

# 'Off and On' Optimism Mark Talks in Strike

NEW YORK, Feb. 14 (AP)—On again, off again optimism today marked peace talks in the three-day strike of 45,000 longshoremen from Maine to Virginia. The walkout drove the great liner Queen Elizabeth to cut short a transatlantic run and seek haven in Canada.

The strike was costing shipping and allied industries about three million dollars a day, a survey of struck ports revealed.

# Interest Hike Being Asked By Treasury

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14 (AP)—The Treasury announced today it wants to raise the interest it pays on U.S. savings bonds to 3 1/4 per cent. The present rate is 3 per cent.

If Congress approves — as expected — the change will be retroactive to Feb. 1.

Other contemplated changes in the savings bond program, also retroactive to Feb. 1, include:

The E bonds will reach maturity—and maximum value—in eight years and 11 months instead of the present nine years and eight months. The issue price and the face value will remain the same.

**Change Explained**  
Persons who redeem their bonds before the maturity date will receive what the Treasury called "a substantially higher" yield than under the present program. To get the full 3 1/4 per cent they must hold bonds to maturity.

A revised 10-year H bond—sold only in denominations of \$500—will be offered, also returning 2 1/4 per cent interest if held to maturity. The present rate is 3 per cent.

The limit of E and H bonds, which may be purchased by one individual in any one calendar year will be reduced from \$20,000 to \$10,000 in face value.

**Criticism Helped**  
The Treasury's decision to make savings bonds more attractive to the public follows considerable pressure and criticism both in and out of Congress.

Sales of the baby bonds have dropped off sharply in the past year because the general rise in interest rates has made other investments more attractive. During 1956, redemptions of E bonds exceeded sales by more than a half-billion dollars.

# England Will Cut Troops in Germany

LONDON, Feb. 14 (AP)—Britain formally told her North Atlantic Treaty Organization allies today she must cut the number of British troops in Western Germany.

A strained economy and a new nuclear concept of military strategy lay behind the move. Details are still secret but it is reported Britain will reduce her forces in Germany from 80,000 to about 50,000.

The decision was announced as French Defense Minister Maurice Bourges-Manoury arrived in London and told newsmen that France too wants to slim down her military system. He is here for talks with British officials on coordinating the two nations' cuts.

The Baltimore & Ohio Railroad prepared to lay off 2000 to 2500 employees within the next five or six days because of the strike and the embargo on freight shipments to docks already crowded with unmoved cargo. Rail sources said other lines probably will be forced to make similar layoffs if the strike persists.

Negotiators went into conference hopeful, they claimed, of a quick accord in contract terms. The striking International Longshoremen's Assn. (Ind.) predicted a truce in short order.

**Strike Settlement**  
The 170-member New York Shippers Assn. foresaw a strike settlement during the day.

And Joseph Finnegan, federal mediation director, said the two sides were "not very far apart."

But the rosy outlook darkened once the negotiators faced one another across the conference table.

The shippers handed the union what they called a "final offer." "I don't believe it's improved enough," was the first reaction from ILA Vice President Patrick J. Connolly.

**To Vote on Offer**  
The ILA's 125-man Wage Scale Committee was to vote on the offer later. Of the vote outcome, ILA attorney Louis Waldman said:

"It is too hard to tell now." The strike started about 6 p.m. Tuesday after six months of bargaining over a new contract came to naught. Up to the very moment of the strike, both sides voiced optimism that it could be averted.

Wages were not considered a major issue in the strike. The two sides generally were agreed on a 32-cents-an-hour addition to the average \$2.48 an hour dock wage, spread over three years.

**Fringe Issues**  
Fringe issues—vacations, holidays, working hours, sling loads, for example—were the chief stumbling blocks.

More than 100 ships were stranded by the second dock walkout in less than three months. The strike originally began last Nov. 15, but it was interrupted nine days later by a Taft-Hartley law injunction. The ILA was forbidden to renew the strike before this week.

# Lack of Oxygen Causes Death of Two Miners

FINLEYVILLE, Pa., Feb. 14 (AP)—Lack of oxygen was blamed today for the deaths of two coal miners in a small mine two miles north of here.

State and federal mine inspectors ruled out earlier reports that "black damp" gas caused the deaths of Martin Brandis and George Bero, both 42, of Library, Pa. They died yesterday.

# Million-year Old Skull

JAKARTA, Indonesia, Feb. 14 (AP)—The Reverend T. H. Verhoeven, a Roman Catholic missionary of Flores Island, has reported finding a complete skull of a Negrito-type man believed to be more than a million years old. The Negrito-type man is of the same period as the ancient Mongoloid man.

# Free Polio Shots To Be Required By House Plan

HARRISBURG, Feb. 14 (AP)—House Republicans today planned legislation requiring all school children to take free antipolio shots.

"We can't leave it to chance," declared W. Stuart Helm, speaker of the House. "If we save but one child from the anguish and suffering of polio, then our efforts will not have been in vain."

"We have the wholehearted support of Dr. Jonas Salk who developed the vaccine and feel that it is altogether proper and fitting that Pennsylvania be the first to take such action."

Salk is associated with the University of Pittsburgh in his research work.

Helm said the measure would be introduced by Reps. Markley (R-Northampton) and Jump (R-Luzerne).

# Policewomen in Cypress

NICOSIA, Cyprus, Feb. 14 (AP)—Two senior British policewomen have arrived from London to set up a women's division of the colonial police force in the relentless campaign against underground guerrilla attacks. They are Chief Inspector Miss W. Barker and Asst. Inspector Miss Denise de Vitre.

# Seaton States Opposition To Price-Wage Controls

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14 (AP)—Secretary of the Interior Frederick A. Seaton proclaimed today his opposition to peacetime price-wage controls and said there is nothing he can do about recent oil and gasoline price increases.

Investigating senators jumped him on grounds he had not appealed to the oil industry to hold down prices.

"There is nothing I can do about it," Seaton said evenly.

Before Sen. Estes Kefauver (D-Tenn.) and a couple of other Democrats went after him on the price situation, Seaton reported an "encouraging" outlook for the oil lift to Europe.

# Report Given

A report brought back from Europe last night, he said, indicates the continent now is counting on getting 80 instead of 75 per cent of the oil of all types which it needs to meet normal demands for the first three months of this year. This oil will come from the United States and elsewhere.

Seaton spent the day as a witness before a Senate Antitrust-Public Lands subcommittee investigating the lift. The subcommittee, which has heard some testimony the program has been a failure, also is investigating the domestic price boosts.

# No Power

Seaton said over and over that he and the government have no power to control prices. He said also that there is no law that would allow the government to seize the oil industry.

While Seaton said "the matter of price is inevitably of continuing interest and concern to every American citizen," he insisted he is in not position to say whether the recent oil price hikes were justified. Nor, he said, does he have any right to look into prices or the books of the oil companies.

# Giant Cargo Plane Revealed; Carries 100-Ton Payload

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14 (AP)—The Air Force issued details and photographs today of its new "giant of the airways," the Douglas C-132 which will have a load of twice that of present cargo carriers.

The huge plane, powered with four jet turbine-propeller engines, can carry 200,000 pounds, has a speed of more than 460 miles per hour and, with a lesser payload, a range of 3500 miles. The Air Force said.

With its maximum load, plus the weight of fuel and the weight of the aircraft, the C-132 will take off at a gross weight of more than half a million pounds.

The 200,000-pound load for the C-132 will be twice the load lift of the biggest American cargo carrier in existence, the C-99, a transport version of the B-38 bomber.

# Ambassadors to Meet

GENEVA, Feb. 14 (AP)—American Ambassador U. Alexis Johnson and Chinese Communist Ambassador Wang Ping-nan held their 65th meeting today and agreed to meet again March 14. The two ambassadors have been deadlocked for months in negotiations for the release of 10 American civilians held in Chinese prisons.

# Brownell Declares Civil Rights Will Increase Southern Vote

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14 (AP)—Attorney General Herbert Brownell Jr. said today that many more Southern Negroes could have voted last year if the administration's civil rights program had been in effect.

He told a Senate Judiciary subcommittee that from 4,000 to 6,000 Negroes had been stricken from registration rolls in Ouachita Parish in Louisiana after being challenged by the White Citizens Council of the parish.

**Denied Opportunity**  
Brownell said most of the Negroes were subsequently denied any opportunity to establish their qualifications.

Had the administration's program been in effect, the Department of Justice would have been able to initiate a civil action "for the purpose of restoring the Negro voters to the polls of the registered voters in time to vote in the November elections," he said.

Also, Brownell testified, registrars in three North Carolina pre-

dicts imposed technical requirements that kept Negroes from qualifying for the vote.

In these Carolina and Louisiana cases, Brownell said, "the proposed legislation would have been of great assistance in protecting the right to vote."

**Civic Remedies**  
"In most of these situations, civil remedies would enable the government to take affirmative action to deal with attempts at what amounts to mass disenfranchisement of Negroes in time to be effective," he said.

Sen. Sam J. Ervin (D-NC) challenged Brownell's description of the situation. The senator said there are approximately 7500 local election officials in North Carolina and Brownell had been able to criticize the actions of only three of them.

**Supreme Court**  
Ervin, a former member of the North Carolina Supreme Court, said that "until today I never heard of a single individual in my

state that's been denied the right to vote."

Reporters asked Ervin later if he saw any particular significance in Brownell's citing North Carolina cases to the subcommittee.

"I'll say this. If there's no more iniquity in other states than there is in North Carolina, there is no need whatever for this legislation," he replied.

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