

Truckers switch off ignitions, vowing to sit it out

Independent truck drivers braked to a halt and switched off their ignitions all over Texas Monday, vowing to sit where they are "as long as it takes" to achieve their demands.

Meanwhile, private trucking firms reiterated their opposition to the stoppage and kept their trucks on the road. But more truck

stops announced they were closing and as the trucks chugged to a stop, the state's economy began to show the effects of the partial paralysis.

Most seriously affected were industries in the perishable goods field. Industry spokesmen predicted the truckers' strike may bring some scarcities to the grocery

counter by next week.

There had appeared, however, a softening of the strike in one West Texas area. Radio Station KRBC at Abilene reported that truckers blocking pumps at Abilene's largest truck stop moved their trucks Monday.

Two truckers were quoted as saying they were fed up with the lack of cooperation from other truckers and felt sorry for the truck stop operators who were forced to close while others remained open.

Claude Jones, owner of an Abilene truck stop, said he had heard the blockade was clearing in other parts of West Texas but there was no immediate confirmation.

The truckers said they want more money, lower fuel costs and faster highway speeds.

There were only isolated minor incidents of violence throughout the state as the truck stoppage continued to spread west from east Texas where it began Thursday.

Leaders of the striking truckers at Lone Star in East Texas said they still want to meet with government officials to discuss their demands.

"We will not move out of here until we talk to government people," said Bill Gentry, a spokesman for the group organizing the stoppage.

Charles Purnell, executive as-

sistant to Gov. Dolph Briscoe, met with four truckers Monday.

"I think they were very pleased and happy. What we told them was that we would use our influence in Washington to get them help and we hope that along with what the federal people say they will do, will get the wheels rolling on this thing. They left here, Austin, to go back to Dallas to talk with their own people about what we talked about," Purnell said.

Gentry said the stoppage, "is running real smooth. We're getting more support every hour."

He insisted that his group had nothing to do with the shootings reported near the Oklahoma border.

Lamar County Sheriff's Department spokesman said two trucks were shot at on U. S. 59 Sunday but no injuries were reported.

The shots reportedly were fired from a moving car. Lamar County patrol cars escorted trucks through the county for about three hours following the incident.

The most important truckers' demand seemed to be lower fuel

prices. "We have been given or promised will not make up for the additional costs of diesel," Gentry said.

Gentry's position clashed with that of representatives of private trucking firms who said that the new freight rates would make up for the higher fuel prices.

Harold Speck, president of At-

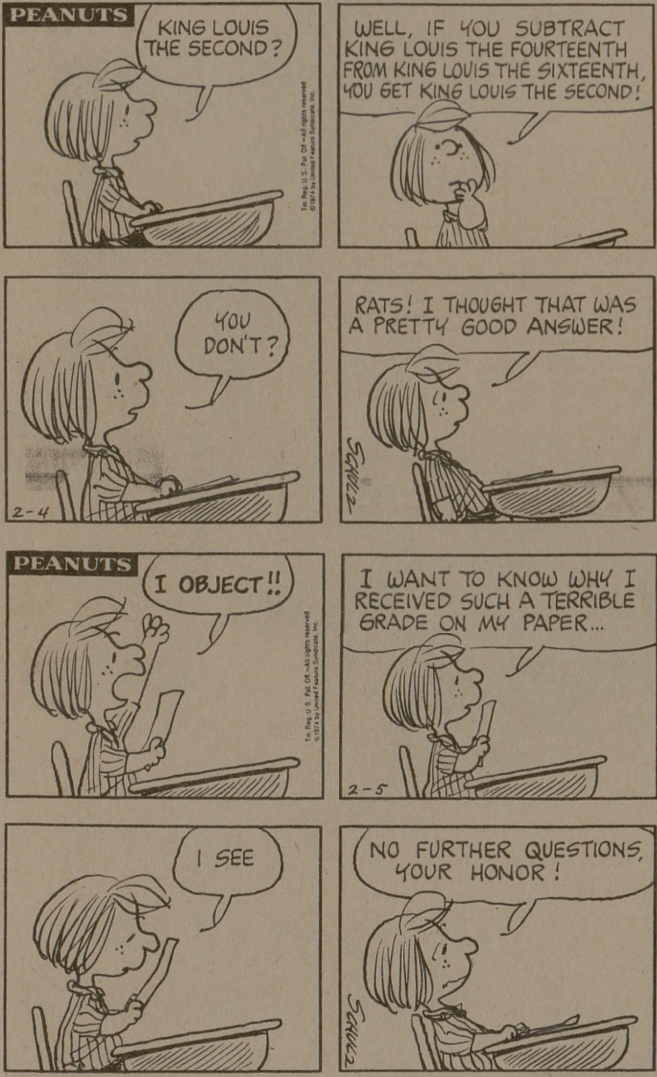
las Truck Co., said that they had agreed to a five per cent increase already in effect in additional increases in May.

Speck said his company would replace "two or three" independent truckers who refused a load. "They were either or in sympathy with the strike," he explained.



PULITZER PRIZE winning poet Gwendolyn Brooks performed last night in the Rudder Tower. Speaking on "Pictures from the Ghetto" before a standing room only crowd, Ms. Brooks gave a formal reading of her work.

PEANUTS By Charles M. Schulz



Woman accused of black magic

OPELOUSAS, La. (AP) — Two defense lawyers were appointed Monday for a Galveston woman accused of using her 3-year-old granddaughter as a human sacrifice in a black magic religious ritual.

Dist. Court Judge Garland Pavy appointed Donald Richard and Steve Ldet, both of Opelousas, after Mrs. Ruth Daniles Broussard, 39, said she couldn't afford to hire her own.

Mrs. Broussard was booked on a charge of a murder in a strange case which thus far lacks a body — a serious drawback in a murder

prosecution.

Officers say witnesses told them the child, Shanna Star Lovell, was killed in Eunice, La., 15 months ago and buried in a wooded area in that vicinity.

Shanna's mother, Mrs. Deborah Lovell, of Berwick, La., a 21-year-old go-go dancer, surrendered to officers two weeks ago and told them the child was drowned in a bathtub because she was possessed of evil spirits.

Mrs. Lovell was booked as a material witness. So were Richard Swain, 26, of Morgan City, La., and Joseph B. Faul, 20, of Berwick. Faul and Mrs. Lovell were freed on \$5,000 bonds.

Chief Deputy L. D. Carriere said statements by Mrs. Lovell and Swain led to the arrest of Faul.

Carriere said the murder charge against Mrs. Broussard was based on information obtained in the questioning of her three daughters. The other two are Regina Lee Bush, 23, and Anna Carr, both of Berwick. They were picked up on district attorney subpoenas and later released.

Otis Oomenick, St. Landry Parish legal advisor, said last week he is uncertain whether the case can be successfully prosecuted without a body. Dist. Atty Morgan Geoudeau said he thought indictments were possible but convictions would be difficult to obtain.

Bulletin Board

TONIGHT
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BIO-ENGINEERS MEETING will be held at 7 p. m. in Room 333-B of the Zachry Engineering Center. The program will be "Annual Meeting with Department Head" featuring P. H. Newell, Jr. All students and faculty are urged to attend. Refreshments will be served after meeting.

WEDNESDAY
CAP & GOWN will meet in Room 510 of the Rudder Center at 8 p. m. Active members are asked to attend. Executives to meet in SPO cubicle at 7 p. m. THE ACCOUNTING SOCIETY will meet in Room 202 of Francis Hall at 7:30 p. m. The program will be discussed by two visiting alumni, "Public vs Industrial Accounting."

PHI SIGMA BETA will have a smoker for all interested persons at 7:00 p. m. in Room 302 of the MSC Tower.
PHYSICS CLUB will meet in Room 201 of the Physics Building at 7:00 p. m.
EL PASO HOMETOWN CLUB will meet in the Rudder Tower in Room 402 at 7:30 p. m. for selection of Duchess to Cotton Pageant. Phone Higdon at 6-7140.

THURSDAY
SAN ANTONIO HOMETOWN CLUB will meet in Room 146 of the Physics Building at 7:45. Picture in the Agrieland to be discussed and spring plans to be made.

PANHANDLE HOMETOWN CLUB will meet to nominate a sweetheart. The meeting will be in Room 223 of the MSC at 8:00 p. m. Please bring pictures of nominees.

TAMU FLYING CLUB will meet in room 223 Chemistry Building at 8:00 p. m. Dr. Cooper of the Confederate Air Force will speak.

MIDLAND HOMETOWN CLUB will meet in Room 607 of the Rudder Tower at 8:00 p. m. to elect a sweetheart. An important business meeting will ensue.

JUNIOR CLASS COUNCIL will meet in Room 410 of the Rudder Tower at 7:30 p. m. to discuss Junior Week on March 23. All dorm representatives are urged to attend.

OUTDOOR RECREATION will hold a general meeting and program including Canoe III slides, at 8:00 p. m. in Room 501 of the Rudder Tower.
FRIDAY
OCEANOGRAPHY SEMINAR NOTICE. Professor Robert Reed of the Department of Oceanography will give a talk on "Numerical Models in Oceanography" in Room 112 Oceanography & Meteorology at 3:30 p. m.

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