

# STEEL PRICE HIKE PROBE SET

## In The Day's News

**By FRANK JENKINS**  
 THEY held an election in Bulgaria yesterday. This morning's dispatches report that in Sofia (Bulgaria's capital) "almost 99 per cent of the voters cast ballots for the parliamentary candidates of the government's communist-dominated Fatherland Front... over the country, scattered returns indicated a vote of 97 to 100 per cent for the government's candidates."

**H-m-m-m-m.** That's a smashing victory. Even the Democrats can't do that well in this country. Communism must be popular in Bulgaria.

**BUT** wait a minute. Let's read a little deeper into the dispatch. Maybe the details will enlighten us somewhat as to how landslides like that can be brought about.

Down in the smaller-print paragraphs we find this explanatory matter:  
 "As each voter entered the polling place, his name was checked against a registration list. He was handed an unsealed envelope which he carried into the secret voting booth. There he picked up his ballot, WHICH CARRIED ONLY THE FATHERLAND FRONT CANDIDATES, sealed it in the envelope and dropped it in a closed ballot box. "OPPOSITION COULD BE REGISTERED ONLY BY HANDING IN AN EMPTY ENVELOPE, OR ENCLOSING AN ODD SCRAP OF PAPER ON WHICH NO NAMES COULD BE WRITTEN."

That helps to explain the splendid vote the communists got in Bulgaria. When there is only ONE TICKET in the field, and no write-ins are permitted, and failure to vote at all is regarded with great suspicion, the incumbents can roll up majorities that are extremely impressive.

**THIS** is about the only possible comment:  
 That is what happens when there is only one party—as in Bulgaria, and in ALL of the countries run by the communists.

It is another evidence of what happens when too much power is placed in too few hands.

**I'D** like to offer one modest suggestion at this point:  
 In this country, we aren't likely to pass a law decreasing that the party in power shall be the only party permitted to have candidates on the ballot and that no write-ins shall be allowed. With our glorious tradition of freedom of the individual to choose the kind of government he prefers, that couldn't come about short of say half a dozen generations.

But if the political estate of the Republican party should fall so low that NO REPUBLICAN COULD EVER HOPE TO BE ELECTED we would drift automatically and more or less imperceptibly into the ONE-PARTY system that now prevails by law in the behind-the-iron-curtain countries of Europe and Asia.

**PERSONALLY,** I'm going to go on being a Republican—PARTLY BECAUSE THE REPUBLICAN PARTY IS THE PARTY OF OPPOSITION and without a party of opposition we could fall in time into all the evils that are inherent in one-party government.

## Bus Wreck Kills 6; Crew Sought

**ACAPULCO, Mexico, Dec. 19 (AP)**—Six persons were killed yesterday when a bus rolled off the road into a deep ravine. The other 27 passengers were injured. Three victims were children.  
 The chauffeur and conductor could not be found. Passengers said they were not injured. Police are looking for them.



**INTO THE WALL**—Firemen were called to the pine room of the Elks lodge Saturday afternoon to battle a blaze started in a wall of the lounge room. The fire forced the Elks to shift their Christmas party for children to the armory.

## Youth Lost In Frigid Mountains

**WALLA WALLA, Wash., Dec. 19 (AP)**—Lost for four days in the 10-below-zero cold of the snow-covered Blue mountains, 18-year-old Donald McDonald was being sought today by nearly two-score volunteers who planned to criss-cross the rugged area on skis, snowshoes and dogsleds.

The Walla Walla youth wandered away from an elk hunting camp last Thursday. His plight became known late Saturday when a companion, Jack Farquharson, staggered into the sheriff's office after trying futilely for two days to organize a search party of other hunters.

Farquharson, suffering from frostbite and barely able to walk, said he had encountered snowdrifts three and four feet deep. He was brought here by a motorist after reaching a road with a horse borrowed from another hunter.

Twenty-five volunteers plodded on snowshoes over the Black Snake ridge area 20 miles southeast of here yesterday. They reported no luck. Several cabins in which the youth might have taken refuge, were vacant.

## Weyerhaeuser Workers Win Meals Case

Weyerhaeuser Timber company must bargain with the IWA-CIO on the price of meals served at company dining rooms at its Klamath Falls plants and logging camps, the national labor relations board has ruled.

The board's vote was 41 in favor of the union on a question pending for over a year. Local 6-12, International Woodworkers of America, protested the company's stand on pricing its meals a year ago.

**Not Retroactive**  
 The board refused, however, to order the company to pay back workers for a .10-cent meal price increase put into effect without consulting the union.

Particularly at distant logging camps, employees are required to live and eat at company facilities and the NLRB ruled this meant prices charged workers for meals served by the company are part of their conditions of employment and the company is obliged to bargain with the union on any price changes.

Board Member J. Copeland Gray dissented, saying the majority ruling was "an unwarranted extension of the bargaining obligations placed on the employers under the federal law or relations act."

## 5 Children Die in Fire

**EMMETT, Mich., Dec. 19 (AP)**—Five children in the same family, trapped in their upstairs bedroom, burned to death this morning when a flash fire raged through a two-story frame farmhouse.  
 The parents, Clarence Bethway and his wife, Irene, about 40, escaped with five of their 11 children and Bethway's 80-year-old mother, through downstairs windows.  
 Three brothers and two sisters lost their lives.  
 Dead were Freddie Bethway, 2; Beverly Ann, 4; David, 5; Billy, 7; and Thomas, 11.

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**SANTA GETS AROUND**—The top picture was taken at Tulelake Saturday afternoon as southend youngsters gathered around the town tree for Tulelake's annual Christmas party, and the lower photo shows Santa at the Klamath Falls armory yesterday afternoon for the Elks Christmas party.

## Youngsters Sad, Shep Gone

Has anyone seen Shep?  
 If you have, run—don't walk—to the nearest phone and call his little companions, Fritzie and Boo Howard who are sore-hearted this holiday season over the loss of their puppy.

Shep is three months old and a woolly ball of tan fur. He followed the Frederick Howard family down town last Friday night when they went Christmas shopping and was lost in the crowd. Shep has a black nose and black ears and isn't old enough to boast a license.

If anyone has him safe and sound, will they return him to Fritzie and Boo at 708 Jefferson or call 3647 and their pet will be happily picked up.

## Indian Shot, Critical, Man Charged

Buster J. Dickens, 42-year-old Pitt Indian, was critically wounded by gunfire last night and Donald Schonchin, 21, is held in the county jail on a federal charge of assault with intent to kill.  
 Dickens was shot in the side near the kidney "at least once" officers said. X-rays taken at Klamath Valley hospital this morning showed one bullet but there were two wounds in Dickens' back. He was moved by Kaler's ambulance.

**Shooting**  
 The shooting occurred at Schonchin's home at the Sprague River junction sometime after 6 o'clock. Officers here were not notified until about 10 o'clock. Indian service officers were continuing an investigation today.

The weapon used apparently was a .38 revolver.  
 Young Schonchin was taken into custody at his home and brought to the county jail by a state police officer early this morning.  
 Schonchin was brought before U. S. Commissioner Bert C. Thomas this morning for arraignment and asked for an attorney. He retained J. C. O'Neill.

**LANDMARK BURNS**  
**MATLAKATLA, Alaska, Dec. 19 (AP)**—Fire destroyed the Duncan Memorial church here yesterday. It had been a landmark in this southeastern Alaska Indian community for nearly 60 years, although rebuilt shortly before World War II. The blaze was believed caused by a faulty heating plant.

**5 SHOPPING DAYS LEFT**

**BUY CHRISTMAS SEALS!**

## Sad Yuletide For Youngster

**MONTGOMERY, W. Va., Dec. 19 (AP)**—A nine-year-old polio patient at the Marmet hospital waited in vain yesterday for her parents to arrive with long-anticipated Christmas presents.

They were injured critically in an automobile accident while on their way to see her and died en route to a hospital here.

The parents were Jack N. Fleishman, 29, and Retha Roxana Fleishman, 28, of Greenbrier county, W. Va.

The presents for Joan were scattered through the wreckage of the car, which was in collision with a tractor-trailer truck on U. S. route 60 at Cedar Grove.

## Kids' Christmas Party Friday

A Christmas party for all children in the Klamath area will be held Friday night at 7 o'clock in the armory.  
 The party is sponsored by the Junior chamber of commerce and the Moose lodge.  
 Santa Claus will be present and there will be gifts, entertainment and treats for youngsters. Parents should accompany youngsters to the party.

## Siskiyou Wreck Kills Four

Four persons are dead and several critically injured in a two-car collision which brought to a tragic end holiday journeys for two families at 3:30 p. m. Saturday, 17 miles north of Weed near Grass Lake on highway 97 south of here.

It was only one of a dozen accidents over the week-end attributed to snow and ice in that sector.

**Dead are:**  
 Mrs. Ledda McMillan, 37, Milbrae, Calif.

Frank McMillan Jr., 5, her son.  
 Charles McMillan, 1 year, her daughter.

Mrs. Margaret Low, 26, Pullman, Wash.  
 Mrs. McMillan and her son died Saturday at the scene as did Mrs. Low. The little girl, Charleen, died last night at 6:15 o'clock at Weed hospital in Weed.

**In Coma**  
 Frank A. McMillan Sr., husband of Ledda, was in a coma at Weed hospital. His condition is critical. One other McMillan child, Jeanne, 4, has minor injuries.

David Low, 27, husband of Margaret, and their children, Tom, 21 months, and Michael, 7 months, are also in Weed hospital but not seriously injured.  
 The tragic accident brought Siskiyou county's traffic death toll to 23 for the year 1949.

**Fatal Skid**  
 California highway patrol said the car driven by McMillan skidded on the ice packed highway and swung broadside in front of the Low machine. The McMillan family was bound for Tacoma, Wash., to spend the holidays with relatives. Low, a veterinary student at Washington State college, was en route home to Ventura, Calif., for the holidays.

On Friday afternoon, at the same spot where the three died, James B. Burton, 26, Seattle, was critically injured and his passenger, Charles D. Allen, 20, Spokane, received minor hurts. Officers said Burton was the driver of the car and he fell asleep at the wheel and the car overturned. Both are in Weed hospital.

## City Yule Tree Prices High Again

Even though some Christmas trees are cut in front yards or over the next hill around Klamath Falls, tree prices in downtown areas range anywhere from 50 cents to over \$1 per foot for better quality trees.

One Boy Scout group was reported to be selling Christmas trees for \$1 per tree, averaging three to five feet in height.  
 Prices around town are not much less than in larger cities out of the forest areas. San Francisco tree prices are reported to be about \$1 per foot for good trees.

**Expensive**  
 Shasta firs, known as "silver tips" range higher in price both here and places where trees have to be shipped in. Some "silver tips" bring upwards from \$15 to \$20, depending on size and shape.

Trees were sold to buyers early this fall on the government forest reserve at a price of 20 cents a foot, according to R. L. Cooper, chief forest ranger here.  
 Trees which were shipped out were cut in October and stored. However, most trees for sale around Klamath Falls have been cut recently.

## Nationalists Recapture Kuming

**TAIPEH, Formosa, Dec. 19 (AP)**—Kuming, important World War II U. S. base, was recaptured today by Chinese Nationalists, the fugitive Nationalist government announced here.  
 The government said its 26th army seized the large South China city from defending provincial troops who took it over as the Nationalist government fled here from Chengtu.

Li Mi, Nationalist commander at Kuming, was released at the airport. He had been held there by soldiers of turncoat Gen. Lu Han, governor of Yunnan province.

**Flight**  
 Lu and his troops hurriedly fled westward along the Burma road. Nationalist planes strafed them inflicting heavy casualties, the government said.



**WILLED \$100,000**—Mrs. Leona M. Smith (above), 40, a waitress in a Chicago Loop hotel (Morrison) coffee shop, was willed an estate valued at more than \$100,000 by Lucien G. Walker, former head of the Walker Cotton Fabrics company of Chicago. Walker's sisters-in-law, both Vicksburg, Miss., widows, are contesting the will. Mrs. Smith said she, her husband, and their daughter called him (Walker) Uncle Jerry when he was a guest in their home on Sundays and holidays. The contestants of the will are Mrs. Wyma Perry Spann and Mrs. Olive Perry Maupin, sister of Walker's wife. Walker was 83 when he died December 9.

## 2 City Women Hurt as Car Overtakes

Two women were injured, one critically, when their Alturas bound car struck an icy spot on the highway 20 miles south of Tulelake and overturned.

In Klamath Valley hospital are Mrs. Alvin (Ruth) Moxness, 37, and Mrs. Robert B. (Orlean) Toogood, 50.

Mrs. Moxness has a fractured vertebrae and her condition was reported serious today. Mrs. Toogood has back hurts but she is not critically hurt.

The women were in the back seat of a car driven by Alvin Moxness, 1913 Last, foreman for Ralph L. Smith Lumber company. Seated beside Moxness was Toogood, accountant with Ralph L. Smith. Moxness was uninjured but Toogood suffered hurts treated at Klamath Valley hospital. He was able to return to his home, 534 N. 9th.

The party was en route to Alturas at about 3:30 p. m. to visit friends for the afternoon.  
 Mrs. Toogood was moved to Tulelake by a passing motorist and brought from Dr. I. Sponer's office to Klamath Valley hospital by Kaler's ambulance. Mrs. Moxness was not moved for several hours and was finally picked up by the Alturas ambulance and brought to the hospital here.

Jim Kaler, who made the run, said the roads were in bad shape, icy and snowpacked, and he was able to travel at a maximum speed of between 40 and 45 miles per hour.

**ENGAGED**  
**MADRID, Dec. 19 (AP)**—Generalissimo Franco yesterday announced the engagement of his 23-year-old daughter, Carmen, to the 29-year-old Marquis de Villaverde, a doctor.

## Solon Cites Danger To Economy

**WASHINGTON, Dec. 19 (AP)**—The senate-house economic committee will open an investigation next month into the price increase announced by U. S. Steel corporation, last week.

Chairman O'Mahoney (D-Wyo.) told a reporter: "We already have our staff at work on preparations and we will be ready to begin hearings sometime early in January."

Benjamin Fairless, president of the steel firm, has said he would welcome a chance to explain to congress in detail why it was found necessary to raise the price of steel \$4 a ton.

**Excuses**  
 Fairless said when he announced the price boost that operating costs had gone up, partly because of new pension and insurance programs negotiated by the CIO steelworkers. O'Mahoney held that the price increase was unjustified and so notified members of the congressional group. He said the committee members of the congressional group. He said the committee members generally agreed on the need for an investigation.

The senator said he knew nothing of reports that Philip Murray, president of both the CIO and the steelworkers' union, will follow up Fairless' action by seeking a wage increase. The new union-steel contract provides that it cannot be reopened for wage increase talks.

**Dangerous**  
 "I do know," O'Mahoney said, "that the economy of the country just can't stand a continuous wave of inflation."

"I feel that the management leaders in the steel industry, which is in an unusually favorable financial position, are the ones who ought to take the lead in preventing a resumption of inflation."  
 Senator Flanders (R-Vt.), a committee member, said he thinks U. S. Steel will have difficulty justifying its action.

## Fire Damages 'Pine Room' At Elks Club

A fire Saturday afternoon extensively damaged the pine room on the second floor of the Elks lodge and caused a quick shift of the scheduled children's Christmas party to the armory Sunday.  
 The blaze caused an estimated \$2500 worth of damage to the wall, paneling and ceiling of the lounge room and the attic.

Apparently the blaze started from a hotplate in a wall shelf in the pine room. It was discovered by several members of the lodge who were decorating for the Christmas party, and several large fire extinguishers were turned on the fire through a hole chopped in the wall before fire trucks arrived.

One fireman was left in the room while fire equipment was being packed back on the trucks and he discovered the blaze breaking out again in the ceiling toward the attic, so the hoses had to be brought back into use.

**Show Goes On**  
 The children's Christmas party, hastily moved to the armory, entertained over 600 youngsters yesterday afternoon. Entertainment included a trapeze act and music by the Elks orchestra, directed by Baldy Evans.

Kyle Morgan, a member of the orchestra, doubled as Santa.

**Meet the People**

**BUSY AS A BIRD DOG** is Elmer Langer of Railway Express who is snapped while writing out a holiday express order for The Herald and News photographer.