Weather
Cloudy and not so cold tonight and Saturday with occasional light rain mixed with light sleet or freezing rain.
More Weather Data on Page 12-A

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

★★★★★ Final

Largest Afternoon Newspaper in The Carolines

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TRUMAN TO ASK MINE SEIZURE POWER

Mayors Meet Here To Talk Bus Strike

BISHOP TO WED

Mrs. Starr Blasingame Carithers (top) of Winder, Ga., widow of an industrialist and farmer, has disclosed she will be married March 27 to Methodist Bishop Ivan Lee Holt (bottom) of St. Louis. He is president of the Methodist Council of Bishops. Mrs. Carithers, long active in church and club work, is known as one of the best cooks in Georgia. (AP Photos).

Nurse Is Tortured, Killed By Bandits

RANGOON, Burma — (AP) — U. S. Embassy officials said today that Miss Selma M. Maxwell, American missionary nurse whose slaying was announced in Washington yesterday, was tortured by Burmese bandits before she was killed.

The officials said the 67-year-old Nurse from Senatobia, Miss., had been beaten with rifle butts when she failed to understand her captors' commands.

Ten natives who tried to rescue Miss Maxwell Tuesday died with her — shot down in ambush, two miles from safety.

The nurse's kidnaping took place near the southeast coastal town of Moulmein. Details of the incident were told to reporters today by Ballard R. Donnell, U. S. vice consul.

BURIAL HELD

Donnell, who took a plane to Moulmein to organize the search for Miss Maxwell, known as "Ma-Ma" by the Burmese, returned here last night after burying her in a Christian cemetery at Moulmein.

He said Miss Maxwell was driving two patients from the village dispensary at Kamawet to Moulmein, twenty miles away, when five raiders halted her station wagon on Feb. 18.

The raiders dragged the nurse from the car and beat her with their rifle butts when she didn't move quickly enough, Donnell said.

They called out to the other occupants of the car as they led her into the jungle: "Tell your people if they want to see this woman alive to pay 28,000 rupees (about $5,600) and gold weighing 40 pounds."

Donnell said as soon as he heard the report he and Dr. G. A. Soord, field secretary of the American Baptist Mission Society here, organized government officials, Buddhist monks and even underworld elements in their manhunt.

Donnell said "the kidnapping aroused the entire countryside which the gang had been terrorizing for some months. Many of those aiding us were themselves the victims of the kidnappers."

The Burmese Air Force aided, dropping leaflets saying the missionaries did not intend to pay a ransom and appealing to the kid-

See U. S. NURSE on page 12-A

Solution In Deadlock Is Sought

Dispute Enters Critical Phase

By J. A. DALY
Charlotte News Staff Writer

Mayors of the six affected Carolina cities in an emergency session here tomorrow will seek a basis for breaking the new deadlock in the wage dispute between Duke Power Co. and 600 street bus drivers.

Primary objective of the mayors' joint conference will be to evolve a procedure for appointing members of a proposed fact finding board.

The dispute went into another critical period today after power company spokesmen and Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen leaders revealed wide differences of position regarding the appointment procedure.

The emergency meeting for the mayors was called by Charlotte's Mayor Victor Shaw in his continuing leadership in the effort to protect the public interest and lay the groundwork for an ultimate peaceful settlement of the dispute without a strike.

PLEDGED SUPPORT

Preliminary to calling this conference for 10:30 A. M. tomorrow in the City Hall, Mayor Shaw by telephone sounded out the sentiment of each mayor concerned and was promised support in the new phase of the maneuvers aimed at fact finding. The mayors involved besides Mayor Shaw, are Kenneth Cass of Greenville, S. C., Thomas Whiteside of Spartanburg, S. C., William P. Bailey of High Point, Marshall Kurfees of Winston-Salem, and C. A. Peeler of Salisbury.

Meantime, Mayor Shaw announced to the Duke officials and BRT leaders that he expected to recall them Monday into a joint session on fact finder appointment procedure. The Charlotte Mayor's intention is to present at that joint session a compromise plan which may be evolved at the six mayors' session tomorrow.

When the BRT headquarters here received the news that the six mayors would meet, the BRT spokesman said that he would have no comment regarding this development.

SUBJECT TO CALL

However after informally commenting that the BRT leaders are desirous of reaching a settlement, the union spokesman said for quotation: "As I have told Mayor Shaw, we are here subject to his call at any time he sees fit."

When announcing the arrangements for the mayors' joint meeting, Mayor Shaw pointed out that he returned hurriedly Sunday to Charlotte from a Florida resort to propose the armistice. This plan averted the strike, at least temporarily.

Mayor Shaw also pointed out that Sunday night, in the critical and short time before the strike call became effective, he lacked op-

See MAYORS on page 12-A

TREES CHOPPED FOR FUEL IN COAL SHORTAGE

They are taking to the woods for fuel in the acute coal shortage at Buchanan, Mich. The city purchased trees blown down during a storm in 1943 and sent these municipal employees to cut the fallen trunks into cordwood. The wood will be sold to residents out of coal. (AP Wirephoto.)

Request To Be Sent To Congress

Hope Step Still Can Be Avoided

WASHINGTON— (AP) — President Truman will ask Congress today for power to seize and operate the coal mines.

The White House announced that Mr. Truman would send a message to Congress about 3 P. M. (EST).

The announcement was made after a conference of Mr. Truman with attorney General McGrath, Solicitor General Philip B. Perlman and Secretary of the Interior Oscar Chapman.

A draft of legislation to carry out the mine seizure will go to both Houses of Congress with the message.

CRISIS WORSE

Mr. Truman turned to possible seizure with the miners' refusing to go back to work despite court orders and the country plunging into a deepening crisis for lack of coal.

Despite the step of asking Congress for the legislation, it was learned the White House still is clinging to the hope that actual seizure can be avoided.

The hope is that a settlement may be reached between John L. Lewis and the coal operators during the day that will avert the necessity for the Government's taking over the mines.

ASKS REPORT

Mr. Truman asked his fact-finding board for an immediate report on the present situation in the contract dispute.

He also canceled all engagements — other than a cabinet meeting — to give his full attention to the coal crisis. He had made engagements to receive half a dozen callers.

David Cole, Paterson, N. J., attorney, is chairman of the fact-finding board.

Cole told newsmen the board would report to the President before the day is over.

"We want to tell the President the present position of the parties and the issues remaining between them," Cole said.

UP TO TRUMAN

Whether this analysis of the bargaining situation is to be made public will be up to Mr. Truman, Cole said.

John L. Lewis, leader of the United Mine Workers, and operator representatives had another meeting yesterday in the long series of bargaining sessions they have held on a new contract. But Government observers said they accomplished nothing.

In Congress, there has been a surge of sentiment for seizure of the mines since a Federal judge ruled yesterday that the United Mine Workers Union was innocent of contempt of court although its 372,000 miner-members have refused to obey a court order for them to go back to work.

On the heels of that decision, the Justice Department moved (1) to appeal, and (2) to get the temporary "stop strike" order replaced by an injunction.

INJUNCTION ISSUED

Federal Judge Richmond B. Keech issued an 80-day injunction under the Taft-Hartley Act. It repeats the language of his temporary order — that the miners shall go back to work and the union and operators shall bargain in good faith on a new contract.

However, the court has no more power to enforce the injunction than it had to enforce the temporary order. Nor is there any reason to think the miners will pay any more attention to it than they did to the earlier order.

Keech is the same judge who titled the Government had failed to show the union was acting in contempt of the temporary "stop strike" order.

BILL DISCUSSED

At the Capitol, six members of the Committee on Labor Committee got together to discuss a bill by Sen. Morse (R-Ore) to authorize Government seizure of the mines.

No action was taken. The six Senators did not constitute a quorum of the thirteen-member committee. Seven members are needed to transact business. Chairman Elbert Thomas (D-Utah) called a meeting for tomorrow. He said the Morse bill—and any other seizure bills introduced meantime—would be up for a vote then.

No Retreat Planned On Nationalization

By HAL COOPER

LONDON—(AP)—The Labor Government was reliably reported today to have decided against a backdown now from its position on nationalization of steel.

The newly-appointed cabinet of Prime Minister Attlee met for a short time today and the well-informed Jobby correspondent of the British Press Association, who often writes with official guidance, said:

"There is no foundation for the impression that the King's speech (in the new Parliament on Monday) will contain a statement which in effect is a Government 'climb down' over iron and steel nationalization."

SLIM MAJORITY

There had been strong rumors that the Government would stay its hand on iron and steel as well as further nationalization plans in order to avoid a test in the House of Commons, where Labor has only a seven-seat majority.

With that low a majority Labor stands in continuous danger of defeat on a major issue, which would force a new national election.

The law of the last Parliament putting steel under state ownership does not go into effect until Oct. 1. The actual take-over is scheduled for next Jan. 1. Before then a new election may be held where the whole issue can be fought all over again.

PARTY REBELLION

The mere report that the Government might be planning to backtrack in its attempt to save its skin in Parliament had touched off a growing rebellion in party ranks.

It broke open in Railway Review, a journal of the National Union of Railwaymen (NUR) and its 460,000 members. J. B. Figgins, NUR general secretary, demanded in a leading article that there be no compromise on iron and steel.

He said that this move and additional nationalization were what labor asked the electorate to indorse on the national election on Feb. 23.

Other storm signals were flying in the face of the Labor Government. They included:

1. Lord Beaverbrook's anti-Labor newspapers demanded the removal of leftwinger John Strachey from his new post as war minister. The newspaper said he was an avowed Communist. The Labor Government strongly denied the charge.

2. A nation-wide strike vote was ordered among 3,000,000 members of the Confederation of Shipbuilding & Engineering Unions. They will decide whether to strike or arbitrate demands rejected by the Government for a one pound ($2.80) weekly pay hike.

3. The economic committee of the Trades Union Congress called a meeting for next Wednesday to review its attitude toward the labor's wage freeze policy. The TUC unions have 8,000,000 members.

The future policy of the Labor Government will be announced in a speech by King George VI when he officially opens Parliament on Monday.

France, Saar In Agreement

PARIS—(AP)—France gave the title of "republic" with broader autonomy to the occupied Saar today in return for control of the valley's rich coal mines for the next 50 years.

In a treaty signed by French and Saar representatives, France promised the border area—which is still claimed by Germany—full independence after 50 years.

The final effectiveness of the Franco-Saar pact, however, hinges on a final peace treaty between the Allies and Germany. The treaty today conferred the title of "Republic of the Saar" on the region containing 926,000 German-speaking inhabitants.

France detached the Saar from the rest of Western Germany after World War II and gave its Government a form of autonomy linked economically to France.

The pact, concluded after a month of negotiations here, offers more freedom in internal affairs to the Saarland government, but France still retains control of its foreign relations and military security.

A 12-man board, equally divided between Frenchmen and Saarlanders, will be set up to supervise the coal mining.

The post of high commissioner, now filled by Gilbert Grandval, was changed to an ambassadorship.

The Saar railways, which France had hoped to link to her own rail system, remains in the hands of the Saar, according to the treaty.

Utilitarian Value Of Furniture Considered

PENNSAUKEN, N. J.—(AP)—A group of girls at the Pennsauken Junior High School was instructed the other day to write themes on the subject "My Ideal Home."

One youngster wrote:

"When I am married, there will be a love seat in my living room and it will be used."

January Traffic Toll Is Higher

CHICAGO — (AP) — The nation's traffic accidents killed 2,430 persons in the first month of 1950, the National Safety Council said today.

The January toll was four percent higher than the 2,340 traffic fatalities in January, 1949.

Despite the national increase, the South Central states cut traffic deaths five per cent over a year ago, and the Pacific states averaged a 27 per cent reduction.

Once Over Lightly

BY WALTER SEIGENTHALER

The family may overlook your birthday some years but Old Father Time never does. . . . The double-crosser is the one that generally gets crossed up.

The Greatest Story Ever Told

By Fulton Oursler

CHAPTER 3:
THE KING AND THE CHILD

Of course dark-brown Herod heard of these matters. Ever since Zachary had been stricken dumb on the altar there had been rumors of queer happenings in Jerusalem, and Herod's spies, hearing everything, reported all the gossip, including whispers from the North that a virgin of Nazareth was going to have a baby.

The shepherds, too, had naturally babbled about their supernal experiences. When, right out in the courtyard of the Temple, old Simeon then declared the child to be from God and promptly died, after having conspicuously and publicly waited so many years, and when the old crone Anna added her testimony, Herod quite reasonably began to feel vexed.

Agents of the king reported the strange stories, but had to admit that the tales were vague; they had learned nothing circumstantial, not even the names of the father and mother. So far, thank God, Herod did not know that Joseph the carpenter of Nazareth and Mary his wife were the ones he sought, nor that they were still quartered with the child in a Bethlehem stable.

Herod had a turbulent scene with his spies.

"What kind of service is this?" he roared at them. "Get me facts!"

They came back with alarming facts. Three wise men from the East had arrived in the capital. They had no caravan; merely four camels, the extra beast loaded with bales and boxes which they kept ever near them at the khan. Gossip said they were kings, traveling incognito.

"What kind of men do they pretend to be? Astrologers? Ambassadors with gifts for me? Or what?"

STAR IN THE EAST

"Magi, oh wise men," was the answer. "Yet these three do not seem to be so very wise. They have gone up and down Jerusalem from the gates to the Temple, saying nothing wise at all but instead asking questions of everybody."

"What questions?"

The spies gulped and flushed and cleared their throats.

"What questions, fools? Speak up, or I'll have you flogged."

They are asking about the birth of a fabulous child who is to take the throne of Israel. They say they have seen his star in the East and have come to worship him."

Then Herod, having learned from Annas, the high priest, of the old prophecies concerning the Messiah, commanded that the three wise men be brought to the throne room.

For this interview he arrayed himself in his kingliest robes to impress the savants and rulers from the lands beyond the Euphrates.

A CURIOUS MEETING

It was a curious meeting. The august travelers from the East bareaved admirably before the king, surrounded by the splendor of his throne-room audience. Then, rising, they announced their names—Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar.

Herod looked upon them with a blandiloquent smile, affable and suave.

"We are curious to know," he told them, "why it is that we are honored by a visit from such great dignitaries."

They told him very simply that they were following a star.

"Well, what do you say this star portends?"

The Wise Men were very wise, indeed, because they merely shook their heads and said they could not be sure of anything in the future; the star led them so, that was all.

"But," persisted Herod, "what do you expect to find under this star?"

Then Balthazar told him.

"A child," the old traveler answered, closing his eyes.

"A child?" Herod's voice was

See THE GREATEST on page 3-A

Back Chapters Made Available

Readers of The Charlotte News who have missed early chapters of "The Greatest Story Ever Told" may obtain them in tabloid form by calling or writing the Circulation Dept., The Charlotte News, telephone 2-4261.

The News has prepared a tabloid combining the first twelve chapters of this story of Christ written by Fulton Oursler for distribution free of charge.

Health, Safety Not Imperiled By Coal Strike, Lewis Avers

NEW YORK—(AP)—The New York Times said today John L. Lewis, chief of the United Mine Workers, insists that neither public health nor safety is imperiled by the nationwide coal strike.

Lewis says there is enough coal on hand, if "fairly distributed," to last out the time needed to end the dispute, the newspaper reported.

And he added that he could come to a quick settlement if the industry would send his "real owners" to bargain with him.

Lewis defended himself and his United Mine Workers in a 1,500-word answer to seven questions asked by Arthur Krock, Washington correspondent for the New York Times.

"No strike in the coal fields has ever imperiled public health or safety, this one included," Krock quoted Lewis as saying.

"When has this nation ever been imperiled by coal? There is enough coal on hand, if it were fairly distributed, to last out the time we shall require to adjust the current dispute fairly."

PUBLICATION DELAYED

The Times said publication of the personal interview was held up pending the outcome of the Government's contempt case against the UMW in Federal Court in Washington yesterday. Federal Judge Richmond B. Keech dismissed as unproved the charges that the union conspired to keep miners away from the pits in defiance of a court order. Lewis was not involved in the case by name.

Krock said Lewis made the following main points in the interview:

The union's pay and welfare fund demands are justified on the basis of annual company profits that Lewis says rose, before taxes, from $34 to $733 per miner since 1939.

Lewis' alleged autocratic power over the miners is "psychological, and not "real" like the political power of the President or the economic power of the mine owners.

The coal operators are "cruel and conscienceless men," as demonstrated by many of them in ending the miners' welfare payments.

Lewis is for repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act, but would like to keep some of the protections of the Wagner Act. He would like to see both substituted by a simple law guaranteeing collective bargaining and forbidding certain unfair labor practices on the part of both labor and management.

UMW headquarters chooses local officers without election "in perhaps a dozen districts" where the districts make poor choices — but these member's still have their national union votes.

Lewis thinks Federal mediation is "somewhat helpful" but not more, although it is handy sometimes to have a Federal mediator make suggestions that would be awkward for either side to put forward.

NO SECRET SIGNALS

He has no "set of secret signals" that tell miners to do just the opposite of what he says — such as staying away from work when he asks them to return.

Krock said he wrote down Lewis'

See LEWIS on page 12-A

Dr. Sander To Take Stand In 'Mercy Death' Defense

By HENRY SUPPLE

MANCHESTER, N. H. —(AP)— Dr. Hermann N. Sander will testify in his own defense in an effort to prove that Mrs. Abbie C. Borroto, 39, was dead when he injected air into her veins.

The unexpected disclosure was made as the defense opened in the "mercy" slaying trial of the 41-year-old country doctor yesterday.

Assistant Defense Attorney Ralph Langdell also told the 13-man jury that the physician's pretty wife would take the stand. He would not say when they will be called.

Langdell told the jury that Dr. Sander was "sure" that Mrs. Borroto was dead when he injected the air into her system at Hillsboro County Hospital.

KILLING NOT OBJECTIVE

Sander's lawyers conceded he injected air into Mrs. Borroto's veins four times — but that the thought of killing her was not in his mind.

He did it, Langdell told the jury, "on the impulse of the moment and under the impact of a severe emotional strain."

The defense opening followed a denial for a directed verdict of acquittal.

Langdell, a former Dartmouth athlete, claimed county authorities had twisted Dr. Sander's statements beyond recognition. Sander is a Dartmouth man, and so is the chief prosecutor, Attorney General William L. Phinney.

LESSER AMOUNT CLAIMED

The defense will contend the total air injections at the most was 25 cubic centimeters — not 40 ccs, as the State claimed.

The first "shot" was 10 CCs, the defense says; the three subsequent injections were five or six CCs each, injected slowly.

Dr. Richard Ford, who performed an autopsy on Jan. 21 at the defense's request will testify, according to Langdell.

"That air injections did not cause death; that cancer "plus a super-imposed broncho-pneumonia could well have been the cause."

The state's final witness yesterday — in the ninth trial day — was Dr. Milton Helpern, deputy chief medical examiner for New York City. He said:

"In my opinion death was caused by an air embolism resulting from the injection of 40 CCs of air."

DEFENSE OFFERED AID

A Baltimore physician has offered to have 40 cubic centimeters of air injected into his veins in behalf of Dr. Sander's defense.

Dr. Harry M. Robinson, professor of dermatology at the University of Maryland and instructor of syphilology at Johns Hopkins Medical School, said yesterday he has injected "40 or more" centimeters or air into the veins of many patients without any harmful effects.

VA Will Fire 7,800 Workers

WASHINGTON—(AP)—The Veterans Administration said today it is firing 7,800 employees because it lacks the money to pay them.

The dismissals will be nationwide. Approximately 3,000 employees in hospitals and homes and 4,000 in other activities are included, VA said.

The remaining 800 to be discharged will be spread between the hospitals and the other divisions but the exact classifications have not been determined, officials explained.

The reduction will bring the total VA force down to about 181,000

Managers of VA field stations will be told Monday of the number they will be required to release. Dismissal notices will be handed out by March 10.

A VA statement said immediate action to cut the force is necessary because (1) the agency is short of salary funds for the rest of the current fiscal year ending June 30, and (2) there would not be enough money in next fiscal year's budget to pay all present employees.

"Unless this step is taken now, more drastic curtailment would be necessary during the latter part of the fiscal year 1951," the agency said.

It added that the reduction will not affect the veterans' new hospital program or plans for staffing those hospitals.

Woman Who Left Fearing Cancer Returns To Family

By ROBERT B. TUCKMAN

RENSSELAER, N. Y. — (AP) — Mrs. Helen Overlander returned home today to a tearful but joyous reunion with her husband and three young children. She said she left them a week ago because "I just wanted to get away from myself."

She told newsmen she was "relieved, but not fully convinced" that she did not have cancer. Her husband, Sherrell Overlander, 33, a truck driver, had reported that his wife left last Friday in the mistaken belief that she was suffering from cancer.

Mrs. Overlander, 30, a tall, attractive blonde, said she had gone to Stillwater, Okla., to stay with her brother, Weiser Bates. She arrived in Albany shortly before 7 A. M., and went to her home, across the Hudson River. Her husband was not there, however, and they were not reunited until about four hours later.

The couple held hands and embraced several times as they talked to reporters. Mrs. Overlander cried softly.

Asked whether she left home because she thought she had cancer, she replied that she was "mixed up" and "just wanted to get away from myself."

She said she had not intended to come back.

"I did not know what I was going to do," she added. "I just didn't want to be a burden."

Mrs. Overlander said "I missed my family." She didn't think she would ever leave home again, she volunteered.

Mrs. Overlander said she first heard on the radio Wednesday that police were looking for her to tell her she didn't have cancer. Later in the day she read about it in newspapers, she disclosed.

Her brother and sister-in-law, she said, convinced her she should return home.

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