

STRIKE

C.T. Simoco. Monday, Jan. 7, 1946.

Now,
~~We start the week with pretty ominous prospects~~
the industrial outlook. There's quite a chance of a telephone strike, nationwide. In fact, forty per cent of our communicating with the rest of the world may stop by eleven o'clock ~~morningx~~ tomorrow morning.

This ^{aa}~~will be~~ an outcome of the strike at the Western Electric plant in and around Kearny, New Jersey. The President of the Western Electric Employees Association ^{sent}~~signed~~ a telegram to President Truman, informing him that the strike threatens to blow up into a nationwide destruction of telephone service. And, ~~then,~~ *he asked* ~~curiously enough, he asks~~ the President to intervene. ~~He also sent a copy to Labor Secretary Schwollenbach,~~ ^{TP} ~~a spokesman of the Department of Labor said,~~ The government might ~~might~~ appoint a fact-finding panel, if the National Federation of Telephone Workers agrees not to go on strike while the panel is at work.

~~These~~ ^W messages to the President and the Secretary were sent after the head of the Western Electric Union had conferred with the head of the telephone operators.

General O'Dwyer, the newly inaugurated Mayor of New York City, took a hand in the telegraphers' strike today. He met officials of the company and of the union. Also leaders of the C.I.O. and the A.F. of L. *With them he* ~~O'Dwyer was~~ ^{ed} discussing all the strikes that threaten to affect New York.

So far it ~~is definite~~ ^{appears} that the Western Union employees will go out eleven o'clock tomorrow. Their action is aimed at a decision of the National Labor Board, which they consider inadequate. The employees of the cable and wireless companies decided that they would not handle any copy originating at Western Union, and that means no cables either out of New York or out of San Francisco. At least no cables that originate with Western Union. There are other radio and cable companies which have different contracts with the union - no relation to Western Union.

~~Elsewhere the picture is also discouraging~~

~~So far as we can see at this moment, seven hundred~~

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There is one hopeful angle, the labor prospect, the chance of an agreement between the oil companies and their employees. Reports from Washington indicate that there is to be a compromise in that argument.

GERMANY

A story from Germany reports that those now suffering the most -- that is, in Hitler's former Reich -- are the German war veterans. That they are being kicked around by the civilians who once cheered them! One American tells us today that what is happening to the Germans in the uniform of the Wehrmacht shouldn't happen to a dog. That a German soldier -- in uniform -- is an outcast. In some quarters this attitude is even official. A German magistrate in Berlin recently issued a statement asking civilians not to show any emotion and not ~~gm~~ to give any help to war veterans traveling through the former capital of the Reich.

American doughboys have noticed that German veterans even with missing arms or legs receive no sympathy. On a street corner recently, a one-legged soldier lost his balance and fell to the pavement. The story as it comes over the press wire states that German civilians, walking by, paid no attention. And that it was an American ~~xx~~ soldier and a fiveyear-old

German girl who helped the crippled soldier to his feet.

A correspondent for the STARS AND STRIPES, Sergeant Norman Palmer of Brooklyn, believes that this is evidence of deep-seated cruelty in the Teutonic make-up. "They are showing once again the peculiar brand of humanity for ~~which~~ which their ~~these~~ concentration camps are famous." That was the way he put it.

AUSTRIA

Uncle Sam recognizes the new government of Austria!

The dominating influence in the Austrian government of today is that of the Peoples' Party, a party decidedly to the Right. Chancellor Leopold Figl formed his Cabinet after the November elections of last November, the first free elections in Austria in fifteen years.

President Truman sent a message today to Dr. Karl Renner, congratulating him on being elected President of the Austrian Republic. Mr. Truman said that we, the people of the United States, will wish to help the Austrians in their endeavor to resume their place as an independent democratic state.

TRIAL

Another Nazi General today accused some of his fellow Generals of the German high command of complicity in the deliberate murder of Allied war prisoners. This witness at the Nuremberg trial, General Zelewski, was himself one of those whose ghastly task it was to wipe out prisoners. And today, he testified that just before the Germans invaded Russia, Himmler made a speech in which he declared that one purpose of the invasion was to diminish the population by thirty millions.

The American prosecutor at Nuremberg introduced as evidence official German military documents ordering the execution of prisoners. In one of these the Chief-of-Staff at Hitler's headquarters ordered the execution of all captured paratroopers.

CHINA

The first conference between representatives of the Chiang Kai-Shek government and the Chinese Communists and our own Ambassador General Marshall, was held today. Apparently they made good progress. At any rate, so said the General, and, both Chiang's representative and the Communist echoed this.

General Marshall said he was much encouraged because both Generalissimo Chiang and General Chow agreed with him that it was time for the fighting to stop.

Also, there was a big party in Chungking, a festive one, given by the Communists. With more than four hundred diplomats, newspapermen, and both government and Communist officials attending.

RALLY

The city of Manila resounded today to the booing of twenty thousand American GIs -- booing one of their generals. First of all, there was a parade with soldiers carrying placards that read: "Lincoln freed the slaves; who will save us?" - "Are we Patterson's playthings?" - "Lots of ships and no men - why?" And -- "We'll remember, next November!"

Then there was a mass meeting at which Lieutenant General Styer tried to pacify the men by promising that regular army troops would take over the garrisoning of both the Philippines and Okinawa, "as soon as possible." Whereupon the soldiers jeered and booed.

LEGION

The American Legion favors universal military training; and a special committee has been appointed, a National Security Committee, to persuade Congressmen to pass a law imposing one year of military training on all young men between eighteen and twenty.

National Commander John Stelle has mobilized his members to promote this throughout the country. And State commanders will appoint committees in each congressional district to drum up public support for the Legion's proposal.

Under the American Legion plan, it would not be necessary to do all twelve months at once. It would be in two periods: four months of basic training, during a summer vacation, say after graduating from high school. And then pick your own time for the remaining months.

U.N.O.

Uncle Sam's delegates to the United Nations World Assembly are still agreeing to disagree about the atomic energy problem. If that one is not smoothed over, it will be serious. However, there is hope that when Secretary Byrnes arrives on Wednesday, he will be able to straighten it out.

The delegates held a press conference in London today, but minus Senator Vandenberg. His alternate and adviser, John Foster Dulles, also stayed away. Newspapermen asked Secretary Stettinius where the Senator was, and Stettinius replied he did not know. A correspondent asked Mrs. Roosevelt whether the problem of the atom bomb had made a difference in the work ahead of the United Nations. Mrs. Roosevelt replied that it had sharpened the consciousness of people all over the world on the responsibility of the U.N.O. There are bound to be differences of opinion at the Assembly, she continued, but all the delegates are unanimous in one object: they are determined to set up machinery for keeping the peace.

BUDGET

Uncle Sam's budget is to be cut down -- for the first time in years and years. In fact, President Truman hopes that for the Nineteen Forty-eight fiscal year, that we actually will succeed in balancing the budget. Which hasn't been done in seventeen long years.

This is not official. But the word is that Mr. Truman has reduced the budget for the fiscal year beginning July First, from fifty billions to some thirty-eight billions, a cut of twelve billions, as a starter. However, thirty-eight billions is still eight billion more than Uncle Sam's annual income.

BANKS

There are seventeen banks in the United States with resources of more than a billion dollars each. The total assets of the seventeen amount to more than forty-four billion, one hundred and seventy-one millions. That is as of New Year's Eve. This is divulged by a survey that the United Press had been making.

In addition to the seventeen, there are two other corporations, bank holding corporations, which have not yet published their figures for Nineteen Forty-Five. They will also be in the billion dollar class. The combined resources of the seventeen are nearly five billion dollars more than they were a year ago.

AVIATION

There is going to be an end to the disagreement between American aviation companies and those of other countries, over international fares. There was a conference at Montreal last October, a meeting of the International Air Transport Association. At that time, an agreement was concluded, which, it is believed, will eliminate the threat of rate wars. Today, the Civil Aeronautics Board announced its approval of that agreement, and the State Department will also give its okay.

The meeting at Montreal did not arrive at any conclusion as to what the fares actually will be: it simply created the machinery for the purpose. So tomorrow, there will be a conference of traffic carriers in the North Atlantic zone. They will consider how much they can cut the cost of flying across the Atlantic.

The action of the Civil Aeronautics Board is generally considered to be good news. It means that fares will be established by the airlines themselves and not by government regulation as the British once proposed.

KIDNAPPING

Once again the kidnapper is at work. This time a six year old girl, in Chicago, was snatched from her bedroom. The kidnapper left behind a note demanding a twenty thousand dollar ransom. The note was greasy, printed in pencil, on a ~~piece~~^{piece} of wrapping paper. It stipulated that the money should be paid in five dollar bills. And it added: "We will contact you later. Burn this note for the safety of the child."

In accordance with the warning left by the kidnapper, the father burned the ransom note so it could be of no help to the Chicago police or the F.B.I.

The girl's father is James Degnan, District Price Board executive for the O.P.A. in Chicago.


A statement by the father, transcribed on wax, is being broadcast over the air, every hour, an appeal to the kidnappers saying: "Please let me know what I can do, how I can contact you. I'll give you the money, I'll do anything to get my child back." The statement adds: "If you harm her, God will repay you. Please, please do not harm her."

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The father also told reporters that he would do nothing to harm or punish the kidnapper if he will return the girl.

Around three in the morning, the parents were awakened by the barking of dogs in a nearby apartment. Then the father heard the little girl mumble: "I don't want to get up, I'm sleepy." The parents thought little Suzanne was talking in her sleep, so they ~~xxxx~~ paid no further attention. As a result they failed to discover that she was gone until after seven this morning.

A colored maid in the household of a neighbor said it was half-past-one in the morning when she heard the dogs barking. She heard a commotion in the Degnan



apartment and also heard the child talking.

The Degnan's have another daughter, ten years old, who sleeps in another bedroom, but she was not disturbed.

Chicago detectives declare there is a possibility that the kidnapers who snatched ^{little} Suzanne ~~Degnan~~ may be gangsters engaged in black market activities, which the O.P.A. is investigating.

Although the girl's father promised not to prosecute the kidnaper, Chicago's Police Commissioner himself took charge and detailed some hundred policemen to look for the ~~little~~ girl. According to ~~the~~ reports from Chicago, she is a pretty child, with reddish blonde hair, weighing about seventy-four pounds.

One of the first things the ^{police} ~~cops~~ found was a ladder, ^{with} one rung ~~of which was~~ missing, ~~it was~~ near the open window leading ~~into~~ the girl's bedroom.

The fingerprint experts of the Chicago Police Department said ^{they} ~~he~~ found several good prints on the window sill. ^{And} ~~^~~ [^] They are ~~also~~ examining the ladder, ~~for~~ prints.

So far, the F.B.I. is standing by as an unofficial observer. Under the law, J. Edgar Hoover's men cannot take part in the search until seven days after the kidnapping. After that time, it can be assumed that the child has either been injured or been taken across the state line.

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BOYINGTON

During the war, ~~Mrs.~~ Lucy Malcolmson was a member of the St. John's Ambulance Corps stationed at Bombay, India. There she met one of our ^{top} ~~most illustrious~~ flying aces, Lieutenant Colonel Gregory Boyington of the Marines, ~~known in the Corps and to all followers of the,~~ ~~news as "Pappy."~~

Mrs. Malcolmson says that the moment Pappy saw her, he gave what sounded like a wolf call, then made a dash for her and tripped on a rug. "He grabbed me by the knees," said the fair lady, "and after that no introduction was necessary."

Some weeks ago Mrs. Malcolmson went to Reno to divorce her husband, Stewart Malcolmson, General Motors production manager in Australia. She told reporters that as soon as she got her divorce, which she expects tomorrow or Wednesday, she was going to the altar with R Pappy Boyington. But Pappy has different ideas. Said Mrs. Malcolmson: "The last time I talked to Pappy on the telephone everything was all set."

But today when she tried to call him at the Miramar Marine Airfield near San Diego, she learned that the Colonel would be unreachable until tomorrow.

And now Mrs. Malcolmson wants an explanation. Pappy himself says: "The lady made a mistake, we are friends, but not that friendly."

Mrs. Malcolmson is still waiting, not exactly at the church, but waiting.

And Hugh your friends are waiting.