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## Urge Overtime, 45-Hour Week To Cut Prices

Economists Support

Baruch, Green Plan

By FRED W. PERKINS  
Washington Staff Writer

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29—Many practical economists agree that if all the country's manufacturers went on a 45-hour week, paying time-and-a-half for five hours overtime, the incomes of nearly 13 million workers would be substantially increased and more goods would be produced which might drive some prices down.

The 45-hour proposal, made before congressional committees by both AFL President William Green and Bernard Baruch, is now favored by the National Association of Manufacturers.

But some union leaders do not agree with Mr. Green. They are holding out for straight wage boosts.

**Earnings Hit Peak**  
The U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that in December wages of the nearly 13 million production workers in the nation's factories reached an all-time high average of \$52.53. This was because wages are higher than ever before and average weekly hours were 41.1, involving a small amount of premium pay for overtime.

If 45 hours a week had been put in by all these workers, the average pay including overtime would have been around \$61.

The December figures are above those for January, 1945, the peak of the war effort, because of higher basic wages. The average working week then was 45.4 hours, and the average pay in all manufacturing was \$47.50. Hours are down now, but pay is up.

**Steel Supplies Short**  
Don Montgomery, head of the Washington office of the CIO United Automobile Workers, said: "Our members probably are not averaging 40 hours a week because the plants cannot get enough steel."

The 45-hour plan might be applied in textile manufacturing and some other industries, but not in automobile manufacturing until there is more basic material."

Harvey W. Brown, president of the International Association of Machinists, whose 600,000 members work largely in metal-using plants depending on steel, also opposed the plan.

"If reports we receive on bottlenecks in the steel industry are accurate," he said, "President Green's plan couldn't work until steel capacity is expanded."

**Murray Opposes Plan**  
Philip Murray, President of the CIO and of the United Steelworkers, has said he "didn't think much" of the Green suggestion.

How about steel production?

U. S. Steel Corp. says:

"The principal steel-producing subsidiaries of United States Steel are operating their plants around the clock."

The NAM's industrial relations department described Mr. Green's proposal as "a more constructive approach to the inflation problem than a third round of wage demands."

**Chinese Crash Still 'Mystery' to Pilot**

PEIPING, Jan. 29 (UPI)—Carl Wiss, 28, Chicago pilot of a Chinese air liner which crashed at Mukden, Jan. 20, with a loss of 10 lives, said today he still was "mystified" at the cause of the accident, which happened shortly after takeoff.

Investigators still puzzling over the wreckage also have been unable to determine the cause of the crash.

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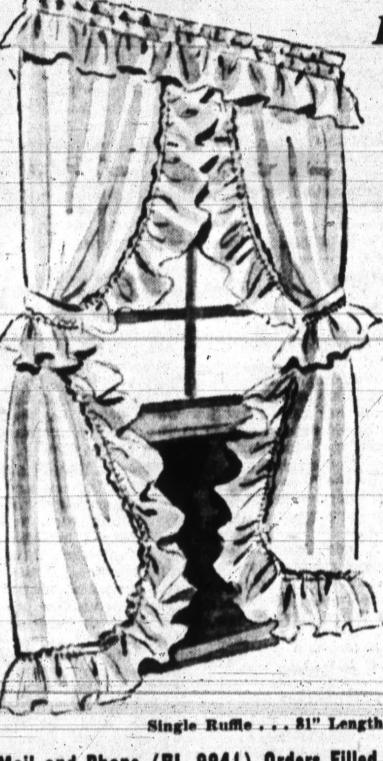
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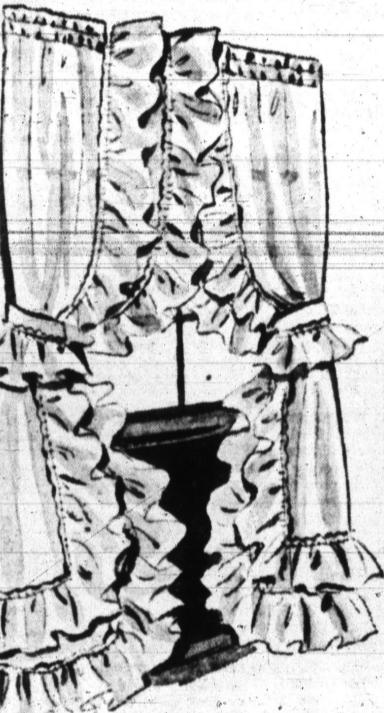
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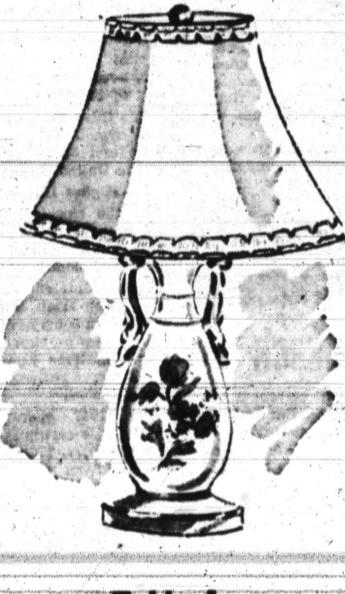
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