

European Storm Takes 109 Lives

LONDON (AP) — A great tempest overwhelmed two ships yesterday and brought the 5-day West European death toll to 109. Seafarers called it Europe's worst storm in 23 years.

A Norwegian freighter with 20 men aboard sank off the south coast of Norway.

Transit Strike In Pittsburgh Enters 3rd Day

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Government mediators said yesterday they probably will call a joint negotiations session today in the Pittsburgh Railways Co. strike.

About 1700 trolley and bus operators struck Tuesday in a contract dispute revolving about wages, depriving some 115,000 riders of their regular transportation.

The trolley firm yesterday filed charges of unfair labor practice against the union. The charge was filed with the National Labor Relations Board in Pittsburgh.

C. D. Palmer, president of the transit firm, said the union seeks to use the strike "rather than legal methods, to enforce its interpretation of the pension contract."

The company and union have been deadlocked over the pension issue for more than a year. The pension question, however, is not involved in the contract talks which touched off the strike.

Soviet Agency to Meet

MOSCOW (AP) — The Central Committee of the Soviet Communist party will meet Dec. 22 to discuss methods of increasing meat, grain and other food.

Castro-Jailed American Escapes with One Cuban

PINAR DEL RIO, Cuba (AP) — Frank Austin Young of Miami, sentenced Tuesday to 30 years imprisonment, escaped from military prison at Pinar del Rio army headquarters early yesterday. Troops and civilians joined in the search for him.

Cmdr. Jose Argiba, head of the 6th Military District, said Young, 38, and Cuban prisoner Sergio Hernandez Reyes escaped by breaking a hole in their cell.

It is believed they headed for nearby mountains—where elements opposed to Prime Minister Fidel Castro are reported active—preparatory to leaving Cuba.

Reyes was seized as a member of an anti-Castro group and was to be tried tomorrow on counter-revolutionary charges.

Army detachments were ordered into the surrounding area with orders to act "prudently." Argiba asked civilians to join in

The crewmen of a small German vessel apparently were dashed overboard in the same area, leaving their ship drifting and deserted.

Mountainous seas threatened scores of ships fighting for survival in waters along the coasts.

Worst of the disasters was the loss of the 1719-ton Norwegian freighter *Elfrida*. She capsized near Lista Lighthouse off the south coast of Norway. All of her crew of 20 were believed to have perished.

As their troubles mounted they radioed: "We are going down. Thanks for all assistance. We have launched our starboard lifeboat and will try to leave the ship."

Other vessels laboring in the storm rushed to the scene. The motorship *Buffalo* of Oslo found six bodies.

Seven other men were lost on the 995-ton German ship *Merkur* in the same area. Crewmen from the British trawler *Bella* boarded the wallowing *Merkur* but found no one. The Britons scrambled off the eerie ship.

Off the coasts of Britain, 23 seamen have lost their lives in the last few days.

Capt. John Vuoria finally abandoned the 1045-ton Finnish freighter *Anna*, hard aground off Aberdeenshire. Coast guards took the other 17 crew members off by breeches buoy Tuesday, but the 62-year-old captain refused to leave the ship he had skippered for 24 years.

Senators Hit Drug Firm's High Prices

WASHINGTON (AP) — Merck & Co. Inc., one of the nation's biggest drug houses, charges \$170 for the same quantity of an anti-arthritis remedy sold by a Mexican firm for \$13.61, a Senate investigator said yesterday.

John I. Connor, Merck's president, promptly accused the Senate Antitrust and Monopoly Committee of dealing in myths. He challenged the probers to summon doctors and to ask them why they prefer the Merck product to some lower-priced drugs.

The clash came after Connor had read a statement saying that Merck, of Rahway, N.J., had willing slashed the price of cortisone from \$200 to \$20 a gram within three years after developing it in 1945.

The cortisone price reductions did not come about from any pressure by other drug houses, Connor said, but were in line with a Merck policy to make the latest medicine available to the public as quickly and as cheaply as possible.

John Blair, subcommittee chief economist whose figures have been challenged before, then produced further evidence. He said it showed the Syntex Co. of Mexico City was clearing a profit selling Prednisone, an antiarthritis drug at \$13.61 for each bottle of 1000 tablets.

Blair said Merck charged the druggists \$170 for this quantity of Prednisone and that the rate to patients was \$283.33.

Connor attacked the validity of Blair's reckoning. Among other things, the Merck president said the \$13.61 figure represented only an assumed price to a mythical company.

Eden Writes Memoirs

LONDON (AP) — Former Prime Minister Sir Anthony Eden is writing his memoirs back to front.

He now is working on a volume covering the years 1951 to 1957, and including the Suez disaster before his retirement. Later he will write about events going back to the 30's.

Indians See Ike as Vishnu

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — Indian villagers yesterday acclaimed President Eisenhower as a reincarnation of Vishnu, protector in the Hindu trinity. And perhaps as a yogi like Prime Minister Nehru, who does headstands.

A cross section of views from simple country folk showed they all considered the visitor Vishnu reborn.

"Do you think we were fools to travel from 10 to 100 miles to see anyone but Vishnu ka avatar," said Kanhi a 70-year-old woman from Mehrauli village 10 miles south of Delhi. Like many Hindus, Kanhi has only one name.

Hearing that this avatar-reincarnation was coming she summoned her daughter and grandchildren from Ramzila village 100 miles away.

Kanhi, gave two reasons for considering Eisenhower the avatar of Vishnu. First, Eisenhower had the might

of Vishnu—to destroy the world by a mere wish but like Vishnu never used it and instead kept it as a final trump card against evil.

Secondly, like Vishnu, he was a great benefactor.

"Did he not send us wheat when we needed it and build us dams?" she asked.

Her family clustering around her in a bullock cart nodded assent and her daughter Shantu added, "Does not this avatar also smile like Vishnu—a divine, radiant smile?"


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