

Hoffa Mum On AFL-CIO Rejection

PORTLAND (AP) — James R. Hoffa, international president of the Teamsters Union, shown the report that the executive council of the AFL-CIO had refused today to readmit the ousted teamsters, said:

"Who asked 'em?"
That was his only comment as he prepared to deliver a talk to the 24th meeting of the Western Conference of Teamsters.

In his address to some 600 delegates Hoffa made no direct reference to the council's decision, but said "we belong in the house of labor and should never have been expelled."

He said the teamsters were not asking to go back but if they ever do it will be with the understanding they can run their own affairs and can organize unorganized workers without worrying about jurisdiction. Noting a report the AFL-CIO might organize a rival teamster union, he said, "we'll meet them anywhere, anytime, and we'll come out on top."

Many coordinated attacks are being made on labor, Hoffa told the teamsters, and they need to be met with area-wide contracts and company-wide agreements. Anti-labor leaders want to divide bargaining strength, Hoffa said, but he cautioned:

"Only by being big, only by being consolidated and recognizing the urgency of winning a strike quickly will you have the American worker eager to follow American labor leaders."

Hoffa urged political action to oppose what he said were increasing efforts for restrictive legislation and "go into politics as though it was the biggest strike, the biggest negotiations, you ever conducted in your life."

Rails Vie For Support

SAN FRANCISCO (UPI) — The struggle between Southern Pacific and Santa Fe Railway for public support flared today at Interstate Commerce Commission hearings into efforts of both railroads to gain control of Western Pacific.

Both SP and Santa Fe, which have campaigned vigorously before civic groups and organizations, claimed to have the public on their side.

Santa Fe based its arguments on formal petitions of intervention, while SP maintained that the ICC also should consider letters from groups and individuals.

The ICC is required by law to decide the case "in the public interest," but petitions and letters do not weigh heavily as evidence toward a final ruling.

During Monday's session, Western Pacific President Frederick B. Whitman accused Southern Pacific of seeking a general transportation monopoly in the WP area.

Whitman, who supports Santa Fe, said SP's first step would be to take over WP's parallel and competing lines so as to eliminate rail competition. He said SP would be unable to operate its own affiliate in genuine competition with itself.

He predicted that a complete merger was SP's ultimate goal, followed by new laws making it easier for SP to become a general transportation company, dominating the market. SP already owns highway carriers and pipelines and plans to go into the barge business.

Whitman said that with Western Pacific eliminated as a rail competitor, there would not be "the slightest chance" for a competing general transportation firm to be established in the area.

Western Pacific is willing to be taken over by Santa Fe because it has been handicapped by its relatively small size and financial resources in its competition with SP, Whitman said.

The current trend for rail mergers is so strong, he said, that it is "just a question of time" before Western Pacific will be swallowed up by some bigger firm.

Therefore, he said, it would be better if it happened now rather than later—and better if the purchaser were Santa Fe rather than another company.

Western Pacific went into business in 1906 to break a Southern Pacific monopoly and is a natural extension of Santa Fe lines, Whitman noted.

He said Santa Fe's offer of one and one quarter shares of stock per share of Western Pacific stock was fair and reasonable, while SP's one-for-one offer was inequitable.

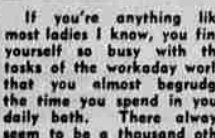
COMMUNIST HISTORY
MOSCOW (UPI) — A new volume of the Soviet history of World War II claims it was the Russians who really won the war. The Soviet news agency Tass said Sunday the volume, third in a series on the war, states that the Soviet Union "saved mankind from the menace of fascist enslavement."



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Guide TO Glamour

By
Laura
Scheck



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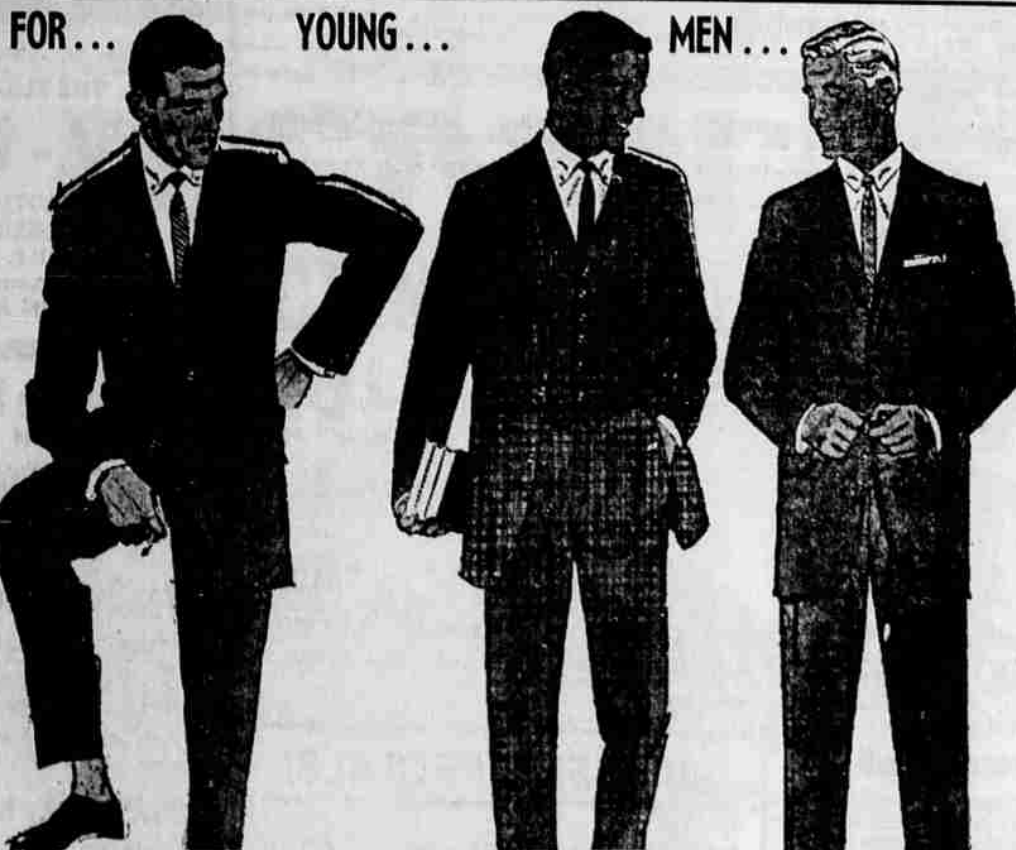
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