

# TRUMAN DELAYS ACTION IN COAL STRIKE

## House Refuses To Cut Funds To Aid Europe

### Move To Cut Funds Defeated By House After Long Debate

Washington, March 31 — (UP) — The house today refused to cut European recovery program funds by \$1,300,000,000 after hours of rough-and-tumble debate. The vote against the cut was 112 to 61.

The move to slash first year ERP funds from \$5,300,000,000 to \$4,000,000,000 was made by Rep. Charles W. Vursell, R., Ill.

When the standing vote was taken on the Vursell amendment, among those observed voting in favor of it were house Republican leaders Charles A. Halleck, Ind., and Rep. Robert L. Doughton, N. C., ranking Democrat on the house ways and means committee.

Previously, the house rejected 175 to 19 a motion by Rep. William Jennings Bryan Dorn, D. S. C., to halt all further consideration of the \$5,205,000,000 global aid bill.

Dorn offered his motion after a heated speech in which he demanded a "showdown now" with Soviet Russia.

A few moments before, Democratic leader Sam Rayburn of Texas had likened opponents of the bill to pre-Pearl Harbor isolationists. He said he had heard the same kind of talk in 1938, in 1939, in 1940, and even in 1941.

House Republican leaders hoped to complete action on the measure and send it to conference with the senate by nightfall. The senate is expected to fight a house amendment to include Spain among recipient nations.

But the opposition was having its sayings. The specific amendment under debate was one by Rep. Charles W. Vursell, R., Ill., to trim European recovery funds by \$1,300,000,000.

The bill earmarks \$5,300,000,000 for Marshall plan nations this year. Vursell called the foreign aid program a "fantastic worldwide OPA." He said it is more than a "calculated risk"; it is "the greatest gamble in the history of the world."

Dorn's motion came after several hours of the most bitter debate thus far heard on the bill.

Rep. Ross Ritzley, R., Okla., drew applause from opponents of the bill when he said that those who vote for it should be prepared to vote for the restoration of OPA. They also should vote to sustain an expected presidential veto of the \$4,000,000 tax reduction bill, Ritzley said, shouting:

"This bill will leave us nothing to strengthen our own defenses."

Rep. John W. Gwynne, R., Ia., told the house that "the activities of P. 7. Barnum were as nothing compared with the propaganda that has been carried on to sell this bill."

Rep. Glen D. Johnson, D., Okla., said he would vote for military preparedness but not for the foreign aid bill. He said he would favor it if it would help stop Communism, but it won't do that at all.

Vursell in seeking to trim the bill said the United States made a "colossal blunder" by asking Marshall plan nations to survey their needs.

S. assistance should be based solely on American ability to aid the world, he said.

Leaders of the senate foreign relations committee have maintained publicly and privately that it is up to the 16 Marshall plan countries themselves to decide whether Spain should be among those eligible for relief as assistance.

Chairman Arthur H. Vandenberg, R., Mich., of the senate foreign relations committee does not look with favor on any effort to have Congress give Franco Spain a part in the recovery program.

The house approved an amendment to its foreign aid bill yesterday. It added Spain to its Marshall plan countries.

House leaders were driving for passage of their one-package \$5,205,000,000 global foreign aid bill by nightfall.

## Striking Printers Ask Negotiations

### Ask Chicago Papers Set Hearing Dates

Chicago, Mar. 31 — (UP) — Striking Chicago printers asked the city's newspapers today to set a date for resuming negotiations to end the walkout which began last Nov. 24.

John J. Pilch, president of the Chicago local of the International Typographical Union, (AFL), asked for resumption of negotiations in a letter to the Chicago Newspaper Publishers Association, which represents the city's five struck papers.

Pilch's letter was in compliance with an agreement reached between counsel for the international union and the national labor relations board, under which the union will seek to end newspaper strikes and drop its attempt to maintain closed shops.

The agreement was reached after federal judge Luther M. Swygert issued an injunction prohibiting the union from continuing alleged unfair labor practices in violation of the Taft-Hartley law, which outlaws the closed shop.

Pilch's letter said in part: "This is to request that negotiations be immediately resumed between us with the object of reaching a collective bargaining agreement for a definite term covering wages, hours and other conditions of employment."

"I would notify me of a convenient time and place for such negotiations."

John O'Keefe, secretary of the publishers' association, said representatives of the newspapers would meet today to set a date for resumption of negotiations.

Meanwhile, national labor relations board attorneys charged at a hearing that the International Printers' Union is responsible for any unfair labor acts committed by its locals or its members.

## Tomorrow April 1, April Fool's Day

If the boss offers you a raise tomorrow, turn it down. If your best girl accepts your proposal, don't believe her. If you find a wallet lying on the sidewalk with a \$100 bill showing, kick it into the gutter.

If the telephone rings to tell you a rich uncle died and left you a fortune, hang up on the voice at the other end. In other words, don't trust anyone, for tomorrow is April 1—April Fool's Day and the "field day" for practical jokes.

## Plan Commission To Meet Here April 8

### Assistant Director Of State To Attend

Representatives of the two local service organizations, Lions and Rotary clubs, officials of the Chamber of Commerce, members of the city council and all interested citizens will be invited to the meeting of the city plan commission to be held Thursday night, April 8, at 7:30 o'clock at the city hall. It was announced today by plan commission officials.

P. E. Middleton, assistant director of the Indiana economic council will attend the meeting and answer questions which anyone cares to ask concerning the functions and authorities of the new commission.

The state law, under which the commission was named, has a wide scope, including building zoning, street, park and public building construction and improvements and other phases of community projects.

The local commission will start immediately after the meeting to devise a master plan for the future improvements in Decatur, and after the plan is adopted by the city council, it will be necessary to obtain permits for all new construction and improvements in Decatur.

The master plan also will include other contemplated developments, both of a municipal and private nature. Widening of streets, building of new streets, parks, public buildings and improvements all come under the planning law.

## Violence Marks Stock Exchange Strike



SHARP CLASHES between police and striking members of the United Financial Employees (AFL) occurred at the New York Stock Exchange in the second day of the work stoppage. Above, two pickets are dragged to their feet by police after a violent tussle.

## Alleged Physician Passes Bad Checks

### Merchants Bilked By Smooth Stranger

Police authorities here today were totalling the "take" of a pseudo-physician, whose ability to pass bogus checks far surpassed any purported claim to medical knowledge.

Sheriff Herman Bowman said that seven bad checks, ranging from \$20 to \$50, drawn on an Iowa City, Iowa bank, had been reported to his office today and more are expected — after they fail to clear the Iowa bank.

Sheriff Bowman said that the check artist gave his name and age as Charles E. Lamb, 27, 211 East Davenport, Iowa City, Iowa — but declared the man looked to be at least 35 years of age.

He is described as being five feet, 11 inches tall and weighing 215 pounds, well-dressed and a "smooth" talker.

The wanted man had been staying for the past week or more at a cabin at Coppess Corner and had told persons in that vicinity that he was a physician "on vacation." His conversation indicated more than a slight knowledge of the medical profession, it was reported.

Monday the man left that vicinity and yesterday the checks began "bouncing back," the sheriff stated.

The man is known to have acquired the friendship of an implement salesman living at Coppess Corner and to have gone along

(Turn To Page Five)

## Saturday Deadline To File Candidacies

### Many On File Here For Precinct Posts

A long list of candidates, mostly those seeking Democratic precinct committee posts, filed declarations in the offices of county clerk Edward Jaberg late yesterday and today.

Latest to file: Otto W. Hoffman, Democrat, for county commissioner, second district; Eli Curtis Engle, Republican, for precinct committeeman, South Washington, and the following Democratic candidates for precinct committeemen:

Elmer C. Beer, Middle Monroe; Austin Merriman, North Blue Creek; Franklin H. Fruichte, North Kirkland; Thurman Baker, Geneva A; Dwight Schnepf, South Washington; Samuel Anderson, North Hartford; Paul Sharpe, Decatur 3-C; Frank Lynch, Decatur 3-B; Fred E. Lindsey, Geneva B; Louis Reinking, Jr., South Preble.

Saturday is the final day for candidates to file declarations under the election law. Since clerk Jaberg has announced he will keep the office open Saturday night for late registrations, 9 p.m. that day becomes the deadline for filing.

## Explosion Wrecks Train In Palestine

Jerusalem, March 31 — (UP) — British authorities announced that an explosion today wrecked a train at Benyamina, midway between Safa and Lydda, killing 24 persons and injuring 61.

The announcement said none of the casualties were British, but that their nationalities were not known. There were no further details, the announcement said.

## Rigid Inspection Ordered By Russia

### Will Inspect All Trains From Berlin

Berlin, March 31 — (UP) — Russia informed the three western powers in Berlin today that a rigid inspection system of travel would be started tomorrow.

The Russians sent identical letters to the American, British and French chiefs of staff. The letters were signed by Lieut. Gen. Mikhail Dratvin, deputy Soviet military governor. The western powers were told that the Russians intended to inspect both freight and passenger trains leaving Berlin.

All American, British and French nationals who are employed by the western military organizations will be required to produce documents certifying their identity and the nature of the job they hold.

The Soviets said, however, that they would allow freight shipments, but only after previous permission from the Soviet military administration.

This would appear to restrict supply lines of the allied powers into this four-power capital city which is entirely surrounded by Soviet occupation territory.

British officials reported that they immediately asked the Russians to delay introducing the new regulations for 15 days, and asked for discussions of the matter on grounds that it would be impossible to give notice of the new regulations within 24 hours.

A British spokesman said guards on British military trains had been instructed that Soviet troops were not to be allowed to enter these trains tonight, but that no extra precautions were being taken.

The British spokesman said that Russia "has no right to interfere with trains carrying British personnel to and from Berlin."

(Turn To Page Seven)

## 2,100 Traffic Toll In U. S. In February

Chicago, March 31 — (UP) — The national safety council reported today that 2,100 persons were killed in traffic accidents in February.

The council said the number was about 340 higher than expected. The death total for the first two months of 1948 was 4,230 — a drop of eight percent over the same period a year ago.

## Lecture On Cancer Given Last Evening

### Cancer Society Is Sponsor Of Meeting

More than 300 women of Adams county heard Dr. S. M. Rabson, noted authority on cancer, at the meeting held last night at Decatur junior-senior high school auditorium under the auspices of the county federation of Women's clubs and the Adams county cancer society.

Following Dr. Rabson's lecture, motion pictures were shown and then an open forum was held at which time those attending asked questions on the subject. The interest was keen in this part of the program and more than 25 questions were asked by members of the audience.

Roy Kalver, county chairman of the society, introduced Robert Punskey, fourth district chairman of the cancer society, who also gave a short talk concerning the work of his organization.

April has been designated throughout the nation as cancer month and during the month funds will be raised to advance the work of the society. Mr. Kalver has named Thurman Drew Adams county chairman for the annual drive for funds and Clifton Sprunger will have charge of the drive in Berne.

The Geneva Boy Scouts will again spearhead the financial campaign in Geneva, it was announced. Adams county's goal is \$1,500 and Decatur's quota already has been raised as part of the Decatur Community fund.

The open meeting last night was

(Turn To Page Seven)

## Italian Reds Demand U. S. Letters Halted

### Claim Interference In Italian Election

Rome, Mar. 31 — (UP) — Communists and left-wing socialists demanded today that the government stop a flood of letters from the United States, advising Italians how to vote in the forthcoming election.

The leftists charged that the letters were "foreign interference" in Italy's pre-election campaign. The letters were written by persons in the United States to their relatives in Italy, urging them to vote against the communists on April 18.

The protest was made to the all-party election truce committee and it indicated the communists believed that the letters were likely to influence a sizable number of votes. The election committee rejected the protest on the grounds that such a matter was not within its jurisdiction.

The communists also protested to the committee on Pope Pius' Easter speech. The rightist parties filed a complaint with the committee against the propaganda methods of the fascist social movement party.

## Report Of Fact-Finding Board Places Principal Strike Blame On Lewis

## Rent Control Law Signed By Truman

### Extends Controls To March Of 1949

Washington, March 31 — (UP) — President Truman late Tuesday signed the new rent control law, one day before the old act was due to expire at midnight tonight.

In signing the legislation, reluctantly, the president said it wasn't the strengthened measure he had asked of congress but is "better than no rent control at all."

The bill extends controls for one year, to March 31, 1949, and gives an emergency federal court the final say over the raising or removing of rent ceilings in any area. The recommendations of local rent boards would bear great weight, however, and the court would have to uphold them if it found they were based on "adequate and substantial evidence."

The new law permits landlords and tenants to agree on "voluntary" 15 percent rent increases, in return for leases running at least through 1949. However, those tenants who signed up for one 15 percent boost under the old law cannot be forced to accept another.

The rent law also:

1. Lifts ceilings from non-house-keeping rooms in private homes having not more than two roomers.
2. Removes restrictions on use of scarce building materials for recreation and amusement facilities.
3. Requires 65 percent of all "owners" in cooperative apartment developments to be "stockholders, tenants and occupants."
4. Directs the expediter to grant "hardship" rent increases on proof of landlord that he is losing money.
5. Authorizes the expediter to

(Turn To Page Two)

## Clerk's Office Open Nights To Register

### Nightly Schedule Is Announced By Jaberg

County clerk Edward Jaberg announced today that he will keep his office open nights through the balance of the registration period to accommodate late registrations.

His offices in the courthouse will remain open from 7 until 9 p.m. on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Monday nights for this purpose.

In addition the office will be open Saturday afternoon, instead of closing at the usual hour of noon. The deadline for registering is Monday night at 9 o'clock.

Mr. Jaberg urged that voters call at the office to check their registrations if uncertain as to whether or not they are qualified.

Persons voting for the first time, women changing name by marriage, those moving from one precinct to another, those moving into the county for the first time and those failing to vote in the last two elections are among those required to register or transfer registrations.

Persons whose home precinct has been changed by the recent redistricting of precincts in Decatur, if otherwise qualified, are not required to register or transfer. This work is done by clerk's office personnel.

(Turn To Page Seven)

## Lions Entertained By School Students

A group of band students from Decatur junior-senior high school directed by Albert Sellemeyer, presented an instrumental musical program Tuesday evening at the weekly meeting of the Decatur Lions club, held in the Knights of Pythias home. Lowell Smith was in charge of the program.

## House Vote To Include Spain In Aid Fought

### Angry Reaction To Move Expressed By European Nations

Shocked and angry reaction to the decision of the United States house of representatives to include Franco Spain in the European recovery program came today from London, Paris and Rome.

In Washington, the house pressed on toward passage, perhaps by nightfall, of its \$6,205,000,000 "package" global foreign aid measure, and a possibility was seen that a compromise measure approved by both house and senate would go to President Truman next week.

But senate conferees were not expected to accept the house amendment which added Spain to the list of 16 European nations previously included in the European recovery plan. Sen. Arthur H. Vandenberg, R., Mich., senate president and chairman of the powerful foreign relations committee, was known to oppose the move.

Reports from London said Britain was prepared to lead a fight against inclusion of Spain. Unofficial sources, close to the British government described the house action as "a perfectly frightful act reflecting incredible political naivete."

Paris officially expressed "surprise," and the left-wing press there bitterly attacked the move.

Rome saw the move as certain to give aid and comfort to the Communists in the April 18 elections, and asserted that it had destroyed the lift given anti-Communist forces by the proposal of the western powers to return Trieste to Italy.

Madrid received word of the house action with what dispatches described as "official pleasure."

Moscow did not comment, but there seemed little doubt that the move would be regarded there as aiding the U. S. S. R. in her diplomatic "cold war."

Militarily, inclusion of Spain among the American-aided nations undoubtedly would not be so welcome to the Russians, who might

(Turn To Page Seven)

## Otto Hoffman Files Candidacy For Board

### Seeks Nomination As Commissioner

Otto W. Hoffman, well known Washington township farmer, today announced that he would be a candidate for the Democratic nomination for county commissioner, second district, in the May primary.

A member of the county council Mr. Hoffman farms 354 acres of land in South Washington township and has taken keen interest in governmental affairs. He is a former school teacher, taking his normal training at Tri-State College, Angola. He is a graduate of the Decatur high school.

Mr. Hoffman is married and the father of seven children, two of whom are still at home. Two of his sons served in the armed forces during the war. Kenneth was in the navy and Dale served in the army.

Native of this township, Mr. Hoffman is a member of St. Luke's Evangelical Reformed church at Honduras. Last fall he represented the county council on the county tax adjustment board and assisted members in delving into tax problems in the county.

(Turn To Page Seven)

## President Delays Direct Government Action; Hint Move To Settle Dispute

Washington, Mar. 31 — (UP) — President Truman today delayed direct government action to halt the coal strike, apparently in the hope that John L. Lewis and the mine operators can settle their own dispute.

This surprise development came immediately after a fact-finding board reported to Mr. Truman on the 17-day walkout. The board blamed the strike primarily on Lewis and his United Mine Workers.

Up to that moment, the word was that Mr. Truman would seek a strike-stopping injunction almost immediately after he received the board's report.

But something happened to alter that action.

White House press secretary Charles G. Ross would say only that Mr. Truman had decided not to make the report public immediately "because he desires to study it and a large mass of supporting documents."

Ross refused to answer a question whether Mr. Truman had received word from Lewis and the operators that they may try to settle the pension dispute among themselves.

Lewis and the operators had told the board at separate hearings that the dispute could be settled by direct negotiation between the parties. But they never made the offer directly to each other at the board hearings.

A source close to the fact-finding board said Mr. Truman's move was unexpected. He said the board had gone to the White House expecting that Mr. Truman would make its report public immediately and thus clear the way for getting an injunction to halt the strike.

Instead, Mr. Truman decided not to make the report public until after he returns Saturday from a trip to Williamsburg, Pa.

Industry sources said they thought the president's move was a "play for time" in the hope that Lewis would order his miners back to work rather than risk an injunction fight.

There was no immediate reaction from union sources.

Ross told reporters that "consideration is being given to the next step."

He made the statement in reply to questions whether the White House could start injunction proceedings without first making the report public.

The Taft-Hartley law empowers the president to seek an injunction to prevent or halt — for at least 60 days — a strike which impedes the national welfare or safety.

The board's report was understood to be critical of both sides, but blaming Lewis for the strike.

Board chairman Sherman Minton told reporters as he and the other two board members left the White House that their report was "very short."

"The point of dispute was very quickly pointed up," he said. Minton refused to comment on the report because he did not want to "anticipate the president."

He said Mr. Truman did not indicate when he would publish the report or whether he would order injunction proceedings to be started.

White house press secretary Charles G. Ross said the report would be made public soon.

Board members said they were returning to their homes immediately. They said they would return here "only in case legal proceedings were started."

Under the law, Mr. Truman is required to reconvene the board after an injunction is issued.

The board completed its report late last night after John L. Lewis is testified — under court order — yesterday.

(Turn To Page Eight)

Weather  
Rain north and central portions tonight and this afternoon; clearing and cooler to night; Thursday generally fair, cooler in southeast.

(Turn To Page Seven)