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Railroads Reject Union Request To Renew Bargaining

SPOKESMEN for the railroads turned down a renewed proposal by leaders of the five operating brotherhoods for another try at negotiation, and looked longingly to March 29, the day when drapal restrictions on their plan for mass firing would be lifted. It is on that date that the federal injunction blocking the plan of the carriers to fire 40,000 workers expired. A Supreme Court ruling had rejected the appeal of the unions against the mass dismissal plan that had last year been recommended by a Presidential commission.

J. E. Wolfe, chief negotiator of the companies, said it was "useless" to negotiate until the unions change their attitude, and he charged that the unions only made the proposal for renewed talks to "improve their public relations."

There is still one more hurdle that can hold up the mass dismissal of 15,000 workers this year and 25,000 more soon after by "attrition." If the labor Department's current try to bring

both sides to fresh talks fails, the President will undoubtedly invoke the 60-day cool-off of the Railway Labor Act, which would both hold up a strike and the firings. That can bring a showdown to the late spring or early summer.

Interest, meanwhile, centered on the settlement of the three-year long dispute of the Railway Clerks and the Southern Pacific Railroad that averted a tie-up last week. The issue involved there, too, is job security due to automation, or "restructuring," as the companies call it. Involved is revision or elimination of long-standing workrules that have given rail workers some job protection.

The agreement covering 15,000 members of the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks on the SP line gives the workers still employed a high measure of job security limiting job elimination to "attrition"—death, quit, retirement or discharge for cause. The pact also gives the company a choice of hiring persons to fill posts left vacant by natural

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War Hogs Fight TFX Plane Profit Trough

By MIKE DAVIDOW

TWO OF THE U.S. GIANTS in the "military-industrial complex" are slugging it out for one of the most lucrative contracts of the cold war.

That is the story behind the controversy in Washington over the recent contract awarded General Dynamics for the TFX, a new fighter plane able to carry nuclear weapons, fly 1,700 miles an hour and reach anywhere in the world in one day.

The contestants are: General Dynamics, which makes the Polaris submarine, and Boeing Aircraft which produces the Minuteman missile. The prize is a plum that will cost the taxpayer six billion to seven billion dollars. General Dynamics got the contract, more costly than the sum FTX used to feed millions in one year.

The strange thing, a sad sign of the present state of mind in our nation's Capitol, is that as one race to challenge the immorality of such misuse of the national treasure at a time when our schools are starved, our hospitals overcrowded, and the hungry children of our nation in Hawaii, Kentucky lack one substantial meal a day.

No, the fight that has embroiled all Washington, and resulted in a probe by the Senate Permanent Investigations Subcommittee headed by Sen. John L. McClellan (D-Ark.), is over which firm should get the spoils. Boeing mobilized its powerful lobby to overturn the award made to General Dynamics by Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara.

In the process the lid was lifted on the sordid business of how our \$56 billion military budget is distributed. Which plane is superior is a

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AN EDITORIAL

Killers on the Loose

THE OUTLAWS responsible for the murderous hit-and-run attacks on Cuba are such forays as paving the way for invasion of U.S. armed forces.

In such a war the corpses of American boys would pave the road to restoring exploitation in Cuba.

The State Department has repudiated the attacks as "irresponsible" and "ineffective." But there is reason to believe that there are forces within the Pentagon who are supporting such incursions.

There is only one way to end once and for all the threat of war in the Caribbean. That is for the President, to declare unequivocally that, whatever the official view of the government of the U.S. is with respect to socialism, it desires to live in peace with Cuba. The Cuban government has often declared that it wants peaceful relations with the U.S.

Such a declaration by the Kennedy administration, and its enforcement within the Pentagon and the CIA, would have the overwhelming support of the American people.

It would expose the war hawks as betrayers of our lives and our security, and would prevent our land being used as the base for Batista-type killers who want to drown the new Cuba in blood, and to restore the old exploitation.

Terror Spreads to Syria, Tunisia

MOSCOW — Brutal attacks on Communist Iraq have spread from Iraq to Syria and Tunisia.

Mustafa Amin, of the Syrian Communist Party's central committee is among the host of prisoners in Damascus.

The coup in Syria, said Pavel Demchenko Pravda's correspondent in Damascus, was directed by the Ba'ath party, which also directed the house-to-house mas-

sacre in Iraq after the Feb. 8 coup there.

Demchenko found the street in Damascus empty of civilians. He reports that "police cars, sirens screaming, siren through the city." In three days arrest reached 200.

Pravda reports the death in prison of Hasan Sadawi, Tunisian union leader, who was arrested in February under cover of anti-Communist slogans.

Communist Party Hailed for Peace Fight In Face of Fierce McCarran Act Persecution

By ART SHIELDS

MOSCOW — The story of the American Communists' struggle against the fascist McCarran law went to millions of readers last Sunday in the columns of Pravda. The story fills a page, and comes as a climax to dozens of other articles in the Soviet press about the attempts to outlaw the peace movement and progressive organizations in the U.S.

The page is topped by a double line, eight-column caption, which says that the Communists are "the honor and conscience of the American working people. They will not be broken by harassment or persecution."

Just under the headline in the center is a two-column photo of Gus Hall and Benjamin Davis. Both are smiling and confident though the Department of Justice seeks to send them to prison.

To the right of the photo is an article by Henry Winston, the blinded Negro Communist leader, which bears the caption, "Our Ideas Do Not Recognize Any Obstacles."

It lauds Hall and Davis as heroes in the struggle for democracy and peace.

Hall, the white man, and Davis, the Negro, "are symbols of unity of white and black in the U.S. Communist Party."

Winston asks:

"Why is reaction trying to convict us?"
"That," he explains, "is because — Communists are now talked about by all people. The reactionaries are frightened"

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THE PRAVDA PAGE in the Communist Party of the U.S.

PROTEST MURDERS AND FASCIST TERROR IN IRAQ

Join the Picket Line on Friday, March 22, from 5 P.M. to 6 P.M. at the Iraq Mission - 14 E. 79 St.,