

Today in Business—

Two-Level Pay Behind Strike

Rubber Workers Cite Difference In Men's, Women's Scales

By HAROLD H. HARTLEY, Times Business Editor
THE FLASH STRIKE at the big inner tube plant of the U. S. Rubber Corp. today brought to the surface the trigger-quick sensitiveness of labor to the down pressure on production costs.

It also exposes the growing restlessness over the differential pay rates for men and women.

Business came out of the war with a high overhead hangover. In the sobering months early this year management stayed up nights trying to get costs and prices down in an increasingly competitive market.

The issue at U. S. Rubber arose swiftly out of the comparative production capacity and pay of men and women. The women's rate for the nylon tube job involved is \$1.18 while men are paid \$1.43 for what they believe to be approximately the same job.

Management reported there had been a shift in process which created new jobs, new types of work. The men could not see eye-to-eye with management on this. They contended they saw at least the dim outlines of previous production techniques.

3 Out of 10

THE NEW JOBS, classified for women as lighter work, pay men 10 cents an hour above the women's rate when men are used on the jobs. This the women do not like, and the men did not like because in their opinion, the jobs were still tantamount to those drawing the \$1.43 scale.

This is not a new problem. Women's rates are generally lower than those of men. But the increasing number of women in the factories (3 out of 10) has brought the question of the wage differential to the doorstep of management as a problem child.

Most of the women are over 35, in it for the wages alone, and many of them are married, supplementing the family income. Of all married women today 21 per cent are working, a 10 per cent increase in nine years.

Unions are eager to close the gap between men and women's pay scales. And the growing ratio of women in the unions may, in time, bring this about.

Principle at Stake

THE STRIKE at U. S. Rubber is symbolic, and in itself, management reported, involves only nine out of 1000 jobs and very little cash. But the principle could cost industry on the whole plenty.

In Indianapolis there is a high ratio of women workers at light production bench jobs. Most of the Western Electric Corp.'s workers are women. RCA's payroll is filled with feminine names. And at the P. R. Mallory Co., where electrical equipment is made there also is a large percentage of women.

To industry locally the U. S. Rubber strike of Local 110 of the United Rubber, Cork, Linoleum and Plastic Workers of America-CIO could have more than casual significance.

We can expect to hear more about the "double standard" in wage contracts in the future. The unions, with their growing feminine influence, will probably see to that.

Cheese

THE BIGGEST man in the cheese industry will be in town next Wednesday. His first name is John and his last name is exactly what you thought it would be—Kraft.

He is president of Kraft Foods, Inc., and is one of the five Kraft brothers who built the business. He will come to the International Dairy Exposition to youngsters who stay down on the farm attending their dairy herds.

The ten-year-olds get "city itch" want to touch their hands on factory production lines or with securities notebooks. Dairy herds they will be reminded, produce steady milk checks and hasten the day when a match can be touched to the mortgage.

Kraft has nine cheese plants in Indiana in addition to the caramel factory at Kendallville. And it was at Decatur where Kraft's finest natural blend was created. Kraft officials give Indiana a high rating in the cheese industry.

The truth is that the cheese stamped "imported" no longer gets top preference. Americans are outdistancing the Europeans in the technology of the industry. Sanitation, controlled atmospheres and mechanization give American brands the first call.

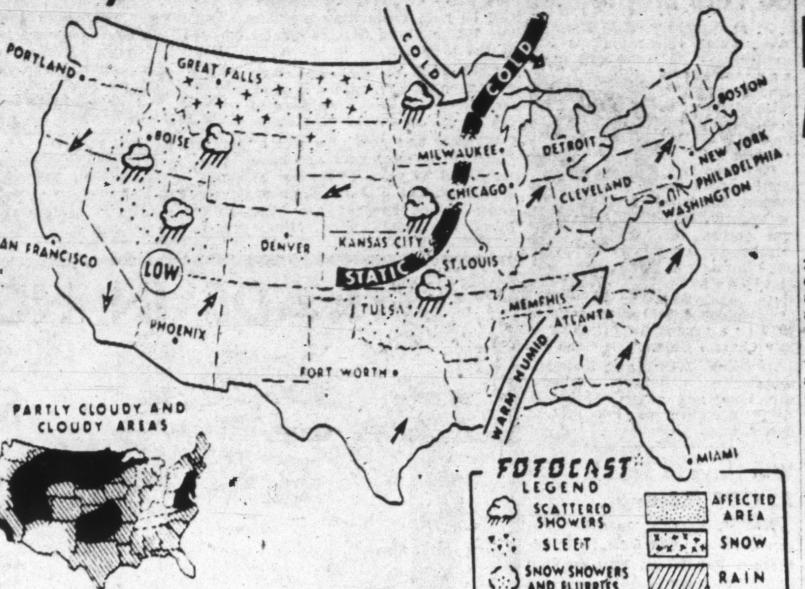
Copper Kettle Flavor

OTHER CHEESE-MAKING tricks have been learned. American Swiss cheese once was made in huge copper kettles in Wisconsin. Today it is made in stainless steel kettles. But a trace of copper is added to make up for the copper the American Swiss absorbed in the kettles in cooking.

American cheese makers have learned to make cheese without the rind. A 250-pound wheel of Swiss had a 20 to 25 pound loss in rind. Today the cheese industry has a package with no throw-away; like a much-advertised coffee, it is good to the last drop.

Limbiger is the most nutritious. It is "alive" with lactic acid bacteria until it is eaten, and it contains an abundance of Vita-

Today's Weather Fotocast



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TODAY AND TOMORROW—A widespread area of showers is forecast for the Northern Plains and Rockies. Snow flurries are expected in Montana and the Dakotas. Slight precipitation is also forecast for the Central Plains. Check map for affected areas.

Hot Point Dealers Put on 'Allocation'

Raw Material Shortage Cited for 'Rationing'

The first rationing since the war struck Indianapolis today when General Electric Corp. put all Hot Point appliance dealers on an "allocation" basis for the duration of the steel strike.

Karl F. Stutz, Indianapolis district manager of the G-E Supply Corp., said the rationing order was due to the shortage of raw materials in manufacturing plants.

Hot Point dealers reported stocks "fair" but anticipated a "run" when the rationing order became public.

Picture May Change

Other appliance manufacturers were still taking orders from dealers. Louis Randle, president of Associated Distributors, Inc., said appliance stocks are fairly strong but a wave of panic buying might change the picture in a few days.

The steel-eating motor plants of Detroit today were regarded as the best measure of how long it would be before the steel strike would hurt big industry.

General Motors Corp. reported its supply in good shape with two weeks' supply quota en route to its plants on barges, boats, trains and trucks. A spokesman said GM has a "big float" of steel which would tide the company over for three weeks or more.

Ford Situation

At the Ford Motor Co. general offices in Detroit a spokesman reported that the big River Rouge plant was good for capacity production for at least three weeks, but the motor makers had their eyes on little suppliers who make essential parts.

The first signs of curtailment was expected from the parts' manufacturers but they reported there have been no signs of a shutdown yet.

Gas Overcomes Allison Employee

A 30-year-old Allison Division General Motors Corp. employee, overcome by leaking gas in his home, was unconscious but in fair condition in General Hospital today after another employee he normally drives to work summoned police when he failed to pick her up this morning.

William Horton, of 439 S. Noble St., was found unconscious in his bed when police were called to his home by Mrs. Gussie Michel, 40, of 728 Lexington Ave. Police said there was a strong odor of gas in the home from a leaking gas stove.

THE GOT THE idea from a disgruntled New Orleans beauty contestant who accused winners of "coming to the contest" with their chests in their purses."

Shelley Winters was named vice president and Dorothy Hart secretary. The girls said they were tired of repeated inferences in the public prints that practically all young women wear fashions.

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