

SUB LEAD COAL S. J. - P. & S. wed. Nov. 30 '49

In the East it's about an hour from
midnight. That is, about an hour from another coal
strike. Which newest crisis ~~presents John L. Lewis~~ →
~~in some of the strangest gyrations, etc etc.~~

COAL

~~It looks like a coal strike tonight -- and this~~
presents John L. Lewis in some of the strangest gyrations
in his wildly gyrating career. The mine union chief -
put on an astonishing act of ~~contemptuous~~ silence.

Two weeks ago Lewis called off a coal strike,
declaring a truce until December First. So, unless
that were changed, the miners would go out again
automatically at midnight tonight. ~~At~~^S the deadline
approached, day by day, everybody expected ~~that~~ something
would be done -- and Lewis' own behavior indicated that
something would be done.

Monday morning of this week the policy
committee of the union met in New York, presumably to
take action. But Lewis called that off, and the
committee met against the next day, yesterday. But Lewis,
once more left matters dangling. The same thing today,
when the union committee met a third time -- and nothing
happened. John L. Lewis merely kept silent, not a word --
as the hours passed and the strike deadline at midnight
drew near.

At this moment all the indications are that there will be a walkout -- the decision being made by the silence of John L. Lewis, that ~~contemptuous~~ silence.

President Truman, on his vacation at Key West, is in constant touch with Washington -- but we have no indication of what the President will do. He has intimated previously that he might invoke the injunction provisions of the Taft-Hartley Act -- against which he, himself, has campaigned. One supposition is that Lewis wants to put the administration in the hole -- by giving the President the embarrassing alternative of invoking that labor law. So a coal strike tonight will be a strategic manoeuvre -- but it seems a strange time, with Christmas coming on and the miners in need of earning money for the holidays.

CONGRESSMAN

The trial of Congressman Parnell Thomas came to a sudden end today, when the defence threw in its hand. The former chairman of the Committee on Unamerican Activities changed a plea of "not guilty" to one of -- nolo contendere^a. Which is a legal term for -- "no defence". He threw himself on the mercy of the court -- virtually admitting the charge that he took salary kickbacks from nominal employees on government payroll. On this count of fraud he could get a maximum of thirty-two years in prison and a fine of forty thousand dollars. The judge stated today he would impose sentence on December Ninth.

ACHESON

Secretary of State, Dean Acheson, had something to say today about that old oriental disaster -- "Loss of face". At a news conference he made reply to critics who have been saying hard things about the way our government handled the affair of Angus Ward, the Consul General who was imprisoned by the Reds at Muckden, and then expelled. This has been called a blow to American prestige -- a loss of face.

The Secretary of State replies with acid comment, saying that the fear of loss of face is a foolish oriental idea, which seems to have seized the American public. He adds bluntly that he does not accept that oriental notion as a guide for American foreign policy.

Instead of emphasizing the imprisonment and release of Consul General Angus Ward, Acheson today went on to the case of two American flyers who have been held by the Chinese Reds for thirteen months. They were forced down in Red territory while on a routine training flight, and have been kept incommunicado -- in spite of

six American diplomatic notes demanding their release.
The Secretary discloses that still another communication
has gone to the Chinese Reds -- repeating the demand in
angry terms.

ADD ACHESON

At Long Beach, California, the wife of one of the two flyers declares that she is going to Washington and, in her words -- "Sit down until they do something." She is Mrs. Betty Smith, the thirty-two year old wife of Navy Chief Petty Officer, William C. Smith, who was in the plane forced down on Communist territory. Since her husband's imprisonment, Mrs. Smith has had a baby, and she is now in danger of losing her home. Her husband made a payment on the house, but she is in trouble because she lacks the power of attorney from him to take care of legal details.

CHUNGKING

Tonight Chungking is in the hands of Communists -- as was indicated last night. The Reds crossed the river which flows swiftly from those parts, the regions of the far-famed Gorges of the Yangtze. Occupying the abandoned capital of the Nationalists, they promptly pushed on to the direction of Chengtu, one hundred and seventy-five miles to the northwest. At which city the remnants of the Nationalist regime, including Chang Kai Shek, have taken refuge.

U N

In the U N this evening Great Britain spoke of -- "a war manifesto". The British were referring to the order issued by the comintern -- for the overthrow of Red Marshall Tito of Jugoslavia. Directed ~~ix~~ by Moscow, it looks like a command to begin hostilities. So how do the Soviets reconcile that with their proposal for a big power alliance to guarantee the peace?

In the U N debate today the Jugoslav delegation went back into history, and quoted something said by an ~~an~~ oldtime king of Montenegro. One hundred and fifty years ago, the Czar of Russia, Alexander First, sent a message to King Peter the First of Montenegro, saying that he was sending an emissary to supervise the affairs of that Balkan country -- now a part of Jugoslavia. The Balkan sovereign sent back a defiant refusal, stating "we shall defend to the last the freedom which our forefathers won, and we prefer to die sword in hand rather than to surrender into shameful slavery to any power."

The Yugoslav delegate intimated that this is how his own country feels right now, in ~~is~~ defying Stalin.

In New Zealand the Labor government concedes defeat tonight - after the General election held today. The laborites lost their majority in the New Zealand parliament, the national party winning forty-six seats as against thirty-four. The conservatives campaigned on a platform of free enterprise, and tonight promise to abolish the whole series of state controls and irksome economic regulations.

The election result was a surprise, nobody expecting the labor government to be tossed out -- and there were immediate repercussions in Australia and the mother country of Britain. Australians go to the polls ten days from now, the ~~next~~ British voters next year, probably in the spring - and tonight the Conservatives are saying that the labor government defeat in New Zealand is a sign of what is going to happen to those other labor governments in Australia and Britain.

CHURCHILL

In the London House of Commons today the debates of politics were suspended -- and political opponents heaped friendship and admiration on their arch political enemy. It was the seventy-fifth birthday of Winston Churchill -- and he was toasted from one end of Britain to the other. Making his usual appearance in Parliament, he got a unanimous cheer -- especially from his Labor Party antagonists. Prime Minister Atlee extended formal birthday greetings to the leader of the opposition, saying: "I am sure we all rejoice to see him in full health and activity, and wish him many more years." The snarls of political debate were silent, turning into a cooing of compliments -- on the seventy-fifth birthday of Britain's wartime prime minister.

AFRICA--COMMUNISM

A dispatch from Capetown, South Africa, tells of the arrival of Sir Percy Sillitoe, head of M.I. 5 which is a number one agency of British Intelligence. Sir Percy Sillitoe is having conferences with the prime minister of South Africa. The same old subject -- Communism. But this time it ^{'s} a particularly weird angle of the Red peril.

The British Government is much concerned with Red agitation among the black tribes of Africa, and the chief danger spot is -- the witch doctor. ~~The method of~~ the Reds is to agitate against the oldtime tribal organization -- which is in danger of breaking up, anyway, under the impact of modern ideas. The British, ruling the great spaces of barbaric Africa, depend on the tribal organization, -- and exert their authority through the local chiefs. Communism tries to break that up -- and, as tribes disintegrate the natives turn to secret societies

which have long flourished in Africa in one fantastic form or another. Dominant in the secret societies are ~~the witch doctors, practitioners of black magic.~~ The Red agitators concentrate on the voodoo medicine men; and turn them against the British.

In that way they are able to stir up an amount of discontent and unrest that has the British worried. Hence the African mission of Sir Percy Sillitoe, head of M. I. 5 -- to try to do something to check ^{this weird} ~~the~~ alliance of ~~the~~ Communists and ~~the~~ witch doctors. Strange combination, Red revolution and black magic, in Africa.

PLANE

There was a brilliant exploit of mountain climbing in Oregon today - but success only brought bad news. A search party of sixteen toiled up the slopes of Mt. St. Helens, and this afternoon they were beaten back. They sent word they could not possibly make it in the face of a violent storm. But, just as they were ready to return, the storm eased off enough to give them another chance.

So they started upward again - and found the wreck of an air force C-54 that crashed high up on Mt. Saint Helens. The message they sent back was brief and grim -- "no survivors, plane under snow." They found the wreck completely buried -- only a small part of the tail sticking out of the snow, enough to identify the ill-fated c-54.

MOSCOW, IDAHO

At Moscow they are laughing at the idea that Moscow should change its name, ⁻⁻⁻ which has nothing to do with the city of the Kremlin, [^] ~~but~~ ^{This} concerns a college town in Idaho. The suggestion came from Blackfoot, which may be something of a rival community - a Blackfoot newspaper starting a campaign to have M_oscow adopt a new name, something less sinister than that of Stalin's capital.

To which Mayor R. K. Bonner today gave answer:

"I think we will get along all right with the name of Moscow," says he. "We get letters all the time from people all over the country razzing us, and telling us to change the city's name. But nobody who lives here seems to mind, and I think we will keep it for a while."

Which reminds us of the wartime campaign to have Berlin, ^{New Hamp, and Berlin.} North Dakota, change over from the name of Hitler's capital, and adopt the name of a Greek town

wiped out by the Nazis. But the ^{American}~~North Dakota~~ Berliners
gave it a laugh.

ALASKA

Up in frosty Alaska a rescue party has found Grady Deas of Chicago and ~~the~~ oldtimers are saying they have plenty of respect for the will power of that Midwestern tenderfoot. But they do wish he ~~would~~ learn something.

Recently, Grady ^{Deas} appeared in the old sour-dough country, and announced that he intended to go into the backwoods and carve out a homestead. The oldtimers of the North asked if he was sure he could find his way through the trackless wilderness. To which Grady replied: "I lived all my life in Chicago without getting lost --- and I figure I can find my way around Alaska." Well, Chicago can be a complicated metropolis for finding your ^{wilderness} around, but the maze of a northern ~~forest~~ is something else.

Grady went out into the ^{Alaskan wilds} ~~wilderness~~ -- and failed to reappear. The oldtimers went out looking for

him, and found him in the swamplands near Lake Caribou.

He was in a soggy sleeping bag, lying in the ooze of the

marsh -- just about to give up the ghost. He had been

wandering for four days, lost in ^a ^{more complete} the wilderness.

^{ated than anything in the vicinity of Halstead St}
^{Windsor Ave. in Chicago.}
didn't have enough strength to go another foot," he told

his rescuers. "I just got into my sleeping bag -- then

I waited for death."

He was "waiting for death" only a few hundred

yards from a canyon where a homesteader has a comfortable

home. In fact, in his four days of wandering, he had

never been more than three miles from a town on Kachemak

Bay. ^{south of Armour and 22nd} No, he never got lost in Chicago, but he sure

got lost in Alaska!

At last reports, the tenderfoot was saying he

intends to try again and stake out a homestead. Which

excites admiration for his willpower; but the oldtimers

hope he ^{ll} ~~will~~ learn to find his way around.

[^] Nelson - do you know your way 'round?