



# On The Outside

# Troops may run railroads if union strikes Thursday

WASHINGTON—The Nixon administration said Tuesday it would consider using troops to run the railroads if a rail union carries out its threat to strike coast-to-coast—no matter what Congress or the courts say—at 12:01 a.m. Thursday.

Transportation Secretary John A. Volpe, asking Congress to approve a 45-day strike delay, said his department "would give consideration to the

utilization of troops," but the administration would try to avoid nationalization of the railroads.

Volpe read a statement to reporters after the president of one of four unions involved said that neither Congress nor the courts would prevent a walkout.

"We are not prepared to forego our basic right to strike," said President C. L. Denis of the Brotherhood of Railway and Airline clerks.

"The law says we can strike at 12:01 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 10. We intend to do that."

Denis accused President Nixon of "pulling the rug out" from under labor negotiators by asking Congress to impose a 45-day strike postponement. He said Nixon's request was a signal to management that there was no urgent need to reach a contract settlement before the strike deadline.

The rail unions have promised to move vital materials in case of a strike, but Volpe said a nationwide rail shutdown would cause a critical situation because no other transportation system could carry all the goods now moved via rail.

The Transportation Department, Volpe said, had drafted emergency plans that will be placed in effect should a strike be called. Asked if the government would use troops or nationalize the railroads, Volpe replied:

"We would give consideration to the utilization of troops. Nationalization is something we have been trying to avoid."

Expressing a determination to strike, Denis said, "We must be prepared to defend ourselves and hold the line in spite of government intervention."

"Throughout this whole struggle we have followed all the rules of the game. Now the rules say we have the right to strike," Denis declared. "If they remove that to right, we have to demonstrate that we will not tolerate such action even though it can mean fines which may seriously diminish your union treasury."

Later, addressing more than 150 applauding union representatives, Denis acknowledged he could be punished for defying either the courts or congressional legislation.

"If I'm thrown in jail, I think you guys will keep the ranks firm," he said.

The clerks are one of four unions who are seeking wage increases and other benefits. The clerks want a higher money settlement than the 37 per cent increase over three years recommended by a White House commission. The other three unions have not officially announced a strike but have said they will honor the clerks' picket lines.

## During defection try Refugee saw captain cry

WASHINGTON—A Latvian refugee testified Tuesday that the captain of a U.S. Coast Guard cutter cried after being ordered to return a would-be defector to Soviet custody Nov. 23, but afterward tried to hush up the incident.

The testimony came from Robert M. Brieze, 49, who was aboard the cutter as president of the New Bedford Seafood Producers Association for fishing talks with the Soviets when the incident occurred.

Brieze told a House Foreign Affairs

subcommittee that Cmdr. Ralph W. Eustis, the commander, told him the Coast Guard office in Boston ordered him to return the defector, Simas Kudirka, to Soviet custody and he had no choice but to obey.

"At this time, Eustis was crying," he said. But on the return trip to New Bedford, Mass., he said, Eustis asked the five civilians aboard "to keep the matter quiet."

Brieze also said he urged Eustis to

contact the State Department in Washington before handing Kudirka to the Russians, but Eustis did not respond. However, he said, the captain allowed Soviet officers to place a call to the Soviet Embassy in Washington from his ship.

Brieze, who fled his homeland in 1944 after the Soviets occupied it, also said Eustis made the decision to allow Soviet officers to come aboard and take Kudirka back rather than having U.S. Coast Guardsmen do the job.

"I told him he was condemning Kudirka to death or Siberia," Brieze said, testifying in halting English with a heavy accent. "He said, 'Bah, I can't help that. I've got to fulfill my orders.'"

S. Paul Zumdakis, attorney for Brieze, said the Coast Guard allowed him to examine belongings Kudirka left behind. Among them he said, he found a quotation Kudirka had written in Lithuanian which said: "A man born in a cave cannot appreciate what freedom is. A man who is hungry for freedom must be fed. To die for freedom is not a big risk."

After Brieze read his statement, subcommittee Chairman Wayne L. Hays, D-Ohio, said: "This is about as sickening a story as I've ever heard. The man responsible for ordering the return of this defector should be court-martialed, dismissed from the service and preferably sent to Siberia."

## Labor slowdown blacks out Britain

LONDON—Britain's worst bout of industrial strife in recent years blackened out much of the country for the second consecutive day Tuesday. It also closed many automotive plants, docks, markets and schools and left most Britons without newspapers for 24 hours.

Prime Minister Edward Heath told 124,000 power workers who launched a slowdown and overtime ban Monday they are causing "grave hardship to the nation, disrupting industry and endangering health."

But another union representing 26,000 electric power engineers called on them to join the slowdown Monday.

The country was hit by two separate labor front upheavals. The first was the slowdown by the electricity workers, which began Monday to back their 30 per cent pay hike claim and was of definite duration. The state-run electricity board, with government backing, has offered 10 per cent and refused to go higher.

The second surge of unrest was aimed against government legislation to curb powers of labor unions and crimp wildcat strikes.

Nationally circulated newspapers were shut down for 24 hours by striking electricians.

## Army joins Navy in easing rules

WASHINGTON—The Army, which comprises almost half the nearly 3 million-man U.S. military, joined the Navy and Air Force Tuesday in relaxing its rules for enlisted men to try to get them to stay with the service.

But the Marine Corps said it is sticking by its promise that if anything, it is going to get tougher—no matter what the other services do.

Gen. William C. Westmoreland, Army chief of staff, issued instructions to his

command to follow the Navy's lead last month and allow beer in the barracks, eliminate routine reveille, bed checks and other "Mickey Mouse" requirements.

The Air Force announced Monday that it was relaxing its restrictions, too, but did not appear to go as far as the Navy and Army.

The steps are being taken to make the services more attractive for enlisted men in anticipation of an end to the draft within the next two years.

Gen. Leonard F. Chapman Jr., commandant of the Marine Corps noted for its toughness, said recently that his service won't go along with the changes. A spokesman said Tuesday that the corps will stick with Chapman's promise despite the changes by the other services.

"Actions must be taken to improve the soldier's initial impression of the Army," Westmoreland said in relaxing Army requirements. "I am directing the Army staff to review unnecessarily restrictive or unnecessary Army regulations and to simplify the language and the content of existing regulations."

Westmoreland's orders would eliminate reveille formation except for ceremonial, training or "other special occasions" and even then, he said, "They should be musters of all officers and enlisted men from the commander on down."

The Army also will try to improve communication between officers and enlisted men and will eliminate restrictions on the distance a soldier with a "pass" may travel and the sign-in and sign-out requirements.

## Workers to vote on Ford contract

DETROIT—The United Auto Workers' Ford Council overwhelmingly recommended Tuesday that its members accept a tentative new contract which would cost Ford \$1.2 billion in additional wages over three years.

Acceptance by the 166,000 union members at Ford's U.S. plants was regarded as a virtual certainty and would avoid a second crippling strike in the auto industry this year.

A majority of both the production and skilled workers must ratify the agreement before it becomes effective.

In the past, the council always has recommended that the workers accept the agreement their bargainers reached and the workers always have gone along with the council's recommendation.

After spending most of the day going line-by-line through the proposed agreement, the 200-member council voted to recommend acceptance of the agreement.

Ratification voting was expected to begin Wednesday or Thursday and to be completed by Saturday. If the workers vote to accept the agreement, it will become effective next Monday.

The Ford agreement is virtually identical to the one the union's General Motors workers ratified Nov. 20.

## Soviet budget jumps

MOSCOW—Soviet leaders proposed a record \$188.2 billion national budget Tuesday that puts emphasis on butter rather than guns for 1971.

The budget, which exceeds that for 1970 by \$27.6 billion, contained a defense appropriation that increased only slightly over last year. But it called for huge investments in the country's lagging agriculture and consumer production to back up promises of more cars, refrigerators, apartments and health services.

The budget was outlined by Finance Minister Vasily Garbuzov in a 90-minute speech before the Supreme Soviet Parliament of the Soviet Union. The budget, already approved by the all-powerful Communist Party Central Committee, will receive nearly automatic approval in the Supreme Soviet.

"The state budget of the USSR is a budget of peaceful economic and cultural development," Garbuzov told the 1,517 deputies. But he added that "the Soviets cannot disregard the activities of the imperialists, who are strengthening their military blocs and waging an arms race."

For that reason, Garbuzov said, the budget called for the equivalent of \$19.9 billion for defense. The defense figure was \$100 million higher than the appropriation for 1970, but it represented only 11.1 per cent of the 1971 record budget compared with 12.4 per cent for 1970.

Western experts viewed the published defense budget with some suspicion, however, because many defense items could be buried in non-defense appropriations.

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