

JOHN L. LEWIS S. J. P. & G. Thursday, March 17, 1949.

John L. Lewis today asked the United States Court of Appeals to hand back one million four hundred and twenty thousand dollars. That is, refund the fines imposed on Lewis and the mine union as penalty for the coal strike last year. Lewis argues that the fines were levied under illegal provisions of the Taft-Hartley Act, and so he wants his money back - the one million, four hundred and twenty thousand dollars. This as the coal miners are out again in a work stoppage ordered by John L. Lewis.

RENT CONTROL

In Washington late today ^{the} Senate Banking Committee voted approval of a rent control bill that would allow State Governments to decide when ceilings on rent should be removed in their area. That would give any state the power to take off the Federal ~~re~~ restrictions at any time. The bill, okayed by the Committee provides moreover, for two automatic rent increases of five percent each. Last night the Washington word was - three-five percent increases. But this was a misinterpretation; the bill calls for two.

FILBUSTER

The aftermath of the filibuster in Washington is ^a hot Republican reply to the statement of administration democrats - that the compromise between the G O P leaders and the southerners makes it impossible to enact a civil rights program. Republican leaders Vandenberg and Wherry declare that the Senate rules, to be adopted/under the compromise, will make it ~~im~~ possible to put through the Truman racial rights - if the Democrats really want to do so. They challenge the administration people to bring forward an anti-poll tax bill or an anti-lynching bill, and make a test - putting the Senators on record.

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ATOMIC

In Washington the Atomic Energy Commission ^{has been} ~~today was~~ cleared of charges that it disclosed atomic secrets. There was an uproar in Congress, with statements that confidential atomic information was revealed in a recent report from the commission. Now, however, there is an exoneration from McMahon of Connecticut, Chairman of the Joint Congressional Atomic Energy Committee. ^{TR} He states that the military authorities have assured him that there was "nothing objectionable" in the publication of photographs and maps contained in the report. ^{TR} All this as news from Mexico brings a sensational story of smuggled uranium. The Mexican government is investigating, in collaboration with American authorities. ^{TR} The story is that last Fall, a Mexican approached an American in the armament business in Mexico, and offered to sell him some uranium. The American reported this to the United States authorities, and they told him to go ahead with negotiations. He did, and had talks with a group of Mexicans who

professed to have uranium for sale. However, they never did really produce any, but said they could obtain the material from which the atomic bomb is made. They told a melodramatic story about one of their agents, who they said had been "picked up and tortured". They didn't say by whom.

The whole thing seemed like little more than a lot of talk; but then something else happened. The Mexican police picked up a man, ^a Mexican, on a mere highway traffic charge, and they found in his possession - a slug of uranium, two-hundred-and-twenty grams. This could not possibly have been obtained in Mexico, and must have been smuggled from the United States. ^{TR} The Mexican authorities jumped in, and began an investigation - which thus far has failed to show any connection between the smuggled uranium and the Mexicans who declared they had atomic material for sale. But the coincidence is very strange, leading to suspicions that a gang may be smuggling into Mexico uranium from the secret atomic developments in the United States.

CONFERENCE

In New York the musician's union makes an announcement concerning - the cultural and scientific conference of World Peace. This conference is a leftist affair, which promises plenty of pro-Soviet oratory. ^{It} The United States government has given permission for Moscow delegates to enter this country, and attend. So what have the New York musicians to say about it? Today local eight-hundred-and-two of the A F of L union announced that thirty thousand musicians in the New York area will boycott that cultural and scientific ~~XXXXXX~~ conference for world peace. The statement declares that the conference is, in the words of the musicians, "intended to further the ⁱ ~~imperialist~~ imperialist foreign policy of the Soviet Union, to the detriment of the free nations of the world."

This from the musicians is the more interesting because one of the Soviet delegates coming over here to attend is the famed composer, Shostakovitch. He is at the head of the list of Russian composers who

have been blasted repeatedly, because their music does not follow the party line. Shostakovitch has been excoriated on the charge that compositions of his were bourgeois, not proletarian - and he has had to make abject confession, and promise to be ~~good~~ good, kow-towing to the party line. So now the New York musicians union makes a suggestion to Shostakovitch, challenging him to ^{stay} ~~say~~ here in the United States.

WIRE TAPPING

New York's ^{wire} tapping controversy has produced a sensational disclosure. An investigation of charges that telephone wires were tapped for political reasons, has ~~ja~~ uncovered a huge ^e extortion ring, a black mail outfit that worked by wire tapping.

The story broke today in the New York World-Telegram, which tells how it all grew out of the current uproar between Mayor O'Dwyer and Clendenning Ryan, a millionaire political reformer who charges *that* the New York city Government is controlled by the gangster underworld. Ryan, of the family of the late magnate, Thomas Fortune Ryan, is accused of tapping the telephones of city officials. This he denies, and now investigation has turned up something entirely different - wire tapping for extortion. You look for one thing, you find another. - ~~The~~ old story. The New York World Telegram states that the blackmail gang extorted more than one million dollars a year from wealthy victims whose secrets they learned by cutting in on their telephones.

The gang is said to have procured tips from bellboys, clerks, maids and other employees of leading hotels and fashionable private clubs - tips hinting of illicit romance or shady business deals. Then the method of the gang was to get into rooms near the intended victims, and tap the telephone wires. Also - they would install ~~the~~ dictaphones. In that way they listened in on secrets and scandals. The World Telegram story features that angle familiar in blackmail - the victims keeping quiet, paying up without daring to complain. The newspaper states that police have the names of the blackmailers, but they are in a stalemate - because ~~no~~ none of the victims will come forward and make ^{the} ~~a~~ charge necessary for prosecution.

the purpose of the Reds being to block deliberations on the North Atlantic Treaty, until that document is made public. They hope to derive new arguments, when the terms ^a were disclosed. The session ran on into ~~the~~ this morning, for twenty-six hours, the longest parliamentary session in Italian history. Other Communists were awaiting their ^{turn} to keep the filibuster going. But by now tempers were growing short, and fights broke out - the session turning into a turmoil. There were battles all over the place, and then there was a riot outside - when a Communist mob marched to the Parliament building to put on a demonstration of their own. They staged a battle with the police - riot scenes that were duplicated today in other Italian cities, one man killed in the fighting.

The Communists are making the most violent kind of effort against the North Atlantic ^{Security} ~~secret~~ pact, which is certain to be ratified in the Italian Parliament by a vote of two to one.

ADD ITALY

The latest tells of Communist mobs rioting against American and British consulates. Tonight, in the great industrial city of Milan, the police charged the Reds and drove them off, as they tried to force their way into the consulates.

FATIMA

Hollywood is having another battle between star and producer. The press agent may have something to do with it, but there would seem to be grounds for controversy.

There is to be a film feature with angles reminiscent of the Arabian Nights. One star character is a Mohammedan beauty who has the ^(legended) ~~legend~~ name of ~~Fatima~~ *— not Fatima. In the Land of the Arabian Nights* Fatima. That part is to be played by Linda Darnell.

So in preparation, she is dieting. Linda is *down to* ~~is~~ one-hundred-and-nineteen ^{pounds} ~~right~~ now, and she wants to get down to ^{an even} one hundred ~~pounds~~ - because in the picture the part of Fatima calls for diaphanous *— and* draperies, [^] not too many of those. Which, according to Linda, calls for a slim, sylph-like figure -- and not a bulging lot of plumpitudinous pulchritude.

But Producer Nunnaly Johnson disagrees loudly. He points to the historical fact that in the enchanting days of the Arabian Nights, Mohammedans *— and still do.* liked ladies to be ample and abundant. No skin and *— either then or now. So the* bones for a true follower of the Prophet, ~~So the~~

They say Fatima.

name Fatima means exactly what it says - fat. He
fa demands, that in the interest of historical
versimilitude, Linda Darnell must put on weight,
not take it off. Instead of reducing on a diet of

lettuce leaves and raw carrots, ^{her rations should} ~~she ought to gorge~~
include ample portions of [^] ~~or~~ roast pork and cream pie. ^{Linda to say} And Build up ~~to about~~
[^] ~~one~~ hundred-and-forty! [^] TP. As you might expect
them to do, in Hollywood

They are calling it - the Battle of the
Bulge. And I must say that my sympathies go to
Producer Nunally Johnson. Not that I like them

rolling with double chins and triple stomachs, but
in the old days the Mohammedans, ^{liked their Fatimas that} ~~did - and some still~~
way and still do.

~~do~~ I have been reading a remarkably interesting
book called "North African Prelude" by a woman

traveler and author named Galbraith Welch - who
relates fabulous things about the history and customs

of the Moslems. She states, for example that in some
Mohammedan ~~tribes~~ tribes right now, little girls are

stuffed unmercifully to make them grow up fat. The
more like a ~~hippotamus~~ hippopotamus a beauty is, the
lovelier she is considered. However, Linda Darnell

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doesn't want
~~refuses~~

to be like that. In the Battle of the Bulge,
she dismisses the truths of history and says "why
not let me be a thin Fatima". In which case
for this movie maybe her name
should be thin ina - not Fatima!

ST PATRICKS PARADE

In New York today a crippled girl sat in a wheel chair and watched the St. Patrick's Day parade. Her name was Karen Goodman, and presently it got a bit chilly for her. So ~~in~~ her chair was wheeled into a nearby ^{restaurant,} ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ and there a group of Irishmen, who had been in the parade, were whooping it up for old Erin. Their celebration took the age old form down with the British. They sang anti-British songs.

Then they saw Karen sitting in her wheel chair, went to her and told the crippled girl they would like to sing for her. What song did she want to hear? To which Karen replied in a very very English voice: "I should like to hear God Save The King". Whereupon that bunch of Irishman obliged, and a roaring chorus of Irish voices rang out on St. Patrick's Day, singing, God Save The King. All for a little English girl in a wheel chair.

ST PATRICK'S DAY

All the world over they are celebrating St. Patrick's Day; - ^{but} ~~and~~ let's look at Ireland. This was the first St. Patrick's Day under the new complete independence, decreed recently for the Irish Republic. In North Ireland, which insists on sticking to Britain, the feast was celebrated - without parades. ^{the} Ulster government puts a ban on the traditional march in honor of the Saint who drove the snakes out of the Emerald Isle. In South Ireland, too, something was missing. No drinks. The Dublin government, ^{decreed that} ~~made~~ ^{it should be} a dry St. Patrick's day. So on this feast of the Shamrock, ^{about} the only place an Irishman could not buy a drink was in ~~the neighborhood of~~ Dublin, Cork, Limerick, ~~and~~ Galway, ^{and County Kerry and Kildare.}

Irish Premier John Costello ^{issued} ~~gives~~ a St. Patrick's Day message addressed to the world. In this he states: "During the past year there has been more peace and harmony throughout Ireland than at any time in generations. "No drinks, also no fights."

As for me, and my Irish spouse, we spent St. Patrick's Day at Badger Pass in Yosemite Park, with an Irishman named Luggi Foegger -- and in those immortal words uttered

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today by the Irish Premier in Dublin,
we too can say: "No drinks, also
no fights!" How about you in Hollywood,
Ken?