



The Indianapolis Times

FORECAST: Cloudy tonight, tomorrow. Colder tomorrow. Low tonight, 15-18. High tomorrow, 28.

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HOME

PRICE FIVE CENTS

Indiana Bell Parleys Open Tomorrow

Strike Hinges on
Close Interpretation
Of Utility Tieup Ban

By ROBERT BLOEM

Indiana Bell Telephone Co. will begin wage negotiations tomorrow with CIO Communication Workers—only seven days before a nationwide strike deadline.

Whether the discussions lead to a tieup of services in the state on Feb. 8 appeared to hinge on a fine legal interpretation of the 1947 state law which outlaws strikes in public utilities.

Involved in the negotiations will be Division I and Division 56 of the CIO Communications Workers of America. Division 1 covers plants and accounting employees. Division 56 covers operators.

Law Not Invoked

So far neither the Indiana unions nor the company has invoked the compulsory arbitration law. There can be no dispute in the state until after the negotiations which open tomorrow have been in progress several days.

There is a question as to whether the 1947 law makes a strike illegal in event neither the company nor the union asks for conciliation or arbitration.

Spokesmen for the two divisions said that the unions would obey the law. They indicated, however, that they would not ask Gov. Schricker to invoke it.

Indiana Bell spokesmen had no comment on possibility that the utility would invoke the law if a deadlock in negotiations is reached by the Feb. 8 deadline.

The Feb. 8 strike order, issued by CWA national headquarters, applies to Bell System employees throughout the country. President James Orr of Division 1 and President Mae Mann of Division 56 said only the Indiana law might prevent local workers from joining the national strike despite the short time allowed for negotiations here.

Another Issue Involved

Another serious legal question involved in the strike protest here was whether CWA employees would be violating the law if they refused to cross picket lines.

Division 18 of the CWA, covering Western Electric Co. employees, is not covered by the anti-strike law. Should members of this union picket the Telephone building on N. Meridian St., Mr. Orr and Mrs. Mann said, their unions would not cross the picket lines.

A number of Division 18 members are employed in the building installing dial telephone equipment. It appeared possible that if the anti-strike law is invoked pickets from this union might be held liable for "encouraging" other workers to remain off work. Such "encouragement" or "inducement" also is illegal in Indiana in utility labor disputes.

Union spokesmen indicated they would obtain legal advice before making any final decision as to the effect of the state law if it is not invoked or as to the law's bearing on picketing.

U. S. Tries to Halt Telephone Strike

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31 (UPI)—Federal Mediation Director Cyrus S. Ching hurried back to the capital today to take over government peace efforts in the threatened Feb. 8 nation-wide telephone

strike.

Mr. Ching has been on a month-long tour of mediation service offices out West. His top aids, William N. Margolis and Peter Seitz, planned to brief him on the phone crisis and then meet with President Joseph A. Beirne of the Communications Workers of America (CIO).

Mr. Beirne announced yesterday that 100,000 phone workers will be called out eight days hence if there is no change in their contract deadlock with Bell System companies. The union expects another 150,000 workers to refuse to cross their picket lines.

The strike would start at 6 a.m. local time.

Rush Mediators

Immediately after Mr. Beirne's announcement, Mr. Margolis ordered mediators in the field to try to bring the union and companies together. In most cases, negotiations broke down long before the strike threat was raised.

The government's strategy is believed to be aimed at arranging a settlement like Western Electric which is close to the parent American Telephone & Telegraph Co. Such an agreement would be used as a pattern.

Mr. Beirne contends that individual companies are powerless to bargain with the union because A. T. & T. calls the signals. A. T. & T. denies it.

Negotiations covering the other 150,000 CWA members in 19 divisions were scheduled to open today and tomorrow. The union was speeding up strike authorization votes among them.

The union has appealed to the public to help it jam company switchboards by the "over-use" of telephones. It already has received a pledge of co-operation from the parent CIO.

The Best Advice In The World

The best advice is the world is to become a HOME OWNER as early in life as you possibly can! Home ownership makes life fuller, richer, a d a d's prestige, affords security, brings greater happiness than a "renter" can ever know.

Turn now to the classified columns of today's Times for a wide selection of HOMES FOR SALE. Homes from every section of the city and suburban areas. Homes in every price range. The Times is NOW the newspaper of THE REAL ESTATE ADS.

For an account of the feast and picture of the team, turn to page 15.

Welsh Gets Senate OK For U. S. Attorney Post

Matthew B. Welsh, Vincennes, today had Senate Judiciary Committee approval of his nomination for U. S. attorney for the Southern District of Indiana.

Mr. Welsh was recently nominated by President Truman to succeed E. Howard Caughron, Indianapolis, who is resigning.

Action on the nomination of Mr. Welsh came yesterday when the Judiciary Committee approved nominations of seven U. S. attorneys and three U. S. marshals.

Truman Seen Getting Inside Report on Feud Over Indiana Judge

Boyle to Confer at White House
After Florida Visit With McHale

By DAN KIDNEY, Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31—President Truman may receive the latest report from the Frank M. McHale forces in the Southern Indiana judgeship fight at a conference today with Democratic National Chairman William M. Boyle Jr.

Mr. Boyle will make his first White House call since he returned from Florida where Mr. McHale, Democratic national committee chairman for Indiana, still remains.

The latter wants Mr. Boyle to tell the judgeship to William E. Steckler, Indianapolis, an assignment that Mr. Boyle has been working on for some time.

No Appointment Made

But the appointment hasn't been made, although Judge Robert C. Baltzell set his retirement to tell them to stand fast against the Brannan.

Meanwhile, other judgeship candidates are being prominently mentioned for the post—particularly Rep. Winfield K. Denton, Evansville Democrat.

President Hassell Schenck of the Indiana Farm Bureau today called on Indiana members of Congress to tell them to stand fast against the Brannan.

He's to attend a board meeting of the American Farm Bureau Federation, Mr. Schenck stressed three points:

ONE: A balanced budget—"this is a sure remedy for many economic ills and must be obtained, along with federal debt reduction, during prosperous years such as the last three have been."

TWO: Opposition to socialized medicine—"socialized medicine is inherently bad, because it is based on wrong principles. England has had a fair taste of it and finds it isn't good. It is contrary to American ideals as we have known them."

THREE: Against the Brannan plan—"we feel that the Secretary of Agriculture—Charles F. Brannan—should not take the lead toward socialization of American farming."

20 Other Points

Mr. Schenck called price supports only one factor in agricultural economics and said there are "about 20 others."

"Potatoes and eggs have pointed up the problem of price supports into a horrible example," he said. "The only answer to potatoe's would seem to be crop curtailment."

Other factors enumerated by him were the monetary and fiscal policies of the government, management of federal debt, soil conservation, farm credit, REA, research in production and marketing, study of nutrition in relation to farm surpluses as well as health, full employment at good wages, international commodity agreements, such as the wheat agreement and reciprocal trade on a multilateral basis.

Hoosier farmers know that there is a good deal of leakage in a dollar when it travels to Washington and then back to Indianapolis." Mr. Schenck declared.

Because Republicans on the House Rules committee joined with Dixiecrat members to block action on FEPC, Rep. Ray Madden, Gary Democrat, today appealed to GOP National Chairman Guy Gabrielson for help. He said in a letter to Mr. Gabrielson:

"Chairman Sabath (D. Ill.) has brought this bill up before the committee on three different occasions. On last Tuesday a record vote of 5-5 was taken by the committee which defeated favorable action on the same."

"Of the four Republican members of the Rules Committee, only one voted in favor of this bill. The three members who have not voted in favor of this legislation, come from the great states of New York, Ohio and Illinois."

A member of the Rules Committee himself, Mr. Madden said that this made the Republicans appear to be three-fourths against FEPC. Since the bill was approved by the National GOP platform, Mr. Madden asked the national chairman to step in and get these Congressmen to live up to the party's pledge.

GERMAN VESSEL SINKS

HAMBURG, Germany, Jan. 31 (UPI)—The 740-ton German freighter Diamant sank near the North Sea island of Langeroog today. Eight crew members were reported missing. Cause of the sinking was not determined immediately.

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Truman Calls For Normal Coal Output

Asks 70-Day Truce
While New Parleys
Seek Settlement

BULLETIN

PITTSBURGH, Jan. 31 (UPI)—Strike leaders today said they liked President Truman's idea of "normal production" but were not so sure about a fact-finding board. They would have to consult their men about that, they said.

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