

German Workers Idle As Food Shortage Strike Hits Ruhr District Industries

BERLIN, Jan. 16 (AP)—Some 75,000 German workers were idle today in four Ruhr valley cities in strikes protesting food shortages. Authorities feared the strike movement would spread swiftly in Germany's industrial heart where hunger grips 4,000,000 workers. Many of them are living on starvation diets.

German newspapers in the western occupation zones linked the labor crisis with what they call a communist master scheme, "protocol M," to wreck the Marshall plan.

About 50,000 workers walked out at Duisburg, Muehlheim and Dinslaken, quietly and without demonstrations. About 25,000 already were on strike at Oberhausen.

Coal miners and most workers in essential services remained on their jobs. Shiploadings at Duisburg, the huge inland port at the junction of the Rhine and Ruhr rivers, continued uninterrupted. Freight trains were halted at Duisburg, but passenger trains were running.

Strikes and possible riots were predicted last night by Hans Boeckler, head of the German federation of trade unions, after a conference of German and British officials on the food crisis, which ended without any action to relieve the shortages.

Boeckler, a moderate, said he is opposed to the strikes, but that stoppages are certain when people are hungry.

Simultaneously, Germany's sputtering political situation boiled up. Several old line German communists revealed they had split with Moscow-directed communists and formed an opposition party.

The Moscow radio added its bit to the Ruhr's turbulent political pot by broadcasting a special program to hungry Ruhr miners seeking to prove that the way to more potatoes was through the communist party.

Calory Drop
The Ruhr, which has remained comparatively quiet since last winter's food riots, sprang suddenly into the European picture when the 1550 calory subsistence ration level dropped in many places to 1200 and even 1100 levels.

Although British-American food imports have been on schedule, collections from German farmers have not.

American and British military governments blamed German officials for failure to collect. German officials in turn blamed the military governments for not giving them power to enforce collections.

Against the advice of their union leaders, Ruhr workers have launched protest strikes.

Starting with 25,000 yesterday, the ranks of the strikers appeared to be swelling well over the 100,000 mark today and a general strike involving most of the 4,000,000 workers threatened the entire Ruhr.

"Protocol M" was reported to be an operational order from the cominform — communist "international information bureau" — for a paralyzing strike in the Ruhr in March, aimed at smashing the Marshall plan.

Details of the alleged plan first were published in the French-controlled German newspaper Der Kuerer, but within a few hours military government officials, the British foreign office and German social democrat leader Dr. Kurt Schumacher all said they had copies of the "secret" document. Foreign office officials in London said they believed the document was "genuine."

Truman Hits Senate Over Kuter Ruling

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16 (AP)—President Truman today described as a "disservice" to the country a senate committee's rejection of legislation to let Maj. Gen. Laurence S. Kuter serve as chairman of the civil aeronautics board while getting military pay.

Mr. Truman expressed his views in a letter to Chairman Gurney (R-S. D.) of the senate armed services committee, which voted unanimously against the legislation.

The White House made public the president's letter, addressed to "Dear Chairman."

"I am somewhat surprised at the action by your committee on Kuter," the president wrote.

Fitted For Job
"The congress had made a special arrangement for the general to hold his present job and I supposed that there would be no objection to a man of ability and efficiency and lack of political contacts becoming chairman of the civil aeronautics board because his present experience eminently fits him for that job."

Kuter is now United States representative on the international civil aviation organization at Montreal.

When Press Secretary Charles Ross made public the president's letter, a reporter asked if the committee would be asked to reconsider.

Ross said the committee's action by unanimous vote seemed to have been "pretty final."

The CAB post has been vacant since January 1, when Chairman James M. Landis' term expired and Mr. Truman decided against reappointing him.

Wayne Scott said a few words about the game tonight. Bob then introduced Bill Proctor, the teen-age director, who urged the students to back the club, and attend the after-game dance Saturday night. This assembly was also intended to encourage attendance at the wrestling match between Klamath and Springfield held in the girls' gym at 3:30 today.

At the after-game dance Saturday night in the Legion hall, a half-hour broadcast will be relayed over station KFLW. At this time, Bill Proctor will speak over the air, along with several officers of the junior and senior councils. Some music by Baldy's band and student interviews will be broadcast. That's 10:30 to 11, over KFLW.

The voting on the 31 constitutional revision measures took place in study halls today. The election boards functioned all day long, collecting and counting the 1100 some ballots. The results will show whether or not the student body was in favor of wrestling as a major sport, different methods of electing the traditions and assembly committees, requiring everyone to own a student body card to be able to vote in student body elections, and many items concerning the sports and sports awards.

Oregon Fairs Confab Opens
PORTLAND, Jan. 16 (AP)—The annual convention of the Oregon Fairs association convened here Thursday for three days of discussion among officers of fairs, livestock and land products expositions.

Herman H. Chindgren, Molalla, president for the past 20 years, said the association likely would protest the federal 20 per cent amusement tax on admission to non-profit fairs.

Officers will be elected Saturday.

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Patnam, who called the strike "a phenomenon in this arid region," said the flow of 37,600 gallons daily may be doubled by installation of a gasoline-driven pump. He plans to irrigate the area and plant trees.

STOVEPIPE WELLS, Calif., Jan. 16 (AP)—Water flowed at 40 gallons a minute today from a new-found well in the parched wastes of Death Valley where gold-seekers died of thirst in the days of the forty-niners.

The well was uncovered by drillers who sank a 200-foot shaft on the 80-acre property of resort operators George Putnam, at one time married to the late aviatrix Amelia Earhart, and Frank Morris of Denver.

Death Valley Well Is Gusher

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High School!

News and Comment
By MARY LOU CASE




Tonight's a big night for the Pelican basketball squad. If they can beat the usually formidable Black Tornado it will certainly be another feather for the cap. The game starts at 8 o'clock, the preliminary, Medford JV's vs. Pelican JV's starts at 7 p. m. Rosemary Bigbie will handle the half-time broadcast over KFLW.

As the students scrambled into the auditorium today the band played "Mighty Pelicans" to get everyone into the mood for tonight's game. Bob Mahoney was emcee for the pep assembly. Entertainment was furnished by Joe Demetras singing a song and acting out a short skit. Loren Simons introduced the wrestling team.

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Real Estate Case Dropped

A lawsuit involving a \$1075 commission allegedly due J. W. Sanders, local real estate agent, was dismissed in circuit court yesterday before it was scheduled to go to the jury. Insufficiency of evidence was the cause of dismissal.

Defendant in the suit was J. E. Whitlatch, Bonanza rancher, and the trial concerned sale of a farm owned by Whitlatch to Joe Illian on March 12, 1946. The farm is located near Malin.

Whitlatch said he listed the farm for sale with Sanders from January 19 to March 1 of last year, then sold it himself to Illian for \$21,500. Sanders was asking a commission on the sale.

Whitlatch was represented by A. W. Schaupp, Sanders by J. C. O'Neill.

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Pure Ground Beef lb. 39c
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