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GOVERNMENT MARKS TIME IN WALKOUTS

Germ Spray Newest U. S. War Weapon

Device Far More Deadly Than Atom Bomb, Say Solons

Washington, May 24. — (AP) — A germ spray repeatedly capable of wiping out large cities and entire crops at a single blow is this country's newest secret weapon, "far more deadly than the atomic bomb."

This disclosure leaked out of Congress today after the first hint was dropped on the floor of the House yesterday.

Sketchy details of the frightening germ weapons were provided by members of the House Appropriations Committee who leaked of their development behind guarded doors.

Bill Goes To Senate. These members told a reporter full details were given the committee during hearings on the navy's \$4,639,718,000 appropriations bill which the House passed yesterday and sent to the Senate.

There are several of the germ weapons, one member said, adding that they have been developed to the point where they can be used wherever necessary. Also, he said, the United States is the sole possessor of the secret involved.

"They have developed a weapon that can wipe out all form of life in a large city," a member declared. "It is a germ preparation and is sprayed from airplanes that can fly high enough while doing it to be reasonably safe from ground fire. It is quick and certain death."

Hirohito Urges People To Help Selves In Crisis. Tokyo, May 24. — (AP) — Emperor Hirohito, in an unprecedented broadcast today urged his 73,000,000 people to help each other through the nation's food crisis—but made it plain that he expects prompt action by Premier Yoshida's new government.

Two hours later, Yoshida echoed his emperor's words that Japan must adopt a "self-help" policy. Yoshida added, in an 18 minute press conference, that he had picked the best man available for the food job, Hiro Wada, as minister of agriculture.

Dispatch Will Announce County Election Returns

As has been its custom more than 30 years, the Daily Dispatch will announce returns from the countywide Democratic primary as rapidly as they are received. Election officials have been requested and have promised to cooperate in counting the ballots as rapidly as possible, and it is hoped that results may be determined early in the evening.

Raise for Mailmen



AS POSTMASTER GENERAL Robert E. Hannegan looks on, President Harry S. Truman affixes his signature to the bill which provides a \$400 annual wage raise for full-time postal employees, and a salary boost for part-time workers. The signing ceremony took place at the White House. (International)

Bragg Extends An Invitation To Servicemen

Ft. Bragg, May 24. — (AP) — If you're in the armed forces and stranded by the rail strike, Ft. Bragg extends its hospitality. The public relations office said members of the army, navy, coast guard and marines, and civilian employees of the War Department would be given meals and quarters on the post. "These traveling on orders will also receive transportation to their destination, and all will be put on duty status here so they will not be AWOL."

BRITAIN TO START NEW COLONY PLAN

London, May 24. — (AP) — British Commonwealth leaders have decided to maintain "decentralized" ties instead of moulding an empire foreign policy. The decision, announced at the end of a five week empire conference, emphasized the autonomy of the Dominions and finally marked the end of United Kingdom predominance.

ATOM BOMB SCIENTISTS SEEK DATA FOR BIKINI TEST

Arrangements have been made to use the amplifying system of George V. Jenkins, and by this means the crowd, no matter how large, will be able to hear the returns as they are compiled. Space on Young street in front of the Dispatch office will be blocked off from traffic for the period until the returns have been completed.

6-7-8-9-10— Coal Industry Down for Count

Railroad Tie-Up Deprives Mines Of Coal Gondolas

Washington, May 24. — (AP) — The strike-groggery coal industry went down for the count today — from a ring side blow. The railroad strike deprived the mines of empty coal gondolas for shipping even yesterday's shrunken output.

As a result, an industry spokesman predicted all mines will be forced to shut down in less than 24 hours.

The situation thus threatened to cancel the last production under the two week coal strike truce which ends tomorrow night.

The 400,000 soft coal miners already had been laying off in increasing numbers before the rail tie-up began at 4 p. m. yesterday.

Half of the miners and about half of the 4,500 soft coal mines were idle.

Some Mines Not Manned. Some of these mines had not been manned at all during the truce. Men quit at others when the Government took control Wednesday in a last effort to keep production going.

Even as the rail walkout began to spread westward the Government's mine administrators—Secretary of Interior J. A. Krug and Vice Adm. Ben Moreell—banned the Government's "position on principal points" to John L. Lewis.

Krug had held out some hope that some agreement between the parties on the things that make a contract—if not on specific terms could be made and the miners could be kept at work. But the Secretary acknowledged that without Lewis' support and that of the United Mine Workers it was unlikely the Government could persuade them to remain on the job next week.

Continuation of the rail strikes, of course, would leave any coal settlement largely ineffectual because more than 90 per cent of the mines are dependant on railroads to get the coal to market.

On the other hand, however, should the coal strike continue and the rail tie up end, the coal burning carriers ultimately would be returned to idleness for lack of fuel.

Market Reflects Transport Crisis

New York, May 24. — (AP) — The stock market sold off fractions to two or more points at the opening today, apparently depressed by the national rail strike, but liquidation was very light and assorted recoveries appeared before mid-day.

On the retreating end were U. S. Steel, General Motors, Montgomery Ward, Douglas Aircraft and J. C. Penney.

COAST LINE PLANS SKELETON SERVICE

Wilmington, May 24. — (AP) — The Atlantic Coast Line today cancelled all schedules throughout its system inaugurated a skeleton service over major routes with supervisory officers acting as crews.

Over the main line, from Richmond to Jacksonville, the company began operating only the Ravenna Special on an every-other-day basis.

DISMAL SWAMP TO GET NINE-FOOT DEPTH



AFTER FIVE YEARS OF neglect during war times, the Dismal Swamp Canal is about to get a controlling depth of nine feet in its channel. It connects Hampton Roads, Va., with the inland waters of North Carolina. Boats of the Pasquotank River Yacht club wove through the canal past the village of South Mills near Elizabeth City. In the distance are the modernized South Locks, completed in 1941. At the left is the George Washington highway connecting Elizabeth City and Norfolk. The canal was designed and surveyed by George Washington in 1765, and is said to be the oldest man-made waterway in America. (AP) Photo.

Henderson Terminal Is Quiet As Paralysis Grips N. Carolina

Trains Kept At Their Terminals; One Road Running

(By The Associated Press.)

Virtually complete paralysis gripped North Carolina's rail system today as the strike called for 4 p. m. yesterday became fully effective.

Trains which had been away from their terminals at the hour set for the walkout had completed their trips and their engines had joined the majority parked in round-houses when engineers and trainmen struck.

Bus lines and air transport throughout the Carolinas were crowded with passengers and truck lines gave priority to essential freight in efforts to keep supplies of food and other necessities moving to consumers.

Most Southern trains were held at terminals where they were stopped immediately prior to the strike deadline. Southern's north bound No. 34 left Charlotte after 4 p. m. and Southern officials said it would complete its trip to Washington.

All trains on the Southern's Winston-Salem division were stopped at 3:57 p. m., except train No. 22, from Asheville, which was an hour late and completed its trip from Greensboro. Both the Norfolk and Western, and Southern, cancelled all freight trains out of Winston-Salem.

Some Trains Move.

Atlantic Coast Line engineers and trainmen walked out in Wilmington, as did Southern and Charleston and Western Carolina employees at Spartanburg. Non-union crews of supervisors, officers moved the crack A.C.L. "Havana Special" from Rocky Mount to Richmond and the southbound section of the same train from Savannah, Ga., to Jacksonville, Fla.

The Seaboard Air Line's shop at Norfolk held local freight trains for Richmond and Portsmouth, Va., which were deserted there. No switch engine operations were performed after the strike order. Also in the Norfolk yards were several express cars and mail coaches. The Piedmont and Northern was the only major line in the Carolinas not affected by the strike. Its employees were not called out.

Mail Service Is Curtailed

Washington, May 24. — (AP) — The Postoffice Department today declared a mail embargo which will limit service to local deliveries and first class and air mail out of town items.

Under the order, a weight limitation of 16 ounces is placed on first class mail and air mail. Local mail and mail normally carried by inter-urban electric railways and other non-railroad carriers is exempt.

The vast bulk of the 10,750 tons of non-local mails which are moved daily will be carried by truck from district terminals, and these will probably continue for some days. Since much of these stocks reach warehouses by rail, however, a prolonged stoppage would soon become serious.

Manufacturing interest in the city felt the ban on shipments which were at a standstill except as movements could be carried out by trucks, and there was comparatively little of this.

There was no immediate information today as to how or just when the city's food supply would be affected, as it definitely will be if the strike continues for long. Chain food stores normally receive most of their stocks by truck from district terminals, and these will probably continue for some days.

Since much of these stocks reach warehouses by rail, however, a prolonged stoppage would soon become serious.

Five men in each of the two engine crews on the Seaboard yards here are idle as a result of the strike, and lay-offs at the freight office may follow in a short time unless trains resume their runs to permit of receipt and dispatch of shipments.

Only One Train, Operated By Chief Mechanic From Raleigh, Passes Here

(By The Associated Press.)

For the first time in more than a quarter century, trains failed to run here today because of a railroad strike, and the effects were immediately noticeable on every hand.

At 10 a. m. a northbound passenger train was operated by the Seaboard Railway from Raleigh to Richmond, powered by three diesel units, led by the master mechanic from the Raleigh shops sitting in the driver's seat. It was made up of parts of the first northbound No. 192, due here last night at 10:05 o'clock, but which never got past Hamlet, 150 miles to the south, where it was caught under the strike deadline.

At Seaboard offices it was said this same train would come south early this evening as the regular No. 197, due here on normal schedules at 8:30 p. m.

The train this morning carried an even deck cars, including coaches and Pullmans, with baggage and mail cars. At the post office it was said that practically all mail brought by this train originated in Raleigh and vicinity.

Several Star Routes.

The Henderson post office is served by several star routes, one run leaving at 10 a. m. for Raleigh and intermediate points, and returning at 6:30 p. m. Another leaves at 6 a. m. for Durham, returning at noon, and making another trip at 4 p. m. toward Durham as far as Northside, but stopping 10 miles short of Durham, and then returning here between 9 and 7 o'clock in the evening. These services will keep some mails moving, but how much mail will be handled by them at Raleigh and Durham to and from east and west points was not learned.

The northbound train in mid-morning had facilities for hundreds of passengers but carried very few.

The bus terminal here was adding all available buses to handle the increased scramble on the part of passengers. An early forenoon northbound run, usually involving one bus, necessitated three, and two instead of one were used on a southbound run, and plans were made to supplement the trips to Durham if necessary. There were indications that vehicles of the Henderson Bus Line might be drawn upon for inter-city service if that became necessary.

Trips to Oxford and other near-by towns were made by express trucks stationed here to send shipments to terminals today, but this would not be a continuing service, since no further cargoes are coming in on trains, except the two in question, and in view of the embargo on shipments.

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Public Opinion May Bring Action, Says Advisor To Truman

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Press Secretary Charles Ross, who made the announcement, so described the meeting's purpose when asked whether it concerned the coal or rail crisis.

Presidential mediators worked today to bring the carriers and striking workers into an agreement for ending the paralyzing rail strike. A growing urgency, fed by accumulated reports of impending food shortages and vast unemployment, was reflected also in two White House developments:

Cabinet Discusses Strikes. 1. Postmaster General Robert E. Hannegan told reporters after a 90-minute cabinet meeting: "We discussed strikes, nothing but strikes and we did so emphatically and intensely."

2. Senator Byrd (D) of Virginia said after a call on Mr. Truman that the Chief Executive is considering an appeal to Congress for additional authority to prevent further nation-wide strikes.

John R. Steelman, presidential labor advisor, talked with leaders of the striking trainmen and engineers and then met representatives of the carriers as negotiations were formally resumed in a downtown hotel after a fruitless session at the White House yesterday.

"No one can tell how the negotiations are going to turn out," Ross told reporters.

Ross Silent On Appeal. Asked whether Mr. Truman contemplated going to the people with a broadcast on the situation, Ross said he would not make any forecast as to Mr. Truman's plan.

Ross talked to reporters as the cabinet met in its regular Friday session, presumably with the strike situation at the top of its docket.

The Statler hotel was the scene of renewed negotiations.

The Marine Corps meanwhile announced plans "to order to active duty any reserve officers whose services may be required during the crisis."

Marine veterans were told they might volunteer.

The army stayed quietly on a stand-by basis.

Food Supplies Inventoried. Cities anxiously inventoried food supplies, industries moved to close down and multi-billion dollar losses threatened as unsupplied perishes piled up. An embargo on all but first class and air mail went into effect in many places and a mandatory nationwide brown out was weighed as a fuel saving measure.

To meet the worst transportation crisis in the nation's history, the government mobilized all available airplanes, trucks and boats to move such top priority essentials as food, medicines, and other vital supplies.

The length of the emergency was unpredictable. Some cautious hopes centered on the renewal of settlement discussions between the carriers and leaders of the 250,000 striking engineers and trainmen but the last word was "no progress."

Administration quarters evidently were counting on the pressure of an inconvenienced public to exert a compelling influence on future developments.

Public Reaction Awaited. "Maybe public opinion will get some action," said one of Mr. Truman's closest advisors.

"It looks like we'll have to wait and see how this strike takes hold of the public."

Congress was up in arms over the rail paralysis. Senator Byrd (D) of Virginia demanded that Mr. Truman "appeal before the joint session of Congress for the sternest measures that can be adopted immediately to meet this threat which imperils our very existence."

Denunciation of the tie-up helped to keep the Senate in a 15-hour session lasting into the early morning hours today. The law-makers pushed through one measure aimed squarely at John L. Lewis and his coal strike, outlawing the type of union controlled welfare fund he is demanding.

Truman And Cabinet Talk Labor Crisis

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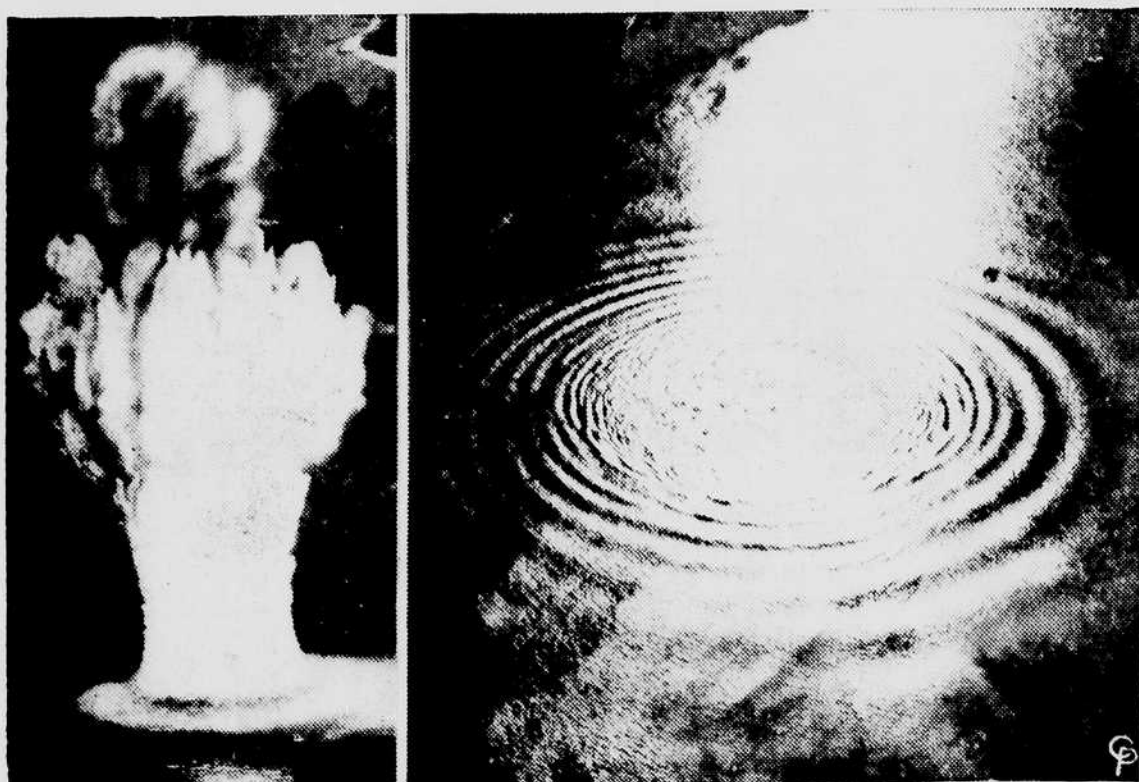
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UNDERWATER EXPLOSION OF A 500-POUND BOMB sends a mighty column of water, smoke and gases, high into the air as University of California scientists conduct an experiment at the Patuxent Naval Station, Va., to determine the probable height and shape of waves during the real test at Bikini Atoll. Pictured at right, waves are radiating from the site where the explosion occurred. U. S. Navy photos. (International)

WEATHER FOR NORTH CAROLINA.

Fairly cloudy and warmer tonight and Saturday. Scattered showers over west portion tonight.