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# France Orders Death For Black Marketeers

## 2-Year-Old Law Aimed at Strike Wave, Prices

Minister Says Move Will Stretch Pay

PARIS, Oct. 15 (UPI) — The French government — battling strikes, high prices and political threats to its existence — decided today to invoke the death penalty against major food speculators.

Premier Henri Queuille headed an inner cabinet meeting last night at which it was decided to apply the so-called Fargas law of October, 1946, in the battle against the black market.

The law, which takes its name from former Food Minister Yves Fargas, provides the death penalty for speculators in basic food products such as meat, wine, milk and grains.

The premier said the government did not intend to crack down on little butchers and grocers. But the ministers of Felun and Fontainebleau did not take his word. They decided to close their shops until the government halted the "battle of the beefsteak."

**Face Long Wait**  
Observers said they probably would have a long wait.

Minister of Justice Andre Marie said after the cabinet meeting that the government intended to sap the strength of the strike movement by making workers pay stretch further.

Some 350,000 coal miners still were idle in the 12-day strike that has hampered French heavy industry on the eve of winter.

In the Meurthe-et-Moselle department, some 40,000 iron metal workers decided they did not like the agreement signed by their union bosses in the Communist General Confederation of Labor (CGT). The union ordered a "secret" back-to-work ballot taken at the gates of plants today.

The threat of new rioting was seen at Begles on the outskirts of Bordeaux, where CGT metal workers barricaded themselves inside an automobile plant despite a government order to halt their sitdown strike and evacuate the plant.

**Release Plant Director**  
The workers freed the plant director this morning after holding him captive since yesterday.

The CGT called for a general metal workers strike in Bordeaux this morning and asked the rank and file of its membership to be at the Begles plant to prevent the tough mobile guards from evacuating the plant.

**U. S. Statement**  
WASHINGTON, Oct. 15 (UPI) — Government experts and receipts for the current fiscal year through Oct. 13, compared with a year ago:

	Last Year
Expenditures	\$10,000,075,182
Receipts	10,781,521,452
Surplus	357,446,370
Cash balance	4,631,516,322
Plus	250,000,000
Gold reserve	22,964,613,792
	22,000,000,000

INDIANAPOLIS CLEARING HOUSE  
Clearings Debits

\$10,145,000

Debits

\$8,754,000

Debits

Debits