

COAL

L.I. - Sunoco. Monday, June 21, 1943.

Tonight most of the coal mines of the United States are paralyzed again. The miners are on their third strike in two months. The latest from Washington is that the Government will probably settle that most difficult problem by nationalizing the anthracite <sup>and</sup> bituminous mines for the duration of the war. <sup>TP</sup> Secretary Ickes, as Administrator of solid fuels, wants to take that step and is waiting only for the signal from President Roosevelt to go into action. Technically, all the mines have been under the control of Ickes ever since May First. Actually, they have been carrying on as before. <sup>TP</sup> John L. Lewis and the Policy Committee of the United Mine Workers have already said that they would gladly work for the government. <sup>That</sup> They will talk terms with Ickes the minute he says the word.

The matter of nationalizing the coal mines will be decided first by the President and James F. Byrnes

as Director of War Mobilization. Washington believes that Byrnes and Mr. Roosevelt will consult the War Labor Board before doing anything about it. The President's position throughout the two months of quarreling has not changed. He has given the War Labor Board sole jurisdiction in the dispute and he does not intend <sup>to see</sup> its authority set aside or flouted.

*say the President*  
Some Congressmen ~~believe~~ that Mr. Roosevelt

would have a great advantage if he would immediately sign the bill which Congress passed making the strikes illegal. However, that bill is not retroactive.

Furthermore, it does not enable the Government to punish individual strikers. The President has another recourse. He might instruct the Selective Service Boards to cancel the ~~xxx~~ deferrments of striking miners.

# RIOTS

Race riots in Detroit, *And tonight* ~~and they are bad ones.~~

~~Five negroes are dead, and the community appears to be~~  
*Five negroes are dead.*

~~soothing. At present the city is bristling with police and other forces to keep order. Some thirty-five hundred~~

*Police*  
~~are~~ are on special duty. In addition, ~~to that~~ the State Director of Civilian Defense *has* mobilized one thousand machinegun home guards and a thousand auxiliary police. *Ph*

*at* state police headquarters ~~has~~ five hundred troopers *are* standing by.

*Michigan*  
~~The news reached~~ Governor Harry F. Kelly, *of Michigan* ~~who~~ was

attending the conference of forty governors at Columbus, *Phio*  
*When he got the news and he*  
~~this~~ immediately chartered a special plane, *for*  
*arriving there*  
~~arrived in~~ Detroit, this afternoon.

In addition to the *ten* ~~five~~ dead, ~~negroes~~, a sergeant of police is critically injured, having been shot six times with his own revolver. A white physician was driving by in his car. The negro rioters turned his car

over, dragged the doctor out, and beat him savagely.

Another policeman was also severely injured.

*All this trouble in Detroit*  
~~This affair in Detroit is not a riot suit riot.~~

It was touched off last night by a fight between a white man and a negro at Belle Isle Park, a resort in the southern part of Detroit. Bystanders joined in, and the trouble might have developed then. Instead of that it spread slowly and came to a head this morning.

Most of the rioting centers in the colored

district, east of Woodward Avenue in Detroit, ~~that is a~~

<sup>a</sup> ~~two-mile~~ strip of dwellings and small business <sup>blocks</sup> ~~buildings~~

<sup>other</sup>  
Every <sup>^</sup> window along that two miles is broken.

~~The most~~ Disturbing stories have been

circulating that colored people are discontented in

~~many~~ other parts of the country. This was to an extent

borne out by a report that a large body of negroes is

on its way from Chicago to Detroit. The inference is



that they are looking for trouble. To corroborate that came another report that the Michigan State police have erected a blockade to prevent any further trouble coming from the outside.

The white people in Detroit made the situation no better. Bands of them paraded through the <sup>negro</sup> ~~colored~~ section, <sup>calling</sup> ~~hooting at every negro they saw and shouting~~ out warnings. ~~To stay on their own side of town.~~

Policemen are ~~xxxxxx~~ cruising the city in cars with six cops in each car, armed with ~~xxxxxxx~~ riot guns and sawed-off shotguns, <sup>breaking up</sup> ~~Their tactics were to break up~~ any crowds that ~~would~~ gather. But the crowds ~~that~~ they ~~did break up~~ <sup>street</sup> ~~thus broke up would~~ reform on other crossings. Some of them appeared <sup>ing</sup> ~~to be organized~~ <sup>groups, TP</sup> ~~bands~~. All saloons were ordered closed to prevent inflamed people of both races from adding to the confusion.

This tragic business has had a direct reaction

upon war production in Detroit, the greatest center of war production in the country. Many workers did not show up at their factories <sup>Today. And as</sup> the riots got worse, others ~~of them~~ went home at the noon hour because they wanted to be with their families.

So far there is nothing in the news to indicate that this race rioting has been brought about and fomented by enemy agents. But, it is pointed out that few things could help the enemy more than the spread of this rioting and the <sup>unseen</sup> hand of the Axis is probably behind it all - in some way.

Here's later word:- Gov. Kelley has declared martial law in three counties.

## GOVERNORS

Forty out of the forty-eight Governors of the United States met at Columbus, Ohio, today, and some sharp words were exchanged. Governor Dewey of New York told his colleagues that the O.P.A. has pegged the price of corn so that it has all been fed to hogs in the middlewest. The consequence is that there is not enough left over for the dairy cattle and laying hens in the east. If something isn't done about it, milk will be rationed in the Eastern states by October. What we have to do, said Dewey, is to push the hogs away from the trough.

Thereupon Governor Schweicker of Indiana sprang to his feet and asked the New York Governor whether he advised the killing of the pigs. "Yes," replied Dewey, "since they are competing successfully with our eastern cows for corn. But I would have the pigs eaten, not plowed under!"

Dewey went on to tell the Governors that the shortage of feed grain has become so acute that New York feed dealers are negotiating for some of the surplus grain in Canada. That aroused the ire of Governor Kerr of Oklahoma. The latter declared that if the northeast buys its grain from Canada, the middlewest will go elsewhere for its manufactured goods.

Governor Dewey told the others that Americans are going to have to change their diet if they want to have enough to eat and also to feed the starving peoples of Europe.

The food shortage was evidently uppermost in the mind of every Governor at Columbus.



## MOBILIZATION

A committee of Senators published a report tonight which gives voice to a most serious warning.

~~The country is not sufficiently on its toes. We~~

*That we*  
should be having all-out production, and we are not getting it. The Committee puts the blame for this on the lack of firm centralized practices <sup>is</sup> and failure to mobilize all resources. The Committee believes further that civilian morale and effort on the home front have sagged dangerously.

It <sup>'s</sup> a drastic report and pulls no punches.

It criticizes not only government but business and labor. ~~That~~ business-as-usual attitudes have been retarding war production, not only on the part of ~~business~~ business but also on the part of labor.

It talks about recurring strikes, the wrangling of control by competing government agencies. *And on top of* ~~with this~~  
*this it refers to*  
~~it adds the~~ black markets and shortage of food.

The Committee also talks about unwarranted attacks from forces who for selfish ends are willing to risk an internal crisis at a time when our armed forces are mobilized for an offensive. <sup>That</sup> There has been failure to stabilize the domestic economy, ~~and which~~ <sup>that</sup> has sapped the sinews of our war effort by creating dissatisfaction among wide groups of the American people. <sup>that</sup> The government spokesmen seem to have no clear policies to integrate the various agencies that deal with stabilization. <sup>That</sup> Production has not reached capacity because we are still sticking to peacetime practices. <sup>And that</sup> Even the placement of contracts is not coordinated. <sup>Strong</sup> stuff.

## MEDITERRANEAN

In the Mediterranean, the British and United States air forces carried out twelve more raids on Italian targets. Reynolds Packard of the United Press reports that tonight Sicily and the southern part of Italy lie battered and smoking. Wherever the human eye can reach it sees burning ruins. The Allied radio

stations have broadcast warnings to the Italian people, <sup>that</sup> what has happened to Sicily and southern Italy will soon be applied to the war installations all over the peninsula if the Italian people do not rise up and throw the Nazis out.

The radios also notified the Italians that the Allied high command advises all people living near war installations and factories, <sup>that</sup> to move themselves and their families to places of safety. The Allies intend to destroy all Italian factories and lines of communications so long as they are serving the interests of the Axis.

<sup>that</sup>  
But they do not want to destroy innocent lives in Italy.

One broadcast used these words: "It is your alliance with Germany that brings ~~xxx~~ our bombs down on Italian cities."

The British and American bombers are working ~~all~~ around the clock. They take off not only from northwest Africa but also from Malta. They devastated three airfields in Sicily and wrecked both terminals of the ferry that runs across the Straits of Messina from Sicily to the Italian mainland. The ferry is already almost out of commission. Seventeen Axis planes were shot down and only five Allied aircraft were lost. Having done that to the ferry line, the Allies have Sicily blockaded.

~~Our own~~ General Eisenhower <sup>has</sup> received a touching communication from some of the citizens at the captured island of Pantelleria. Sixty-seven inhabitants of the island signed it, and the gist of it was to thank



Eisenhower for saving them from Mussolini and Hitler.

The way they describe it is, "the evil yoke of a megalomaniac and satanic regime." The Pantellerians further said they believe all Italians will benefit when British and Americans conquer the country.

## SOUTH PACIFIC

In the South Pacific, American fliers have been hammering away at the Japanese defense lines. A Navy communique tells us that they have been concentrating on the Jap strongholds in the Gilbert Islands. Washington observers interpreting the bulletin, believe ~~this is the commencement of a U.S. Naval offensive in the South Pacific.~~ <sup>a U.S. Naval</sup> this is the commencement of ~~a big United States Navy~~ offensive in the South Pacific.

The two islands that our planes have been <sup>bombing</sup> ~~attacking~~ are outposts of the powerful system of defense in those islands which the Versailles Treaty gave to Japan <sup>under a League of Nations mandate</sup> ~~as a mandate~~. The heart and center of that system of defense is the Island of Truk, <sup>Japs</sup> where they have a harbor, an enclosed harbor, well fortified and large enough to contain all the navies of the ~~entire~~ world. <sup>Truk</sup> ~~It~~ is called "Japan's Gibraltar." <sup>And it's probably</sup> ~~actually it is~~ <sup>much</sup> ~~believed to be~~ stronger than Gibraltar.

The attacks on those two Gilbert islands also

mean something else. They illustrate how our aerial strength in the Pacific has grown.

## VESTS

The friends and kin of men in the air forces will be glad to hear that an American flight surgeon has developed armored vests and aprons. Some fliers are already wearing them, and two of them declare that this body armor saved their lives.

The United States Army gives credit for this armor to Flight Surgeon Colonel Malcolm ~~E~~ Grow and his associate, H. G. Armstrong. They got the idea while they were stationed at Wright Field in Dayton, Ohio, *but it* required a lot of mathematics, statistical records and experimentation. The American Flight Surgeon went to Scotland Yard in London and asked where this armor might be made. He was recommended to an English firm which has <sup>*long*</sup> been manufacturing bullet-proof vests for policemen. After a model suit was made, they tried it out on a dummy, and found that it would stop a forty-five calibre pistol bullet fired from a distance



of thirty feet.

But then came the job of persuading fliers to wear the things. Here the inventors met with a good deal of resistance. But finally they made a sale. So Lieutenant Jack Fisher of Fresno, California, wore a full armored vest with a regulation <sup>helmet</sup> ~~flame~~ during a raid made by Flying Fortresses on Wilhelmshaven and Emden on May Twenty-First. Fisher was in the nose of the plane when it was hit by a twenty millimeter German shell. It pierced the Fortress and exploded two feet away from Lieutenant Fisher. Not a fragment of that shell penetrated the armor, though <sup>the vest</sup> ~~he~~ did look as though it had been hit with a shotgun ~~by~~ at close range. Lieutenant Fisher said the armor probably saved his life and surely saved him from serious injury.

On another flight, Technical Sergeant Corl, a radio man from Pine Grove Mills, Pennsylvania, had a


similar experience. A fragment of a twenty millimeter <sup>shell</sup> hit him in the back over the right hip, and another fragment hit the front of his vest. He also was uninjured.

In case anybody is interested in technical details, the suits of armor are made of small overlapping sections of twenty gage manganese steel, about the thickness of heavy blotting paper. ~~They are~~ Quite a lot of weight to carry around <sup>too.</sup> The full vest weighs sixteen pounds, and the sections that protect the lower parts of the body weigh another twelve pounds. The men who have worn them think that in spite of their weight, every member of the Air Corps should be ~~so protected~~ <sup>required to don them.</sup>

## GASOLINE

An encouraging word about gasoline came over the wires late this afternoon. Not from Secretary Ickes, the Petroleum Administrator; nor even from James F. Byrnes, head of the War Mobilization Board. It came from Donald Nelson, head of war production. The word is, that there will be relief for civilians of the eastern states in the very near future.

Donald Nelson then went on to admit that the peculiar set-up in Washington, with overlapping authority, is largely responsible for what has been going on. He told this to a committee of Congressmen from the Eastern states. An easy solution, said Donald Nelson, would be to centralize the gasoline business, under Harold Ickes. The trouble with that idea, is the overlapping authority of the Office of Price Administration and the Office of Defense Transportation. So Donald Nelson acknowledged to the Congressmen that the shortage will have to be solved in some other way.



Then he added: —

~~But, he said,~~ "we are now attempting to iron out differences."

*Donald*

From what <sup>Donald</sup> Nelson said, we are led to believe that Ickes is getting together with O.P.A. Chief Prentiss Brown and Transportation Director Joe Eastman.

*12* Nelson told the Congressmen that the Government can <sup>*Gasoline*</sup> promise this relief this time as it could not <sup>*promise it*</sup> before.

O.P.A. Director Brown also helped ~~to~~ sooth the ragged feelings of the eastern Representatives. They complained particularly because of a regulation which forbade people to use gasoline to travel to their summer homes. Brown said he would look into *that,* at once.

*And here's Hugh, back again.*