

CHRISTMAS GIFT GUIDE!

NEW INDUSTRIAL DISPUTE SAID LOOMING IN BRITAIN

LONDON (Reuters)—A new industrial dispute is looming in Britain—a battle of nuts, bolts and screws.

On the one side is British industry, armed with up to 40,000 different types of screws and threads; on the other, the technology mini try which decreed Tuesday the Continental metric thread should be adopted to tidy up Britain's screw system.

Five main types of nuts and bolts, each with a specific number of threads to the inch, currently hold Britain's machinery together.

The first was introduced during the industrial revolution and the last a year ago. Each one was devised as an intended standard.

After 80 engineering chiefs met here Tuesday to discuss the problem of adopting a uniform system to aid industrial exports, the ministry issued a statement saying that without the metric system British industry will find itself with a system unrecognized by the rest of the world.

But British engineers are said to claim the switchover would cause chaos, take up to 15 years to complete and leave them burdened with tons of obsolete machinery.

And The Financial Times, the authoritative business daily, reported Wednesday Canada and the United States are stubbornly sticking to the threads-per-inch system.

"Thus although something like 82 per cent of the people of the world live in metric-oriented countries, the world's engineering industry (so much of which is in North America) is divided more or less fifty-fifty between the inch and the metre."

U.S. Debate Sharpens On How To End Viet Nam War

By JOHN HEFFERNAN
WASHINGTON (Reuters) — U.S. Viet Nam battle casualties are growing and at home, debate sharpens on how the war can be brought to an end.

There is increasing concern at the continued escalation and the inevitable increase in loss of American lives.

But most Americans still seem to be satisfied there is no alternative to the present course of pushing ahead with U.S. involvement in the hope the Communists will be convinced of U.S. determination to see South Viet Nam to its knees.

As families prepared to celebrate Thanksgiving Day in the U.S. today, there was undoubtedly a new seriousness in the public attitude to the struggle.

Anti-war demonstrations are growing in number and possibly significance.

PROMINENCE GIVEN

At the same time, possibly more prominence is given to the demands of those who think the best and only way to end the war is to increase bombing attacks in North Viet Nam.

They want to start hitting at military targets in Hanoi and Haiphong. Some well-known and influential Americans are among those who have advocated this course.

President Johnson obviously is content for the moment with the support he still enjoys from the majority of Americans.

Critics of the administration have questioned its sincerity in regard to peace talks since the recent disclosure North Viet Nam had offered in December, 1964, to meet an American emissary in Rangoon. In admitting it had been informed of the North Viet Nam offer, the state department said it had decided at the time that this was not a genuine and sincere offer to negotiate and had, therefore, ignored it. Another possible Communist approach through

Chinese Seek To Save Coal

PEKING (Reuters) — Winter's first hard frosts have hit northern China, and the government has launched a campaign for people to use less coal throughout the country.

Coal stoves are the normal heating method in millions of northern Chinese homes.

"Save coal like gold" is the big front-page headline in the People's Daily newspaper Wednesday. It devotes considerable space to describing methods by which some factories, army units, student canteens and households have saved 30 to 90 per cent.

The paper says in an editorial millions of tons of coal could be saved and this would lead to savings in state investment in industry as well as in transport.

No statistics have been published here in recent years on China's coal production but it is believed to be about 200,000,000 tons a year. China's coal mines provide about 90 per cent of its fuel resources.

Balcer Plans Not Pressing

TROIS-RIVIERES, Que. (CP) — Leon Balcer, a former leader of the Quebec Conservative caucus, said here he has no plans for an immediate plunge into Quebec provincial politics as a Liberal.

Mr. Balcer said in a telephone interview that a published report saying he is about to join the party of Premier Jean Lesage "is pure speculation."

The former transport minister said: "I am out of federal politics, but I am still interested in politics. That's all."

Mr. Balcer retired from the federal scene in September after leaving the Conservatives earlier this year in protest against the party leadership of John Diefenbaker.

He had been member for Trois-Rivieres and leader of the Quebec Conservative caucus.

Mr. Balcer caused a stir when he appeared at the provincial Liberal convention in Quebec City during the weekend.

But he reiterated Wednesday what he told reporters then—that he went to the meeting as "an observer."

"As far as Quebec politics are concerned, I have for the time being nothing to declare," he added.

TOWED INTO HARBOR

HALIFAX (CP) — The West German freighter Diana arrived here Thursday at the end of a 580-mile tow from a spot in the Atlantic where she ran into steering trouble last week.

The tug Foundation Vigilant took the 2,600-ton vessel in tow Monday off the coast of Newfoundland in answer to a call for assistance. It is believed the freighter lost her rudder in rough seas.

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