

Renewed Strike Talks Requested

PITTSBURGH, Dec. 1 (AP)—Federal Mediation Commissioner John R. Murray today asked for a resumption of negotiations here next Monday between the striking CIO International Union of Electrical Workers and Westinghouse Electric Corp.

Murray acted a few hours after Gwilym A. Price, president of Westinghouse, announced that salaries of executive and technical personnel will be cut up to 50 per cent for the duration of the strike.

Noting that talks had been broken off earlier this week in New York, Price declared no progress is being made toward ending the bitter contract dispute and said:

"We are settling down for a long strike."
In New York, the union president, James B. Carey, had no comment on Price's economy move.

Murray suggested that negotiations resume at a Pittsburgh hotel next Monday.

There was no immediate reply from either Westinghouse or the union.

The CIO-IUE called out its 44,000 members from 30 of the company's plants Oct. 16.

Price's own salary of \$186,050 a year will be halved to \$93,025 under the cost-cutback program. All other elected officials of the firm will get similar reductions. Certain other high management people will get 40 per cent less salary for as long as the strike lasts.

In addition, at least two-fifths of the firm's white collar and supervisory workers will be furloughed by next week. The furloughs are to be rotated, with one group of employes working one week and another group the next week in many instances.

Westinghouse employs a total of 114,000 persons. Of these, the 44,000 CIO-IUE members and 10,500 members of the United Electrical Workers Ind. are currently on strike.

Booth unions are seeking a 15-cent hourly pay boost. The workers averaged \$2.10 an hour before the walkout. The CIO-IUE is demanding a one-year contract and limitations on company efficiency studies.

The two unions rejected a company proposal for a five-year contract which Westinghouse said would raise wages 16 per cent over that period.

AFL, CIO Merger Is Seen Today

NEW YORK, Dec. 1 (AP)—Merger of the AFL and CIO became practically an accomplished fact today. The AFL voted its final unanimous approval and the CIO is due to ratify the merger tomorrow.

The consolidation brings together unions of the American Federation of Labor and those of the Congress of Industrial Organizations to form a single 16-million-member union group.

The new organization will be known formally as the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations, AFL-CIO.

George Meany, one-time New York plumber who heads the AFL and is due to become president of the merged AFL-CIO, pledged in a speech to AFL convention delegates that the new organization would be devoted to improving the lot of workers in the nation as a whole.

"This merged organization can go forward to a better day," Meany said. "It can make a better and more vital contribution to the community as a whole and to the welfare and security of our nation."

Truman Aides Indicted

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 1 (AP)—Matthew J. Connelly and Theron Lamar Caudle, who held high positions in the Truman administration, were indicted today on a charge of conspiring to defraud the government.

School Group Favors More Federal Aid

WASHINGTON, Dec. 1 (AP)—The White House conference on education was recorded tonight as favoring increased federal aid to schools, and an administration spokesman predicted early action.

Secretary of Welfare Marion B. Folsom said: "I am confident that in the weeks ahead this administration will present to the Congress a broadened and improved program of federal assistance to help erase the classroom deficit."

Folsom, who had talked earlier in the day with President Eisenhower at Gettysburg, made the prediction in a speech prepared for the closing session of the four-day White House conference.

One of the final actions of the conference, attended by 1800 delegates, was the submission of a report saying the delegates were 2-1 in favor of increased federal aid to schools.

The report said a majority of the delegates, however, believed federal funds should go to states "only on a basis of demonstrated needs."

It said that of these favoring increased federal aid an "overwhelming majority" approved the use of federal funds to help build schools.

On the question of using federal funds for operating schools, the report said the 1800 participating delegates "divided almost evenly."

Operation of schools entails such questions as paying teacher salaries and the purchase of textbooks.

The conference report on financing schools was hammered out at a session that lingered until the small hours of this morning.

U.S. Steel Appoints Core

PITTSBURGH, Dec. 1 (AP)—U.S. Steel Corp. today appointed Jesse F. Core general superintendent of the firm's Frick District coal mines.

Core succeeds William R. Stedman, who has been named an assistant to the vice president in charge of coal operations. August R. Werft, an Altoona native, was chosen to succeed Core as chief engineer of the district.

German Sees Continued Friendship With the West

BONN, Germany, Dec. 1 (AP)—Foreign Minister Heinrich von Brentano pledged today the Germans never will sacrifice their freedom and friendship with the West in a deal with Russia.

In a speech before the Bundestag lower house, he served notice, also, that the Germans will not passively accept the uncompromising Russian "no" to German reunification.

The Adenauer government "knows very well that the fate of the German people would be sealed if it tried to exchange the confidence and friendship of its allies for the sympathy of the Soviet Union," he declared.

"Nor will the German people, I am convinced, be induced by any threat or temptation to veer from this straight course," Von Brentano added.

"The German people are not prepared to strike any deal jeopardizing their freedom."

He said that in making such a deal Germany "would not only betray her own future but also violate the freedom of other nations by exposing them to deadly danger."

Von Brentano's speech was the government's answer to Russian pressure for the two parts of Germany to get together as equals to create a neutralized and communized reunited Germany.

It also hit back at criticism at home, both from the opposition Socialists and the Free Democratic members of the government coalition, that not enough has been done to promote German unity by direct contact with Russia.

Von Brentano pointed out he was in Geneva at the time of the Big Four foreign ministers' conference and "would not have evaded" any conversations offered by V. M. Molotov.

Egypt, Israel Renew Fighting

JERUSALEM, Dec. 1 (AP)—Heavy shooting developed on the Gaza frontier today. Egyptian and Israel troops exchanged fire in the Kissufim area in a battle lasting until nightfall.

Each side blamed the other. Israeli officials said Egyptian troops within the Gaza strip started it by opening up on Israeli outposts.

In Cairo, an Egyptian spokesman said the Israelis began the fight by blasting at two Egyptian posts near Deir el Balah, south of Gaza town, with mortars and automatic weapons. He reported two Egyptian soldiers were wounded seriously.

The battle developed after an Israeli plane drew fire from Egyptian anti-aircraft guns within the Gaza strip.

An Israeli army spokesman said the plane was cruising on the Israeli side of the border near Mefalsim, east of Gaza, when the Egyptian batteries opened fire. It was not hit, he said.

An Egyptian spokesman declared the plane flew over the Gaza strip and the anti-aircraft fire forced it to withdraw. Neither side said what kind of a plane it was.

Democrats Rebut Leader Tax Foes

HARRISBURG, Dec. 1 (AP)—The Leader administration today defended its proposed manufacturers' excise tax as a "reasonably fair allocation of the tax burden" despite a parade of industrial and business voices against it.

Henry B. Leader, the governor's brother and legislative secretary, and Sen. John H. Dent, Democratic floor leader, wound up a unique two-day Senate hearing as the only spokesmen for the 3½ per cent impost.

Leader sought to rebut two days of testimony against the 400 million dollar measure on the basis of "a misunderstanding" among opponents on what the tax bill actually would do.

And he said opponents spoke with a "lack of information" on proposed administration-backed amendments ranging from exempting candy and packing cartons to assuring purchasers of big industrial machinery an equal federal income tax break whether they buy within or out of the state.

Opposition during the day took the same tack as yesterday. Industry claimed the tax would hurt it competitively—that the sales tax would be a better way to raise funds.

Dent said one thing established at the hearings was that each of the opponents of the tax now is satisfied that the Commonwealth needs and must raise money in some way.

Opposition to the measure, he added, was brought by "these same groups, and in many instances the same spokesmen who have opposed the imposition of anything but a Republican-sponsored tax for the past 20 years."

"At least 75 per cent of those who have appeared against this bill either knew nothing of the contents, or were fed misinformation by the politically inspired critics, because their testimony was irrelevant and contrary to the legislation proposed," Dent asserted.

At the hearing's close before a silent audience of business executives from all over the state,

Henry Leader took over the Democratic floor leader's rostrum to answer point by point the arguments brought against the tax.

Speakers against the tax, Leader said, were embroiled in a "basic contradiction." This, he said, was whether the tax would be absorbed by manufacturers or passed on to the ultimate consumer.

"The cost of government will be spread among the business community and the consumers and will not work a hardship on either," he asserted.

Answering the stated fear that

the tax would drive industry to migrate from the state, Leader said that the impact of local taxes is greater than that of state taxes in deciding the location of a particular industry.

The administration's aim, he said, is to "make the bill as workable as possible and to keep industry from migrating and at the same time attract new business and industry into the state."



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