

SNARL IN RAIL STRIKE SITUATION CONTINUES

Papers Prepared by Biddle
for U. S. to Take Over

(The Associated Press)
Washington, Dec. 24.—The railroad strike situation was tangled up tightly today, with two unions calling off their strike, three others standing pat on walkout plans and 15 more still talking it over with the White House.

Out of the tangled mass of assurance that the war-busy trains will continue to run after the December 30 strike date, or the government will take over, Attorney General Biddle is polishing up the necessary legal papers at the direction of President Roosevelt.

"We have given earnest consideration to this matter because we are in war," said the statement telling of the decision by the Trainmen's and Locomotive Engineers' Brotherhoods to accept President Roosevelt's offer to delay the strike.

A. F. Whitney, the trainmen's president, made this statement to newspapermen on behalf of himself and Alvanley Johnston, president of the engineers. The two unions contain well over half the 500,000 employees in the five unions whose members operate the trains.

Other three unions are the firemen, the Switchmen and the Conductors. Still another 1,100,000 men are in the 15 nonoperating unions whose representatives began another White House conference at 1 p. m. (New Orleans war time).

Fail to Reach Agreement

This conference lasted for three hours and broke up with no agreement except to meet again on Sunday or Monday.

Railroad management representatives rejected the unions' proposal to settle by adding 6 cents an hour, in payment of overtime, to the graduated scale of general increases ranging from 4 to 10 cents an hour.

War Mobilization Director James P. Byrnes' office said he told the representatives of the carriers and nonoperating brotherhoods that whatever agreement they reached would have to be within the limits of the stabilization program, and then withdrew from the conference.

"The representatives of the carriers stated that they were entirely willing to agree that the president should arbitrate the differences just as they had agreed in the case of the operating brotherhoods," a statement from Byrnes' office added.

"The representatives of the nonoperating brotherhoods declined to answer either affirmatively or negatively whether they would agree to arbitration by the president."

Dispute in Steel Industry
Anxiety over the rail situation was augmented by a controversy in the steel industry, another vital home front in the war effort.

There the contracts of 250,000 workers expire at midnight. C. I. O. President Philip Murray declared in a statement that "a grave situation has been created" by the war labor board's rejection of a petition which would have continued existing contracts and made pay adjustments retroactive.

Pittsburgh sources expressed doubt that all of the steel workers would stay on the job. The W. L. B. held an afternoon session on the problem.

During the afternoon rumors circulated around the Hamilton hotel lobby, where rail union men gathered, that the other three operating unions would recede from their refusal to accept the president's arbitration proposal.

But competent sources expressed doubt of this and followed a wait-and-see course. Should it be necessary for the government to seize the railroads—whose managements have agreed to the Roosevelt arbitration proposal—union leaders were of the opinion that the employees would work for the government and thereby keep the trains rolling.

SPRIT OF GAYETY, GOODWILL REIGNS

New Orleanians Join in
Holiday Observance

The third Christmas celebration of the current war was begun by New Orleanians Friday, and the traditional spirit of gayety and goodwill was evident despite the breaking up of many homes because of the global conflict.

The weather bureau has predicted occasional rains and a high temperature of 50 degrees today following a low of 38 degrees during the night.

All city, state and federal offices will be closed today, and district courts will be closed until January 3. Collections of garbage will not be made today, nor on New Year's Day.

Employers of Higgins Industries, Inc., will receive a two-day holiday since Sunday is not a working day in the plant. White Delta Shipbuilding Company, Inc., workers will not work today, they will resume production Sunday, it was announced.

Special Services Planned
As in the past few years there will be no lawful sale of fireworks in New Orleans. An all-station message by Superintendent George Reyer ordered police to enforce the fireworks ban during the holiday period.

Most Catholic churches held midnight mass Friday and will again hold mass today, beginning at 5 a. m. Scores of Christmas parties were held in schools, military establishments, hospitals and other institutions Friday.

Special services will be held at the St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian church. At 11 a. m. the normal topic is "The Judgment of God," and at 6 p. m., a Christmas candlelighting service is scheduled.

Christmas services were held at the Church of the Annunciation (Episcopal), beginning at 10:30 p. m. Dr. Caley Wood was in charge. Today, Christmas services are scheduled for 11 a. m.

At the Napoleon Avenue Presbyterian church, Christmas will be observed with services this morning at 10:30 o'clock. Appropriate music will be rendered by the full choir, the feature being the "Hallelujah" chorus from Handel's Messiah. The Rev. Edwin W. Albright will deliver the message. The names of men and women from the congregation now in the armed services will be read and special prayers will be offered for them.

Program Shaped at U. S. O.
A general Christmas program will be offered today in the city's U. S. O. center. Features will include Christmas dinners, dancing and distribution of gifts.

At Beauregard House, 1115 Charve street, an "open house" will be held today for all men of the armed services at which turkey will be served. Members of the New Orleans hostess committee are in charge of arrangements.

A Christmas dance for servicemen will be held today in the Municipal Auditorium at 8 p. m. under the auspices of the Young Men's Business Club. A feature of the affair will be a Santa Claus distribution of gifts for about 1500 servicemen attending.

Volunteers of America will feed approximately 350 aged and crippled men at their 45th annual turkey dinner with all the trimmings at the Volunteers of America Social Service Center building, 917 Toulouse street.

"Not a hungry man in New Orleans" is the theme of the serving of dinners which will begin at noon and continue until all are fed.

Christmas Tree, Feast
The Women's Emergency Home, 1432 Magazine, will enjoy a big Christmas tree and feast followed by a special program and individual gifts for every woman and child sponsored by the Volunteers of America.

Christmas celebration will be held for residents of the Protestant Home for the Aged, 5919



DOLL AND TOY BRINGS JOY—One of the first in line after the whistle blew at the 47th annual distribution of The Times-Picayune Doll and Toy Fund Friday at Pelican Stadium was this 8-year-old girl, who had a hard time deciding between a doll and a toy animal.

Throngs of Children Gladdened at Doll, Toy Fund Distribution

CHRISTIAN PEACE IS PLEA OF POPE

Urges 'Protecting, Not Suppressing of Rights'

(The Associated Press)
London, Dec. 24.—Praying that this may be the last war Christmas and that a truly Christian peace may be celebrated in the coming year, Pope Pius today called for the world's responsible leaders to check the instincts of hate and vengeance and give rise to a resplendent dawn of a new spirit of world union.

Raising his voice to a vibrant ring in outlining "the principles for a peace program," the Pontiff called for a "normal measure of power," sanctions and "the employment of force" to achieve and maintain peace, but he warned that true peace "can never be a harsh imposition supported by arms" alone.

"An hour like the present—so full of possibilities for vast beneficent progress, no less than for fatal defects and blunders—has perhaps never been seen in the history of mankind," said the Holy Father, who spoke on Christmas eve from the bayonet-circled Vatican where he has been isolated except by radio from the 300,000,000 Catholics of the world since the Germans occupied Rome in September.

"A true peace is the mathematical result of a proportion of forces, but in its last and deepest meaning it is a moral and judicial process," said the Pope, speaking out of what he called the "abyssal ruins of this terrible war."

"It (peace) is not in fact, achieved without the employment of force, and its very existence needs the support of a normal measure of power. But the real function of this force, if it is to be morally correct, should consist in protecting and defending and not in lessening or suppressing rights."

Peace programs, he continued, "should have as their supreme purpose nothing less than the task of securing agreement and concord between the warring nations—an achievement which may leave with every nation, in the consciousness of its duty to unite with the rest of the family of states, the possibility of co-operating with dignity, without renouncing or destroying itself, in the great future task of recuperation and reconstruction."

"Naturally the achievement of such a peace would not imply in any way the abandonment of necessary guarantees and sanctions in the event of any attempt to use force against right," the Pontiff said, but he added:

"Give mankind, thirsting for it, a peace that shall reinstate the human race in its own esteem and in that of history—a peace over whose cradle the vengeful lightning of hate and the instincts of unchecked desire for vengeance do not flash, but rather the resplendent dawn of a new spirit of world union."

Turning his voice to leaders to "rise above yourselves, above every narrow calculating judgment," in an hour "so gloomy and threatening" that the Pope said he feared for the existence of each and every people, the Pontiff pictured the frightful horrors for both sides if his word is not heeded.

He addressed what he said was a trumpet call for the principles of "far-seeing and even-minded justice and brotherhood."

"Do not ask for any member of the family of peoples, however small or weak, for that renunciation of substantial rights or vital necessities which you yourselves, if it were demanded from your people, would deem impracticable," he continued.

The peace must not be stained by repaying injustice with injustice or greater injustice, he added.

Santa Claus and Aids Grant All Their Requests

Children in some other countries stood in line for food, thousands of children of New Orleans stood in line Friday for sewing sets, drums, dreamed-of footballs. A haven of peace and brightness, Pelican Stadium was filled from early morning until noon for the 47th annual distribution of The Times-Picayune Doll and Toy Fund.

In a gay dawn they began to arrive, boys and girls in thin little coats and sweaters; boys and girls in overalls and bathrobes and lightweight cotton jackets. There were mothers, with babies in their arms; families of six, and seven and eight and nine.

The first small group reached the stadium at 3 a. m., although the opening whistle didn't sound until 9:30 a. m. They hadn't had a wink of sleep. Many of them were piled high with toys, dolls in blue dresses, pink dresses, yellow dresses. Counters of woolly sheep, counters piled high with dishes, rockers, embroidery sets.

There were wooden trains, bowling sets, tumble pins. There were little toy trucks and baseball sets, small washing machines, sets of dishes. But best of all there were toys made from metal.

Meta merrily-go-rounds, metal drums that wound up and played little drums, metal swings and metal toy trucks.

Warmth, Color, Beauty
At first the children stood still, unbelieving. Out in the bleachers it had been cold, with a mean drizzle falling and a gray sky overhead. Inside there was warmth, color, the beauty of thousands of toys.

Two towering Christmas trees guarded the entrance. Seated under one was Santa Claus in the person of J. M. Wenck, who has been on the job 45 years, while under another was his chief assistant, A. E. Maier.

"Can I have anything I want?" an eight-year-old girl, the first to arrive, inquired doubtfully. "I'm a committee man," assured her the chief. "You can have anything you want."

Each member of the voluntary committee tried to attract the children to his counter. "I have big dolls, little dolls, middle-sized dolls," chanted one.

"I have jeeps made out of metal," ballyhooed another. "And so it went, each child receiving a big toy, a horn, a stick of candy and a street-car ticket home."

Boy Scouts Assist
The Boy Scouts formed barriers to keep the children in line, joining hands to do so. They were under the direction of Scoutmaster R. D. Crow and Field Executive Joseph Santo and every troop of the city was represented.

In addition, there were boys from Air Scout Troop No. 255 and Bienville Sea Scout Ship. J. L. Nicholson, president of The Times-Picayune and New Orleans States, and Dr. Charles P. Kelleher, chairman of the Doll and Toy executive committee were here, there, and everywhere, seeing that everything was carried out on schedule.

First aid was rendered in a Red Cross room, staffed by Dr. Joseph Morris, Miss Ann Nichols, R. N., and Miss Leah Fontenot, R. N.

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BLACKOUT LIFTED FOR BETHLEHEM

First Lighted Yule Eve in
Four Years of War

(The Associated Press)
Jerusalem, Dec. 24.—Bethlehem, the birthplace of Christ, and Jerusalem sparkled with candlelight from 10,000 windows tonight as the British lifted blackout restrictions for the first lighted Christmas Eve in four years of war.

The day's program included a pontifical procession at midnight to the grotto where Jesus Christ was born and celebration of a special mass. The little hamlet of Bethlehem lies six miles away across the Judean hills.

Military uniforms were thick on the streets and many Americans from nearby stations in Iraq, Egypt, Syria and other parts of Africa were here for the holiday. Among the Americans were Major General Ralph Royce, commander of American forces in the Middle East, and Brigadier General Gilbert Chesnut, his chief of staff.

There was peace in Bethlehem, and the gleam of candlelight shone forth in the first lifting of blackout restrictions in four years.

The uniforms of fighting men, many of them Americans, were thick on the streets and at the age-old midnight celebration of Christ's Nativity.

Pacific War Flares
The mis-named Pacific thunder under Allied bombs and shells today to echo the Christmas words of President Roosevelt that "a band of steel is closing in on Japan."

Three hundred more tons of explosives were dropped on Cape Gloucester on the Japanese-held western tip of New Britain; Allied divebombers attacked Romilsa, airdrome and Sahanu island of Bougainville; Australians were pushing onward toward Wandolau, 20 miles northwest of captured Finschhafen on New Guinea.

There was no sign of a Yule surcease on any part of the vast Pacific front.

The Cape Gloucester raid, reported in a communique from the headquarters of General Douglas MacArthur, brought to 2500 tons the weight of bombs hurled on that area already this month.

At bases all over the Pacific, there were traditional turkey dinners, wreaths from the palms of peace-peaceful isles, prayerful messages of men in command.

In China, Oriental troops recaptured the Yangtze river port of Sungze to recover four-fifths of the great central rice bowl, in a prelude to the presidential promise of a "drive which will push the invader into the sea." A Chinese army spokesman called Nippon's Central China campaign a failure.

Marshalls Bombed Again
From Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, commander in chief of the Pacific Fleet, came word of three additional bombings on the Marshall islands of Kwajalein and Mili with two enemy cargo ships plastered near Kwajalein and three enemy planes shot down. Japan's defense of the Marshalls has cost 98 planes destroyed and 31 probably destroyed in December thus far.

EISENHOWER NAMED TO LEAD INVASION

RECORD RAID HITS 'INVASION COAST'

Reds Take Gorodok in Gain
Toward Vitebsk

(The Associated Press)
Allied aviation flung history's greatest single aerial attack against the "invasion coast" of France Friday as the Anglo-American Allies named commanders for the tremendous military forces which soon will assault the continent in the hope that this will be Europe's last war Christmas in many years to come.

Probably more than 3000 Allied planes flew all day across the channel to blast at targets around Pas de Calais that were so highly secret that not even the pilots were told specifically what they were.

Berlin still burned on Christmas Eve.

On the European fronts already in action the news was favorable for the Allies.

The Russian army in the north made progress toward the German strong point of Vitebsk. It captured Gorodok, lake town on the Vitebsk-Nevel railroad 20 miles north of Vitebsk and had only 15 miles to go to cut the Vitebsk-Potok rail line. Marshal Joseph Stalin announced the victory in an order of the day and 124 of Moscow's victory guns roared out 12 salvos to celebrate it.

In Italy Canadian infantry stole the show with their bloody house-to-house fight to oust the Germans from Ortona on the Adriatic end of the winter line. Other Eighth Army units took Vessani, three miles southwest of Ortona.

Fighting in a snowstorm, the American Fifth Army gained some heights east of Acquafredda but lost another hill a mile southeast of the mountain hamlet of Vituscio.

Out of war-torn Europe and amid assurances from Allied commanders that victory in Europe would be theirs before another Christmas came the voice of Pope Pius XII from Vatican City, pleading with mankind to formulate a truly Christian peace in the coming year.

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Roosevelt Yule Report Bares Plans for New Blows at Nazis

(The Associated Press)
Hyde Park, N. Y., Dec. 24.—President Roosevelt, in a Christmas Eve report to Americans at home and overseas, disclosed today the selection of General Dwight D. Eisenhower to command early sledgehammer blows at Hitler's European stronghold.

Thus to Eisenhower goes the top field command of the Anglo-American Allies and the all-important assignment to blast invasion routes into the continent from the west or north. The president said the new attacks would complete the "encirclement" of Germany.

While the president spoke, it was announced in London that General Sir Henry Maitland Wilson had been designated Allied commander in the Mediterranean area to succeed Eisenhower and that General Sir Harold Alexander would command Allied armies in Italy. General Sir Bernard L. Montgomery will be commander-in-chief of the British group of armies under Eisenhower, and Lieutenant General Carl Spaatz will command the American strategic bombing force operating against Germany.

The United Nations, the president said, did not intend to use the invasion as an instrumentality to "enslave the German people."

But he said that he and Prime Minister Churchill and Premier Stalin were "united in determination that Germany must be stripped of her military might and be given no opportunity within the foreseeable future to regain that might."

The German people, he declared, were to be rid, once and for all, of "Nazism and Prussian militarism and the fantastic and disastrous notion that they constitute the 'master race.'"

And if force is necessary to maintain peace after the war, the president declared firmly and grimly, force will be used. On that, he said, there is agreement among the "big four" of the United Nations—Russia, Britain, China and the United States.

On this Christmas Eve there are over 10,000,000 men in the armed forces of the United States alone. One year ago 1,700,000 were serving overseas. Today this figure has been more than doubled to 3,800,000 on duty overseas. By next July that number will rise to over 5,000,000.

That this is truly a world war was demonstrated when arrangements were made with our overseas broadcasting agencies for time to speak today to our soldiers, sailors, Marines and merchant seamen in every part of the world. In fixing the time for the broadcast, we took into consideration that at this moment here in the United States, and in the Caribbean and on the northeast coast of South America, it is afternoon. In Alaska and in Hawaii and the mid-Pacific, it is still morning. In Iceland, in Great Britain, in North Africa in Italy and the Middle East, it is now evening.

In the Southwest Pacific, in Australia, in China and Burma and India, it is already Christmas Day. We can correctly say that at this moment, in those far East hearts that our Americans are fighting, today is tomorrow.

But everywhere throughout the world—throughout this war which covers the world—there is a special spirit which has warmed hearts since our earliest childhood—a spirit which brings us close to our homes, our families, our friends and neighbors—the Christmas spirit of "peace on earth, good will toward men."

Much to Face
During the past years of international gangsterism and brutal aggression in Europe and in Asia, our Christmas celebrations have been darkened with apprehension for the future. We have said, "Merry Christmas—Happy New Year," but we have known in our hearts that the clouds which have hung over our world have prevented us from saying it with full sincerity and conviction.

And even this year, we still have much to face in the way of further suffering and sacrifice, and personal tragedy. Our men, who have been through the fierce battles in the Solomons, the Gilberts, Tunisia and Italy know, from their experience and knowledge of modern war, that many

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Following is the text of the

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After the broadcast the President and Mrs. Roosevelt received the people who live on their estate and then were ready for dinner and a tradition—the reading of Dickens' Christmas Carol by the chief executive.

The president refrained from revealing, of course, when the new blows would be leveled at Germany. But, pointing up the idea of imminence, he asserted near the close of his address:

"The war is now reaching the stage where we have to look forward to large casualty lists—dead, wounded and missing.

"War entails just that. There is no easy road to victory. And the end is not yet in sight."

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GIST OF THE NEWS

- Record air attack made on "invasion coast" as Reds take Gorodok. Canadians gain in Italy. —Page 1
- Blackout restrictions lifted to give Bethlehem first lighted Christmas Eve in four years. —Page 1
- Pope Pius voices prayer for a truly Christian peace during the coming year. —Page 1
- All craft return safely from 3000-plane raid on French coast as invasion, rocket emplacement blasting are hinted. —Page 5
- Russians crack German defense-in-depth line, sweep within 15 miles of Vitebsk-Potok railway. —Page 4
- Allied raid Cape Gloucester again, making total of 2500 tons of bombs rained on Jap New Britain base. —Page 25
- R Bolivian nationalist revolutionary government decrees 1938 constitution, except for minor changes, remains in force. —Page 25
- Eisenhower will lead forces of invasion against Hitler's European fortress, declares President Roosevelt. —Page 1
- Railroad strike situation is tangled but legal papers are prepared for U. S. to take over if settlement is not made. —Page 1
- Importance of personal contact and understanding in cementing ties between U. S. and South America is stressed. —Page 6
- Congress probe into war income problems of unorganized white collar workers scheduled. —Page 18
- War casualties include two Biloxi, Miss., service men killed in action; other men wounded or missing. —Page 19
- Third wartime Christmas celebration of current war begins with spirit of gayety, goodwill evident. —Page 1
- Thousands of children receive toys at 47th annual distribution of The Times-Picayune Doll and Toy Fund. —Page 1
- Additional donations to The Times-Picayune Doll and Toy Fund and Christmas Gift Fund still pour in. —Page 3
- Rabid dog believed to have been the one that bit four children here is impounded. —Page 24
- Woman is hooked by police for shooting of W. T. Taylor and for attempted murder of Louis R. Moreaux, saloon man. —Page 21
- District Attorney Perez calls on Governor Jones to end martial law in Plaquemines. —Page 21
- The stock market is slightly higher; bonds are steady; cotton is steady; grains firm. —Page 25

WANT ADS FOR THE BIG SUNDAY

The Times-Picayune
NEW ORLEANS STATES
Can Be Placed Up to
2:30 Saturday Afternoon

For Want Ads to appear in all editions must be placed before 3 o'clock Friday night. The Want ad office opens every morning at 8:30.

Over 250,000 Circulation
Phone RA 7321
Just Say, "Charge It!"



—WIREPHOTO by The Associated Press from 12th Army Air Forces. GENERAL EISENHOWER NAMED COMMANDER—President Roosevelt announced Friday the appointment of General Dwight D. Eisenhower to the supreme command of the Anglo-American forces which will open a second front against Germany. General Eisenhower is shown here as the president awarded him the Legion of Merit medal during the chief executive's recent trip to Cairo and Teheran.