

TRUMAN

C.I. - Sunco. Monday, May 27, 1946.

President Truman has the entire population of the United States, apparently, ^{talking} ~~arguing~~ about his formula for dealing with strikes that cripple the nation. According to Press Secretary Charlie Ross, no fewer than seven thousand telegrams poured into the White House today, upholding ^{Pres.} ~~Mr.~~ Truman. But ^{many} labor union heads ~~to a man~~ ^{are} ~~united in~~ denouncing ^{the President's} ~~his~~ historic address to the Congress on Saturday. ~~noon. For once, the American Federation of labor, the C.I.O. leaders, and the chiefs of the Brotherhoods, are in agreement.~~

~~The scenes~~ In the Senate, ~~were nothing less than~~ turbulent. ^{are} Opponents of the measure ^{are} ~~charging~~ the President with everything from bad faith to Fascism. Republican Senator Morse of Oregon ^{says} ~~made the cold~~ accusation ~~that~~ the President ~~had deliberately~~ held back the news that the railroad strike had been settled, so that he could read the announcement in the middle of his

speech to the Representatives and Senators. At this, the Truman supporters on the floor of the Senate shouted angry

denials. ~~Sen. Morse~~ ^{then} ~~shouted, then with the words, "It was~~
~~one of the cheapest exhibitions of ham-acting, I have ever~~
~~seen."~~ ^{Sen. Morse called it}

To ~~the~~ newspapermen later, the Senate charged that the railroad men had placed their offer to settle in the President's hands at noon Saturday, four hours before he began his address to Congress.

^{The Pres's} ~~Mr. Truman's~~ proposal had the extraordinary consequence of alligning Republican Senators with the most vehement Left Wing pro-labor legislators. What the Republicans object to is the President's suggestion for drafting strikers and compelling them to work as members of the army.

xxxxxxhxxxxx FxxHhxxkx
 A.F. Whitney, President of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, returned to his home, ⁱⁿ ~~town of~~ Cleveland

today, full of brimstone and fire. First he said that Mr. Truman has had the whole-hearted support of the railroad brotherhoods for many years. Then he added:

"We now repudiate him for the un-American statement he made over the radio last Friday morning, and for his Fascist proposal to Congress last Saturday."

Whitney then announced that he had forty-seven million dollars in his treasury, and that he was prepared to spend two million and a half, ~~dollars~~, backed by the votes of two hundred and twenty thousand men, to defeat Mr. Truman and to elect legislators who would favor labor.

Whitney then attacked the Railway Mediation Board, said it has only one member capable of doing a good job, Judge William Douglas.

Whitney ^{next} ~~then~~ took a bitter fling at David Robertson, head of the Firemen's Union, who had said Saturday that the railroad strike had set labor back eleven

years. Said Whitney: "I have known Robertson a long time and as far as his labor philosophies go, I wouldn't trust him with a dog's breakfast."

Whitney also lambasted his lifelong friend, Mayor Tom Burke of Cleveland, for having sent him a telegram urging him to be a good American and stand by the President.

~~Returning to Washington, William Green, President of the American Federation of Labor, said that if Mr.~~

~~Truman's proposal to draft strikers is enacted into law,~~

~~"Fascism may grip America unawares."~~ ^{TP} Fifty lobbyists for

A.F. of L. unions held a meeting ^{today} to prepare a campaign

against anti-labor legislation. Three hundred C.I.O.

members from New York City met Senator Claude Pepper

outside the Senate Chamber, and implored him to do what

he could he head off anti-labor laws.

The Republican opponents of the bill include

the most conservative, such as Senator Taft. The gentleman

from Ohio engaged in a hot argument with Majority Leader
Barkley of Kentucky. ^{Sen} Taft declared that if ^e that proposal
became law, strikers who were drafted could be shot as
traitors if they refused to work. Saltonstall of
Massachusetts said it would be the equivalent of forcing
men into involuntary servitude. Vandenberg of Michigan
opposed it also, but in milder terms.

COAL

With one strike settled, ^{what about the} ~~we are now in the thick~~
~~of another?~~ The walkout of soft coal miners has shut down
virtually all the ^{mines} ~~sites~~ in the country. Only a comparative
handful, less than thirty thousand, ^{have} stayed on the job,
~~they are~~ ^{of them} mostly members of progressive unions or no union
at all. ~~The consequent production is just a dribble of~~
~~soft coal, with more than~~ Three hundred and seventy
thousand ^{odd} ~~men~~ ^{are} out. ^{Tonight} ~~Uncle Sam's~~ troops are already in the
coalfields, ^{ready} to protect those who want to work. ~~But so far~~
~~there has not been much call for their services.~~

~~What we may soon expect is a series of further~~
~~embargoes on freight shipments and cancellation of~~
~~passenger trains.~~

President Truman's proclamation that this is
another strike against the government ^{seems to have} had no effect upon
the miners, ^{so far,} Their opinion was expressed ^{today} in the words of
one ^{may} ~~of them~~ who said that he would work without a

contrast when the government mines and sells the coal, takes the profits, and pays wages in government checks.

At Washington, John L. Lewis and Secretary of the Interior Krug continued their arguments. They talked all morning and went back to it in the afternoon. But *so far* there is nothing to indicate that they are any *nearer* ~~closer to~~ *ment* agreeing than when President Truman seized the mines last Wednesday.

ROCHESTER FOLLOW COAL

~~At this moment, the people of Rochester, New York,~~
~~are threatened with a strike that will~~ *face to face a general* *tie up* ~~literally cripple~~
~~that city.~~ The issue ^{is} the right of municipal employees
to join a union.

It all
The squabbling started ^{on} May Fifteenth, when the
City Manager abolished ~~almost~~ five hundred jobs in the
Department of Public Works. The City Manager's object,
according to the story, was to nip in the bud ~~and~~ attempt
to organize city job-holders. Then some sixty drivers of
ash-collecting trucks refused to take their vehicles out,
and were fired. Thereupon, the main station of the
Department of Public Works in Rochester was picketed,
The police ^{then} got busy, ^{and} arrested two hundred and sixty-seven
people for disorderly conduct.

The next move was the organization of a joint
committee of A.F. of L. And C.I.O. workers in Rochester,
a strategy committee. They ^{Committee} went to the City Manager this

morning and gave him an ultimatum: Let the city employees organize, or we'll call a citywide general strike. The A.F. of L. unions in Rochester have thirty thousand workers, the C.I.O. eighteen thousand. If they strike, they'll shut down most of the factories and the two daily newspapers in Rochester.

If the city government does not give in, the strike begins at ten o'clock Eastern Daylight Time tonight.

All this the Commissioner uttered in an interview in a Russian newspaper. He also took a shot at some members of our Congress, said they were blowing the trumpet of their expansionist plans and inciting to new aggressive wars. In short, he declared, the United States and Great Britain are to blame for the failure of the Paris Conference. He spoke with particular anger

MOLOTOV

Russia's Foreign Minister Molotov is mad.

At least he spoke that way today, mad at Uncle Sam and at John Bull. He is particularly furious with Secretary Byrnes, accused^{ing} him of having used, at the conference of Foreign Ministers, ^{of having used} pressure, threats and intimidation against the Soviet Union. He declared that the English-speaking countries ^{have} formed a bloc to impose their will upon Russia. ^{And have} ~~He said they had~~ carried ^{on an} ~~an~~ anti-Soviet offensive under the guise of peaceful diplomatic procedure.

All this the Commissar uttered in an interview in a Russian newspaper. He also took a whack at some members of our Congress, said they were blowing the trumpet of their expansionist plans and inciting to new aggressive wars. In short, he declared, the United States and Great Britain are to blame for the failure of the Paris Conference. He spoke with particular anger

about Byrnes's motion that if the Big Four cannot agree on June Fifteenth, the whole question of peace treaties should be referred to the Council of the United Nations. He described it as one more attempt to break up collaboration between the big powers and to utilize methods of threats and intimidation against the Soviet Union.

So far as ~~referred to~~ the peace treaties ^{and} to the United Nations are concerned, the prestige of the U.N., he continued, it might undermine the ~~prestige~~ of the U.N., which has already been gravely impaired, might be further undermined. So he said; evidently ~~he was~~ referring to the dispute over Iran in the Security Council.

It is more than a trifle difficult to follow the reasoning of the Soviet Foreign Commissar. Of course, we have to allow for the difficulty and possible inaccuracy of translation.

MEAGHER

John Meagher of Jersey City, New Jersey, today joined the ~~notable cohort of men who~~ ^{rather small number of men who have} won the Congressional Medal of Honor. The award was announced tonight, almost one year after the battle in which Sergeant Meagher earned his decoration.

It happened at Okinawa, during one of the fiercest ~~engagements on that desperately fought for~~ ^{engagements on that desperately fought for} ~~fiercest fights on that dreadful island. Our men, the~~ ^{islands. The men of the} Seventy-Seventh Infantry Division, were ~~putting up a~~ ^{trying} ~~desperate attempt~~ to crack a line of enemy pill boxes and bunkers on a coral ridge. Sergeant Meagher deliberately climbed to an elevated spot, subject to a withering fire from Jap rifles and machine guns. Ignoring the ~~danger~~, he was pointing out targets for American guns. Miraculously enough, none of the bullets hit him, but a Jap soldier jumped out of a ditch carrying an explosive satchel charge. Sergeant Meagher jumped on the Jap, bayonet in hand. The charge

went off, blowing the Jap to pieces, also Meagher's rifle. Incidentally, it knocked Meagher senseless.

A medical officer revived him, and ^{he} rushed back into the fighting once more. The Japs charged ~~on him~~ ^{again}, headed by a tank. Meagher burst his way into the tank, grabbed its anti-aircraft machine gun, and turned it on the Japs. Then he ^{made his way} ~~charged~~ through a cross-fire toward the nearest of two pill boxes. Working his way to the rear of the pill box, he went inside and literally sprayed it with bullets, killing all six Japs who manned it. Then he rushed on up the ridge and attacked the second nest. By this time his ammunition had run out, so he swung his gun like a club and killed four Japs, after a wild ~~terrible~~ melee. Sounds unbelievable.

But that's the record.

The citation of the War Department said:

"Sergeant Meagher, single handedly, broke enemy resistance by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity

above and beyond the call of duty."

Major General A.D. Bruce, commanding general of the Seventy-Seventh, said: "It is such men as these who win wars despite the best opposition the fanatical enemy can devise."

that he had when he was drafted.

That settles a question that has been burning among employers, labor unions and veterans for many months. The veterans organizations make a guess that the ruling will affect only eighteen thousand of the vote already mobilized.

All this came up

because a welder in Brooklyn returned to his old job in a shipyard. During the panic season, he was laid off while men who had not been in war but who had more seniority were kept at work. This veteran said he should not have been laid off, but the Supreme Court doesn't agree.

VETERANS

The Supreme Court today wiped out the principle of super-seniority for veterans. A veteran returning to his pre-war employment, is entitled to the same status that he would have had if he had stayed on the job. *That is* ~~he~~ ^{he} does not take precedence of ~~men~~ ^{who had} ~~with~~ more seniority than he had when he was drafted.

~~That settles a question that has been burning employers, labor unions and veterans for many many months. The veterans organizations make a guess that the ruling will affect only eighteen thousand of the vets already demobilized.~~

All this came up
~~The case arose~~ because a welder in Brooklyn returned to his old job in a shipyard. During the slack season, he was laid off while men who had not been to war but who had more seniority were kept at work. This veteran said he should not have been laid off, but the Supreme Court doesn't agree.

ARMY

The G.I.'s who did all that grouching were right - according to this: That the High Command of Uncle Sam's Army needs to revolutionize its entire thinking about the ~~xi~~ relations between officers and men, is the suggestion made public today by the Doolittle Board, the committee of officers and enlisted men that War Secretary Patterson appointed to investigate this angry question.

All of you have heard the complaints made by returning veterans, about the attitude of the officers. The report of the Board, which is headed by former Lieutenant ~~Lieutenant~~ General Jimmy Doolittle, seems to bear out the griping of the vets, for the report says: "The present ~~xxxxxx~~ system does not permit full recognition of the dignity of man. More definite protection from the arbitrary acts of superiors is essential." And it also says: "There is need for a new philosophy in the military order, a policy of treatment of men, especially in the ranks, in terms of advanced concepts in social thinking." That's saying it in ten dollar words.

Anyhow, the report reads as though General Jimmy Doolittle, General Middleton, and all the officers and men on the Board agree with the basic point of view of the enlisted men. For the report recommends the wiping out of practically everything to which the G.I.'s objected. Such as: no more saluting when off duty. That is, if an enlisted man meets an officer on the street, he's not obliged to recognize him. Furthermore, officers and men should mix socially. At a dance you can cut in on a Colonel -- I take it that's what it means. G.I.'s to get the same food and quarters as their officers. A G.I. to get "terminal leave pay" same as an officer. And - officers should be subjected to the same rules of military justice as enlisted men.

The report goes on to say that the Army should ~~im~~ drop its petty distinctions such as the habit of referring in directives to "officers and their ladies" in one sentence and "enlisted men and their wives" in another. Furthermore, all to be referred to as soldiers

not "officers and enlisted men."

And ~~here's~~ here's another: Promotions should be made for merit, and not according to seniority. Also, "Before a man is commissioned as an officer, he must have previous military training, preferably a year in the enlisted ranks." Moreover, there should be a method of either demoting or firing officers who are incompetent or otherwise undesirable. As it is, a whole regiment may be aware that a particular officer is completely unfit for military leadership, ^{but} according to the existing system it has been virtually impossible to get rid of him.

Just listen to this:- the entire system of Army pay should be revised so that Uncle Sam can offer as good inducements as industry and business for competent men.

General Doolittle and his colleagues would also like to see the Army establish a way of bringing about intellectual contact between our military men and

our civilians, so they'll understand each other's problems.

The Board admitted that a lot of abuses were inevitable, particularly during the early part of the war when the Army was expanding so rapidly. The Board also offered its congratulations to the War Department for the way it is trying to abolish the conditions against which the G.I.'s are ~~complain~~^{complaining.} ~~As it releases the~~ report, the War Department announces that some of the recommendations have already been put into effect.

~~mx~~ The Department would have done more except that some of these ~~fx~~ reforms will have to be approved by Congress before they can be put in force.

I suppose some officers won't like the report of the Doolittle Board because it recommends that officers have fewer privileges. What about those signs: "For Officers Only" displayed outside restaurants, cafes and elsewhere? No more of that!

And now, no more of this. It's your turn, Hugh.