

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

Settlement of Steel Strike Basic to Industry; Plan to Revive Essential German Output

(EDITOR'S NOTE: When opinions are expressed in these columns, they are those of Western Newspaper Union's news analysis and not necessarily of this newspaper.)



On picket line at General Electric plant in Erie, Pa., with dad, this youngster joined CIO for a \$2 a day wage increase.

LABOR: Basic Dispute

A settlement of the steel case portended early solution to a whole string of major strikes affecting basic industries and promised speedy resumption of large-scale production since reconversion has been reported as already 90 per cent completed.

In stepping into the steel dispute to prevent a shutdown of the nation's mills supplying vital material to American industry, President Truman proposed a settlement on the basis of a wage increase approximating 16 per cent and a price boost to operators in the neighborhood of \$4 a ton. Though representing a compromise between the two parties, the offer fell below the CIO-United Steel Workers' minimum demands and also ignored their position that price raises were unnecessary.

Because solution of the steel controversy would enable industry to accurately estimate costs partly based on steel prices, an early settlement of the automobile and electrical appliance walkouts was expected to follow.

Meanwhile, government conciliators worked feverishly for a settlement of the CIO and AFL strike against the big packers as the nation's meat supply diminished.

While the packers resisted pressure to increase their offer of a 7½ cent hourly boost under present price ceilings, the CIO cut its demands from 25 cents per hour to 17½ cents and the AFL to 15 cents. A number of smaller operators signed with both unions at the latter figure, with the promise of additional increases to cover higher wages agreed to by Wilson, Armour, Swift and Cudahy.

Though the government gave in to the packers' demands for higher ceilings in an effort to avert a walkout threatening the nation's meat supply, its original offer of raising the price on semi-processed meat sold to the U. S. was rejected on the grounds that there was no assurance of a large volume of purchases.

DEMOBILIZATION:

Hear 'Ike'

Calling himself "only a G.I." although he officially was "of the brass," bald, boyish-looking Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, army chief of staff, appeared before a joint congressional committee to personally report on the demobilization slowdown, which has aroused troop demonstrations the world over.

Declaring that the new program was adopted to brake an excess of discharges over the original schedule, "Ike" said that we would have "run out of army" by April unless the slowdown was put into effect. As it is, he said, 1,965,000 more men have been released than planned and another 2,000,000 will be separated within the next five months.

Vigorously denying that the slowdown was prompted by the desire of high officers to retain their rank, or by efforts to push military conscription through congress, Eisenhower said that sufficient men were required to occupy enemy territory

Forecast Drop in World Sugar Harvest

A 400,000-ton decrease in world sugar production in 1945-46 compared with the year before is forecast by the USDA office of foreign agricultural relations, total output being estimated at 27.8 million short tons, 400,000 below the previous year.

Though North America's beet sugar production has been upward since 1943, Europe's has been down-

ward, and world output for 1945-46 at 7.3 million tons is expected to be the smallest since 1923. Increased harvests of sugar cane in the western hemisphere also have been offset by decreased production in the Far East, Africa, Australia and the Pacific, and an estimated crop of 20.5 million tons for 1945-46 would be 500,000 tons less than the year before.

in Europe and the Pacific, guard seven billion dollars worth of surplus equipment overseas, administer the Philippines, and arrange for withdrawal from Pacific bases.

Declaring that men would be kept no longer than necessary, "Ike" disclosed that all major commanders have been informed that by April 30 all enlisted men with 45 points or 30 months of service on that date were to be released or aboard ship, while requirements were to be further cut by June 30 to 40 points or 24 months of service.

Following his exposition of the new demobilization program, Eisenhower announced that he had banned further overseas demonstrations by troops on the question, though protests from G.I.s were to be passed on to the top. Both enlisted men and officers will be permitted to express their views in the determination of their essential status.

For continuing agitation, several G.I.s were ordered confined to quarters in Hawaii.

GERMANY:

Map Production

Even as church leaders besought President Truman's approval for providing Germany with private relief to avert privation this winter, the war, state and agriculture departments conferred on plans for furnishing material for the revival of essential civilian industry within the reich.

Under the program contemplated, the army would be placed in direction of production on the theory that the provision of vital commodities is necessary to maintain order and health within the occupation zone. The undertaking would represent the second step in occupation policy, the first dealing with prevention of chaos in the immediate wake of war and resurgence of organized opposition.

In supplying Germany with raw materials for essential output, the U. S. proposes to be careful not to stock such heavy industries as iron and steel which might be reconverted to war purposes, or to re-establish any plants that might be earmarked for removal for reparations.

Further, in permitting a resumption of essential production, the U. S. plans to retain close control over the distribution. Sufficient supplies would be allocated for the civilian population while exports of the remainder would be allowed for repaying America and building up overseas balances for purchase of raw materials for industries re-established under Allied agreement.

Disclosure of the government plan for reviving vital German industry coincided with Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam's appeal to President Truman to permit Protestant churches of this country to ship clothing to the reich this winter. President of the Federal Council of Churches, Bishop Oxnam revealed that congregations throughout the country had thousands of bales of wear packed and only awaited permission to send it.

Having just returned from a tour of Europe with other church officials, Bishop Oxnam joined in a report commending the government decision to supply the reich with 500,000 tons of food to help relieve an ill-balanced and inadequate diet. Because of the lack of heat and the wear of irreplaceable clothing, however, a serious need exists for apparel, it was said.

VETS:

Buck Outsiders

Carrying banners proclaiming that "We Can't Live on Promises," "We Fought for the U. S. A. and Now We're Discarded," and "Welcome Home for What?" World War II vets picketed every mine held by outsiders who accepted employment in the pits during the war years.

While thousands of United Mine Workers in the area refused to cross the ex-G.I.'s picket lines, officials of the Edison Anthracite Coal company refused to discharge outsiders just because they were not born in the district, claiming that it would be liable to lawsuit. Many of the demonstrators had never been previously employed, Edison having rehired all old employees discharged from service.

Despite UMW admonitions against acting against union members, various locals in the area passed resolutions that all outsiders who accepted employment in the mines since January, 1940, or opened businesses in the district were to leave. In formulating their demands, miners declared that since the pits were the principal source of employment about Lansford, hiring of outsiders seriously crimped job opportunities for town residents.

UNO:

Faces Test

No sooner had the United Nations organization to preserve postwar peace gotten underway than it appeared headed for its first substantial test over Iran's appeal for security against alleged Russian designs on the middle-eastern state.

At the same time, Indonesian natives were to call on UNO for support in their fight against the re-establishment of Dutch colonial rule in the East Indies, but since no member nation was expected to sponsor their plea, they could not hope for a hearing.

Iran's determination to push for a showdown, even against British persuasion to defer discussion at this time in the interests of unity, posed a delicate problem, since Iranian delegates could take the issue before the general assembly if the security council which includes Russia vetoed action.

Oil-rich and occupying a strategic gateway to southern Russia, Iran has been under heavy Red pressure

U. S. Aid Needed Abroad

In the U. S. for a vacation, blunt and rugged Winston Churchill told newspaper reporters that he hoped America would not pull out of Europe and jeopardize the fruits of victory. Britain was not strong enough to handle the job alone, he said. Declaring that he favored the partition of Germany, Churchill said that has never occurred except through rough and ready military occupation.

ever since the development of the movement of the northern province of Azerbaijan for self-rule with Moscow's support. Efforts to stem the uprising were crippled by the refusal of Russian troops occupying that section of the country to permit Iranian forces to re-establish governmental authority.

Meanwhile, President Truman supported the position of this country's military advisers to the UNO meeting in demanding U. S. control of strategic Pacific islands instead of submitting them to an international trusteeship as favored by America's civilian delegates.

Declaring that the islands should be kept under U. S. control, Mr. Truman disclosed that this country would ask UNO for sole trusteeship. Other islands captured by American forces during the Pacific campaign, but not needed for our security, will be turned over to UNO, he said.

CHINA:

Plot Development

Work of China's national resources commission, charged with developing the country's key industries and administering other enterprises assigned to it, promises to be greatly enhanced with political unification under discussion of party leaders in Chungking.

With the commission presently operating about 30 mines, 30 power plants and 40 factories, American consultants have been called in to help with the improvement, rehabilitation and expansion of the country's youthful oil industry in one phase of postwar development.

Discovered in 1939 on the southern edge of the Gobi desert, the Yumen field has been especially marked for extensive exploitation. Seepages were known in the area for 2,000 years before drilling operations were undertaken and oil struck at 500 feet. Developed to provide China with petroleum after the Japanese had blocked the seaports, the Yumen field currently is producing 4,000 barrels a day from 25 wells to supply a small refinery.

AUTO INDUSTRY:

Huge Expansion

In preparing to capitalize on a tremendous backlog of five years, plus normal demand, the automobile industry has laid plans for plant expansion and rehabilitation aggregating 800 million dollars.

Of the 800 million dollars, General Motors will spend 500 million. Having originally planned a 150 million dollar program, Ford has added another 50 million for a grand total of 200 million. Chrysler will lay out 100 million dollars.

Washington Digest

America Faces Task of Finishing Job in Germany

New Policy Needed for Constructive Restoration of Reich; British and Russians Ahead of U. S. in Creating Order.

By BAUKHAGE
News Analyst and Commentator.

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En route to Washington.—This is being written somewhere over the Atlantic ocean in the bright sunlight several thousand feet above a ceiling of snowy cloud. Hours ago we dropped down on Santa Maria in the Azores into one of the island's typical gray, windy, winter drizzles. After a good breakfast and a little rest we took off for Bermuda.

This is not going to be a travelogue. It is a chronicle of some of the impressions I have garnered as I watched America enter its second phase as a world power, actually at work in attempting to build a new Europe. Everywhere, from almost the first day I reached the Paris airport and chatted with some Americans bound for an international labor conference, to the moment a little while ago when a hospitable air corps general "moaned low" to me, as he called it, to the accompaniment of the wind outside—everywhere I have heard earnest, anxious voices raised in the same query: Is America willing to finish the job?

I heard this concern frankly expressed from the lips of American officials like Minister Murphy and Military Governor General Clay in Berlin. I heard another version of it from Ambassador Caffery in the American Embassy in Paris. I heard it repeated by professors and doctors, among the civilians and technicians and specialists, among the military—the men who are doing "better than a good job" as Byron Price said in the special report to the President in November.

I do not pretend to have been able to make an exhaustive study of conditions in American occupied Germany as Price did but what I would like to do is to report some of my own impressions formed in discussing the main points he stressed.

Although less than a month intervened since Price wrote up his findings and I followed his trail, I get the impression that the "civilization" of the American government in Germany has well begun and will move steadily forward toward its goal of completion in June as Price suggests it should. Personally, it seems to me that it might be better to set as a limit for the period of complete transmogrification from uniformed regime to plain clothes, a measure of accomplishment. Circumstances might alter specifications.

Note Change in Sentiment

Typical of the rapidity of the change both in conditions in Germany and in sentiment at home is the question of whether America would be willing to send enough food to Germany to prevent starvation and the epidemics which would surely be expected if German physical resistance was not built up. An increased amount of calories is now assured and I might say that you would be surprised at the surprise expressed by a certain high official in Berlin when Washington "came across." Sentiment in that respect did change in the States but I am afraid it wasn't due to any keen realization that it was part of finishing an important job. It was just a sentimental and charitable gesture, typical of Americans who don't like to see anybody starve.

Nevertheless, we can write that point off as on the credit side. We've been spared a fight against disease. But what about the twin factors stressed by Price and everyone else who knows anything about Europe today: the economic unification and the French deadlock which prevents it? How much knowledge or interest is America displaying on that subject? From what General Clay said to me I feel he believes a solution of his major problems is impossible unless Germany is united in a single economic unit. There are no present prospects.

The French are stubborn and their motivating emotion in refusing to permit German industry of the Saar and Ruhr valleys to try to pay the nation's own way is fear—fear as it was from 1870 until 1914, when it was justified. And from 1939 that fear has grown. Unless the rest of

the world can allay it, it will be hard to expect anything short of hysteria behind all French policy in international relations. And certainly American can never change the French attitude until France is assured that we do intend to "finish the job."

Another problem mentioned in the Price report, one which is being widely discussed at the moment in Germany, is denazification. We received a fright on the subject that was probably unfounded, although it may have been true that some of the fairly dangerous Hitlerites were being given jobs which they should not have had. Then we went to the other extreme, instead of swallowing camels we now strain at Nazis. An amusing incident occurred. A member of the military government set out in a methodical manner to get a list of the best experienced men for a certain set of jobs. With the co-operation of a properly "screened" German he turned them up all right but when he submitted the names of the men and their qualifications all were put in jail—under the letter of the law the positions they had held under the Nazi regime made them subject to "automatic arrest." This law is really only a directive which sets a certain minor title (about equivalent to chief of a section in our federal government) as the dividing line. Anyone above that rank is considered per se a Nazi and suspect.

Russians and British have no such drastic standards and I was told of what happened to a German who lived right on the border of the American and Russian zones. He came to the American Military government and applied for an administrative job and presented his credentials. After reading them the American to whom he applied said: "I certainly won't hire you. If I did you would be immediately arrested. As it is, since you have applied formally you will be arrested in 24 hours anyhow. My advice to you is: move across the street into the Russian zone and apply for a job there." He did and was promptly hired by the Russians.

Confusion Marks U. S. Operations

There are two conflicting theories now in operation in the American zone. One is the theory attributed to General Clay, namely, that the Germans must help themselves. The other theory is that we must help them help themselves or we'll have to do all the helping. In other words, as one somewhat cynical gentleman expressed it: "If we don't get the Germans where they can make enough goods to exchange for food we'll end up by paying the other countries the reparations."

The Russians know well how to exploit German resources. If they see a factory which can produce goods they want and it is not practical to move it to Russia, they see to it that German management is permitted to operate as efficiently as possible and that German workmen get food or pay enough to make them efficient. The British are likewise far more lenient than we. They have no more intention than the Russians of building up a potential enemy but they do intend to build up potential customers.

The Americans, while they are no harder and no softer toward the Germans as far as personal relations go, have hamstrung rehabilitation by putting restrictions upon German industry and frequently employ a negative attitude which allows the natives to misdirect their energy.

I talked with an American business man who represents a large American firm which manufactures chocolate and baby food. He discovered some of his factories were intact and easily put back into action. But he found that the peasants who formerly sold him their milk refused to do so because they were able to convert it to butter and butter, on the black market, is gold in Germany. Germany could use the chocolate and baby food, especially the latter, but the policy of letting the Germans alone keeps those wheels idle, results in a loss to American business and cuts off a vital food which has to be supplied by the Americans.



Hormone Treatment Of Potatoes Advised

Storage Application Retards Sprout Growth

The plant hormone, methyl ester of alpha-naphthalenetic acid, was found by Thomas and Riker, University of Wisconsin, to be effective in keeping potatoes from sprouting in storage, even at ordinary room temperatures.

The chemical can be employed successfully in liquids, dusts or shredded paper distributed among

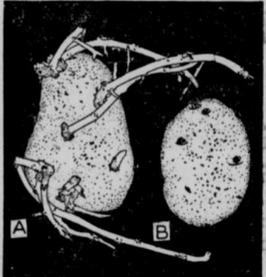


Figure A shows untreated potato, Figure B, potato treated with plant hormone.

the tubers. The dust and shredded methods gave the best results.

Treatment should be made in the spring shortly before the advent of warm weather, before the tubers break dormancy and begin to sprout. This retarding of the sprouts will extend the local selling season of potatoes, even after the spring weather has warmed the storage bins.

Potatoes free from late blight, soft rot, fusaria and other types of rot organisms only should be selected for hormone treatment. The amount of the chemical to be used should be approximately 1.35 grams of the methyl ester of alpha-naphthalenetic acid per bushel of tubers.

Handy Milk Stool Leather Belt



Made from 2 by 4's and equipped with leather belt that keeps the stool in place, this type of stool proves of special value to strippers. The stool is always in place and needs no handling once it is adjusted. This results in a decided sanitary advantage.

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Cow taking self-treatment with caustic pest control machine. This can be stationary or movable.

The cattle pest control, manufactured by the Automatic Equipment Manufacturing company of Pender, Neb., used for the control of grubs, lice, flies, ticks, mange and other vermin. Medicated dip oil or powder is released upon the animal by a patented dispenser and rubbed into the hair and hide by the user.

Feed Salt to Hogs

Experiments conducted at Purdue university proved definitely that for economical reasons, hogs should never be allowed to go hungry for salt. Block or loose salt or a simple mineral mixture should be provided.

The experiments showed that hogs supplied with a plentiful amount of salt averaged 250 pounds after 85 days, while those without salt only averaged 174 pounds in that time. The feeding of one pound of salt saved \$6.37 in feed.

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Aluminum in Transport

Experiments with aluminum in marine construction were begun almost as soon as the first aluminum sheet and plate were turned out. In the field of railroad transportation, aluminum appeared nearly a half century ago, being first used as turned out. From the start, of course, aluminum was a feature in the aircraft industry, not only for airplanes but also for some of the first lighter-than-air craft. Count Zeppelin, for example, built his first airship with aluminum.

Leftover Storage

Three covered refrigerator shelves for leftover foods will help to solve your storage problem — one for meats, another for fruits, and the third for vegetables. The various leftover meats may be used in creamed dishes, meat pies and in combination meat-vegetable dishes. The vegetables may be used together in soups, salads and combination dishes, while odd bits of fruit may be combined and served for either the first or last course of the meal.

Fertilizer Bags

Fertilizers and powdered chemicals, which otherwise would have to be shipped in rigid containers, can be handled without damage from moisture in multi-wall paper bags. The bags have up to six walls of kraft, one usually being a moisture-resistant sheet of two layers of kraft bonded together with asphalt.

Elastic Cloth

A new development is an elastic cloth made without rubber. The trick is to curl rayon thread into a spiral — like a spring — before the cloth is woven. Electron heating gives a uniform and permanent set to the spiral thread. The fabric does not lose its elastic properties by washing or ironing.

Waterproofing Material

A new waterproofing material has been developed that will extend the life of fabrics. An invisible coat of this plastic on your damask table cloth will enable you to wipe off a blob of gravy with a damp rag. White gloves treated with the plastic may be rinsed off under the faucet.

Military Photography

Thirty thousand aerial photographs were made for the Salerno landing and 20,000 for the Anzio landing. The Allied military services used more photographic materials in 1944 than at any previous period in military history.

Keeping Fingers Warm

A good way to keep fingers warm while hanging out the family washing in cold weather is to place the clothespins in a warm oven and heat them before taking them outdoors.

Banks Buy Bonds

By 1942 more than half of the assets of member banks of the Federal Reserve System were government securities as contrasted with a proportion of less than 11 per cent in 1929.

Generation Capacity

From 1902 to 1940 the capacity of electric generators for public sale increased about 35 times, electric output about 58 times, and the revenues of the power industry about 29 times.

Salt Aids Cooking

Food specialists today recommend starting all vegetables in salted water. Salt improves the flavor. And when you add salt at the beginning, it helps green vegetables keep their color.

Nutritious Dessert

Small pastry shells baked on inverted muffin tins and filled with well seasoned applesauce make a nutritious dessert. Sprinkle with nutmeg or chopped nuts if desired.

BARBS . . . by Baukhage

Agriculture and aviation, if they join hands, according to Chairman Wilson of the Aircraft Industries association, can revolutionize food and produce marketing.

The Council of American Business says for every day lost because of occupational disease 885 are lost from non-industrial sickness. Stay on the job if you want to keep well.

The first 40 million free road maps to be distributed will be 1942 reprints so don't be surprised if you run into a couple of new towns en route.

The best shoes in the world, says Shoe News, were worn by the armed forces in World War II. But nobody seems to want to be in those shoes now.