

In a federal courtroom at Washington today, there was a scene reminiscent of a once popular play, called "Madame X." It was a pretty bad play by all expert descriptions, including that of the great French tragedienne Sarah Bernhardt, who made it popular. But the men who wrote it used a great trick. They had the principal character, Madame X, acted by the divine Sarah sitting in a prisoner's box throughout an entire act, without saying a word.

Such was the scene in Judge Goldsborough's court at Washington today. There sat John L. Lewis, usually one of the most vocal of men. When it suits his purpose he can throw language blistering with quotations from the Old Testament and ~~from~~ <sup>from</sup> Shakespeare or, even Billingsgate, until he literally makes his audiences' hair curl. But the cagey Welsh orator never misses a cue. And he showed today that he knows when silence is more eloquent than

the most sonorous citation from the Prophet Jeremiah, more dynamic than anything out of King Lear. Throughout that whole act in the courtroom, he sat like Madame X, speaking never a word. As the eyes in the audience used to rest upon a mute Sarah Bernhardt, <sup>today</sup> all eyes in that courtroom were on the Labor Sphinx, the beetle-browed chief of the United Mine Workers. Like Madame X, <sup>John L. Lewis</sup> had the part of the prisoner in the box, the villain of the piece. Yet the eyes of the crowd were seldom on the judge, and still more seldom <sup>on</sup> the government's lawyers. All eyes were on ~~John L.~~ Lewis, as he faced the charge of contempt of the honor and dignity of Uncle Sam, contempt of a court of his country.

The trial was brief; lasted only thirty-seven minutes, and ended as expected: Lewis to appear before Judge Goldsborough again next Wednesday, then to face trial and show cause why he should not be punished on the charges for contempt of court.

The lawyers for the United Mine Workers informed the court that their client had not the faintest

intention of calling his miners back to work.

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It came to light over the weekend that Lewis bases his right to deprive the nation of coal -- bases his right to do this on a legal tangle. When President Truman seized the mines last May, Lewis signed a contract with Interior Secretary Krug, which conceded to the miners several of the points for which they had asked. One clause of that contract provided that it was to be in effect so long as the mines remained in possession of the government. But another clause provided that the agreement continued and preserved the terms and conditions contained in the agreement of the previous year, April Nineteen Forty-five, unless otherwise stated.

And one of those terms was that either side could terminate the contract on due notice. And there we get the clue to his defense: that Lewis denounced the contract on the basis of the agreement of April



Nineteen Forty-five -- at the same time disregarding that clause in the Nineteen Forty-six agreement which provided that the contract should hold good so long as the mines remained in the possession of the government.

All of which goes to show how important it is to have lawyers who can find those technicalities for you.

The miners themselves, of course, are not in on any legal quibbling. All they know is that their chief told them the contract was off. And out they went. Result -- a national disaster. With all the world looking on -- and some important parts of the world taking plenty of advantage of the endless internal squabbles we have here at home.

The national picture tonight must make our totalitarian friends laugh. Railroad service cut down. The mileage of ~~fm~~ coal-burning locomotives immediately reduced by twenty-five percent. More than a hundred-and-twenty steel furnaces cooling off tonight. Tens of thousands of steel workers laid off. Iron production



approaching paralysis. By the end of the week, a million workers in many industries will be unemployed.

One immediate reaction is interesting:

All over the country factories and plants that have been using soft coal are calling upon their engineers to plan for changing over to the use of other fuels.

This is particularly true in the huge plants where our electric power is developed. So whatever the outcome of the strike, it surely will accelerate the development of water power, sometimes called white coal.

Producers and consumers alike are now growing more and more fearful of being dependent upon coal.

Engineers and economists, some of them - predict that Lewis may win his fight, this time, but that by the method he has chosen, he surely will have thrown hundreds of thousands of his miners permanently out of work - not by government action, nor by employer action, but because plants will convert to other fuels.

## GAS

A committee of the House of Representatives heard today some interesting facts with a bearing on the coal strike. Two men came before the Surplus Property Committee and said that if the government would let them use the big inch and little inch pipelines, built during the war, to bring oil to the east, they could shoot natural gas through those big tubes. That this natural gas would, to some extent offset the effects of the shortage of coal.

The men who made the proposal were Gardiner Symons of Houston, Texas, President of the Tennessee Gas and Transmission Company, and former Senator Bulkley of Ohio, now President of the Big Inch Natural Gas and Transmission Company.

Still a third operator, the President of the Trans-Continental Gas Pipeline Company, testified that he offered to buy the pipelines and their equipment for ninety-two million dollars cash. That with these pipelines

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he could deliver two hundred and twenty-five million cubic feet of gas a day, within ninety days. Symons and Bulkley said they could get into operation quicker than that. However, they haven't found the federal authorities too enthusiastic. Neither the War Assets Administration nor the Department of the Interior gave much encouragement to the men who want to buy and operate those big pipelines. That is they said they didn't.



## DOOLITTLE

The American people believe in collective bargaining and the right to strike. But, ~~there are many~~ <sup>most Americans</sup> ~~who~~ also think that these are days when all of us should be at work. <sup>TP</sup> The war isn't over yet. Peace hasn't been signed. And this is a bad time to make ourselves the laughing stock of the world.]

[ In the totalitarian countries, there are many who with glee are pointing at us and saying to their people:- "See, that's the kind of mess the Democracies make of it!"

All of which reminds me of something General Jimmy Doolittle told me a number of years ago. Back in the days when the Germans were getting ready for World War Two - and when we thought we'd never have to go to war again.

Es Jimmy Doolittle was one of the few Americans who realized the gravity of what was happening

in Europe. He knew because he went there every year on a tour of inspection. He did this for the great concern that employed him. Indirectly he did some observing for Uncle Sam, always turning in reports to our government -- most of which were just ~~fix~~ filed away - pigeonholed -- nothing done about them.

Jimmy Doolittle visited a Junkers plant in Germany, at Breslau, I think it was -- where the Junkers Company was ~~very~~ busy turning out planes at a frantic rate, arming Germany to the teeth, building up the vast air force, the Luftwaffe, that came very near wrecking all Europe -- in fact came near messing up this planet in a way that would have meant disaster for us, too.

At that time we were having a lot of strikes. Just as we are now. Well, the head of the Junkers ~~in~~ factory remarked to Doolittle: "Huh, we never have

any strikes like you do."

"How do you explain it? How do you do it?"  
asked our famous flier.

The German plant manager answered: "Over here whenever anyone even suggests a strike we take him out and shoot him."

All of which I can glad we can still say is not the way we do it. But, in these days when strikes are so rampant in our country, when we are having so much difficulty getting together, when we are quarreling among ourselves, I wonder how many of us stop to think of the strength of the totalitarian countries, and how they are still at work hoping to smash our system - hoping to give us the kind of freedom they enjoy.

We all want our working men to have better and better conditions. But, the war isn't over. And,



these are days when we should all be pulling  
together - not pulling apart.

## STRIKE

This was a holiday for the school children of St. Paul, Minnesota, thirty thousand of them. Their teachers went on strike. The reason? Their present salaries range from twelve hundred to twenty-six hundred dollars a year -- far too little say they. And they ask for a minimum of twenty-four hundred, a maximum of thirty-six hundred. They also want the School Board to improve the buildings and equipment in both the grade schools and the high schools.

The position of the city fathers of St. Paul is that it would be against the law for them to meet the teachers' demands. So today at seven-thirty, in pleasant sunny weather, the teachers plowed out through the snow to picket the schoolhouses.

One interesting angle being that they had the backing of the Parent-Teachers Association, with some of the sympathetic parents joining them in the picketing.

STRIKE - 2.

The Governor of Minnesota called a meeting of the members of the City Council of St. Paul, along with members of the State Legislature, and representatives of the Teachers' Joint Council. Then the Governor told them what he thought about the situation -- that they should come to a settlement and lose no time about it.

There was a near strike right across the river, in Minneapolis, a simultaneous one. The teachers there were to have gone out too -- and that would have given seventy thousand boys and girls an extra holiday. But at midnight last night, the city fathers of Minneapolis and the teachers settled that dispute.

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In Milwaukee, the long drawn out strike at the Allis-Chalmers plant was the scene of more violence again today. For some weeks non-strikers have been working at the plant, defying the C.I.O. union. Today when workers tried to leave the plant, they ran into mass pickets.



STRIKE - 3.

Autos driving out of the plant with workers headed for home. And then the riot was on. One picket was injured. But they in turn beat up several policemen as well as some of the non-strikers.

A telegram was sent to Philip Murray, President of the C.I.O., asking whether it was true that he supported the disorderly picketing at the Allis-Chalmers plant. The telegram maintained that this kind of picketing is illegal in Wisconsin. That the laws in that state prohibit any picketing that prevents a man from going to work when he wants to. The telegram called upon Murray to make his decision clear.

## BIG FOUR

The Big Four Council of Foreign Ministers met in New York today, and the Russians were in a rare and conciliatory mood. Before the meeting was ended and before other delegates had a chance to pinch themselves and see if it were true, Foreign Minister Molotov laid the ground work for a sweeping compromise on the whole problem of Trieste.

As matters stood until today, the British, the American, and the French opposed the Russians on the question of how much power the Allied Governor of Trieste should have, with the Western Powers wanting him to be all powerful. Today, Molotov indicated that he may agree to that.

The Russians are not in the habit of giving up something for nothing, and observers think that perhaps a bargain was reached among the Foreign Ministers today, Molotov granting wide powers to the future Allied Governor of the Adriatic port, the English and the American promising soon to withdraw their troops from Trieste.

## RESCUE

One hero of the ~~crash~~ <sup>that plane crash in the Alps</sup> seems to be the "mystery

passenger", George Harvey of Iron Mountain, Michigan -- the civilian employee of the War Department, whose presence on the plane was not disclosed until yesterday. It was Harvey who set the fractured thigh of the injured Army Sergeant. And, it was the same George Harvey who treated the others for cuts and bruises.

For five days, they were up there on that ice field, until the Swiss pilots managed to make a landing on the glacier in their small planes, mounted on skies. Major Hitz and Captain Hug, of the Swiss Air Force, in their tiny planes, shuttled back and forth nine times, until they brought ~~down~~ all twelve of our air travelers down to the airport at Unter Bach near Meiringen, in Switzerland.

When ~~they were~~ rescued, the travelers were ~~almost~~ down to their last bar of chocolate.

The Swiss authorities are still worrying about the Alpine climbers who clambored up to that icy summit on foot, and are still up there. The ice of the Bernese Oberland is particularly treacherous at this season, and far more dangerous on the descent than ~~on the upgrade~~ when going up.



## SHOOTING

Last Thursday a delegate from the Ukraine to the United Nations, was in a delicatessen shop in New York, when the place was held up. Not understanding English very well, he did ~~not~~ grasp what the bandit meant when he said: "put 'em up!" So the Ukrainian was in no hurry to put 'em up. The thug fired; wounded the Ukrainian.

He was not wounded very badly, <sup>but he was</sup> ~~just~~ shot in the thigh. ~~But~~ <sup>^</sup> To read the papers in Moscow, you <sup>-d</sup> ~~would~~ think ~~that~~ a Cabinet officer of the United States or a ranking general had done the shooting, in person and deliberately, out of spite against the holy Communist cause. Pravda and the rest of the Soviet press follow exactly the pattern you might expect. That Ukrainian delegate was not shot by a bandit in a common hold-up. He was picked out as a victim of capitalist terrorism. So says Pravda. The Soviet journal goes on to charge that the New York police authorities have been sluggish in investigating

the shooting. The Russian newspapermen almost go so far as to intimate that the police did the shooting!

And now Nelson it's your turn -- shoot!