

BLAZING RAIL CRASH KILLS 4

MINERS BERATE WLB AS PHONY AND POLITICAL

Threat of Strike by 600,000 Made.

New York, April 27 (Special).—The threat of a full scale strike by 600,000 miners in the war essential soft coal industry approached its apex tonight as the United Mine Workers' policy committee demanded in blistering language that the government remove the war labor board from the deadlocked wage dispute and direct operators to reach a settlement by collective bargaining.

The committee scathingly referred to the WLB as a "discredited political agency" and "so-called labor board" which has "fallen into a low estate." It charged that the board "wields a headman's ax against workers," that it has "publicly substituted political expediency for equity in the settlement of disputes," and is "malignant in its prejudice against the UMW."

The virtual ultimatum to the government came as miners continued to quit work in unauthorized walk-outs and swelled the ranks of idlers to about 30,000. More than 50 mines already were closed and thousands of miners, despite an appeal from the WLB to their patriotism, indicated their readiness to take part in a nationwide tieup.

Believe F. D. R. Will Act.
"As matters stand," John L. Lewis, president of the UMW, summed up the general strike outlook, "there will be no contract April 30. The mine workers will not trespass on mine property in the absence of a contract."

It was generally believed in Washington that the government would act swiftly in the event of a complete, paralyzing strike. Whatever action might be taken would be up to President Roosevelt and no one professed to know what he might do, but there was conjecture that the government might take over the mines.

A temporary arrangement between the union and the operators expires Friday midnight. Their contract expired March 31, but was continued for 30 days at the request of the President. The temporary extension has not been renewed.

Virtually Bars WLB.
By the vigor of its language, Lewis' policy committee virtually closed the door against consideration of its wage dispute by the WLB, the agency set up by the President to handle war time labor issues and which Lewis twice has snubbed.

His denunciation of the board was made in a letter to Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins, who turned the case over to the WLB last week on the ground that the long direct negotiations in New York were not making progress.

"It has been evident during the weeks of negotiation," the letter said, "that the mine workers were being pressured to accept a political settlement of their claims rather than a settlement based upon the needs of the mine workers' families and the equities in the case."

Assails Political Expediency.
"Referral to the so-called labor board is a tragic mistake. This board wields the headman's ax against the workers of the country. It has fallen to a low estate. It has breached its agreement with labor when it publicly substituted political expediency for equity in the settlement of disputes."

The "political" reference presumably was to the board's wage policies, which are now a matter of direct order from Mr. Roosevelt. The cornerstone of these, the "Little Steel" formula, allows a wage increase up to 15 per cent above the level of Jan. 1, 1941. However, the miners received an increase in excess of this last year and are now demanding \$2 a day more.

"The board is malignant in its prejudice against the UMW and its members," the letter continued. "The board has already rendered a decision in the mine workers' case. Its chief headman [W. H. Davis, WLB chairman] so announced again on Saturday, April 24, when he said that the board would follow its ritualistic limitations in deciding the mine workers' case."

Apparently referring to the WLB's

NEWS SUMMARY OF THE TRIBUNE (And Historical Scrapbook)

Wednesday, April 28, 1943

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FOREIGN.
British press Poles to heal Russian breach. Page 1.
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New mass fire justifies faith in field artillery. Page 8.
Paratroopers in Africa fight on ground for five months. Page 9.

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Tribune editorial, "States Across Sea," stirs world comment. Page 8.

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Net allied ship losses in 1942 a million tons, navy reports. Page 3.
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Ocean Wave wins Derby Trial stakes by nine lengths. Page 29.
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House committee votes to extend trade treaty act. Page 33.
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THE WEATHER
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28, 1943.
Sunrise, 6:31. Sunset, 7:46. Moonrise, 3:33 a. m. tomorrow. Mars is the morning star. Venus, Saturn, and Jupiter are evening stars.
CHICAGO AND VICINITY: Cooler; moderate winds becoming gentle by evening.
ILLINOIS: Cooler.
TEMPERATURES IN CHICAGO.
For 24 hours ending 2 a. m., April 28:
3 a. m., 53. 9 a. m., 53. 3 p. m., 68. 9 p. m., 53.
4 a. m., 52. 10 a. m., 59. 4 p. m., 65. 10 p. m., 54.
5 a. m., 51. 11 a. m., 65. 5 p. m., 60. 11 p. m., 54.
6 a. m., 51. Noon, 70. 6 p. m., 57. Midnight, 53.
7 a. m., 50. 1 p. m., 68. 7 p. m., 56. 1 a. m., 51.
8 a. m., 51. 2 p. m., 70. 8 p. m., 54. 2 a. m., 50.
*High. *Low. †Unofficial after 11 p. m.
For 24 hours ending 7:30 p. m., April 27:
Mean temperature, 60 degrees; normal, 51.
April tomorrow, 53; deficiency since Jan. 1, 16.
Precipitation, 1.04 inches. April excess, .79 of an inch; excess since Jan. 1, 16 of an inch.
Relative humidity, 33 miles per hour.
Highest wind velocity at 7:30 a. m., 94 per cent; at 1:30 p. m., 67; at 7:30 p. m., 63.
[Official weather report on page 23.]

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15 HURT NEAR AURORA; TRAIN IS SPLIT OPEN

Passenger Car Hits Engine on Curve.

(Pictures on page 14 and map on page 3.)

Four persons were killed and 15 were injured, several seriously, late yesterday when a one car passenger train and a freight locomotive collided head on at a curve on the Fox River branch line of the Burlington railroad, between Aurora and Oswego, in Kendall county.

The passenger car, split open by the impact, burst into flame and was soon blazing from end to end. Heroic work by uninjured passengers and others in dragging to safety those more seriously injured cut down a potentially larger death toll. Among the injured were a bride and a bridegroom on their honeymoon.

Three Trainmen Killed.
Three of the dead were identified as F. E. Bishop of Galesburg, engineer of the passenger car; C. O. Kerchner of Streator, baggageman, and Paul Chrysler of Elmhurst, mail clerk. Efforts were being made to determine whether the fourth victim was John G. Gall, 5524 Iowa street, assistant chief clerk of the United States railway mail service in Chicago.

The crash occurred on a single track four miles south of Aurora, and two miles north of Oswego, just at the approach to a sharp curve. The passenger train, self-propelled by gasoline, was northbound from Streator; the locomotive southbound from Aurora. The heavy steel locomotive tore into the passenger car, also of steel construction, and its boiler flames spread fire to the wrecked car.

Thought Noise Was Bombing.
"I heard the crash and thought at first the Germans were bombing the railroad," said Miss Minnesota Falk, who lives 300 yards from the scene. "Then a man staggered up, asked to use the phone, and called for help. Then he fainted."

Firemen from Aurora and Oswego raced to the scene, helped care for the injured, and fought the fire. "The train was a mass of fire," said Fire Lt. Adolph Meisch of Aurora. "Passengers were scattered 100 yards down the track. The fire was so hot, we couldn't get close to it at first. It's a miracle more people weren't burned."

Burlington officials were unable immediately to explain the accident, but said the fact that the passenger train was 1½ hours late because of motor trouble might have been a factor. The curve probably was another factor, they added.

Here's Injured List.
Those injured are:
In St. Charles hospital, Aurora: Mrs. Claudia Hodley, 50 years old, Sheridan, critical head injuries.
Mrs. Laura Gaffno, 60, Aurora, critical internal injuries.
Dominic Baletto, 32, Streator, leg fracture.
Mrs. Cecelia Baletto, 28, his bride, leg burns.
Harold Alderman, 17, Oswego, skull fracture.
Conductor P. H. Follard, 65, Streator, of passenger train, cuts and nose fracture.
Engineer Leo Kasid, 55, Aurora, of freight train, minor cuts.

Girl Positive in Identification.
Margie Kelly, 12, of 1006 North California avenue, proclaimed, "Honest to God, he's the man."
Not long afterward, Sergts. Walter Paradowski, James Penny, and George Kusch seized Schmittling in his room. He was with his wife, Sylvia.

Police hustled him to the detective bureau, then rounded up five of Monday's terror victims. At midnight they stood Schmittling in line with seven other police prisoners. "Do you recognize any one on the platform?" Deputy Chief of Detectives Walter Storms asked the five.

Suspect Denies Guilt.
Margie Kelly reacted first. "That's the man who threatened me with a knife," she said. Schmittling never flinched. Then the other victims pointed accusing fingers, first Mrs. Tillie Spunder, 25, of 1229 North Campbell avenue, followed by Mrs. Sarah Wolowicki, 30, of 1115 North Campbell avenue; Roberta Martensen, 14, of 2775 Henry court, and Dorothy Fendrich, also 14, of 814 North Francisco avenue.

Schmittling protested, "I never

Finds Absenteeism Hits Schools in Britain, Too
(Chicago Tribune Press Service.)
LONDON, April 27.—War-time absenteeism is affecting British school children, as well as workers, Miss G. Turton, president of the National Union of Women Teachers, said today. She demanded "drastic government action" to curb nonattendance.

French Peril Nazi Base Near Tunis

THE SPEAR THAT KNOWS NO BROTHER

(How the Poles Regard the Break with Russia.)



Five Identify Hammer Man; Suspect Faints

(Picture on page 14 and map on page 15.)

Eugene A. Schmittling, who was once accused of a rape charge, was identified at the detective bureau early today as the "hammer man" who with hammer, knife, and fist terrorized 10 girls and women and a boy on the northwest side Monday afternoon.

Blubbling denials as he faced his accusers—three of them teen aged girls—the alleged sex maniac brought an unexpected end to the showup by fainting on the platform. Police, however, had heard enough. They dragged him to his cell.

600 OCD Aids Join Hunt.
Schmittling, 24 years old, was seized in his room at 322 North Kedzie avenue late last night to end a widespread manhunt in which 600 block captains and auxiliary policemen of the office of civilian defense had joined. Because of the brutal nature of the case, and fear that the terrorist would soon repeat his rampage, the OCD had declared an emergency to exist in the area.

While this protective measure was being taken, police had already obtained a clew to the desperado. The clew came thru bureau of identification photographs. Several victims scanned the pictures and unhesitatingly picked out Schmittling's.

Six Others to View Him.
Deputy Storms said the identifications were sufficient for police purposes, but that the six other victims probably would be asked to look at Schmittling today.

Police records show that Schmittling was arrested June 20, 1940, in East St. Louis, Ill., on a charge of attempted rape. No disposition of the case is indicated. On Nov. 17, 1942, Schmittling was found not guilty of rape before Judge Rudolph Desori.

6 DIE AS LARGE U.S. NAVY PLANE CRASHES, BURNS
Oakland, Cal., April 27 (AP).—Six men were reported burned to death and several others injured tonight in the crash of a large naval transport plane in the Oakland hills. The plane burst into flames.

Oakland police said ambulances from Oakland and San Leandro had removed 10 injured to hospitals. [Details of other plane crashes will be found on page 20.]

The big plane, believed to be from the Alameda naval air station some 10 miles northwest, crashed near the Chabot golf course in the low range of hills along the east shore of San Francisco bay. There was no immediate identification of the dead.

ROMMEL TEAMS UP WITH DOOLITTLE—AND WINS A WAR!

Waukegan was transformed yesterday into North Africa, and a slice of it designated as Tunisia. Doolittle yelled across the battlefield to his arch foe, Rommel, and proposed that they become allies for a change. Rommel assented.

To keep the war going Doolittle and Rommel singled out a common enemy and went to work on him until, Police Chief Bart Tyrell was called to part the belligerents. Doolittle, he found, is Dale Doolittle, 837 Adams street, 4 years old. Rommel is Richard Rommel, 5, of 812 Helmholtz avenue. The lone "casualty" of the war is Lloyd Grislad, 3, of 702 8th street, and he was bruised and cut with a rake before the "armistice."

Chief Tyrell tried to impress all three that war, either for fun or keeps, is serious business. The Doolittles and Rommels said they would make reparation for their son's deed by paying the doctor who bound up the vanquished warrior's wounds.

Waives Hearing.
Brunner said that he issued a first degree murder warrant for Flessert as soon as the man was brought to his office after the capture. Flessert waived preliminary hearing and was taken at once before Circuit Judge Arthur Murphy, who accepted the bandit's plea of guilty and imposed sentence.

The victim of the attempted hold-up was John Perrar, 45, cashier of the bank in the nearby village of Birmahood. Perrar was serving a customer in the bank when Flessert, wearing dark glasses, entered and flourished a gun. Sheriff Stanley Brown said Flessert handed the cashier a sack which he ordered him to fill with money.

Instead of complying, Perrar dodged out a rear door. Flessert became frightened and ran out of the bank but encountered Perrar in front of the building. The sheriff said Flessert fired one shot at the cashier, hitting him in the forehead, and that Perrar died half an hour later.

Captured Without Struggle.
A posse of 60 men was gathered by Brown to search nearby wooded areas, and Flessert was taken into custody without a struggle about 3 p. m. in a farmhouse where he had asked for and been given a meal. Brown said Flessert admitted the shooting and said he had planned the holdup to get funds for a trip west.

Flessert is a native of Shawano and one of a family of 14 children, the sheriff said. He is unmarried and at one time was on probation for stealing a gun.

Slays Banker and Gets Life on Same Day

Shawano, Wis., April 27 (Special).—Wisconsin justice moved with such rapidity today that Reinhold Flessert, 25 year old farm hand, who shot and killed a bank cashier in an attempted holdup at noon today, was in the county jail here tonight under sentence of life imprisonment for first degree murder.

This speedy disposition of the case followed Flessert's capture in midafternoon by a posse which pursued him into the woods where he fled on foot after the shooting. "He wanted to get it over with, so we accommodated him," said District Atty. L. J. Brunner. The official added that Flessert will be taken to the state penitentiary at Jaupeun in the morning and will actually be serving his life term behind the prison bars before his crime is 24 hours old.

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Yanks, British Drive Ahead in Two Sectors

COMPARES ARTILLERY.

John Thompson, Tribune correspondent who has spent several months at the front in North Africa, has written a series of four articles comparing the artillery of the United States, British, French and German armies. These articles were not only passed on by army authorities and the censors in Tunisia, but were forwarded to Washington for further scrutiny by army men before being released. The first article appears on page 8.

BY JOHN THOMPSON.

(Chicago Tribune Press Service.)
ALLIED HDQ. IN NORTH AFRICA, April 27.—Hourly the tremendous weight of allied superiority in tanks, guns, planes, and men is pressing against the axis Tunisian battle lines.

In the north troops of American 2d corps and French units were within 10 miles of Mateur and 23 miles of Bizerte. In the center British 1st army forces were 11 miles on the road to Tebourba and 23 miles from Tunis. Farther south British and French units were closing in on Pont du Fahs with the Frenchmen already having reached the outskirts. On the southern flank the British 8th army was moving ahead slowly northwest of Enfidaville.

[A map of the Tunisian war theater and detailed stories of the fighting will be found on pages 8 and 9.]

How Long Can Axis Hold?

The question here tonight was how much longer can the bitterly fighting enemy hold his present lines, already badly dented. And, if the axis outer perimeter breaks under this pressure, will Col. Gen. Jurgen von Arnim fall back to the bridgeheads about Bizerte or Tunis; will he make the Cape Bon peninsula another Bataan, or will he try all three?

No Indications of "Dunkirk."

What seems a likely possibility is that the axis, or at least the German troops, will fight ferociously until exhausted, either on the peninsula or around Bizerte when their other lines break. There are no indications yet that the Germans plan a "Dunkirk" withdrawal.

The Germans and their Italian satellites are battling with cunning and skill, but they are finding that the Yanks, Britons, and French are fighting just as savagely, only this time the allies have the feeling of victory in their spirit and it is they who are doing the pushing, and not the axis.

Rules Minor Wife Can't Enter Bar with Husband

Madison, Wis., April 27 (Special).—Judge Roy Proctor of the Superior court today ruled that a wife who is under 21 years of age may not enter a tavern with her husband. State law provides that a minor must be accompanied by parent or guardian. Judge Proctor fined Mrs. Edward Gassen, 19, of Madison, \$20 on a charge of loitering in a tavern. She said she is a bride of three weeks and that she thought she could enter a tavern if she was accompanied by her husband, who is 21. The court held that a husband is not a guardian.

NOTICE TO THOSE MOVING!

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BRITISH PRESS POLES TO HEAL RUSSIAN BREAK

Churchill Summons Premier Sikorski.

BY LARRY RUE.

(Chicago Tribune Press Service.)
LONDON, April 27.—Sudden summons to No. 10 Downing street to see Prime Minister Churchill and Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden, Premier Wladyslaw Sikorski, head of the Polish government in exile here, and high members of his cabinet, canceled a promised press conference today and delayed his reply to the Russian action of "suspending" relations between the two countries.

[Reaction in the United States to the Polish-Russian break was widespread. Stories from Chicago, Washington, Milwaukee, and Detroit appear on pages 19 and 20.]
Following his discussions with the Polish leaders, Churchill called a meeting of the British war cabinet.

Exact Words in Question.
The Polish cabinet, which met for several hours and examined the Soviet note, in what was described as an "atmosphere of absolute realism," may meet again tomorrow morning. It seems that much depends on whether Russian Foreign Commissar Vyacheslav Molotov used the words "prerrevat" [suspend] or "sarevat" [sever] in speaking to Polish Ambassador Tadeusz Romer Sunday. The hope that Russo-Polish relations could be restored to normal was further strengthened tonight by disclosure that the Polish ambassador had been requested by Soviet authorities to remain in Russia.

THE TRIBUNE correspondent understands that both Churchill and Eden did everything they could to persuade the Poles to accommodate the Russians, who had complained about the composition of the Polish government.
Cabinet Shakeup Likely.
A reorganization is likely in the Polish cabinet and it is believed here that the Polish minister of defense, who has been so concerned about the fate of the Polish officers captured by the Russians that he suggested an investigation by the International Red Cross, may be replaced.

This is the Russian-Polish situation here and is a picture of a supposedly sovereign government which has called several press conferences and even an embassy reception, only to have them canceled, recalled and recalled.

Altho the British and American governments have so far refrained from comment on the Russo-Polish dispute, apart from expressions of regret, it is known that United States Ambassador John G. Winant was called this afternoon to No. 10 Downing street. His visit immediately preceded the conference of Churchill, Eden, and Sikorski.
Britain, U. S. "Discussions."

It was officially stated here today that discussions already have begun between London and Washington, D. C., as to the best means of achieving a settlement.

Meanwhile the Soviet charges that the Polish government sought an International Red Cross investigation of the mass murder allegations without informing Moscow were countered in Polish circles here today by the explanation that the Polish government sent a note, asking if any information were available on the subject, to M. Bogomolov, Soviet ambassador to the exiled governments in London. Bogomolov is said to have received the note April 21, but it is admitted that the communication may not have reached Moscow until after the Soviet decided to suspend relations.

Despite the British government's official silence, newspapers tonight showed a remarkable unanimity in

[Continued on page 19, column 1]