

Consumer Directors Make Statement

Give Position in Regard to the Strike Situation in the Public Power Districts

TO THE PEOPLE OF NEBRASKA:

There have been so many false and misleading statements made regarding the labor situation of Consumers District, that the directors desire to set the record clear by the following recital of events:

Prior to the acquisition of the private power companies, many of the private companies had contracts of various kinds with various labor unions. Some of these contracts were carried to conclusion, some others were renegotiated, but with reference to only particular divisions of the district. The district has never had a general contract with organized labor applying to all the divisions of the district.

Since early in 1942, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers have, from time to time, presented contracts on behalf of six separate unions to the district. The district has, from time to time, during the last two years, held conferences with labor organizers, made various counter-proposals, and held numerous meetings with representatives of organized labor with reference to a proposed labor contract. The union demands over the last two years have included substantially the following points:

(1) They have demanded a union shop—that is, a clause which says that every employee of the district within the operating classifications must belong to the union. He may be hired as a non-union man, but he must join if he continues to hold his job.

(2) The unions have demanded the privilege of being the exclusive bargaining agents for all of the employees of the district within the operating classifications and have objected to agreements which would permit employees individually to talk to the management.

(3) The unions have demanded arbitration clauses which would have required all points of dispute to be submitted to arbitration, which means that the arbitrator actually runs the district.

(4) The union have asked for clauses that no man should be promoted, demoted, or transferred without the approval of the business agent of the union.

(5) The unions have demanded clauses that the management of the district would talk only with the representatives of the union regarding wages, hours and working conditions of the employees.

(6) Lastly, the union have, of course, sought higher wages.

Time and time again, over the period of these negotiations, the management have patiently explained that the district is a public agency and a governmental subdivision of the State of Nebraska; that the property of the district is owned by the people of Nebraska; that the directors are public officials elected by the voters of the State with an oath and bond on file with the Secretary of State to perform their duties.

Time and again, they have explained that because of these circumstances the directors could not, if they would, grant to any organization, whether a labor union or otherwise, the exclusive privilege of speaking for all the employees. The board's position is that any citizen of the State has a right to be employed by the district and he has that right because he is a citizen and he is a member of a labor union or any other organization.

Time and again, it has been explained that for these reasons a union shop, exclusive bargaining privileges and broad rights of arbitration simply could not be vested in a labor union.

In the present negotiations, it is true that the unions have offered to forego, temporarily, their demands for these things, but only on the condition that the management agree to a maintenance of membership clause which provides that every member of the union must continue to pay his union dues throughout the life of the contract or be fired from his job.

The directors regard this clause in the same light as the others. It would be an agreement on behalf of a public body and an arm of the state to maintain a purely private organization, namely, a labor union.

The directors are extremely sympathetic to the legitimate desires of the employees to receive the maximum wage which the district can afford to pay. Wages have been repeatedly raised during the last two years. The average amount of money which the average employee of the district is now receiving is more than

Tells of German Defense

Columbia, Mo., May 13. (UP)—Germany's main defense systems in the west actually exist and should not be considered "a myth like Hitler's secret weapons." Ralph E. Heinzen, former United Press director for France, said last night at the University of Missouri's 35th annual journalism week.

Heinzen, who arrived in the United States recently after 13 months internment at Baden Baden, Germany, said he personally had seen portions of two of Germany's three main defense systems. The Atlantic wall is backed up by the so-called Reichsbau line, running from Dunkerque southward, and by a third barrier, the Siegfried line, stretching along the east bank of the Rhine from the sea coast to Switzerland.

Heinzen said he saw a part of the Atlantic wall two months ago at Pauritz on his way to Lisbon for repatriation.

"Even at that point," he said, "so far south and so near the Spanish border that an allied invasion would seem highly unlikely, German precautions are so serious that I saw a wide belt of anti-invasion defenses."

"I saw signs in French and German warning that the beaches were heavily mined; I saw sharply pointed, cement-embedded steel extending just below the surface far into the Atlantic; I saw gun bunkers whose crossed fire covered every foot of every cove."

To Reunite Families

As a special feature of Mother's Day in this part of the west, the Home Service section of the American Red Cross is arranging to have mothers that have relatives in the Schick General hospital at Clinton, Iowa, be given the opportunity of visiting the hospital. The Red Cross is prepared to see that room and board is arranged without cost to those who wish to take advantage of the opportunity.

Locally those who may desire to make the trip are asked to get in touch with L. A. Caldwell, Home Service chairman, at least by Wednesday, so that the necessary steps may be arranged for the get together.

Ghandi 'Silent'

Poona, India, May 9. (UP)—Mohandas K. Ghandi received the message yesterday for the first time since his release from British political internment last Saturday—but it was the aged "Mahatma's" "silent Monday" and he confined the interview to a courteous exchange of smiles. Through his secretary, he invited correspondents to visit him every "silent Monday" and collected five rupees apiece for relief work among India's untouchables.

Dinner Guests at Omaha

Mr. and Mrs. Glen Terryberry and son, Rollin, and Mrs. Elizabeth Engelke were Sunday dinner guests at the Howard Fullerton home in Omaha.

20 per cent higher than it was at the time of Pearl Harbor. The directors are still willing to continue to raise wages as they have been consistently doing, but the objection of the union is that the raises are given to the employees without consultation with the union and that the union is not receiving credit for the benefits the employees are receiving. The directors will recognize the union as the representative of its members, and are willing to agree to not deal with any other union, but they will not recognize it as the sole representative of scores of employees who do not belong to it or want to belong to it. Neither will they give the union a throttle hold on the employees of the district, by which they must continue to remain in the union and be subject to union jurisdiction in order to hold their jobs.

The issue, very simply put, as we see it, is whether the unions are going to run the district, or whether the directors elected under the statute are going to perform their duty of running it. We do not believe that issue is the subject of a great deal of compromise unless public officials are to ignominiously surrender their sworn duty under the pressure of an organization controlled outside of Nebraska.

The wage raises given in the past, the wage raises promised for the future are conclusive evidence of the directors' fairness toward labor, and their desire to help labor.

Let us not obscure the real issue in this controversy by talking about wages, when the issue is of quite different character.

The Directors of Consumers Public Power Dist.

Receives Civilian Award

Arnold R. Johnson, of this city, employed in the Seventh Transportation Zone, as inspector for the U. S. Army at the Lincoln Steel Works, has received the "Ribbon Civilian Award" for his services.

The award was conferred and the citation given in the following letter from the commanding officer of the Seventh Transportation Zone:

"Mr. Arnold R. Johnson, U. S. Army Inspector, Lincoln Steel Works, Lincoln, Nebraska.

1. As commanding officer of the Seventh Transportation Zone, it affords me extraordinary pleasure to present to you the "Ribbon Civilian Award."

2. The award is made in conformity with War Department directive as a result of your employment by the War Department for a period in excess of six months.

3. The record that you have established while an employee of the Seventh Transportation Zone is one worthy of admiration, and your efforts have contributed materially to the successful prosecution of the war effort.

4. It is my sincere desire that you will continue to do your best for the war effort, and that your attention to duty, your willingness to accept responsibility, your aid to companions, your loyalty to the Commanding Officer, and the examples that you have set otherwise, will be an incentive to others to aspire to a similar award.

5. Allow me to extend to you my congratulations.

Harry G. Williams
Colonel TC.
Zone Trans. Officer"

To Have Amputation

The many friends of M. G. Churchill, long time resident of Cass county, will regret to learn that Mr. Churchill is to undergo the amputation of a foot, injured over a year ago in a fall from the roof of a house. Mr. Churchill is at the University hospital and receiving treatment that will build him up for the amputation.

Have Interesting Meeting

The Credit Women's Breakfast club had their meeting on Monday at noon at the Hotel Plattsburgh, with an attendance of eight of the eleven members present. The club members enjoyed their routine business and Mrs. Louis Ward Egenberger was the leader of the meeting, choosing as her subject for discussion "Credit Authorization Under War Time Regulation."

Mrs. Frances Thomsen of Nebraska City, who is the secretary of this district association, is expecting to attend the national convention of the Credit Women's clubs at Milwaukee the coming week. Mrs. Thomsen will serve as a representative of the local club.

Holds Court

District Judge W. A. Robertson was at Papillion on Tuesday to hold a session of the district court and on Monday was at Nebraska City to look after the court work in Otoe county. This weekly visit of the district judge to the two counties of the district enable the legislation to be kept up in good shape.

Shows Improvement

Mrs. Donald Williams, who is at the St. Catherine's hospital at Omaha, recovering from an operation of Saturday, is reported as doing nicely. Mr. Williams was up Monday evening to visit with the wife for a few hours.

George Ade Better

Brook, Ind., May 9. (UP)—George Ade, 78-year-old author of "Fables in Slane" and other humorous works, was reported slightly improved today after a short attack last Friday. His physician said, however, it was too early to tell whether the improvement would continue.

Undergoes Operation

Mrs. Donald Williams was operated on at the St. Catherine's hospital at Omaha on Saturday, and at the last reports is doing as well as possible under the circumstances. Mr. Williams was at the hospital during the operation.

Visits at Sterling

Louis Baumgart was a visitor at Sterling, Nebraska, going to that place to visit with his daughter, Anna May Baumgart, and also with a brother that resides at that place.

The War In Review

London, May 8. (UP)—The 2,000 plane American air fleet struck the second stunning blow at Berlin in 23 hours and hit Brunswick today after battling through massed German fighters which tried all the tactics in the book, including ramming the U. S. bombers.

One thousand heavy bombers escorted by an equal number of fighters smashed through the blazing Nazi defense shield to drop 2,000 tons of explosives through clouds over Berlin, maintaining the pitch of the pre-invasion bombardment on the first day of its fourth week.

Other big forces of allied planes shuttled across the channel to hammer at defenses of western Europe. By noon, some 2,500 sorties had been flown, raising the total for 48 hours to around 11,500.

Scores of German fighters swarmed against the reserve American formation sweeping against Berlin for the second straight day. Abandoning caution and the hoarding of planes for the invasion, the Nazi fighters barreled through the American formations ignoring the rain of steel from the big bombers and their escorts.

Advanced Allied Headquarters, Kandy, Ceylon, May 9. (UP)—The Japanese invasion of India showed signs of breaking under allied blows today as British armored forces crashed through the enemy positions around Kohima and RAF and American bombers raked their siege lines south of Imphal with bombs and gunfire.

Simultaneously, it was disclosed that British "chindit" raiders were striking with definite effect over hundreds of square miles of Japanese-held territory in northern central Burma, cutting the enemy lines of communications between Myitkina and southern Burma.

The hard hitting Chindits in two weeks of whirlwind attacks were revealed to have cut the Mandalay-Myitkina railway at ten separate points in the vicinity of Indaw, and to have severed the alternate Bhamo-Myitkina highway. The Japanese were reported completely bewildered by the Chindits' slashing tactics and offered only spasmodic resistance.

London, May 9. (UP)—Up to 1,600 Flying Fortresses and Liberators, one of the most powerful daylight air fleets yet hurled against occupied western Europe, carried the pre-invasion aerial offensive into its twenty-third day with shattering rates on seven airbases and three railway yards in France, Belgium and Luxembourg today. Escorted by an equal number of fighters, the huge force of 4-engined bombers spread fire and destruction through ten more of the key objectives serving and protecting Germany's anti-invasion defenses along the channel coast.

Other allied bombers and fighters screamed out from Britain in an almost continuous procession beginning at dawn to strew a carpet of explosives across the western invasion gateway to Adolph Hitler's inner fortresses.

London, May 11. (UP)—American Liberators bombed three rail centers in France today to spearhead a non-stop assault by more than 1,700 allied planes on vital cogs of the German defenses along and behind the French invasion coast.

Lt. General Jas. H. Doolittle sent his U. S. 8th Air Force heavy bombers back into action, after a one-day layoff, to join in the shuttle bombardment of Nazi installations across the Straits of Dover.

Up to 250 Liberators were escorted by twice as many Lightnings, Mustangs and Thunderbolts in the three-way smash at unidentified German transport hubs in France. The 25th straight day of the pre-invasion bombardment of western Europe followed attacks in force by British night bombers which cut a trunk railway behind the invasion coast at four points while the Royal Air Force was striking from Italy at Budapest, Hungary.

Camp Fire

The Netal group met at Janice's home. We worked on our Mother's day gifts. Saturday we had practice for the Grand Council fire.

Scribe: Jeanette Rhylander

Allied Headquarters, Naples, May 12. (UP)—The allied Fifth and Eighth armies began a general offensive against Germany's vaunted Gustav line in Italy at 11 o'clock last night, a special communique announced today in an all-out attempt to break a 3 1/2-month stalemate and capture Rome.

The offensive was believed the first of the coordinated blows from the west south, and east which the allied commands have predicted will squeeze Germany out of the war. Next will come an Anglo-American invasion of western Europe and a red army offensive from the east.

A heavy artillery barrage reminiscent of that which cracked Germany's Alamein line in Egypt in the fall of 1942 opened the new Italian offensive, with the main assault being directed against enemy positions between Cassino and the Tyrrhenian sea covering the shortest route to Rome.

Allied Headquarters, Naples, May 13. (UP)—Allied armies, driving toward Rome in a do-or-die offensive to crush the Germans in Italy, have routed the enemy from his outer strongholds, captured at least three towns, and five hills and engaged the main defenses of the Gustav line, it was announced today.

Heavy fighting is raging all along the 25-mile main front from the mountains above Cassino to the Tyrrhenian sea, a communique reported, with the Germans resisting fiercely from long-prepared defenses and, in some sectors counterattacking in a desperate effort to bar the gateway to Rome, 75 miles away.

A London broadcast said the allied forces in some places had advanced two to three miles, but in others had been checked. The German DNB agency, estimating that four to five divisions—60,000 to 75,000 men—had been thrown into the attack, acknowledged that the allies had made "some unconnected breaches in the front line."

(DNB also said that five more allied divisions were being retained behind the main front for a possible new landing along the Italian coast, perhaps north of the Anzio beachhead.)

Americans of the Fifth Army under Lt. Gen. Mark W. Clark repulsed two counterattacks and pushed on through the mountains around Castleforte north of the Garigliano river to capture four hills overlooking the sea coast end of the main supply line between Cassino and the Tyrrhenian sea.

French troops of the Fifth army captured the crest of nearby 2,500-foot Monte Fuito despite stiff resistance and moved on against neighboring heights. The French also repulsed a violent counter attack yesterday afternoon.

Swept up in the American advance were the towns of San Sebastiano, Ventosa, and Ceraoli on an arc extending west and south of the German stronghold of Castleforte, the nearest only a quarter mile away. Late reports said the Americans were attacking Castleforte itself from the southeast.

The Americans were supported by tanks in the capture of Ceraoli, which lies southwest of Castleforte.

Some 200 German prisoners were taken in the first 15 hours of the offensive on the Fifth army front.

On the Eighth army front, allied forces threw one or more bridges across the Rapido river below Cassino in the face of heavy enemy anti-aircraft fire and sent tanks and anti-tank guns across to the west bank.

German troops were driven from the allies steadily built up their outposts on the west bank as Lridgehead and drove on to engage the main defenses of the Gustav line in one of its strongest sectors.

London, May 13. (UP)—Big forces of allied bombers and fighters flew against western Europe today reported American fleets over northwest Germany after British night raiders dropped some 2,000 tons of explosives on the crippled rail network behind the Nazi anti-invasion wall.

Coastal reports indicated U. S. Flying Fortresses and Liberators were in action again after their smash yesterday at the source of the synthetic fuel for the German machine in Czechoslovakia, one of the most important and bitterly contested operations of the war.

The Nazi radio warning system reported bomber formations over Schiewig-Holtein while single allied planes ranged over western and southern Germany. More than 500 British heavy bombers carried the pre-invasion bombardment of western Europe into its 27th straight day with a powerful assault on which the main weight was concentrated on the key Belgium rail junction at Louvain and Hasselt.

Water Experts In Favor Of Army Missouri River Plan

Support Contention for a Nine Foot Channel of the River Between Sioux City and Mouth

Washington, May 12. (UP)—Water experts from the Missouri Valley were on record today with expressions of satisfaction with the army engineers' plan to develop the Missouri river with a nine-foot channel between Sioux City and the mouth of the river.

John D. Forsyth, a director of the Missouri Valley association, told a senate commerce committee holding hearings on the Missouri river project that "there's plenty of water in the basin for all purposes—navigation, irrigation, and reclamation."

He said the army engineer plan, the so-called "Pick Plan," was drawn up with all the needs of the valley considered. Since flood control is one of the most serious problems in the valley, he said, "we want the army to keep jurisdiction over these projects. We find when there are two or more bureaus with their fingers in the pie someone gets flooded out."

"That's why we in our association favor the army control," Sen. Burton K. Wheeler, D. Mont., interrupted to say "We'll have no bill on these projects until we have some protection in law for irrigation."

Sen. Bennett Champ Clark, D. Mo., told Wheeler he would debate "that point on the senate floor" as long as Wheeler would.

Harry Trustin, Omaha engineer and city commissioner, and Leo E. Rozell, president, Omaha Chamber of Commerce, told the committee "This nine-foot channel will put the Missouri river cities on a broad gauge railroad. Now we are still on a narrow gauge, in fact support the 9-foot."

Trustin said the Pick plan was the greatest practical amount of water within the basin to be used for all purposes, including irrigation, power and navigation.

Irrigationists who fear they will lose a large amount of water because of downstream navigation projects "should, in fact support the nine-foot channel project and other Pick plan projects," he declared, because they would add a total of 40,000,000 acre feet of storage water within the basin above Sioux City as hold-over storage and to regulate the flow during excess run-off.

Others who testified in favor of the channel were Mayor Forrest Olson of Sioux City, and W. H. Merritt, of the Sioux City Chamber of Commerce. Gov. Forrest C. Donnell of Missouri sent a telegram to the committee favoring the project.

Those who testified for the project, with the O'Mahoney amendment protecting the upper basin states in their priority rights over water, were governor John Moses of North Dakota and Earl Bower, of the Big Horn water users association of Wyoming.

U. S. Britain And Russia In Warning

Notify Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria and Finland That Adherence to Nazi Will Make Harsh Terms

Washington, May 12. (UP)—The United States, Great Britain and Soviet Russia today in a joint declaration warned the four axis satellites, Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria and Finland that the longer they continue in the war against the allies the more disastrous will be the consequences to them and the more rigorous will be the terms which will be imposed upon them.

The declaration hinted that the terms for the satellites might be less than "unconditional surrender" if they got out of the war now. All of the allies have been putting tremendous pressure upon the satellites to step aside the axis cause.

The declaration asserted that the axis satellites were contributing materially to the strength of the German war machine and said that it was possible for them to shorten the war, "diminish their own ultimate sacrifices and contribute to the allied victory," by ceasing their collaborating with Germany immediately.

They keep fighting— You keep buying WAR BONDS

LaPlatte School Notes

Vacation time has come at last! Wednesday, May 10, was the last day we had studies. Thursday was "snack day" for the Eighth grade pupils. The teachers took them to Lincoln where they visited many points of interest in our capital city.

The annual picnic was held on Friday. Many people of the community were able to attend and all seemingly had a good time.

Lela Edmunds, Johnny and Marlin Liddick, and Albert and Beverly Taylor had perfect attendance during the last month of school. During this same period, County Superintendent G. W. Dudley and Minnie Etta Frazer were visitors.

The Eighth Grade Promotional exercises will be held in Papillion, Wednesday evening, May 17. Certificates will be awarded to Carl Iske, Fred Hyda, Farnum Taylor, Richard Liddick, Gilbert Edmunds, and Alma Marchand.

Dora Trively and Neil Lancaster, Teachers

Funeral of Erstine A. King

This morning at the chapel of the Caldwell funeral home, 7th and Oak streets, was held a short funeral service for Erstine A. King, veteran newspaper man, attended by a large group of the friends from the Masonic Home, Dr. H. G. McClusky, pastor of the First Presbyterian church, conducted the service.

At the close of the service, the body was taken by the Caldwell funeral home to Pacific Junction, Iowa, going from there to the old home community at Plattsburgh, Masonic lodge. The two daughters, Mrs. Dan Benton of Pritchard, Ala., and Miss Clara King of Hutchinson, Kansas, will be at the interment services.

Banish the Fly

It will soon be fly time and the control of the fly menace is one of the first public health measures that should be applied to every community as this season approaches, according to Dr. C. A. Selby, State Health Director.

"Thousands of children and adults die each year from fly-borne diseases such as typhoid fever, tuberculosis, cholera, and intestinal diseases. These follow the trail of the common housefly.

"The most effective way to control this menace is to prevent breeding. One fly during her lifetime of several months, lays from 500 to 1,000 eggs. Breeding places like fish, manure piles and garbage must be destroyed in order to banish the fly.

"Houseflies should be kept from contact with food and drink, and from utensils used for preparing and serving food. Flies should be kept from privy vaults by having these the approved sanitary type. This avoids infections being picked up by flies and carried to humans through contact with food and drink.

"Be sure that doors, windows and porches are screened. Trade only at shops where food is screened from flies. Eat at public eating places where flies are eliminated from dining room and kitchen. Keep the home free from flies.

"This is a public health measure of the greatest importance in the control of communicable diseases."

Extend Child Care Aid

Washington, May 12. (UP)—President Roosevelt has approved the extension of the period of assistance for child care facilities at Plattsburgh, Nebr., from Dec. 31, 1943 to Dec. 31, 1944. Federal Works Administrator Major General Philip B. Fleming was informed today.

The extension, recommended by the State Department of Public Instruction and the U. S. Office of Education, was granted on grounds that a increasing number of mothers going into industry has increased the need for the project which provides before and after school care for 150 children.

The approved plans would increase the enrollment to 200 and include a war nursery for 30 pre-school children.

WILL DESTROY ENEMY

With the Fifth Army in Italy, May 12. (UP)—Lt. Gen. Mark Clark sent his Fifth army into action with the assurance that "we can and will destroy the German armies," it was revealed today.

A special order of the day by Clark was read to the Fifth army troops at 4 P. M. yesterday. He told them that the enemy knows allied forces will eventually overrun him from two directions."