

The word in Washington is that the government may seize the soft coal mines - after getting the authority from Congress to do it. This emanates from a high government official, who says that, if negotiations between John L. Lewis and the mine owners continue to make no progress, government seizure is, in his words - "almost inevitable." When this report reached the striking miners, their comment indicated that, if the government took over the mines, and gave them a new contract, they would go back to work.

On Friday, the Union will appear before Federal Judge Keech, and make a defense against the citation for contempt. If the ruling goes against them, the Judge will then hold a hearing on Monday, with a view to imposing fines. In previous cases of contempt, John L. Lewis and the United Mine Workers have had to pay a couple^E of million dollars in fines - and, this time, there's no telling how much it might cost the Union, if the Miners continue to defy the federal court injunction. Under the law, the fines, piling up day after day, could break

the Union treasury - which is estimated at thirteen to fifteen million dollars.

But still, in the face of that threat, the embittered miners are still holding out, and today witnessed new cases of violence - as pickets enforced the strike, closing down mines.

The coal shortage, meanwhile, has gone so far that it looks like national desperation - as is indicated by action in New York State today. Governor Dewey went before the New York legislature, and asked for power to seize coal and impose price controls. ~~Governor Dewey has already declared a "brownout", together with a rationing of coal. Now he says the crisis threatens to become a disaster, and he asks the legislature for the right to take over stocks of unused coal and distribute them where they are needed most. Also - to clamp on restrictions to keep prices from soaring, as the shortage deepens.~~

BULGARIA

Word from the U.S. Legation at Sofia, capital of Red Bulgaria, is that American Minister Donald Heath and his diplomatic staff will leave on Friday - this following the ~~breaking~~ ^{break} of relations today. The government in Washington sent a blistering note to the Communist government, declaring that Bulgaria, under its Red regime, is not fit to belong to a family of nations, also charging - violations of the peace treaty, which guarantees political freedom and civil rights in Bulgaria. So this country severs diplomatic relations with the Red satellite - the first formal break between the United States and a Soviet puppet behind the Iron Curtain.

At the same time, the Communist government repeated today the accusations that aroused all the indignation in Washington - charging that the American Legation, under Minister Heath, was the center of plotting, and that the American Minister hid a spy in the attic of the legation for six months. All of which is denounced in Washington as an outrageous fraud, with the State Department admitting that the

Minister did shelter a Bulgarian employee from Red persecution.

Next in line for a diplomatic break would seem to be - Red Hungary. Our State Department has made similar allegations against the Communists of Budapest - denouncing their actions as making them unfit for the family of nations, ~~in violation of peace treaties, treaties and guaranteeing democratic liberties.~~ And a break with Hungary is all the more likely, because of the case of Robert Vogeler, the American telephone executive - who today was ~~sentenced~~ sentenced to fifteen years in prison. His British colleague, Edgar Sanders, was given thirteen years. Two of their Hungarian co-defendants were sentenced to death.

In Vienna, Vogeler's wife, with their two young sons, is in a state of pitiful despair - a beautiful blonde young woman who today offered to sacrifice anything to obtain the release of her husband. "Anything, including myself," she cries. ^P ~~In Vienna, likewise, is Morris Ernst, the New York lawyer who tried to get Red permission to defend Robert~~

Vogeler at the trial, but was refused. The position of Morris Ernst in the matter is the more impressive, because of his reputation in the United States as a lawyer who has devoted himself so much to civil liberty cases. Not permitted to appear for ~~the~~ the defense, he said today that he had taken records of Vogeler's confession during the trial - the court proceedings having been broadcast and heard in Vienna. The New York lawyer declares that the records of the confession give significant indications. "One of the most interesting things about Vogeler's 'confession'", said Morris Ernst today, "is the obvious fact that it was memorized. If you listen to the records, you will find that in several spots he started to give the wrong memorized answer, backed up, and a few minutes later repeated the same sentence in the right place."

Always that same mystery, confessions behind the Iron Curtain.

CHINA

The news from China pictures the Nationalist Air Force in bombing attacks on Shanghai and Nanking. The anti-Communists on Formosa have only a few planes, but these are blasting at communications and industrial plants on the Red mainland - power stations at both Shanghai and Nanking heavily damaged by bombs, according to the Nationalist report.

At the same time, there's an increase of political dissensions on Formosa - a widening split in the Nationalist leadership. The newest contention arises from the absence of Acting President Li Tsung-Jen, who is in the United States for medical treatment. His immediate return is demanded, and a plan is reported to restore Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek as the head of what's left of the Nationalist regime - unless Acting President Li comes back at once. Obviously, there's a surmise that Li Tsung-Jen prefers to remain in America. Most of us would say - who wouldn't?

It's curious how, sometimes, events far away can drive home into one's own personal experiences. Today, for example,

Harkness - The

I went to the hospital, Medical Center - to have an X-ray check made on that broken ^{hip} leg I got over in Tibet. ~~There were eight fractures of the thigh bone, where it joins the hip, and I am still on crutches just to give these eight fractures a chance to heal properly.~~ ^{As} today the doctors put me on the X-ray table, and the first thing I did was to ask them - how is Chinese President Li?

I had met him ^{right} there in the ^{at x-ray room, a} hospital - where, ~~some~~ ^{few} weeks ago, we had taken turns on that same X-ray table.

President Li was getting ready for a serious abdominal operation - for which he had come to this country.

Then for several hours we talked
~~We had quite a talk~~ about events in China, and he told me of simply monstrous methods the Reds were prepared to employ to break down the old system of society in China - which is based so completely on the family. He said the Communists were prepared for a policy of annihilating tens of millions, admitting that they might have to cut the population in half, before they could obliterate that old Confucian way of life -

the family system. That sounded like a nightmare of political horror - a Chinese version of the Communist principle of liquidating enemy classes.

All this came back vividly today, as I got on the X-ray table. I knew President Li Tsung-jen had undergone that ~~abdominal~~ ^{abdominal} operation, so I asked the doctors ^{how} was he? ~~recovering~~ They said - ~~yes~~ the operation had turned out okay; ~~and~~ he was getting well fast. But of course, they added, after so serious an operation, it would take some time to recuperate. ~~But~~ ^{Back} from what they said, I gathered that Chinese President Li is ^{hardly} ~~not~~ well enough yet for any ^{hurry-up} ~~fast~~ air trip back to Formosa - in spite of the demand of the Nationalist leaders that he return at once.

SHIP

The mystery ship of the Mediterranean has been identified - and that clears up what looked like another of those fascinating secrets of the sea. The yacht "Imperia", found adrift and abandoned. In good order - but nobody aboard. Shades of the Marie Celeste - that most famous of ships without a crew, the mystery of which has never been solved!

But now it turns out that the yacht Imperia is a former auxiliary vessel of the British Navy, which was sold to a Greek shipping firm - and was being towed from Tripoli to Athens. But a storm blew up, and the Greek skipper tells how the tow lines broke - and the yacht, with nobody aboard, was blown adrift. The towing vessel tried to follow, but lost the Imperia in darkness and tempest.

~~Tonight the only thing left of the mystery is -~~
~~whether or not the crew of the U.S. McKensy will get salvage~~
~~money. The McKensy picked up the ship without a crew, and~~
~~towed her to port. According to all maritime laws, they~~
~~should be entitled to the rights of salvage - but this appears~~

she looked somewhat older -- the MONA LISA in the Louvre. That masterpiece, as history tells us was taken by the artist to France, where it was purchased by the French King, Francis I, and it would seem that the other, the younger, MONA LISA found its way, likewise, into the possession of the French royal family -- since it was entrusted by unhappy Marie Antoinette to an American at the time of the French Revolution.

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BRITAIN

The British election is not without that favorite institution - the British Heckler. Tonight ~~the~~ The London Evening Standard, Conservative, ~~one~~ tells how a labor party orator was preaching the virtues of socialism.

Britain, "he Cried,"has bonnie babbies."

and asked; "Why? "

Whereupon the ~~orator~~ heckler^π shouted: "

Private Enterprise."

~~Well, it is private, it can be enterprised.~~

KISS

It would seem that the "Battle of the Kiss" at Bethany, Oklahoma, has turned into a war of religion. Today, two hundred parents banded together and hired a lawyer in a campaign to end school restrictions based on the religious beliefs of the Nazarene Church. Which theological quarrel would seem like a formidable result of that episode of osculation - when a high school boy kissed a high school girl.

Bethany has long been famous as a - "blue law" town. Stronghold of the Nazarene Church - which bans drinking, smoking, dancing - and kissing in public. Recently, however, a number of building projects brought in a lot of outsiders, and today half the people of Bethany do not belong to the Nazarene church.

In the local schools, however, the Nazarene principles are still in force, and there was an uproar last week when, in a ceremony of basketball, a queen was crowned. The coronation was performed by High School Pupil Riddell Riggs, who bestowed the diadem of

basketball queen on Charlotte McClain - and, in doing so, he also bestowed upon her a hearty kiss.

For this violation of the Nazarene rules, the two sixteen year olds were promptly brought before the school superintendent, Mrs. Alonzo Norwood, who administered a stern rebuke. Whereupon there was a high school strike, and this was followed by the expulsion of six pupils.

So now the scholastic fracas has touched off a controversy that divides the town in two - with the non-Nazarenes rallying against the blue laws and against the system that places the schools of Bethany under Nazarene control.

A sort of local religious war - all because of a coronation kiss for a basketball queen. Sounds like the old days of Helen of Troy - Helen with "the face that launched a thousand ships and burned the topless towers of Ilium".

LAW

At Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Judge William Matias was overcome at a legal argument. You know - the clever point of law that a smart lawyer can bring up. But this time it was the defendant who out-argued the judge.

Mrs. Clarice York, of Iowa City, was brought before His Honor on a charge of reckless driving, and there was no question about what happened. Her car skidded on an icy street, and ran, smack, into a telephone pole. Nobody hurt, except the telephone pole, which was knocked flat.

So the judge was about to impose sentence, a fine or something, when Mrs. York spoke up tartly, and said: "When a person slips and falls on an icy spot, on a city sidewalk, the city is responsible, and can be sued. But, "she went on, "when that person hits an icy spot while driving along the street, and skids into a telephone pole - you say that's his fault."

The logic was compelling. The judge looked at the lady in admiration and said; "You would make a good lawyer; case dismissed!"

Next Case! ~~First~~
~~witness~~ - Nelson Case.

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