

NEWS FLASHES:
Paris; Morocco; Palermo.

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Thousands of civil servants mass in Paris to protest against new increases in salaries. Although a pay-rise would seem a matter for celebration, they are objecting to the way the rises are distributed. Only the higher-paid workers, they claim, will benefit; the lower grades will be no better off. Gendarmes clash with the demonstrators, who decide on a token strike for the afternoon, but apart from a few bruises, there are no casualties.

Locusts have destroyed about 400,000 acres of crops in Morocco: Hurriedly, teams of workers move in to spray the insects with D.D.T. powder. The locusts did their damage within two or three hours. It is estimated that about 25,000 tons of oranges in the Souss Valley were ruined. Olive groves were totally destroyed, and even clumps of thorned cactus were stripped by the locusts.

Heavy rains in the summer and early autumn are said to be the cause of the locust invasion. The quick work by the D.D.T. squads, has prevented the swarm moving on to wreak such fearful damage elsewhere.

Italy, where 45 rollers skaters take part in the four-lap race known as the Tour of Palermo. The competitors represent every district in Italy where the sport is popular. Many of the favourites come to grief at the first hurdle. Yes, a rough and tumble race that calls for plenty of nerve and skill.

Only a matter of yards to go now, and its going to be a close thing. Up towards the finish at break-neck speed, and a local lad, Renzo Castagna, wins for the second year running.