Hal Boyle

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FORD PAY DISPUTE SETTLED

CIO MEAT UNION WORK CALL ISSUED

American Top Hero Of War In HongKong

(This is the first of a series of columns on Chester Bennett, "hero of Hong Kong.")

By HAL BOYLE

HONG KONG (AP) — When little Carol Ann Bennett toddles down Queens Road with her Chinese "amah" she receives many strange people pause to pat her bright, ginger - colored hair.

She looks up at them wondering. And when her chubby cheeks crinkle in a friendly smile she looks like her father. And people who knew him feel sad and then move on quickly.

Carol Ann is too small to know her father was the American "Hero of Hong Kong." She cannot speak yet and she never saw her father. She never will.

All that remains to mark Chester Bennett's stay on earth is a stake driven into a garden patch overlooking the small cove where the first British Redcoats landed more than a century ago on the barren island that was to become the empire's jewel colony in the Far East.

Japanese guards drove that weathered stake into the ground after beheading Chester Bennett and 32 other prisoners convicted of "crimes against the Japanese Imperial Government." They planted potatoes on the grave as a last touch of contempt.

ACCUSED OF SPYING

They accused Bennett of espionage and smuggling money into Stanley Bay internment camp so that several thousand European civilians held there could buy extra rations — food that saved the lives of many prisoners.

"The Japs were right on both counts," said Marcus Da Silva, Portuguese attorney who worked with Bennett and himself narrowly escaped death. "But they couldn't actually prove that he was guilty. They finally killed him on suspicion."

Bennett didn't undertake his war tasks with the idea of becoming a hero, or making a profit. He was just a fat man with a big heart and a sense of adventure. He always had liked to do favors for people.

"I believe he was an aviator during the last war and just felt that when the chance came for him to do something in this war that he had to follow through," said Da Silva, a small, neatly knit man who had scorned a chance to capture fat legal fees under the Japanese for the thankless duty of a spy.

Bennett was a heavy set, broad shouldered man with a large face under thinning hair. His passport gives his place and date of birth as Feb. 12, 1892, San Francisco. The photo of the passport shows a heavy featured face with keen, friendly eyes.

CAME FOR VISIT

Like most Americans who make their careers in the Far East, he had come originally only for a visit. He was a Hollywood photographer and small scale producer and his assignment when he arrived twelve years ago was to look into the possibilities of wild animal pictures in the Orient.

But he fell under the Hong Kong spell and decided to stay. He had fallen in love, too, with Elsa Soares, a flame-hatred girl of Portuguese and Irish descent whose father was a justice of the peace.

There were several hard years. He was an American in a British colony and with few contacts. He scrathed around with several prospects. He became better known. No man who talked with Chester Bennett a half-hour ever left feeling a stranger. Bennett formed a partnership and became half-owner of several bars and restaurants. He had seventeen juke boxes scattered around Hong Kong when the Japanese struck.

After the island fell he was herded along with 3,000 other American and European residents into Stanley Bay concentration camp. The Japanese, flushed with victory, agreed to let prisoners send out one man to buy 300,000 Hong Kong dollars worth of food to supplement their rations.

The man the British prisoners asked to spend their money was California-born Chester Bennett—because he knew the food business and they had faith in him.

"Sure," said the easy-going American, "glad to do it."

And that was Chester Bennett's first step toward his grave.

ONE-EARED BUNNY—This little rabbit need never fear rabbit-hunters, simply because he doesn't look much like a bunny. Mrs. Mary Souza holds the animal, which was born with only one ear and a dent where the other should be. He's completely normal otherwise. The picture was taken in Long Beach, Calif. (Acme Photo.)

Union Heads Urge Men To Jobs Monday

Full Labor Force May Be Back

CHICAGO — (AP) — The CIO-United Packinghouse Workers Union today urged its 193,000 members to return to work Monday in packing plants now under control and operation by the Government but did not call off its strike.

Coupled with assertions by the AFL-Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen that its 55,000 striking members were back at work today or ready to go back, the CIO action, if carried out, would assure Uncle Sam that the labor force of 248,000 on strike since Jan. 16 would get meat production rolling again next week.

Decision of the CIO leadership, announced by Lewis J. Clark, union president, reversed its action of yesterday before Federal seizure at 12:01 A. M. today.

PICKET WITHDRAWAL

Clark told reporters in a news conference announcing action by the Union National Wage Policy Committee that he was telegraphing all locals throughout the country to withdraw pickets as of 5 P. M.

A statement said the return to work was conditional on assurance from Secretary of Agriculture Anderson that he would "apply immediately" for approval of any wage increase a fact-finding board might recommend.

It also said the union expected that "retroactive payments will be forthcoming."

When a reporter asked Clark what would happen if such a recommended increase was unsatisfactory to the union he replied: "The strike will be on as usual; we are reserving our right to act on any wage increase through the National Wage Policy Committee."

He also told reporters that "we have kept in touch with Phil Murray (CIO president) all along."

Clark said he would meet later today with Gayle G. Armstrong, the New Mexico rancher who took over direction of the Government operations for President Truman and Secretary Anderson.

ARMSTRONG STATEMENT

Armstrong, apprised of the CIO action, made this statement:

"The action of the CIO Packinghouse Workers Union this afternoon in deciding to go back to work shows a good spirit of co-operation and a national interest. With the co-operation of both labor and management now assured, we can get meat back into the markets within a matter of days.

"We need meat, and all plants should be back in full operation as quickly as possible. At the same time, it is very important that all shippers check with their agents before starting shipments. Marketing must be orderly with shipments in line with plant capacities in order to avoid gluts."

The CIO statement issued by Clark said further:

"We have received from Secretary of Agriculture Anderson in a telegram assurances which we understand to be a commitment on the part of a member of the President's Cabinet of the United

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BYRNES RETURNS FROM LONDON — Secretary of State James F. Byrnes, besieged by reporters and newsmen, is pictured here shortly after he arrived at the ATC Terminal, Washington National Airport, from London, England. Byrnes made the trip in President Truman's personal plane. He is pictured here, center, as he talked to newsmen. (Acme Photo.)

Agreement On Boost Of 18 Cents An Hour Made

First Big Break In Auto Strife

DETROIT — (AP) — Negotiators for the Ford Motor Co. and the CIO United Auto Workers settled their wage dispute today on the basis of an increase of 18 cents an hour.

A joint statement said:

"An agreement on a wage increase of 18 cents an hour was reached today by the Ford Motor Co. and the UAW-CIO.

"The effective date of the wage increase still has not been decided. Details connected with fair, efficient, and uninterrupted production will be discussed at an early date and we hope that the wage increase will become effective not later than Feb. 1.

"We have confidence that there will be an early termination to all matters remaining to be negotiated."

15.1 PER CENT

The increase agreed upon is equivalent to 15.1 per cent against an original demand by the union for a 30 per cent increase. The union had scaled down its demand from 30 to 16.3 per cent before today's unannounced meeting of the negotiators.

The Ford agreement was announced half an hour before Chrysler negotiators were scheduled to go into a meeting expected generally to produce an agreement in the second of the three major disputes in the car industry.

Meanwhile the dispute between the UAW-CIO and General Motors remained deadlocked with 175,000 workers idle.

The Ford agreement was made under the names of John S. Bugas, director of industrial relations of the company, and Richard T. Leonard, National Ford Director for the Union.

NEXT MOVE

Union representatives explained that the next move was submission of the proposed 18-cents-an-hour increase to the UAW-CIO Strike Strategy Committee and then, if approved, to the membership of the Ford locals.

Nearly 100,000 workers will be affected.

The negotiators' settlement, the largest wage agreement reached nationally since the close of the war, was attained after six successive days of private sessions. It was the first major break in the auto union's five months long wage fight with the automobile industry.

German Woman In Japan Asks Bombing Damages

KOBE, Japan — (AP)—Mrs. M. Schrimper, 47, who described herself as German "but no Nazi," today asked General MacArthur's Headquarters for $10,000 because of the destruction of her two "foreign houses" by American bombers.

She wrote that the houses "were burnt to the ground from your bombers" Aug. 5 and "they were in a very quiet village with no factories at all."

She asked MacArthur's Headquarters to forward her letter to the United States Court of Claims, Washington.

Names Staff Members

Generals Tried To Blame Short

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Maj. Gen. Walter C. Short today named Generals George C. Marshall, L. T. Gerow and Sherman Miles as individual members of the General Staff he said tried to shift to him the blame for the Pearl Harbor disaster.

Testifying for the fifth day before a Senate-House Committee the 1941 Hawaiian Army commander expanded under questioning by Senator Ferguson, Republican, Michigan, his previous charge that the War Department had attempted to make him the "scapegoat."

Ferguson asked who Short meant by the War Department. Short replied he was talking about the General Staff.

Ferguson wanted to know which individuals. Short said he had in mind Generals Marshall, who then was Chief of Staff, Gerow, then head of the War Plans Division, and Miles, then head of Intelligence.

They were the ones, the witness said, who should have sent him information that he did not get and which he contended would have caused him to place in effect an all-out alert that might have caused the Japanese task force to turn back.

STIMSON MENTIONED

Ferguson wanted to know whether Short felt that former Secretary of War Stimson should be listed among those the witness said attempted to shift blame to him. On technical grounds, no, Short said, but on policy matters, yes.

What had he meant by "scapegoat," Ferguson asked.

"I meant just what the ordinary usage of the word means," the witness replied. "I meant someone they saddled the blame on in order to get it off themselves."

Short said he thought that Marshall had given the impression in testimony before the committee that he had had little to do with the acceptance of Short's request for retirement.

The witness said yesterday that he had telephoned Marshall Jan. 25, 1942 and Marshall had told him to "stand pat" and not submit such an application. Short sent it along, however, in a letter to Marshall authorizing him to use it when he thought it desirable. The next day, Marshall recommended Short's retirement to Stimson.

"I thought that General Marshall's testimony conveyed the idea that the retirement question was handled entirely by the Secretary of War and the correspondence I had did not agree with that," Short said today.

"Then his testimony was not in line with what the letter showed?" Ferguson asked.

"That is correct," Short answered.

EXPECTED EXPLANATION

Short said that when he sent in his retirement application he had thought that if it were used Marshall would tell him why. He added that no explanation had been forthcoming.

Ferguson brought out in questioning that Short had been warned by Washington not to commit the first overt act against Japan. The Senator asked what would have been the result if Short had been furnished all the information Washington had and had put his troops on an all-out alert before Dec. 7, 1941.

"It is quite probable if that had been reported to the Japanese they would have turged back from the attack," Short said.

Reds Score Iran Victory

By JOHN M. HIGHTOWER

LONDON—(AP)—Selection of Ahmed Ivam-Es-Saltaneh as Premier of Iran probably will give Russia at least a temporary victory in the first political dispute placed before the United Nations Security Council, American and British informants said today.

The Iranian delegation, which appealed to the Council a week ago to intervene in the Soviet-occupied zone of northern Iran, said new instructions were expected over the week-end.

Officials predicted that Ahmed Iavam, who is known to back friendly relations with Russia, would order the case either dropped or shelved while he negotiated directly with Moscow for a settlement.

Direct negotiation was advocated by Russia in a letter to the Security Council yesterday. Russia denied charges of interference in the internal affairs of Iran and said she was "categorically opposed" to Council consideration of the case.

One possibility known to have received consideration by Britain is that if the Iranian case is withdrawn from the Council by the Iranians themselves, it might be refiled by some other nation on the ground that the dispute endangers world peace and security.

This was the ground on which the Soviet Union and the Ukraine asked the Council to investigate British activities in Greece and the Dutch East Indies.

The Security Council agreed unanimously yesterday to take up the Iranian case Monday and decide whether the charges warrant an investigation.

Leaders of the big powers were reported trying to wind up the London meeting of the General Assembly within ten days and move the UNO to a site in the United States as soon as possible.

Kerr Britain's Envoy To U. S.

MOSCOW — (AP) — British Ambassador Sir Archibald Clark Kerr told a press conference today that he had discussed Indonesia with Generalissimo Stalin and Foreign Commissar V. M. Molotov.

Clark Kerr is leaving tomorrow as a special British envoy for Indonesia. Then, he said, he hopes to take a vacation in Scotland before going to his new post as Ambassador in Washington.

Germans Charged With Killing Fellow Prisoner

BASTROP, Tex.—(AP)—Seven German prisoners of war went on trial at Camp Swift yesterday charged with murder in the slaying of Hugo Krauss, a fellow prisoner whom they said they considered a traitor.

Krauss was beaten and clubbed at the camp on Dec. 17, 1943, and died six days later. Chief Prosecutor Maj. Gernon Lemens, Waxahachie, Tex., said testimony showed Krauss had declared the strength of the German Army.

Wage Demands

Rail Arbitration Agreement Made

CHICAGO — (AP) — The Nation's major railroads and eighteen of the twenty railroad labor unions today agreed to arbitrate union wage demands for 1,250,000 workers, or about 85 per cent of rail employees.

Management representatives advised the National (railway) Mediation Board which brought about the agreement after three weeks of conferences that they were willing to enter into a similar agreement with the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen and the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers.

STRIKE VOTE DUE

These two brotherhoods withdrew from the mediation conferences last week and their officials said a strike vote would be taken.

The fifteen unions of non-operating personnel have demanded a wage increase of 30 cents an hour and the three operating groups —the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen, the Order of Railway Conductors, and the Switchmen's Union of North America — asked an increase of $2.50 a day.

The agreement signed today provides for two arbitration boards. One of six members will function in the case of the fifteen non-operating unions and a three-man board will be named to arbitrate the operating unions' dispute.

The six-man board will consist of two members each from labor and the railroads and two to be chosen by these four. The other board will consist of one each of labor and the railroads with a third to be chosen by the two. Decisions by the boards would be binding on all parties under terms of the agreement.

Operating personnel consists of workers who man the trains. Non-operating workers are clerks, telegraphers and shop craftsmen employed in the railroad industry.

Trainmen Still Plan To Have Strike Vote

CLEVELAND—(AP)—A. F. Whitney, president of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, said today the agreement of major railroads and eighteen rail labor unions to arbitrate union wage demands would not alter the Brotherhood's plan to conduct a strike vote.

"In order to arbitrate, the Brotherhood would have to abandon proposed rule changes it is seeking in addition to a wage increase," Whitney commented.

"The National (railway) Mediation Board proposed arbitration for the Trainmen and the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers last week, but arbitration they suggested was limited to the wage question.

"They undertook to ignore our request on rule changes and the railroads did the same."

Strike Staged By RAF Men

CALCUTTA —(AP)— Twelve hundred non-commissioned RAF personnel struck today at Lumbadum, 12 miles from Calcutta, in the fifth "we-want-to-go-home" demonstration by British airmen this week.

A similar work stoppage entered its third day at the Katunakye airport of Colombo, Ceylon, in defiance of an RAF headquarters announcement that such demonstrations "would not be tolerated in any circumstances."

Seven hundred men stationed at Lydda, Palestine, and a like number at Almaza, near Cairo, returned to their jobs today, ending a walkout which had threatened to interrupt the withdrawal of troops from the Indian theater.

A three-day strike of men at the Mauripur camp near Karachi ended yesterday.

President Will Fly To Florida

WASHINGTON —(AP)— President Truman will leave Washington Feb. 11 by plane to spend a "brief" vacation in Florida waters, the White House announced today.

Wife On Way, Soldier Rallies

SANTA FE, N. M.—(AP)—T Sgt. Maurice Vought of Fort Wayne, Ind., showed improvement upon learning of his wife's departure by plane from Brisbane, Australia, to be with him here.

The 28-year-old sergeant is seriously ill with an advanced lung disease in Burns General Hospital and the Army is flying his 21-year-old wife, Patricia of Sydney, here in the hope she will be able to aid him in his fight for life.

"That's wonderful," he said of his wife's start yesterday on the 8,000-mile flight in a transport plane. They met and married while Vought was in Australia as a member of an Air Corps ground crew.

WEATHER

Light showers and cooler late this afternoon. Partly cloudy and colder tonight and Sunday. Lowest temperature tonight about 25 degrees.

Temperature at 2:30	56
High and low last 24 hours	56, 39
Sunset today	5:45
Sunrise tomorrow	7:26

'Disgraceful' Language

Reuther Charges GM Was Very Blunt In Denying 1-Cent Raise

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Walter Reuther of the CIO Auto Workers told Senators today that General Motors turned down a one-cent-an-hour pay boost proposal with "disgraceful and scandalous" language.

Reuther, head of the union which has been on strike for two months in the corporation's plants, was a witness before the Senate Labor Committee, which is considering President Truman's request for establishment of fact-finding boards to handle labor disputes.

The union has gone back to its demand for a 30 per cent wage increase, Reuther said, but he contended it had always been willing to lessen its demands if they meant higher prices for automobiles.

"We told them that if General Motors was unable to raise pay without increasing prices, we would scale down our requests," Reuther testified. "They said, 'we won't talk about it.'

"We sat with them for 90 days, with officials of the corporation with their feet up on the table and reading magazines.

"We asked them about a one-cent an hour raise without a price increase. They said 'no.' They said 'prices are none of your damned business.'"

Reuther quoted what he said were the vulgar words in which the company officials compared the interest they had in the magazines to the union arguments.

Senator Donnell, Republican, Missouri, broke in: "How much of this is argument and how much is fact? Did General Motors use that language?"

Reuther declared that the official transcript so proved. He called it "most incredible and disgraceful and scandalous."

Reuther said 50 prominent citizens were invited to read the tran-

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Ban Refused Athiest

Woman Loses Fight Against Religious Classes In Schools

URBANA, Ill. —(AP)— A three-judge circuit court today refused to ban non-sectarian classes in religious education from the public schools of adjacent Champaign.

The attempt to halt the classes was made by Mrs. Vashti McCollum, wife of a University of Illinois professor and mother of three young children. Her suit was heard in September without a jury.

She alleged her eldest son, James Terry, 10 a fifth grade pupil, was embarrassed by being the only child in his room not taking the courses. She alleged further that time from regular school subjects was lost because of the instruction and that as a taxpayer, she objected to having classes taught in school buildings maintained by tax funds.

The decision of Judges Martin E. Morthland, Decatur, Frank B. Leonard of Champaign and Grover W. Watson, Parmer City declared:

"Believing as we do that no constitutional or statutory rights of the relator (Mrs. McCollum) have been violated by the Champaign system of religious education as it is conducted according to testimony in this record, the petition for mandamus will be denied."

Mrs. McCollum, 32, describing herself as a "rationalist or atheist," brought the mandamus suit against the Champaign Board of Education to test the legality of a practice which has been in existence in Champaign for three years.

In its "finding of fact," the three judge panel ruled:

"The testimony fully sustains the allegations . . . that Mrs. McCollum adheres to a school of thought known as 'rationalism,' including atheism, is not a believer in any

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