LABOR P.J. - Sunoco Monday, Nov. 19, 1945.

The heads of the auto workers union seem reluctant to start that big strike. At any rate, the U.A.W. announced at Detroit - and this is encouraging - announced today that it has sent an offer to General Motors - an offer to arbitrate that demand for a thirty percent raise. They've given the company twenty-four hours in which to reply.

While that news came from Union headquarters, the managing director of the automobile manufacturers Association announced that if the union strikes against General Motors, then all the big motor car manufacturers - all except one - will shut down. He didn't say which one. But, apparently one of the big three. And that seems to point to Ford, for Henry Ford has nearly always played a lone hand.

The arbitration, as the Union proposes it, would be carried out by a board consisting of one labor member, one representative of management, and a chairman to be selected by both. The three ~~xxxx~~ would be empowered to examine all the ~~xxxx~~ records of both

parties.Then the decision would be binding upon both manufacturers and workers. And, one thing more - a stipulation that no company should use an increase of wages as an excuse for increasing the prices of cars.

ADD LABOR

A spokesman for General Motors, ~~was~~ approached by newspapermen, ~~and~~ said that ~~at that time~~ up to then, the time of the interview, the corporation had not received the union's proposal for arbitration with ~~its~~ the twenty-four hour ultimatum. Newsmen told him the details of the proposal made by the union. At that, the spokesman for G. M. said: "I thought so, they still want to get a look at our books", ~~That is one~~ a point to which the ~~ex~~ corporation has objected ~~to~~ all along. — just as labor unions have disliked the idea of having their books inspected.

CONFERENCE

Congressmen are growing restless about the slow progress of the conference between Labor and Management at Washington. Two Democratic Representatives, both members of the House Committee on rules, protested that the lawmakers are being obliged to take a sit-down strike of labor legislation, so long as the conference continues. Representative Cox of Georgia said the conference was a complete pretense and only proved one thing so far: ~~That thing is~~ that John L. Lewis still is the boss of Labor, and will come out of the conference dictating the Labor policy of the Government.

Representative Slaughter of Missouri said that the best that the Conference can produce is a series of resolutions. And what the country needs, he went on, ~~said the Missouri Congresman,~~ is legislation.

The Executive Committee of the Conference is considering ~~received~~ a suggestion that fact-finding boards ~~ought to~~ be established to help ~~in~~ settling disputes between Management and Labor. That suggestion came from Bishop Alter, Chairman of the social action department of the

National Catholic Welfare Conference. The Committee on Labor-Management agreements brought in a report recommending that machinery be set up for voluntary arbitration as the final step to prevent strikes and lockouts. A number of people have been in favor of arbitration. Eric Johnston, President of the United States Chamber of Commerce, believes that union contracts should contain clauses for arbitration. Philip Murray, President of the C.I.O., is going to try again to compel the Executive Board to consider his resolution to put the conference on record in favor of a substantial increase in wages.

HEALTH

The question of compulsory health insurance comes before the country again today. ~~It was the subject of~~ In a long message to Congress ~~from~~ President Truman. ~~He was at great pains to say~~ said emphatically that he is not planning socialized medicine. That point was immediately challenged by Senator Taft of Ohio. Said Taft:- ~~he~~ "It is ~~in fact~~ impossible to impose a federal tax supporting compulsory health insurance plan without socializing the medical profession."

The President's message asked Congress to authorize federal funds for building hospitals, health centers and other facilities. He also asked the law makers ~~also~~ for more money to expand cooperation between the health services of the state and the federal government. More than forty million people in the United States are today still without the benefit of public health services. Mr. Truman also wants money to finance better education for doctors, better research, especially in methods for the prevention and cure of cancer and mental illnesses. I wonder why he omitted heart trouble which is the greatest scourge of all? And he likewise asks for insurance benefit payments to

make up at least part of the wages that workers lose while they are ill or disabled. This, he said, can be achieved by expanding the present social security system.

The object of ~~his~~ the program, ~~said~~ continued the President, is health security for all, regardless of residence, station or race, everywhere in the United States. He did not attempt to estimate what his program would cost, but he did suggest~~ed~~ that it ~~would~~ take be at least four per cent of the national income. Health services now cost that much, so we ought to be able to afford to spend more for health. As for health insurance, it would be achieved partly by increasing the social security tax, partly by direct subsidy to be decided by Congress.

If President Truman's program were enacted into law, it would give tremendous power to the surgeon general of the United States. ~~He~~ For he would be the Administrator of the program. The premiums would be paid by employees and employers. Four per cent of every person's earnings up to thirty-six hundred dollars a year, would be deducted. Four dollars out of every hundred. Under

existing voluntary systems, insurance for hospitalization and medical care costs considerably less than that, or it does in New York so some of my neighbors in the Associated Press Bldg. tell me.

FRANCE

General DeGaulle won his victory today, in the French constituent assembly. All rather surprising too - coming just as it began to look as though the Communists had him on the way out.

When the session got under way all the galleries were jammed. While outside, on the streets, and boulevards turbulent crowds milled around. The gendarmes used their clubs freely, but twice shouting students broke the police line. They were finally put to rout by the mounted gendarmes.

Before the French assembly convened, General DeGaulle met the leaders of two of the parties omitting the Communists.

The Assembly voted on two questions. The first, in favor of forming the government with all three parties having posts in the cabinet, Socialists, Communists, and Popular Republican. The Communists, as a bloc, declined to vote on this. But, the resolution passed by a vote of three hundred and fifty-eight to thirty nine. Next came a motion offered by the

Democratic Socialist Resistance Party, to give a definite mandate to Charles DeGaulle to form a "temporary government". This resolution also war adopted fm by a vote of four hundred to a hundred and sixty-three. The hundred and sixty-three in opposition being Communists.

GERMANY

A story from Frankfurt-~~on the~~ am-Main, in the American Occupation Zone, reports that the prices of German stocks already are ten to fifteen per cent highber than what they were under Hitler. And That applies to ~~almost~~ some two dozen big German corporations. For instance, one share in the international German building construction trust, which was worth forty-five ~~marks~~ marks in nineteen thirty-three, could be sold for two-hundred-and-forty-five, if the owner cared to sell. Actually, it wouldn't be worth his while to sell as he would soon lose it all if he had to spend his profit in the black market. Shares in war plants, we hear, have dropped only fifty to sixty per cent. The Germans owning those shares expect to be reimbursed.

This news comes on top of consistent reports that Germans in the American Zone are becoming more and more insolent every day. They shout abuse at American Military Police regulating traffic, abuse which the Military Cops are usually unable to understand. They jostle American soldiers off the sidewalks, and the doughboys are unable to resent ~~it~~ because of regulations.

Americans are systematically insulted in all public places, particularly in Bavaria — so the story goes.

BRITAIN

Socialization in Great Britain seems to be steaming along in high- even in the absence of the Prime Minister.The Lord President of the Council, in the house of Commons today, announced that the Attlee government is about to nationalize all railways, canals, buses, trucking on highways, and such public utilities as gas companies and electricity. Apparently the only nationwide industry not to be owned and operated by the state in Britain, for the time being, will be shipping.

While Attlee was in Washington, he held an off-the-record meeting with newspapermen at which they gathered that his plain intention was to take over in just this way. Though it was understood the reporters were not to quote him, according to Columnist George Dixon. Mr. Attlee was exceedingly cheerful about the idea.

While the Lord President of the Council today had told the Commons the government did not want to take over shipping, nevertheless, John Bull is

considering the ownership of docks and harbor installations. And that ■■ would just about give him the equivalent of ownership of all British shipping lines.

Herbert Morrison, for he it is who is now President of the Council, said he had asked the leaders of the iron and steel industry to present a report to the government on what improvements are needed to make that industry more efficient. This it is believed foreshadows government ownership.

CHINA

Troops of the Chinese National Government have now penetrated forty miles inside Manchuria. They drove through a breach in the great wall, and they captured an important railway center on the road to Mukden. Two armies are advancing, one northeast of Shankaikwan, the other marching toward a seaport on the gulf of Liaotung.

If the report is true, Chiang Kai-Shek's armies have ~~gone~~ pushed ahead some forty miles in less than four days, ~~and~~ which would ~~that~~ mean~~s the~~ that communist Eight Rout army is withdrawing.

PEARL HARBOR

An important witness appeared before the joint Congressional Committee Investigating Pearl Harbor today - Admiral J. O.Richardson, former Commander of the United States Fleet, and the Flag Officer who proceded Admiral Kimmel out at Hawaii. It is hoped that much information will come from Admiral Richardson. When Richardson was pulled away from Pearl Harbor it was by command of President Roosevelt himself, who jumped Admiral Kimmel some forty steps for that purpose. It has been hinted that Richardson was sent elsewhere because he was too strict, would not bring the fleet in to port often enough, and give the personnel shore leave over weekends.

Nothing on this today, but, before the hearing adjourned, Admiral Richardson did tell the Congressmen that in October, Nineteen Forty, President Roosevelt had told him that if the Japanese attacked Thailand or the Kra Peninsula, or the Dutch East Indies even if they attacked the Philippines, he doubted whether we would enter the war. But, continued the late

President, they could not always avoid making mistakes. That as the war continued, and as the enemy operations expanded, sooner or later they - the Japs - would make a mistake and we would be compelled to enter the war.

Admiral Richardson said that it was President Roosevelt who ordered Uncle Sam's Pacific Fleet concentrated in Hawaii in May, Nineteen Forty, against his, Admiral Richardson's advice. Also, apparently against the advice of Admiral Stark, then Chief of Naval Operations.

Admiral Richardson told the Congressmen he went to the White House when he returned to the United States in October, Nineteen Forty, went there for the sole purpose of protesting to President Roosevelt against keeping the fleet at Pearl Harbor. Admiral Leahy, he said, was present at the conference. The late President asked Admiral Leahy what he thought about strengthening the Asiatic Fleet. Admiral Richardson then said that so far as he could remember, Admiral Leahy remarked that whatever ships were sent out, would be lost, so send the old cruisers.

information also came to light today that the Japs would have called off their attack on Pearl Harbor if the United States had made certain concessions in the negotiations between the two countries - or if we had been ready for war!

One Congressman put the question, who had ordered the battleships of the Pacific Fleet to be anchored in close formation at Pearl Harbor so they became such a simple perfect target for Jap planes? Rear Admiral Inglis, Chief of U. S. Naval Intelligence replied that it was presumably ordered by Admiral Kimmel, Commander in Chief of the Pacific Fleet at the time. (Our warships, as we know, were so placed out there that the Japs sank four battleships, one medium cruiser, one auxiliary vessel; and heavily damaged one battleship, two cruisers and three destroyers; plus minor damage to two battleships and a light cruiser.)

BLIZZARD

This early in the season it seems strange to hear of a community right here in the U.S.A., buried in snow and completely isolated. In the mountains of eastern Washington, fifty-eight people have been stranded for ten days, cut off by tremendous snowstorms.

Actually they are in a fairly inaccessible region. Among the fifty-eight are some hunters. Also, one is a seventy year old woman critically ill with pneumonia.

The place has an appropriate name too -- at the foot of a peak called Mt. Misery. One of the fifty-eight made his way through the towering drifts to the cabin of a game warden. And now rescue parties are on the way - and having heavy going, through forests and over mountains to the sufferers at the foot of Mount Misery.

NIGHT FIGHTER

An attractive ~~pretty young~~ Czech girl yesterday went to American headquarters at Pilsen in Czechoslovakia, the place where they used to brew that renowned Pilsener beer. The Czech lady asked the American officers where she could find a soldier named Willie P. Brown, whom she described as a night fighter. The American officers apparently had never heard of that particular arm of the service, so they questioned her some more, She said night fighter was the description Willie P. Brown had given of himself when he promised to marry her. He told her his skin was black because he had injections with a drug which made him invisible at night. Also he said there were lots more like him in the United States army, all recruited at a place called Mississippi. That as soon as they returned to the United States, they would have another set of injections, which would make them all white again.

The pretty little Czech girl hasn't yet found her promised husband, the night fighter. Can you explain that, Hugh?