

STRIKE

C.I. - Sunco. Thursday, May 2, 1946.

There was a demand in the Senate today that President Truman intervene to stop the strike of soft coal miners ^{that} ~~it~~ ^{now} has lasted thirty-two days. ^{The strike that} ~~now~~ ^{is} forcing industrial plants to shut down all over the country. ^P The shut-downs will be conspicuous next week, said Senator Byrd. ^Q And he called upon the President to assert himself with firmness and courage. Otherwise, we shall see America idle and distressed, with suffering rampant throughout the land.

The Virginia Senator did ^{not} suggest just what the President might do, within his constitutional powers. At any rate, there is no sign of a break, no sign of any ~~possibility for an~~ agreement between John L. Lewis and the mine operators. The shortage of coal in the middlewest is so serious already, that the Illinois ^S Commerce Commission has ordered a brownout in Chicago and six hundred other communities. By this order, factories are

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limited in their use of electricity, cut down to twenty-^{four} hours a week. ^{also} Movies and commercial houses are restricted, with no display advertising.

In New York, public utility officials put out the warning that if the strike lasts ^{another} three weeks, ~~more~~ the ^{city} ~~whole town~~ will have to shut down. ^{N.Y.} ~~And city~~ officials announce that there is only enough coal to keep the subways running ^{thru May,} ~~for the rest of this month.~~ →

ADD STRIKE

This ^{by the way,} brownout in Chicago, ¹¹ tonight ^{is} is stricter than any imposed during the war. ~~It is being extended to other Illinois cities.~~ Mayor Kelly ^{has} of Chicago ~~made~~ arrangements ^{ed} to order his policemen to take ^{over} surplus stocks of coal, in the public interest.

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President Truman himself said that if the coal strike continues, it ~~might~~ become so menacing as to constitute a strike against Uncle Sam himself.

You will notice that on several occasions in the past year, when other people were much concerned about public questions and viewing with alarm, Mr. Truman conspicuously talked and acted calmly. This time he himself is viewing with alarm that coal crisis. He indicated that he is ready to take strong measures, but he did not yet indicate what they might be.

A correspondent reminded Mr. Truman that the late President Roosevelt ^{once} seized the coal mines ^{whereupon} ~~once, and~~ the miners refused to return to work. ^{Pres} Truman said that he ^d would cross that bridge when he came to it.

^{the Pres} Although ^{he} steered away from anything event indicating what step he would take, most of those who heard him had the clear impression that he would seize the mines if the strike does ^{not} ^{end} ~~stop~~ soon. If they ^{men} refuse to work, then ^{they} will be striking against the government. ~~If a strike against the government is tolerated, that means the end of government.~~

Reporters then asked the President about the railroad strike which is promised for later this month.

Is he going to do anything about that? There he doesn't ^{seem to} think there ^{will} be any necessity for him to step in.

As reports came pouring in from various American cities this afternoon, the gravity of the coal shortage became more and more ominous. From Detroit, New York ^{City,}

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Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Washington, St. Louis, Buffalo,

St. Paul, Duluth, Nashville - all ^{with} ~~have~~ the same story: [^] to

~~report:~~ only a few days' supply on hand. City

authorities ~~are~~ preparing to take over. ^{TP} The Health

Commissioner of New York City is ready to call a City

Disaster Control Board to handle the situation. ^{here} ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

^{In} ~~the~~ New York ~~City~~ there is only enough coal to keep the

utilities going for three weeks. In other cities, less.

Here's the latest: - a
statewide brownout in
Indiana!


CONFERENCE

The weighty issue decided by the Big Four Foreign Ministers in Paris today was the future of the islands of Pelagosa and Pianosa, in the Adriatic Sea. To us those two islets are mere dots on the ~~map~~ map. But they mean a good deal to the Italians and Jugoslavs.

What is to happen to Pelagosa and Pianosa? Jugoslavia gets Pelagosa, in the middle of the lower ~~Jugos~~ Adriatic. Italy is to keep nearby Pianosa. They are only thirty miles apart.

The only other point upon which the Foreign Ministers agreed was their dividing the Italian fleet among the four powers. The statesmen have decided to discontinue their plenary sessions for a while, and devote the next few days to secret meetings.

Secretary Byrnes announced today that he is willing to do almost anything to break the deadlock.



ADD CONFERENCE

Secretary Byrnes tonight formally notified

Russia that Uncle Sam is not going to continue sending

relief money to countries from which Russia is taking

either money or goods as reparations. What ^{it all} ~~this situation~~

amounts to is that we ^{have been sending} ~~send the~~ money to ~~the~~ occupied

countries, ^{for the benefit of} the Soviets, ~~grab it~~. This ^{must stop} ~~will not continue~~.

[^] says Sec. Byrnes. [^]

WEALTH

Some months ago, ~~as you will recall~~, elder statesman Barney Baruch suggested that there should be an inventory of what Uncle Sam is actually worth, what are our real resources today?

It took a middle-western university to act upon this suggestion. The Bureau of Research of the University of Illinois went to work and compiled figures. According to these, the farms, homes, factories, stores and other property in the United States, is worth three hundred billion dollars. But that's only one part of the story. Without wars, it would be worth more than twice as much. Our wars altogether have cost the United States four hundred and fourteen billion dollars. For that money, every family in America could buy a new eight thousand dollar home, a twelve hundred dollar automobile, and have two thousand dollars left in the bank.

LOAN

Our State Department is preparing to announce a trade agreement with Great Britain, which will cut Uncle Sam's customs tariffs on British goods by fifty per cent. Senator Hugh Butler of Nebraska is ~~the~~ ^{our} authority for this ~~fact~~. He says the State Department is keeping this plan down until the Senate ~~had~~ ^{okayed} the four billion dollar loan to the British. So the Nebraska Senator wants no more consideration of the loan until the State Department confides ~~to~~ ^{all} the Senate about that trade agreement.

~~Senator Barkley, the majority leader, did not like this idea at all. He is not having a happy time with that British loan anyway. As majority leader, he tried to get the other Senators to agree to limit the debate which has been going on for three weeks already. But the acting Republican leader, Senator Knowland of California, said, nothing doing. He personally would be in favor of it, but other Senators do not agree.~~

U.N.

Tonight it looks as though the question of Iran, the occupation of Persia by Russian troops, would really cease to trouble the Security Council of the United Nations. Cables from Persia report that Soviet Russia has been withdrawing soldiers at such a rate that the evacuation is actually ahead of time. Instead of being completed by May Sixth, they will be out ~~of there~~ three days earlier. A spokesman for the Iranian government ~~xxx~~ says that Azerbaijan will probably be wholly evacuated by tomorrow. These reports are corroborated by British diplomats.

~~That is a pretty fair broadcast of the report that will be made to the Security Council at New York next week. Russia will not take part; it considers the question closed. If these reports have been confirmed on May Sixth, there will be nothing for the Council to do but drop the matter.~~

CHINA

General Marshall, as President Truman's envoy to Asia, is backing up the position of Chiang Kai-shek that the Communists must give up Chungchan, capital of Manchuria, ~~before~~ ^{and do it before there can be} any further negotiation. ~~can continue~~

Gen.

Marshall has asked the Communist General, Chou En-lai, to hand over Chungchan to Nationalist troops and ~~to~~ ^{en} discuss political issues in Manchuria.

From all indications, Chou ^{En-lai's} answer will be No.

~~He is not inclined to~~ ^{That he'll not} give up Chungchan, Harbin, or any other city his forces have occupied.

ATOMIC

The western nations should not give up the atomic bomb, because the differences between them and Soviet Russia are irreconcilable. That is the conclusion of the British Protestant Churches as expressed by their Council. It represents all sects except the Roman Catholics.

But these
~~That does not mean, however, that these~~

need not necessarily
irreconcilable differences ~~should~~ lead to war, say the

Protestant
churchmen. The ^{or} report uses these words: "Any attempt

in the atomic age to remain a great power while renouncing use of the atomic bomb would be equivalent to an attempt in a naval age to wage naval war without the use of capital ships."

~~The report said that~~ "Britain's renunciation of use of the bomb, and therefore her status as a great power, would mean her surrender to any power which had no such scruples." *Those are the realistic words of these British churchmen.*

MERGER

Navy Secretary Forrestal made another impassioned plea to the senators not to merge Uncle Sam's armed forces. The administration plan, said the Secretary, would reduce him to a zero and strip his cabinet position of all authority.

This testimony was given ~~yesterday~~ behind closed doors, before the Senate Committee on Naval Affairs.

~~Today it is~~ ^{today.} made public. Forrestal explained to newspapermen that he had no intention of being flippant, but ^{that} ~~he~~ ^{he} frankly could ^{not} see what ^a ~~the~~ Secretary of the Navy would have to do if the merger of the forces as proposed, were enacted. He added that he could not conceive of any man who valued the use of his time, being willing to take such a job.

The bill as drawn up and approved by the administration would establish a Secretary of Defense, a civilian Cabinet Minister. He would have authority over the Army, Navy and Air Force. Under him there

would be an Under-Secretary, and four Assistant Secretaries. The top military figure would be a chief-of-staff. This office would rotate every three years among officers of the Army, Navy and Air Force. Secretaries for the Army, Navy and Air Force would rate under the chief-of-staff.

PATTON

It's open season to go gunning for the top brass, for blasts against the high commanders of victory in Europe. A recent book, by Ralph Ingersoll, head of the New York newspaper "P.M.," takes a fling at supreme commander, General Eisenhower, and also undertakes to skin British General Sir Bernard Montgomery. The view is that the real credit for the ~~xx~~ victory belongs to General Omar Bradley - Ingersoll having served on Bradley's staff. That's a familiar pattern - tearing down other commanders to build up your own favorite general.

The pattern also of the most recent volume of disclosures; written by Colonel Benton Wallace - who served under Patton. Everybody attached to that dazzling Third Army, with its dash and daring and rolling tanks - sings peans of praise about Old Blood and Guts. So now we are told whose generalship it was that produced the great break-through in Normandy, which led to the collapse of German armies in France. Hitherto the strategy has been credited to General

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Bradley, Ingersoll's hero. Now we are told, no. The author, who served with Patton, informs us that the mastermind in planning the break-through was - Old Blood and Guts. He also states that Patton, with his wildly surging armour, would have gone right through to the Siegfried Line, maybe on to Berlin, if he had not been deprived of supplies, gasoline, that might have been given him.

Well, it sounds like the old high school spirit - "my team is better than yours." In the higher brackets it goes - "my general is better than yours."

LORDS

The British House of Lords today had to answer a peculiar question. One of the privileges and prerogatives which the noble peers have retained, is that of being the law court of last resort in the British Empire.

The question that vexes their Lordships at present is, did it rain or did it not, on May Ninth, Nineteen Hundred and Nine, in Darjeeling, India? On that question depends the decision whether His Highness, the Rajah of a principality called Bhowal, is alive or dead. His wife wants him to be dead, claims she is his widow. But the prince himself says he's alive, ~~well and kicking,~~ *insists he's alive.*
~~kicking violently, in fact.~~

His Highness concedes the fact that on May Ninth, Nineteen Hundred and Nine, there was a funeral ceremony at Darjeeling. He had, in truth, been ill, physicians pronounced him dead, and he was, in accordance with ancient custom, laid upon a funeral pyre,

to which the flames were then applied. But, says the Rajah, a heavy shower extinguished the flames, revived *him, hence the* ~~the corpse, and precipitated the~~ argument which now troubles the noble Lords. The Rajah declares that, although the rain saved his life, the experience caused him to have amnesia, loss of memory. ^{That} For twelve years he wandered through India, a vagrant with lost identity. But in December, Nineteen Twenty, he appeared ~~xxxxixx~~ at his wife's home, dressed in a loin cloth, and a beard, which hung all the way down to his knees. He was also *— a mendicant, a sadhu, a holy man.* smeared with ashes. His grandmother and his ~~sister~~ recognized him. As W.S. Gilbert might say, "his sisters and his cousins, whom he reckoned by the dozens, and his aunts."

of Bhowal,
But the Ranee, ^{called} supposed to be his widow, ~~said~~ *him an imposter.* ~~she had never seen him before, and, as a matter of fact,~~
~~there is no such person.~~

The Rajah of Bhowal's story is that after the rain revived him, he fell into the company of a group of Sadhus, holy men who adorn their bodies with the ashes and so on of holy cows. These pious mendicants took care of him and initiated him into their rites. He became one of them.

Then at a shrine in the lovely Vale of Kashmir beside the Shalimar, the Rajah's memory one day returned, returned without warning; and now he is suing for the restoration of his rank, title, privileges, and, most important of all, property. The Ranee of Bhowal's lawyer maintains that this man just isn't the Rajah. And the Ranee has produced a death certificate, signed by an English doctor, to prove it.

This interesting case recalls another lawsuit long famous in the annals of criminology; the Titchborne case. As some of you may recall, the claimant to the Titchborne

title and estates had the support of the dowager Lady Titchborne herself. Almost a hundred other people swore to his identity, people from every class. The trial lasted a hundred days, and made fascinating reading in the newspapers, and later in books, and endless magazine articles. The jury decided that the claimant was not, as he professed, Sir Roger Titchborne, but the son of an Australian butcher named Arthur Orton; and a subsequent jury in another trial which lasted a hundred and eighty-eight days, convicted him of perjury, and he went to penal servitude for fourteen years.

Of course, the holy man covered with ashes in India, who insists he is the Rajah of Bhowal, and that he was not consumed by that funeral pyre in India, -- in his case the verdict may go the other way, to the distress of the Ranee of Bhowal. *And e-l-u-t-m.*