

THREAT OF STRIKE POSTPONED

CIO Wage Policy Group To Ponder Action On Jan. 3

PITTSBURGH — The nation will escape a crippling steel strike on New Year's Day—but will have to face the threat of a strike on Jan. 3. The Wage-Policy Committee of the CIO United Steelworkers voted to defer work stoppage for at least three days. They will meet at the special U.S. convention in Atlantic City the final day on calling a strike.

The convention also will make the union's formal answer to President Truman's appeal to avert a strike and submit the steel contract dispute to the Wage Stabilization Board. The steel companies already have agreed to the President's proposal.

The action of the Wage Policy Committee had been widely predicted. Mr. Truman, who says there must not be a steel strike in view of the national defense emergency, has declared he will use every law on the books to prevent a nationwide steel walk-out.

If the convention accepts the President's plan, the Wage Stabilization Board will study arguments on both sides and outline recommendations. This will not be binding on either side.

An existing new contract between the big union and the country's steel companies is at stake. The union's 22 million members are topped by a call for an 18 cent hourly wage increase. Murray also has guaranteed a 10 percent raise and other concessions for the men in the mills. He says higher living costs and industry profits justify a substantial wage increase.

The 650,000 USW members employed in the steel industry are slightly less than \$2 an hour. The Wage Policy Committee estimates that the steel industry would lose only about \$10 million if it went only until the convention at Atlantic City.

Mr. Truman expressed happiness and hope when he heard the news at his Independence, Mo., home where he is spending the Yule holidays.

The steel industry has not made a wage offer and Phillip Murray, president of the CIO and USW, accused company negotiators of bargaining in bad faith. The industry spokesman said he would only accept an inflationary pressure.

Murray announced the decision to hold off the strike after a two and one-half hour conference with the Wage Policy Committee. The Jan. 1 deadline did not allow the union to study the situation and make a recommendation.

Following the policy group meeting, Murray extended an invitation to Benjamin F. Fairless, president of U. S. Steel Corp. to discuss 2,500 USW delegates at the Atlantic City convention.

Company spokesmen said Fairless would not comment on the invitation but would receive it officially. Murray said the invitation by telegram.

Murray declined to predict what action will be taken at the convention. He said the Government has not yet made a suggestion toward a settlement.

COLUMBIA, S. C.—Eleven people were killed and 42 injured in a train accident in South Carolina during the pre-Christmas week, the State Highway Patrol reported. Deaths occurred in three wrecks in Newberry and Richland counties, and one each in the counties of Allendale, Berkeley, Colleton, Kershaw and Union.

Fair and continued cold tonight. Expected high today 36 degrees. Expected low tonight, 24 degrees. Tomorrow, 45 degrees and warmer Saturday. Sunday considerable cloudiness and mild. High 42, low 28. Wind light. Lowest this morning, 25 degrees. 7:31 A. M.; sunset, 5:19 P. M.

More Weather Data on Page 12-A

STASSEN PRESIDENCY



Stassen To Seek GOP Nomination

PHILADELPHIA—(AP)—Harold E. Stassen, former Governor of Minnesota, is going to make a second attempt to win the Republican nomination for President of the United States.

Stassen, now president of the University of Pennsylvania, last night joined two other seasoned GOP campaigners in the nomination fight—U. S. Sen. Robert A. Taft of Ohio and Gov. Earl Warren of California.

There was immediate speculation that Stassen would slow down the drive of a number of Republicans who have been campaigning to get Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower into the field. However, backers of the general discounted such speculation.

Stassen said some time ago he would endorse the general's nomination if Taft would do the same. In fact, the 44-year-old Minnesotan recently asked Taft publicly to quit the race and support with Stassen, the Eisenhower campaign.

But last night, before speaking on a nationwide radio and television simulcast, Stassen disavowed the offer and said, "It is all off now."

"I am in the race without a commitment to any other person," he declared. He did say, however, in a news conference in Washington—where he flew three hours before making his address here—that he decided to seek the Presidency after speaking with Eisenhower in Paris earlier this month.

He parried question after question on Eisenhower's intentions; he said he did not know what the general's plans may be; and he insisted he stay in the race even if Eisenhower decided to run.

Sen. James Duff of Pennsylvania said he did not know what the general's intentions were.

Stassen's announcement complicates the question of whether he will be a candidate, reportedly felt in advance of Stassen's announcement it would be interpreted by some as an indication Eisenhower had told Stassen he would not run.

When Stassen did announce, the General's backers promptly went to work in an effort to nullify any such conclusion.

Sen. Duff of Pennsylvania, who has been publicly silent as to whether he will be a candidate, reportedly felt in advance of Stassen's announcement it would be interpreted by some as an indication Eisenhower had told Stassen he would not run.

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U. N. Says 450 GIs Dead In Prison Camps

Contention Based On Red Reports

MUNSA, Korea—(AP)—The U. N. command said today at least 450 American soldiers have died in North Korean prison camps.

An official communique said that is 77 per cent of United Nations troops known to have been imprisoned in rear areas and not accounted for in last week's list of living prisoners.

Simultaneously the Communists indicated a complete list of living U. N. prisoners already is in Allied hands.

The 450 soldiers were not among those listed on the Communist roster of 11,599 prisoners. They apparently were among 571 Americans that Red said Wednesday had died of disease or were killed by Allied air raids or artillery fire.

The U. N. command said an announcement was based on a study of the Reds' Wednesday report. "We must presume they died in prison camps," said Brig. Gen. William P. Nichols, official U. N. spokesman. "This is the first time we have had knowledge of any deaths in prison camps."

North Korean Maj. Gen. Lee Sang Choo hinted Friday at Pannum that the Reds would report that many other Americans, not yet accounted for, had died of disease or exposure in prison camps.

Reds also reported that they had captured 200 U. N. soldiers who were taken to rear area prison camps and later announced by the Communists that they were since dead, an analysis of data received on 28 December disclosed.

The 200 men known to have reached the rear, through later broadcasts by them, letters to their families, announcements in Communist publications, and through Geneva, 450 are now dead.

The U. N. command said it knows that the Reds still have made no accounting, at least 133 reached rear area prison camps. The fate of 115 American prisoners whose names failed to appear on the Red roster, and 115 more who were freed in a recent exchange of some 50,000 captured soldiers the U. N. says have not been listed.

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Four Men Cross Border into Austria

NICKELDORF, Austria—(AP)—The four American airmen jailed by Communist Hungary for 40 days came back to freedom tonight.

The fliers crossed the Hungarian frontier into Austria at 5:01 P. M. (10:01 A. M. EST). Within a few minutes they were sped on their way back to their base at Erding, Germany.

U. S. officials at the border kept the four men under wraps, but as they were starting to drive to Tulln Base, outside Vienna, one of them was asked by a reporter how he was treated in Hungary.

"It all right that all Sgt. Jess Duff, of Spokane, Wash., reported. He was the mechanic aboard the C-47 transport forced down on Hungarian soil by Soviet fighter planes Nov. 19.

The four men appeared through the mist of the raw, damp evening, looking tired. They were hustled into a room of the austere, concrete police building. Eagerly they drank the coffee and ate the sandwiches provided by the welcoming party.

The form of the payment, the official said, was presumed to be a check or American draft. Walter J. Donnelly, the U. S. ambassador in Vienna, came to the Austrian frontier to greet the fliers.

The fliers were accompanied across the border by Lt. Col. William Alden Somers, U. S. air attaché in the American legation at Budapest. Somers wore his civilian clothing.

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Wonderful, Says Captain's Wife of Release

News Greeted With Joy By Families

GLENS FALLS, N. Y.—(AP)—"Wonderful, that's wonderful!" Mrs. John J. Swift shouted excitedly when she learned that her husband, and three other U. S. fliers had been freed today from Hungary.

"At least, they're safe now. They're out of the hands of those Communists," she cried when she first news that the four had crossed into Austria.

For her it meant the long hours of waiting were over. Mrs. Swift's 5-year-old daughter was at her side when she heard the good news by telephone.

The Swifts' 10-week-old son David was asleep. As the Associated Press report was read to Mrs. Swift, paragraph by paragraph from the teletype circuit, she asked "How do they look?"

"Well, I imagine they would be," she said. "Thank God, they were able to walk out."

Photographer Art Brooks, who was with Mrs. Swift, reported that after she received the phone call, she heaved a big sigh of relief.

She poured herself a cup of coffee, took her daughter in her arms and sat in a chair.

Meanwhile in Syracuse, Swift's brother, John J., also exclaimed from his hospital room.

"It's just wonderful!" The father is under observation at St. Joseph's hospital.

KINGSLAND, Ark.—(AP)—A thankful, happy mother today received the news that her son, one of four U. S. airmen held behind the Iron Curtain, was released by the Hungarian Government.

"Oh, the God, thank God, I'm so happy they are safe!" These were the words of Mrs. King Lee Elam when told by the Associated Press that the four fliers were turned over to American authorities this morning.

She is the mother of Sgt. James A. Elam, radio operator aboard the transport plane.

ERDING, Germany—(AP)—Wives of two U. S. airmen learned with joyful relief tonight that their husbands had been freed from a Communist prison in Hungary.

"I am glad that at last it's real and official," said Mrs. David H. Henderson of Shawnee, Okla., wife of the co-pilot.

"Mrs. Henderson said her three children had been expecting his return any moment since Christmas. They kept all Christmas messages unopened awaiting the reunion.

Mrs. James Duff, German war bride of the plane's mechanic Sgt. Ruff Duff of Spokane, Wash., also was brought here from her husband's base. She is on hand to greet her husband.

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NEEDED TRANSFUSION, GI GIVEN OWN BLOOD

SAN FRANCISCO—(AP)—The young soldier needed a blood transfusion badly. His eyes really popped when he saw his own name on a bottle. The precious blood flowed into his veins.

The story of the soldier who donated his blood—and then got it back—was told at Letterman General Hospital today.

The soldier is Pvt. Richard A. Norman, 22, Wagon, Wash. Norman was a member of Battery B, 87th Armored Field Artillery Battalion at Camp Roberts.

He was burned severely and needed a quick blood transfusion. Two weeks previously Norman had donated a pint of his own blood for the armed services. When he needed help, a medic just happened to pick up his bottle.

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Soviet Deserter to West Reported in Washington

LONDON—(AP)—The London Daily Express said today the boss of Russian uranium mining in East Germany—a key man in Soviet atomic works—may have been taken to Washington after he fled to the West six weeks ago.

He was identified as Lt. Col. Fedya Astrachov, whose scientific achievements once were honored with Russia's coveted Stalin prize.

The Express said American intelligence agents were reported questioning a senior officer of the Russian army shortly after Astrachov reportedly fled the Reds.

It also linked him with a recent trip to Germany by four leading American atomic scientists—Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer, director of the institute for advanced study at Princeton, N. J.; Dr. Walter F. Whitman of the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission; Dr. Lee A. DuBridge, president of California Institute of Technology; and Dr. Charles G. Lauriat, a rocket expert from Curt.

"I never believed that the scientists... were called in to size up the facts given to intelligence agencies," the Express said, adding:

"An Allied official gossiped to the press that the deserter had reached Washington."

In Washington, the Justice Department declined comment.

Pay Records Show Many Congressmen And Employees Have Same Last Names

By WILLIAM F. ARBOGAST

WASHINGTON—(AP)—In 70 House members' offices, a study of payroll records showed today, there is at least one employee having the same last name as the Congressman.

House records do not identify the relationship of employees to the Congressman in whose office they work. But in most of these cases, the employees are known to be relatives of the employing Congressman.

Whether nepotism, or the practice of favoring one's relatives in dispensing jobs, is as widespread in the Senate is almost impossible to determine.

Pay Records Show Many Congressmen And Employees Have Same Last Names

Senate payroll records are labeled confidential. If any Senators have their wives, brothers, sisters, daughters, in-laws or other relatives on their payrolls, it's not a matter of public record.

But payroll records of each of the 435 members are available for perusal by newsmen. They list names of employees by surname.

There is no way of determining from the records how many Congressmen have on their payrolls relatives with the same name as their own.

For example, a married daughter working for her Congressman-father could be carried on the office payroll under her husband's name.

Not in there any law prohibiting a Congressman from employing his own wife, under her maiden name. Most of the relatives who work for Congressmen put a day's pay for a day's pay. Some are known to be diligent workers.

A few, though, are suspected of skimming into the office only periodically to open a letter or two and thereby qualify as an employee.

Almost all of the employees who have the same surname as the boss are on the high-pay brackets.

Only one Carolina Congressman listed as having an office employee with a surname the same as his own, Rep. Robert E. Connor (D-N.C.). Mrs. Douglas Doughter drew a salary of \$445 in November.

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