

Hal Boyle
Navy Fills
Hong Kong
Housing
Facilities

By HAL BOYLE
HONG KONG—(AP)—Civilians weren't too happy about selection of Hong Kong as Britain's chief naval base in the Pacific. They like the protection of the forts, the fleet's guns, but they don't like the cramped quarters and the shortage of living quarters as the result of the bombing and looting. Many Portuguese and Chinese families are compelled to live in single rooms and no announcement has been made as to whether British officers will be allowed to bring out their wives.

Hotels are packed and guests are crowding four to a room. Many are forced to bunk on Army cots with only one blanket for warmth. Right regulations have been issued for the colony at various levels, but landlords have borrowed the "key money" institution from Shanghai and are charging as much as \$100 to \$200 or more above the rent in order to get the key. Authorities find it difficult to cope with this shady custom and to get the key. They are trying to pay "key money" usually find they have to look elsewhere for quarters. It is as difficult to find them here as it is in New York or Washington.

BOYS LOOTED
Each week new lights shine from a few more houses in the district, but many of these battered houses have been so thoroughly looted that it will take months to restore them. Building materials of any kind are extremely scarce.

Group of five enterprising young naval officers recently were permitted to temporarily rent the residence of a wealthy Chinese surgeon. They replaced windows and managed to find enough furniture to make the place livable. But they did their job. "The owner wants to move in himself and throw us out," they mourned.

Red Charges Against British Force U. O. Crisis

Hits At War Dept.

Short Charges Effort To Make Him 'Scapegoat'

WASHINGTON—(AP)—Maj. Gen. Walter C. Short asserted today the War Department had treated him unfairly and had attempted to make him the "scapegoat" of the Pearl Harbor disaster.

Retired in a blue civilian suit, the 65-year-old retired General appeared before a Senate-House inquiry committee to read a 13,000-word oral testimony since the actions as the 1941 Commander of Army Forces in Hawaii. It was his first public testimony since the Japanese struck the Mid-Pacific base Dec. 7, 1941.

Postmaster General Robert E. Hannegan, Democratic National Chairman, conferred briefly with Committee Chairman Barkley, Democrat, Kentucky, before Short began his testimony. Barkley told the conference had "passed the buck" to him until the Congressional inquiry "forced the revelation of what had happened."

In his prepared statement, Short contended that in four years of official silence, his superior officers in Washington had "passed the buck" to him until the Congressional inquiry "forced the revelation of what had happened."

MAJ. GEN. SHORT
Short today told the committee that a final warning message sent to him Dec. 7, 1941, by Gen. George C. Marshall, Army Chief of Staff, was not marked for priority transmission by Washington and bore no "urgent" notation. Marshall has testified that he saw Gen. SHORT on page 9A

Legislative Plans

Republicans Hit Truman Program

WASHINGTON—(AP)—Congress seemed inclined today to support some extension taxes at a high level. But Truman's domestic legislative program provoked as much criticism as praise.

Republicans sparked the criticism, with Senator Bridges, Republican, New Hampshire, observing to reporters that the President's 20,000-word recouping of Administration aims ought to be labeled "a message on the secretary's table."

Among 20 requests in his state of the Union message yesterday, Mr. Truman asked for a full year's extension of price controls. The reaction was mixed on this score, but most legislators who were asked to support the program agreed that some curbs must be retained to prevent runaway inflation.

White House Officially Discloses Plans Made

Union Officials In Washington

By WILLIAM NEEDHAM WASHINGTON—(AP)—The White House disclosed officially today that seizure of the nation's meat packing industry is under consideration.

Shortly afterward, it was learned that Secretary of Labor Schwelb was seeking to determine whether the situation would return to their jobs if such action is taken.

Government officials who preferred to remain anonymous said that leaders of the CIO meat-packing union were in Washington to discuss the situation with Schwelb. This official said the AFL meatpacking union, which is participating in the strike, had indicated a willingness to work in the event of Government seizure.

It was understood the Government would not seize without definitely determining that today's control would end the strike.

The White House statement was the first official acknowledgment there that Government seizure was under consideration.

Press Secretary Charles G. Ross, however, said a new contract for the steel industry is not yet being considered. In reply to questions he asked reporters whether the steel development on meat during the day. He didn't know, he said, but he would try to find out.

It was impossible to say at this time what would be done. Ross said. "The matter of seizure has been discussed and it is being questioned he emphasized that this did not refer to steel."

Ross made public a letter in which Schwelb urged the steel fact-finding board to continue its study of Governmental aid and "remain available for further consultation."

Ross was asked if the letter to the steel board indicated that the President intended to use the steel for public hearings yet. Ross replied the letter would have to speak for itself.

Preparations for Federal seizure of the meat-packing industry were known to be well advanced.

There were reports, however, that Schwelb might see the need for a new set of price increases to the packers, whose plants have been operating at a loss of 25,000 workers, prior to seizure action.



MAJ. GEN. SHORT

Problems Of Greece And Java Aired

Bring Test Of Co-Operation

By JOHN M. HIGHTOWER
LONDON—(AP)—The explosive problems of Greece and Java were tossed into the lap of the United Nations organization today by Soviet delegates, providing a full-scale test of the ability of the great powers to co-operate within the U.N.O.

Referring to the Soviet action, British Prime Minister Attlee in answer to questions, said today that the British aimed only at "an amicable settlement" between the Dutch Government and Indonesian nationalists in Java. He made no mention of Greece, which also has a British occupation force.

Soviet delegates earlier had asked the Security Council to investigate and take measures against the maintenance of British troops in Greece and Java.

JAVA SITUATION BETTER
Declaring the Java situation appeared improved, Attlee said the hope that conversations between Dr. H. J. Van Mook, Acting Governor-General of The Netherlands East Indies, and Indonesian Nationalists would be resumed shortly. He said the "settlement" were required it would have to come from Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin.

The Prime Minister spoke in answer to questions from Laborite Tom Driberg and Conservative Captain Gurnea.

U.N.O. officials privately agreed that the charges against Britain made by delegates representing the Soviet Union and the Ukraine, coupled with earlier charges made by Iran against British and other troops in the harem period of the U.N.O.



U. S. STEEL CHIEF

CIO Berates Steel

U. S. Industry Hit By Great Strike

By CHARLES WELSH
PITTSBURGH—(AP)—Paralysis gripped America's basic industry today as the CIO-United Steelworkers strike kept 750,000 idle for a second day. The biggest walkout in United States history closed nearly 1,300 steel making and fabricating plants, aluminum mills and iron ore mines in 23 states.

Today its effect was spreading to construction, to railroads and public utilities.

Production of steel, the backbone of the new industry and reconstruction, had dwindled to less than 5 per cent of capacity, a 53-per cent drop. Two instances of violence flared in Ohio but in the main the gigantic stoppage, begun Sunday midnight, was carried out in complete good order.

Philip Murray, CIO-USW president, said in a radio address that the union's strike in support of wage increase demands was precipitated by "an evil conspiracy" among American Big Business which has "set out to destroy labor unions, to provoke strikes and economic chaos and muddle the American people through uncontrolled profits and inflation."

There was no immediate reply from management. Spokesmen for U. S. Steel and Republic Steel Corp. refused to comment but U. S. Steel said it might issue a statement later today.

UP TO TRUMAN
Harold E. Stassen, former Governor of Minnesota and a Republican Presidential possibility, asserted in a speech here that the only prospect of an early settlement of the Steel strike rests with the negotiations of the United States.

First Supply Bill Received

WASHINGTON—(AP)—A \$4,931,142,115 allotment for the Veterans Administration boosted to \$5,594,146,286 today the first regular appropriation bill received by Congress since the war's end.

It will finance various independent agencies of the Government for the fiscal year starting next July 1.

In sending the measure to the House floor for debate beginning tomorrow the Appropriations Committee trimmed original budget estimates by \$467,900,000. But the bill exceeded by \$139,380,306 funds in a similar bill for the current fiscal year.

The committee attributed the big increase to the Veterans Administration's need for funds and called that expenses for aid and "rehabilitation of the 20,000,000 veterans and dependents of World War I and II" and administrative expenses of the GI Bill of Rights.

Printing, binding and mail costs, \$5,300,000.

Compensation and pensions, \$1,905,000,000, the committee estimated that the number of veterans receiving guaranteed loans and will increase from approximately 631,000 last June to 1,940,000 by next June.

Readjustment benefits under the GI Bill of Rights, \$2,148,387,000; this total contemplated a program calling for a peak of 250,000 to 300,000 hospital beds by 1970.

OTHER AGENCIES GET FUNDS
About twenty other agencies share See FIRST SUPPLY on page 9A

Steel Chief Hits Union

NEW YORK—(AP)—Benjamin F. Fairless, president of the United States Steel Corp., said today the industry met the United Steel workers "more than half-way" in wage negotiations and that responsibility for the strike "rests with the union."

He did everything reasonably within our power to avert this disastrous steel strike," he told reporters at the company's office. "Our offer of a wage increase of 15 cents an hour met 75 per cent of the union's proposal."

Fairless declared the 15 cents increase would have cost his corporation \$80,000,000 annually, adding: "This offer represents the biggest wage increase in the history of the steel industry. The union has answered this most substantial offer with a strike."

"The steel fight in the selfish interest of the United States Steel Corp. We feel strongly the responsibility of protecting the consumers—the thousands of fabricators and processors of steel whose very lives are at stake. The union should we grant the union's demand for such a large and unwarranted wage increase."

Chief-Of-Staff Cornered

Gen. Ike Tells Irate Mothers He Can't Release All Fathers

By WILLIAM F. ARBOGAST
WASHINGTON—(AP)—Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower told a group of war mothers who confronted him today on Capitol Hill that if all fathers were discharged from the Army there will be no Army.

A flood of women, representing only of the Servicemen's Wives of America Association, met the Chief of Staff outside the office of Chairman Mark, Democrat, Kentucky, as he arrived to explain demobilization policy to the House Military Committee.

They told him bluntly they wanted to talk to him and followed him into May's small office in the House Office Building.

Backed into a corner against a window, the five-star General tried for a few minutes to answer assorted questions fired at him simultaneously by almost all of the women.

May finally insisted that one of them do the talking and Mrs. Dorothy Galomb of Wilkesburg, Pa., secretary of the group, was designated spokesman.

She said finally that mothers whose husbands are in service are dissatisfied with demobilization procedure and claimed that one out of every three marriages is ending in divorce, with service families involved in most of them.

Southern Nets \$10.24 Per Share

NEW YORK—(AP)—The Southern Railway reported today for the year ended Dec. 31 net income of \$12,984,720, equal to \$10.24 on common share compared with \$8,281,814, or \$14.84 a share in 1944.

Dividends declared this month consisted of 75 cents a share on the common stock, payable March 15 to stockholders whose names are on record as of Jan. 15.

In addition, the price of meat to livestock wholesalers will be increased 25 cents a hundred pounds. See GOVERNMENT on page 9A

Held By British

Pretty Girl Claims Hitler Her Father

BERGHOFF, Germany—(AP)—British authorities are holding an attractive 18-year-old girl, Godelinde Torsensen, who asserts that she is the daughter of Adolf Hitler.

During numerous interrogations since her arrest in the Magdeburg area, she has declared that her mother was a Swedish actress who was Hitler's mistress in the late 1920's. She said her mother and Hitler met frequently in Vienna and that her mother now is dead.

Weather

Clearing and colder tonight with lowest temperature 22 degrees. Wednesday fair, becoming warmer in the afternoon.

Temperature at 2:30 today: 36 High and low last 24 hours 41; 37 Sunnet today: 48 Sunrise tomorrow: 7:28

Ten Killed In Explosion Of Ammunition In Italy

NAPLES—(AP)—Ten persons were reported killed and 300 injured last night when fifteen tons of ammunition exploded in Torre Annunziata, a town of 40,000 population twenty miles south of here.

Gen. Ike Tells Irate Mothers He Can't Release All Fathers

They told him bluntly they wanted to talk to him and followed him into May's small office in the House Office Building.

White House Officially Discloses Plans Made

By WILLIAM NEEDHAM WASHINGTON—(AP)—The White House disclosed officially today that seizure of the nation's meat packing industry is under consideration.