

P. J. - P. & G. March 15, 1948. Monday.

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STRIKES (NEW <sup>STORY</sup> ~~STORY~~)

Late this evening, President Truman evoked the Taft-Hartley Act to prevent a nation-wide strike - among a hundred thousand C.I. O. packing house workers. The men <sup>were</sup> threatening to quit tonight at mid-night, ~~But~~ the President has ~~xxxxxx~~ appointed a fact finding committee to look into the situation, and ~~He~~ has sent telegrams to the employers and the unions urging them to continue negotiations pending a report by his fact finding board.

News from Chicago is that the "Big Four" of the meat packing employers have consented to the President's suggestion, and will make all possible information available to members of the board. On the men's side, the National Community Organization, which will direct the walk-out, if the Unions are barred by the Taft-Hartley law, is meeting late tonight to consider the situation.

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This National Community Organization <sup>— as they are calling it —</sup> ~~which is~~  
<sup>and</sup> is not subject to labor laws, represents some eighty-thousand, packing house workers.

~~This threatened walk-out of meat-packers - men in a vital industry - makes the second occasion on ~~which~~ which President Truman has used the Taft Hartley Act, which gives him the use of fact finding an injunction machinery if, in his opinion, the ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ threatened strike imperils the national health and safety. Mr Truman apparently views this proposed walk-out of the meat-packers in the same light as he viewed the threatened withdrawal of wokers at ~~the~~ Oak Ridge, ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Tennessee - at the Atomic Plant there. The Oak Ridge workers agreed to stay on the job while ~~the fact finding committee goes to work.~~ Under the ~~law~~ <sup>law</sup> however ~~XXXXXX~~ the Unions do not have to abide by the President's request. The men can strike until April first without violating the law - and the latest from Chicago is that the walk-out may take place to-night in spite of the President's last minute efforts.~~

And with the hint of Spring in the air - the snow melting fast, robins, orioles and tanagers bursting into song <sup>again</sup>, there is the threat of another strike.

This morning at eleven o'clock a hundred and ten thousand of John L. Lewis's soft coal miners stayed away from the mines. Three hours later the number had gone up to a hundred and sixty thousand --- in nine states. By the middle of the afternoon fifty percent of the soft ~~min~~ coal men in the entire country were out - and more are expected to follow them.

John L. Lewis contends that the mine owners have committed a breach of contract. He charges they have failed to live up to their promise of providing ~~min~~ pensions ~~for~~ for the miners. If this coal-strike continues it may be only a matter of days until steel plants have to close - closing at a critical time.

Meanwhile, in New Orleans, Girard Davidson, Assistant Secretary of the Interior says that he expects the rank



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and file of the United Mine Workers will force John L. Lewis to call off his strike. "It costs too much to live" says Davidson "The miners don't have the money to keep away from their jobs." Davidson added that the Department of Interior is not ready to take over the struck mines, and lacks authority, even if it wanted to, but, he says, his department will be the agency that will take them, if the President does give the order. Little chance of this however, said he, until the strike has progressed further. The President has such powers under the Taft-Hartley law.

(In Washington, ~~incidentally,~~ a Federal district judge today ruled against the Taft-Hartley law - at least he ~~xxx~~ ruled against the clause which forbids unions to spend money on politics. "Unconstitutional" said Judge Benjamin Moors.) This from the learned judge in a much discussed test case in which C.I.O. President Phil Murray invited prosecution. Dismissing the charges,



( His <sup>Honor</sup> ~~name~~ the judge asked: "How are people to get  
 information concerning the views of Labor men and  
 women if their organization is forbidden to publish  
 any news whatsoever?" )

## LOYALTY

President Truman today openly offered battle to Congress on an issue that has been bothering the Capitol Hill lawmakers for some weeks. The issue is, can the President of the United States, and executive departments and agencies of the Federal government, refuse information which Congress asks for? As a matter of fact, this problem is almost as old as the Republic.

Recently it came to a focus again because of that Committee -on-UnAmerican-Activities attack on Dr. Edward Condon, Director of the National Bureau of ~~Standards~~ <sup>Standards</sup>

(The UnAmerican Activities Committee demanded a look at certain files of the Department of Commerce. Secretary Harriman said No.

Today the President stepped into the argument, with a formal order to officials of the Executive Branch of our Federal Government to ignore subpoenas from Congressional Committees -- subpoenas asking for reports on loyalties of employees.)

The efficient investigation of employees, <sup>said</sup> Mr. Truman, makes it necessary for reports, records and files

to be strictly confidential. This is necessary in the interest of national security, he went on, necessary in order to preserve the confidential character and sources of information furnished, necessary to protect government personnel against the dissemination of unfounded or disproved charges; also necessary in the interest of fairness and justice.

Mr. Truman then orders that all subpoenas or demands from Congress be referred to him, before any government employee gives information to Congress.

~~The President backs up his order with a lengthy statement bristling with historic references and legal precedents. Here's one: that as long ago as Seventeen Ninety-six, George Washington rejected a request of the House of Representatives for a copy of the instructions he had given to Uncle Sam's Ministers when they negotiated a treaty with John Bull. President Thomas Jefferson forbade two members of his Cabinet to produce documents at the trial of Aaron Burr. President Monroe and~~



President Andrew Jackson also took the same stand.

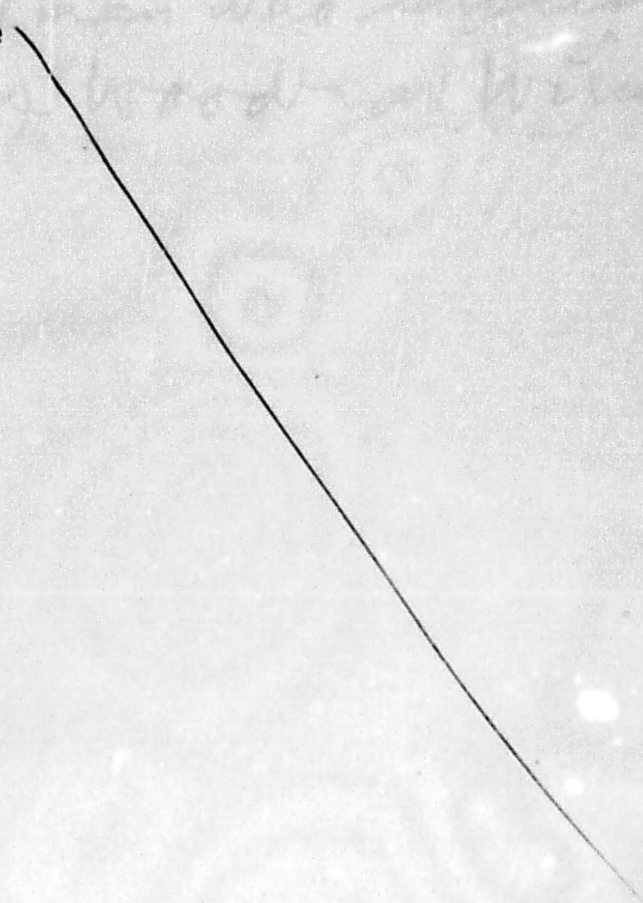
This question has troubled me much of late, as it has many others, so today I got in touch with an old friend, Professor Edward S. Corwin of Princeton, acknowledged to be our foremost living authority on American Constitutional Law. It turned out that Dr. Corwin, naturally, has been thinking a great deal about the question.

He told me it was one of those unsettled points that never has been satisfactorily adjudicated. He pointed out that, on the one hand, there is the power of Congress to investigate and illuminate its judgment. Congress has created most of the agencies of the Federal government, among them The Department of Commerce. So, those agencies are the creatures of Congress, subject to Congress. In respect to them, said Professor Corwin of Princeton, he would say that the powers of Congress are pretty well unlimited.

He said it is also a fact that between the President and the heads of departments -- his Cabinet Ministers -- a confidential relationship exists. That That matter came up before none other than Chief Justice John Marshall in the famous case we so often hear about; Marbury versus Madison. In that ruling, John Marshall decided that a confidential relationship exists between the Secretary of State and the President, and that therefore information involving that confidential relationship did not have to be divulged even to the Supreme Court.

On the other hand, the Department of Commerce, said he, is purely an agency of Congress; ~~its powers~~ Dr. Corwin points out that since as long ago as Seventeen Ninety-three, a confidential relationship has grown up between the President and his Cabinet. Therefore the relationship is extra-constitutional, extra-legal, as he termed it.

Nevertheless, if a committee of Congress wants to obtain documents from Secretary Harriman and he refuses to respond, he will be in contempt of the committee, which will refer it to the Congress as a whole, thus putting him in contempt of Congress. Whereupon the next step would be for the United States Attorney of the District of Columbia to prosecute the Secretary of Commerce for misdemeanor under the





Professor Corwin also told me he thought there was another phase of this issue which should be made clear. In issuing his loyalty order, the President claimed general ~~disciplinary~~ disciplinary powers over the entire federal establishment and its employees. That implies also a protective power, the right to see that the square thing is done by those who work for Uncle Sam. <sup>That</sup> It is a step to protect the federal establishment from demoralization, says <sup>Princeton's great</sup> ~~Professor Corwin.~~ authority -- the man who succeeded to the mantle of Woodrow Wilson.

FOREIGN

~~Uncle Sam's~~ <sup>Our</sup> State Department today issued a ~~plain and~~  
~~forceful~~ warning to the people of Italy. <sup>That</sup> ~~it said in effect,~~  
if the Communists win the elections on April Eighteenth, ~~do not~~  
~~expect any~~ <sup>no</sup> more help from Uncle Sam.) Mike Mc Dermott, spokesman  
for the State Department, said that the Communists in Italy  
have announced <sup>that</sup> they ~~don't~~ want <sup>no</sup> ~~any~~ part of the European  
Recovery Program. He also expressed the belief of the State  
Department that the spirit and the feeling of the Italian  
people indicates that the Communists will not win.

Secretary Marshall today spent some time with the  
Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate in a closed meeting,  
urging quick action on the President's request for another  
two-hundred-and-seventy-five millions for military help to  
Greece and Turkey. The meeting was behind closed doors and  
all we know is that the Secretary said the hour is far more  
fateful now than it was <sup>a</sup> ~~one~~ year ago, because Communist  
regimes have been imposed upon Hungary and Czechoslovakia by  
indimidation, fraud and terror.

~~Later today we learned that~~ President Truman himself will appear before ~~in~~ a joint session of the House and Senate at half-past-twelve on Wednesday, <sup>to</sup> ~~and~~ give the lawmakers ~~some~~ new information on the foreign situation. What he says will be broadcast over this network.



CONFERENCE

At Paris, a conference of delegates from sixteen nations to discuss the Marshall Plan began in the famous Clock Room of the French Foreign Office on the Quai d'Orsay. The conference had been called by Great Britain and France.

<sup>in which he</sup>  
R Foreign Minister Bidault made a speech ~~and~~ said that the object of the meeting was to establish an economic alliance of the sixteen countries represented. They propose to begin by establishing a permanent organization of those sixteen countries with headquarters at Paris. <sup>R</sup> Bidault and British Foreign Secretary Bevan hope to include five other countries in the five-power treaty to be signed at Brussels on Wednesday, the treaty arranged last week between Great Britain, France, the Netherlands, Luxembourg and Belgium. The other countries ~~at~~ to be brought in; ~~are~~ Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Portugal and, it is also hoped, Italy.

## PALESTINE

( A truce in the battle of Palestine - that is the hope of Uncle Sam, France and China. The three governments made a formal request to the Arabs and Jews in the Holy Land to take a rest from bloodshed and give the big powers a chance to arrive at a settlement of that tragic question.) Soviet Russia took no part in this request; but, Gromyko raised no objection.

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The foreign consuls in Jerusalem held an emergency meeting today and voted to protest to the Arab countries against the manner in which <sup>they say</sup> the Arabs have been violating consular immunity.

Over the weekend, hostilities <sup>in</sup> ~~all over~~ the Holy Land caused the death of seventy-two Arabs and twelve Jews.

## BRITAIN

British Prime Minister Clement Attlee made a fairly startling announcement in the House of Commons today. One that is sure to bring wrathful words from Moscow. His Majesty's Labor Government intends to throw out all known Communists -- from government <sup>security</sup> jobs. This must be done, said the Prime Minister, to prevent some foreign power from obtaining access to British Government secrets.

He went on to tell how at present there is no way ~~if~~ of knowing just which members of the British Communist Party would be loyal to Britain, if there were a crisis. He wants to eliminate the possibility of anyone doing anything in the interest of another power. In other words, he wants to make it difficult for <sup>Britons</sup> ~~the~~ to play the ~~British~~ role of traitor. And he reminded the Commons of the behavior of the British Communist Party before Hitler attacked Russia -- just as ~~they~~ behaved over here.

The importance of all this is emphasized by the fact that the Prime Minister himself stood up from



the Treasury bench to make the announcement. It was a rather stormy affair -- with many interruptions from Communist members and Left Wing Laborites. One Red M.P. even started to sing the Red anthem, until the others shouted him down.

Attlee explained that the Cabinet is forced to take this step simply as a matter of government security, protection against traitors; no politics about it. And, he said the same precautions will be taken with regard to <sup>government</sup> ~~government~~ employees known to be active Fascists.

( Major General Bennett E. Meyers drove to the court-house in Washington in his Cadillac limousine this morning. *And a little later* ~~But within a very short time~~ he left in a patrol wagon, with handcuffs on his wrists; *and two* ~~and two of Uncle Sam's husky~~ United States Marshals <sup>*his*</sup> as escort. )

As he stood up to face the judge, his demeanor was nonchalant, even jaunty. His lawyers had made a plea for a new trial. The judge denied it and pointed to the fact that Meyers' counsel had hinted during the trial that the motive behind the charges against the ex-general were revenge and an attempt at blackmail. The judge said he had assumed the defense would offer proof of those charges and no one was more surprised than the court when the defense rested without calling a single witness. So, said His Honor, he would pronounce sentence at ~~once~~<sup>R</sup>. Under the law of the District of Columbia, he could have sent the former Major General to thirty years imprisonment. But since the offense with which he was charged was committed before a federal body, meaning a committee of Congress, the penalty

would be less severe. ~~Then,~~ Said the judge: "Bennett E. Meyers,  
it is the sentence of this court that you shall be imprisoned  
in an institution for a period of twenty-months to five years."

The court then refused ~~even~~ to give <sup>him time</sup> ~~Meyers two hours~~

delay to file <sup>an</sup> ~~his~~ appeal.



## TAXES

Today has been a day of headaches for most of us - figuring out our income tax and trying to get under the tape for the last minute rush. All over the nation - considerable ingenuity exercised as to what is, and what is not deductible under the heading of expenses. ~~It~~

In Los Angeles a young woman put down her transformation as a deductible expense. The internal revenue collector scratched his head, and queried her just as to what was a transformation. "Why that's a wig" she said. "I have a bald spot. I have to cover it for business reasons."

The hard-hearted collector ruled against the young woman. His ruling - a wig may be an overhead expense, but it is not deductible under our income tax laws.

## KING - FOLLOW STRIKE

The strike fever, which comes with Spring, today affected King George the Sixth and Queen Elizabeth. Their Majesties came close to having to wash their royal selves in cold water, because the fourteen attendants in the boiler room of Buckingham Palace walked out demanding a half a quid more -- ten bob more per week. In order to bring their weekly wages up to twenty-two dollars apiece.

The King and Queen were at Windsor Castle when they heard the strike news. So, those who felt the effects of the strike were the other lesser help at Buckingham Palace. The help had to wash and shave in cold water.

The strike extended to the Houses of Parliament, and to government office buildings. There was no hot water for the bath of the Speaker of the House of Commons.

Also, lesser government employees had to walk up many flights of stairs, and work in cold offices.

The King, by the way, is back at Buckingham palace tonight -- with no hot water for the royal bath. What ho, Nelson