns of smoke rise from the burning tanker Markey as fireboats throw water on a burning pier at Wilmington, Calif., which was across channel from the ill-fated vessel. Firemen succeeded in keeping flames from big fuel storage tanks in foreground. Early damage estimates were two dead, 12 missing and above 100,000,000 damage.

Railroads Torn Out By Crest

OMAHA, June 24 (AP)—The swollen Missouri river neared record level in Southeast Nebraska today as it attempted to absorb the overflow from tributaries still spreading their destruction upstream.

At Rulo in Southeast Nebraska "Big Muddy" reached 26.65 at 8 a. m. today, only .31 of a foot below the all-time record 26.96 level set June 15. New crests on tributaries were expected to boost the figure to a new record.

In Iowa, towns along the lower Raccoon and Des Moines rivers—including Des Moines, Ottumwa and Van Meter—braced themselves for higher water today. Fort Dodge, Ia., lost its power and water supply as the upper Des Moines river inundated the power plant.

In Northeast Nebraska, a crest on the Elkhorn river was expected to reach Norfolk tonight. Today it was flooding thousands of acres and tearing away railroad and highway lines near Ewing and Neligh. At Columbus, Neb., where a fourth of the city was under water, emergency centers were set up at the city hall and hospitals to handle hundreds of evacuees. The Loup river at Columbus was three miles wide.

Rail and highway traffic in Nebraska, Iowa and Missouri was stopped completely in many areas by huge gaps in pavements and tracks beds, but torn telephone and telegraphic lines were being restored.

Behind the flood waters, residents of Nebraska towns and county repaired damages and cleared away debris, while ahead of the floods others moved to higher ground.

At Cambridge, in Southwest Nebraska, where 13 persons were drowned in Sunday's flash flood, the search continued for four bodies. Nine already have been recovered.

Two drownings near Miller, Neb., and a tornado death near Oxford, Neb., left Nebraska with a weekend toll of 16.

From Alma, Neb., farther east on the Republican river, came a report that the Republican river broke at the site of the Harlap county dam went out and dikes broke, necessitating weeks of delay in constructing the Nebraska's principal flood control structure. The bridge was completed only Friday.

The majority of the people of our country recognize this truth and an important step in this direction has just been taken by congress," he added, obviously referring to enactment of the Taft-Hartley labor bill which prohibits provisions designed to block "national paralysis" strikes.

Wilson outlined his views in a statement to the joint congressional committee on the economic recovery, and formally adopted a resolution regarding the bond issue. July 11 has been set as the date for receiving bids.

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GM President Lauds Measure

WASHINGTON, June 24 (AP)—Charles E. Wilson, president of General Motors, told congress today that what the nation needs most is "continuous, uninterrupted, efficient production."

As to make that possible, he said, the nation "must be protected from . . . national paralysis strikes that paralyze whole vital industries or shut down one important community after another."

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In The Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

These words are written, the new labor law—enacted by congress, vetoed by the President and re-enacted over the veto by thumping majorities in both house and senate—dominates the home front. The impression we get from the news is one of uproar and confusion.

KEEP this fact clear in your mind: POLITICS enters heavily into the situation. Next year is a Presidential year. In preparation for "presidential" campaign in the democracy of the United States of America, we make big medicine. That accounts for a lot of the uproar.

ON the political side, the rafters are rattling this morning with threats to go out after every congressman and senator who voted for the bill or had anything to do with its enactment and run them out.

Well, the congressmen and the senators who voted for the new law in the first place and then voted to pass it over the President's veto knew all that in advance. They knew what they would have to face. They are among the shrewdest judges of public opinion we have. If they hadn't believed there is strong public demand for what they have done, they wouldn't have done it.

No we may assume that there are TWO sides to the political issue that is involved.

KEEP this fact also in mind:

Basically, the new law amends the Wagner act. The Wagner act put too much power in too few hands. That was its greatest fault. Collective bargaining is merely collective BARGAINING. If you and I sit down at a table to make a bargain and I have TOO MUCH POWER, the contract we make is pretty likely to be badly one-sided. All business men know that a contract (which is simply the written memorandum of a bargain that has been made) is pretty likely to be unprofitable if it is badly one-sided—that is to say, if it gives the bulk of the benefits to one side.

Hard experience has taught us that very, very many of these bargains (with their accompanying contracts) have worked out unsatisfactorily in practice. That is why the demand has arisen for amendment of the Wagner act.

ALWAYS in the past, our labor laws have been one-sided. For generations, business had too much power. This power was abused. Then came the Wagner act, with its grant of too much power to the labor. That power has likewise been abused.

What we must have, if there is to be industrial peace and the great prosperity we all want and can have if we go about it right, is a balanced law that is NEITHER SIDED too much power. That, and only that, can insure the co-operation we must have if we are to get where we want to get.

AMONG EQUALS works. There is seldom much co-operation between a big man with a club and a little man with a toothpick.

WHAT the public wants is a law that will be fair to both sides. The Wagner act wasn't fair. The labor laws in the old days weren't fair. The fact is generally recognized that we need to make a new start.

If this new law proves to be unfair to labor, as its political enemies assert, we can amend it. The unprejudiced, non-political public will DEMAND amendment if it turns out that all we have done is to put too much power back into one set of hands.

The thing to do is to see if we can make it work. If, in practice, we find sections that are unworkable (because they put too much power in too few hands) we can amend these sections so that they will work.

Making our industrial system work is the goal that all good citizens want to reach.

Search Made For Plane

LA GRANDE, June 24 (AP)—Search for a missing airplane, lost in a BT-13 between Boise and Spokane June 9, was continued today as army air rescue planes continued their search over the mountainous Hite area.

Army officials directing the search here said today their efforts to locate the plane and its pilot, Clarence T. Welton of Dallas, Tex., will continue for another week or 10 days.

Three army C-47 transports were expected to join the search today as the scene of the hunt shifted toward the Elkhorn ridge area.

Body Of Merrill Boy Still Unrecovered From River

Still unrecovered is the body of an 8-year-old Merrill boy who is believed to have drowned in Lost river, a mile and a half west of Merrill about noon yesterday.

The boy, identified as George Dickenson, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas E. Watson. The stepfather works at Fulelike and the family only recently came to live in Merrill.

Deputy Sheriff Jack Franey and other officers dragged the bottom of the river from the bridge where the last disappearance was reported, but without result. The search, with four boats taking part, is going on today.

A gillnet has been stretched across the river still farther downstream on the chance that the body might roll on the bottom. This is the first time the gillnet has been used in a search of this type in Klamath county.

The Dickenson boy was playing with a 9-year-old lad, Wesley McAlester, when he disappeared. Wesley was unable to give officers much

Reds Quash Balkan Query

LONDON, June 24 (AP)—An authoritative British source reported today that Russia, for the second time in two weeks, had rejected a British request for "clarification" of the situation in Hungary.

A foreign office spokesman confirmed receipt in London of a Russian reply to the memorandum submitted to Soviet Foreign Minister V. M. Molotov in Moscow on June 17, but said he could not disclose its contents.

The Russian note, the spokesman said, was delivered here over the week-end, presumably at the same time that Soviet Ambassador Georgi Zarubin transmitted his government's acceptance of the British-French invitation to attend three-power talks on European reconstruction.

Chairman Knutson (R-Minn.) of the house ways and means committee today reintroduced the vetoed bill cutting income taxes \$4,000,000 annually. The new version makes the slash effective next January 1 instead of July 1, this year.

Knutson told reporters the action was taken "with the approval of" House Speaker Martin (R-Mass.) and Republican Leader Halleck of Indiana.

However, he said the bill will not be taken up before congress adjourns in August. He said the demand for it to put it over. This means a two-thirds majority in both houses.

Evidently anticipating another veto, if congress sends such a bill to the White House again, he said: "If there's a big enough demand, we'll take it up; if not we'll keep it on ice."

Tax Bill Reintroduced

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French Tax Measure OK'd

PARIS, June 24 (AP)—Premier Paul Ramadier's drastic tax bill—which will raise prices of such items as bread, milk and cigarettes—was adopted today by the French national assembly.

The vote was 302 to 241, fifty-nine members abstained.

The measure, which includes administration economies and the suppression of state subsidies, is designed to raise 136,000,000,000 francs (\$1,142,000,000).

A series of strikes protesting the measure broke out in scattered parts of France. About 150,000 coal miners walked out in the nationalized northern coal fields. At Marseille the labor federation ordered a two-hour demonstration strike which threatened to tie up the nation's largest port this afternoon.

The assembly voted for an all-night session.

Here are the items changed: Sheriff's office, salary for three tax deputies, increased from \$6660 to \$7000.

Treasurer's office, salary for one deputy, increased from \$2100 to \$2200.

Bus, Hotel Incidents Eyed As Best Clue In Girl Case

The strange actions of a man who was seen on a southbound Trailways bus and later in Klamath Falls with a little girl on June 13, were still considered by authorities here today as the best clue in the effort to identify little "Miss X," the Weed beating victim.

State police disclosed they had learned that the man registered at the Willard hotel here on the night of June 13 at Grover Hall, asking for a crib to be placed in his room. Fifteen minutes later he cancelled the reservation.

Officers said this man, together with a woman and a little girl, got on a southbound Trailways bus at Bend on the night of June 13. The man and woman were ordered from the bus at Chemult by the bus driver because they were causing a commotion.

That night, the driver reported, he saw the man and little girl at the Willard hotel. A few minutes after the man saw the bus driver at the hotel, he cancelled the registration, and disappeared.

It was on the following week-end that a little girl was found, beaten and criminally mistreated, in brush behind a Weed dance hall, and witnesses reported having seen her arrive in Weed on a southbound Geryhoun bus from Klamath Falls. The girl has not been identified, and no one has claimed her despite widespread publicity.

State police said today that several persons who were on the Trailways bus on the trip from Bend to Chemult have tentatively identified the little girl from pictures as the same girl who was on the bus. They said positive identification could not be made unless the witnesses saw the girl at Yreka, where she is in a hospital. Some of the witnesses said the girl addressed the man on the bus as "Uncle Grover."

There has been no trace of the woman who was with the man and girl on the bus.

A Yreka source today suggested the possibility of connecting this Klamath incident with the case of a woman amnesia victim who was found on the street at Dunsmuir on the same week-end. This woman was holding a pair of shoes in her arms, much as one would a baby, and appeared to be waiting or looking for some one.

She is still unidentified. It was pointed out that the lack of any reports of missing children or anyone claiming little Miss X might be explained if it were found the woman amnesia victim—the same woman who was on the bus with the man and girl in northern Klamath county.

Pictures of the amnesia victim will be sent here and further effort will be made to identify her and the child.

Two Die In Auto Accidents Today

PORTLAND, June 24 (AP)—Traffic accidents killed two persons in the Portland area last night.

An automobile and a gasoline truck collided in the city, killing Hans Gysler, 67, Portland, plastering contractor, a passenger in the automobile. The driver, Leonard Mikkelson, 27, Portland, suffered slight injuries. The truck burst into flame, but its driver, Clifford Smith, Vancouver, Wash., leaped to safety.

Near Gresham an automobile skidded off the Mt. Hood loop highway, fatally injuring Mrs. Katie Kalama, Warm Springs Indian reservation. The car was driven by Clifford Barney Tulee, 23, Harrah, Wash., who escaped injury.

County Budget Committee Pares Figures By \$1271.40

The county budget committee, in making its final draft of the county's fiscal document for 1947-48 raised its sights a trifle on four current expense items and did some paring of the amount of money to go into the stand-by emergency fund, all in all whacking off \$1271.40 of the collective property owner's tax bill.

No changes were made in the amount of funds earmarked for roads.

The public hearing, conducted last Friday by the budget committee, was very quiet and in the main the budget document remains just as it has been published previously. The budget committee merely took its estimated receipts and tallored the estimated expenditures for 1947-1948 to fit.

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Treasurer's office, salary for one deputy, increased from \$2100 to \$2200.

Emergency fund decreased from \$34,700 to \$32,984.60.

Cultural Fund Okayed Today

WASHINGTON, June 24 (AP)—The senate appropriations committee today recommended granting \$11,500,000 to carry on for another year the state department's cultural and information program, including the "Voice of America" broadcasts to Russia.

The action was taken in approving a total of \$538,976,492—or approximately \$12,900,000 more than the house allowed—for operation of the state justice and commerce departments and the federal judiciary during the fiscal year beginning July 1.

Of the total, \$234,324,703 was recommended for the state department.

The house had voted to eliminate the information program by denying it any share of the state department's funds. The senate committee, in restoring the item, proposed \$11,500,000 for operating expenses and \$1,500,000 to close out part of the program, including the agency's New York office.

Truman Receives Firecracker

WASHINGTON, June 24 (AP)—Michael D. Condatore, aged 2½, was a White House caller today and gave President Truman a firecracker.

Mr. Truman gave him a small bronze hat as a souvenir.

Michael is the son of Mrs. Ruth Condatore, secretary of the American Cavalcade of Freedom, which is going to put on a Fourth of July celebration here.

The purpose of his visit—accompanied by E. F. Harloff, publicity chairman—was to invite the president to attend. Mr. Truman explained that he has a previous engagement to speak at Thomas Jefferson's home near Charlottesville, Va.

Reed Retains School Post

Only 40 votes were cast in Monday's school balloting with Nelson Reed, incumbent, unanimously re-elected to serve a five-year term on school board No. 2, Klamath Union high school.

Reed's was the only name appearing on the ballot. His recently completed term was also for a five-year period. Polls were at KUHS from 2 to 7 p. m. yesterday.

Emergency fund decreased from \$34,700 to \$32,984.60.

Library fund for books increased from \$2786 to \$3321.40.

Library fund for salaries increased from \$12,985 to \$13,685.

Bus, Hotel Incidents Eyed As Best Clue In Girl Case

The strange actions of a man who was seen on a southbound Trailways bus and later in Klamath Falls with a little girl on June 13, were still considered by authorities here today as the best clue in the effort to identify little "Miss X," the Weed beating victim.

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