

WIDENING COMMUNIST RIFT MAKES WORLD HEADLINES

Nikita Khrushchev is all merriment and grins as he bounds off a train in East Berlin and into the bear hugs of his hosts. But behind the jovial facade, there is a desperate meaning for his visit ... a battle to keep world communism from splitting asunder. The struggle is, of course, between Soviet leadership and Red China. At a gathering of Communist leaders from 70 nations, the Soviet Premier soft-pedals the Berlin crisis and argues instead for a cessation of open name calling between Moscow and Peking. He denounces those who want to spread communism by warfare, regardless of the consequences. In Peking, demonstrations are held glorifying Fidel Castro who is a new hero in this camp of communism. For it was Khrushchev's negotiated settlement of the Cuban crisis with President Kennedy that most enraged Mao Tse Tung and led to accusations that he had surrendered to a "paper tiger". Just how far the rift will widen, or if it will be mended is, of course, anybody's guess.

THE STRIKE PICTURE:

REPORTS FROM PHILADELPHIS, NEW YORK

The wave of strikes that has hit the Eastern seaboard puts a half million Philadelphians on foot as public transportation comes to a halt in the City of Brotherly Love. The struggle is a three-way one between the Transport Workers Union, demanding higher wages, the Philadelphia Transportation Company, which asks for a guarantee of higher fares before negotiating, and the City Government which opposes such a boost in fares - but wants to see the buses and trains rolling again. As usual it is the public that is caught in the middle, although Michael J. Quill, International TWU President is quoted as saying, "We hold no responsibility to the public. WE hold responsibility to our membership." Commuters are able to get at least into the center of town during the first few days of the strike, but another strike threatens on suburban bus lines, too. Banks become booking offices for people seeking to form car pools. Taxis are at a premium, and parking becomes a problem; but all in all Philadelphians take the strike in their stride...what else can they do? Northward, in New York, the strike against the city's nine daily newspapers goes into its seventh week with both sides remaining as obdurate as when it began in early December. Loss, not only to the publishers, but to advertisers and want ad readers is inestimable.

ITALY'S PREMIER HERE: KENNEDY TO RETURN CALL

A state visit of more than usual significance is made in Washington. Before a guard of honor on the White House lawn, Italian Premier Amintore Fanfani is greeted by President Kennedy. The main purpose of the visit is discussion of the Nassau agreement between Mr. Kennedy and British Prime Minister Harold Macmillan on the formation of an Allied nuclear striking force: Italy is expected to endorse it. Also, Premier Fanfani extends an invitation to Mr. Kennedy to visit Italy this year. The invitation is accepted, though no date was immediately set.