

STRIKE

P.I. - Sunoco. Thursday, Jan. 10, 1946.

In the nationwide strike situation, the first important bit of news concerns General Motors. The Fact-Finding Board that President Truman appointed to consider that quarrel made public a recommendation today. ^{These} ^{fact-finders} believe ^{that} G.M. should increase the wages of its workers nineteen-and-a-half cents an hour. ~~That~~, ⁱⁿ a forty-hour week, ^{that} would put seven dollars and eighty cents ^{per} ^{more} every week into the envelope of each worker. It ~~means~~ ^{an} average of seventeen ~~and~~ ^{the} point four per cent against a thirty per cent ^{raise} ~~which~~ the Union demanded.

The Board had other suggestions. It recommended that the strike be called off at once and the men go back to work under the Nineteen Forty-Five contract, resuming collective bargaining, and that the management and workers join in a ~~whitewashed~~ whole-hearted effort to restore production as quickly as possible.

These recommendations were submitted to President Truman, who is delighted with them. He described the report as a thorough and seasoned

document, ^{and} said he believed it will commend itself to the good judgment of the American public. The President then used these words: "I am satisfied that if such a settlement is made, the industrial skies will rapidly clear and American industry and labor will go forward to new heights and achievement in the interests of the whole country."

Of course, this Fact-Finding Board actually has no legal standing, or authority. However, if both General Motors and the Union accept the report, it might well become the pattern for the dispute in the steel industry and others. ^{TP} The Fact-Finding Board made it clear that the raise in wages ~~that~~ it recommends is in consideration of the rise in the cost of living to workers who have received no general wage increase since Nineteen Forty-Two.

The telephone ~~strike~~ ^{are} began today, and there ~~is~~ every indication ^s that it will be on in earnest tomorrow, coast to coast. Three thousand operators quit their switchboards at Washington at ten o'clock this morning.

Officially, it was not a strike, since they went ostensibly ^{they went} to attend a meeting of the Union. But the meeting lasted until one o'clock ^{this} in the afternoon, and then the girls just stayed away. ^{TP} The President of the Union said that all members would respect the picket line. That would ^{mean} ^{ing} no service from telephones without a dial. ^{TP} Washington is cut off from telephone communications with the rest of the country today, even high officials, ^{including} ~~even~~ the President of the United States. ~~himself~~. The only calls that could be put through were those described as high priority. ~~But for most government departments and every private person in Washington, there was no such thing as long distance.~~

^{TP} Since the Western Union strike in New York City continues, the nearest approach to quick communication between New York and Washington ^{now is by} ~~at present is~~ air mail.

In a room in a New York hotel, Western Electric officials and Union leaders were arguing and negotiating all day. Two government mediators from the

Department of Labor are present, just as observers. Unless they come to an agreement, there'll be no long distance calls throughout the United States tomorrow. And, except for dial phones, even the local exchanges will not be functioning.

A late story from Washington brings word that if the strike effectively ties up the telephone system of the entire country, President Truman will seize all the exchanges and facilities of the telephone lines, both long distance and local.

A late afternoon story reports that there is hope for the steel negotiations, particularly since the government is willing to raise the price ceilings on steel. The Union is asking two dollars a day increase, but it is believed the workers will take less.

However, there is not even a suggestion of hope for settlement of the meat strike, although mediators have been trying their hardest in Chicago. The Office of Economic Stabilization announced today that it would permit an increase in the price the government pays for

its meat, if the packers would meet the terms of the Union. The two largest packing firms, Swifts and Armour, turned the offer down, said it was impractical and inadequate. Then a spokesman explained that it is impractical because it would govern only the first three months of Nineteen Forty-Six, and contained no assurance as to how much the government would buy. Furthermore, it would allow a wage increase of only one and a half cents an hour, whereas the Union wants twenty-five cents an hour.

DEMOBILIZATION

The demobilization uproar has even caused the Senate to appoint another sub-committee. Its Chairman, Senator Edwin Johnson of Colorado. The Committee immediately sent word to Acting Secretary of State Kenneth Royall and Chief-of-Staff General Eisenhower, asking them to appear at their earliest convenience and do some explaining.

Senator Johnson ^{points out} ~~points out~~ that the demonstrations by G.I.'s abroad begins to take on the characteristics of mutiny, and obviously a challenge that our government-- Congress -- cannot afford to ignore. He added that Congress must never allow any American army to degenerate into a mob. And all citizens will agree with the Colorado Senator on that. The G.I.'s would agree too.

However, Senator Homer Ferguson of Michigan resented some of Senator Johnson's remarks. He said that the action of the service men is just plain homesickness and disappointment. Senator Ferguson said

further that if the soldiers are actually needed in foreign stations, then their families should receive full explanation.

Then along came the C.I.O. today, publishing a charge that many soldiers are being kept in the service not for the convenience of the government, but for the advantage of their commanding officers. Senator Butler of Nebraska declared that nine out of ten army jobs could be done just as well, or maybe better, by civilian workers.

While this was happening in Washington, there was another demonstration at Frankfurt-am-Main, a thousand G.I.'s protesting for the second time in twenty-four hours. This one was orderly, though the men in the crowd did jeer the guards who were patrolling at headquarters. And when Secretary Patterson's name was mentioned, there were loud yells of: "One meat ball!" Spokesmen for the enlisted men said they would continue demonstrating until General McNarney, in person, faces the men he leads.

General McNarney was in Berlin while this was happening. But Brigadier-General Sibert, his Intelligence Chief, said that these demonstrations by soldiers might do much harm to our status in Europe.

STARS AND STRIPES

There is a great to do among our service men in the Pacific area because the Army has clamped down a strict censorship on the Army newspaper, Stars and Stripes. Lieutenant General Robert G. Richardson, Jr., Army commander in the Middle Pacific, ^{having} ~~has~~ issued an order that Stars and Stripes may print nothing criticizing President Truman, Secretary of War Patterson, Chief-of-Staff General Eisenhower, or anyone in ^{high} authority. ^{had} That includes ~~also~~ letters to the editor from readers and editorial cartoons. There must be no lamponing of high officers or officials, no griping about demobilization.

This order followed ^{the} ~~on a series of~~ meetings at Honolulu, at which thousands of soldiers criticized the War Department. ^{with} Several members of Congress ~~were~~ present.

^{Gen.} Richardson's order is all the more interesting, because only recently Secretary Patterson had announced that men and women in the Army were entirely free to express their opinions, so long as they did not violate security.

There was immediate and vehement reaction from the staff of the Tokyo edition of ~~the~~ Stars and Stripes. The enlisted men among the editors and reporters issued a statement that through open and implied pressure, Stars and Stripes has been forced to delete, distort and play down news to serve personal and professional interests of the Army hierarchy and in many instances officers in general. Stars and Stripes, they continued, never has enjoyed the privileges of a free press even by army standards. They went even further, with these words: "In this demobilization crisis, we feel that the paper has been usurped from enlisted personnel, to be converted into a house organ for the War Department."

The staff then made a specific charge against Lieutenant Colonel James Parks, officer in charge. They accused him of breaking faith with members of the staff and readers in the service by printing a letter from a civilian, a news correspondent, at the expense of letters written by enlisted men.

CHINA

Welcome news from the civil war in China today.

At last those
~~It~~ consists of two words, the order - "cease firing."

This
That comes as a consequence of the conferences between
General *representing people and* Chang Chun, and Communist General Chou En-Lai, and our
own General Marshall.

Executive headquarters are to be established at once at Peiping to carry out the agreements. ^{TP} The announcement was made by General Chiang Kai-shek at Chungking. ^{TP} The two Chinese parties have agreed upon a four-point program:-First, all ^{of} the people of China are to have the benefit of every kind of freedom. All the laws and regulations restricting liberty are to be either repealed or radically changed. All political parties are to be equal. There is to be self-government within China from the bottom up. ^{And} All political prisoners are to be released.

U.N.O.

The people of London welcomed delegates to the opening United Nations session today. The streets around the hall, crowded with thousands of cheering people. Our own ~~representations~~^{representatives,} Mr. Stettinius and Mrs. Roosevelt getting a particularly enthusiastic greeting.

As each delegate arrived, there was a roar from the crowd. Most of the arrivals acknowledged the cheers by waving or taking off their hats. As for Secretary Byrnes, he took no notice of the greeting, just hurried up the marble stairway. Prime Minister Clement Attlee got a rousing reception, also British Foreign Minister Bevin. On the other hand, several British delegates were not even recognized.

The high-spot of the day was the address of welcome by the Prime Minister, who declared that the British Government wholeheartedly supports the purposes and principles of the U.N.O. as set down in the preamble and in an article of the Charter. "A choice," he continued, "is offered to mankind, perhaps as never before."

And Clement Attlee pointed out that the British in their islands; so long immune from attack, feel more than any others that we are all living in 'a new age today.

He spoke of the atomic bomb and its immense possibilities of danger, and also of advantage, to the human race.

"The failure of the League of Nations," he added, "is no reason to be skeptical about the success of the United Nations Organization." ^{Then,} By way of example, the Prime Minister pointed to the history of the trade union unification, ~~which has been~~ marked, he said, by failure after failure, but ^{with} eventually unity ~~was~~ ^{at last} achieved. For his part, he has intense faith that the U.N.O. can become a success. Then he ^{added:} ~~said~~ "To make this organization a living reality, we must enlist the support not only of governments, but of the masses of the people throughout the world." ~~Then~~ He went on to say that mankind must also be delivered from the peril of want. "Without ~~When~~ social justice and security, there is no foundation

for peace," ^{said} declared the British Prime Minister.

He said further that it is vital to make the economic and social council an effective international instrument. Meaning, an international police force.

Referring to the atomic bomb, ^{Prime Min-} Attlee described it as ~~x~~ the last of a series of warnings that, unless the powers of destruction are controlled, the fate of the world will be ruine and ^{near} ~~almost~~ annihilation. He ^{stated that he} further welcomed the Moscow decision to refer the problem of the control of atomic energy to a commission of the United Nations Organization.

After ^{the Prime Minister} ~~Attlee~~ had finished his speech, the delegates of the fifty-one nations got down to the business of politics. The first step was the election of a president of the Assembly. The principal candidates were Paul Henry Spaak of Belgium, a Socialist, and Norwegian Foreign Minister Lie. ^{The Belgian} ~~Spaak~~ was backed by the British, ^{the Norwegian by} while Lie had the support of Soviet Russia and the eastern European countries, and ~~of~~ Uncle Sam.

The Belgian
~~Spaak, the~~ Socialist, won by twenty-eight votes.

it appears,
The British had been campaigning for a long time for *him*.
~~their candidate.~~

ATOMIC

From Rochester, New York, comes a story of the filing of the first lawsuit as the result of the development of atomic energy. An accountant asks for two hundred thousand dollars ⁱⁿ damages from Rochester University and the head of its Department of Physics. *The accountant* ~~He~~ charged that the rays from a cyclotron machine, with which the atom is smashed, seeped up an elevator shaft into his office and ruined his health.

HAT

A four months old mystery was solved today. You remember back last Fall when General Vinegar Joe Stilwell, flying over Okinawa, lost his hat. Vinegar Joe loved that hat. He had had it for twenty years. It accompanied him through one historical campaign after another.

General Stilwell's pilot landed his plane on a strip on Okinawa and the word went around among the G.I.'s that the General was offering a reward for his hat's return. In less time than it takes to tell it, hundreds of soldiers were combing the beach and the surf.

The hat was recovered two hundred yards off the shore by a Cleveland, Ohio, corporal, Edward P. Donahue, who braved barracuda and a roaring surf to bring it back to the beach.

And this is where the mystery comes in. All three of the press associations reported this "historic" event. One said that Corporal Donahue was severely reprimanded by a one star general for trying on the General's hat -- to see how he would look in a four star hat. Another said

That Corporal Donahue was presented with five bottles of whiskey, and the third press association said he accepted twenty-five dollars. Corporal Donahue is in New York today to tell guests at the Annual Hat Trade and Allied Industries Dinner tonight the details of the rescue of the General's hat. Donahue told me today that the one star general did not reprimand him, that that was all a gag. ^{and} General Stilwell ^{did} offered him his choice - a cash reward or ⁵ five bottles of whiskey, Bourbon or Scotch. The Corporal, a Mid-westerner, took the Bourbon.

Corporal Donahue today received another reward. Forty hats, a ten year supply, from the Hat Research Foundation, four hats a year for the next ten years for pulling ^{Vinegar Joe's} ~~the General's~~ famous hat out of the drink. ^{Kelly}

And now H - who stands here on the brink!