

FAST TO LSE

Phone Union Chief Seeks Settlement This Week

'Courage' Urged In Strike Ranks

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Joseph A. Beirne said today he is seeking a settlement of the telephone strike this week but called for "courage" in union ranks if the walkout is prolonged.

Beirne, president of the National Federation of Telephone Workers, conceded to reporters that the strike will begin to tell on idle, payless workers if the dispute extends beyond Monday.

MASS MEETING HELD

The strike leader outlined to newsmen what he had told a mass meeting of hundreds of striking members of the Washington Telephone and Traffic Union, NFWU affiliate in Turner's Arena. Reporters were not admitted to the meeting.

"We're working toward a settlement this week," Beirne said. "If we don't settle by Monday, we'll be in a position to go back to work."

The 240,000 strikers over the nation will have to exercise "courage" to maintain their walkout, he added.

Beirne said there is complete lack of any negotiations now either in Washington or between Bell System affiliates and NFWU unions around the country. He said the Government has not arranged any new meetings with the NFWU leadership.

"If we don't win this year, we won't win," Beirne said in the mass meeting.

He reiterated that the strike will continue until there is a wage settlement.

"That's why they are striking," he said.

CONCILIATORS WAIT

Meanwhile, Secretary of Labor Schwechenbach and his top conciliators indicated that they will hold off another 24 hours before making any new move to end the strike.

Gangster Role Actor Given Terms In Jail

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. — Lawrence Tierney, who acted the role of "Billings" in the film of that name, has been ordered to spend the next four week-ends in jail.

Justice of the Peace Cecil D. Holland imposed the penalty yesterday when the actor appeared on a probation violation charge, outgrowth of Tierney's recent arrest for drunkenness.

THERE'S MANY A SLIP

You know, last week we wrote of the beautiful Spring weather in this space, but by the time it appeared in the paper it was raining cats and dogs. Some things you just can't help. But you can be sure of one thing. The Thursday food ads in The Charlotte News show the best values in town. Count on that!

Chain Explosions Leave Texas City In Ruins



EXPLOSIONS SPREAD FIRE THROUGH CITY—The greater portion of Texas City, Texas, appears to be burning furiously shortly after a chain of terrific explosions spread flames throughout the town of 15,000.

population. An explosion aboard a nitrate-laden ship in the harbor set off the series of blasts in industrial plants ashore. (AP Wirephoto).



RESCUERS DIG VICTIMS FROM MUD—Rescue workers dig bodies of explosion victims from the mud blown up by new ship blasts.

Red-Hot Steel Rains On Water Front

TEXAS CITY, Texas. — The new ship explosions today that sharpened the sorrow and misery of this stricken city looked like a giant skyrocket, coming as they did thirteen hours after twin blasts took hundreds of lives and injured thousands. It further stunned and dazed the water citizens.

At dawn searchlights still probed crumpled steel and debris that covers uncounted scores of bodies. The blanket of black billowing smoke over the city is heavier than ever, the result of several new oil refinery fires caused by the newest explosions of the vessel Flying High.

Just after 1 A. M. I walked into a downtown store building where the casualty toll was being tabulated by six men. I closed the door behind me, walked to the center of the big room and a terrific explosion shook the building and brought plaster from the ceiling.

One man drove under a table, another hit the floor, a third rolled up against the front door, blowing it in. Two seconds later came a second thunderous blast. I yanked the door open, pushing the man out of the way and plunged into the street. In a vacant lot I watched red-hot steel streaming into the dock area, pushing the man out of the way and plunged into the street. In a vacant lot I watched red-hot steel streaming into the dock area, pushing the man out of the way and plunged into the street.

into which they were blown by the chain of terrifying blasts that devastated Texas City. (AP Wirephoto).

underway. A loudspeaker across from the City Hall came to life with a man at the microphone profanely urging action. A siren wailed and then there was a chorus of wails and patrol cars and ambulances gunned up the street heading for the water front.

In seven minutes ambulances had returned, discharging the first casualties in a heavily splattered area back of the brick City Hall. Two dozen cots soon were filled. Doctors and nurses administered emergency aid and walked between the cots. All the men were conscious, all were alert. Some grimaced with pain.

Two Boy Scouts held a blanket to shield Harold Keith, 20, a rescue worker from Goose Creek, Texas, who leg was sliced by falling steel.

"I tried to crawl under a car," Keith said, "but there were too many already under it. There wasn't room for me."

William Bankhead, another volunteer, stood by the cot of his injured buddy, James Nicholson. Both live at Houston.

State Of Emergency Proclaimed In City

TEXAS CITY, Texas. — (AP) — Gov. Beauford Jester issued a proclamation declaring a state of emergency in explosion-shattered Texas City today, even as reassured residents who had fled the city began returning to their homes.

The Governor, in his proclamation issued at Austin, outlined steps to be taken to keep the situation under control in the stricken city.

Meanwhile, firefighters massed to smother flames in oil tanks which still threatened to ignite other tanks of high octane gas.

J. H. Hill, Deputy Mayor appointed by Mayor J. C. Trahan, to aid him in the emergency said water and light utilities were back in operation. He said there was no further fear of water contamination.

TOO EARLY TO ESTIMATE DAMAGE

He would not estimate damage done to Texas City by the five terrific explosions yesterday and today. He said it was too early to attempt it.

The death toll remained at an estimated 650, with 3,000 injured, according to Dr. Clarence Quinn, Medical Co-ordinator appointed by Mayor Trahan. Governor Jester said the Red Cross had reported that 364 have been embalmed, 400 were positively known to be dead and that another 200 to 250 were believed dead.

Texas City Looks Like Ploesti Ruins

OVER TEXAS CITY, Texas. — (AP) — Flaming Texas City today looks from the air like a peace-time parallel to war-blasted Ploesti, Rumanian oil capital.

It is now 7:15 A. M. Central Standard Time. We are making our third flight over the burning town.

The fire-ravaged industrial section and the peaceful residential areas offer the contrast between life and death.

One is a two-mile wide torch. The other is the living pattern of a deserted village, his life still dependent on whether the present favorable wind holds.

Angry smoke towering to 3,000 feet spreads from the city like a gigantic black wing—deep and dense where it joins the ground, feather thin where the wind has dispersed it.

Capt. J. P. Talton of Atlanta, Ga., turns the two-engined Eastern Air Lines Silver Liner on one wing and orbits the edge of the burning industrial zone.

At least scores of low-oil storage tanks, each holding hundreds of thousands of gallons.

Truman In Aid Order

WASHINGTON — (AP) — President Truman said today he has asked every government agency to cooperate in relief of suffering in the Texas City disaster.

He sent a telegram to Mayor J. C. Trahan of Texas City saying: "I know that the Red Cross is ministering to your people and I have asked every Government agency to co-operate in relief activity."

"My heart and the heart of the nation go out in deepest sympathy to the suffering people of Texas City. May God lighten the burden of sorrow which has fallen on the community with such tragic force."

In line with Mr. Truman's instructions, the Civil Aeronautics Board authorized airlines to operate "at will" and depart from scheduled routes in order to fly emergency supplies into the Texas area and otherwise "to operate fully in meeting emergency needs" there.

PROBE URGED

Senator O'Daniel, Democrat, Texas, introduced in the Senate a resolution for a full and complete investigation of the disaster.

"I realize that this series of explosions could have been accidental, but I do not want to chance or insinuate that anybody could be held as more or less at fault to have planned and executed this disaster."

"But in view of the high tension on international affairs, and due to a rather large number of fires, explosions, railroad wrecks and other disastrous occurrences in this nation lately, all so nearly recent, it is imperative that an investigation be conducted to start the investigation immediately."

King Christian Has Quiet Night

COPENHAGEN. — (AP) — An official bulletin said that King Christian X, who suffered a heart attack on Easter Sunday, had spent a quiet night and that his condition generally was unchanged.

Crown Prince Frederik told a cabinet council yesterday that there was "little hope" for the 76-year-old monarch's recovery and physicians said his strength was dwindling.

Today's bulletin said: "His Majesty the King has spent a quiet night. His condition this morning is generally unchanged. His temperature is 38.4 degrees centigrade (100 degrees Fahrenheit), pulse rate 84, respiration rate 48."

To Reduce Hours

WASHINGTON. — (AP) — The Communications Commission has authorized Western Union Telegraph Co. to reduce hours of service at the Monroe, N. C., branch.

Disatisfied With Job, He Steals From Church

CHICAGO, Ill. — (AP) — Mordecai James, 42, sentenced to six months imprisonment today for stealing from a church, said he was disatisfied with the job he was doing and that he had stolen \$100 from the church treasury box, gave this explanation:

"I made an offering to St. Anthony in the hope of getting a job, got the job but was disappointed with the wage, and delved into the poor box to get my money back because St. Anthony let me down."

Figures Given By Red Cross

WASHINGTON. — (AP) — The Red Cross today issued a revised report that 400 are known dead in the Texas City disaster and that the additional 250 to 375 are believed to have been killed.

The organization's headquarters earlier had reported the known toll at 714.

The revised figures were released after a check on information previously supplied to John C. Wilson of St. Louis, Midwestern area manager of the Red Cross, by Red Cross workers in Texas City.

The organization made no change in its estimate of 3,000 injured.

Engagement Rumor Is Unconfirmed

LONDON. — (AP) — An Ottawa report that Princess Elizabeth's engagement would be announced today, however, the report could not be confirmed in London today.

The Ottawa Morning Citizen, crediting its report to the highest authority, said yesterday it was expected that King George VI in South Africa would announce the princess' betrothal that day to Lt. Philip Mountbatten, formerly Prince Philip of Greece.

Government court circles today denied knowledge of any planned announcement. However, one high government source said privately that there was "nothing new," leaving the possibility that there might be an announcement later.

Clear and cooler with frost tonight. Friday fair and slightly warmer.

Temperature at 2:30 today... 57 High and low had 34 below... 57 Sunest total... 57 Sunrise tomorrow... 5:10

WEATHER

More Weather Data on page 15-B

See BLAST TOLL on page 16-A

See RED-HOT on page 16-A