

4 Steel Firms Indicted

NEW YORK (AP) — The nation's two largest steel producers, U.S. Steel and Bethlehem, were indicted yesterday with two smaller firms on federal charges of rigging bids and fixing prices on forgings. Sales involved were estimated at \$100 million a year.

The grand jury complaint had no connection with the \$6-a-ton increase in steel prices earlier this month, which was spearheaded by U.S. Steel. The increase later was withdrawn under pressure from President Kennedy.

The indictment charged that a conspiracy existed long before the pricing crisis—beginning in 1948 and continuing until 1961. It was said to involve steel forgings, rotors and generator shafts sold to the Army, Navy and private manufacturers in violation of federal antitrust laws.

THE GOVERNMENT claimed bids and prices were synchronized through a New York trade association that served as a clearing house.

Congo Heads to Resume Reunification Discussions

ELISABETH VILLE, Katanga (AP) — Foreign Minister Evariste Kimba announced today that President Moise Tshombe will leave for Leopoldville Thursday for further talks with Premier Cyrille Adoula on unifying the Congo.

An advance party of Katanga delegates will leave earlier to prepare for Tshombe's arrival.

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Indicted with the big two of the steel industry were Erie Forge & Steel Corp. and Midvale-Heppenstall Co. Also named defendants were the trade association, Open Die Forging Institute, Inc., and the following individuals:

• Homer Lackey, former manager of U.S. Steel's forged products commercial division and since Sept. 1, 1960, president of Erie Forge.

• Erb Gurney, manager, and Robert S. Barnes, assistant manager of Bethlehem's sales, forgings, castings and special products division.

• Emil Lang, board chairman of Erie Forge.

• R. B. Heppenstall Sr., president of Midvale-Heppenstall.

The individuals, if convicted on the conspiracy charge, could receive a maximum one-year prison sentence and fines of \$50,000 each. The companies would be liable to \$50,000 fines also.

A BETHLEHEM spokesman said in a statement: "We have not yet seen the indictment. Bethlehem has long had a policy of

strict compliance with all laws applicable to its operations, and we would be greatly concerned if any Bethlehem employees had been violating the law."

U.S. Steel President Leslie B. Worthington also issued a statement which read in part: "We intend to contest in the courts the charges contained in this indictment and we ask that the public withhold judgment until the case has been decided in court."

"This indictment involves the heavy forging industry which is separate and distinct from the basic steel industry. United States Steel is a very minor factor in this industry with a participation of only about four per cent. Also heavy forgings constitute a virtually negligible portion of our total business."

Rusk, Gromyko Fail to Agree On State of Berlin Discussions

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of State Dean Rusk differed today with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei A. Gromyko about the extent of progress toward a Berlin settlement.

Rusk said that there is no agreement yet on any particular point at issue in the current U.S.-Soviet talks.

He added, however, that a number of problems could be speedily resolved if the central points in dispute could be settled. Rusk emphasized that this would require Soviet acceptance of the continued presence of Western forces in West Berlin and guarantees of

access to Berlin. "The facts are," Rusk said emphatically, "that we are in West Berlin and we are going to stay there."

Rusk discussed the Berlin situation at a news conference two days after Gromyko spoke about it in Moscow at a meeting of the Supreme Soviet, the Russian parliament.

Gromyko said there are hopes for Soviet-American agreement on three U.S. issues involved in Soviet exchanges. He said the United States understands the importance of denying nuclear weapons to Germany.

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