

E. J. - Sunco and P. D. Monday, July 21, 1947.

NEW LEAD STRIKE

All up and down the Pacific Coast the big news tonight is the Southern Pacific strike -- called barely an hour ago. Although the walkout directly involves only some thirty-five-hundred engineers, indirectly, it affects much of Western America -- this strike of the West Coast's great railroad system -- and right at the height of the harvest and shipping season.

All S. P. service cancelled west of Ogden, Utah, in the middle region -- and from El Paso, Texas, to San Diego in the South; and, on north to Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Portland.

Two feeder lines are also involved -- The Northwestern Pacific, and The San Diego & Arizona Eastern.

Tonight and tomorrow (and however long the strike lasts) there'll be some famous trains missing from the runs out West, and as far east as Chicago. Those streamliners: The City of San Francisco on the Chicago run, the overnight sleeper on the Lark to Los Angeles, and up north The Cascade Limited out of Portland, and, The Overland Limited and The Challenger.

All of which will tie things up plenty for travelers right at the height of the summer, and this the nation's greatest vacation season! But, hard as it may be on vacation-bound tourists, their plight, that's not the toughest part. California's multi-million-dollar agricultural industry, not to mention the millions more ~~invested~~ in Oregon and Washington ~~farmlands~~ -- ^{all} ~~they are~~ seriously imperilled.

Right now, the peaches and the lemons and the oranges and the lettuce and the tomatoes in Southern California, and in the San Fernando Valley; potatoes from all over the West; and apples from the Pacific Northwest, all are supposed to be moving out in refrigerated cars, on their way to eastern markets. They are stacked high on railroad sidings tonight -- millions of dollars worth of perishable commodities. Two millions dollars worth of Bartlett pears; five hundred thousand dollars worth of Valencia oranges and lemons in the San Diego area alone.

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And all through those bountiful valleys of the West they are having a sweltering hot spell right now, with temperatures ~~at~~ well over the hundred mark. And that means fast ripening crops -- melons ready sooner than expected. You can see what havoc it will mean to those mountains of fruits and vegetables.

In California's agricultural history there has been no crisis to equal it!

How about the strike ending soon? Well, they are still negotiating. That's all we know about it at the moment. Meanwhile we can well shed a tear for the western farmer, and the western shipper.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Secretary of State Marshall had a session with Congressional leaders today. A hush-hush affair, with every Congressman taking a solemn oath not to reveal a word of what he had learned from the Secretary.

Lee of California, without violating his pledge, told newspapermen he had been profoundly impressed by what General Marshall had told them. But all he could divulge was that relations between nations are at a dangerous point.

The veteran Congressman Eaton, of New Jersey, Chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, said he felt strongly that as many members of the House as possible should go abroad and see for themselves what's going on.

The meeting included the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House, together with the Chairman and ranking Democrats of six other important committees.

Washington correspondents report that there is a strong undercurrent of resistance against the financing of

the Marshall Plan -- opposition in both Houses of Congress. Then they go on to add that already the Molotov Plan, for Eastern Europe, has a head start of the Marshall Plan.

Joseph and Stewart Alsop, in their column this morning, pointed out that this reluctance is the result of pressure brought on Congressmen by their constituents. Particularly the folks in the Middle West, who are opposed to sending any more of Uncle Sam's dollars to Europe. The Middle West being unable to realize the seriousness of the international situation.

The Alsops say the Soviet Union is now engaged in open political and economic warfare with the U.S.A., combined with a propaganda warfare all over the world. That one symptom of this made its appearance in Korea, when the chief Soviet delegate to the Russo-American Mission charged the United States with having violated the agreement made by the Foreign Ministers in their meeting at Moscow. This Red leader put the blame on the

Americans for the present deadlock and delay in forming a temporary government of Korea. While our people have tried to proceed along democratic lines, getting the points of view of the leaders of all Korean parties, the Russians regard that as stupidly delaying and confusing the work of the Korean commission.

Eaton today expressed his annoyance at Senator Tom Connally for prophesying last week that the conference on the Marshall Plan at Paris would be a failure. The New Jersey Representative remarked caustically that maybe the Senator from Texas had special information, but from what he knew, the arrangement for that conference was the most hopeful event since the end of the war.

COMMIES

The House Committee on Un-American Activities today heard a new estimate of the number of Communists and fellow travelers in the U.S.A. Walter Steele, managing editor of the National Republic Magazine, declared that there were no fewer than five million of them. That number breaks down into a hundred-thousand party members carrying cards, a hundred-thousand others who are candidates for party membership. But that Communist sympathizers and people who belong to Communist Front organizations -- all amounts to a total of four-million, eight-hundred-thousand.

At the same time, Editor Steele told the Congressmen that it was difficult to be accurate about this because so many fellow travelers belong to more than one Communist Front organization. He went on to ~~mx~~ express the belief that the Reds are getting set to organize a third party, "of major strength," was the way he put it.

TRUMAN

President Truman sent a report to Congress today, a report prepared by his council of economic advisers, exceedingly sanguine in tone. Uncle Sam's nephews and nieces, says the President, are still riding the crest of post-war prosperity. And, we can go on being well off indefinitely, so long as we avoid another spiral in wages and prices.

The President then asked for cooperation between labor, management and government. Labor to be moderate in its demands for wage rises; management to hustle up production and keep prices low; Congress to maintain high taxes and wipe out social injustices.

"If we do all this," said he, "we can place the high production and the high employment that we have today, on a firm foundation of enduring prosperity and peace." And he uttered a particular plea to labor not to use the liberal contract that John L. Lewis obtained from the coal operators as an excuse for new and exorbitant demands. If coal prices go up, steel prices

may follow suit, and that would set off another general surge of price inflation. He hinted that the leaders of industry should not be too pessimistic. That month by month there has been a talk of recession; and month by month it has failed to materialize.

At Detroit, a hundred and fifteen thousand idle today. Not because of any strike. This time it was a shortage of sheet steel. And next week sixty-five thousand more will be laid off in General Motors factories throughout the country.

All of which has started Walter Reuther, President of the Auto Workers Union, fulminating against the steel tycoons. Charging them with bringing about the shortage, deliberately. Reuther today told a committee of Senators that the leaders of the steel industry want a program of planned scarcity and are trying to entrench what he calls "their monopoly." "Restricted production," said he, "is the program of the steel corporations, and if ~~it~~ it goes on there will be economic disaster by Nineteen Fifty."

Witnesses for the steel corporations have already told the committee that the nation will need no more than eighty million tons of steel for the next five or ten years. But Reuther says that for us to have full employment, we'll need a hundred million tons.

And that if the steel magnates have their way, there
will be fourteen million unemployed in Nineteen Fifty.

FLOODS

The Senators are more generous in the matter of flood control than the Representatives. The House allotted the sum of a-hundred-and-thirty-four-million dollars for this, with seventeen millions odd for rivers and harbors. But a sub-committee of the Senate today added a-hundred-and-ninety-one million to the House figure -- for flood control -- bringing the total up to just short of three-hundred millions, with forty-three million odd for rivers and harbors.

President Truman had asked for two-hundred-and-fifty-millions for the Mississippi basin alone.

INDONESIA

Civil War in Indonesia. The government forces have been fighting the Javanese rebels principally at airfields and around cities in eastern Java.

The Indonesian commander-in-chief, General Sudirman, and his Prime Minister, are charging the Dutch with having started it all - also with bombing civilians in several cities. He accuses the Netherlands government with trying to reduce the Indonesians to the status of colonials again. They are appealing to the people for unity - a national front.

Meanwhile, President Soekarno has appealed to the United Nations to intervene.

The Dutch are said to be using American Mustang planes, and Mitchell bombers. Plus an army of some ninety thousand men.

ROOSEVELT

The secret papers of the late President Roosevelt are the property of Uncle Sam. That's the court decision. You may recall that the War Investigating Committee of the Senate has been demanding access to those papers, in fact issued a subpoena for them, but without success.

The late F.D.R. in his will, bequeathed the decision as to those documents to three people, former Justice Rosenman of New York, his secretary, Grace Tully, and the late Harry Hopkins. He directed that they should decide how and when the contents of his intimate papers should be made public.

But a surrogate in Dutchess County, New York, of which the late President's Hyde Park estate is a part, issued a decision today that F.D.R. during his lifetime, gave his papers to the government of the U.S.A., and that the gift is valid. The clause in the Roosevelt will giving the decision to Rosenman, Hopkins,

and Miss Tully was, nothing but an administrative request, said the surrogate. That the decision about publishing their contents is the function of the United States Keeper of the Archives.

The longest and fastest mass flight! That's to be the next air thriller. Scheduled for July Thirty-first. On that date eight B-29s will take off from ~~Task~~ Tokyo, bound for Washington. A seven-thousand-mile flight.

On the last attempt, when three B-29s tried this same nonstop flight from ~~Task~~ Tokyo to Washington, back in September, Nineteen Forty-five, they had to stop for gas at Chicago.

General Kenney announces that this time the eight Superforts will refuel at Anchorage, Alaska. Nine correspondents will make the flight as super-cargo. General Kenney says it will be a routine training mission, the first of a series.

VOLCANO

A volcano in Nicaragua in full eruption for ten days. Cerro Negro, or Black Hill, as it's called, has been pouring lava and ashes over some of the richest farmlands in that republic. The volcanic downpour has devastated two-hundred-and-eighty square miles, leaving thousands of Nicaraguans homeless.

Cerro Negro is not big; only a thousand, seven-hundred-and-thirty-one feet high. But the gases inside have been hurling white hot rocks thousands of feet into the air.

Newspaper correspondents watching the display from a railroad car near Leon City, thirteen miles away, say the countryside is littered with dead livestock.

ANIMAL

Mrs. Clifford Hebert of Houma, Louisiana, has a pet which puzzles everybody including Mrs. Hebert's veterinarian. Nobody can make out whether it's a cat or a rabbit. It meows like pussy and hops over the ground like bunny, with long, strong hind legs and short props in front. It has a face like a cat, teeth like a cat, and the tail of a jack-rabbit.

The vet, before he saw the creature, declared that a combination between cat and rabbit was impossible, because, said he, there is no such thing as a cross between vegetable-eating and flesh-eating animals. But now he's not so sure. Bunny-cat likes milk, but only the canned kind, refuses to touch meat, and will have nothing to do with vegetables. *A rabbit with a pussies face!* - 0 -

There's always something new -- and now ~~maybe~~ *something about Dynafuel maybe* Nelson - anything new from you?

LUSTIG

The United States Circuit Court of Appeals today handed down a decision in the case of Henry Lustig, former owner of the de luxe Longchamps chain of restaurants in New York. Lustig, you may remember, was convicted of overlooking the little matter of some two million, eight hundred and seventy-two thousand dollars in income taxes to Uncle Sam.

The court sentenced him to four years' imprisonment and a fine of a-hundred-and-fifteen-thousand dollars. Lustig appealed, and now the Circuit Court says his conviction and sentence must stand.

The case now will go on up to The Supreme Court.

POLL TAX

The Republican majority in the House today somewhat upset the Southerners. Determined to speed up proceedings so the lawmakers can go home, the Republican leaders called up that controversial bill making it unlawful for Southern states to enforce their statutes which deny the right to vote to anybody who won't pay the poll tax.

This measure always gets the Southerners up in arms. And this time they promptly tried to start a filibuster with motions to adjourn --calls for a quorum, and so forth, but the filibuster didn't work. Speaker Joe Martin promptly announced that the chair would not recognize any motions designed to delay things. And the Republicans voted down the motion to adjourn, by two hundred and ninety-nine to eighty-five, and then passed that bill with a vote of two-hundred-and-ninety to a hundred-and-eleven.

But, the Southerners need not be too much upset. For there's no chance of the anti-poll tax act getting by the Senate.

This is the fourth time that bill has been jammed through the House, and each time a Senate filibuster knocks it out.

STRIKE

The Southern Pacific Railroad today warned travelers to the west coast that they may run the risk of being stranded, at least so far as the Southern Pacific lines are concerned.

The Company has already declared a freight embargo.

All attempts to settle the disagreement with the Union have failed. So at ten o'clock tonight, Eastern Daylight Time, six o'clock Pacific Time, the engineers of the Southern Pacific will walk out. They want an increase of two-ninety a day, together with nineteen changes in the working rules, most of them having to do with featherbedding, which was declared illegal by the Taft-Hartley Act.

President Truman has appointed a special emergency board to investigate the dispute.