

GENERAL STRIKE BIGGER THAN EVER IN HUNGARY

VIENNA, Dec. 11. — Hungary was paralyzed today by a general strike which Budapest Radio indicated was the worst to date.

The Radio stated:

1. Rail transport was at a standstill.

2. The postal services was paralyzed.

3. Factories were idle "because the workers are afraid of counter-revolutionary elements on strike."

Gas and electricity services, however, continued to function.

The broadcasts made no mention of martial law scheduled to go into effect at noon today.

Police continued their search for hidden arms.

Workers in various parts of the country were quoted as saying the strike would go on until the government of Premier Janos Kadar ended measures of oppression.

Radio Budapest continued its calls to the workers to return to their jobs.

The radio said no trains at all arrived at Budapest central market this morning.

"A few peasants brought their goods in horsedrawn carts," it said.

The radio said there was "no fuel at all" in southern Hungary

and that hospitals had coal for only two or three days.

"Operations have had to be postponed because surgical equipment cannot be sterilized," the broadcast said.

The strike was complete in the iron and steel works on Czepele Island which employs 38,000 workers.

Western reporters were refused admittance. The Workers Council sent a messenger to the gates apologizing that they were unable to see reporters.

Members of the Officers Corps guarding the gates were smiling and friendly. They assured reporters "everything is calm" but they admitted no work was being done.

The Standard Electric plant, now called Bejolanis, also is on strike. It has 6,000 workers but only members of the plant's workers' Council were in the factory.

"We don't prevent any worker from coming in, and he may work if he wishes, but only in our presence," a member of the Council said. "There might be provocateurs and also some hot heads among them who would blow up some machinery and that we want to prevent."