

ITF NEWSLETTER

INFORMATIONS INFORMATIONEN INFORMATIONSBLAD

No. 8

15 April 1965

IN THIS NUMBER: Call to investigate US railway finances (p. 77); Danish railways drivers may now apply for established status (p.77); 5-day week for British deliverymen (p. 78); More boycotts of ships trading with Cuba (p. 78); Vocational training for French dockers (p. 79); Pan American pilots' strike over (p. 79); ILO Report criticizes South Africa (p. 80).

RAILWAYMEN

UNITED STATES

RLEA calls for investigation of railway finances

The US Railway Labor Executives' Association has called upon Congress to conduct a full-scale investigation of railway finances. Such a study, the RLEA says, is necessary to find out once and for all just what the truth is about the conflicting claims coming from railway management. On some occasions the companies plead that they are on the verge of bankruptcy and need tax relief and other special benefits, besides being unable to find the money for wage increases. But in the financial press and in reports to stockholders it appears that the railways have been enjoying some of the most prosperous years in their history.

ROAD AND PASSENGER TRANSPORT WORKERS

DENMARK

Drivers may obtain public servant status

Drivers of vehicles belonging to the Danish State Railways fleet may now become established public servants. The ITF-affiliated

Danish Transport & General Workers' Union (DASF) has been pressing for this for many years, but up to now the management have always rejected the idea. However, it now hopes to overcome recruitment difficulties by this agreement. 751 of the 930 drivers employed by the railways now have the opportunity to take the status of public servants.

GREAT BRITAIN

Five-day week for bread delivery drivers

We have been informed by the United Road Transport Union that the unions organizing bread delivery van drivers have reached agreement with the employers on the introduction of a five-day week in two years' time. The transition arrangements are as follows: in the first stage - 1 March 1965 to 1 November 1965 - drivers are granted 15 extra days' holiday or a payment of £3 per day (i.e. £45 if none of the extra leave is taken); in the second stage - 1 November 1965 to 1 July 1966 - this rises to 20 days' extra leave (or £60); and in the third stage - 1 July 1966 to 1 March 1967 - to 25 days' extra leave. (or £75). Thereafter in any week in which a driver is required to work a sixth day he qualifies for an extra payment of £3.

UNITED STATES

Agreement averts bus strike

Tentative agreement on a new two-year contract between Eastern Greyhound Lines and the ITF-affiliated Amalgamated Transit Union averted a strike scheduled for 9 April. If the agreement is ratified by the membership, drivers will have a new mileage rate of 12.6 cents per mile. Hourly-rated employees will get rises of 10 cents per hour in the first year, and 8 cents in the second year. Other gains include a fifth week's annual leave after 30 years' service; one more paid holiday to make a total of seven; a further week's paid sick leave, bringing this up to four weeks per year; and higher employer contributions into the health and welfare fund.

PORT WORKERS

INTERNATIONAL

More boycotts of ships trading with Cuba

Venezuelan dock workers are continuing their selective boycotts of ships trading with Cuba. The latest of these was the Royal Mail Lines cargo vessel Escalante. In addition the Colombian Workers' Confederation has voted to boycott foreign ships trading with Cuba, the first affected being the Japanese motor ship Sakura Maru. Brazilian dockers have also agreed to operate similar boycotts.

FRANCE

Discussions on vocational training

On 29 March representatives of the ITF-affiliated National Federation of Port, Dock and Allied Workers took part in a meeting between trade union, government and employers' representatives on the question of vocational training of dock workers. Up to now there has been virtually no vocational training worthy of the name. The employers' side wishes to see vocational training aimed first of all at the supervisory grades with a view to forcing increased productivity; the workers' side, on the other hand, wishes to see young dockers benefit from any training offered. In the union's view, training should be in three parts: instruction on health and safety; theoretical training; and practical training. Any form of vocational training, agreed upon should be primarily of benefit to the workers themselves, and not geared exclusively to greater profitability. A joint national body ought to administer any scheme, which should be adapted where appropriate to conditions in the different ports.

SEAFARERS

INTERNATIONAL

Facilitation of maritime transport: Convention signed

Representatives of thirty-five members of the Inter-governmental Maritime Consultative Organization signed a Convention on 9 April which aims to reduce to a minimum the formalities, documentary requirements and procedures on the arrival, stay and departure of ships engaged in international voyages. As a result of the Convention, which will come into force 60 days after ten countries have ratified it, it is hoped to reduce to eight the number of basic documents which will be required. An annex to the Convention sets out the detailed methods of facilitating ship movement in this way, in the form of Standards and Recommended Practices.

CIVIL AVIATION WORKERS

UNITED STATES

Pan American pilots' strike ends

The strike of pilots employed by Pan American World Airways, which started on 1 April following the breakdown of negotiations on a new contract, ended on 10 April with an agreement on duty

time limitations. Instead of the previous situation where a pilot could be required to be on duty for 18 hours out of 24, duty times are now limited to 12 hours for flights starting at night, 13 hours for those starting in the evening and 14 hours for those starting in the morning. These limits apply to two-man crews; they are extended by one hour respectively for three-man crews.

GENERAL

EUROPE

Europe trade union programme

Representatives of ICFTU-affiliated trade union centres in the European Economic Community have approved a social charter calling for full employment and economic democracy, and a programme of demands including the 40-hour, five-day week, four weeks' annual leave at double pay, and a guaranteed salary in the case of incapacity for work because of sickness or accident.

SOUTH AFRICA

ILO Report criticizes South Africa

The International Labour Organization has criticized as untenable the South African contention that the practice of apartheid can lead to equal development and a removal of racial discrimination. In a special report it says "The realities of the situation in South Africa are in sharp contradiction with official professions of intent ... separate development as practised there is anything but equal development."

The report, which is to be presented to the ILO Conference in June, outlines measures necessary for the elimination of apartheid, with the abolition of the migratory labour system as a prerequisite for all other measures. These include freedom of movement and residence; equal access to vocational training; lessening of wage differentials; and the promotion of "normal development of industrial relations in harmony with the principles of multi-racial trade unions."

NEWS IN BRIEF

The Japanese Ministry of Transport has announced that by 1980 Japan aims to have a merchant fleet totalling 40 million tons, 34 m. tons of which would be ocean-going ships. This would make Japan the largest maritime nation in the world; at present she ranks fifth after the United Kingdom, Liberia, Norway and the United States.

The unofficial strike of seamen in Great Britain was called off on 6 April for lack of support.

Airport clerical staff at Vienna airport have been granted a 9% pay increase with effect from 1 March 1965.

Air France flying staff have decided to stage a 24-hour strike, the date as yet unspecified, unless their dispute over training and qualification of second pilots is settled satisfactorily. Pilots of BEA have obtained pay increases of 8.2% from October 1964, 4.5% in 1966 and 4% in 1967. The dispute over flight time limitations is going to arbitration by the aviation medicine expert who devised the current points scheme (see Newsletter No. 6).

The Federation grouping unions of public service workers in Switzerland has requested the government to reopen discussions on the reduction of working hours from the present 46 per week.

Uruguay: a general 24-hour strike was staged in Uruguay on 6 April in protest against the rising cost of living.

PERSONALIA

James B. Boyd has been elected Secretary-Treasurer of the US Air Line Dispatchers' Association in succession to Ernest A. Bressin.

R.W. Wachowiak has been appointed new president of the US Railroad Yardmasters of America, in succession to Milton G. Schoch who died recently at the age of 77.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

- | | | |
|-------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| Executive Board | - | Frankfurt, 24-26 May, 1965 |
| XXVIIIth Congress | - | Copenhagen, 28 July - 6 August 1965 |

*0*0*0*0*0*0*