

COAL L. J. - P. A. Thuro. Mar. 2 - 1950.

The latest from Washington would seem to indicate that the Federal Government has plans ready - for seizure of the coal mines. This would require legislation in Congress, and Congress, we hear, is prepared to act quickly. One dispatch from Washington says the mine owners will not object, and the strikers appear to be willing to go back to their jobs - if the government takes over.

~~At the same time,~~ Attorney general McGrath ~~says he will~~ ^{is} appeal ^{ing} to higher courts against the decision handed down today by Federal Judge Keech - who found the mine union not guilty of contempt of court. Judge Keech himself issued the injunction ordering the union to send the miners back to work - and now his verdict is that the union officials, headed by John L. Lewis, did what they could to obey the order. He says the government did not prove its contention that John L. Lewis was not sincere and in earnest, when he told the miners to call off the strike. "It may be," says the judge, "that the union secretly encouraged the

strikers to stay out. But, if so, the government did not prove it.^{b)}

There were immediate complaints in Congress - that the government did not press the case as effectively as it might have done. Senator Taft of Ohio claims the Department of Justice withheld evidence that would have made its case much more effective.

(Today's verdict represents a large victory for John L. Lewis - who, together with the union, has had such disastrous experience with injunction trials in the past. In former cases, when court orders to call off strikes were defied, fines of several million dollars were imposed. But this time - an acquittal!)

(Lewis, meanwhile, was going back into negotiations with the mine owners; - but, little hope is expressed for an agreement on a new contract. This morning, shortly before the judge handed down his verdict, President Truman at a news conference, was asked - what he intended to do. To which he replied

~~that he would wait for the decision of the court -
before doing anything. But what was to be done -
except seize the mines, and get coal production going
again?)~~

All this - as the shortage was turning into something like public disaster. Today Henry Ford, the Second, president of the Ford Motor Company, predicted that, if the crisis went on, the industry of the nation would be, in his words - "Shut down in two weeks."

With bitterly cold weather in the middlewest, the lack of coal has produced an increase in the consumption of natural gas - such an increase that, in some places today supplies for industrial use were cut off. Which, at Massillon, Ohio, produced one of those oddities that are often the best way to ~~xxxxxx~~ illustrate the state of affairs.

A steel company at Massillon uses natural gas to heat its offices - and, when supplies were cut off today, they had to keep the office workers from freezing - the more so as they were working on a hurry

up job. So what to do for heat? Well, out of the plant making steel castings, they rolled carts with vats of molten metal. Not a bad sort of heating plant, as the bookkeepers scratched away with pens and the girls pounded their typewriters - in an office mighty strange with the incandescent glow of molten steel.

MERCY KILLING

2
In the mercy killing case, Manchester, New Hampshire, a startling twist comes from - Baltimore. Where, today, a high ranking medical authority offered to receive an injection of forty centimeters of air - the same amount that Dr. Herman Sander injected into Mrs. Abbie Borroto, ^{who was} ~~dying of cancer.~~

The Baltimore medical authority is Dr. Harry M. Robinson, professor of dermatology at the University of Maryland Medical School. He says he has repeatedly given air injections of forty or more centimeters to people, without any ill effect. In explanation he says: "Air that is injected into the veins, goes to the right side of the heart and then to the lung, where it disappears. There are no results at all - either good or bad."

So, as evidence in the New Hampshire mercy killing case, he offers to undergo the same injection of air - to show that nothing happens.

FOLLOW MERCY KILLING

In the trial itself, the Chief witness today was the nineteen year old daughter of Mrs.

Borroto. She told an affecting story of Dr.

Sanders' sympathy and pity for the family stricken

by grief for a mother dying of ~~SEVERE CANCER~~ *an incurable disease.*

BANDITS

At Maybrook, New York, today, a small town banker defied four gunmen, and forced the bandits to crawl weeping from the bank. Cashier Charles Grist is middle-aged and mild of manner. But when the hold-up man pointed guns at him - he told them where to go. And - pressed a button. Which was a tear gas device, and in a couple of seconds the bank was flooded with the fumes.

The bandits dropped to the floor, trying to escape the tear gas, and crawled out on their stomachs - their eyes blinded with weeping. Shortly afterward, they were picked up by the police - after as ignominious a fiasco as was ever inflicted on hold-up men by a small town banker.

UN-AMERICAN

5

A Congressional investigator turns in a report - that there is no evidence to show that the late Harry Hopkins helped Soviet Russia to get American atomic secrets. This comes from Donald Appel, assigned by the Committee on Un-American Activities to check the story told by George Racey Jordan, former Air Force officer. However, he verifies the Jordan story that masses of war secrets, atomic and otherwise, were smuggled to the Soviets through the lend-lease air base at Great Falls, Montana.

Jordan, who served at that lend-lease base, declared that Hopkins, as right-hand man to the late President Franklin D. Roosevelt, put pressure on him by telephone to get the shipments through. He stated, moreover, that in a Russian diplomatic pouch he found a letter on White House stationery, with the printed name of Hopkins on one corner, and signed - "H.H." Committee investigator Appel states that he made a ~~research~~ search through government files, and found many papers initialed by Hopkins. But always -

"H.L.H." The name having been Harry L. Hopkins. The Presidential aide, says he, never used - "H.H." which might make it seem as if somebody had forged Hopkins' initials - and got them wrong.

CHINA

It may puzzle some of us to decide - who is the president of China? But not our own President Truman, who gives his answer in the form of a luncheon.

Over in Formosa, Chiang Kai-Shek has been reinstated as head of what's left of the Nationalist Government. But, in this country, to which he came for medical treatment, acting Chinese President Li Tsung-Jen refuses to resign - and denounces the Generalissimo as a usurper.

Nationalist China would seem to have two presidents - and today Li Tsung-Jen had lunch at the White House. So this morning, at his news conference, President Truman was asked - was he receiving his luncheon guest as acting president, or as a private citizen? The President replied - acting president.

After which the decision was formalized with knives and forks.

FOLLOW CHINA

The latest, just to make it a paradox,
is a declaration from the State Department, recognizing
Chiang Kai Shek as President of nationalist China.

BRITAIN

In London, the Labor Government has announced its decision - no new schemes of Socialism to be introduced into the new Parliament. Not - with a mere majority of seven. Today, Prime Minister Attlee held a cabinet meeting, and told them that the nationalization program would have to be halted - in view of the result of the election last week, when Labor won that narrow victory. To which the cabinet responded with a unanimous okay - although the decision may bring about a split in the Labor Party.

(In a technical sense, it means a repudiation of campaign promises - Labor, during the election battle, having pledged more and more Socialism. But how can you keep your campaign promises, when the voters give you a majority in Parliament of - only seven? Nevertheless, the left wing of Labor wants to press the policies of nationalization - in spite of everything. So the Attlee cabinet faces a possible revolt - within its own ranks.

The decision today, with its halt on

ESPIONAGE

There's a blast of protest in London - following an order for a sweeping investigation into the case of Dr. Klaus Fuchs. How was that scientist, now convicted of Red espionage, able to hold a key position in British atomic research, when his record showed that he was a Communist? Prime Minister Attlee, ordering an investigation, has named the war minister, John Strachey, to head it - and that's what causes the uproar.

This afternoon the London Evening Standard, owned by Conservative Lord Beaverbrook, declared that the war minister, himself, is a Red. "He remains a Communist," declared the newspaper. "He has never publicly retracted his belief in Communism." To prove the charge, quotations are printed from Strachey's books - expressing a firm belief in Communism.

8
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FOLLOW ESPIONAGE

To all this Prime Minister Attlee issued a reply tonight. He admits the quotations showing John Strachey as advocating Communism - but says that was years ago. Since then Strachey has made it perfectly clear that he is in fundamental disagreement with the Communists, and has identified himself with ^{the} a labor party in its opposition to Communism.

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ROUMANIA

Red Romania tells the U S and Great Britain
to close their information offices in Bucharest.

This follows a previous Romanian demand -- that
the U.S. and Britain reduce the size of their
legation staffs. Less and less harmony with
the Soviet satellites.

FRENCH PRESIDENT

There will be a solemn visit of state next week - when the president of France goes to London. No end of ceremony - ~~when~~ President Auriol ^{to be} received by His Majesty, King George the Sixth. The political aspects are equally imposing - a new affirmation of ties between France and Great Britain. But there will be something more than that.

A dispatch from Paris today states that Madame Auriol, accompanying her husband, will be a sort of ambassadress of Parisian fashion. She will take along a wardrobe representing the height of style in Paris - gowns, hats and cloaks that she will wear at the various receptions of state, visits and public appearances. Not exactly a clothes model, though something like that on a most exalted plane.

R The dispatch from Paris tells how, the other day, the wife of the president went to one of the top ranking style designers of Paris, and selected six costumes - and ordered three others to be made especially.

Hitherto, Madame Auriol has not devoted so much time to

personal attire. She does active work in politics, and during the war was an important member of the French resistance, the underground operating against the Nazis - and for three years Hitler's Gestapo tried in vain to catch her.

But now there is that visit of state to London - and France expects every woman to do her duty. Madame Auriol is tall, stately and handsome - admirably designed to display to the British these masterpieces of the French dress and hat industry. So, while her husband confers on world affairs, she'll be an ambassadress of Parisian fashion - on a selling job.

All of which is another example of the French genius for the practical, and to me it brings back merry memories - recalling the time when we had the premier of France on this program. That was back before the Second World War - when I went to Europe to cover the coronation of His Majesty, George the Sixth, and also to give broadcasts from various capitals over there. So my sponsors at the time, the

~~Sun Oil Company~~, said - get the head of a government on the program. Not a bad inspiration, the ruler of the nation appearing on the air along with commercials selling gasoline.

It was, of course, impossible to get the sovereign of Great Britain, who was about to be crowned - and, in Paris, I made inquiries about the premier. He was Leon Blum, a world figure. Rather to my surprise, the answer was - yes, which made me figure that, probably, they didn't understand in France about an American news program having commercials - gasoline in this case.

Then came the memorable night when, on a trans-Atlantic hookup, we had his excellency, ~~Leon Blum~~,

the premier of France, as a guest on this program - and, *but did he do? Why* he sold French hotels! Paris was having an exposition,

and it seemed a good occasion to advertise the accommodations for American tourists. *The Premier* ~~was~~ was a statesman of magnificent oratory, and he rolled off the hotel publicity with flights of eloquence. It

FRENCH PRESIDENT.....4

seems, there had been a rumor that, during exposition time, the French inn keepers were going to hike the prices for American tourists - and this the premier denied. No, a thousand times no, and he rang the bells of hotel welcome for those dear Americans.

He said it all in French, and very few over in the U.S.A. knew what he was talking about. It took so long that I was able to read only a fraction of the translation. Our American idea was to have the ruler of a nation sell ^{my sponsor's product,} gasoline, and what we got was a premier - selling French hotels. But it was okay; ^{the first time} ~~anything to have~~ the head of a government ^{and ever went on a} ~~on the~~ ^{scored radio} program.

Yes, yes - the French they are a practical

people - ~~2000~~ ¹⁴ ~~next~~ pas, My dear Alfonse? I mean Nelson?