

COAL C.T.-P.H. Mon. Mar. 6 1950

Today John L. Lewis and his union colleagues held a - "victory meeting." Which seems fair enough. The union had to give up its "willing and able" clause, and make other concessions. On the whole, John L. Lewis won a substantial success - with a pay raise and a hike of company contributions into the union welfare fund.

President Truman is described as - pleased. He was spared the necessity of seizing the coal mines, which might have caused thorny complications, and the dispute was settled in a manner he wanted - by collective bargaining. (The whole thing was no triumph for the Taft-Hartley Law, which the President always denounced - the court injunction not working at all. However, the Department of Justice says - it will go ahead and appeal the verdict of Judge Keech, finding the union not guilty of contempt. Which appeal might seem to be a sort of belated gesture.)

Today, the coal miners flocked back to work by the tens of thousands, and it is believed that by

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**tomorrow the soft coal fields will be in full operation
again - after one of the most bedeviling of strikes.**

MERCY KILLING

In the mercy killing case at Manchester, New Hampshire, Dr. Hermann Sander told his story today. ~~On the witness stand, he repeated the contention his defense lawyers have been making.~~ He said it was his opinion that the cancer victim, Mrs. Abbie Borroto, had died before he injected forty centimeters of air into her veins. Then, why did he inject the air? He says he doesn't know - he was distracted at the time.

On the witness stand he said: "I cannot explain my actions. Something snapped in me. I never had any intention to kill Mrs. Borroto," he testified.

(Under cross-examination by the prosecution, he was asked: "You mean to tell the jury you don't know why you injected the air?"

"That's right," replied the doctor. And he added: "It was irrational behavior, and I don't think I can explain it.")

The testimony was long and involved, with medical technicalities; but that's the gist of it - that Dr. Sander thought the patient had died, and that it was no mercy killing at all.

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GERMANY

Late news tells of a wild riot in Germany -- when a mob of fifteen hundred stormed a steel works in the British zone of occupation. They were protesting against the dismantlement of a plant, ordered by the western allies. The furnaces were about to be blown up, when the crowd charged forward, beat up guards, and injured two British officials. The German police managed to hide five other Britishers, smuggled them to safety -- as the mob raged out of control.

AFRICAN URANIUM

A secret came to light in Africa today - a big uranium strike in the Portuguese province of Mozambique. There, two years ago a Portuguese prospector found a ~~large~~ deposit of the radio-active metal, and, ever since the mine has been investigated and developed - until now the news is made public that the Mozambique uranium ~~deposits~~ appear to be as great as those in the Belgian Congo.

The location is a wild jungle valley ~~in~~ near the Zambesi River - the remoteness of the place in the equatorial forest being one reason why they have been able to keep the secret so long.

PARLIAMENT

Today London had its usual pageant of king and Parliament, His Majesty George the Sixth opening the new session with an address from the throne. All traditional pomp and circumstance to make it a good show - and the show was all the better because of dramatic suspense in what the King had to say.

His words ^{of course} were those of his ministers, the Labor Government. So what did they ^{laborites} put into the royal mouth on the subject of Socialist nationalization? It was known, in advance, that there would not be much. It's hard to promote a revolution with a majority of seven. But how would a retreat from Socialism be phrased - with His Majesty speaking?

Well, the old political fiction of royal sovereignty was kept up in high style - the King, his ministers, his people, his government, the country as his possession. (Addressing the assembled lords and commons, George the Sixth began: "My lords and members of the House of Commons - I am proud to recognize that my people, by a sustained endeavor,

have increased industrial and agricultural production,"
And so on, and so on.

He announced what the Labor Government intends to do in foreign affairs, saying: "My government will maintain their whole-hearted support of the organization for European economic cooperation," and so on.

Nothing startling in foreign affairs - and
Then came the sixty-four dollar question. What about more Socialism, new nationalization? Well, there was one paragraph - and it must have taken Labor Prime Minister Attlee and his cabinet a lot of deep thought to figure out the verbiage. And make the pill as sweet as possible - though it must still taste like a dose
— or quinine as the British say —
of quinine to the Socialists.

In the address from the throne, King George The Sixth spoke it in the following words: "In view of the restricted time available, and the heavy volume of financial business to be transacted, my government propose only a limited program of legislation for the present session." That was it - limited time and

volume of business, with never a hint of that mere majority of seven.

His Majesty added that his ministers might, "in an emergency, introduce measures to maintain full employment and our national well being - measures that might be controversial." But no mention of ~~nationalization~~ nationalization.

GREECE

Today's count in the Greek election shows a preponderance for the moderate parties. No faction will have a majority in the new Greek Parliament -- there will have to be a coalition government. The party in front is a moderate leftist group. Right behind is a middle-of-the-road faction, followed by right wingers, ~~followed by another moderate party.~~
~~The four groups are of almost even strength.~~

The first figures in today showed a plurality for a left wing outfit, supported by the Communists. But later returns were from the regions of Greece ravaged by Red guerrillas - and these swamped the leftists, who do not even show in the first four parties tonight.

The last of the first four is a leftwing outfit which gets less than fifteen percent of the vote.

BULGARIA

In Red Bulgaria today, Michael Shipkov appeared in court - and confessed. So states a Communist news bulletin - which tells of the beginning of the trial of Shipkov and four other Bulgarians as spies.

This latest Red confession is perhaps the most sinister of all - following, as it does, the nightmare document made public by our own State Department over the week-end. The document in which Michael Shipkov told how he was made to confess - the first time.

He was a translator in the United States legation, was arrested by the Reds, and forced to concoct a story of how he did spy work for the Americans. After he had signed this, the Communist police sent him back to the legation, to work at espionage for them. But Shipkov, back with the Americans, pulled himself together, and wrote out a statement of how the confession had been extracted from him.

The legation sheltered him for six months, and then he tried to get out of the country. He left behind that document, with instructions that it should be made public - if he were caught, put on trial, and made to confess all over again. This now has happened - and over the weekend the State Department made public the terrifying account.

Shipkov told how he was arrested and questioned for thirty-two uninterrupted hours with strange, dehumanized atrocity. It is a story of psychological horror, the climax described as follows:

The Victim says: "I was ordered to stand facing a wall upright, at a distance which allowed me to touch the wall with two fingers of my outstretched arms - then to step back some twelve inches, keep my heels touching the floor and maintain balance only with the contact of one finger on each hand. And, while standing so, the interrogation continued.

"This posture," the document goes on, "does

not appear unduly painful, nor did it particularly impress me at the beginning. And yet, combined with the mental strain, the utter hopelessness and the longing to be sent down into silence and peace, it is a very effective way of breaking down all resistance.

"I recall", he said, "that the muscles of my legs and shoulders began to get cramped and to tremble, that my two fingers began to bend down under the pressure. I remember that I was drenched with sweat, and that I began to faint, although I had not exerted myself in any way."

He tells how finally he collapsed, and then they made him get up and talk. Again he refused to make the false confession, and again they put him through the ordeal at the wall. "Then," after a time of this," he says, "I broke down. I told them I was willing and eager to tell them all they wanted."

Physical torture and psychological horror - and it brings to mind all those confessions in Red trials, Cardinal Mindszenty, the American telephone

**executive, Robert Vogeler, And now Michael Shipkov
is on trial - and today he confessed again.**

COMMUNIST

A strange dramatic story develops out of the Congressional hearing on Communism, (that has been going on for some time.) Two weeks ago testimony was being given by an under-cover man named Cvetic, who rose high among the Reds in western Pennsylvania, and all the time was an agent of the F.B.I. He named various Communist leaders in that area. One (of them)- George Dietze, whom he described as a party big shot.

So now - this same George Dietze has gone to the Committee on Un-American Activities - and told his story. He says that the testimony naming him as a Communist has ruined his life in his Pittsburgh neighborhood, and he can't go on. He can't endure it, and so he's coming out with the truth. He is a big-shot Red - but he, too, is an agent of the F.B.I.

So there you have the dramatic twister - both Cvetic and Dietze worked for the F.B.I., but neither one ever suspected it, and Cvetic denounced his fellow agent as a top ranking Communist. Sounds good for the secrecy of J. Edgar Hoover's detective

operation.- And there's a great human story behind it all.

George Dietze is a mild mannered jewelry merchant, who was born in Germany. In Nineteen Forty, ten years ago, he found that a neighborhood bookshop was a Communist outfit. He detested Communism. Today he said: "I was born in Germany and lived there until Nineteen-Twenty-Three. I saw what the Communists did with the old country. They paved the way for Hitler and his gang. I swore that, if I ever had a chance to get even with the Commies - I would."

So he went to the F.B.I. and told them about the bookshop, a nest of Red propaganda. The F.B.I. people talked to him, got his views, and asked him - would he like to pose as a Communist and get information for the government? To help your country," they told him.

Well, George Dietze has as much reason to be grateful to America as he had to detest Communism, and he agreed.

He worked his way in with Reds, and rose to leadership. So much so that important Communist meetings were held in his Pittsburgh office. The story from Pittsburgh today states that he had a hidden microphone, which picked up conversations during five-hundred-and-fifty secret meetings ⁱⁿ ~~during~~ the past six years. He gathered files of documents, and hundreds of names of party members and fellow travelers. Which mass of information he transmitted to the F.B.I. - and he did it for ten years.

But he was a secret Communist - one of the many who never seem in public to have any Red connections. So his friends didn't know, or his neighbors - until two weeks ago, when he was named as a Communist leader by his fellow F.B.I. agent, who never knew the truth about him. The result for his personal life was a catastrophe. His friends and neighbors abandoned him, shunning him as a Red. "Most of the neighbors," he relates, "don't want to have anything to do with me any more. Not that I blame

them - I'd feel the same way if I were in their shoes," he adds.

His exposure as a Communist would, of course, do him no harm in circles of the leftists. In fact, it would increase his usefulness as an F.B.I. agent. But the middle-aged, mild mannered jeweler, could not stand the disgrace, two weeks of it - being shunned as a Communist, although he was really working for his adopted country.

So he has thrown it all up, quit the Communist Party and his own F.B.I. assignment - going to Washington and telling his story to the Committee on Un-American Activities. He simply wants to get back *to normal* ~~to normal~~ with his friends and neighbors.

DUST

Kansas reports a severe dust storm - which blotted out the sun, and made the day look like night. The local people say it was reminiscent of the old dust bowl days - the dust piling half an inch deep in the lobby of a theatre, while motorists drove with headlights on. Even so, they were blinded in the dark ~~mm~~ cloud of dust.

BLONDES

In Los Angeles, they are having an uproar in the preparation for a California ceremony - an historical mission play, commemorating the Spanish padres of old. As part of the scenery, they need some young ladies; and of these, there is no lack in Los Angeles, Especially - blondes. But that's just the trouble. The producers of the mission play have provided an ornamental assortment - all shades from platinum to red. ^{While} ~~But~~ the author of the historical pageant, Mrs. Margaret McHale, says - no. She won't have any blondes, because they wouldn't be the Spanish type. She insists on brunettes along with the hidalgos, the caballeros and the padres. ^R I don't know what they'll do about it, but one compromise would be to leave the girls out altogether. ^{Just have the} ~~which certainly~~ [^] ~~would shock Los Angeles hidalgos,~~ the padres and the caballeros. Hah! here comes Don Juan Case, our mighty caballero, galloping up on his ivory steed. Buenas Noches, Senor.

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