

TRUMAN

L.S. Jones. W.D. Thursday, June 26, 1947.

(President Truman at a Press Conference today read to the newsmen a statement, the gist of which was a pledge to do his utmost to enforce the new Taft-Hartley Labor Law.)

Mr. Truman also announced that Attorney General Tom Clark is investigating the Miners' Strike to see whether there is grounds for government action. The correspondents asked him whether he was planning to go to the courts for an injunction. He replied that for the present he is leaving the whole business up to the Attorney General's office and the Department of Justice.

In the statement he used these words: "I call upon labor and management to exercise patience and moderation in accommodating themselves to the changes made necessary by the act."

And further: "It is our solemn duty to make every effort to maintain industrial peace under the provisions of the new law, in which we must all do our part." "Neither management nor labor will achieve any *long*

range benefit by seeking to use the provisions of this act to gain unfair advantages or to sustain ~~an~~ arbitrary attitudes." A serious industrial strike just now, ^{said} he, ~~declared~~ would threaten the stability of our economy and even ~~may~~ endanger the peace of the entire world.

Unions and employers alike, ^{added} ~~said~~ Mr. Truman, should perceive that they will serve their own welfare ~~the~~ best by working together, each recognizing the legitimate rights of the other.

Then he pointed out that the ^{members of the} ~~the~~ national Labor Relations Board had promised to do their utmost to administer the Taft-Hartley Act in the fairest and most efficient way possible. ^{He says he intends to} ~~to will~~ choose the new members of the Board with that aim in view. ^{And he} ~~he~~ regards it as of the greatest importance that ~~these~~ new members should have the confidence of both management and labor, and should understand the paramount interest of the entire country. ~~The President said he wasn't considering anybody in particular so far.~~

LABOR

(There will be no general strike throughout the country in retaliation for the enactment of the Taft-Hartley Labor Law. William Green, President of the A F of L rejects any such idea,) and without his okay no such attempt could have any great effect.

A number of A F of L leaders communicated with Green, and argued in favor of the general strike idea. But the head of the Federation turned that down as unwise and inadvisable. He said they could not afford to be swept away by their feelings. That the place to fight this new law is in the courts; and, organize politically -- defeat every member of Congress who voted for it. Which will be a large order.

Green, by the way, told newspapermen that the Taft-Hartley Law would have one favorable consequence, that it will bring about labor unity, weld the A F of L and C I O into one huge all powerful organization.

When newsmen asked Phil Murray of the C I O what he thought about that, Murray declined to comment.

Though there is no general strike, more than two-hundred and thirty thousand coal miners are out now, and forty-one thousand five hundred shipyard workers.

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A round-about report on the current temper of John L. Lewis comes ~~to us~~ tonight from some coal operators who have been meeting with the United Mine Workers Chieftain during the last few days. To them, Lewis thundered: "I will not recede from my wage contract demands unless you have ~~any~~ something better to offer."

These same coal industry sources say that Lewis stated his position in what they ~~all~~ call "social talks" during the last few days. From the tenor of the conversation, it seems far-fetched to describe them as "social talks".

VETO

Another presidential veto, this time a disapproval of the wool bill, which would, among other things, have raised the price of clothing in the United States.

President Truman said that its tariff provisions would be a tragic mistake and a blow to our leadership in world affairs. That the rest of the world would interpret it as a first step toward economic isolationism.

FLOOD

(Des Moines under water! Iowa's capital suffers tonight from its worst flood in forty-four years. There are two rivers in those parts, the Des Moines and the Raccoon, and both ~~of them~~ ^{have} spilled their flood waters over several parts of the city. ^{It} Not only in ~~xxxxx~~ Iowa, but in Missouri, the flood crests are breaking all records. ~~That Middlewestern situation becomes more ominous every day.~~ The crest ^{now} ~~that~~ ^{is} rolling down the Missouri River is the fifth within a month. It has broken three more levees, making eighty-eight ~~with~~ altogether, and at some places the big Muddy has spread to an area of ten miles ~~away~~ from its banks. At one part of Nebraska, it is more than twenty-one feet above flood level, and still going strong.

And here's the story up-to-date as told in the facts gathered by Army Engineers, crops experts and civil authorities: three million, five hundred thousand acres of rich farmland, most of it corn belt, under water: more than twenty-five thousand people homeless. Property damage and ~~xxxg~~ destruction of crops;—two *hundred million dollars.*

IMMUNITIES

This being the second anniversary of United Nations, Secretary of State Marshall took the occasion to sign an agreement with the world organization, granting its members fantastic rights here in the United States, rights such as no American citizen can claim.

The United Nations for example, may establish its own postal system, and its own radio and other communications facilities. It ~~can~~ may throw anybody, even policemen, out of its headquarters, the eight-block-area donated by John D. Rockefeller. While it may eject policemen, at the very same time it may demand protection from them. Fire protection too.

The agreement likewise gives diplomatic immunity to U.N. delegates and officials who can be classified as V I P's -- very important people.

The police force of Matawan, New Jersey, already has had an experience with a delegate claiming immunity to traffic regulations. An Argentinian Delegate one Munyoz, was stopped by a ~~Mxxx~~ Matawan policeman for a traffic violation. The cop gave him a summons.

Whereupon Munyoz threw the summons in the policeman's face, drove his car over it, and said he ought to spit in the ~~xxx~~ policeman's eye. All this was reported by the Matawan Chief of Police ~~in~~ to the New Jersey Highway Commissioner. Whereupon the Highway Commissioner ~~ix~~ informed the Matawan officers that nothing could be done about it.

BARUCH

Elder Statesman Baruch does not believe in any immediate threat of war with Russia. He said as much to the Industrial College of the Armed Forces today in a speech scourging the soft-headed Soviet sympathizers who are trying to change the American way of life and government. Baruch pointed out that Russia on the other hand, already is waging one kind of war on us - a "cold water" he termed it -- simply to stir up unrest among us.

He added that if the Russians really expect an economic collapse in this country they are going to be disappointed. And he went on to say that our government will be going strong long after the ~~the~~ Soviet experiment has failed. ~~was~~ No nation that elevates the State to a God-head can avoid ~~disa~~ disaster, ~~was~~ the way he put it.

~~He also said that the best way to frustrate the Reds is to improve conditions in this country. That nothing will rattle them more.~~

~~In London, our Ambassador, Lew Douglas,~~ ^{(designed}
~~also warned the Soviets that their propaganda war,~~

GERMANY

One of the favorite tricks of Russian officialdom in the days of the Czars, was condemning prisoners to work in salt mines. That's one of the oldest Muscovite traditions, almost as old as the way Russian Emperors used to tear out the beards of their courtiers, by the roots, when they got mad.

Now, it's not the salt mines. Under the Soviet Regime, it's the pitch blende mines.

From American Army Headquarters at Frankfort - am-Maine, the report comes that Germans are running away from the Russian zone by the thousands to escape forced labor, which they think is why the Soviets are compelling all German war veterans to register.

Those pitch blende mines, from which uranium is eventually obtained to make atomic bombs, now are being worked twenty-four hours a day, in two shifts of twelve hours each. The mines are in Saxony - where before we ever heard of Uranium, the health resorts of Saxony were famous for their radioactive waters.

An American spokesman at Frankfort says that so many German refugees tell the same story, there must be some truth in it. That even women are registered for work in those mines. And if anyone stays away from work for a day, he loses three days' rations. If he stays away three days, he is tried by court-martial and sentenced to ten days in jail.

So the refugees are fleeing--pouring into the American zone.

DENNIS

A Jury in the Federal District at Washington today found Eugene Dennis, Secretary of the American Communist Party, guilty, guilty of contempt of Congress. ~~That adds~~ ^{ing} another to the group of notorious Communists either convicted or awaiting trial for defying the Committee of Representatives on Un-American Activities -- ~~one of whom~~ ^{one of whom} ~~the group includes~~ Gerhard Eisler, ~~alleged to be~~ ^{supposedly} the chief Communist gangster in the U.S.A.

The trial of ~~Dennis~~ ^{did} did not last long. One witness, ^{who} appeared ~~in his favor,~~ ^{for him was Congressman} representing Vito Marcantonio of New York, himself frequently charged with being a Communist, ~~as at least following the party~~ ~~ing rigidly.~~ Marcantonio, on the stand, refused to admit that he was a Communist, ^{and} described Eugene Dennis as a champion of the rights of labor and democracy

Dennis will probably appeal, ~~and the court~~ ~~ordered him kept in prison under bond of ten thousand~~ ~~dollars.~~ ~~The Federal Prosecutor pointed out that, on a~~ ~~previous occasion, Dennis left the country and went~~

Henry Wallace took a lashing today from Eric Johnston, former head of the U S Chamber of Commerce, now Czar of the film World.

It was at a luncheon in Brussels. His audience included members of the Belgian Cabinet and many notables. Eric Johnston told them that Wallace had misinformed the world about his own country. That he ~~had~~ has given ~~me~~ the impression that Uncle Sam is engaged on a program of imperialism in respect to both foreign and economic policy. Johnston branded that a phoney, and added that if we are imperialistic we are going about it in a most peculiar way.

For instance, he pointing to our action in the Philippines, he observed that he'd never heard of an imperialistic nation giving away territory. And he added that Russia, on the other hand, looks to us like a huge glacier moving steadily from East to West, smothering and pulverizing whatever lies in its path -- imperialism of the most avaricious sort.

~~Then the eloquent Eric Johnston referred~~

CURLEY

Within a few hours, Mayor Curley of Boston, former Governor of Massachusetts, will be an inmate of the Federal Prison at Danbury, Connecticut. On Monday, the Supreme Court of the United States for the second time turned down the appeal against his conviction for using the mail to defraud, and today Federal Judge ~~James M.~~ Proctor rejected his tearful ~~pe~~ pleas for mercy. ^{TR} Curley weepingly protested that it meant a ~~death~~ sentence, as he probably will not survive six months in jail. His attorney tried to submit a statement from Curley's physicians about his high blood pressure. Judge Proctor declined even to listen. ^{He} said it was a distressing situation, but justice is for all alike, the high and the low, the ~~right~~ and rich and the poor. ^{TR} Penal institutions, said his Honor, are equipped to care for prisoners in ill health. The Court regarded the case as ended, and decided that he should be taken off to prison today. ^{TR} Curley was surrounded ^d by weeping members of his family. But their tears did not

swerve the Judge.

As Uncle Sam's Marshalls took the convicted man off to Danbury today, Curley announced that his next step will be to ask President Truman for a pardon.

MISSILES

If Naval spokesmen have their way, there'll be another gigantic experimental air base, a naval ~~na~~ test range at Point Mugu, California. The Navy has asked Congress to authorize the building of a thirty-four million dollar air field there for the development of guided missiles -- warning at the same time that any lag in the development of such missiles will mean certain defeat in another war.

The Point Mugu project is being opposed by local fishery interests and other California groups. But they probably would have been startled today, had they been in Washington to hear Admiral Nimitz make his plea for the new base.

Said Nimitz, "the Navy puts the highest priority on the Point Mugu project. We mean to insure that the United States makes full use of the new guided weapons which may eventually change the complexion of warfare."

And Nimitz added ominously: "No effective counter-measure has yet been developed for the V-2

type of rocket projectile developed by the Germans during the last war. I predict" said he, that "the next war probably will be won by the nation that has made the greatest progress in this field."

Then the "aval Chief of Staff made pointed references to Russia without mentioning any names. Said the Admiral: "Until their defeat, the Germans led the world in rocket development. And other nations" said he, "have equal, if not greater, access to German information, equipment, facilities, and training tactics than we have."

The one nation that has complete access to all German information in their zone at least is -- the Soviet Union.

FOLLOW MISSILES

And here's a fantastic story, one we find hard to believe.

(In Pendleton, Oregon, today, Kenneth Arnold, a veteran Army Pilot, landed his private plane and ran breathlessly to the control tower to tell this tale.

Arnold swears ~~th~~ he saw nine crescent-shaped planes -- or were they pilotless missiles: Flying in formation at a speed of twelve hundred miles an hour over the Mount Rainier Plateau.)

"It's God's truth", Arnold shouted to skeptics.

"I saw them, and I clocked them. They traveled forty-eight to fifty miles in one minute and forty-two seconds".

Arnold's eyes must be good -- superhuman, in fact -- to have seen those planes at all. How about his arithmetic? A plane traveling forty-eight miles in one-minute-and-forty-two seconds would be moving at a speed of one-thousand six-hundred and ninety

two miles per hour.

But Arnold, who also is General Manager and owner of the greater Western Fire Control Company, told that story, and tonight he's sticking to it.

Says he: "I saw those objects when they first flashed into the sun over the slopes of Rainier. I looked for their tails but suddenly realized they didn't have any. I thought they might be jet planes; but when I realized how fast they were going I knew they were like nothing I had ever heard of before."

Where did they come from, who sent them, who owns them? No one seems to know -- unless you do Nelson.

ITALY

The president of Italy resigned last night; and today the Italian Assembly reelected him, almost unanimously, only five out of four hundred and thirty one deputies voting against him!

In spite of his ill health, De Nicola accepts again. But, he declines to be present in Rome during the visit of the wife of Senor Peron, the President of Argentina. Known familiarly to Argentinians as Evita, meaning little Eva, the First Lady of Buenos Aires is on her official visit to the city on the Seven Hills, -- and the President of Italy will not be there.

to inspire hatred and distrust, will have to ~~cease~~ ^{end} if
there is to be any hope of success for the Marshall Plan.

scornfully to Henry's claim that the biggest center of reaction in the world today is in the U.S.A. Wallace would have the ~~world~~ world believe that Uncle Sam is a hard, ruthless enemy of the common man's welfare everywhere. Sometimes, said Johnston, it seems that on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, Uncle Sam is pictured as an aggressive, swaggering, blustering fellow, and on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays he's an isolationist, indifferent as to what happens anywhere outside the borders of the country. And then on the seventh day of the week all is confusion.