

'LITTLE STEEL' HIT IN SENATE REPORT

Firms Conducting Labor Relations Along 'Antiquated Concepts' May Imperil Defense Effort, Committee Which Probed '37 Strike Claims.

(Other Labor News, Page Six)

By NED BROOKS
Times Special Writer

WASHINGTON, March 31.—Industrialists who conduct their labor relations according to "antiquated concepts" are jeopardizing national security, the Senate Civil Liberties Committee charged today.

Reporting to the Senate on its three-year-old investigation of the "Little Steel" strike of 1937, the committee applied the companies' resistance to collective bargaining to present-day capital-labor strife and asserted...

DYKSTRA BOARD ENDS 4 STRIKES

Harvester Workers Return; Johnstown Steel Plant Is Reopened.

By UNITED PRESS

Workers were returning to jobs in national defense industries more rapidly than strikes were being called today as the Federal Government's super-Mediation Board arranged production agreements and settlements.

Only 14 strikes were in progress in plants and projects involving contracts for armaments and materials needed to produce armaments, the smallest number in almost two months. Five major strikes were settled over the week-end, four of them through the efforts of the Mediation Board on disputes submitted by the Labor Department last Thursday.

Five thousand C. I. O. Farm Equipment Workers' organizing Committee members voted to organize at work at four strike-bound International Harvester Co. plants in the Midwest. F. E. W. O. C. officials said the Mediation Board had assured the union the issues involved in the strike would be settled for discussion of full settlement after workers return to their jobs.

"Realism" Demanded

The report, signed by Chairman Robert M. La Follette (Prog. Wis.) and Senator Elbert D. Thomas (D. Utah), added that the findings "cannot be ignored in any realistic public treatment of immediate problems of industrial production and the common defense."

The conduct of labor relations by managements in key industries according to antiquated concepts of industrial absolutism must now be recognized as a threat to national defense."

The report re-armed the Senate amid growing concern in Congress over defense industry strikes and rising sentiment for Federal legislation to curb them. Organized labor has borne the brunt of most of the debate but the La Follette findings warned against any encroachments on what was described as the "enlightened labor policy" of the period since the Wagner Act was adopted.

No Change in Four Years

In nearly four years which have elapsed since the "Little Steel" strike, no adequate collective bargaining arrangements have been brought about in the affected companies and management-labor relations "continue strained," the Committee said.

"Certainly it is that the nation cannot permit these companies today to take the same attitude they took in 1937 with the same inevitable consequences of interrupted production," the report continued.

Such conduct (refusal to sign bargaining contracts) not only threatens the vital continuity of production but it challenges the nation's domestic authority, weakens respect of labor for the national aims and destroys the sense of unity and common effort."

As an immediate remedy for the strike situation, the committee proposed that procedure be devised within the National Labor Relations Board for "prompt and expeditious" adjudication of facts involving a strike to bargain collectively in a defense industry plant.

When all production resources are required for defense materials," the committee continued, "it may not be feasible in all cases to withhold Government contracts for such materials even from firms which are known malfeasors."

"Nor for the same reason is it practical to withdraw Government contracts on which work has been begun from companies whose labor policies threaten their scheduled completion and reallocation them elsewhere," the report added.

Blames 'Little Steel' Firms

The serious strikes of the first World War were rooted in the refusal of certain employers to bargain collectively," the committee contended.

"With an enlightened labor policy written into Federal statute, we should not permit this to happen again," the report asserted.

The report reviewed at length the history of the 1937 steel strikes concluding that they resulted from the refusal of Republic Steel Corp., Bethlehem Steel Corp., and Inland Steel Co. to follow the example of the United States Steel Corp. in entering into signed agreements with the Steel Workers Organizing Committee (C. I. O.).

IN INDIANAPOLIS

Here Is the Traffic Record

Count City Total

1940 6 16 22

1941 23 19 42

—March 29 and 30—

Accidents 49 Injured 22

Arrests 128 Dead 3

SATURDAY TRAFFIC COURT

Cases Convic- Fines

Violations 3 3 \$ 11

Speeding 2 1

Reckless driving 4 2

Failure to stop at through street 4 2

Disobeying traffic signals 3 3 10

Drunken driving 0 0 0

All others 9 7 14

Totals 21 16 \$ 42

MEETINGS TODAY

Eli Lilly & Co., University of Florida, College of Pharmacy, dinner. Hotel Severein.

Eli Lilly & Co., Southwestern State College, dinner. Hotel Severein.

Excelsior Laundry, dinner. Hotel Severein.

Salsbury's Club, luncheon. Hotel Wash- ington.

Youngstown Sheet & Tube Co., luncheon.

Irvington Republican Club, meeting.

Irvington Realtors, luncheon. Canary Cottage, noon.

Nude Dame Club, luncheon. Board of Trade, noon.

Indiana University Club, luncheon. Co- lumbia Club, noon.

MEETINGS TOMORROW

Rotary Club, luncheon. Claypool Hotel, noon.

Men's Club, luncheon. Y. M. C. A. noon.

Alpha Tau Omega, luncheon. Board of Trade, noon.

Gyre Club, luncheon. Spinks Arms Hotel, noon.

Heretics Club, luncheon. Hotel Lin- coln, noon.

ENVOYS EXPECT CURB ON LABOR

Roosevelt 'Crackdown' to Save U. S. From France's Fate Anticipated.

By WILLIAM PHILIP SIMMS
Times Foreign Editor

WASHINGTON, March 31.—Foreign envoys here have reported back to their capitals that President Roosevelt is about to crack down on the strike situation to prevent what happened to France happening to this country, and for much the same reason.

When the President went fishing in the Gulf of Mexico, these same diplomats told their governments that it was less to catch fish than to give the labor troubles a little more time to incubate and himself a little more time to determine on a remedy.

That the whole thing has now jelled — so far as the President is concerned—and that he is returning to Washington this week prepared to act, they believe, was definitely indicated in his speech to Jackson Day diners Saturday night.

"If we sit down now," the President warned, "we may get run over later . . . that is why, in the comparative quiet of this week, I have become more than ever clear that the time calls for courage and more courage—action and more action . . ."

Calls Communists by Name

Foreign observers here see special significance in that part of his speech dealing with the efforts of certain forces to split the country and undermine confidence in its institutions. His reference to Communists by name, placing them in the role of " betrayers" of French labor while pretending to be its champions, is particularly commented upon.

That is so because more and more, of late, the startling parallel between events now taking place in this country and what happened in France just before and right after the war began, is receiving more and more attention on Capitol Hill and elsewhere in Government circles. William C. Bullitt, Ambassador to France, while the storm was brewing, has passed his observances along as have many others.

The attitude of French labor toward the war is also coming in for study.

Lesson for America

On June 11, 1940, just three days before the battle-scarred tanks of Hitler's victorious invaders clanked into Paris, I stood with Leon Jouhaux, French labor leader, in his office overlooking Rue Lafayette, one of the capital's main thoroughfares. From curb to curb the street was jammed with refugees—on foot, in farm wagons drawn by oxen, on bicycles, some pitiful old women with grandchildren too young to walk were being pulled along in handcarts. Even wheelbarrows had been pressed into service.

"I wonder," the head of the C. G. T. (Confederation general du Travail) said sadly, "if in America, will ever see anything like that."

"That," he went on, "is one of the things democracies must learn how to avoid. It is the result of combination of things—many things—of Trojan horsemen and fifth columnists, of enemies, secret and avowed, within as well as from without the country. What a lesson all this ought to be for America."

Prepared by Propaganda

I asked M. Jouhaux to more explicit, said he:

"I mean that agents of Hitler and Stalin, paid and unpaid, have been given free rein in France and in America. And there they invoke the very freedoms they would destroy if they got into power. By their acts and by their propaganda they prepared France for the invader."

What M. Jouhaux said next was to prove a tragic thing. He observed that the labor situation in France had been remedied and at that moment every worker, whether a member of the C. G. T. or not, was working day and night, Sunday and holidays, to make up for lost time.

"They regard themselves," he said, "as soldiers—no less than their comrades in the front lines. They are aware that the front workers behind the lines provide weapons and munitions, the fighters will be helpless."

Three days later Paris fell. The rally, as the President's advisers who were then in France are now pointing out, came too late.

The Mediation Board meeting at Washington reported that officials of the Vanadium Corp. and of the Steel Workers Organizing Committee agreed to a proposal to resume operations immediately at the corporation's Bridgeville, Pa., plant.

OFFICIAL WEATHER

U. S. Weather Bureau

INDIANAPOLIS FORECAST: Occasional showers tonight; tomorrow mostly cloudy, not much change in temperature.

Sunrise..... 5:31 Sunset..... 6:08

TEMPERATURE

—March 31, 1940—

6 a. m. 50 1 p. m. 70

BAROMETER TODAY

6:30 a. m. 29.93

Precipitation 24 hrs. ending 7 a. m. 0.06

since Jan. 1..... 6.48

INDIANA IN OTHER CITIES, 6:30 A. M.

Station Weather Bar. Temp.

Anderson, Ind. Clear 29.92 42

Bloomington, Ill. 29.84 30

Brownsville, Pa. 29.94 43

Cincinnati, 29.92 41

Cleveland, 29.89 39

Dodge City, Kas. 29.89 39

Jacksonville, Fla. 29.81 38

Knoxville, Tenn. 29.82 38

Little Rock, Ark. 29.75 34

Los Angeles, Calif. 29.82 53

Minneapolis-St. Paul, 29.77 33

Mobile, Ala. 29.88 48

New Orleans, 29.82 32

Omaha, Neb. 29.81 38

Pittsburgh, 29.80 38

St. Louis, Mo. 29.89 55

Tampa, Fla. 29.82 50

Washington, D. C. 29.68 56

Wichita, 29.80 31

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