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WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

Claims for Back Travel Pay Pass 1/2 Billion; Farm Chiefs Call for Protective Tariff

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EDITOR'S NOTE: When opinions are expressed in these columns, they are those of Western Newspaper Union's news analysis and not necessarily of this newspaper.

PORTAL TO PORTAL:

Claims Mount

As union claims against industry for back pay for walking to the job or preparing for work on company property mounted to over half a billion, tax experts opined that Uncle Sam may have to bear the burden of the settlements if the firms are permitted to obtain tax credits for such disbursements.

Although John L. Lewis first pointed up the question of so-called "portal to portal" pay for miners traveling to the coal faces underground, the principle was given industry-wide implications with the Supreme court's decision upholding such compensation retroactive to 1938 for employees of the Mount Clemens, Mich., Pottery company.

The Supreme court verdict was followed by a rush of the major CIO unions for such retroactive back pay, with the United Farm Equipment and Metal Workers suing International Harvester for 100 million dollars. Since employees have been paid for a 40 hour week, the unions are asking for overtime pay plus damages.

Firms may be able to charge off back payments to Uncle Sam under provisions of the income tax law permitting companies to carry back net operating losses into the two preceding years and also apply such losses in two succeeding years.

Meanwhile, the U. S. Chamber of Commerce polled its membership on congressional amendment of the fair labor standards act of 1938 under which portal to portal pay has been based. The chamber proposed (1) observance of custom, practice or agreement in different localities or industries as to working rules; (2) provision for relief for unwitting violation of the law, and (3) permission of companies and unions to make compromise settlements.

GEORGIA:

Subnatorial Mix-Up

Ability of the late Gene Talmadge's following to muster full strength when the general assembly convenes to determine Georgia's next governor.

"Old Gene" himself was scheduled to take office January 14 before his death intervened, creating a situation unparalleled in Georgia's history.

Gov. Arnall Because neither the new or old state constitutions provided for such a contingency, adherents of Gov. Ellis Arnall and "Old Gene" jockeyed for the position.

While Governor Arnall disavowed any intention of taking advantage of the uncertain legal situation to remain in office, he proposed to retain his post until the new pro-Arnall lieutenant governor is sworn in, when he will resign in his favor.

Anxious to obtain the gubernatorial seat, however, "Old Gene's" followers hoped to muster H. Talmadge sufficient strength to declare the post vacant at the election canvass when the assembly convened, then name his son, Herman, governor. Although only "Old Gene's" name was on the ballot at the last election, his son received a number of write-in votes to provide for just such a contingency as occurred. Thus, the legislature could turn to Herman as the nominal choice of the people.

TARIFF:

Seek Protection

Historically for free trade, the deep south reversed its position in petitioning President Truman and Federal Trade Commission for a strong protective tariff for American agriculture.

Signed in behalf of the elected commissioners of agriculture of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, North Carolina, Texas, Tennessee and Virginia, the petition reached Mr. Truman as the government prepared for renegotiation of existing rates in reciprocal trade treaties drawn under the act of 1934 and subsequent extensions. Declaring that industrially unde-

veloped nations could pay for American manufactured goods only with agricultural products, the commissioners warned against subjecting U. S. farmers to a flood of foreign commodities and reducing their living standards to a subsistence level. Calling for a trade program fitted into the American economy, the commissioners advocated the exchange of such exportable products as wheat, lard and cotton for rubber, coffee, tea and bananas.

Wisely, the commissioners' petition was national rather than sectional in its nature. Although professing concern for the future of cotton in competition with foreign rayon, nylon and other artificial fibers made in reconverted armament plants, the commissioners also warned that a further lowering of tariff rates would adversely affect cattle, oleomargarine, butter, cheese, fish, eggs, grains, potatoes, peanuts and vegetables.

Dramatically pointing up the effect of cheap foreign competition on American products, the commissioners declared that whereas white and sweet potato starches had been used for the adhesives on the back of stamps and the flaps of envelopes, the adhesive on the stamp bearing the petition was made of imported cassava roots.

Men of Mars . . .



At Johnsville, Pa., naval air technicians develop deadly guided missiles of future warfare. Photo shows scientists testing ship-to-shore weapon designed for pin-point bombing at 100 miles. Traveling hundreds of miles an hour, missiles are directed to target through television, radar, radio or devices sensitive to sound, heat and magnetism.

ITALY:

Postwar Troubles

Despite substantial assistance from the U. S., Italy has been traveling a rocky road to postwar recovery.

Italy's troubles are not all economic, although shortages of foodstuffs and widespread unemployment resulting from industrial stagnation have contributed to the political turmoil. The left and the right are pulling against themselves for political advantage and a rising wave of anti-clerical propaganda threatens the traditional spiritual unity of the people.

On the economic front, Italy is short of wheat, and spaghetti and macaroni rations have been cut in half. Pig iron production is down to 28 per cent of the prewar level; textile fabrics, 56 per cent; chemicals, 66 per cent; mechanical goods, 76 per cent; cotton thread, 88 per cent. Imports are almost three times exports.

Helping Hand

Since Uncle Sam has dealt generously with Italy, it is looking confidently for more assistance from the U. S. Thus far, the U. S. has agreed to compensate Italy for supporting American invasion troops and furnishing war supplies, and has extended credits for purchase of overseas surplus. In addition, Italy has profited from U. S. contributions to UNRRA and the international bank.

Despite the difficulties presented by shortages of both foodstuffs and industrial materials, both the left and right wings have made political capital of unrest. Latest example was the food riots engineered by Communists in southern Italy. As a result of the political bickering, there has been a resurgence of Fascist sentiment, with Mussolini's former followers growing increasingly bolder.

Leftists also have backed the attacks on pope and church, with the intention of weakening respect for the Catholic doctrine of authority, family and property. However, the rightist dominated government has been quick to fight abusive criticism of the clergy. An editor charged with publishing pornographic cartoons of a friar and unclad woman was sentenced to two years in jail.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

Red Tape

The sullen Russians continued to keep overseas relations with U. S. military personnel on strictly a formal basis as illustrated in their order to an American naval vessel to clear out of Dairen, Manchuria, within the prescribed 48 hours.

The LC-3 1090 entered Dairen as a diplomatic courier ship to bear supplies and mail to the U. S. consul. Legally, the vessel was permitted to remain only 48 hours, and the Russ ordered the Americans to leave or accept the consequences when it appeared they might be delayed over efforts to obtain landing clearance for a Standard Vacuum Oil company employee, a newspaper correspondent and a magazine photographer.

Russian authorities in control of Dairen had given the U. S. consul the run-around in his attempts to secure permission for the three to land. However, their action stemmed from a fear to grant the clearance without prior approval from their masters in Moscow rather than personal feeling.

QUAKE:

Rocks Japan

As hundreds of thousands of Japanese made homeless by earthquake and tidal wave shivered in the wintry air, the U. S. rushed relief to the distressed areas.

Having become used to the shock and terror of wartime B-29 raids, the Japanese accepted the catastrophe with resignation, calmly counting their dead and injured in the thousands and their property damage in the millions. No less than 24 of the 47 prefectures felt the tremors, with the coastal regions of southern Honshu, Shikoku and Awaji islands swept by seven foot walls of water rushing in from the sea.

All of the horror and distress was portrayed by the Tokyo newspaper Asahi in an eyewitness report from Shikoku: First, startled people felt the ground shaking beneath them, then they could hear a great roaring sound. Stumbling from their quaking houses, they rushed for high ground, but many were overtaken by a surging wall of water and their screams rent the air. Some people saw a little girl with a doll crying, "Save me, gentle Buddha," but when they returned to search for relatives the tearful child was missing and all they could find was the doll, wedged between planks on the beach.

INDO-CHINA:

Imperial Headache

France was the latest European power to suffer an imperial headache, with Indo-Chinese natives battling French forces for extension of self-government.

Under a compromise effected last March, France granted self-rule to several provinces but retained control over the rest of the country as a lever for continued dominance. Availing themselves of a well-oiled machine developed under Japanese auspices during the wartime occupation, the native leaders of the Viet Nam (Independence party) have pressed for an extension of their self-rule.

Not yet able to grant all of French Indo-China independence and be assured of the protection of its commercial interests in the rich Far Eastern country, France has been forced to use troops to retain a grip in the absence of an agreeable compromise.

Lift for Milady



Now, we have seen everything in ladies' hats — or have we? Latest creation by Edward Stevenson of Hollywood, Calif., where one can expect almost anything, utilizes Christmas wrappings, etc., which otherwise might go into the wastebasket. This chic number is fashioned from cellophane and metal foil paper, cellophane straws, bolly, bells, etc. combs and tabs.



ABOUT NEW YORK

The rare Chinese fruits hawked in Chinatown are grown on Long Island. . . . Waterfront workers have names for various piers. They are usually named after gals. . . . Despite the legend that Manhattan is all stone and steel, the borough is dotted with more than a hundred parks. . . . Thirty-two years after Columbus discovered America the strip of land known as Manhattan was discovered by Giovanni da Verrazanno. There isn't even a street named after him.

The lower end of Manhattan (between the Battery and 14th St.) is the oldest section of the city. . . . During the 17th century Wall street was the favorite hangout for pirates. Coin your own wisecrack. . . . Greenwich Village originally attracted struggling artists and scriveners because rents were cheap there. . . . Only one railroad has entry for its freight into Manhattan by land—the bulk of the railroad freight must be transhipped by tug and barge.

Meals in the city's housegows are planned by expert dietitians. No room service, however. . . . The Battery derives its name from a British fort that was once situated there. . . . South St. is dominated by the sea. Sou'westers, sea boots, pea jackets, dungarees and other equipment for mariners are displayed in shop windows along this sector.

Chinatown's notorious Tongs now are peaceful benevolent societies. . . . West St. is a man-made street. It used to be under water. . . . Those grimy edifices near Battery place reveal their pre-Civil war glory in carved lintels, arched doorways and ornate cornices. . . . If you want to view the Big Burg's pell-mello drama in action, go to the waterfront—where tunnels, railroads, ferries, subways, buses and road traffic clutter the sector with all types of transportation carrying passengers and products to and from the city. . . . Some of the Bowery's dismal buildings contain secret passages—once used as hideouts for criminals.

The pungent aromas around Reade St. emanate from the huge warehouses there stored with coffee, tea and spices. . . . Syrian confectionery shops at the foot of Washington St. have the most unusual and tastiest goodies in town. . . . The most colorful edifice is the Western Union bldg. It's stacked with 13 different shades of bricks. . . . Hart's Island prison hasn't any cells—only dormitories. Hmf. Such airs! . . . There are dusty tablets marking almost every historic New York event. The plaque on the building in Exchange alley marks the site of the residence of the first white men on Manhattan.

The Big Town's least known government bureau is the art commission. It okayes the designs of all public buildings and works of art. . . . Didja know Radio City studios are coated with a special sound-insulating glue? . . . The architect who supervised the building of city hall received \$6 per day—a very good salary at that time. . . . No one need go hungry or homeless in our burg. The department of welfare is ready to provide food and shelter for all unfortunate. Then howmany there are so many panhandlers?

Tombs prison derived its funeral name from its predecessor on that site, which resembled an Egyptian tomb. . . . If you want a unique experience, see the Chinese films exhibited on the Bowery. . . . Central park was built as a relief project during a depression.

Quilts hanging on poles advertise a market for bed linens on Grand St. . . . Criminologists from many parts of the world witness the police department's daily line-up. . . . The Bowery slums were once the site of lavish farms. The Dutch word for farm is bouwerij. . . . The stretch between Delancey and Houston Sts. is jocularly known as Thieves' Market. Those who have small objects to exchange or sell congregate there. . . . Eighty per cent of the Waldorf is built over the tracks of the New York Central. . . . The income from the elegant residential district between Fifth Ave. and University Pl. goes to support a home for poor sailors. The owner made that request in his will.

Colorful Old West Lives Again In Omaha Historical Museum

Railroad Exhibit Is Visual Record Of Pioneer Days

WNU Features.

OMAHA, NEB.—The roaring, hectic days of the Old West are not dead—they still live in all their flamboyant glory in the Union Pacific's historical museum located in the company's headquarters building here.

Fascinating documents, maps, relics, weapons, furniture, books, household articles, farm implements, personal possessions and other mementos of the men and events which carved an empire out of a wilderness comprise a dramatic and graphic visual record of the struggles, tragedies and triumphs of the pioneer West.

Portray Progress.

Interwoven with the faded relics and ghosts of long-dead pioneers and heroes of the West are exhibits portraying the epic record in the building of the Union Pacific, which played an instrumental role in the westward expansion of the empire.

Shunning away from the dusty and moldering atmosphere of the typical "museum idea," all the exhibits are designed to preserve all the color and adventure which prevailed in the pioneer days.

Since this valuable historical collection was opened to the public in 1939, approximately 200,000 visitors representing every state in the union and 41 foreign countries have registered at the museum.

Reminiscence on Careers.

Bearded oldsters wander through the exhibits musing over items which recall their own picturesque careers when they—and the West—were young. In contrast are school children and street urchins, intrigued by the drama in the winning of the West. Side by side come scholars and business men, housewives and railroad executives, while during war years many a serviceman discovered that browsing around the exhibits provided an ideal means of whiling away the seemingly endless wait for trains. Curator of the museum is Mrs. Ruth Cultra Hamilton, former school teacher who has been associated with the railroad for many years.

Lauds Woman's Role.

True to her clan, Mrs. Hamilton admits that her one regret is that the museum collections are almost wholly a memorial to the great men of the past.

"No one remembers those anonymous women who ranked with their men as courageous pioneers," she complains.

To museum visitors, however, she can point out a few household articles which serve as mute reminders that even while heroes conquered the West, someone had to cook and



HISTORY WAS MADE . . . With the rifles, saddle and other equipment included in this general view of a section of the historical museum.

sew, rear children and help with the farming.

Modern-day housewives stare uncomprehendingly at such primitive devices as candle molds, a sauerkraut stomper, a broom of hickory splints, a spinning wheel and reel dating back to 1859. Typical of the hardships which the pioneer woman endured are exhibits of crude farm implements—an awkward flail, clumsy hoe and handmade barley fork.

The old iron Dutch oven and grill in the museum once were the only cooking utensils owned by some Mormon family, which carried them across the plains on the historic migration from Nauvoo, Ill., to Utah.

Recall Indian Raids.

Many souvenirs of the constant guerrilla warfare between the hostile Indians and workmen who pushed the rails ever westward also are on display. Supplementing the tomahawks and arrows is the handwork of Indian women who engaged in more peaceful pursuits than their warriors. Included in the display are fine baskets and beadwork, tobacco pouches, medicine bags, amulets and other articles fashioned by Sioux women and decorated with embroidery of flattened porcupine quills dyed with roots and berries.

Wild-eyed youngsters gaze in awe at the pistols which spat flame and lead in the hectic early days but which now rest peacefully in the museum's display cases.

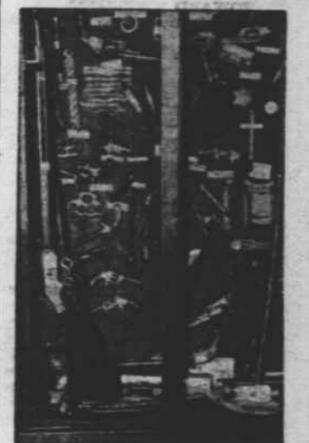
Many Guns Shown.

A huge .69 horse pistol is on display, along with flintlocks dating back to the American revolution and pepper-box types, derringers, ball and cap and muzzle-loading types. In one case are guns taken from train robbers while another case contains bullet molds, cartridge loaders, powder flasks and horns.

shot pouches and other pieces of equipment used in pistol shooting.

A rare old book showing the trails from Texas to Ellsworth, Kas., one of the roaring "cow towns" of the '70s, and a collection of branding irons highlight the mementos of the day of the cattleman and cowboy.

Mute symbols of a still earlier day when the buffalo and bison roamed the western plains by the



THE WILD AND WOOLLY WEST . . . Is re-created for goggle-eyed youngsters in this display of guns and knives.

millions are the watch and scissors used by "Old Jim" Bridger and a money belt and autographed picture of "Buffalo Bill" Cody.

The epic migration of pioneers over the Mormon trail, Oregon trail and other pathways to the West is represented by many relics. Attracting major interest is an original map issued to westbound pioneers, showing every place across the prairies where food could be obtained and the location of blacksmiths.

Rare and original photographs of the Great Emancipator hold the spotlight in an extensive Lincoln collection. A replica of the Lincoln funeral car also is displayed.

Tribute to Rails.

With the building of the West irrevocably linked with the development of rail transportation, the museum features mementos in the history of railroading.

Principal item is a yellowed telegram bearing a single sentence, "You can make affidavit of completion of road to Promontory Summit." This message, sent by Grenville M. Dodge, chief engineer, to Oliver Ames, then president of the U. P., signified completion of construction work, and on the following day the Golden Spike was driven to join the Union Pacific and the Central Pacific as the first transcontinental railroad linking the East and West.



EN ROUTE TO PROMISED LAND . . . Mormon pioneers used these crude farm implements and household utensils on their historic trek from Nauvoo, Ill., to Utah.

Blindness No Handicap, Industrious Ohio Man Proves

PAINEVILLE, OHIO.—Although blind since he was seven, Robert Bixel is one of the most industrious men in this community. After working throughout the week at a rubber plant, he continues the pace on Sunday by rushing off to church, where he is an evangelist and singer.

Not content with these regular activities, Bixel utilizes a guide dog to help him around the community

to give chiropractic treatments, repair chairs and sell greeting cards. At home he mows the lawn, fires the furnace and helps with household tasks.

An ardent sportsman, Bixel rides horseback, goes fishing and coon hunting. On coon hunts he asks only for a stout club about four feet in length and "I'll get along all right by myself."

Blind since seven years of age as

a result of being struck by a stone thrown by a playmate, Bixel refuses to acknowledge the handicap. He now plans to learn typing to permit him to keep up with his immense amount of correspondence.

Formerly the regular preacher at Riverview church in nearby Novelty, Ohio, Bixel turned the pastor's coat over to a brother-in-law and now acts as a traveling evangelist.