John Crosby

Columnist John Crosby, winner of this year's Peabody Award for distinguished radio reporting, writes about the 15-minute Supper Club program today. Turn to Page 2-A.

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS ★★★★

Final

Largest Afternoon Newspaper In The Carolinas

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MONSANTO BLAST RUINS PROBED

GM Offers UAW Equivalent Of 15-Cent Hourly Hike

Bill Goes To Senate

CIO Maps Attack On Labor Measure Voted By House

WASHINGTON — (AP) — The CIO said today the labor bill approved by the House is "probably unconstitutional," and unions will attack it in the courts if it becomes law.

Nathan Cowan, CIO legislative director, said in a statement:

"The Hartley Bill is an ill-conceived, badly-constructed and probably unconstitutional measure. We will oppose it at every step of the legislative process and in the courts."

Cowan said the bill does nothing to improve living standards or to "curb the super-power of strangling corporate monopolies." He concluded:

"When the jerry - built hysteria against labor collapses of its own weight, we expect that this bill and others like it will be consigned to the legislative rubbish heap where they truly belong."

The Senate expects to start debate next Wednesday on its own bill which lacks many of the union cures the House voted. Chairman Taft, Republican, Ohio, of the Senate Labor Committee hopes to add some on the floor.

But the changes he has in mind would leave the Senate bill still far less stringent than the House measure. This indicates a big job in ironing out differences when the bills go to a Conference Committee, perhaps late this month.

LOP-SIDED VOTE

The House passed its bill late yesterday by a lop-sided roll call vote of 308 to 107. A powerful coalition of Republicans and Southern Democrats pushed it through.

See CIO PLANS on page 13-A

Settlement Of Demands Suggested

220,000 Would Be Covered

DETROIT — (AP) — General Motors Corp., duplicating the terms of its settlement with the CIO United Electrical Workers, today offered the CIO United Auto Workers what it described as "the equivalent of" a 15-cent hourly pay increase.

The offer included an 11½ cent wage boost plus pay for six annual holidays.

Covering 220,000 production workers, it is similar to the offer accepted earlier this week by the electrical workers for their 30,000 employees in GM plants.

PITTSBURGH — (AP) — President Walter Reuther of the CIO United Auto Workers said here today that the General Motors Corp. offer of a 15-cent hourly pay increase is "not satisfactory."

Reuther, in a comment released at CIO headquarters said:

"The corporation's offer of 15 cents is not satisfactory but negotiations will be resumed in Detroit Monday. I probably will have further comment from Detroit tomorrow when I see the actual formulation of the offer."

The UAW-CIO has demanded 23 1/2 cents hourly wage increase. General Motors last week offered a 10-cent boost.

AVERAGE WAGE

The average wage in approximately 90 General Motors plants is $1.31 hourly for production workers.

Negotiations between the company and the union began April 10. Leaders of the UAW-CIO were in Pittsburgh today but are expected to return for negotiations again Monday.

The union won an 18 1/2 cent hourly wage increase March 13, 1946, at the conclusion of a 113-day strike against General Motors.

A 23 1/2 cent demand has been made by the union on Chrysler Corp. and the Ford Motor Co. But no counter-offers from these other members of the automotive Big Three have been made public.

GM LETTER

In a letter to Walter P. Reuther, president of the UAW-CIO, Harry W. Anderson, vice-president of General Motors, wrote in part:

"We recognize the unsettled economic status of the country and the need for industry and labor to settle their mutual economic problems in order that there may be maximum and uninterrupted production. Therefore, we now propose the following as full settlement of all of the union's economic demands, for at least a year:

"1. An increase of 11 1/2 cents per hour for all employees covered by the national agreement . . .

"2. That seniority employees hereafter receive pay for the following six holidays: New Year's, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Eligibility rules to be negotiated.

"3. This proposal, if accepted, to continue in effect at least until May 31, 1948.

"4. This proposal will not be binding upon General Motors unless the UAW-CIO notifies General Motors of acceptance by the union not later than May 1, 1947. This proposal will become effective upon the date of acceptance."

New Pictures From Blast-Stricken Texas City

GATHERING UP THE DEAD IN HOLOCAUST—Piled high with bodies of the dead wrapped in blankets, a truck moves toward a temporary morgue in fire-swept Texas City, Texas, after a series of terrible explosions spread death and devastation throughout the community. In the background are wrecked buildings and boiling fires burning furiously in oil storage tanks. (AP Wirephoto).

WATER FRONT A MASS OF SHATTERED RUINS—Splintered buildings and wrecked automobiles cover the water front area near the place where the French ship Grandcamp exploded and started the series of industrial plant blasts which shattered the community. Dense smoke continues to boil up from burning ruins in the background. (AP Wirephoto).

German Stronghold

British Destroy Helgoland Base

By EDWIN SHANKE

CUXHAVEN, Germany — (AP) — British demolitions blew up today the island base of Helgoland, German Gibraltar of the North Sea.

Watchers in this seaport 38 miles across the water from the former German naval base saw a towering grey column of smoke rise over Helgoland at 1:01 P. M. (6:01 A. M., EST). Two minutes later three dull, thumping explosions were heard, sounding like blasts in a quarry. The British had announced months ago their intention to destroy the naval stronghold.

Crowds along the mainland strand soon saw heavy smoke billow higher and higher until it reached a peak of several hundred yards. Sailors climbed to the mast tops of their vessels to get a better view.

Burgomaster Karl Olivers said the destruction has caused sorrow and indignation among the Germans of this city. He asserted that the Germans were saying the island ruins would always remind the people of the destruction and would contribute to everlasting hatred.

Despite a cold wind, the people of Cuxhaven left their windows open so the panes would not be broken by the expected force of the explosion. Many residents left their dwellings and authorities asked persons living in houses weakened by bombings to remain outdoors until after the explosion.

Olivers said that compared to British air attacks on the island during the war, the demolition blasts of today were mild.

Helgoland, which means "Holy Land," covers only about 50 square miles of territory off the mouths of the Elbe and Weser Rivers. The British seized the island from Denmark in 1807 and ceded it to Germany in 1890 in return for German recognition of British sovereignty in Zanzibar. The Germans fashioned it into one of the strongest naval bases in the world and in August of 1914, one of the great naval battles of history was fought nearby, the result of which was that the German Grand Fleet did not afterwards venture beyond home waters.

Steel Wage Move Made

PITTSBURGH —(AP)— The first definite wage increase demand coming from CIO United Steelworkers' contract negotiations was disclosed today — a 23-cent hourly boost asked of the Jones & Laughlin Steel Corporation.

A spokesman for the firm described the 23-cent figure as an "over-all" one, as besides a flat pay increase it includes "a lot of other things." Holiday pay provisions presumable were among them.

COULD SET PATTERN

The pay demand conceivably could set an industry-wide pattern.

Present basic pay in the industry is 96 1-2 cents an hour.

Jones & Laughlin, fourth largest producer, employs 25,000 workers in the Pittsburgh and Cleveland areas.

Negotiators for U. S. Steel Corp. and the Steelworkers declined comment on the disclosure. However, it was learned that J. & L. had been pressing the union for a definite pay demand.

Meanwhile another big CIO union —the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers—obtained a 15 cent hourly pay increase from the Westinghouse Electric Corp., affecting over 75,000 persons. It was the same amount as the union obtained from General Motors Corp. electrical divisions Monday.

Plane Missing In Africa

KHARTOUM—(AP)—A South African Air Force plane with twelve persons aboard was reported missing today on a 500-mile flight from Malkal to Khartoum. All those aboard were believed to be South African Air Force men en route here to ferry Spitfire fighter planes to South Africa.

Dead Taken From Plant Debris At Texas City

Several Reported Trapped Alive

TEXAS CITY, Texas — (AP) — Rescue workers probing the ruins of the Monsanto Chemical Works today were reported by the Houston Chronicle to have found several victims alive, but confirmation at the plant was lacking.

Two ambulance loads of bodies were removed from the plant shortly before noon, the paper said, quoting H. N. Sandell, in charge of a crew of embalmers at the emergency mortuary.

RUMOR CURRENT

Hal Boyle, Associated Press writer at the scene, said the rumor of victims being found alive had been current but could not be confirmed.

J. A. McMahon, in charge of the equipment engaged in rescue work at Monsanto, told Boyle that he had been on the scene since daylight and had not found any victims alive. Seven dead had been removed, he said.

John Hill, Deputy Mayor, said "I haven't heard of anybody being found alive but I hope to God they will".

Monsanto issued a statement to the press today saying that 307 of its employees are still unaccounted for. It said that 21 have been identified among the known dead, 41 of their employees that have been found among the injured, and 71 have been located unharmed. A company official estimated that probably 100 were killed in Wednesday's fire and explosion.

First to be found by the advance party of firemen at Monsanto today was a girl, dead in a first floor office. She was identified as Miss Edith Grew.

A press conference was held this morning while rescue workers probed the Monsanto ruins for the first time in three days. Hill said work was progressing well and that no more major explosions or fires were expected.

"The fires are dying down now," Hill told reporters.

An advance party composed of Army chemical engineers, a United States Public Health Service unit, and Monsanto employees familiar with the plant layout moved in at 7 A. M.

Fifty firemen followed. With them was Dr. Paul H. Harris, Houston dentist designated by Mayor S. C. Tranhan to direct the search, and his co-director, Robert Vance of Texas City, construction engineer. All wore asbestos suits.

Heavy construction equipment followed the firemen, including six winch trucks, a bulldozer, two cutting crews, a dragline and four pickup trucks.

The Red Cross canteen truck, a Salvation Army canteen truck, and two police cars moved into the area.

First major job was the removal of scores of wrecked automobiles.

SMOKE HEAVY

Skies were heavy with smoke blown back over the city by the shifting south wind.

A stiff north wind had been blowing flames and smoke out to sea, but today it shifted to the south. By early afternoon, smoke had drifted as far inland as Palestine and Jacksonville, 160 to 175 air miles north of the disaster area.

Here, however, the wind was described as little more than a breath and smoke from the fires was rising high before it drifted back over Texas City.

A stiff ground breeze from the south might send heat from burning Humble Oil tanks against others in the Sid Richardson plant, and set them off.

However, oil fires have no flying sparks and officials said residential and business structures farther to

See MONSANTO on page 13-A

NFTW Plans Statement

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Joseph A. Beirne said today the National Federation of Telephone Workers is preparing a statement of its strike position to give President Truman and members of Congress.

Beirne, NFTW president, said it probably will be delivered within the next 24 hours and he hopes it will lead to a wage offer from the telephone companies.

The leader of the 340,000 striking telephone workers told reporters of these plans after an NFTW Policy Committee meeting.

The strike now is in its twelfth day and the Labor Department, having met with what it considered rejection of an arbitration proposal, is apparently biding its time before making any new move.

BOGGED DOWN

"We've gotten bogged down in recent days in lengthy discussions about arbitration," Beirne told reporters.

"Somehow everybody seems to have forgotten our basic demand for an immediate increase in wages.

"We have found it necessary to repeat and repeat and repeat that arbitration can never be a substitute for collective bargaining."

Beirne declared that the strike will continue until the telephone companies make "us a cash offer" or until "the companies succeed in starving our people into submission."

Called 'Crypto-Coommunist'

Churchill Lashes Out At Wallace

LONDON — (AP) — Winston Churchill today assailed Henry A. Wallace as a "crypto-communist" lacking the courage to explain his destination, and accused the Laborite Government of squandering the American loan of $3,750,000,000.

Churchill told a Conservative Party rally of 10,000 in Albert Hall that Wallace had sought "to separate Great Britain from the United States and to weave her into a vast system of Communist intrigue."

"Our policy toward Russia must be one of honorable friendship through strength," Churchill said. "It must not be cowardly appeasement through weakness.

"It must be absolutely clear we shall allow no wedge to be driven between Great Britain and the United States."

EXPLAINS TERM

Amid laughter Churchill explained his designation of Wallace.

"A crypto-Communist," he declared, "is one who has not got the courage to explain the destination for which he is making."

In reference to the European speaking tour in which Wallace has attacked United States foreign policy, Churchill added:

"I travel about a certain amount myself and I am received with much kindness by all classes, both in Europe and in America. But when I am abroad, I always make it a rule never to criticize or attack the government of my own country."

"I have no patience with Englishmen who use the hospitality of a friendly nation to decry their own."

Again referring to Russia, he declared:

"We earnestly hope that all the peoples of Russia may be safe, prosperous and happy under whatever form of government they choose. We wish them well. We will welcome every possibility of increasing any intercourse between our countries in order to give each of us a better understanding of the other."

Churchill deplored "any course which would impair the growing unity in thought in action, in ideals and purpose of all the English speaking nations spread so widely about the globe and joined together by history and by destiny."

ATTACK ON LABORITES

Churchill accused Britain's Government of "lack of moral courage" and declared:

"The Socialist Government is living upon the American dole and squandering with profligate rapidity this loan, which can only be

See CHURCHILL on page 13-A

Red Balkan Drive Feared

WASHINGTON —(AP)— Senator Reverecomb, Republican, West Virginia, said today the United States may be inviting—rather than repelling—a Russian invasion of Greece and Turkey by extending military and financial assistance to those two countries.

Reverecomb took the floor to open the Senate's eighth day of debate on the $400,000,000 aid measure after Senator Natch, Democrat, New Mexico, voiced belief in an interview that $100,000,000 in American help will put Turkey so firmly on its feet that it can stand unaided against threats of Communism after July 1, 1948.

WAR FEARED

Predicting widespread appeals for American help, Reverecomb said he believes the President's program involves steps "that can lead but to war."

He argued that if the United States pours money into Greece and Turkey this may incite Russia to move against those countries.

Move To Put Aid Under U. N. Supervision Doomed

LAKE SUCCESS, N. Y.—(AP)— Russia's effort to place American aid to Greece under United Nations supervision was doomed today by majority opposition in the Security Council.

A United States proposal that the Council's Balkan Investigating Commission leave representatives in Greece temporarily to watch over the troubled Greek situation appeared assured of majority approval but might be vetoed by Russia.

'Southerner By Inclination'

Story Of Ashmore Appointment Is Featured In Time Magazine

(The following story on the appointment of Harry S. Ashmore as editor of The Charlotte News, appears in the current issue of Time Magazine.)

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For 58 years the Charlotte, N. C., News (circ. 62,000) has coveted the Carolinas with its good intentions, exposing and opposing brutality to Negroes and chain gangs, working for better housing. Its campaigns brought it a measure of fame, but no great fortune. Since January, when a well-heeled syndicate of business tycoons took over, Carolinians have wondered whether The News's new owners would turn out to be too fat to fight.

This week they got a reassuring answer when Publisher Thomas L. Robinson appointed a new editor. His choice was Harry S. Ashmore, The News's associate editor, and one of the South's more realistic and readable editorial writers.

A decade ago, as a fresh-from-college reporter on the Greenville Piedmont, Ashmore got a big hand in the Carolinas by touring "the Deep North" to do a series on Tobacco Roads above the Mason-Dixon line. He took charge of The News's editorial page after serving as an infantry lieutenant colonel in Europe. His campaigns (for two-party politics, racial and religious tolerance, votes for Negroes, higher pay for teachers) have established him as neither a Yankee-lover nor a deep-dyed Southerner.

Ashmore, who is 30 but looks older, tempers his enthusiasm for reform with consideration for the facts of Southern life. Says he: "We hope to avoid the usual Southernism, (much as) undue sensitivity to outside criticism . . . We will maintain, however, that the Southern white man is a member of a persecuted minority constantly damned by U. S. liberals who ignore his considerable accomplishments . . . I am a Southerner by inclination as well as by virtue of two Confederate grandfathers, but it is high time we rejoined the Union."

WEATHER

Fair and not quite so cool tonight. Lowest temperature tonight 42. Saturday warmer, with increasing cloudiness followed by light scattered showers late Saturday night and Sunday.

Temperature at 2:30 today 70
High and low last 24 hours 76-39
Sunset today 7:00
Sunrise tomorrow 5:00

More Weather Data on page 2-A