THE 'BW' WRITES

Mrs. Earl Wilson's birthday present to her columnist-husband is today's column. Pretty good, too. You'll find it on the back page.

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

Final Edition

Largest Afternoon Newspaper In The Carolinas

ESTABLISHED 1888

CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA, FRIDAY, MAY 9, 1947

26 Pages—Price Five Cents

FOREIGN AID BACKERS BEAT OFF ATTACKS

Long Distance Workers Refuse To Cross Picket Lines

AUTW Keeps Pledge Made Unions Still On Strike

Long Lines Phase Of Walkout Ends

NEW YORK — (AP) — Groups of long distance telephone employees returning to work following settlement of the long lines phase of the nation-wide strike refused today to cross picket lines of other unions still on strike.

Admitting there was "nothing resembling a general back-to-work movement" here an American Telephone & Telegraph Company spokesman said the same condition existed throughout the eastern part of the nation and that it was "reasonable to assume" the same situation existed in the central and western parts.

The workers were members of the American Union of Telephone Workers whose 20,000 members from coast to coast were slated to begin returning to work at 6 A. M. in the various time zones across the country but remained "pledged to honor the picket lines of any affiliated union."

AGREEMENT APPROVED

This policy was stated by the AUTW Executive Board, which last night approved a wage agreement calling for weekly increases generally ranging from $2 to $4. The agreement had been reached in Washington, D. C., earlier in the day by union negotiators and representatives of the American Telephone and Telegraph Co., parent organization of the Bell System.

In Washington, officials of the National Federation of Telephone workers, which called the April 7 strike, estimated that about 250,000 of the 287,000 members of NFTW unions who walked out still were on strike. About 50,000 workers not affiliated with the NFTW, but who had joined the strike, have returned to work under wage agreements.

Most of the workers still on strike belong to regional unions which this week began negotiations with various Bell System companies following termination of NFTW efforts to reach a national settlement.

WASHINGTON TALKS

In Washington, negotiations are continuing between Western Electric Co., and A. T. & T. subsidiary, and two unions—the Western Electric Employees Association, which claims 22,000 employees at the company's Kearny, N. J., plant, and the Association of Communications Equipment Workers, which claims 11,000 installation workers nationally.

Another union on strike against Western Electric is the National Association of Telephone Equipment Workers, which claims 6,500 members in 29 Western Electric distributing houses in 24 states. The Bell Laboratory Employees Association is on strike in New York City.

Wheat Prices Hit

Savs Britain 'Blackmailed' For Food

LONDON—(AP)—Lord De La Warr told the House of Lords that Britain was obliged to buy food abroad in a "blackmail market."

Wheat from Canada, the Conservative peer said in a discussion of Britain's food shortage, "is costing as much as we are paying our own farmers in this country."

"Wheat from America is costing them even more and wheat from the Argentine, so far as it is available, is a great deal more," he said. "At the present moment we are buying whatever we are buying on a blackmail market."

Lord Huntingdon, joint parliamentary secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, insisted that the Government was "alert" to the problems, and that the matter of recent flood damage was being approached as a war operation involving the establishment of "battle headquarters."

Guerrillas Blast Dredge

ATHENS—(AP)— Press dispatches from Northern Greece reported today that a band of guerrillas wearing gendarme uniforms had blown up and set afire a large hydraulic dredge near Katerini, East Coast city about 175 miles north of Athens.

The dispatches said the dredge had a pre-war value of about $200,000.

Louisiana Electrocution

Willie Francis Walks His Second 'Last Mile'--Dies

ST. MARTINVILLE, La.—(AP)—The State of Louisiana succeeded today in its second attempt to electrocute Willie Francis.

The stuttering 18-year-old Negro, convicted in a holdup killing, died calmly in St. Martin Parish Jail here today in the State's portable electric chair—the same chair from which he walked away on May 3, 1946, after a loose connection had caused the deadly current to be diverted from his body and into the ground.

Willie, who had practiced walking the short "last mile" so that he could "die like a man," settled himself smiling widely into the chair at 12:02 P. M. Central Standard Time. The switch was thrown at 12:05. He was pronounced dead at 12:10, after receiving two shocks, one of half a minute and one of 15 seconds.

LONG FIGHT ENDS

Thus ended a year-long battle over the State's legal and moral right to execute a prisoner after a first attempt had failed. The fight was taken vainly on Willie's behalf twice to the United States Supreme Court, three times to the Louisiana Supreme Court and three times to the State Pardon Board.

With Willie there died an old legend, of uncertain origin but widespread belief, that a condemned man's life would be spared if an accident stopped his execution.

Francis was convicted of murder in the killing of Andrew Thomas, white druggist of St. Martinville, during a holdup that netted about four dollars and a watch.

Among the witnesses was Clause Thomas, brother of Andrew, who was chief of police of St. Martinville at the time of the slaying. He was the only member of the family present.

Outside the tiny, two-story red brick jail, beside a huge live oak tree, an orderly crowd of

See FRANCIS DIES on page 15-A

Phone Negotiations

Temporary Halt In Atlanta Talks

ATLANTA — (AP) — Peace negotiations between the Southern Bell Telephone Co. and the Southern Federation of Telephone Workers (Ind.) were adjourned until late today after a deadlocked conference ended early this morning.

Negotiations had been in progress since 10 A. M. Thursday.

H. F. Tweedy, vice-president of the Federation, told newsmen at 2 A. M. that the workers were prepared for "round-the-clock talks" in an effort to terminate the 33-day-old strike, but a few minutes later the session was suspended.

Tweedy declined to comment on the possibility of an immediate announcement.

Earlier, on Thursday, he had called a news conference for 4 P. M. when, he said, a statement of "nation-wide interest to telephone workers" would be made. The conference later was postponed until 8 P. M. and from that time on until the negotiations were temporarily halted well after midnight. Tweedy made no more than the routine announcement at 30-minute intervals that the talks were still continuing.

Involved in the strike are about 43,000 telephone workers in nine Southern states—Louisiana, Kentucky, Alabama, Florida, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina Georgia, and Mississippi.

Company officials said last night that despite the strike, local telephone service in Southern Bell territory was 75 to 80 per cent normal and long distance service about 50 per cent.

5-Point Plan Is Proposed

CLEVELAND, Miss.—(AP)—A five-point American postwar economic program, including increased imports and pushing ahead with reconstruction of Germany and Japan, is favored by Dean Acheson, Undersecretary of State.

In London a Foreign Office spokesman said Britain welcomed the proposal for stepping up American imports to bolster international trade. He termed Acheson's analysis of world economic problems "far-sighted and wise."

State Department officials in Washington said increased imports are squarely in line with the Administration's reciprocal trade program.

Acheson told farmers and business men in a speech yesterday to the Delta Council that the United States "must push ahead with the reconstruction of those two great workshops of Europe and Asia — Germany and Japan — upon which the ultimate recovery of the two continents so largely depends." He added:

That is what Secretary Marshall means when he reported to the nation on April 28 that action on behalf of European recovery cannot wait 'compromise through exhaustion,' and that 'we must take whatever action is possible immediately, even without full Four Power agreement, to effect a larger measure of European, including German, recovery.' The achievement of a co-ordinated European economy remains a fundamental objective of our foreign policy."

The United States, Acheson said, must take as large a volume of imports as possible to narrow the financial gap between what the world needs and what it can pay for. He described this as a measure of "common sense and good business."

B-29 Missing On Alaska Flight

McCHORD FIELD, Wash.—(AP)—A B-29 on routine weather check flight between Fairfield - Suisun, Calif., Air Base and Anchorage, Alaska, has not been heard from since departure from California at 4:30 A. M. (PST) today, McChord officials reported.

The air-rescue service unit at McChord and the Coast Guard and San Point Naval Station were alerted.

Crews of such planes usually number nine or more.

The estimated time en route was fourteen hours and the plane carried fuel for 24 hours.

Britain Auctions 100,000 Vehicles

LONDON —(AP)— Britain auctioned more than 100,000 trucks, cars, busses and motorcycles from wartime surpluses for more than $40,000,000 during the last year, the Ministry of Supply announced today.

"We still anticipate a good demand for future surpluses which may be thrown open by the services," a spokesman said.

Ball Plan Defeated

WASHINGTON—(AP)—The Senate rejected today a proposal by Senator Ball, Republican, Minnesota, to permit individual employers to seek injunctions against jurisdictional strikes and secondary boycotts.

Defeat of the Ball amendment to pending labor legislation opened the way for action on a substitute proposal by Senator Taft, Republican, Ohio.

Taft proposes that employers be authorized to sue for damages in such cases but would not permit injunctions to be sought by private individuals.

"RACKET" CHARGED

In debate leading up to the test vote Ball had called jurisdictional strikes and secondary boycotts a form of "racketeering" which he said that could be curbed by injunctions.

But Senator Ives, Republican, New York, argued that Ball's proposal "opens the door" toward repeal of the Norris-La Guardia Act. That law, enacted in 1932, prohibits courts from stepping into labor disputes with orders as to what a union must do or refrain from doing.

The so-called jurisdictional strike is one caused by a quarrel between two unions and not between a union and employer. Most often it develops from a dispute over which craft has the right to do certain work.

A secondary boycott is a refusal by a union to handle products of some firm which the union has no direct quarrel.

French Police Kill Escaped Pole

TOULOUSE, France—(AP)—French authorities said today that police had killed Stanislaw Wazelewski, 22-year-old Pole who escaped from a death cell in Montauban Prison Saturday after critically wounding his guard with an iron bar.

Several thousand gendarmes and troops had been searching Southwestern France for the condemned man, who was said to have confessed to nineteen murders after he had been sentenced to die for three other crimes.

Gen. Clark In Rome

ROME —(AP)— Gen. Mark W. Clark arrived here today en route to the United States from Austria. He will be received tomorrow by Pope Pius XII. The wartime commander of the U. S. Fifth Army came to Italy in connection with conferences on the establishment of American war monuments.

State Dept. Hits At Franco Regime

WASHINGTON—(AP)—The State Department said today that satisfactory political and economic relations with Spain are not possible "as long as the Franco regime remains in power."

A statement added that no loans or credits to Spain are being considered by the United States Government.

Film Star Hurt In Fire

HOLLYWOOD—(AP)—A Civil War fire-scene flared up prematurely at Columbia studio yesterday and burned the hand of Glenn Ford, co-star of the film. An extra player also was hurt in the explosion of gasoline which was to be used in stimulating the fire.

Life And Death In New York

Coed Rescued After Man Hurls Her In Front Of Subway Train

NEW YORK —(AP)— A New York University co-ed was thrown in front of an approaching subway train today by a man but onlookers rescued her while other witnesses beat her attacker, police reported.

The girl was identified as Bertha Pataky, 21, of Brooklyn, a senior at the university.

Police said she was standing on a station platform talking with another student when a man seized her and hurled her head first to the tracks.

Two men working on the roadbed saw her fall and, as one raced toward the oncoming train waving a flag, the second picked up Miss Pataky and carried her beneath the platform ledge to safety. The train halted fifteen feet from the spot where she fell.

Police said other witnesses, meanwhile, were beating up the man, knocking off his glasses and blackening his eyes. Transit police rescued him. He was taken to the Elizabeth Street station for questioning.

Miss Pataky was taken to Beekman Street Hospital suffering from head injuries.

'Blind' Beggar Pushes Pal To Death On Tracks

NEW YORK—(AP)—The five-year partnership of two Bowery panhandlers ended today with a charge of homicide against one of the men, who police say pushed his buddy under the wheels of a subway train.

Fred Dave Conners, 62, described by police as acting as posing as a "blind" man, was charged in the death of Edward Trudeau, 60, who was killed last night at the busy Queens Plaza station.

Police said the two quarreled over the day's profits of $6 and that witnesses saw Connors push Trudeau onto the tracks just as a train pulled in.

For five years the two had panhandled in saloons and at street corners, with Connors pretending to be blind while Trudeau led him, police said.

"I'm sorry," police quoted Connors, "I lost my head and although he was my best pal I pushed him in front of the train."

GOP Blocks Delay In Tax Action

Crush Move To Defer Cuts

WASHINGTON — (AP) — The Republican majority on the Senate Finance Committee blocked two Democratic attempts today to postpone action on the $3,800,000,000 income tax cut bill voted by the House.

Both moves lost by identical votes of 7 to 6 on a straight party division.

Sen. George, Democrat, Georgia, senior Democrat on the committee and its former chairman, moved to defer action on the bill until June 15. By that time, he argued, Congress would have a better idea of what reductions can be made in Government spending and the two Houses might be able to get together on their legislative budget.

Following rejection of that proposal, Sen. Byrd, Democrat, Virginia, moved to delay action ten days, meanwhile requesting the conferees on the legislative budget to reach an agreement or, if they could not do so, to report their disagreement to the Senate.

WAY CLEARED

Chairman Millikin, Republican, Colorado, told reporters he believed the morning's action, taken behind closed doors, cleared the way for some definitive votes on the measure itself.

He predicted it will be amended to make the tax cut effective July 1 instead of last Jan. 1.

All but about 1,100 of the nation's 48,000,000 taxpayers would get reductions of from 20 to 30 per cent under the House bill.

Those with net incomes (after exemptions) of $1,000 or less would get 30 per cent off; those between $1,396 and $302,000 a cut of 29 per cent, and those over $302,000 only 10.5 per cent.

Millikin told reporters there is a likelihood that the wide 20 per cent bracket may be narrowed, by establishing a 15 per cent reduction for those with incomes between $100,000 and $302,000.

FAMILY SPLIT

He also forecast rejection of a proposal to permit husbands and wives to split their income and figuring their taxes, thereby lowering their tax bill. The privilege now is enjoyed only by residents of ten states with community property laws.

The family income split is part of a three-point substitute plan offered by Senator Lucas, Democrat of Illinois, which is up for discussion at the start of today's closed session. Lucas also wants to raise personal exemptions from $500 to $600, and cut 2 percentage points off each surtax rate. Lucas proposed making the changes effective Jan. 1, 1948.

Approval by the Finance Committee will be the third major step toward putting the tax cut on the statute books. After its clearance by the House Ways & Means Committee, it passed the House by a vote of 273 to 137.

It still must clear the Senate, then pass through a conference Committee of the two Houses to adjust any differences, such as the effective date.

The big test will come when the bill reaches the White House. Some of President Truman's friends predict he will veto it if it bears much resemblance to the House bill. Both Mr. Truman and Secretary of the Treasury Snyder have insisted there should be no tax reduction at this time.

LARAINE DAY

Lippy's Bride Wins

Laraine's Calif. Divorce Upheld

LOS ANGELES — (AP) — Laraine Day's California divorce from J. Ray Hendricks was upheld today by a Superior Court judge, who commented, however, that he considers their subsequent Mexican decree "a nullity."

Superior Judge Ingall W. Bull dismissed an order by a colleague, Judge George A. Dockweiler, to show cause why the decree Dockweiler granted last January should not be set aside on grounds of fraud and collusion.

Immediately after receiving the Mexican divorce Miss Day was married to Leo Durocher, Brooklyn baseball manager, in Texas.

Testimony in a hearing last week was offered by attorneys, designated as friends of the court by Judges Dockweiler and Bull, purporting to show that a pre-divorce agreement to the decree involving the actress, Hendricks and Durocher constituted collusion.

"Only the conduct of the parties to this case before, not subsequent, to the divorce is a subject of this inquiry," Judge Bull commended. "This court is not concerned with the Mexican decree, but it does consider it a nullity as far as the status of either of the parties is concerned."

LEO NOT PARTY

Opposition to the agreements has centered on the Italian pact with critics contending that a clause demilitarizing that country would leave it open to the same sort of Communist infiltration Mr. Truman has said he wants to prevent in Greece and Turkey.

Noting this indirectly, Mr. Truman said in a letter to Marshall, which the Secretary read to the committee earlier, that he does not share this view.

A group of Senators has served notice they will attempt to delay action on the Italian agreement, but Vandenberg has indicated a determination to push all four treaties to a vote in the Senate later this month.

Peace Pacts Approved

WASHINGTON —(AP)— The Senate Foreign Relations Committee voted unanimous approval today of peace treaties with Italy, Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania.

Chairman Vandenberg, Republican, Michigan, announced approval of resolutions to ratify the treaties after what he said was "long discussion" of their terms by the committee. He said no reservations were offered by members.

"VITAL" TO POLICY

President Truman has urged speedy Senate ratification, which requires two-thirds approval of those voting, as a matter "vital" to American foreign policy.

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Argentina Talks Big Steel Projects

BUENOS AIRES —(AP)— The Argentine Chamber of Deputies had under consideration today a Government plan to develop a national steel industry at a cost of $50,000,000 to $60,000,000.

Details of the plan have not yet been made public, being listed as restricted information. However, initial debate on the measure last night disclosed that the Government plans to contribute 90 per cent and private steel users 10 per cent of the capital of a mixed company which will operate a plant selling steel at cost.

Seven Danes Executed

COPENHAGEN — (AP) — Seven members of Denmark's most notorious wartime terror group — all Danish nationals — were executed today.

Supporters Of Program Bowl Over Amendments

Ban On Military Help Voted Out

WASHINGTON — (AP) — The House turned down by voice vote today a proposal to ban American military assistance in a bill to help Greece and Turkey fend off Communist threats.

Immediately afterward another amendment to limit the aid to Greece and to ban assistance to Turkey was shouted down.

Shortly before, the House killed, 122 to 70, a proposal to forbid the sending of any "combat troops" to the two countries and rejected a proposal to limit the size of military missions to 100 men.

BACKERS IN CONTROL

Supporters of the bill were in full control as they bowled over the amendments offered by Rep. Bender, Republican, Ohio, to limit assistance to $400,000,000 in economic aid, and then to limit aid to Greece.

Bender raged at what he called "power-mad State Department Bureaucrats," accusing them of trying to sell us "insane military alliance under the pretense it is giving food to the hungry and clothes to the naked."

He said he was only proposing to make it a "genuine, bona fide, 100 per cent relief bill."

VORYS PROTESTS

Rep. Vorys, Republican, Ohio, protested Bender's recommendation would make this a "Henry Wallace Bill", and merely let the two nations "help themselves into richer prizes" for Russia to pick off.

The proposal to prohibit sending combat troops was offered by Rep. Judd, Republican, Minnesota.

Judd said the missions could be engineers and other military experts which the Administration has planned to send to train the Greek and Turks in the use of American equipment.

He argued that this would remove the fears, which echoed through the House during two hours of turbulent debate before the vote, that American expeditionary forces might be dispatched.

"APPEASEMENT" HIT

Rep. Merrow, Republican of New Hampshire, shouted, that if Russia believes the Greek-Turkish aid measure "to be a declaration of war, then let them make the most of it."

Merrow protested against what he termed "appeasement" of Russia since war's end. He called for passage of the bill without "crippling" amendments, and agreed with Rep. Rankin, Democrat of Mississippi, that the proposed changes would "tie the hands" of President Truman in the effort to curb the spread of Communism.

A member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Merrow cried out:

"I wonder what we are afraid of. The security of the United States is at stake. There are no longer any frontiers. Stalin and his associates are expanding.

"In Greece they are ready to take over. I wonder how long we are going to continue to be insulted before we take a firm stand?"

Two Japanese Sentenced To Die

YOKOHAMA — (AP) — A guard commander on a Japanese "hell ship" and a corporal who were held responsible for beheading fifteen Allied prisoners were sentenced today to hang.

Four other Japanese were given long prison terms at hard labor by an Eighth Army military commission for their parts in the voyage between the Philippines and Japan in which 1,300 prisoners died.

Sentenced to hang were Lt. Junsaburo Toshino, who commanded guards on prison ships, and Cpl. Kazutaro Ohara. They were convicted of responsibility for beheading the fifteen in a Philippines cemetery because they were too ill to make the trip to Japan.

WEATHER

Fair and continued cool this afternoon and tonight with scattered light frost. Saturday fair and slightly warmer.

Temperature at 2:00 today.....67
High and low last 24 hours.....67-46
Sunset today.....7:15
Sunrise tomorrow.....5:36

More Weather Data on page 15-A