

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Any ray of hope on the strike horizon tonight?

Well, here is the news. The steel workers union has closed more than twelve hundred mills in thirty states. However, a few smaller companies came to terms before the deadline, and are continuing to operate. But they total less than five per cent of the country's capacity for turning out steel.

All the big concerns, Carnegie, Illinois, Bethlehem, Republic, Youngstown, Jones & Laughlin, plus giant U.S. Steel, have shut down for the duration of the strike. And, some of the strikers say they are ready to stay out for three months.

So far as financial terms are concerned, the difference between employers and employees stands at a matter of three-and-a-half cents an hour. The strikers, backed by the President, want a raise of eighteen-and-a-half cents. The steel companies are willing to grant fifteen.

So far no estimate has been made as to the number of workers in other industries who will have

to stop work because of the steel walkout. Since the production of steel ingots is completely cut off, hundreds of other factories, of course, will have to shut down.

No disturbances so far. The big companies announce that they won't even attempt to operate, so as to avoid disorder. In some places, where the pickets were having a cold time today, the companies supplied empty oil drums, with coke, to keep the pickets warm.

On the nineteenth floor of the big U.S. Steel skyscraper in New York, an office has been placed at the disposal of newspapermen, ten tables, each with a telephone, fountain pens, pencils, papers and so on. On a large center table in the middle of the room are cigars, cigarettes, newspapers, periodicals. Five public relations men of the corporation are on hand to help the reporters.

So much for steel.

How about the meat strike? Serious as is the

non-production of steel, a meat famine would strike directly at the stomachs of the people. Worse still, it will give a tremendous impetus to black markets. So tonight the President and his counsellors are considering whether and when Mr. Truman should use his wartime powers and seize the packing houses.

Secretary of Agriculture Anderson reported that any increase in the meat black market would be a most dangerous factor in promoting inflation. That it already is disturbing the cost of living. The report in Washington is that Secretary Anderson is one of those who wants to seize the packing plants. "It is a crime," said he, "that we are losing both meat and feed grains as a result of this strike. If it goes on for long, not only meat but poultry and eggs will be sucked into the black market."

NEW YORK FOLLOW STRIKE

At any rate

Several million people in New York City are relieved tonight. The threatened strike of transport workers ~~will be~~ ^{has been} called off. This, aside from being, ~~disastrous and causing an almost complete paralysis of business in the big city, would have been a peculiar affair. Its origin would not have been economic, but, political.~~ The head of the Board of Transportation had recommended to the City government that the City sell its municipally owned power plants and buy the current for its subways from the Consolidated Edison Company. This moved the head of the transport workers union to threaten a strike. He demanded that the issue be submitted to the voters in a referendum, before the City's power plants are sold. Later, the union leader threw in a demand for a two dollar a day increase for everybody and a closed shop. But those were after-thoughts.

The head of the transport workers union had a conference with New York's new Mayor O'Dwyer, who

acceded to the union's point of view. He said the selling of the City's power plants had never been put up to him officially, and that he would never think of giving them up without putting it up to the people.

Thereupon, the head of the union announced he was calling the strike off.

PRESIDENT ON STRIKES

What does the President of the United States have to say to Congress today on that all-important topic, strikes? He points out that these strikes, which concern all of us so vitally, will put a heavy brake on reconversion, if they continue long. Then he repeats his request for legislation creating fact-finding boards -- boards with statutory powers to examine the books of employers. He says nothing about making accessible the books of the Unions. But he does say that Labor, having become progressively more secure with increasing political as well as economical power, has also an increased responsibility.

Industry, says he, can well afford to grant substantial increases in wages. These increases, he adds, will have a direct effect by increasing consumer demand. Therefore, he argues, substantial wage increases will mean better business.

In addition to his fact-finding boards, President Truman repeats his demand for a full employment

bill, like the one now under consideration, in conference, between the House and the Senate. He wants to raise the floor of minimum wages, increase unemployment insurance benefits, compulsory insurance for health and medical care, and, raise the salaries of all government employees. Mr. Truman, in his message, also renews his request for a permanent fair employment practice act, thereby running head-on into that knotty question which now has the Congressmen of his own Party at loggerheads -- the Northern Democrats and New Dealers for it; the Southerners against it.

PRES. MESSAGE

President Truman's message to Congress today was half as long as a fair-sized novel -- thirty thousand words. And probably the most important since he took office, and it included his budget for Nineteen Forty-six - 'Forty-seven.

Mr. Truman proposes to cut Uncle Sam's spending money almost in two. Leaving Uncle Sam thirty-five billion, eight-hundred-and sixty millions to spend this time, as compared with sixty-seven billion, two-hundred-and-twenty-nine millions for the current year.

However, the President's experts estimate that the Government actually will need an additional four billion, three-hundred-and-forty-seven millions. This he proposes to take out of the cash balance now in the Treasury, cash on hand. But, he goes beyond that. With the cash now on hand, Mr. Truman would like to retire eight-billion-dollars of the National Debt; reduce it from two-hundred-and-seventy-nine billions to two-hundred-and-seventy-one billions. Eight billions

out of two-hundred-and seventy-nine billions seems like a trifle. But, he wants us to start cutting the National Debt -- start now.

MORE CONGRESS MESSAGE

The President in that long message to Congress today once again speaks out on the subject of merging the armed ~~forces~~ services. He wants this done. Furthermore, he requests Congress to provide for universal training for our youth. And then, he goes on and asks for additional unemployment allowances for veterans, plus a provision that their social security cover the period of their military service. He goes on to say that, even a year from now, we will need no fewer than two million men under arms.

And -- he wants the Federal Government to retain control of the employment ~~services~~ ~~in~~ of the States until June Thirtieth, Nineteen Forty-seven.

Virtually all of the State governments have been protesting against that idea. But he seems already to have won that one, since the Labor Committee in the House today approved a bill ~~covering~~ ^{covering} this, by a vote of thirteen to three. Only the Republicans voting against it.

His long message to Congress also goes into

the world-shattering subject of the atom.

He asks for laws to control the use of atomic energy.

He also wants Congress to extend his war powers. How long, he doesn't say.

There is something for the farmers in the message, too. He proposes to spend some fifteen hundred million dollars to support prices and for the other programs of the Commodity Credit Corporation. He also expects the Farm Security Administration and the Rural Electrification Administration to spend three-hundred-and fifty-one million dollars, partly for cash loans. "Our long-range agriculture policy," says Mr. Truman, "should assure people, on the farms, a fair share of the national income and encourage an agricultural production pattern best fitted to the nation's needs."

The President says he wants to continue plans to develop the Missouri Valley, the Arkansas Valley,

and the Central Valley of California. He told Congress that -- in his words: "Our public works program should be timed to reach its peak after the demand for private construction has begun to taper off."

He also repeats his request for the St. Lawrence Waterway Development, and, for airports under Federal control.

PRESIDENT FOREIGN

President Truman in his message to Congress said today that he aims to use all of the influence of the United States to back up the United Nations Organization for the prevention of international war. That peace, if it is to endure, must rest upon justice no less than upon power.

Speaking of Germany, he said we must maintain effective control there until we are satisfied the German people have regained the right to honor and respect. And he made a similar observation about the control of Japan. That our basic policy in the Far East will be to encourage a strong independent united and democratic China.

In our foreign economic policy we are to try to promote our own prosperity and at the same time help restore and expand markets all over the world. Also go on providing relief to devastated countries and displaced persons.

FOREIGN

Now for a look at other parts of the world.

General DeGaulle is ~~not only~~ out of the French government, but out of Paris. With his wife, he left his home in the suburbs and drove to ^{his} country house near the historic forest of Marley, where he is now staying.

The French Communists are jumping into the fray with all they have. They see in this a chance to ~~grab~~ ^{seize} the government of France. They are the strongest single political group in the country. They want the head of the new government to be Maurice Thorez, ~~he~~ is Secretary of the French Communist Party, ^{who} ~~and~~ has been Minister of State in the DeGaulle government.

What the French Reds are after is a combination which would ^{mean} ~~be~~ virtually a revival of the Popular Front government of ~~Leon Blum~~ in Nineteen Thirty-Six; ~~That means~~ a coalition of Communists, Socialists and Radical Socialists. But the story from Paris reports that the Socialists are not ~~any~~ too keen. They do ~~not~~ like the idea of playing second fiddle

to the Communists. ^{and} The Popular Republican Party will have nothing to do with a Leftist government.

In his letter of resignation, ~~General~~ DeGaulle said that he had only consented to remain at the head of the government until the nation's representatives became reunited and political parties found themselves able to resume their responsibilities. This transition, said the General, has today been realized. He added that France is no longer in a state of alarm. Public peace is no longer disturbed, French independence is firmly established, and ~~the~~ the French hold the Rhine. In other words, he considers his job is done.

GREECE FOLLOW U.N.O.

The government of Greece today sent troops in a hurry to squelch the uprising of Monarchists and Rightists at Kalamata, in the southern Peloponnesus. A spokesman for the government said it was all part of a royalist plot to restore King George the Second to the throne at Athens. The rebels have taken four hundred prisoners, leaders of the democratic party. Nobody knows what has been done with them. The Greek Prime Minister ordered courts-martial established at Kalamata and ancient Sparta. They were ordered to get to work and execute their sentences at once. That indicates that captured rebels will get short shrift.

U.N.O. FOLLOW FOREIGN

In London, the United Nations made considerable progress towards atomic control. The Assembly's Committee on Security voted unanimously to establish a commission for the control of atomic energy as suggested by the Foreign Ministers of the Big Three at Moscow. This passed by a vote of forty-eight x to nothings. Small nations tried to delay action until after full discussion in the Assembly. But that was voted down.

FINALE

Though most of us are thinking at the moment about strikes, the President ^{today} tells us ~~today~~ that - "Our chief worry still is inflation."

Accordingly, he wants Congress to push the legislation it is now considering, to put ceilings on the prices of houses, old and new. But, he adds, such measures are only stop-gaps. Production is the only fully effective answer. He urges the lawmakers to continue every sound method to expand the facilities for insuring privately-financed housing by the Federal Housing Administration and to resume low rent public housing projects, suspended during the war. He wants to continue rent controls, and price control. And he repeats that he has asked the Secretaries of Agriculture and Labor to get together on concerted methods to stimulate new industries, particularly in ~~new~~ areas that have a surplus of agricultural labor.

To help small business, he wants the Federal government to help make both private and public loans

available on ~~xxxxx~~ reasonable terms, also technical ~~xxx~~ advice, and the elimination of trade practices and agreements which cut down competition and hold back new enterprises.

The United States in the year Nineteen Forty-six, says President Truman, is strong and confident. Prospects for business are so good, that there is danger we may rush into such feverish activity as to neglect careful postwar problems. He repeats that we must control inflation, and on the ^{domestic} ~~xxxxxxxxxxx~~ as on the international scene, lay a new and better foundation for cooperation.

And now, Hugh, a little cooperation from you.