

L.J. - P. G. Monday, June 6, 1949.

The U. S. Court of Appeals today upheld the conviction of John L. Lewis and his United Mine Workers Union, for contempt of court -- for not obeying Judge Alan Goldsborough's order to call off last year's coal strike. The Judge fined the Union one million, seven hundred thousand dollars, and *final* Lewis twenty thousand dollars.

In rejecting today's appeal, Judge Barrett Prettyman said his decision was based on a Supreme Court decision on a previous appeal by Lewis and his Union -- that anyone who fails to obey a court order, is punishable for criminal contempt.

So Lewis, who is said to be thinking of another nationwide soft coal strike, when his miners' contracts expire at the ~~end~~ of this month, must now pay his fine -- or take the matter to the Supreme Court.

TAFT-HARTLEY

The battle for the repeal of the Taft-Hartley Law opened in the Senate today. But Democratic leaders, we hear, have little hope of getting a replacement bill acceptable to Mr. Truman.

Chairman Albert Thomas of the Labor Committee, opened the proceedings by denouncing the G.O.P. Taft-Hartley Law as dangerous and destructive.

Previous to the hearing, all members of the Senate received a telegram from John L. Lewis -- in which the Miners' leader denounced A.F. of L. President William Green and C.I.O. President Philip Murray as betrayers of American labor. This because Lewis believes the two labor leaders entered into secret agreements with certain Senators to accept compromise amendments.

Meanwhile, we are told, the Democratic ranks are badly split. Some wanting complete repeal; others opposed to any change, and some supporting a modified version.

ATLANTIC PACT

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee has unanimously approved the North Atlantic Pact, the pact that pledges the United States and eleven other nations to regard an armed attack on one as an attack on all.

The Senate Committee added no restrictions to the Pact, but the Committee report tomorrow is expected to stipulate that Congress alone has power to give the order for the use of American troops -- if one of the states signing the Pact is attacked.

From Paris, Dean Acheson cabled his thanks to Committee chairman Tom Connally and his colleagues, for their prompt action. Secretary of State Acheson said this had given him, and the other Western delegates at the Big Four meeting, a tremendous lift.

BIG FOUR

In Paris, the Big Four have given up trying to reach an agreement on unified control for Berlin -- at secret meetings. So open meetings again tomorrow. The secrecy so Vishinsky might make counter-proposals -- that failed.

The secret meetings apparently only served to highlight the extremes of the disagreement between Russia and the West. Vishinsky is said to insist on the Soviet veto over all decisions of the proposed four-power administration of Berlin. This insistence so all-inclusive that he even demanded the right of veto -- on the matter of garbage collection.

From now on, the meetings of the Big Four powers will be only semi-private. Plenary sessions, they call them. With each delegation meeting newsmen afterwards, and telling just what transpired.

A Western delegate stated today that no progress was made. Already there is a suggestion of early adjournment.

BERLIN

In Berlin today, the Western powers got tough with Russia, telling the Soviets they are violating the New York agreement to lift the blockade. This because they refuse to settle the railroad strike. So the United States Military Government advised the Soviet transport chief that there will be no new trade pact between Eastern and Western Germany, until the rail traffic is restored.

Our officials say the Soviets are doing nothing to settle the strike -- and that hundreds of freight trains stalled in the Soviet occupation zone, between Berlin and the West, could easily be brought in and unloaded.

So the ultimatum today, the West saying to the East -- no trains, no trade.

CHAMBERS

In Federal Court today, Whittaker Chambers admitted under cross-examination that he had committed perjury three times;-- before a Federal Grand Jury, and the House Un-American Activities Committee. Also, the former Communist editor said that another man in the State Department besides Hiss, Henry Julian Wadleigh, had given him official documents. Wadleigh is the former State Department economist whom Chambers described to the House Committee as an active source of documents in the State Department -- the documents procured for a Russian secret agent.

TRACTOR

Here's a London report on a Moscow radio broadcast. Moscow by radio, trying to sell state-made tractors to the comrades. And London's comment is that Moscow seems to be copying capitalist advertising technique -- to plug the tractor. Which says the Moscow radio, is a wonder. No noise, no exhaust, no dirt. A pleasure to operate, because it requires no physical exertion. Now this, coming from a regime where physical toil is extolled amongst the workers, would sound as if the Red salesman might be a little off the party line.

At any rate this tractor has the blessing of the Soviet government and gets a heavy blurb on the Moscow Radio, with capitalistic slogans to attract customers. This noiseless, exhaustless, no-dirt tractor is attached to an electrical chord that can be plugged in to any high tension ^{transmission} line.

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If you have an electrical cable long enough to
allow the wonder tractor to cover fifty acres of
land.

NEW PLANE

In Burbank, California, Lockheed announces a successful flight of a new AirForce jet penetration fighter. The F-90, the largest fighter aircraft ever built. Fifty-five feet long from nose to tail, with a forty-foot wingspan. The F-90 designed to penetrate deep behind the enemy lines -- to destroy targets on the ground as well as in the upper air.

SPIES

The House Un-American Activities Committee today was given a vivid word picture of the life of a Soviet spy in this country -- a spy's life while the F B I is on his trail. According to Joseph Franey, a former Bell Aircraft employee, the spy - Andrei Schevchenko, was always extremely jumpy - knowing all the time the G M were trailing him.

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Mrs. Franey, who often entertained the agent at the Franey home, described how the Russian agent was a chain smoker, who would never sit down - always standing in the middle of the room - never near a window. Jumpy even in his own apartment - always imagining there were microphones in the walls. Nor would he ever talk in an auto. It might have ears!

Sometimes he took the Franey's to dinner, and gave them presents. And finally one ~~day~~ day

on a bench in New York's Central Park he told what he would pay for certain documents -- he offered hard cash.

What about the Franey's? Oh they were onto him. In fact they were working with the F B I and they did make a deal with him; to sell him some microfilm, of documents specially prepared by the F B I. They told him fake information.

Then one day the nervous Red spy vanished. The F B I reporting to the husband and wife that he had gotten out of the country -- without being picked up.

Naturally, the Franey's were disappointed at the man on whom they had worked for so long, being allowed to escape. The explanation given them by the F B I so they told the committee, was that our State Department didn't want him arrested. Evidently

they had some fatter fish to fry.

Then today another former aircraft worker, Loren Haas, told the committee that he understood the arrest of the Russian spy was blocked by Secretary of State Byrnes. Because at that time, Russia was an ally of the United States, and all Soviet citizens in America were presumed to be friendly. Aircraft worker Haas also told of having a good time with the Russian spy, who wanted some highly secret data on turbo-jet engines. To Haas, the Russian said it was all a mere personal matter. He simply wanted to win a five-thousand-Ruble competition in Moscow. So Haas, playing along with the F B I gave him some information.

Aircraft expert Haas also revealed that Schevchenko had ample reason to be jumpy. He said the F B I had rented the apartment next door to his,

with their devices for listening and photographing his operations.

The last news of the Russian spy was a Christmas card saying he was returning to Russia -- for the sake of his health!

A.M.A.

From Atlantic City, we hear that an important feature of the American Medical Association's campaign to defeat compulsory health insurance, is a plan to retire Dr. Morris Fishbein. Dr. Fishbein has been editor of the American Medical Association Journal for nearly twenty-five years. In fact, he has come to be known as official spokesman for the Medical Association.

Apparently, not all doctors approve of Dr. Fishbein and what he says. With the dilemma of whether to keep the publicity-minded medical journalist as editor and not as a spokesman -- or, hire someone else.

At the Atlantic City convention today, the A.M.A. trustees suggested a compromise -- that Dr. Fishbein not be allowed to talk on controversial subjects. That his future speaking engagements all first be approved by the Executive Committee. That in future he would give no interviews, no press conferences, and no statements -- except on scientific subjects. Which would handicap the articulate editor. Not even allowing him to comment on the A.M.A. ruling!

Result: Dr Fishbeing held a press conference--
to say he has been preparing his retirement in five years.
But he added, "If the atmosphere becomes unpleasant I'll
retire in five minutes."

DESPERADOES

Out in Norfolk, Nebraska, those three armed desperadoes are thought to have gone into hiding -- taking an elderly man as a hostage. The last of five people the fugitives seized, crossing North Dakota, South Dakota and Nebraska -- stealing car after car. The criminals started their wild chase after killing a policeman at Richfield, Minnesota. Then they kidnaped a North Dakota cop, pushed him out of his car and careened off. Crashing through roadblocks in three states -- with police cars in hot pursuit.

Mrs. Andrews of Norfolk, Nebraska, tells tonight how the gunmen made her and her husband drive twenty-eight miles along the highway at gunpoint. She overheard the men say they were heading towards Sioux City, Iowa -- and that if they came to a roadblock they would shoot it out. All three boasting they would die with their boots on. On clear roads they drove at ninety miles an hour; but in traffic they slowed up so as not to attract attention. When last seen the killers

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were twenty miles east of Norfolk. In a car driven by an elderly man -- he apparently their prisoner. And in that car, say the police, are rifles, ammunition, and a cylinder of deadly nitroglycerine.

LADY TREASURER

Mr. Truman has sent to the Senate his nomination of Mrs. George Neese Clark of Richland, Kansas, as Treasurer of the United States. And who is Mrs. Clark? The news wire tells us that she has been a banker, farmer, actress, the owner of a small town general store; and a grain elevator operator. And, of course, she's a Democrat, a member of the National Democratic Committee since Nineteen Thirty-Six. And, she says she is proud of being born a Democrat, in Republican Kansas.

But the lady who, if Congress approves her nomination, will sign our currency bills, likes to be known as - a country banker. She's President of the Richland State Bank. Richland, a town of some two hundred inhabitants, about sixty-eight miles from Jackson County, Missouri - President Truman's home.

Well, being Treasurer of the United States and supervising the accounting of the money used by a hundred and fifty million or more people, will be quite a change from banking in that town of two hundred inhabitants. When newsmen today asked the former actress, banker and store operator, how was her

hand-writing, which will figure on the new bills, with true womanly candor she replied - "Why, it's terrible."

And Mrs. Clark's appointment reminds us that there's another woman closely associated with the nation's money. Mrs. Nellie Taylor Ross, Director of the Mint. Two women handling Uncle Sam's cash box! How's that, Nelson?

BATORY

The F.B.I. apparently cleared the captain and crew members of the Polish liner "Batory", cleared them of any suspicion of helping Communist Eisler to stow away.

This morning the Batory sailed for Southampton. The ship's captain all smiles, and thanking American officials for their courtesy and good humor, in what he called, "an accidental situation."

Among the Batory's passengers was Mrs. Sophie Stevens, the wife of Alexander Stevens, alias J. Peters. He is the man said to be the top leader of the Communist underground in the United States. ^{Stevens-Peters is} ~~now in~~ in Budapest, and his wife, a naturalized American citizen, is going to visit him -- behind the Iron Curtain, Red Hungary.