

Peace May Be Sealed Today For Some Of Nation's Mines

Lewis, Owners On 'Brink' of Agreement

Taft Urges Both Sides to Seek Pact

WASHINGTON, July 2 (U. P.)—John L. Lewis and a large segment of the soft coal industry were reported today to be on the brink of a new wage agreement that would head off a nation-wide coal strike next week.

Some industry sources optimistically believed that a deal may be sealed at further secret meetings today between Mr. Lewis and operators representing the bulk of northern and western mines.

Mr. Lewis kept silent. Government sources close to the negotiations said they looked for "important developments."

A major obstacle still blocking agreement, however, was the demand by Mr. Lewis for a contract provision to free him and the union from the possibility of damage suits under the Taft-Hartley labor law.

Taft Makes Appeal

Meanwhile, Senator Robert A. Taft (R. O.), co-author of the Taft-Hartley labor control law, called on "both sides to make every effort to reach an agreement promptly." He said the situation "regarding the coal miners is unique."

"I have no means of knowing who is right and who is wrong in the negotiations now proceeding between the union and the employers," Mr. Taft said.

"Certainly no strike was justified prior to July (before the government released the mines to private owners), but I do not know enough at this time to condemn either the miners' union or the operators for what may happen after today."

Urges Board of Inquiry

Mr. Taft said President Truman should appoint a board of inquiry under the new act to determine the merits of the controversy "if the situation becomes such that it threatens the nation's health or safety."

He opposed suggestions that the government continue to operate the mines.

Under the Taft-Hartley law, President Truman could appoint a board of inquiry in the coal dispute.

Mr. Lewis' soft coal miners are now on a vacation that is scheduled to end next Tuesday. Whether they return to work then depends on whether a new wage contract has been signed by then.

Sig Operators Meet Lewis

Industry sources said substantial progress toward a peaceful settlement was made at secret conferences yesterday between Mr. Lewis and some of the northern and western operators. The spokesmen who met with Mr. Lewis represented U. S. Steel Corp. and other "captive" mines, strip mines, Pittsburgh Consolidated Coal Co. and other large commercial interests.

They reportedly offered to meet Mr. Lewis' demands for a daily wage scale of \$13.05 for eight hours' work and travel time with a half-hour staggered lunch period. They also were said to have offered to continue the 5 cents a ton payment to the miners' health and welfare fund, include the federal safety code, in the contract, screen supervisory employees so that some of them would come under the collective bargaining agreement and pay \$100 annual vacation allowance.

They were said to have rejected demands for overtime rates for Saturday and Sunday and six paid holidays.

Mandel's Ex-Wife Named 'Kidnaper'

LOS ANGELES, July 2 (U. P.)—Police today sought Mrs. Lois K. Schubert, former wife of Fred L. Mandel Jr., owner of the Detroit Lions professional football team, on a charge she kidnapped their 9-year-old son Stephen.

A telegraphic warrant was received from Chicago after a Cook county grand jury returned the kidnapping indictment.

Mr. Mandel, a director and secretary of the Mandel Bros. department store, Chicago, complained that his former wife violated a child custody order by failing to return the boy to him on June 21.

A circuit court order June 6 gave Mr. Mandel custody of the child but allowed Mrs. Schubert to keep him two weeks each year.

The Mandels were divorced two years ago.

CIO Seeks to Mediate Ford Foremen's Strike

DETROIT, July 2 (U. P.)—The C. I. O. United Auto Workers union yesterday offered to serve as a mediator in an attempt to settle the 42-day-old strike of 3,800 members of the Independent Foremen's Association of America against three Detroit plants of the Ford Motor Co. The U. A. W. international executive board authorized Richard T. Leonard, U. A. W. vice president and Ford department director, to contact the company jointly with the F. A. A. in an effort to resolve the present foremen's controversy through collective bargaining.

Mr. Leonard said he would get in touch with John Bugs, Ford industrial relations director, to seek a bargaining session.

SHIP BLAST KILLS 31

ISTANBUL, July 2 (U. P.)—Thirty-one members of the crew of the Turkish ship Silvri were killed today when the ship hit a mine near the Isle of Rhodes. Fifteen were saved.



OFF TO THE ZOO—Seventy freshly scrubbed and bright-eyed youngsters from the Riverside neighborhood climbed aboard chartered busses this morning for a day at the Cincinnati Zoo. Because the neighborhood has no public park or recreation area, merchants and Riverside veterans organization members sponsored a block party last week-end at 18th and Sugar Grove ave. to raise funds for the youngsters' trip.

Rural Areas Lead In Traffic Deaths

It is more dangerous to drive in the country than in the city.

This fact was disclosed today in a state police report that 65 per cent of all traffic deaths in the state during the first half of 1947 occurred in rural districts.

The overall total of traffic deaths, according to incomplete reports,

shows a decline of 2.05 per cent, from the same period last year.

A total of 476 persons lost their lives during the first six months of 1947, while 486 fatalities were reported in the first half of 1946.

Simultaneously, Col. Robert Rossow, state police superintendent, urged 4th of July celebrants to use "common sense, extra care and courtesy" to prevent accidents this week-end.

Last year, over a four-day holiday week-end, 15 persons died in Indiana traffic accidents. In the same period, 267 were injured and 672 accidents were reported.

Indianapolis chapter 1 of American Veterans committee will meet tonight at the war memorial to discuss the formation of a veterans cooperative to develop Ft. Harrison as a housing project.

Weymouth—Fogelberg, chapter chairman, said that if federal, state or local governments, which have priority over all other groups, do not

take possession, the AVC will attempt to form the housing co-operative to do so.

The Veterans Administration is considering 291 acres around Billings hospital as a site for a tuberculosis hospital. The fort has been declared surplus and turned over to the war assets administration.

Martin L. Larner, Indianapolis motor parts company head, and newly elected region chairman of AVC, will report on the recent national convention at the meeting tonight at 8:15 p. m.

Mr. Larner heads AVC in Indiana, standards predicted here today.

A. V. C. Casts Eye At Fort Housing

The chapter will nominate officers for the coming year at the meeting.

SHOROWAVE OUTLOOK GOOD

By Science Service

WASHINGTON, July 2.—Shortwave radio reception should be from fair to good during the next few days, the national bureau of standards predicted here today.

Mr. Larner said that if free enter-

Congress

GOP to Decide Today On New Tax-Cut Bill

Party Leaders Meet to Draft Schedule Of Final 3 Weeks of Congress Session

WASHINGTON, July 2 (U. P.)—Republican congressional leaders met today to decide whether to send President Truman their revised income tax reduction bill before Congress adjourns late this month.

At the same meeting they planned to decide on the other major measures which should be brought to a vote in the remaining three weeks of the current session.

The new tax bill would take the place of one vetoed by President Truman. Like the previous legislation, it would cut personal income taxes by from 10.5 to 30 per cent with the heaviest cuts coming in the low salary brackets. But it would make the reductions effective Jan. 1, 1948, instead of this July 1 as provided in the former measure.

Republicans are confident they have rounded up enough strength to pass the bill in the house, even over a veto, but are still looking for additional "converts" in the senate.

In addition to the tax bill, other legislative business on the Republican agenda includes appropriations bills, army-navy unification, minimum wage and possibly long-range housing legislation.

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