

# Steelworkers Accept WSB Wage Offer; Wait For Company Agreement

WASHINGTON (AP) — Elated CIO Steelworkers early Friday accepted a government pay boost proposal and cancelled a weekend strike threat, but a new walkout danger loomed on April 8 if the steel industry turns down the recommendations.

Philip Murray's union jubilantly approved a Wage Stabilization Board plan for settling the steel labor dispute which has been going on since last November.

Voted by public and labor members over stiff industry objections, it calls for a three-installment pay boost that will eventually total 17 1/2 cents an hour, plus other concessions including the union shop.

These concessions, in dollars and cents, were estimated variously

as ranging from 5 to 12 1/2 cents an hour.

The board said they would amount to 3 cents; industry spokesmen guessed 12 1/2 and said they might eventually mean 42 1/2 cents an hour extra.

The complicated settlement includes union benefits in geographical and shift differentials and in holiday and vacation pay.

The Steelworkers would gain roughly 10 per cent in their basic hourly earnings under the WSB formula.

The union had asked for 18 1/2 cent hourly pay boosts with other concessions estimated to bring the overall increased costs to around 35 cents an hour.

Steel companies gave no immediate reaction to the WSB plan, promising to do so later Friday.

But WSB's industry members earlier denounced the proposal in a blistering statement as unfair and inflationary.

Murray, announcing his fourth delay in strike plans, called for renewed negotiations starting Monday with steel companies here and at Pittsburgh.

The chief of both the CIO and Union said if no settlement with steel firms is reached by April 4, the unions will give 96 hours notice and strike April 8.

Thus if the industry refuses to go along with the WSB recommendations an eventual strike appears inevitable. The steel firms have claimed all along they could grant no wage boosts unless they were accompanied by compensating price increases.

# Reds Whip Up Germ Charges

MOSCOW (AP) — The campaign against alleged U. S. germ warfare in Korea is being whipped to a high pitch here.

Investia, the Soviet government newspaper, Friday published a declaration by Patriarch Alexei of the Russian Orthodox Church and three leading metropolitans condemning alleged bacteriological warfare in Korea.

Soviet press reports repeated previous charges in helping that the United States is now using poison gas on the Korean front. Moscow papers reported a continuing wave of protest meetings throughout the Soviet Union.

"Wrath and Indignation" was the headline over a story of a

meeting at Alma Alta. "Monstrous Atrocities American Imperialists," said the headline over the story from Khabarovsk.

Russia refused in the United Nations Commission Thursday to support a United States proposal for an impartial investigation by the International Red Cross of the Communist germ warfare charges. The United States has repeatedly denied the charges.

**INCREASE**

SALEM (AP) — Charles H. Heltzel, Oregon public utilities commissioner, granted rate increases Thursday to truckers who haul household goods.

Heltzel said the boost was granted to meet increased costs. He said the amount of the increases was short of what the truckers asked.

# Appropriation Committee Cuts Into Interior Fund, USBR Suffers Sharp Cuts

By RICHARD P. POWERS

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House Appropriations Committee Friday recommended \$492,434,763 for the Interior Department for the year starting July 1.

This represented a slash of \$133,567,037 below the \$626,001,800 budget recommendations of President Truman.

The sharpest cuts came in funds requested for the Reclamation Bureau, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Division of the Territories, and some public power projects.

The reduction, carrying out the recommendations of the subcommittee headed by Rep. Kirwan (D-Ohio), represents a total cut of 21 per cent in the budget estimates and a cut of seven per cent below the current year level of spending.

A committee report said it reflected "determination to hold to a minimum program during the present critical period in which the conservation of dollars is so important."

The committee lopped \$48,148,574 from the \$122,350,000 budget request for the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The sharpest reduction came in construction work, with the committee approving only \$5,310,000 compared with \$35,856,000 asked for.

However, the \$74,201,426 approved for the bureau was slightly above the \$71,343,912 appropriated for the present year.

The committee recommended \$181,255,400 for the Reclamation Bureau, a cut of \$43,364,600 below the \$224,620,000 budget request. Nearly all of the reduction for the Reclamation Bureau was for construction work.

The budget asked for \$194,720,000 for construction but this was cut to \$153,355,400, a reduction of \$41,364,600.

The committee turned thumbs down on funds for any new construction work.

A total of \$42,494,037 was recommended for the office of territories, a reduction of \$30,470,963 below the budget estimate. This \$2,078,067 above the current year appropriation.

The bulk of this came in a reduction of 13 million dollars from the 20 millions asked for Alaska public works and a cut of \$12,694,000 from the 16 millions requested for construction work on the Alaska Railroad.

For Bonneville power construction, the committee approved \$66,523,400 compared with the \$70,286,400 budget estimate.

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