

TRUMAN

C. J. - Sunoco. Monday, Dec. 3, 1945.

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Strikes throughout the country and other symptoms of internal trouble today became officially a matter of statecraft. The termination of the Labor-Management Conference, the ~~xi~~ walkout at General Motors, and the Seamen's Strike -- now have brought action from the President of these United States. Today he asked Congress for Legislation; and at the same time he appealed to the Union Leaders to send all workers back to work pending the conclusion of the negotiations.

The President also established a fact-finding board.

Nor did he stop there. He also asked the steel workers not to strike, and he appointed a fact-finding board to investigate their problems.

In a message to Congress, Mr. Truman pointed out that the present strikes are a grave threat to the nation's reconversion program. The President also

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stated that the Conference was not a complete failure -- this because the top leaders of Labor and Management did meet and did work together for more than three weeks and that, says he, was in itself progress. They also reached some agreements on a few general principles. The history of labor relations, continued the President, has proved that nearly all labor disputes can be settled by sincere and honest collective bargaining. And, that the vast majority not so adjusted are settled by Government conciliation. That with the labor Management Conference adjourned without making any recommendation, it becomes the duty of the Government to act on its own initiative.

President Truman then asked Congress to pass a law, and pass it before Christmas. He wants this law to follow the principles underlying the Railway Labor Act. He thinks those principles could be applied to other industries as well as railways, to steel, automobiles,

aviation, mining, utilities and communications.

And, he wants it to provide that if the Secretary of Labor fails to settle a dispute, he can certify this fact<sup>to</sup> the President, who will then be empowered to appoint a fact finding board similar to the emergency board authorized by the Railway Labor Act.

The new measure, said he, should also make it unlawful to call a strike or lockout; pending the appointment of such a fact finding board, and, until five days after the board has submitted its report. In other words, the law that the President wants would establish a cooling off period of thirty days, before any strike could actually begin. He reported to Congress that he had already appointed fact finding boards for the automobile strike and the threatened steel strike, and that he hoped Congress would approve.

The reaction to the President's message

so far seems to be favorable -- so far as Congress goes. How about labor? Well, a story from Detroit reports that the Union people there are not disposed to give in to the President's plea to stop the G.M. strike. But, they haven't made it a definite refusal; not yet.

There will be a meeting on Saturday of two hundred Union delegates at Detroit. R.J. Thomas, President of the U.A.W., says they'll give the President a reply on Saturday, a reply based on the vote of the strikers themselves. Speaking for himself and the other labor leaders, R.J. Thomas said: "We don't like the President's proposal," and he added that his recommendations to the Congress, as he put it, "Threaten the foundations of democracy." Union Leader Thomas also declared that he believed C.E. Wilson, President of General Motors, must have talked with the President about this matter.

Walter Reuther, the Vice-President of

# RETAKE

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U.A.W.. said: "If I were a factory member, I would vote to continue the strike."


At Flint, Michigan, forty thousand strikers promptly took a vote and as promptly rejected the President's request that they return to work.

R.J. Thomas today disavowed a letter to General Motors -- a letter supposedly accepting the company's offer to reopen their factories for limited operations to supply parts to other companies. He said that letter had been issued by mistake, by his own publicity office.

PEARL HARBOR

Major General Sherman Miles today admitted to the Pearl Harbor Investigating Committee that the Japanese attack on December Seventh succeeded because the Army Forces ~~at the Fortress~~ <sup>there</sup> were not properly alerted or prepared. Lieutenant General ~~Walter~~ Short, Commander of Pearl Harbor, listened attentively while Miles was testifying. He said that on November Twenty Seventh General Marshall, Chief of Staff, had advised General Short that negotiations with the Japanese had been broken off and that an attack was possible at any moment. That, said Miles, should have been sufficient warning to cause the proper alert to have been put into effect.

The Congressmen then asked General Miles about the answer that General Short sent to General Marshall. This, you may recall, reported that Short was taking measures to prevent sabotage and maintaining ~~in~~ liasion with the Navy. "Do you consider Short's reply in any way ~~responsive~~ responsive to the Marshall order?" Asked Representative Clark.

To which Miles answered: "I don't consider  
it an adequate reply." 

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General Miles took occasion to point out that in December, Nineteen Forty-One General Marshall was carrying out a ~~A~~ Herculean task. He was building an Army and he was not getting too much support from the people.

Senator Scott Lucas of Illinois asked whether closer liaison at Pearl Harbor might not have been accomplished if the Armed Services had been unified. General Miles replied: "I think the point you have brought out is a strong argument for their unification."



MCVAY

In Washington, ~~there was~~ the unusual spectacle of a captain of Uncle Sam's Navy on trial before a General court martial. Captain Charles McVay, ~~Third~~, Commanding officer of the ~~sunken~~ cruiser Indianapolis, charged with neglect and inefficiency in a battle of last July thirtieth, off the Philippines.

The Indianapolis was the flagship of the Fifth Fleet. At the time she sank ~~xx~~ she had just completed a mission, delivering parts for atomic bombs. Incidentally, she had made a record run from San Francisco to Guam with those vital materials. On July thirtieth, Nineteen forty-four, she was in the Philippine Sea. An enemy torpedo or a mine hit her, or a Jap submarine. She was struck, exploded, and went to the bottom, went down with eight hundred and eighty of her officers and crew, eight hundred and eighty out of one thousand, a hundred and ninety-six.

Navy Secretary Forrestal now makes the accusation that, for one thing, McVay failed to pursue a zigzag course. To that his defense counsel promptly

objected, but was overruled. Forrestal also charges that McVay was at fault for not ordering all hands to abandon ship more promptly, when she was sinking. And, added the Secretary, the culpable inefficiency of the commanding officer of the Indianapolis caused many of the people on board to perish, and in the Navy's technical language, suffered a vessel of the Navy to be hazarded.

Part of the purpose of this general court-martial is to ascertain just what happened to the Indianapolis. Experts will testify, to help the court in its attempt to ~~determine~~ determine whether it was a torpedo, a mine, or the ramming by an enemy submarine that caused the fatal explosion.

In Australia, ~~down under the equator,~~

there is a great to do because an Australian General escaped from the Japanese after the fall ~~is~~ of Singapore. An official inquiry is being held over the case of Lieutenant General Gordon Bennett, who was Australian commander in Malaya in February, Nineteen forty-two.

Over here we haven't heard much of this, ~~case.~~ Probably we ~~would~~ not be hearing about it now but for the fact that Lieutenant General Percival, British Commander-~~in~~ in-Chief in Malaya, became inflamed with rage when he heard that his Australian subordinate had escaped. General Gordon Bennett made his way back to Australia and said he ~~is~~ felt it was his duty to try to escape from the Japanese and bring home information about Japanese tactics.

At the hearing today, the Colonel who was Senior Staff Officer to General Bennett related what happened ~~is~~ on the morning of February Fifteenth. General Bennett and the Senior Commanders of the Australian forces there discussed what they should do,

whether it should be every man for himself, or  
surrendering all together. They finally ~~did~~ decided  
to give themselves up as a body, since other tactics  
would mean chaos and much bloodshed on the beaches.  
In view of that agreement, every man was bound to  
stay at his post, obligated legally and morally. *But then,*  
Bennett never said good-bye to his senior staff officer,  
nor said anything about escaping. *Just shoved off.* When they went to  
his room they found it ~~in~~ in disorder as though ~~as~~  
he had ~~been~~ gone away in a hurry.

On the following morning, the Senior  
Staff officer telephoned the British commander-in-  
chief, General Percival, that he thought General  
Bennett had escaped. At that, said the Colonel,  
General Percival ~~just~~ went off the *depend in style.* ~~handle. The~~  
*The* business of escaping from the Japs at that time was  
not a very hazardous undertaking, he added. *TP* After the  
surrender, the Senior staff officer told the Japs  
that Bennett had gone into action with the forward  
troops and was probably killed. But he felt pretty

uncomfortable when the truth came out and the  
Japs learned ~~Bennett~~ *that the General* was back in Australia.

## IRAN

Peace in Persia. That's what Teheran asks for.

The Government of Iran today sent another note to Russia, written in most friendly terms, asking the Soviets to withdraw their troops from the ~~xx~~ province of Azerbaijan. Iran wants to send Iranian Security Troops into that rebellious Province to restore order. This in reply to a note received from Moscow Saturday; a note in which the Soviet Government denied that any Russians have taken part in the separatist revolt in Azerbaijan.

In Washington, the State Department admitted we have received a reply from Moscow to our proposal that all foreign troops be withdrawn from Iran by the end of the year. But the State Department doesn't let us know what Moscow said to this. The rumor is that the Soviets said no. We hear that our troops are to be withdrawn anyway whatever Russia does.

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Word is just in from Washington that Russia has  
rejected our suggestion.

## CHINA

In China, the Kuomintang Troops under General Tu Li-Ming are rolling along through Southern Manchuria without any resistance from the Communists. They have advanced to within thirty-three miles of Mukden at a point where seven highways and railways meet.

But, some six hundred and fifty miles from there a battle is on at Paotow, an ancient city on the caravan route over which the silks of China were taken to Ancient Rome. There at Paotow the Nationalists and Communists are locked in battle. The Chinag Kai-Shek Forces, we hear have the help of Mohammèdan Cavalry Troops, in what is said to be one of the bloodiest battles of this present turmoil in China.

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According to an independent newspaper, the Russians have notified Chinag Kai-Shek's Generals that they may occupy only Changchun, Capital of Manchuria, and, Mukden. That the Central Government must organize a police force to establish peace and order throughout the rest of Manchuria. So say the Soviets.



PALESTINE

*Arabic speaking peoples would be affected*

The Arabs on January Tenth will begin a boycott of all Jewish goods produced in Palestine. This was announced today at Cairo. <sup>Q</sup> ~~The~~ boycott ~~was~~ ordered by the Arab League, and it will be carried out in seven states -- Egypt, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon and Syria, Yeman and Transjordania.

The Secretary General of the Arab League explained that the reason for the boycott is that Jewish industry in Palestine is based on Zionist funds collected in foreign countries. Its purpose, added the Secretary, is political, the establishment of a Jewish National Home State in Palestine. <sup>And, that the</sup> ~~The~~ Jews cannot realize their objective without <sup>all the</sup> ~~exploiting~~ <sup>the so-called</sup> markets in Arab countries.

Azzam Bey, the Secretary General, also explained the distinction which the Arabs make between the Jews in the near East and the Jews in other countries, The Zionists. "The Jews in Egypt, Iraq, Syria, and so forth," He added, "Are our compatriots and fellow countrymen, our brothers. Zionists are our political adversaries." *That was the way he put it.*

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JAVA

Today's news from Southeast Asia indicates that the British are going all out to suppress the Indonesians in the East Indies Archipelago. It is reported that Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten will hold a meeting with other high Allied Officials to decide on extreme measures to put an end to the revolt and restore the islands to Dutch rule whether they like it or not.

British warships shelled the Indonesian positions near the Coast of Central Java. There is a state of siege at Bandoeng, the summer capital, seventy five miles away from Batavia. Other important things may be happening, but we don't know what because the British have ordered a blackout of the news.

Incidentally, <sup>←</sup> dispatch <sup>∞</sup> from Batavia, under the watchful eye of the British censor, now describe the revolting Indonesians as "Extremists."

TRIAL

The War Crimes Trial at Nuremberg today heard that Adolf Hitler had ordered the destruction, complete destruction of Czechoslovakia, as early as May Thirtieth, Nineteen Thirty-Eight. That was four months before the

*fateful*  
day at Munich when Neville Chamberlain gave *way to Hitler?*

~~Czechoslovaks up to the Nazis. The United States~~

*U.S.* Prosecutor ~~Siamy~~ *today* Alderman, introduced as evidence an

official German document, a top secret paper, ~~it~~

indicating that high German generals had planned to use poison gas to destroy the Czechoslovaks. Among them

~~were~~ Field Marshal Keitel and Colonel Jodl. *TP Also a* member of the Hungarian Government wanted to be in on the deal.

Admiral Horthy, Regent of Hungary, wanted a slice of Czechoslovakia. To him Adolf Hitler made the classical reply: "He who wishes to share the meal must join in cooking it."

The document implicated the highest German Generals as being completely willing to use poison gas and gave away their plans in full cynical detail.

## NAZIS FOLLOW TRIAL

American psychologists have been subjugating the Nazi leaders at Nuremberg to intelligence tests. They find that two of them have I.Q.'s that put them in the genius class. Hjalmar Schacht, Hitler's money man, and Seyss-Inquart, the Austrian who delivered his country over to the Nazis.

As for Rudolf Hess, and Julius Streicher, the Jew Baiter, only average. Herman Goering and Grand Admiral Doenitz, have a rating of a hundred and thirty-eight each; just below genius.

All nineteen examined came out well over the hundred mark. Field Marshal Keitel a hundred and twenty-nine, Colonel General Joël a hundred and twenty-seven, Dr. Alfred Rosenberg also a hundred and twenty-seven.

Dr. Glibert of Columbia University points out that the tests show that a high academic I.Q. is no guarantee against social stupidity and moral depravity. And now Hugh, who has a high I.Q.