

Rail Negotiators Close To Key Decisions, Wirtz Says

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Secretary of Labor W. Willard Wirtz said Saturday that negotiations on two key issues in the stalled railroad dispute should come to a head early next week.

Study Slated On Research

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Initial steps will be taken this week toward the first overall congressional investigation of government-financed research, an activity that currently totals \$14 billion.

On Tuesday the House Rules Committee will consider a measure to set up a special committee to make a "complete, full and thorough investigation of the numerous programs."

Impetus for a long look at this area—the committee would have about a year to finish its study—stems from the concern of some legislators who feel that government-sponsored research has moved so fast and in so many directions that Congress does not have a full picture of what is going on.

That view was summed up recently by Rep. Carl Elliott, D-Ala., the man who probably will head the committee.

"Federal spending for research has increased by almost \$10 billion in the last 10 years," Elliott said. "I believe the time has come for Congress to determine whether we are getting a full return for our investment."

Elliott said the committee would examine the "scope and effectiveness" of the various programs. It also will be interested in knowing what coordination exists between the various government agencies engaged in research.

The resolution is expected to encounter little resistance in the sometimes difficult Rules Committee. Its four sponsors are members of that panel. In addition, the house is expected to go along with the proposal pretty much as approved by the committee.

and management representatives to be near the decision-making point by Wednesday. But he declined to speculate whether an agreement would emerge from bargaining on suggestions he offered Aug. 2 in an effort to reach an accord and prevent a nationwide strike.

Congress has delayed action on anti-strike legislation proposed by President Kennedy, pending outcome of Wirtz's negotiations.

Wirtz told United Press International he had proposed a two- or three-year contract to dispose of the two most disputed issues — displacement of firemen and reduction in crew sizes.

Basis For Talks
Both sides accepted this as a basis for discussions that have taken place this week under Wirtz's direction.

"Negotiations with respect to these two issues and perhaps with respect to all of them ought to come to a climax in the first part of next week," the secretary said.

Wirtz spent Saturday morning discussing the use of firemen on freight and yard diesel with the four-man management team headed by J. E. Wolfe, chief industry negotiator. The railroads' demand for elimination of 37,000 firemen in these jobs has been the main stumbling block to an agreement.

At the same time, Assistant Labor Secretary James J. Reynolds and National Mediation Board members Francis A. O'Neill and Leverett Edwards met with spokesmen for the five rail unions. They discussed the pay system, union proposals for overtime and other fringe benefits, and related issues.

Sunday Sessions
Wirtz ordered Sunday sessions to keep the talks going. One reason for urgency is the scheduled arrival Tuesday of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen's 15th member committee of general chairmen.

This group, summoned at Wirtz's request, has the power to accept or reject a settlement proposal if one is submitted. Management spokesmen have declined to meet with firemen's union leaders on grounds they lack authority to make a binding deal.

Strontium Increase In Milk Seen

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The Public Health Service (PHS) expects radioactive strontium-90 in milk, already at a record amount to increase in the next several months.

During the 12-month period ending in May, the count was the highest in the history of nuclear testing and was nearly twice that recorded in May, 1962 the PHS said Saturday. The Federal Radiation Council said the count still was far below the amount which, if consumed annually, would injure man.

At the same time, the PHS said that another radioactive substance sampled in milk, iodine 131, was at a record low. A spokesman said this was because iodine-131 has a much shorter life than strontium-90 following a nuclear explosion.

The PHS blamed the unusually high strontium-90 on atmospheric tests conducted last year by the United States and the Soviet Union.

The United States resumed testing after the Soviet Union ended the nuclear test moratorium in September, 1961. Officials estimated that more radioactive material was released at that time than in all the nuclear explosions before the 1958 moratorium.

The council has estimated that a human being can absorb 73,000 picocuries of radioactive strontium-90 in a year before protective action must be considered. A picocurie is one million-millionth of the amount of radiation given off by one gram of radium.

In a statement the radiation council said:
"Health risks from present fallout levels due to testing through 1962 are too small to require measures to limit intake by modification of diet or alternating the normal distribution of use of foods."

BLOODY BUT UNINJURED

RICHMOND, Ky.—Mrs. Donald C. Wooten of Cincinnati appeared to be covered with blood when she stepped from her wrecked station wagon after it was involved in a collision recently. She insisted she hadn't been injured. Ambulance attendants insisted that they take her to a hospital until Mrs. Wooten explained that several jars of catsup had broken during the collision.

HERALD AND NEWS, Klamath Falls, Oregon

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LARGE CARPET WON'T FLY — Like the man who built a yacht in his basement, Mrs. C. M. Cornell of Grants Pass wonders how to get this 18 by 11-foot rug, weighing more than 300 pounds, upstairs to her living room, when the four additional rows of color and seven-row shaded brown border are completed. She began her project of braiding the huge rug, Jan. 1, 1961, and has plans to have it completed and laid in her living room sometime this year.

Texans Can Brag About Anything

By DICK WEST

United Press International
WASHINGTON (UPI) — The civic pride of a Texan is one of nature's strongest forces, ranking just behind the pull of gravity and just ahead of the capillary attraction of a tuberosus begonia.

His talent is such that a Texan can find something affirmative to say about the place where he lives, even when the odds overwhelmingly favor the negative.

The untrained eye, for instance, might not notice anything superlative about Merkel, Texas, which is my old home town. Yet the citizenry there has never been without a claim of distinction.

At one point they used to boast that Merkel was the only town in the world where the population was the same as the elevation. At that time it had 1,872 residents living 1,872 feet above sea level.

Increases Slightly
Unfortunately, however, the population increased slightly in the next census. Either that or the elevation sank a few feet. I forget which. At any rate the two figures no longer matched.

The change was a catastrophe, civic pride-wise, and I wasn't certain that the town would be able to recover. So when I visited in Merkel during a recent vacation, I asked my father whether there was anything left to brag about.

"Why, certainly," my father said. "This town is now the home of Cassius Lipbutton, the world's most modest Texan."

"A modest Texan?" I exclaimed. "You must be pulling my leg."

"Honest injun," my father said. "If you don't believe it you can go talk to him yourself."

When I drove up to the Lipbutton home, Cassius was out in the back yard camouflaging his oil wells to make them less conspicuous. He wore a pair of low heel boots and his hat wouldn't have held a drop more than four and a half gallons.

I began the interview by commenting on the size of his swimming pool, which was the largest one I had ever seen.

"There's a bigger one down state," Lipbutton protested, blushing furiously. "It's called the Gulf of Mexico."

"Are those your airplanes?" I asked, pointing to an airframe behind the pool.

"Just a few jet transports," Lipbutton said shyly. "Shucks, American Airlines has more jets than I do."

Nikita's Caution In Negotiations May Be Due To Battles At Home

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The United States has found no evidence that Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev wants to stampede the West into full-scale cold war negotiations before the Allies have had time to thresh things out among themselves.

On the contrary, Khrushchev appears as anxious as President Kennedy is to move slowly and for the same reason—difficulties within his own camp.

The cautious Russian approach has eased the fears that some officials had about a possible Russian peace offensive in the wake of the limited nuclear test ban treaty to try to draw the disorganized Western Allies into European security talks before they were prepared.

Secretary of State Dean Rusk in his Moscow and Black Sea talks with Khrushchev and other officials, is said to have found them greatly preoccupied with handling their bitter dispute with the West.

THE REAL DANIEL BOONE
HARRISBURG, Ky. — A historian commissioned to write a pageant about Kentucky's pioneer days told an audience recently that Daniel Boone was "ignorant, careless and probably shiftless. Now, before I am lynched by Boone's numerous descendants and admirers," Robert E. McDowell of Louisville said, "let me hasten to say that he wasn't a rascal. He was very exciting and colorful."

Red China and not pressing for early East-West negotiations.

Both the White House and the Kremlin undoubtedly recognize that the explosive core of their European conflict still lies in the division of Germany and the dispute over the fate of Berlin. Neither has come up with any new idea on how to defuse this issue and this is another factor which causes both sides to approach new negotiations with caution.

Prospects are that the Soviet

American probe will not be resumed until late September when Rusk and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko meet at the annual session of the United Nations assembly.

The absence of Soviet pressure for "next step" talks eased Rusk's task in Bonn Saturday. He was able to reassure Chancellor Konrad Adenauer that Washington did not intend to plunge into any discussions with Russia before fullest consultation with the Allies to make certain their vital interests are safeguarded.

In addition, Rusk was understood to have renewed American assurances that Communist East Germany's signature of the test ban treaty would in no way give that Soviet-occupied country any degree of diplomatic recognition now denied it by the Western world.

Rusk's Bonn talks are believed to have paved the way for an announcement within the next 10 days by West Germany of its decision to sign the treaty outlawing air, space and underwater tests but leaving the Big Three atomic powers free to continue vital underground tests.

This will leave France, which is pursuing a go-it-alone nuclear course, as the only hard rock holdout in the NATO alliance.

Pilot Okay In Crash Landing

REDMOND (UPI) — A pilot escaped serious injury when he crash-landed his burning B-26 plane in a wheat field 13 miles north-west of here Sunday afternoon.

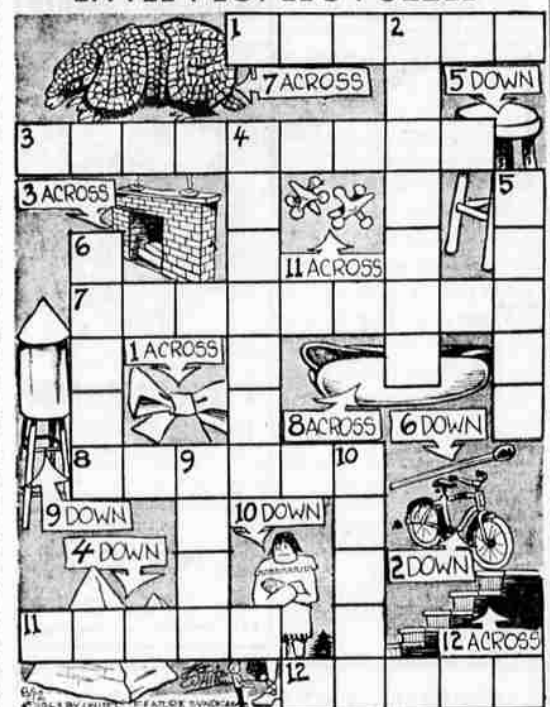
William Byers, 43, Bend, walked away from the crash with cuts and bruises. He was treated and released at the Central Oregon Hospital at Redmond.

Byers told state police that he discovered the two-engine plane's left engine was on fire as he was preparing to dump a load of borate on a fire along the Metolius River. He said he released the borate, started back for his Redmond airbase, saw he could not make it and crash-landed in the field.

The bomber was destroyed by fire after the crash, which set off several small blazes in the area. They were controlled.

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Prince Presides At Scout Rally

MARATHON, Greece (UPI) — Crown Prince Constantine, Greece's chief Boy Scout, presided at ceremonies in this historic city Sunday winding up a world jamboree attended by an estimated 14,000 scouts.

Education Minister Christofor Stratos and the chiefs of the Greek armed forces shared the platform with Constantine at the closing ceremony.

The jamboree split up into national groups, most of them expected to visit other regions of Greece before returning home.

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