End Of Meat Strike Held Possible As Workers Vote Wage Demand Acceptance

By The Associated Press

The possible end of the prolonged meat strike and removal of a strike threat at International Harvester company plants were bright spots in the nation's industrial strife today.

Results of the vote by the striking CIO packing house workers on whether to end their 67-day-old strike were expected to be announced today at the union's national headquarters in Chicago.

Herbert March, strike director, predicted the vote to end the work stoppage on company terms will favor return to all plants except Wilson and company. He predicted a close vote for returning to work at plants of three other major packers — Swift, Cudahy and Armour.

National Guard

As the votes were being tabulated, national guardsmen continued to patrol strikebound plants in Waterloo, Ia., and in Albert Lea, South St. Paul and Newport, Minn., scenes of recent disorders.

The big Rath packing plant at Waterloo, Ia., closed for 24 hours after rioting in which a CIO packing house union picket was killed, reopened for limited production under protection of nearly 1000 national guardsmen.

The reopening went off calmly.

Last week state troops were sent into the violence-ridden packing plants at South St. Paul, Newport and Albert Lea. The guardsmen were called out in both Minnesota and Iowa after issuance of court injunctions banning mass picketing.

The estimated 100,000 striking packing house workers voted last night on acceptance of a nine-cent hourly pay boost, retroactive to the March 16 strike call; retention of all seniority rights and arbitration with the companies on possible discharge of workers accused of unlawful acts during the strike.

Wage Demand

The union struck in support of demands for a wage hike of 29 cents an hour, rejecting company offers of nine cents. March said the union recommended strikers to vote against returning to Wilson plants because the company proposed to reserve the right to re-employ all strikers and said it would not rehire workers charged with unlawful acts. About 8000 workers are normally employed at the struck plants operated by Wilson.

In Washington, John L. Lewis was asked by the soft coal operators to resume contract negotiations which broke down Wednesday. The United Mine Workers president did not immediately reply. The operators had told Lewis it was a "mistake" for him to insist on excluding southern producers from the contract negotiations. The present one-year contract expires June 30.

Sign Agreement

Officials of the International Harvester company and the CIO Farm Equipment union signed an agreement in Chicago to extend contracts to June 28. The working agreements cover 40,000 employes in 12 plants.

The union, under terms of the Taft-Hartley act, had taken all procedure necessary to call a strike.

In Peoria, Ill., the CIO United Auto Workers, elected bargaining agent for the Caterpillar Tractor company at a special runoff NLRB election yesterday, planned to open wage negotiations today.

RECORD

PORTLAND, May 21 (AP)—Portland, with 10 days left in May, has already issued more building permits than in any previous month except one.

A new construction record would be set if the May total tops the all-time high of $7,274,045 set last March. So far in May, the total is $5,162,930.

It Pays to Use the Want-Ads!

Douglas Fir Production Up

PORTLAND, Ore., May 21 (AP)—Douglas fir production is running 20 per cent above last year's output, the West Coast Lumbermen's association reported today.

The cut in the first 17 weeks of the year totaled 2,875,188,000 board feet. Last year it was 2,614,964,000 and in 1946 it was 2,510,909,000.

April's weekly average production dropped from 176,036,000 feet the previous month to 148,339,000 due in part, the association reported, to a strike of boommen and rafters.

Orders climbed sharply in April to a weekly average of 179,729,000 feet compared with 167,234,000 in March, but shipments were down—averaging 153,019,000 board feet weekly in April and 174,930,000 in March. Unfilled orders at the end of the month were 749,031,000 feet.

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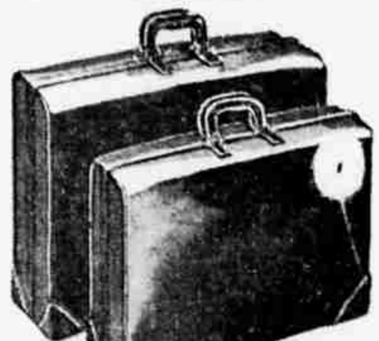

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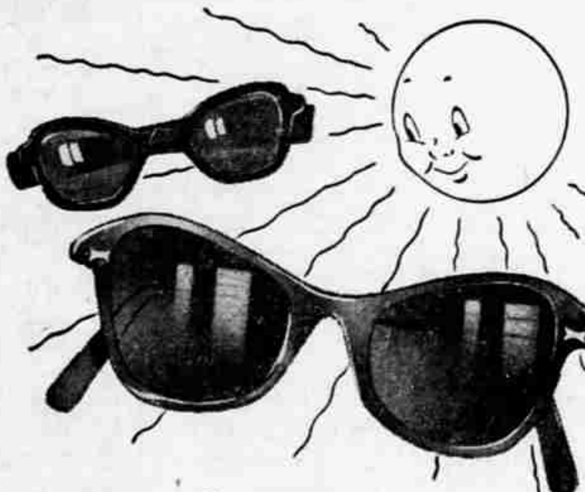

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