

U.S. railroads struck Despite orders to return

WASHINGTON (AP) — Railroad workers stalked off the job today in the third nationwide rail strike in half a century although Congress passed an emergency law ordering them back to work with a partial pay raise.

"They are increasingly angry and bitter," said strike leader C. L. Dennis of the nearly

500,000 workers who walked out at 12:01 a.m. and showed no immediate inclination to return in compliance with the new law, a plea from President Nixon and a federal court order.

"The men and women who work for the railways have had a bum rap for a long time," Dennis said. They will remain off the job until they win their

demands for substantial pay boosts above current wages ranging from \$3.45 to \$3.60 an hour, he said.

Trains bearing passengers and goods, including Christmas mail, ground to a halt and government officials predicted disastrous effects on the nation's already troubled economy if the strike lasts long.

President Nixon stayed up through the night as Congress labored past the minute-after-midnight strike deadline to produce an emergency law.

At 2:10 a.m. EST he signed the special legislation ordering the workers back until March 1, but complained the immediate 13.5 per cent pay hike included in the measure would worsen

the nation's steepest inflationary wage-price spiral in more than 20 years.

Both Rep. John H. Ware Jr. (R-N.J., District of Oregon, Chester County and Rep. Lawrence G. Williams (R-7th District, Springfield, Delaware County), voted against the legislation.

Namé said any pay raise should be accompanied by modification of union work rules in order to increase productivity. He then urged the strikers to return to their jobs.

Strikes over on hour later — at 3:17 a.m. — U.S. District Judge John H. Pratt of Washington, D.C., issued a temporary order restraining a strike until Dec. 20. In issuing the injunction at the industry's request, Judge Pratt set a hearing for the morning of Dec. 18.

But the strike went on.

"They don't care what the Senate or the President say," said a union local official in West Virginia of the rail workers.

"We'll stay until our international officers tell us to go back," said 46-year-old Jim Leach, donning a picket sign at Washington's Union Station a few blocks from the floodlit U.S. Capitol where Congress enacted the law ordering a strike delay until March 1.

"They are prepared to withhold their labor until they achieve equitable conditions of work," said Dennis, president of the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks, largest of thousands of unions in the dispute.

The strikers, who haven't had a pay raise since mid-1967, had exhausted delaying provisions of the Railway Labor Act over more than a year of protracted negotiations before walking off their jobs.

"The only thing that could keep us from going out would be hearing from the President himself," said a union official setting up picket lines in Salt Lake City.

Train passengers in some cities were taken by cab to bus stations while rail officials tried to find other means of shipping stranded perishables and other cargo. The Post Office Department, for example, is imposing limiting mail, and auto industry has asked for a 100,000-car strike could shut down assembly lines in a week or less.

Hundreds of thousands of commuters in major cities were forced to seek other transportation.

Spreading effects of the strike were expected to gradually paralyze the economy.

The strikers spurred the immediate 13.5 per cent pay rise.

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One rail union
cancels strike

CLEVELAND, Ohio (AP) — The United Transportation Union, one of four unions on strike against the nation's railroads, canceled its walkout today.

W. W. Carson, assistant to Union President Charles Lundy, said the union sent a telegram to all general chairmen and international officers early today.



CHESTER COMMUTER who said he was unaware of rail strike waits in vain.

Gorbey: 'I'm not that bad'

Senate could
vote as early
as Friday

By JOE SULLIVAN
Daily Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — "I hate to think I was as bad as they said I was . . . and I like to think I was half as good as they said I was," Delaware County Judge James H. Gorbey told a Senate subcommittee Wednesday at the conclusion of an explosive hearing on his qualifications for a federal judgeship.

Judge Gorbey appeared grim at the end of the session after being himself both praised and damned by persons either favoring or opposing his appointment to the U.S. District Court for Eastern Pennsylvania.

The 50-year-old Common Pleas Judge walked out of the New Senate Office Building at the conclusion of the hearing, which began Tuesday, wondering whether he and his supporters had convinced the subcommittee that he is not a racist.

Sen. John L. McClellan (D-Ark.), acting chairman of the Judiciary subcommittee, said the only "issue" to be determined is whether Gorbey would "administer justice fairly to the Negro race."

"You come very highly recommended," McClellan told Judge Gorbey after the judge had given his brief statement concerning testimony on how "bad" and "good" he was. But McClellan emphasized the "weight" testimony in reporting its findings to the judiciary committee.

Capital sources said the Senate Judiciary Committee, whose chairman is James O. Eastland (D-Miss.), may consider Gorbey's nomination today and that if it is approved would be called up for a Senate vote or confirmation as early as Friday.

The Senate reportedly would like to adjourn by Dec. 18.

The hearing Wednesday followed McClellan and Sen. Hiram Fong (R-Hawaii) got off to a brisk start when attorney Robert H. Robinson of Nether Providence declared that Gorbey's appointment would not be "in the best interest of McClellan said."

Robinson said that Henry G. Sweeney, former Delaware County president, who died Wednesday, had been quoted as announcing at a meeting last May that Gorbey was being recommended for the federal court post by Sen. Hugh Scott (R-Pa.). "I never liked — and I don't like now," McClellan told Robinson.

Scott jumped to his feet, informing McClellan and Fong, that Judge Sweeney had died a few hours before the hearing began. Robinson shook his head and said he had not known the 76-year-old judge was dead.

"Judge Sweeney was my life-long friend," Scott said.

"I'm not going to permit lies in my presence — or half-truths," Scott said angrily, contending that Judge Sweeney had said he did not "like" him merely to dramatize his feeling that he was saddened at the

500,000 workers who walked out at 12:01 a.m. and showed no immediate inclination to return in compliance with the new law, a plea from President Nixon and a federal court order.

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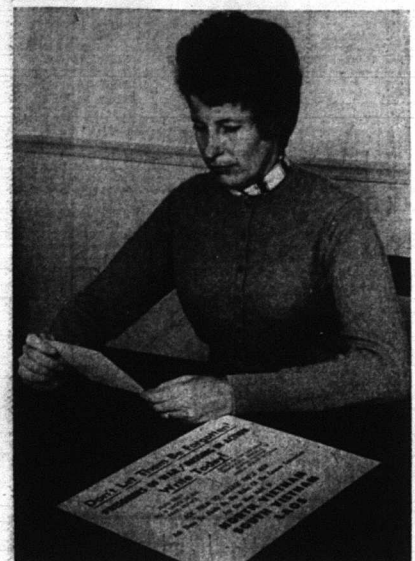
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MRS. FRANCIS KING: "It's important to remember . . ."

Exchange of POWs proposed

PARIS (AP) — South Vietnamese offered today to release all 11 North Vietnamese prisoners of war immediately in exchange for the freedom of all U.S. and allied prisoners held by the Communists.

Ambassador Pham Dang Lam of South Vietnam made the proposal at the weekly session of the Vietnam peace talks.

U.S. Ambassador David K.E. Bruce supported the South Vietnamese offer and proposed that daily talks start Friday with the Communist side to arrange procedures for the exchange.

Although the U.S. Command in Saigon says 1,604 American servicemen are listed as missing or captured in Indochina, the Pentagon on Nov. 24 reported 438 were known to have been captured, including 378 in North Vietnam, 78 in South Vietnam and three in Laos.

U.S. forces in Vietnam hold no prisoners of war, but the South Vietnamese government said United States and free world personnel held by the other side in Indochina.

"The government of the Republic of Vietnam," Lam told the peace talks session, "proposes the immediate release of all North Vietnamese prisoners of war held in South Vietnam in exchange for the immediate release of all U.S. and allied personnel held by the other side of the Republic of Vietnam."

U.S. personnel held outside South Vietnam and all United States and free world personnel held by the other side in Indochina.

"I associate myself with the proposal," Bruce told the Communists. "Our side is ready to meet with you on a daily basis starting tomorrow, in order that immediate progress can be made on this question."

Bruce said the first meeting should be held Friday "for the purpose of discussing procedures by which this exchange can be put into immediate effect."

Lam's proposal was similar to one made on Oct. 7 by President Nixon, who called for the "immediate and unconditional release of all prisoners of war held by both sides." But the South Vietnamese offer appeared prepared to exclude the 38,166 Viet Cong in Saigon's POW camps and the unknown number of South Vietnamese held prisoner by the Viet Cong inside South Vietnam.

Iacocca named

DETROIT (AP) — Lee A. Iacocca, credited with being the man behind the Mustang and the Maverick, today was named president of Ford Motor Co.

(He worked at the former Ford plant in Chester and married to the former Mary McCleary of Chester.)

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