

STEEL

May 1st 1952. L.T.-P.+G. *Thurs.*

The steel picture tonight shows the government winning another test in court, a minor one-- and intimating that the steel companies might get a price ^{increase} sufficient for settlement with the union.

The companies took a plea to the U. S. Court of Appeals, asking the court ~~for~~ for an order forbidding the government to raise wages while in possession of the steel mills. But the court refused, ~~by a vote of five to four--the same vote as yesterday, when the judge granted a "stay" delaying the injunction.~~ At the same time the government stated there would be no raise of pay decreed for the steel workers, until the case has gone to the Supreme Court.

The Secretary of Commerce, Charles Sawyer, declared today they he thought there was enough leeway and flexibility in the dispute--to permit a settlement between the companies and the union. Which is taken to mean--a possible price raise ^{if} the companies ^{could} ~~would~~ accept ^{to affect a wage increase.} ~~a cash settlement.~~

At a
~~In the~~ news conference today, President Truman stated that he would take every action possible to bring the strike to an end, and get the steel mills into production again. He didn't say what such action might be, ^{but} there is a surmise that it might ~~be a price increase~~ concern a price increase acceptable to the steel industry.

The President stated he would abide by any decision the Supreme Court might give--whether or not the injunction issued by Judge David Pine is to stand; that injunction--declaring the seizure of steel unconstitutional. The President added that--he's no dictator! Which might seem to mean--he does not claim those powers without any limit, in an emergency.

OIL

The oil strike is near settlement. At least, so says the President. This optimism, however is not echoed by the union. Which, in Denver, gives a middle of the road opinion --not optimistic, not pessimistic!

KOREA

In the truce talks, the reds have asked for a full scale meeting tomorrow. Presumably, they want to give their answer to the U. N. compromise proposal for an armistice. Our delegation promptly agreed--top level meeting tomorrow.

FOLLOW KOREA

All this is accompanied by a propaganda blast from our side -- inviting Stalin to send officers of his own General Staff to prison camps in South Korea. The Reds have been wrathfully denying U N statements that prisoners of war taken by the Allies are unwilling to return to the Reds. The Voice of America says that Stalin can make a check of his own -- and verify the fact, that one hundred thousand prisoners are determined never to return to Communism.

JAPAN

On the subject of the Red riots in Tokyo today, we have comment from an authority on such matters -- Norman Thomas, head of the American Socialist Party, who has run for President six times. He was a leading figure in the stormy affair.

Now about that
/ * May Day Rally of Japanese labor unions,
in
held in a park, / downtown Tokyo. Among the speakers on schedule - two Americans. Socialist Norman Thomas and Philip Randolph, President of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters. Their presence on the platform touched off the disturbance.

Anti-American slogans were yelled, and there was a surge forward by the mob. It looked dangerous, and the two Americans did the prudent thing. Norman Thomas and the President of the Pullman Porters Union got out of the way, leaving the platform. Whereupon Communist agitators took over, and incited ~~the~~ the mob scenes that followed - crowds raging through the streets.

Later Norman Thomas declared: "It was a minor

dress rehearsal for a revolution. I've been in this business for a long time and I know. It is a classic Communist method," says he.

He then issued a joint statement with the Pullman Porter President. They say: "It is obvious that Japan faces a well-organized Communist movement, intent on using the familiar Communist tactics which have destroyed freedom in other lands."

Columns of Reds marched in disciplined formation through downtown Tokyo and attacked Americans - a number of whom ^{including} ~~include~~ news reporters and photographers, were mauled and ~~xxxxxxx~~ bruised. American automobiles were burned, were burned on Tokyo streets, (set on fire with "Molotov Cocktails").

A strong guard from the U.S. Military Police at American Air Headquarters kept the Reds away. But, windows were broken by stones. All to a chorus of screaming slogans against the United States. "Go home Americans" yelled the mob.

Similar scenes were witnessed in the old city

FOLLOW TOKYO

The latest -- (Premier Yoshida has called the Japanese cabinet into an emergency session to consider a crack-down ~~of~~ the Communist party. Which -- turned a May Day celebration into a violent anti-American riot.)

BERLIN

Berlin had a riotous May Day - when ten thousand members of Communist youth organizations marched into the Western Sector, and staged a battle with the Police. Carrying banners denouncing the West German government, they fired volleys of stones, and surged forward against the police -- who ~~kept~~ replied with clubs and fire hoses. Plenty of reds got a drenching, thirty-one arrested - in a mele that lasted for half an hour.

(~~Across the line, in the Red sector - a Communist rally of half a million, which listened to speeches advocating the Soviet program for German unity. All, of course, labeled - peace, that favorite Red Slogan now adays.~~)

MOSCOW

Moscow had the usual big May Day, the enormous military parade through Red Square. The focus of interest was on Stalin--with emphasis on the usual question of the health of the Soviet premier. From the Kremlin, Stalin reviewed the long parade--and it was noticed that he walked in with a springy step, showing little sign of his age. He stood stiff and erect as he surveyed the procession for an hour. Western reporters had the impression--that the Red dictator looked in fine physical condition, for his advancing years.

OATIS

The United States Ambassador to Czechoslovakia has visited William Oatis, the American newspaper man held in prison by the Reds. It has been more than a year since Oatis of the Associated Press was jailed on one of those usual communist charges of espionage. In all that time the government in Washington has been trying to get someone in to see him, but without avail -- until now.

Ambassador Ellis Briggs reports that, yesterday he was permitted to see William Oatis at the headquarters of the prison in Prague -- and talk with him for half an hour. He describes the newspaper man as looking in good physical condition, and as declaring that his health is "good." He says he was given dental treatment recently, is allowed to read and write, and gets enough exercise.

SUB PLANE

The missing stratocruiser has been found in the jungle area of Brazil, and the news is the worst possible. Several planes report -- scattered wreckage, with all signs of explosion and fire. No life, sign of ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~. Nevertheless, doctors are being ^{B ^} dropped by parachute at the ~~SEE~~ scene -- ~~XXXXXX~~ in the remote chance that their might be survivors.

ATOMIC

There was another atomic test at Yucca Flat today. One that had to be put off repeatedly, because of clouds and rain in the desert. (This morning observers saw the brilliant flash in the sky, the telltale mushroom cloud.)

This one was top secret again -- the nearest view for reporters was from Mount Charleston, seventy miles away. They sawy the flash was -- "the brightest yet seen." A brilliant red -- followed by the mushroom.

Today's test was a Marine Corps show -- the leathernecks having their own atomic maneuver. They were close up, seven thousand yards away, less than a mile and a half. Flat on their faces in the fox holes, when the blinding flash burst from the bomb. Then they were quickly up and pressing forward into the area of the blast.

FLOODS

In Utah today, the temperatures were in the seventies -- with warm weather melting the great snows more quickly than ever. In Salt Lake City the flood waters today, rose a foot -- in an area that has been inundated for days, covering forty low-lying blocks of scattered factories and residences. And the warning is -- that the worst will come next week, the heaviest run-off of water from the melting mountain snows.

In the canyon at Ogden, two hundred people washed out of their homes. And, farther to the south, the Provo River is threatening a disastrous flood.

METHODISTS

The Methodist Conference in San Francisco has before it a report -- asking the Methodist-Federation-for-Social-Action to drop the name of the church from its own name. This demand was adopted by a committee -- and will be submitted to a General Conference. The Methodist Federation for Social Action, an unofficial body, has been attacked on charges of "pro-communism." A convention delegate, Paul Ervin, North Carolina attorney, today declared that the Federation has embarrassed the Church by making statements favoring the Reds.

The committee report, at the same time, recommends that the Federation be asked to move out of the Methodist Building in New York City.

There is likely to be a battle over this issue. Today, Bishop Francis J. McConnell, President of the Federation, declared that his group has not been given a hearing -- no chance to present its own case. It seems, he said, "as though we are beginning to face in Methodism the menace of censorship. We are

not communists," insisted Bishop McConnell, "nor are we a communist front."

Taking up still another question, the committee adopted a report against racial discrimination - and asked the conference to establish a commission to work for the elimination of racial prejudice.

TRUMAN

President Truman states that, if by any chance the Democratic National Convention should seek to draft him, he would not accept. He repeats, more decidedly than ever his former declaration that he will not run for president again.

At the same time, he spoke in the highest of terms--^{-of-}~~about~~ General Eisenhower. He told the White House ~~the~~ News Conference today that General Ike is "as fine a man as ever walked."

The ~~President~~ President noted reports that the General is ~~ailing~~, sick. These he derided and ridiculed, saying that the General is "in perfect health." Adding that these reports of illness are mild compared with rumors General Ike will have to face later on. Same old undercover gossip that circulates in any hot political fight.

TAFT

Senator Taft got off a sharp retort today, and a neat ~~XXXX~~ reply can be a clever thing. But the remark is fired at the ladies -- and they are famous for having the last word.

At Columbus, in the Senator's own state the League of Women Voters is holding a forum on politics - and invited all the ~~XXXX~~ prominent presidential candidates to speak. The forum, staged at the Taft auditorium - same name as the Senator. But he won't be there. He won't even be represented.

The Senator had a previous engagement to speak in the northern part of Ohio and couldn't make it. But - he offered to send a spokesman. The League of Women Voters rejected that - as they did also in the case of Senator Russell of Georgia, who is campaigning in Florida. ~~They~~ They are not having substitutes, except in the case of General Eisenhower, Excusing the General, because he is in Europe and in uniform, winding up his European command. He's permitted to have a spokesman, and will be represented

by Paul G. Hoffman, one of the Chiefs in the Eisenhower boom.

So that's the stand taken by the League of Women Voters, which provoked a sharp Taft retort. The Senator remarked: "They might as well have said that all candidates, whose names begin with an "E", could send spokesmen." Which crack, I suppose, should get "E" for effort.

The ladies remain to be heard from. Tonight they will be listening to Stassen, Warren, Kefauver, ~~in~~ Kerr and Harriman. Also -- "Hoffman for Ike. Senator Taft says he'll send them a telegram, stating his views. Which might only encourage the ~~in~~ ladies to state their views.

Well, as the Senator remarked, Eisenhower does begin with "E". But so does excoriate, not to mention embarrass and exterminate.

Last word for the ladies.

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And now Nelson.

PLANE

A bad report comes from the jungle areas of Brazil -- where a search plane is reported to have spied the wreckage of the great airliner lost the day before yesterday, fifty persons aboard. The wreckage shows the signs of crash, explosion and fire - survivors unlikely. A medical party will be landed by parachute -- in case there are any to be helped.