

L.T. - SUNOCO. - THURSDAY, JAN. 24, 1946.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

About that proposal of Benjamin Fairless, head of U.S. Steel, the suggestion that President Truman call a conference of all the top men of industry:- Ben Fairless's idea was that management executives could advise the President just how much of an increase of wages the country can stand without running headlong into further inflation. It might solve not only the steel strike but all the others now plaguing the country, that was Fairless' idea.

During one coal dispute, the late President Roosevelt said the feelings of the country was, "a plague on both your houses." President Truman's reply was much the same. Talking to the newspapermen in Washington, he said both management and labor have

become too powerful for the good of the people. That the strikes raging throughout the country today are a series of battles between management and labor for power. The government, he admitted, should assert and wield the power of the people. But in that direction, he said, he has already gone as far as he can. That all he can do is remind both labor and management that the rights of the people come first. Furthermore, in reply to the suggestion of Fairless of U.S. Steel, President Truman remarked that he did not make his engagements through radio or press.

Then he reiterated what he had said before, that the best thing Fairless and his associates could do was accept his suggestion for an eighteen and a half cent per hour increase. If anything concrete can be accomplished, Mr. Truman said he is willing to meet management representatives again.

But, he is not going to seize the steel mills,

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at any rate not now. It wouldn't be practical, he explained. However, this does not mean he may not do it later on. He also told his press conference that it was logically most probable that the end of the steel strike would also mean the end of the General Motors trouble.

Mr. Truman then gave voice to an appeal to the workers in steel mills that are not basic, those that have no quarrel with the employer. He urged them to go back to work, since the dispute is no quarrel of theirs. Everybody who can should stick to his job, and push through the nation's reconversion program.

There has been a lot of conjecture about what would happen to the big steel mill the government built during the war at Provo, Utah. The President announced that he now is considering government operation of that plant.

As for the meat strike, he feels sure the workers will get busy as soon as the government takes over the packing houses on Saturday.

Newspapermen asked about the statement made by the C.I.O. President, ~~whm~~ Philip Murray, the accusation that the epidemic of strikes was promoted by a conspiracy of big business men. Said the President, there was no such evidence so far as he knew.

Late this afternoon the President published the order to Secretary of Agriculture Anderson to seize the packing plants, a hundred-and-thirty-four of them, owned by seventeen companies. As we had been already told from Washington, Secretary Anderson is to do this on Saturday at one minute past noon. The executive order directs Secretary Anderson to run the packing houses on the terms and conditions of employment that now prevail. That sounds a trifle ambiguous, because the conditions

now prevailing are that the men are not working. What it means, obviously, is at the wage scale prevailing at the time the men struck. Apparently, Mr. Truman expects the workers to comply with that idea.

And, that doesn't make a hit with the two unions involved. Both the A.F. of L. and the C.I.O. men announced at Chicago that they will not go back to work even for Uncle Sam unless the government's fact-finding panel makes wage increases retroactive to next Saturday. And the panel will not report until February Sixteenth, unless it hurries faster than was expected. Well, the A.F. of L. union, the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Union, rescinded its order to its men to go to work for the government and told them to sit right and await further word from their headquarters. The C.I.O.

Union, United Packing House Workers, will hold a meeting tomorrow to decide whether its two hundred

thousand members will comply with the government's orders.

Three of the packing companies informed the Fact-Finding Panel that it would cost them seventeen and a half cents more an hour immediately to meet the wage increase that the workers demand, and seven and a half cents more later for the C.I.O. union, and fifteen cents more for the A.F. of L.

When the plants are seized on Saturday, troops will be on the job. President Truman has ordered the Secretary of War to send the troops as guards to make sure there is no disorder and to prevent any "overt act."

STRIKE FOLLOW TRUMAN

Now the strike situation ^{in general} tonight: a quick summary.

The total number on strike today throughout the country is estimated at a million, eight-hundred-thousand. But there are others idle -- many others, as a result of the strike; plants forced to shut down because they now are running out of steel.

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In addition to the threat of a walkout on the railroads, there is a chance that certain coal mines may shut down; in Kentucky and Virginia. Not because of a strike of miners, but of electrical workers -- in two plants supplying power to the mines.

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In Chicago the police on guard outside the stockyards, to prevent disorder, had ^{no} ~~is~~ place to sit down. So, an individual who called himself "Special Service Sandy," came along with pillows and old newspapers, which he sold to the cops.

Then it turned cold. This time along came

STRIKE FOLLOW TRUMAN - 2

Sandy with earmuffs and blankets -- which he gave the officers -- for a price. Then, it turned warm, and now the police had no place to hang their hats and coats, and the blankets. So Sandy went out and got a supply of nails. He even tried to sell the nails to the police, at five cents apiece. That was the last straw. The police took after their benefactor, and tonight Sandy doesn't work there any more.

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In Pittsburgh, the steel strike at least has done a good turn to men who pay alimony. The court of Alleghany County handed down a ruling that "support orders" will not be enforced against men who are on strike!

However, this was not done for the ^{benefit} ~~benefit~~ of the men. It's for the benefit of the women. So long as ~~they~~ she received support from her husband, the little woman could get no relief from the public works. Now that alimony is cut off, wives get a weekly allowance from the State -- so, again it's the taxpayer who pays.

ADD STRIKE

Added to the factories shut down for lack of steel, will be all the Ford motor plants. The Company announced at Detroit today that it would be obliged to stop all operations in ten days; ~~having~~ no steel.

And,
~~But~~ even before the ten days are up, the Company will lay off fifteen thousand men tomorrow, *and* twenty-five thousand more within a week.

U.N.O.

Secretary of State Byrnes left London today, on his way to Washington. He started immediately after the Assembly of the United Nations had unanimously voted to establish the commission for the control of atomic energy as suggested by the Big Three Foreign Ministers at Moscow. Before he left, Byrnes delivered a statement to the Assembly which, according to reports from London, made quite an impression. The United Nations, he said, were obliged to unite in war to preserve their common freedom. They are now committed to remain united to preserve their common peace. "We won the war against aggression and tyranny by fighting together," said he. "We must now keep the peace by working together."

He then spoke of the necessity of finding ways to promote the use of our scientific knowledge for the benefit of mankind and prevent their use for destructive purposes. Science, declared Byrnes, is a monopoly of no one nation, and the problems that have

arisen from the discovery of atomic energy cannot be solved by any one nation. They are the common responsibility of all nations.

~~Peace and conciliation, he continued, require common action. The more common tasks we set for ourselves, the more we are likely to ~~grow~~ come to understand each other.~~

He went on to say that we shall have to continue keeping armies of occupation in Germany and Japan for some time to come. He added that to keep armies of occupation in countries which we want to join the United Nations will not be conducive to a peaceful world.

Following Byrnes's statement, came the unanimous vote of the Assembly for the atomic energy control commission.

In a press conference, ^{see} Byrnes told newspapermen that he was particularly anxious to get all occupation forces out of the Balkans and out of Italy. ^{That} No progress can be made toward reconstruction so long as occupation

troops remain in sovereign countries. This would include China and Greece, but not Indonesia.

TRIAL

From Nuremberg we learn today what line fat Herman Goering is going to follow in his defense. He is going to put most of the blame on Ribbentrop. According to the obese ^{ex} Air Marshal, he ^{Herman,} could have kept Britain out of the war in Nineteen Thirty-Nine, but for Ribbentrop's a rogance and blundering.

His defense will include materials in a book recently published at Stockholm by a Swedish civil engineer. In this, the engineer declares that in June, Nineteen Thirty-Nine, a group of British big business men tried to get in contact with prominent Germans. August Seventh, Nineteen Thirty-Nine, they met Goering near the Danish border. According to Goering, he had almost brought about a reconciliation between Britain and Germany. But at the crucial moment, Ribbentrop insulted the British Ambassador, the late Sir Neville Henderson. Instead of handing him a copy of the German note on Poland, he summoned Henderson to his office and kept him standing while he read him the note aloud.

Goering tried to smooth Henderson's ruffled feelings by obtaining a copy of the note and sending it to him. On August Thirty-First, Nineteen Thirty-Nine, Goering invited Henderson - so he says - to a conference.

There he
proposed negotiations between Britain and Germany, Britain to represent the interests of Poland. Henderson promised to convey the peace overtures to his government, and Goering thought he could persuade Hitler to appoint him, Goering, as mediator with Britain.

All of these attempts at peace were upset by Ribbentrop; ^{so} says Herman Goering.

INDIA

Another anti-European riot in Bombay! Mass demonstrations, with the police firing on the crowds; leaving ten dead, and some forty-six injured.

The police held their fire until the mob set fire to a street car. Up to that time the police had been battling the demonstrators with tear gas. But, while the firemen were trying to control the flames, Indians from nearby rooftops attempted to drive them off with stones. And that was when the firing started.

SPAATZ

Yes, General Carl Touhy Spaatz is to take the place of General Arnold. It's official now -- from the President himself. General Spaatz will become commander of Uncle Sam's Army Air Forces as soon as General Arnold returns from his present tour of South America. General Arnold's original ^{plan} ~~plans~~ was not to come back until early in February. However, he became ill, in ~~Peru~~ Peru, I believe it was, and now is on his way home.

ATOM TEST

Somewhere in the Pacific, ~~there is going to be~~ the most colossal scientific experiment ever undertaken. The Government is going to assemble a fleet of ninety-seven warships -- German, Japanese and American. Those of our own that are included will be old men-o-war, such as the aircraft carriers Saratoga and Independence, and the battlewagons New York, Pennsylvania, Arkansas and Nevada, *as I mentioned last night.* Then an atom bomb ^{///} will be dropped in the midst of this fleet to determine how many of those obsolete and enemy warships it will destroy.

The experiment will take place not far from the Marshall Islands, but far enough away so that there will be no danger of injuring either the natives of the islands or any travelers in the Pacific.

Newspapermen will be on hand to describe the effect of the demonstration, which ought to make a sight worth seeing. There will also, of course, be members of Congress, representatives of all arms of the military establishment, civilian scientists.

Senator McMahon of Connecticut has urged that representatives of the United Nations be invited. Also British and Canadian observers.

As officially stated, the object of the experiment is to make available to science and to the public all appropriate information derived from this historic test. It may be necessary to keep some results secret because of their military importance.

Supposing the explosion of the atomic bomb sinks all ninety-seven of those ships, it would be tremendously significant. There will be three tests in all. For ~~the first~~ the first, the atomic bomb will be exploded several hundred feet above the ships. This will take place in May. A couple of months later, if any ships are left, another bomb will be exploded at water level. The third test will be conducted next year or later. In that one, the bomb will be exploded under water at a considerable depth. There is a scientific theory that surface explosions are far more damaging than those under water. This test will prove or disprove it. In addition to news cameramen, Army, Navy and Air Force cinematographers will record the explosion

from heavily armored shelters on the ring of islands which surround the place chosen for the anchorage. There will also be planes aloft, without crews, controlled by radio ~~XXXXXXXX~~ but carrying recording apparatus.

The base of the operations will be the island of Kwajalein, which we captured from the Japs at such terrific cost of life.

The former enemy ships will include the Japanese battlewagon Nagato, and the German heavy cruiser Prince Eugen, which steamed into Boston last Wednesday. The entire operation will be under the command of Vice Admiral ~~W. S. P.~~ Blandy.

~~Needless to say,~~ There will be no crews aboard the target ships. At the spot selected for the first experiment the water is only sixty-six feet deep. That will make it possible to send divers down to examine in detail the results on the vessels that are sunk. Those that are not sunk and hopelessly damaged will be repaired and made seaworthy again for the second test.

So flush. I'd like to be there. Let's