

LABOR BILL

L. G. Simons - H. G. Friday, June 20th, 1947.

The Administration Forces knew today that the House of Representatives would override the Presidential veto of the Labor Bill. That was a sure thing, conceded in advance by the supporters of President Truman. But they could hardly have known how right they were - the speed and decision with ^{which} ~~which~~ the Congressmen acted.

At the tick of noon today, the message arrived from the White House. (The Legislators knew what was coming - advance word of the veto having emanated from the White House.) They were eager to get to a vote - impatient while the clerk of the House read the Presidential arguments in favor of the veto. These were strongly stated. (The President urged his contention that the drastic curbs imposed on labor unions would not prevent strikes, but would encourage strikes.) He said the bill contained, in the Presidential words -- "The seeds of discord which would plague this nation for years to come". The White House opinion was that the bill would injure,

not only unions, but also employers by confusing the settlement of labor disputes with new complications. Moreover, he claimed that the curbs on union activities would put the government more and more into labor relations when the post-war tendency was to decrease government controls. The President called the bill: -- "A dangerous stride in the direction of a totally managed economy."

These Presidential arguments fell on what the old figure of speech calls - "deaf ears." There were quick, sharp Republican attacks on the veto message. Chairman Hartley of the House Labor Committee, co-author of the Taft-Hartley Bill, said it was hard to understand a veto from what he called "The same Chief Executive who, just a year ago, recommend^{ed} the drafting of ~~fx~~ railroad strikers into the Army."

The galleries of the House of Representative were crowded with visitors, labor people of the A.F. of L. and C.I.O., who had come to Washington to agitate for the veto. Their presence made no difference either. There

was an immediate call for a vote. In no mood for a delay,
(the Congressmen proceeded to a roll call. The result was
three-hundred-and-thirty-one in favor of passing the bill
over the veto; eighty-three against. ~~That was~~ ^{that was} fifty-five
votes more than the necessary two-thirds) ^{- and a} ~~the~~ majority
^{of} ~~was~~ nearly four to one.

The surprise was this - the vote to
override the veto exceeded the majority that had passed
the labor bill to begin with. That majority had been
three-hundred-and-twenty to seventy-nine - smaller than
today's count of three-hundred-and-thirty-one to
eighty-three.

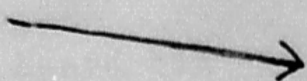
A large majority of the Democrats in the
House voted against the Democratic President. The vote
against the veto ^{being} ~~was~~ made up of two-hundred-and
twenty-five Republicans and a hundred-and-six Democrats.
The vote to sustain the veto included eleven Republicans
and seventy-one Democrats. In other words, the Democrats
voted a-hundred-and-six to ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ seventy-one
to override the veto.

So swift was the action, that (within an hour-and-a-half of the time the veto reached Congress, the Lower House had sent the ^{Taft-Hartley labor} bill to the Senate.) There, immediate conference^s were held among the leaders of both parties, they trying to reach an agreement about preliminaries and set a time for Senate action on the bill. * Republican Leader Senator Taft, Senator^e co-author of the bill, said he was trying to get a vote early tomorrow.

What are the prospects? The general opinion is that the ~~SENATE~~ Senate will also pass the bill over the veto - though by a narrow margin. The Senate majority for the bill, in the first place, was more than the necessary ~~two-thirds~~ two-thirds needed to override the veto - but only a few votes more. So a switch of a few could sustain the President in the Senate. However, it doesn't seem ~~probable~~ probable that enough votes will change over. That's the general opinion in Washington tonight.

The President, continuing his fight, will go on the radio tonight, and present to the public his arguments for the veto. After which an answer on the radio will be given by Senator Taft.

No matter what happens, the labor bill now goes into the political campaign next year -- along with the tax bill, on which the President's veto was sustained by that same Lower House which so decisively overrode his veto of the Labor Bill today. One political angle would seem to be certain - the Congressmen believe the people want curbs on unions.



ADD LABOR

The President, continuing his fight, took his arguments in favor of the veto to the public just an hour ago -- a radio speech by the Chief Executive asking endorsement of his program. Said Mr. Truman: "Under no circumstances could I have signed this bill. It was a shocking piece of legislation, unfair to the working people of this country."

The President did acknowledge need for legislation to correct certain abuses in the field of labor relations. He held out hope tonight that Congress would, in his words, send him a new labor bill, one that he ~~can~~ can sign.

Then a moment ago -- perhaps you heard him -- Senator Taft made his reply -- and a stinging one it was by the top Republican figure in Washington today. Senator Taft expressed doubt that the President even had made a study of the bill. He said that most of the things Mr. Truman said tonight were simply not so.

TRUMAN

It looks as if President Truman might take a trip to Brazil. He has been invited, and says he hopes he can make it. The invitation was issued formally today by the Brazilian Ambassador, who called at the white House, and asked the President to come to Rio with Mrs. Truman and daughter Margaret - as guests of the President of Brazil. President Truman is, in the words of the White House statement, "happy to receive the invitation and hopes he will be able to go."

MILITARY COSTS

Some sage advise was given to the military leaders of this nation today - advice from their former chief-of-staff, who is now Secretary of State. They were told - keep down the costs, practice economy in running the Army.

General Marshall was addressing a new war college organized by the joint chiefs of staff to improve relations among the high commands of the Army, Navy and State Department. He noted that our military chiefs usually protest when Congress cuts the army budgets they hand in - they practically let out wails of anguish. That, says General Marshall, has been the wrong attitude. He warned that it will be, in his words -- "more and more difficult to get Congress to approve military appropriations to swell the budgets." So it's up to the Army to cut its costs - and give this country adequate national defense at a reasonable rate.

RANK

It seems that we're to have no more five star Generals and Admirals -- at least that's the recommendation of the Armed Services Committee of the House of Representatives. The Committee recommended today that four star rank be reestablished as the highest peacetime grade in the Army and Navy. However, if that recommendation goes through, it won't affect our present five-star Generals and Admirals - ~~ix~~ like Eisenhower, Nimitz, MacArthur. They'll keep their lofty rank.

The committee goes further by suggesting that the number of four ~~six~~ star officers be restricted to eleven. The proposal is that the army have four generals with four stars, the Air Force three, while ⁱⁿ the Navy there would be four Admirals with four stars.

One result of World War Two was to have ⁱⁿ our grades of military rank - more high officers than ever before, lots of Lieutenant-Generals, and Brigadier Generals a dime a dozen. ~~But~~ Now the move is to get us back to a peacetime basis in the matter of stars for Generals and Admirals.

MARSHALL PLAN

The Soviets want to hear more about the Marshall Plan. - So we are told by the Moscow radio tonight The British and French Governments have asked Soviet Russia to join in the American program to help Europe -- if the ~~x~~ European nations will get together with concerted plans to help themselves. So what will the Soviet ~~xx~~ answer be?

The expectations have not been optimistic. The Russian Press and the Satellite Communist Press in other countries have been assailing the Marshall Plan in bitter terms - but now the word from ~~the~~ Moscow is much milder. Tonight's broadcast stated: "At the moment the Soviet government is considering proposals presented by the French and British Governments." ^R Then it went on to say that Russian Foreign Minister Mblotov has told the British Ambassador that he would like to have, what the Moscow Radio calls - "More details." So maybe Moscow will join in the negotiations, which may sound optimistic - though the record of Soviet diplomacy has been chiefly one of obstruction.

Government engineers say the worst is over along the Missouri. That river dropping slowly.

FLOODS

(The second largest flood in the recorded history of the Central Mississippi Valley, a flood exceeded only in size by that other one, ten days ago.)

In the rich farming region around Quincy, Illinois, hundreds of workers -- farmers and towns-people both -- weary, and red-eyed from lack of sleep, are still sand-bagging levees, fighting for their homes. Some have been at it for ten days and nights, with only brief rest periods.

Ten miles north of Quincy, seventyfive men, last night fought a two-and-a-half-hour battle to save the Indian graves level. They won.

They were routed out of their beds, and hurriedly they sacked fifty-tons of sand and carried the sand-bags, "on the run" along seven hundred ~~and~~ and fifty feet of the levee.

"We saved it" said one of the exhausted men this morning. "But it was a close call."

RAPIDS

At Green River, Wyoming, a run began against death today -- sixteen young and middle-aged adventurers, including seven women, are on a nineteen-day expedition in small boats, down some of the wildest rapids in the world.

The Green River and its gorges and rapids, and on into the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon, rapids that have been taking a heavy toll of lives ever since the ~~second~~ second head of the U S Geological survey, J. W. Powell lost his there way back in Eighteen sixty-nine.

The party, led by Otis Marston who successfully shot the treacherous ~~g~~ Grand Canyon once before, left Green River, Wyoming, today on the first leg of the seven-hundred-mile trip down-stream, heading for Vernal, Utah, two hundred miles away.

Marston, A San Francisco investment banker, calls the party "fast-water enthusiasts". Well, to shoot some twenty-one major rapids in four tiny, sixteen-foot skiffs -- shaped like flat-irons -- that

calls for something more than just enthusiasm.

Some hundreds have tried to run the Grand Canyon of the Colorado since Powell. Some have made it. But many never were heard of again.

The daring adventurers will go backwards through the most dangerous rapids -- stern first, the oarsman straining at his ash poles to keep the craft from being swept under a ledge and pinned there ~~xx~~ by the current until the heavy waves pound the boat to pieces -- and its occupants.

On August third, five weeks after the start at Green River -- with stops at Vernal, ~~Wahx~~ Utah, and at Lee's Ferry and Phantom Ranch along the Colorado, the party hopes to pull into Boulder City, Nevada, seven-hundred miles from the starting point. All present and accounted for, they hope.

MACMILLAN

MacMillan starting for the Arctic ^{again!}
That announcement has a familiar ring. Commander Donald MacMillan whose Arctic adventures go way back to the days when he was with Peary ~~z~~ on his Polar expeditions, sails ~~North~~ tomorrow afternoon, heading north once more in his famous ship of exploration, The Bowdoin.

On most of his expeditions MacMillan has started from Booth Bay Harbor, Maine. The Bowdoin is at Booth Bay tonight, and the ^{company of} explorers are on hand spending a few final hours with families and friends.

This will be Donald MacMillan's twenty-fifth Arctic expedition. And it sounds like it would be one of his most important. He is going North under the auspices of the Chicago Geographic Society, ^{with} ~~best~~ special work ^{to} ~~will~~ be done for many scientific organizations such as the Hydrographic Department in Washington. Destination this time:—Greenland and Bafflinland; although on a Arctic expedition you

never can be too sure. A lot depends on the ice.

There will be sixteen on board, including the wife of the explorer, who is going North on her Fifth expedition. The members of the party are mainly scientists, representing eleven Canadian and American colleges and universities.

Mrs. Mac, with a new wire recorder supplied by Commander MacDonald of Zenith Radio, hopes to bring back a much more elaborate record of Eskimo songs and conversations than have ever been made.

Explorers come and explorers go but Donald MacMillan seems to go on forever.

And now Hugh -- to tell us about Dynafuel that enables your car to go on and on forever.

And now instead of me going on forever -- I'll turn the microphone over to you Nelson.

HUNGARY

Another prominent Hungarian political figure has ^{fled} ~~got out of~~ the clutches of the Reds, and turns against the Communist Regime at Budapest.

He now joins the exiled Premier of Hungary, Nagy, in the fight for a Democratic Hungary.

~~He is~~ General Laszlo Jekelyi, whom the Hungarian Reds thought was okay - their man. Jekelyi was a key figure in the liberal majority government of Hungary, Chief of Cabinet to the President. He is a close friend of President Tildy, who remains as nominal head of the Red Regime. Jekelyi was the leader of the Left Wing of the small holders party -- the radical section of the Majority Party consisting of Hungarian farmers. That made him seem the right kind of individual to be used by the Communists. He played this part, and the Red leaders appointed him minister to ~~Belgium~~ Belgium and the Netherlands.

So Jekelyi departed to take his new post. But no sooner did he get out of Hungary, arriving in

Switzerland, than he spoke up and gave his real opinion. He said the government in Budapest was an undemocratic ~~like~~ dictatorship, and that the charges of conspiracy against Premier Nagy were nonsense. "I am going to join Nagy in his fight for a free Hungary," he said. In other words, he had played along with the Reds to get a diplomatic post outside ~~of~~ Hungary -- as a means of escape.

This ~~is~~ is a political sensation in Budapest tonight, combined ^{with} ~~with~~ another Hungarian headline. The word is that an exiled Hungarian leader, apparently safe in Vienna, has been kidnapped by the Red police of Hungary. The name is Laky, and we hear that ~~it~~ he was seized on the street in Vienna, and taken secretly as a prisoner back to the domain of the Communists. This ties in with news we have had before -- that Democratic Hungarian leaders outside ~~of~~ Hungary are in danger of being kidnapped and taken back to face the vengeance of the Reds.

FARLEY

The disclosures by Jim Farley about the late President Roosevelt continued today in Collier's. The second of the series of articles, "Why I broke with Roosevelt," written by the political wizard who played so large a part in making F.D.R. President.

He tells how the President gave public intimation that he wanted no third term; yet, in talking about other prominent politicians, he constantly reverted to Presidential angles for Nineteen Forty.

One evening at dinner, he and Farley got around to Henry Wallace, then Secretary of Agriculture, and F.D.R. is quoted as follows: "Henry would like to run for President," he said slowly. "However, I'd rather have a fellow like Ickes -- who, at least, is a fighter." Then he added: - Ickes will go through with whatever he has in his mind. But," continued the President, "You never can tell what Henry will do. He's in favor of one thing today, and something entirely different tomorrow."

As things turned out, Henry got the second place, Vice-President, on the Third Term Ticket.

Another time, they talked of Mayor LaGuardia of New York and the possibility of LaGuardia running for Senator. Farley objected, saying "He is an opportunist and would desert at a moment's notice -- if he thought it would be to his advantage."

"Yes," he quotes F.D.R. as saying, "LaGuardia has a swelled head, and it's my guess he has Presidential aspirations."

And Jim Farley writes: "At this time I was being mentioned prominently as a Presidential possibility for Nineteen Forty, but the President had never mentioned this. Now he said: "Jim, I want you to give some thought to running for Governor of New York."

Farley replied that he had no ambitions in the direction of Albany, to which F.D.R. replied -- tx well then, Jim you could run for the Senate. Jim wasn't interested in that either - although the President was insistent.

At a later time, F.D.R. intimated that as Governor of New York, Farley could get the proper

experience to become a Presidential candidate in Nineteen Forty. He said: "I'm not sure whether, as Postmaster General and Democratic National Chairman you have sufficient background to be nominated and elected President."

Farley says he replied he wasn't interested, because he had to start thinking of his own private business affairs -- in the interest of himself and his family.

Soon after came the final break between the President and the man who was hailed as President maker.