

COAL

P.T. - Sunoco. Monday, May 3, 1943.

Here is the latest coal news from Washington.

The miners ~~will~~ ~~they~~ will get more pay. Just how much we cannot say at present. But it will be more.

Reports unofficial but quite positive, bring us word

<sup>John L.</sup>  
that Lewis has been negotiating with Secretary Ickes  
as Fuel Administrator. Earlier in the day, a

spokesman at Ickes' Office declared that he knew

nothing of any agreement by Ickes to negotiate a new

wage contract. That, he said, was completely out of

the Fuel Administrator's field. But the pleased

expression on the faces of all leaders of the United

Mine Workers were considered a pretty sound indication

that things are going their way. One spokesman intimated

that Ickes must have taken part in the conference

himself, but through a representative. The unofficial

reports about these negotiations went so far as to

recite the details of terms. These terms would be

that the miners would get six days' work a week wherever

it is possible. For the sixth day they would receive

time and a half, meaning ten dollars and a half. The miners would also be paid for part of the time it takes them to reach the actual spot in the mines where they have to dig the coal. That would settle the much mooted "tortal to portal" dispute. It might add as much as a dollar and eighty cents a day to the average worker's pay. And finally, it is believed that the new contract would run for one year instead of two years.

We also hear that the Union leaders in Washington are strong for Ickes. They are going about saying that now at last they have a sincere man and a fair man to deal with. Lewis, of course, is jubilant because he considers he has won a clear victory over the War Labor Board.

The first reaction to President Roosevelt's appeal to the coal miners was a light but steady trickle of men going back to work under the American flag. For a while it was reported that only a minority of them did this. But by mid-afternoon we heard that about

half, more than two hundred thousand, had done what the nation's President asked. The others waited for tomorrow, the time set by John L. Lewis, their Union's President.

One dispatch from the mine fields reported that the men were rejoicing over one thing. They are glad that because of the fifteen day truce they do not have to choose between the President of the United States and the President of their Union. In one typical county, every miner and his wife and his children listened to the President's plea on the radio. One good wife is reported as having exclaimed that she thought the President's speech was just wonderful and she certainly thought that after that there should be no strikes. Such men as could be interviewed by reporters, are quoted as being happy to be able to return to work, and saying they ought to listen to the government first.

~~A novel question was raised in Washington~~



today. If Uncle Sam is in the coal mining business, what will he do with the profits? That is, assuming there are profits. The answer at the Office of Secretary Ickes was that this is no time to think about profits in coal mines. The first and only thought is to get the coal out.

John L. Lewis, they say, believes that by proclaiming the truce he has by-passed the War Labor Board, ~~which he had snubbed so loftily.~~ But a question at the White House brought out the reply that whatever new wage agreement is made for the miners, the War Labor Board will have to approve it. ~~Secretary~~ Steve Early used this phrase:- "There is no word in the President's address that does not hold true two days from now, or two years from now."

Even in North Africa, there was keen interest in the President's broadcast. Enlisted men and officers alike came out with such words as: "It is about time?" and ~~"Now we really are cooking with gas." There are~~



## ADD COAL

Just a few minutes ago, John L. Lewis himself made a statement. It does not bear out the Washington report of an agreement with Secretary Ickes. In fact, it does not indicate any agreement at all. Lewis repudiated once again the pledge made by all unions not to strike. The United Mine Workers Union, he declared, is not bound. On the contrary, it will do everything possible to obtain a flat raise in pay of two dollars a day for all workers in bituminous and anthracite mines.

He described Secretary Ickes as the new employer of the miners. And it is up to this new employer, says Lewis, to make the first move in any negotiations.

## AFRICA

The Americans have taken Mateur, one of our chief objectives in Tunisia. The key to the whole system of Nazi fortifications defending Bizerte and Tunis.

The doughboys broke through on a fifteen-mile front. In so doing, they have cut the only Nazi rail line of communication between Tunis and Bizerte. Yes, they have now pushed the Germans to the edge of their inner line of fortifications. Smashing their whole mountain defenses in northern Tunisia.

*tonight*  
The Nazi divisions ~~now~~ <sup>literally</sup> have their backs to the sea. Between them and the Allied front there is <sup>now</sup> only that last inner line of ~~fortifications~~ *defenses*.

*today*  
Radio Algiers, ~~went so far as to~~ broadcast that the Germans are retreating ~~fast~~ under a heavy fire from Allied air forces, ~~and with the Americans on their~~ ~~left~~.

Before the capture of Mateur, French troops shoved along the rocky northern coast of Tunisia, ~~They~~ *getting* ~~left Lake Achkel on one side and got~~ within fourteen miles of the ~~great fortress of~~ Bizerte itself. The naval harbor <sup>*there*</sup> is now threatened by a two-pronged Allied menace, the French only fourteen miles away, the Americans, at Mateur, twenty miles.

Our men are also only thirty-one miles northwest of Tunis. Between them and Tunis is ~~just~~ a narrow range of hills. If their luck holds, they can



even outflank the mountain positions of the Germans to the south.

British General Sir Harold Alexander ~~announced~~  
*He it was who*  
congratulated the Americans. ~~By~~ disclosed the news that they had gone ahead fifteen miles in one push. *π* Another encouraging aspect of it is that Mateur is on flat country, ~~where the United States~~ *an* Army can bring all its armored fire-power into action.

The French army in the north is described as the most motley and curious assortment that has taken the field since medieval times. It includes those native Goums, the fierce African militia trained by the French, of whom we have heard so much. There are also crack shots of the French Africa Corps. In the Foreign Legion are not only Spaniards and ~~Senegalese~~ *Senegalese* but also Italians and Germans. Italians and Germans fighting Germans and Italians.

## INVASION

Grapevine reports from Europe talk about a <sup>Hitler</sup> ~~last~~ plan to try an invasion of Britain <sup>so as</sup> to forestall <sup>any</sup> ~~the~~ plans of the Allies <sup>may have</sup> for invading ~~last~~ Europe. ~~These grapevine stories come~~ <sup>And</sup> from Vichy by way of Madrid. They are supposed to emanate from diplomatic and military officials in close touch with the Axis high command. ~~We should remember that some of these stories from Vichy by way of Madrid have been fakes, but some of them have been true.~~

<sup>we are told</sup> ~~The suggestion in this one is~~ that Hitler plans to stabilize the Russian front, then concentrate all his armed forces <sup>on this</sup> ~~and throw~~ a big gamble, <sup>a real</sup> ~~as a serious~~ attempt to land on the shores of Britain. <sup>TP</sup> It would take between eighty and a hundred divisions, from a million two hundred thousand to a million five hundred thousand <sup>we are told.</sup> men. Also thousands of transport planes and gliders, innumerable submarines and lighter warships, plus

three-quarters of the remaining strength of the Nazi

air arm. <sup>IP</sup> The object of the <sup>present</sup> desperate resistance in  
<sup>according to this Vichy yarn,</sup>  
Tunisia is to give Hitler's generals time to prepare <sup>for</sup>  
the invasion of Britain.

Military observers point out that Stalin and  
his generals ~~may~~ have something to say about  
stabilizing the Russian front. Moreover, the Royal  
Air Force and the <sup>U.S.</sup> ~~United States~~ air forces in Britain  
are now so large that an invasion by air would <sup>be</sup> ~~be~~  
<sup>difficult</sup> ~~difficult~~ indeed. As  
~~though~~ for an invasion by sea, Hitler would need  
thousands of ships <sup>of all sizes,</sup> ~~big and little, literally,~~  
~~thousands~~

However,  
~~Myxxxxx~~ ~~Hitler has always been a gambler.~~



## RUSSIA

Today's news from Russia is pretty much a repetition of the last few days <sup>— with</sup> The heaviest fighting ~~is~~ on the Kuban front, <sup>in</sup> of the Caucasus. From the Russian side, we hear that there has been a heavy bombardment by the Red Army, <sup>^</sup> shelling the German defense line <sup>along</sup> ~~particularly their batteries on~~ the Kuban River. Berlin reports that Soviet generals have been sending waves <sup>of shock troops,</sup> upon waves ~~of men~~ trying to crash the Axis bridgehead. <sup>And they say they</sup> ~~these the Germans~~ have repulsed <sup>^</sup> those attacks, with heavy losses to the Russians. ~~they say. Moscow says~~ ~~nothing about that, but claims to have inflicted minor~~ <sup>TP</sup> ~~damages upon the Germans.~~ The Nazis <sup>are also claiming</sup> ~~also claim to have~~ <sup>that they</sup> destroyed one-thousand-and-eighty-two Soviet planes during the month of April.

## PORT DARWIN

The Japs today were boasting that in their raid on Port Darwin -- Australia -- yesterday they got no fewer than twenty-one Australian and U. S. planes. General MacArthur gives us no figures. But the communique from his headquarters does say: - that "our own losses were heavy, heavier than usual."

4  
The Japs came over Darwin in the middle of the morning, bombing from an immense height. The damage they did was nothing much, no casualties on the ground. But it is reported that during the afternoon, Allied pilots were still trickling back to their bases. Some rowing back in their collapsible boats.

There were twenty-one Jap bombers and thirty fighters, three of which were shot down, and ~~in~~ ten more damaged.

The main reason for this Jap raid was that Allied planes have been flying out of Darwin a great deal of late, attacking Jap bases on Timor, Celebes and elsewhere in that great arc of bases the Mikado men have built to the north of Australia.

In Australia they believe this latest air battle portends a stepping-up in the tempo of the air war over the islands of the Southwest Pacific.



## ALEUTIANS

~~Our high command is definitely speeding up its~~  
~~attention to the Japs in the Aleutians.~~ During April  
*American* ~~our~~ <sup>Japs</sup> ~~planes~~ raided the ~~enemy~~ at Kiska on an average  
of more than five times a day. Last Saturday, so the  
Navy tells us, Army bombers, escorted by Lightning and  
Warhawk fighters, delivered no fewer than thirteen  
attacks on Kiska, <sup>^</sup>thirteen in one day. They reported  
that they caused one heavy explosion, damaged the runway  
of the airdrome, and caused fires from which smoke was  
pouring as they left. ~~On the same day, another force~~  
~~of United States bombers attacked the enemy at Hells~~  
~~Bay and Chicago Harbor on Attu.~~

# TRUMAN

For some time three important agencies of the government have been competing <sup>with</sup> ~~against~~ each other. ~~This has been going on quietly but intensively behind the scenes for quite a while. Occasionally~~ <sup>occasionally</sup> echoes of it reached the public. But now, <sup>all</sup> there is peace.

The three <sup>are!</sup> ~~agencies were~~ the Army, the Navy, and the Rubber Administration. The Army and the Navy wanted hundred octane gasoline for ~~their~~ planes. ~~William M. Bill~~ Jeffers, the rubber boss, wanted butadiene, a petroleum product, for his synthetic rubber factories. <sup>And,</sup> The most outspoken part <sup>all</sup> of the scrapping has been between Jeffers and Under-Secretary of War Patterson. ~~But~~ Today however, Patterson held out the olive branch. He did it in front of the Truman Committee of the Senate, a committee investigating <sup>our</sup> ~~the~~ conduct of the war.

<sup>in fact</sup> Secy. Patterson admitted ~~today that~~ he had no personal quarrel with Mr. Jeffers, holds him ~~personally~~

in high esteem; ~~respects~~ <sup>his</sup> his character and patriotism.

Patterson also regretted that recent remarks of his had

been interpreted as reflecting on <sup>Rubber Boss</sup> Jeffers. ~~He said he~~

~~He said he considers that~~  
~~had no such intention. On the contrary,~~ Jeffers has

performed his duty in pressing the synthetic rubber

program. On the other hand, said Patterson, it is <sup>his</sup> his,

Patterson's, duty to keep up supplies of hundred octane

gasoline and, he said, Jeffers should not <sup>resent</sup> ~~regret~~ that.

<sup>Under - Sec. of War</sup>

Patterson then went on to tell the Committee

<sup>how</sup> ~~that~~ there is a real shortage of aviation gas. <sup>That</sup> Throughout

May there is going to be a shortage of forty-four thousand

barrels a day. <sup>Which will</sup> ~~That~~ means cutting down ~~of~~ the training

program of <sup>our air</sup> combat crews. ~~of this country~~ <sup>Q</sup> That shortage of

gas, he said, <sup>which has been</sup> ~~was~~ brought about by the priorities given

to the rubber program. <sup>TP</sup> However, the War Under-Secretary

and the rubber boss have met and are ironing out their

difficulties. Together with James V. Forrestal,



Under-Secretary of the Navy, they are going to take a  
swing around the country, collaborating, *instead*  
*of competing.*

# SUPREME COURT

The Supreme Court of the United States has

reversed itself. And that is <sup>always news.</sup> ~~news any week in the year.~~

*It all concerns that question about the*  
~~It is about the~~ question of these harmless but story

*folks*  
~~people~~ known as Jehovah's Witnesses, <sup>some of whom</sup> ~~a group of them~~  
*were*

~~had been~~ convicted at Jeannette, Pennsylvania, charged

with distributing literature without a license. In

previous decisions, the high court had always held that

municipalities or states or other local governments

could exact taxes from people distributing tracts.

That ruling is reversed in the opinion handed down

today. It was a close vote, five to four, ~~but definite.~~

POLICE GAZETTE

Once upon a time a shudder <sup>might</sup> ~~could~~ have gone through the ~~whole~~ nation if anybody on the floor of the United States Senate <sup>had been so brazen</sup> ~~went so far~~ as to mention the "Police Gazette." <sup>well,</sup> Today, the Senators heard one of their colleagues rise to defend that magazine <sup>of</sup> ~~so devoted~~ barber shop fame. ~~to what some art editors call leg art, and others,~~ ~~more crudely, cheese cake~~

Postmaster General ~~Frank~~ Walker ~~shakes his~~ official head at ~~cheese cake~~ <sup>has</sup> and revoked the second class mailing privileges of the old Police Gazette. <sup>All of</sup> ~~This was~~ which is resented by Senator ~~William~~ Langer of North Dakota, who <sup>Police</sup> defended the Gazette. <sup>Langer says it</sup> ~~said it was valuable to the~~ actually <sup>has</sup> a good effect on the morals of the youth of America. <sup>and</sup> It has always preached against the use of cigarettes; the Senator even maintained <sup>practically learned</sup> that many an outstanding man ~~and his first~~ to reading <sup>by perusing</sup> ~~outside of the schoolbooks we presume~~ <sup>Well, Hugh, what</sup> ~~from~~ the Police Gazette. <sup>next?</sup> ~~Hugh, is that where you get yours?~~



## LAUGH

8  
Part of today I spent <sup>wading</sup> ~~wading~~ through a lot of mail and telegrams that came in after I got through Friday evening -- when I laughed and couldn't stop. Some listeners-in tell me they got a laugh out of it, and many demand to know what was the joke? -- What set me off -- or us, because it included everybody here in the studio. All of us nearly choked. However, I still haven't gone through all the mail, and I'd like to quote from some of it. So I'll put off explaining until tomorrow night.

Meanwhile I hope I'll be able to get through this last bit of news without any such undignified hilarity. — But it should make us all happy indeed.



## BONDS

~~Here is a bit of news for Hitler and Tojo.~~

*ans*  
~~The~~ Second War Loan ~~Drive in the United States~~ has been  
*8/2* over-subscribed by more than four billion dollars, yes,  
four billions! <sup>*TP The*</sup> Secretary of the Treasury ~~Morgenthau~~  
says that instead of the thirteen billions for which he  
asked, the people of America have bought more than  
seventeen billions. The country's thanks, he adds,  
are due to many people -- workers, advertisers,  
retailers, theaters. The Secretary thanked particularly  
the Allied Newspaper Council and newspapers generally.  
*9* He called it unparalleled in the history of promotion.