

LABOR

L.J. - Sunoco. Wednesday, Jan. 30, 1946
(From Jacksonville)

General Motors and the Union are negotiating again. This renewal of collective bargaining was arranged by Labor Department Mediator James F. Dewey, who announced today that representatives of the company and CIO have gone into session this afternoon in another effort to end the strike.

The latest is: General Motors refuses any wage increase, unless guaranteed against unauthorized strikes. In the world of steel we have an intimation that the US Steel Corporation will accept President Truman's compromise - if guaranteed a sufficient increase in the price of steel. This was stated today by the magazine "Iron Age." We have heard that the government is willing to allow a price increase of four dollars a ton. But the steel industry indicates that a boost of at least six dollars and twenty-five cents a ton will be required before steel will grant the increase of eighteen and a half cents an hour.

Reports persist that a break in the deadlock will soon come about.

On the broad front of the strike situation, things continued to improve today. The number

of strikers declined to one-million ~~and~~ five-hundred thousand -- the lowest figure in ten days. This is to be accounted ^{for} largely by the end of the meat strike.

U N O

At the U N O in London there ^{was} stern debate today - sometimes harsh.

The proceedings began when the Iranian government accepted the Soviet proposal that the question should be settled by direct negotiation between the Persians and the Russians. But -- these negotiations should be under the jurisdiction of the United Nations Organization.

This was immediately and flatly refused by the Soviets. In London the Vice Commissar from Moscow, Vishinski, doesn't mince words or use fancy expressions. He is blunt.

And of this he gave a typical example today - rejecting the Iranian offer. "If" declared Vishinski "the Iranian government really and sincerely wants direct negotiation we are prepared to accept. But," he went on, "this business of placing the negotiations under the aegis of the Security Council would make a fiction if it. No!!!!"

[^]That heavy Soviet "no", drew a quick retort from British Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin. That Socialist of the London Labor Government is likewise blunt. ~~And he said things that were scathing.~~ He accused the Soviet ~~and~~ Government of violating a treaty made in Nineteen Forty-two, a three power treaty between Great Britain, Soviet Russia and Iran, which guaranteed Iranian independence and sovereignty. He referred to an admission by Vishinski that the Red Army had prevented Iranian ^{troops} ~~forces~~ from putting down an insurgent autonomous regime in the northern Persian province of Azerbaijan, and declared: "Mr. Vishinski says the Soviet High Command stopped those troops. Then,

what is there to negotiate about? If they were stopped then the Soviet infringe on the treaty".

~~Bevin intimated that the supervision of the U N O was necessary, in dealings between the Russians and the Iranians, drawing a contrast between the huge and powerful Soviet Russia and the weak and helpless country called Iran. The idea being -- when one is so big and the other so small, things are likely to be unfair.~~

The climax of the Bevin excoriation came when he stated ^{the} Soviet Union in northern Persia looked like what Bevin called "the beginning of an aggression".

In his support of the Iranian position, Bevin was joined by American chief ~~ambassa~~ delegate Stettinius -- who ~~agreed~~ argued in favor of the Iranian proposal that there be direct negotiations between Russia and Iran under the supervision of the U N O. ~~France took that view also. So did China. Even the ~~ps~~ Polish government formed under~~

~~the sponsorship of the Soviets agreed that the Security council ~~must~~ should keep jurisdiction over the Iranian question and not just dismiss the whole thing, let it slide.~~

Yet ~~how~~ Now does it all end? The latest is a bulletin from London stating that the Security Council of the U N O has referred the dispute back to Russia and Iran -- they to ~~negotiate~~ negotiate between them. And the question has been removed from the formal agenda of the council -- ~~that~~ the negotiations are not to be under the

jurisdiction of the U N O. But the U. N. O. reserves the right to request information about the negotiations at any time. A compromise - a qualified victory for the Soviets.

MORGAN

British General Sir Frederick Morgan was reinstated today as Director of UNRA in Europe. He has been, in the words of the dispatch, "cleared of charges of anti-semitism."

Sir Frederick Morgan ~~had~~ ^{had} incurred ~~an~~ ^{angry} Jewish criticism when he stated that there seemed to be an organized mass exodus of Jews from Poland toward Palestine. His dismissal was ordered. But he refused to be dismissed. Instead he came to the United States to ~~make~~ make a personal explanation to UNRA Director, former Governor ~~Lehman~~ Lehman of New York. Today Lehman announced that he had reinstated Morgan after conferences that Lehman describes as "long and searching".

ATOMIC BOMB

The wonders of science proposed will never cease. Today we are given the suggestion that atomic bombs should be dropped on the ice ^{cap} ~~cap~~ of the Antarctic, ~~to clear away the ice and enable them to get at deposits of iron, and copper and gold.~~ This ~~is proposed~~ by Captain Eddie Rickenbacker, the famous flier of two wars. Rickenbacker has submitted his ideas to the Army -- ~~his idea~~ ^{all} based on the belief that great stores of metals lie in the Antarctic continent beneath the immense thickness of ice. One wonders what atomic explosions would do to the Antarctic ice -- melt it all with the unearthly blasts of heat? The south polar ice cap is enormous and if it all were melted the level of the ocean might rise. But ~~maybe~~ Rick's idea ^{of course} is to clear away the ice by atomic explosion only in certain places to get at the metals.

Meanwhile, the ~~V~~ Navy announces a deluge of applications from people who want to attend the

the atomic tests on warships in the Far Pacific. Hosts of newspaper reports, radio commentators, and magazine writers, want to cover the experiments -- between five and six thousand of them having made application already. So many -- that a joint Army-Navy board has been created to select the correspondents ~~in~~ who will report the atomic test. ~~Present~~ Present indications are that between one-hundred-and-twenty-five and one-hundred-and-forty will go.

SOLDIER

General MacArthur states that he ^{has} no authority now in the case of Private Joseph Hicksa, sentenced to death in Japan for the killing of two Jap civilians. The General makes his reply to the soldiers mother and states that the case of Private Hicksa is now being handled in Washington. The sentence of death, ^{is} /being reviewed by the War Department and the final authority rests with President Truman.

Private Hicksa's mother wrote a pathetic letter to MacArthur in which she stated: "My son was torn away from his home to serve his country at the age of eighteen, taught to kill, heard of many of his friends being killed, was under an emotional strain and ~~was~~ was delayed in his home coming." ^R This would seem to be a just observation in view of accounts that killings were the result of a mad outbreak. We have heard that Private Hicksa and several other G I's had a drinking bout of whiskey, gin, the Japanese rice wine called saki,

and beer. They were on their way back to camp when Private Hicks made a sudden dash at a Jap civilian and stabbed him with a bayonet.

He was being restrained by his companions when he broke away - and killed another civilian, all this according to published accounts. If the story is true, it would certainly seem to be an ~~un~~ ~~intended~~ unpremeditated, ~~unintended~~ act, done in a moment of irresponsibility.

PEARL HARBOR

In the Pearl Harbor investigation, a Navy Intelligence officer told today how it was part of the job of Naval intelligence to keep informed about the moves of the warship forces of Japan. But on December First, Nineteen Forty-one, Naval Intelligence could no longer account for certain important units, battleships, aircraft carriers, and cruiser, of the Jap fleet -- they had just dropped out of sight, so far as Naval Intelligence was concerned.

This, said Captain G.H. McCollum today, was interpreted as a sign that war was at hand, the Japs about to strike -- strike with those warships that had vanished in a blank of secrecy. It turned out later that naval units in question were precisely those that launched the Pearl Harbor attack. The reasons for their disappearance was that they were on their way to Pearl Harbot.

Captain McCollum states that, in response to his warning about the missing Jap Naval Units,

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and the imminence of war he was informed that orders to alert the fleet at Pearl Harbor and been sent. "I was given categorical assurance by Admiral Stark and Admiral Turner," says he, "that warnings fully alerting the fleets for war had been sent out. And yet there was complete surprise when the Japs launched that blow."

SHIRTS

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Here's the story of the two million and four hundred thousand white shirts -- ~~an~~ for export only, [^]not to be sold to Americans. The report, ~~of that because of shirts,~~ raised all sorts of ructions. There was nation-wide protests -- from American manhood so badly in need of shirts.

There were panicky denials in Washington, with government agencies denying that two million and four hundred thousand shirts were being withheld from us Americans, [^]soon apparently to be without a shirt on our back.

Well, the whole thing traces to William Beck, a New York representative of ~~shuxt~~ shirt manufacturers. ~~William~~ Beck is enterprising, out for business, always on the lookout for a big deal. Today he told ~~me~~ ^{how it was all because} he got a tip from a friend. This friend said ~~he had information that~~ the Navy was releasing two hundred thousand dozens of white shirts ~~that had been~~ manufactured for naval officers. And these could be purchased -- but only for export.

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With a hot tip like that Beck inquired about a market. He telephoned to export firms and asked them if they would be interested in two thousand dozen shirts. The answer was an eager -- yes.

Then the storm broke! It seems that the exporters talked about the shirts and word of this got to the manager of a string of chain stores. Beck today related: "This chain store manager got mad. Here we were, exporting shirts, when he couldn't get any for love nor money. He called the newspapers and told them about it."

The newspapers in turn, went to the source of it all, Mr. Beck.

Beck says that, meanwhile, he was not able to get in touch with the friend who had given him the tip. That is not until this morning, when he telephoned to the friend. And what did he hear? The friend said - oh, he had just heard about it from some other fellow. It was the old story, somebody heard about something

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from somebody, who had heard about it from somebody else. And eck saw his dream of making a killing turn into mere talk and gossip.

Today he said to the news men: "I wish you'd kill that story. My telephone has been rining every few minutes, and I even had an F B I man down here a little while ago, checking up on it."

Beck thought the shirts were at his beck and call, but it was only a mirage that raised a storm. The next time some friend tells Beck something about a lot of shirts to be had Beck is going to take the shirt right off his beck.

THIEF

At the Wurlitzer School of Music in Philadelphia, there were sounds of music lessons all over the place -- sounds of pupils tootling on clarinets, scraping on fiddles, blaring away on trumpets, with bursts of shrill scales from singing lessons. Suddenly a new tone was added -- a high note, strident and piercing -- ~~like all the bad sopranos in the world singing their secret.~~

It turned out to be the girl elevator operator screaming her head off. When they asked her -- why this unnecessary music in the music school -- she told a story that had all the girl pupils in a dither. The girl elevator operator related that while she was sitting in the car on the ground floor, a man approached, and announced: "I'm going to kiss you". And he would have done just that, if the girl operator hadn't quickly slammed the elevator door, and started the car going up -- screaming all the way while at the top of her voice. ^{TP} I don't know why the threat of a kiss

should have stirred up such an uproar, but maybe it was too much of a good thing, because when the girl elevator operator was asked to describe the bold stranger, she replied: "He was tall, tan and terrific."

A search was made with the girl music ~~np~~ pupils participating eagerly in the manhunt. The echo being, tall tan and terrific.

All of which led to the climax, which was a let down. They found that the gentleman who was so bold with his affections was a scoundrel who had been doing some other scullduggery -- and the police were hunting for him.

Well, the music school went back to its lessons, tootling on clarinets, scraping on fiddles, blaring away on trumpets, with bursts of shrill scales from singing students, and the echo was -- tall, tan and terrific.

And now here's Hugh who likewise is tall, tan and terrific -- in the finest sense, that is, he would have a tan if he were here in Fla., and he'd be tall if he had another inch or two. ~~Anyhow~~ Anyhow, he is terrific! And I'm going to switch from Florida to Radio City and let

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him say ~~that~~ solong for me. So now, back to you Hugh --
you who are tall, tan, and terrific.