

STRIKE

C.J. - Sumoco. Thursday, May 23, 1946

Here is news that will be news to practically nobody except those living in remote rural districts;—  
~~although it is an experience entirely novel in all American history.~~ The big railroad strike is on, all over the country, <sup>A thing that has</sup> ~~and that is something that~~ has never happened before <sup>in this continent.</sup>

At five o'clock, Eastern Daylight Time, <sup>in the East and Middle West</sup> engineers and trainmen ~~throughout the Union~~ walked off their jobs. In the great stations in the big ~~cities~~ cities, the loud speakers announced to the waiting crowds that trains had been cancelled, so those who wanted to travel on them had to scurry around trying to find other means of transportation. <sup>P</sup> Those who felt the effects first were hundreds of thousands of ~~those~~ who live in the suburbs of the large metropolitan centers. <sup>se people</sup> They raced to the bus depots and found themselves in long waiting lines. Taxis, cabs, everything that would

roll, was promptly called upon to take people home. In New York and presumably in the other large cities, many offices ~~will~~ closed down at two o'clock, so ~~that~~ commuters might not be stranded. How they ~~will~~ get to work tomorrow is a problem.

As a matter of fact, thousands of railroad men themselves are stranded, since they had to begin their walkout at points remote from their homes. <sup>TP</sup> Of all strikes, ~~max~~ one on the railroads is the hardest on those who take part in it. In other industries, the strikers can go home, because they are home.

The Office of Defense Transportation lost no time in issuing an order mobilizing all motor, air and waterways transport ~~mediums~~ to move the most essential traffic, milk and other perishable foods <sup>to be</sup> given <sup>priority.</sup> ~~priority.~~

Uncle Sam's ~~mx~~ mails are to be carried by air buses and trucks and by such trains as are running. Priorities

go to human food and fodder for livestock, fuel, medical supplies, chemicals, news print, and so forth. After that passengers may have priority. Airlines were ordered to cancel all reservations, to make room for priority cargoes.

It turns out now that the five days truce, which ended this afternoon, did no good. It really would have been better, since it was inevitable, that it should have started when it was first scheduled. For the railroads today were less prepared for the crisis than they were on Saturday. The high moguls of the big lines in Chicago said that when the roads were seized, any steps to avert disaster ~~would be~~<sup>became</sup> the responsibility of the government. Consequently they proceeded running their trains as usual, up to the last moment, except of course those that were cancelled two weeks ago because of the coal strike.

Some of the western roads, such as the Burlington and Union Pacific announced that they have plans for handling perishables and livestock.

Perishables will be sent to refrigeration houses.

*TR* The inhabitants of cities, particularly the large ones, will experience the shortage in fresh fruits and vegetables almost immediately. If the strike lasts, factories will have to close because of shortages of supplies. <sup>and</sup> Before long there will be mass unemployment in every state.

At a quarter past four, announcements came pouring in of the cancellations of passenger trains. But some lines, including the Pennsylvania and the B. & O. will try to keep some of their crack fliers running, strike or no strike. In other words, it sounds as though the railroads do not intend to give in, even though they have been seized by the government.

At Raleigh, North Carolina, the Seaboard Railway announced that its trains had not stopped running. And no fewer than eight Pennsylvania trains left the Broad Street Station at Philadelphia, manned by strike-breaking crews, *to be protected by the Army.* ~~One of them was the Glecker, one of the crack trains. And out of New York,~~ *For instance,* the Senator left the Pennsylvania Station for Washington with a full crew. Most of the trainmen wore ordinary business suits, no uniforms.

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All eyes have been on the White House since noon today. Hour after hour, the union leaders have been wrangling with representatives of the lines. *Pres.* Truman himself took no part in the dispute, but went on with his regular routine. He even took time to greet seven hundred and sixteen wounded veterans who had been invited to a garden party on the White House lawn.

Whitney of the Trainmen's Union, and Johnston

of the Engineers Brotherhood, made no bones about the fact that they considered Mr. Truman's proposal handed them last night, to be inadequate. That was the plan to give the men a boost of a dollar and forty-eight cents a day, but no changes in the railway operating rules.

Whitney and Johnston started their discussion with a committee of five, representing railroad management. That committee only had authority to negotiate, not to make a decision.

In the middle of the afternoon, a messenger was sent to summon the management "committee of fifteen," which does have full authority. That aroused the hope that a settlement was imminent. As the hours dragged on, and the deadline passed, that hope proved ~~to be~~ vain. At the ~~latest~~ latest report, the argument ~~was~~ still going on. We may hear more any minute.

## COAL

It looks as though the soft coal mines will shut down again, on Saturday, when the two week truce comes to an end.

At any rate, there is no widespread optimism in Washington, little hope that the government mediators will be able to bring about an agreement between John L. Lewis and the operators. Secretary of the Interior Krug hasn't yet told us just what those proposals were that Lewis handed him yesterday; but Krug did say that he would make an announcement soon.

Also, the Secretary of the Interior said he hoped to obtain "an agreement in principle" by Saturday night.

Apparently what the miners want is neither a principle nor an agreement; they just want a contract. And unless they get it, they don't seem to be in the mood <sup>(to work even)</sup> for the government. A hundred and thirty thousand miners ignored John L. Lewis's truce order.

O.P.A.

It looks as though President Truman <sup>is</sup> ~~were~~ quite annoyed with Congress over ~~the~~ opposition to O.P.A. He notified the lawmakers that if the bill as amended today, reaches his desk, he will ~~certainly~~ veto it. He wants <sup>the</sup> O.P.A. extended with full powers for another year, without any amendments, without any handcuffs. The bill as they've cut it up at present, would be of ~~very~~ little use and would actually mean a quick end of price control.

~~Of course he did not express himself angrily,~~  
~~he does not talk to the Congressmen as the late President~~ <sup>TP The</sup>  
~~Roosevelt sometimes did.~~ He spoke his mind in a letter to Senator Wagner, <sup>^</sup> said the ~~xxxxxxx~~ imminent danger of inflation was the most important issue before the Congress. "We are attaining production levels unprecedented in peacetime," he continued. "Labor and management have come to an agreement in most industries, and free international trade is about to be restored."



All these gains, however, depend on economic stability."

So said Mr. Truman. <sup>And he added:</sup> "They could be swept away by inflation in a few short months."

The President throughout his letter maintained the administration attitude of denying that inflation is already here, talked of it as being still a possibility that can be averted. Then he went on to say that the House of Representatives has passed a bill which he would not be able to approve, and that he was disturbed by reports of proposals in the Senate Committee of many amendments which could impair effective price control.

He then said: "I earnestly repeat my earlier request that ~~the~~ Congress quickly reenact the stabilization laws without amendments which would jeopardize economic stability. I ask, too," he continued, "that as President I do not be handicapped by amendments destroying my authority to vest

responsibility ~~for~~ in those departments and agencies of the government which I believe can best carry out the stabilization policies."

Pearl Harbor Investigating Committee. Mr. Hall said the long and tortuous negotiations between Japan and the United States in December, 1941, had been quite useless and unnecessary. Personally, he had been convinced for years that Japan would attack the United States whenever she got ready.

Not at the time did he believe that Japan was bluffing. On the contrary, he was quite convinced she was engaged on a steady and fixed course of conquest which in time would reach us.

The Pearl Harbor Committee later made public the revelation of the late Prince Kameyama, former Premier of Japan. Kameyama, who took poison and committed suicide last December, after MacArthur had put him at the top of the Japanese criminal list.

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## Pearl HARBOR

Today we have further interesting word from Cordell Hull, former Secretary of State. about pre-war negotiations with Japan. This in answer to questions by the Pearl Harbor Investigating Committee. Mr. Hull said the long and futile peace negotiations between Japan and the United States in Nineteen Forty-One had been quite useless and unnecessary. Personally, he had been convinced for years that Japan would attack the United States whenever she got ready.

Nor at the time did he believe that Japan was bluffing. On the contrary, he was quite convinced she was engaging on a steady and fixed course of conquest, which in time would reach us.

The Pearl Harbor Committee today made public the memoirs of the late Prince Konoye, former Premier of Japan. Konoye, who took poison and committed suicide last December, after MacArthur had put him at the top of the Jap war criminal list.

Konoye made the charge that the late President Roosevelt knew perfectly well that war was certain a

before Pearl Harbor. Konoye went on to say that when Ambassador Nomura met Roosevelt at the beginning of November, Nineteen Forty-One, one of the first things the President said to him was that he had it from reliable sources that the Japs had decided upon fighting Uncle Sam. This the Japanese Ambassador denied, but the President did not believe him. Then Konoye went on to say that on the Japanese side, the man principally responsible for the war was the former Foreign Minister, Yosuke Matsuoka. Konoye declared that time after time, Matsuoka delayed any negotiations and worked for all he was worth to help the Axis.

Konoye's memoirs also indicate that Emperor Hirohito was not the figurehead that he had been painted. That on the contrary, he knew full well what was going on, and that the Emperor was the only person who could restrain both the government and the Japanese high command.

In his memoirs, Konoye complained bitterly about the way the Japanese army chiefs always kept the government in the dark about their plans and operations. With

sometimes the United States government learning about plans before the Japanese government did.

Well, the Pearl Harbor inquiry is over, in spite of the vehement protests of the two Republican members, ~~XXXX~~ Senator's Ferguson of Michigan and Brewster of Maine. The latter complained that the Committee had only brought out seventy-five or eighty per cent of the information that ought to be made public. The vigorous way in which the majority on the Committee had squelched the minority, said Senator Brewster, was the equivalent of legislative lynching. Every issue discussed was settled on a straight party vote, with the Democrats just voting the party line, making a determined defense of Franklin D. Roosevelt, said the Main Senator.

# WEAPON

A secret weapon, ~~even~~ more devastating than the atomic bomb, is now at the disposal of Uncle Sam's fighting forces. Congressman Albert Thomas of Texas made <sup>is</sup> that startling revelation in the House of Representatives today. He's a member of the Sub-Committee on Naval

Appropriations. <sup>If this came</sup> ~~In fact, he blurted it~~ out in the course of a hot argument with other Congressmen. ~~This happened~~

<sup>of Texas</sup> ~~because~~ Thomas is one of the watchdogs of the Treasury, <sup>and for</sup> famed for economy, not spending too much on the Navy. <sup>Many</sup> ~~Others, of course, take~~ <sup>of the other side taking</sup> the side of the admirals ~~and for~~ <sup>advocate</sup> a big navy. <sup>If</sup> Representative Thomas <sup>said he</sup> ~~on his side~~

wanted to cut <sup>a</sup> ~~one~~ billion, seven hundred millions from the Navy's budget for Nineteen Forty-Seven. ~~The~~ <sup>insisted</sup> ~~Other~~ ~~insisted~~ ~~that~~ that if we were too stingy with the Navy, <sup>that</sup> ~~it~~ would imperil the security of the nation.

<sup>Congressman</sup> Then Thomas came out with the secret, saying:

"We have something far more deadlier than the atomic bomb today," and he added: "Not tomorrow, today. Furthermore," he continued, "it's in useable shape." At that, he stopped short and would not say another word.

Naturally, after the debate, the newspapermen crowded around him and wanted to know what was what. To them he said he was afraid he ~~was~~ already <sup>had</sup> talked too much. He refused to give any further information except that this secret weapon had been developed in the Navy's Bureau of Medicine and Surgery.

<sup>All of which</sup> ~~Naturally, they~~ stimulated all sorts of conjectures. <sup>Some</sup> ~~People~~ are now guessing that the new weapon may be anything from bacteriological warfare to ~~the~~ ~~so-called~~ death ray such as H.G. Wells described as being used by the <sup>+</sup> ~~Marcian~~ invaders ~~of the earth~~ in his ~~novel,~~ <sup>"</sup> ~~The~~ War of the Worlds."

Congressman Shepard of California, who is

Chairman of that same sub-committee, corroborated what his colleague from Texas had said. He told newspapermen that this ~~information~~ nation <sup>is</sup> ~~was~~ in possession of scientific factors which place <sup>us</sup> ~~it~~ in an enviable position. Then he added: "The scientific factors at hand would result in devastation equal to, if not greater than, the atomic bomb." ~~But~~ <sup>But</sup> he warned the newspapermen: "Remember, there are different kinds of devastation."

When will the nature of this <sup>secret</sup> ~~secret~~ weapon be made public, officially? Said the Congressman: "Maybe never."

And Hugh who will reveal something to us right now.