

STEEL PRICES DECISION NEAR

Truman Confers With OPA Chief Bowles Today.

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must first guarantee a similar increase.

Other major labor developments:

ONE: The Jessop Steel Co., Washington, Pa., a fabricator employing about 1300 workers signed a contract with the C. I. O. union, guaranteeing an 18 1/2 cent an hour increase.

TWO: Strike ballots were mailed to 78,000 members of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers (Ind.). A strike by B. L. E. members and the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen (Ind.), which also is conducting a strike vote, could disrupt rail traffic from coast to coast.

THREE: United Packinghouse Workers (C. I. O.) at Chicago's Armour and Co. plant prepared for a renewed walkout of the 40,000 Armour employees across the nation. The union charged "unreasonable" in rehiring 2000 of its 9000 Chicago workers.

FOUR: Negotiations between the striking C. I. O. United Auto Workers and General Motors were in week-end adjournment as Federal Labor Mediator James F. Devey returned to Washington to confer with Secretary of Labor Lewis B. Schwellenbach.

FIVE: Danger of an Ohio utilities strike ended with settlement of a wage dispute between the C. I. O. utility workers union and the Dayton Power & Light Co.

One Power Threat Continues

The threat of a power strike in Kentucky and Virginia, affecting some 1,000,000 consumers, continued, however, although United Construction Workers (U. M. W.) had scheduled a meeting with company representatives Tuesday.

A U. S. labor conciliator will meet in New York Tuesday with utility workers union officers in an attempt to forestall a threatened strike of C. I. O. employees of the Pennsylvania Power & Light Co. set for Feb. 5.

At Waterbury, Conn., negotiations were stymied in the threatened strike of 20,000 Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers Union (C. I. O.) employees of three brass companies, scheduled for Monday.

Meanwhile, an auto journal reported that General Motors dealers, with bare showrooms and millions of potential customers, were bringing pressure to bear today for an end to the 74-day strike of 175,000 auto workers.

Ward's Automotive Reports said the dealers were urging the corporation, through factory sales representatives, to find some means of satisfying demands of the striking C. I. O. United Auto Workers Union.

Stelle Attack On Bradley Backfires

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a fine job under extremely difficult conditions.

In other words, Stelle said, the President is backing Gen. Bradley up to the hilt.

Ross volunteered the information at his daily press conference.

Others Defend Bradley

All veterans groups except the Legion also came to Gen. Bradley's defense.

Gen. Bradley, countering Stelle's charge of a "tragic breakdown" in the veteran administration, by instance traced the accusation to an argument over the location of hospital in which Mr. Stelle was interested.

"I suspect that the charge comes from Stelle, not from the American Legion," Gen. Bradley said.

Mr. Stelle said in New York that he would not insist on Gen. Bradley's removal if it was shown that congressional help was needed in cutting red tape. But he did not retreat in his attack on the VA.

Meanwhile, other veterans' organizations leaped to Gen. Bradley's defense. So did Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, chief of staff, who promised to "fly any where, any time," to support him.

Rankin Defends VA

Chairman John Rankin (D. Miss.) of the house committee on world war veterans legislation, praised Bradley and labeled Mr. Stelle's charges "a grave injustice."

Gen. Bradley said he would welcome the congressional probe called for by Mr. Stelle. But he warned that time spent in digging out facts and figures for investigators would be time lost in serving veterans.

Gen. Bradley said Mr. Stelle had no complaint on VA operations prior to a telephone conversation Wednesday.

At that time, he recalled, Mr. Stelle re-opened an old disagreement over location of a 250-bed hospital at Decatur, Ill. Mr. Stelle, former Illinois governor, favored one location and Gen. Bradley's aide picked another.

Next, they discussed a Legion invitation to Gen. Bradley to serve on a Legion scholarship committee. When he asked time to think it over, Gen. Bradley said, Mr. Stelle apparently took offense.

WASHINGTON Calling

A Weekly Sizeup by the Washington Staff of the Scripps-Howard Newspapers

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ment, dragged in names of Roosevelt, Hull, Jesse Jones and others.

Mr. Ickes took a kick at Mr. Thornburg and Mr. Thornburg's friends replied. And so it goes.

Anti-Strike Legislation

HOUSE will write anti-strike legislation on floor, but final result won't be Case bill. One provision almost sure to be eliminated is that repealing protection now given labor against injunctions.

Attempt to substitute Hatch-Burton bill will be made—and wide-open rule will avert point of order against it. Many house members voted for this rule in order to make proposals of their own in order. Not all favor Case bill.

Whatever passes house will be rewritten, toned down, in senate, or else buried.

Clothing Shortage to Be Investigated

BOTH justice department and civilian production administration will look into clothing shortage.

Justice is trying to find out whether there's been any agreement among manufacturers or retailers or both to hold back stocks.

OPA thinks ailing fashions may start desired flow of supplies.

Steel fabricators are concerned about forthcoming price increase for basic steel companies, estimated at \$4 a ton or up. They figure they'll be squeezed, paying higher prices for steel and having to meet same 18 1/2 cents an hour wage boost. Look for concerted appeal to OPA for higher price ceiling all along line.

Lupe Won't Run

KEP. CLARE BOOTH LUCE (R. Conn.), who is quitting house at end of this year, won't try for senate seat being relinquished by Senator Hart of Connecticut.

Friends say she has eye on post with United Nations Organization. Decision not to run for senate is based on her expectation Governor Baldwin will. He's not announced yet, but if he does, he's certain of nomination, congressional seat.

INFORMAL polls by house leadership of both parties indicate rough course for the \$44 billion British loan, with outcome in doubt. However speaker Rayburn thinks it will be approved. So does Secretary of Treasury Vinson.

Treasury will start educational campaign soon, spell out ABC's of international finance. Vote isn't likely before late summer or fall.

House Rules

CONSERVATIVE house members talk about offering resolution limiting tenure of rules committee chairman to eight years.

It's aimed at liberal Chairman Sath of Chicago, consistent supporter of New Deal measures.

Counter-move suggested by Rep. Marston (A. L. N. Y.): Resolution saying that chairman must come from state which lets everyone vote.

NAVY is starting graduate course in intelligence to match that already launched by army at Ft. Riley. War made both conscious of their weakness in intelligence—and of its vital importance.

Slow Legislation

ADD LEGISLATIVE bungling: Maj. Gen. Graves B. Erskine, who commanded 3d marine division on Iwo Jima, was summoned to Washington last October to represent secretary of labor in re-training and re-employment administration.

So urgent was his work considered that he was given a No. 1 air priority from Pacific—priority usually reserved for battle casualties and President. He was not permitted to visit his family on west coast and was denied leave. He saw President Truman Oct. 26 and went to work next day.

But he can't get civilian pay to which he's entitled and retain marine corps rank without special enabling legislation. It has been introduced, no one opposes it. But no one has been sufficiently interested to push matter.

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ICKES MAY TALK WAY OUT OF JOB

Oil Charges Against Pauley Stir Cabinet Friction.

(Continued From Page One)

hired a hall, if necessary, in which to tell it.

He has been rumbling protests against Mr. Pauley for some time on charges of over-enthusiastic opposition to the Tidewater suit.

The pay-off on this latest battle into which the 71-year-old cabinet officer has engaged will depend, however, on how anxious Mr. Truman is for Mr. Pauley's confirmation.

Some persons believe Mr. Pauley's nomination merely was a pay-off for political services rendered and that the President has no great personal interest in it.

But there is persuasive evidence that when Mr. Pauley was nominated as undersecretary the President deliberately was putting him in position to succeed Secretary of Navy James Forrestal, who is expected to leave the cabinet this year.

Heat on Ickes?

If that was Mr. Truman's intention, the President may not take kindly to Mr. Ickes' effort to prevent Mr. Pauley's confirmation.

It is likely that an issue of that kind might persuade the President to waver on his secretary of interior.

If Mr. Pauley did eventually succeed Mr. Forrestal and Mr. Ickes remained in the cabinet, the pair probably would need a referee. Mr. Ickes was uneasy in his cabinet chair a few months ago and somewhat resentful against Mr. Truman.

The secretary felt that he should have some positive gesture from the White House indicating that he should remain in the cabinet.

Up to Truman

He may have gotten it because he has stayed on and only this week announced that his doubts about continuing had been resolved in favor of keeping on the job.

But that was before he put the finger on Mr. Pauley. Whether the old "curmudgeon" has picked himself a losing fight apparently will depend on whether Mr. Pauley is dearer to Mr. Truman than the Ick.

At the hearing Mr. Pauley was confronted with the following testimony:

ONE: Former Assistant Attorney General Norman Littell said Mr. Pauley asked him to arrange a meeting with former Attorney General Francis Biddle, saying that oil men who had contributed to the Democratic party "expected something in return."

TWO: Mr. Ickes said Mr. Pauley sought his influence in having the suit dropped, reminding him that such action would mean "several hundred thousand dollars" to the party treasury.

THREE: Committee Chairman David I. Walsh (D. Mass.) said "the evidence is overwhelming that Mr. Pauley did everything in his power to have the (Fideland) suit dropped."

Senator Charles W. Tobey (R. N. H.), leader of the forces fighting Mr. Pauley's confirmation to the navy post, previously read testimony by Mr. Pauley categorically denying that he had approached either Mr. Ickes or Mr. Biddle in the oil case.

'Afraid It's Not True'

Mr. Littell told the committee that if Mr. Pauley said he had never approached Mr. Biddle, "I am afraid it is not true."

Then he told how Mr. Pauley, on the pretext of having a social drink, cornered him in a New York hotel room and "put on the heat" to have the suit dropped.

Mr. Littell said he felt then that Mr. Pauley's overtures "were the beginning of the payoff."

He said he advised Mr. Biddle what Mr. Pauley had in mind regarding the "expected" payoff of the oil group. Mr. Littell said Mr. Biddle replied:

"Well, the money's got to come from somewhere, doesn't it?"

The hearings are scheduled to resume Monday.

G. I.'s in Munich Can Phone Home

FIRST personal telephone call from Munich, Germany, to the United States since the war was completed in Indianapolis when T. 4th Gr. Jason E. Young, 565 N. Beville ave., called his wife recently.

Sgt. Young's call lasted for three minutes and cost him \$12. It inaugurated a regular service for enlisted men in Munich to the States.

Mr. Young

ARRANGE DANCES TO AID CONCERTS

Jivin' Joes and Janes are planning a big blowout to aid the longhairs. Representatives of 33 teen-age canteens and community youth centers will meet at 3 p. m. tomorrow in the Municipal Gardens to complete arrangements for a dance to finance the final free summer opera in Garfield park.

Paul V. Brown, park board head, revealed that the youth groups are sponsoring a dance March 15 in the Murat temple. Plans to obtain Woody Herman and his orchestra are being completed.

Proceeds from the affair will sponsor the final opera in the Garfield park amphitheater before the new theater is constructed in August.

Charles Hedley, chairman of the voice faculty at Jordan Conservatory, will direct the Indianapolis Opera Theater in the production. Jack L. Hatfield, director of the Civic theater will be production manager and 25 members of the Indianapolis symphony orchestra will provide music.

Reld Chapman, program director of station WISH, announced that tentative plans to feature Woody Herman's band on a national hook-up from 7 to 7:30 p. m. March 15 are being formulated.

The broadcast will take place in the Egyptian room of the Murat temple. Ticket-holders for the dance will be admitted to the broadcast.

20-YEAR CLUB HAS INITIATION DINNER

Thirty-four members of the Hibben, Hollweg & Co. 20-Year club attended a dinner party and initiation at the Athenaeum last night.

New members are Eugene Lepere, O. J. VerDow and Mrs. Dorothy Weeks.

Jacob Laatz is president of the club.

INDIANAPOLIS BANK CLEARINGS

Clearings Feb. 1 \$ 8,823,000

Debits " 20,383,000

The Week \$28,805,000

Clearings " 199,375,000

Debits " 20,383,000

Candle Blessing Ceremony Is Held

A ceremony which dates back to the fourth century was being observed in Catholic churches throughout the city today with the annual blessing of candles.

Tomorrow, St. Blaise day, the blessing of throats will be administered in honor of the saint who was martyred in 316 A. D.

The blessing of candles is based on the biblical reference to Christ as light of the world. They are used in many ceremonies of the church, including the mass, administration of the sacraments and processions, as a mark of joy and honor to God and as a symbol of prayer and sacrifice.

TWO REFORMATORY PRISONERS ESCAPE

Indiana state police today looked for two inmates of the Pendleton state reformatory who escaped yesterday.

Richard Dodson, 29, Indianapolis, and Walter Lee Seerest, 18, Evansville, stole a state pick-up truck and drove north on Ind. 67 after their breakaway, the police said.

Both were serving 1-10-year sentences; Dodson for grand larceny, and Seerest for vehicle theft.

Ground Hog Sees 6 Weeks Winter—He's Been Wrong

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When it did rain. Precipitation was nearly double normal with only a trace of snow.

Now it's too bad the Ground Hog doesn't forecast a year's weather. Statistics for the remaining months are supplied by the weather bureau, and mere man can make mistakes.

Generally speaking the year's temperatures since last Feb. 2 averaged about normal with 13 days recording 90 degrees or above. Zero or below left its mark for 11 days and the number of cloudy days, as if you don't remember, was unusually large. There was more precipitation within the city to list your basement than any year since 1890.

Wet April

Having had spring and summer rolled into March, Indianapolis settled back for a wet April and a cool spell in May, June and July. August, September and October can be passed without much interest.

November kissed the city with a touch of spring followed by a beligerent December which was very cold and blanketed Indianapolis with 6.9 inches of snow, four inches in 24 hours.

Highs and lows, firsts and lasts and ranges give figure-hounds more mental calisthenics with which to amuse guests while dummy at bridge.

The greatest daily temperature range was 37 degrees on Oct. 27; the least was 3 degrees on Nov. 30. The greatest monthly range was 71 degrees in February; the least was 44 degrees in August and September.

From Oct. 6-20 it didn't rain enough to fill a thimble, but it was plenty wet from June 9-19.

The last killing spring frost came April 6, just 10 days before schedule. With the time table mixed up, the first killing autumn frost dropped in six days late on Oct. 27.

The first thunderstorm lashed Indianapolis March 17; the last was felt Christmas eve. Hall was re-

CHARGES 'PRESSURE' ON CODE TESTIMONY

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Japanese later actually sent the "east wind rain" message.

Capt. Safford yesterday declared publicly that they did and that he saw the message. He had said the same thing in earlier secret investigations.

Today Capt. Safford testified that Capt. Sonnet came to him last year and tried to get him to change the testimony he had given in previous inquiries.

"His purpose seemed to be to get witnesses to reverse testimony," Capt. Safford said.

Capt. Safford made the charge after Seth W. Richardson, committee counsel, pointed out to him that he told previous investigations the winds message was intercepted the night of Dec. 3 and told the congressional committee yesterday it was intercepted the morning of Dec. 4.

Capt. Safford said he obtained new evidence only two weeks ago—monthly reports of navy intercept stations—which refreshed his memory.

Mr. Richardson asked Capt. Safford whether he was "befuddled" in his previous testimony, particularly in 1945.

"In 1945 there was a determined effort to make me change my testimony," Capt. Safford replied.

ACTRESS ON HONEYMOON

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 2 (U. P.).—Actress Mimi Berry and Earl Silvers, her make-up man for her first screen test, were on a week-end honeymoon today at a nearby mountain resort.

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