

COAL

P.J. - Sunoco. Wednesday, May 29, 1946.

~~Whatever else happened today, at least~~

The soft coal strike is over. The contract ~~was~~ ^{signed} signed today, at four o'clock, at the White House, by Secretary of the Interior Krug and John L. Lewis.

Lewis said he will order his miners back to work at once -- that means ~~Friday~~ Friday, tomorrow being a holiday. But full production probably won't be possible until Monday. Which is ~~sure~~ cheerful, but we still have an unsettled dispute between the hard coal miners and their employers.

The settlement came about when Lewis and Krug agreed upon a compromise of the most disputed point, the royalty on every ton of coal to set up a welfare fund for the miners, the fund to be administered by Lewis. On this the beetlebrowed union chief evidently yielded a point. The royalty will be ~~only~~ five cents a ton. Instead of being administered by Lewis, there will be three ~~xxx~~ trustees, one appointed by the union, one by the government administrator, the third to be selected by both of them. This royalty

will provide twenty-five millions a year instead of the seventy millions that Lewis was holding out for. The other most important provision is a wage increase of eighteen and a half cents an hour, about a dollar and eighty-five cents a day. The mines are to be operated nine hours a day, overtime after seven hours. There is to be a medical and hospital fund financed by deductions already made from the pay of the miners. There are other provisions too numerous to be mentioned now. All in all the contract will affect a substantial improvement of the working conditions and lives of miners and their families.

LABOR

President Truman today was up against a double defeat at the hands of Congress. On Saturday the lawmakers received with applause and even cheers his request for emergency measures to deal with strikes. Since then they've had time to digest and assay the full meaning of his wish to draft strikers. The consequence is a rebellious Congress in both chambers.

The Representatives started the ball rolling today by passing with an overwhelming majority the much Mooted Case Bill. That's the measure that originated in the house, throwing severe restrictions around the strike activities of Unions, making them financially responsible for breach of contract and so forth. It has been generally accepted in Washington that if it had reached the President's desk in its present form, Mr. Truman would veto it. It was expected that the Senate might turn it down, instead of which the majority in the upper chamber made its provisions even tighter and sent it back to the House. There the Representatives accepted it without change by a roll call vote of two hundred and thirty to

one hundred and six, a whopping majority. With even a majority of Democrats in favor of it. In support ninety-seven Democrats, and one-hundred-and thirty-three Republicans. Opposed: ninety-one Democrats and thirteen Republicans.

The Case Bill provides a cooling off period of sixty days before a union can call a strike in a major industry. Also, Unions and employers to be held equally to the letter of their contracts. An employer now may sue a union if his employees walk out in violation of a contract. Then the bill forbids secondary boycotts. It also prohibits any attempt to organize supervisors, foremen, superintendents, etc. into Unions. The Case Bill also forbids contributions by employers to Welfare Funds administered solely by the Unions; such as John L. Lewis has been asking for his soft coal miners. The measure also provided severe penalties for any unions included, who interfere with the movements of goods in interstate commerce. Up to now Unions have been doing

this with impunity. In the future that will be a felony if the President signs the bill.

The passing of the Case Act puts Mr. Truman in a dilemma. Union Labor is against it to a man. The so-called liberals have also opposed it. And many conservatives say it will not stop labor troubles -- will simply make them more bitter.

If Mr. Truman approves the bill he may consolidate the angry opposition of labor which he aroused on Saturday. If he vetoes it, he runs the risk of wrecking his program to obtain emergency powers. The House, of course, passed the bill giving him emergency powers, including the authority to draft striking workers, passed it on Saturday. Since then the Senate opposition to it has been growing warmer and warmer. The Republicans are against it in accordance with the fixed Republican principle of maintaining the constitution of the United States, the Thirteenth Amendment to which document reads: "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as

a punishment for crime, shall exist within the United States."

The most solemn criticism of the work on draft labor provision came today from Seantor LaFollette of Wisconsin who said it would produce widespread bloodshed or send thousands to concentration camps. He called it the most fundamental grave far-reaching question to reach the Seante since the Civil War. That if such a draft were adopted it would send the country on a one way highway to totalitarianism. Seantor after Senator rose in his place this afternoon to agree with him.

ADD LABOR

I had hoped to be able to tell you the result of the Senate's vote on the labor draft provision. Earlier in the afternoon it was announced that this vote would be taken at six o'clock eastern daylight time. But at the last moment Senator Tydings of Maryland put in a demand for a recess until Friday. Maybe that will give the administration whips time to argue recalcitrant senators ~~xx~~ into accepting the President's proposal. As it stands tonight that provision most probably would be defeated.

MARITIME STRIKE

Here's the latest on the maritime strike that Australian Harry Bridges and Joe Curran promised us for June Fifteenth. Bridges and Curran were in Washington today, negotiating with Labor Secretary Schwollenbach and Representatives of the shipping industry.

Here is an important angle: Of the three thousand one hundred merchant ships flying the American flag, two-thousand-four-hundred are owned by Uncle Sam. They come under the War Shipping Administration. So, when the strike breaks - as seems likely, will the ~~Ex~~ War Shipping Administration take over? In that case will the ships be sent to sea with Navy crews and officers? That would be in line with President Truman's announced policy in dealing with strikes against the government.

✓ A major shipping strike would be disastrous in many ways. It would prevent shipment of food abroad, and that probably would mean a death sentence to many who are starving in Europe.

Labor experts have been prophesying that a maritime strike also will result in bloodshed on the waterfronts, at our big ports.

It's an ugly picture no matter how you look at it.

GOVERNORS

The conference of Governors of the United States at Oklahoma City today put itself on record as being in favor of laws making strikes of public ~~xx~~ utilities workers - unlawful - public utilities and other industries where a strike ~~xx~~ might jeopardize the health ~~xx~~ and safety of the people.

A resolution to that effect was adopted at Oklahoma City today, adopted unanimously. The Governors refrained from expressing themselves about President Truman's bill to draft strikers. In fact, they avoided any discussion of the immediate labor ~~in~~ crisis.

The wording of their resolution is:

"Resolved, that the Congress and each state legislature, be urged to enact legislation which will require capital and labor to maintain an uninterrupted service of utilities essential to the life and health of the people".

A responsible newspaper in England today published the editorial statement that conjecturing about a third world war is no longer idle talk. So says the Daily Herald, the paper of the British Labor Party. The Daily Herald went on to say that if Russia and the Western Powers do not get together and make friends, there will be an explosion that will make a wilderness of the earth.

Simultaneously, the British Foreign Office announces that it has sent a strong protest to the Governments of Yugoslavia and Albania, which are dominated by the Soviets, bitterly protesting the mistreatment of British subjects, and British official representatives.

Our people also have protested to Yugoslavia against the way the Jugoslavs have obstructed the Allied Military Government at Trieste.

COSMIC

Three French Scientists today have applied for a Swedish patent on an atomic energy process which according to word from Stockholm, is remarkably like the process used by Uncle Sam's experts. A Swedish Scientist told a gathering of engineers that he is sure the Russians also ~~xxx~~ possess the French formula. That they could have obtained it merely by reading the Swedish patent journal for last November, in which the formula was published, according to law.

And what this Swedish Scientist says is confirmed by a spokesman of the Swedish Foreign Office. As a matter of fact the process was submitted to the French government way back in May, Nineteen Forty; seven days before the great Hitler offensive.

One of the three French scientists who applied for this patent is a son-in-law of Marie Curie, who married Irene Curie. The two of them won the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in Nineteen Thirty-five. Madame Curie's son-in-law confirms the report, ~~xx~~and says this method for the production of atomic energy covered

by his formula, is of no commercial value now and doesn't represent anything new in the atomic energy field.

The report that this process is available to the Russians comes just at the time when a story from London has it that both British and Russian Scientists are now more interested in cosmic rays than in atomic fission. Neither the British nor the Russians have the elaborate equipment and the trained manpower that are available in the United States for exploring atomic energy. So, we are told, they are working on a cosmic ray which might be, in war, more deadly than any atomic bomb; and in peace more powerful, and cheaper.

It is known that the Russians have sent scientific expeditions to the summit of Mount Zorch-ē-chek-ta
Zorchechekta, Nineteen thousand ~~feet~~ five hundred feet above sea level in the High Pamirs, deep in Asia. Another Soviet group has been going to great heights, in balloons, to work on the cosmic rays problem.

The leader of all this is a Russian professor, Who, before the war was a member of an

atomic research group at Cambridge University.

Cosmic rays, by the way, are atomic particles that travel at terrific speed. Although they come from the sun, ninety-three million miles away, ~~they~~ these rays have such energy that even after that journey they still can penetrate five miles into the earth. Which gives us some idea of their potential power.

FLOODS

The Susquehanna River is over its banks and already has caused a heavy loss of life; some twenty dead or missing so far. The Susquehanna swept over its banks today, a mile north of Sunbury, Pennsylvania, where a dyke gave way. Thousands have been washed out of their homes, and from six to eight feet of water has inundated a large part of the town of Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

The Red Cross is on the job tonight, organizing shelters in schools, and providing food for a thousand homeless.

TOO MANY GIRLS

Here's a letter that I should have answered a month ago. The young man who writes it seems to be in dead ^{earnest} ~~xxxxxx~~ and I wouldn't be surprised but what there were many more in the same boat. He writes.

"I have just returned to civilian life. And now that I would like to settle down and get married, it seems that with all the girls there are in these United States that a fellow wouldn't have any difficulty". Finding one, he means. Then he goes on to say. "But, I find that I just can't seem to get acquainted". Then he tells me that he is sincere and much in earnest about this. "I want someone to come home to at night", he writes. And you can't blame him for that! I want someone ~~to~~ to tell how pretty she looks each night; someone that I can buy little

things for, someone to go to the movies with, and to church, and to walk through the park with on these grand spring nights; just someone to do all the little things that married people enjoy".

He even gets specific about it. For the letter goes on. "All I ask is that ~~we~~ she be rather small, and around my own age, twenty-seven or twenty-eight". And he adds, "I promise her everything that a girl expects of married life".

He concludes his letter by saying, "since I am rather proud and modest, I'll not tell you who I am or where I live.....please don't let me ~~kn~~ down, from a most unhappy ex-G I. Signed Charles.

I was reminded of the letter today when an item came over the wire stating that in New York City alone there are one hundred and fifty

thousand more eligible girls than men.

I get letters of that type from time to time, and never mention them on the air. But, this G.I. in Holyoke, his letter seemed different. But, alas, I don't know how I can help him solve his problem. He obviously is unlike another man from whom I heard today, who wants a wife and adds that he'd like to have a companion who has income enough for two people to live on. The Holyoke G.I. puts it the other way 'round.

He wants someone he can do things for and for whom he can buy pretty things.

Like you, Hugh.....