



BOYD SPRAGUE JR. (left) and Forrest Rutledge, army enlistees, shown with fathers G. E. Rutledge and Dr. Boyd Sprague Sr., ready to leave for Portland for induction in the Army. The young men enlisted through the local recruiting service according to Sgt. Adams.

Big Eastern Railroad In Control War

NEW YORK (AP)—The chips are down today in Robert R. Young's bid for control of the huge New York Central Railroad.

The Central's 15-man Board of Directors meets in the railroad's massive building astride Park avenue.

Overshadowing all other business will be Young's demand that he and Allan P. Kirby, his old-time financial ally, be seated as directors and that Young be made board chairman.

If these demands are refused, according to a reliable source who asked not to be named publicly, Young will come to New York tomorrow and launch a proxy fight for control of the Central. Young would spurn the directorships unless he is made chairman as well, the source said.

A refusal by the Central could lead to one of the epic railroad wars of the nation's history.

The Young interests are reported to hold 300,000 shares of the Central's 6,447,410 shares of outstanding common stock.

For years Young has freely stated that he wanted to control the Central. The Chesapeake and Ohio Railway Co. accumulated

800,000 shares of Central stock under Young's regime as board chairman. But Young was barred in 1948 from becoming a director of the Central by the Interstate Commerce Commission, which objected to interlocking directorates on competing roads.

The C&O's 800,000 shares, the largest single block of Central stock, are being held, under an ICC order, by the Chase National Bank as an independent voting trustee.

The next largest block is reportedly 160,000 shares owned by the Union Pacific Railroad.

Harold S. Vanderbilt, great-grandson of the Central's founder, "Commodore" Cornelius Vanderbilt, holds only 10,000 shares. He is a director.

The rest of the Central's stock is presumed to be widely held among the Central's 44,461 shareholders. They can all vote at the Central's next annual meeting May 26 at Albany, N.Y.

Young's shadow has stretched over the 10,714 miles of the Central system—second only to the Pennsylvania in business volume—since Jan. 19 when he resigned as C&O board chairman.

With Young went Kirby and four other C&O directors.

It was announced at the time that they had severed all ties with the C&O and thus were free to accept directorships on another carrier, presumably the Central.

All doubt as to Young intentions were removed on Jan. 25 when William White, president of the Central, announced that Young and Kirby had advised the Central that they had become substantial shareholders and wanted to become directors.

Shortly thereafter it was reported that Young had hiked this demand by telling Vanderbilt, his neighbor in Palm Beach, Fla., that he wanted the directors to name him board chairman today.

Soviet Press Says U. S. Farmer Faces Disaster

MOSCOW (AP)—You'd think, reading the Soviet press these days, that millions of American farmers are headed for the poorhouse in one of the great economic disasters of all time.

Things are bad for farmers in Western Europe too, and all the way around to Japan, wherever the capitalists have anything to say.

But it's worst in the United States where, by Soviet reports, depression is abroad in the land and that old devil "Mr. Monopoly" and Secretary of Agriculture Ben-

son, is foreclosing the mortgages on hundreds of thousands of homesteads.

The reason for this grief seems to be that President Eisenhower persists in waging "cold war" against the Soviet Union.

Komsomol Pravda, the Communist youth paper, recently dealt with the U.S. farm situation in an article headlined "Disaster of American Farmers." The English-language bimonthly News titled its article "Ruined Hopes—Position of the American Farmer." The magazine Communist featured a review of "The Calamitous Situation of Peasantry in Capitalist Countries."

The Malenkov government has a big farm problem of its own. It is trying to raise farm production to make good its promise to give Russians more food at cheaper prices in three years. Government directives concede that the Soviet Union now has less livestock than it had before the Communist Revolution in 1918. To bring the present livestock population through this winter strenuous efforts are being made to provide fodder and shelter. Peasants are offered financial incentives to lift production.

The United States, on the other hand, has a problem of overproduction. Its warehouses bulge with surplus grains and butter. Its farms have the huge mechanization the remainder of the world strives for.

But the Soviet press, which long has predicted a general economic depression in the United States, now sees the decline in American farm prices as heralding a big new crash.

"Americans," says News, "remember only too well that the bitter crisis of 1929-33 was preceded by a severe aggravation of the crisis in agriculture."

News contends that the cure lies

in a change of the American government's policy, abroad as well as at home. It says: "More and more often the American farmer asks himself whether, instead of spending huge sums on the cold war, his government would not do better to reduce taxes, . . . and enable underfed people to obtain the nourishment they need, instead of piling

up and then destroying the food that man's labor has produced." Komsomol Pravda hits the line even harder. It says: "Official figures indicate that more than two million American farm families are faced with the loss of their homes and land since their incomes are falling year in and year out. . . . The militarization of the coun-

Unemployed Said Going Back South

MEMPHIS (AP)—There are uneasy signs that the South's economic stream is being complicated by an undercurrent of "driftback" job-seekers.

These unemployed are homing Southerners, most of them laborers and former farm workers who went North during the '40s, lured by high wages.

During the past few months a lot of them—in the wake of Northern industrial layoffs and other reasons—are coming back to home ground.

Any sizable "driftback" would add to pressure already felt in the cotton belt, coming on top of cotton and "day cropping."

Some farm leaders believe the homing workers are the underlying cause of the situation in upper east Arkansas and part of the Missouri Bootheel, where about 8,000 are reported on the ragged edge of hunger.

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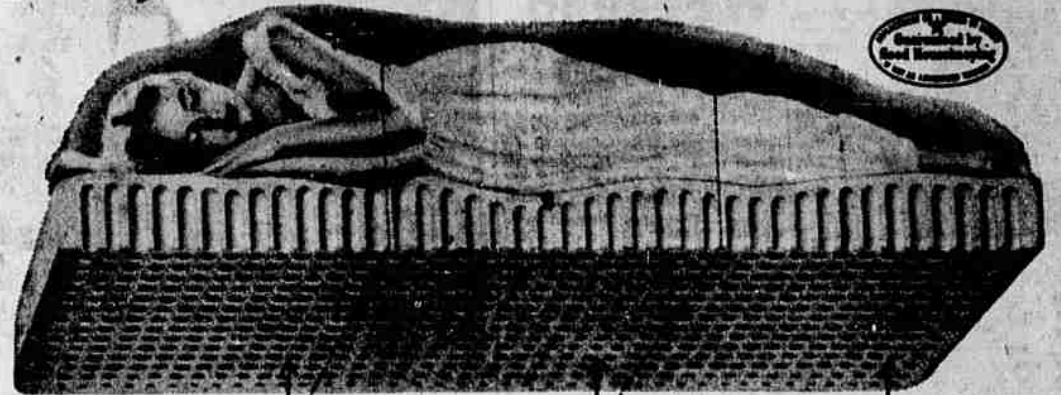
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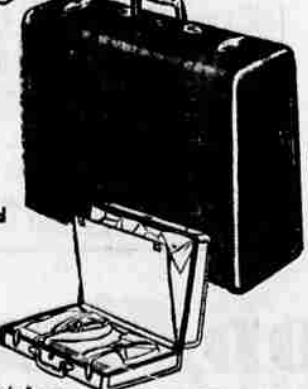
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