## There's No Fight At The Bottom

T is difficult to find anything encourag-Ing about John L. Lewis' coal strike, but stories trickling in from the West Vir-ginia mining towns, where rank and file United Mine Workers have been taking

United Mine Workers have been taking their annual Spring vacation, demonstrate a remarkable lack of blieteness at that level of the argument. Some of the best evidence is to be found, oddly enough in PM, the leftist New York tabloid which normally takes great delight in proving that mine operators are vultures. PM's on-the-scene reporter writes from West Virginia that the company-owned stores in the mining villages are open and are, without exception, extending credit to the striking miners. This is a remarkable procedure, for it has the effect of string aid and comfort to the union, protecting the strikers against the pluch of tecting the strikers against the pinch of hunger while they hold out for whatever it is John Lewis wants in the way of a

it is John Lewis wants in the way of a new contract.
Credit, at the rate of about three dollars a day, is available to any miner for food. Employees of long standing are even allowed to purchase clothine, electrical appliances, and luxury items on the culf just as though they were still on the payroll. This is particularly striking in many of the smaller of villages, some of which consist of only a few hundred houses, the mine shaft and the company commissary.

The commissary operators, according to

PM, have been instructed by the mine op-erators to stay open and extend credit to the miners just as if they were still on the job.

We don't know exactly what this proves, except perhaps that both miners and op-erators have come to look upon John L. Lewis as an Act of God. a sort of natural disturbance like a cyclone or a flood. Sinc

Lewis as an Act of God, a sort of natural disturbance like a cyclone or a flood, since he usually leaves higher wages in his wake, the miners consider him a happy phenomenon, but they do not seem to feel that they have much to do with his erratic course. Nor do they appear to feel any particular bitterness against the operators; some, picking commissary food out of their teeth, may even feel a sneaking sympathy for the boss.

The miners, of course, have a case against the operators. They have been badly treated in the past, and in some instances they may still be. But there seems to be evidence here that the operators have come to accept the union, and have stopped flighting to break it. If that is true John Lewis's arrogant methods of dealing with the operators are completely indefensible. The only justification his dictorabile ever had was the argument that violent union tactics were required to meet the violent tactics of the operators.

This consideration, it seems to us, should affect the Congressional approach to revision of existing labor laws, now made inevitable by the coal strike.

### **Half Black-**Market And Half OPA

WHEN the local Office of Price Administration conducted a survey of 87 Chariotte grocery stores and found al-most half of them violating price ceilings,

most half of them violating price ceilings.
Chairman J. A. Scoggins found the results "disappointing." It seems a remarkably mild word.

The items checked were canned goods, not meats, the old center of controversy, and a question is raised as to whether the itegal mark-ups began with the retailer or went back through the wholesseer all the way, perhaps, to the original producer or packer. This is important, for the services were naving literal prices.

saler all the way, perhaps, to the original producer or packer. This is important, for if the grocers were paying illegal prices in order to supply their customers they might quite easily justify their transgreation. If they were pockeling the profits from the increased prices themselves they will, we hope, have tough going when they are called before the board.

Actually, however, we are more concerned with the 44 grocers who were observing OPA regulations than with the 43 who weren't. These retailers, by obeying the law, have been placed at an unfair are available under present cellings. If the man across the street has been making a killing by his black-marketing, and escapes with mothing more serious than a reprimand and a light fine, the law-abiding

grocer is going to feel like a monumental

grocer is going to feel like a monumental sucker.

We doubt if the grocery business can operate, half OPA and half black market, as this survey indicates it now is in Charlotte. Either the transgressors must be brought back in line, or the others will inevitably follow their lead.

The great difficulty is that the OPA regulations, like any other law, depend upon public sympathy for enforcement. This survey seems to indicate that public concern over OPA violations is almost non-existent. If half the grocery stores in Charlotte are selling goods above ceiling price their customers certainly know it. But we have not heard of any outraged cilizens turning away in indignation and reporting violators, or even walking across the street to buy at lower, legal prices from law-abiding relailers. The public, we fear, is callous in these matters and in most others these days.

Still, the OPA board is to be commended for making public the results of its survey, and we hope the hearings—will lead to positive action. Even with violations as commonplace as the survey indicates, price ceilings are still holding food prices in check. And any fixed-wage earner can tell you how important that has now become.

## The Symphony's Best Season

THE Charlotte Symphony completed its most remarkable season last week. The 2,500 listeners who turned out for the mixture of Brahms, Gershwin and Sibelius that was the season's finale were appar-

sure of Brahms, Gerahwin and Sibelius that was the season's finale were apparently highly pleased with what they heard, as they should have been.

That attendame, the heaviest in history, we regard as tentative evidence that the orchestra is beginning to come into its own. If it could be maintained throughout an entire season the annual travail and suffering of the membership campaign would become a thing of the past. The final indication of a he at I hy orchestra, we would judge, would be its maintenance from concert gate receipts and season ticketa, without a dollar coming in as a charitable contribution.

from concert gate receipts and season ticketa, without a dollar coming in as a charitable contribution.

It is not instignificant that the heavy attendance at last week's closing concert was occasioned by a rather spectacular program. The Gershwin Rhapsody in Blue was featured, and even though it has made its way into the reportoire of every major orchestra in the land, it is still regarded as popular musica—popular, that is, as opposed to classical. There was a great deal of sound showmanhip in the presentation of the Rhapsody, and in the publicity that preceded it. Lamar Stringfield, the guest conductor, imported hot jezz musicians to handle saxaphone and trumpet passages, and their presence among the stald regulars in the orchestra was no hereay in this—the boogle boys also helped

Mr. Stringfield achieve the effect the com-

Mr. Stringfield achieve the effect the com-poser intended.

Earlier in the season Mr. Stringfield,
making another guest appearance, added
the Briarhoppers, radio hillbillies, to a concert program, presenting a raw ma-terial that is the basis of one of his own symphonic compositions. Once again the attendant publicity paid off in increased attendance.

attendant publicity paid off in increased attendance. We have a theory, open to question of course, that the increased interest in the Charlotte Symphony this season contributed to the success of the North Carolina Symphony's concerts here. When, after the North Carolina orchestra's last concert, our Peoples Plattorm broke out into a rash of controversial lettera, dealing with, of all things, Conductor Swalin's interpretation of the second and third movements of Brahm's First. Symphony, we began to feel that maybe culture had come to the town at last. Nobody, we think, can now question the fact that Conductor Guy littchins and the members of his orchestra are sound musicalian. If they are also becoming showmen—as recent concerts indicate—there is reason to hope for many a fourtishing season to hope for many a fourtishing season.

—as recent concerts indicate—there is reason to hope for many a flourishing season in the future. It is sad, but true, that the greatest music in the world is meaningless when played in an empty half. The Charlotte Symphony long ago demonstrated its ability to create great music; it is most encouraging to note signs that is now able to attract the sort of audiences it has always deserved.

#### Another Voice

## The Plea For Split Pea Soup

BEAUTIFUL Soup, so rich and green, Waiting in a hot tureen!

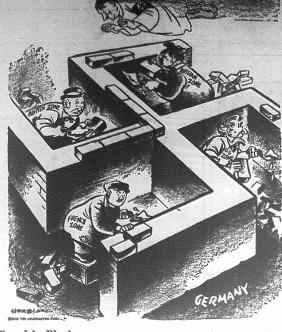
Who for such dainties would not atoop?

Who for such dainties would not atoop?
Soup of the evening, beautiful Soup!
The Mock Turtle would have had his own ideas about the plea of the Wisconsin Restaurant Association that split pea he made the American national soup. So, shoubtless, would those chefs of the Gull Chasts, who are said to excel in chicken gumbo, and those hardy lumberjacks of the Northwest, who are reputed to be addicted to the Navy bean variety. Frobally other voices will be raised in behalf of gustaforial favorites before this momentum problem is settled.

The Wisconsin restaurateurs—residents, was know, of America's pennier pea-packing Sosta—ask that Nov. 15 be named Na-

tional soup Day, Just why does not appear. Perhaps America should give more recognition to this aimost indispensable dinner course. Europe has devoide centuries to the art of concocling it. The French have a proverb. "The soup makes the soldier," but, aurprisingly enough, it was a musician who paid soup its highest tribute," who ever tells a lie," wrote Ludwig van Beethoven to Madame Strelcher, "cannot be pure in heart can make a good soup."
It was a Frenchman, we believe, who called the United States a nation of a million cooks but only one soup. He prob-

called the United States a nation of a million cooks but only one soup. He probably meant bean, though tomato loday leads the list at the cameries. At any rate, of this we feel certain; he did not mean apilt pea, despite Wisconsin.—Christian Science Monitor.



Beautifult Beautiful!

#### People's Platform

## When Does De-Control Begin?

WHOTON-SALEM
WHOLLY spart from the general question of extensions of OPA. Its seems to me that, in the light of some recent disclosures as to policies and methods of OPA administrators, there is a question centering around OPA's continued instalence upon extension without amendment that, in the long run, ranks in In the thinking of many, many people who have made a close study of OPA's policies, that Bureau's present instalence on extension without even some of the non-crippling amendments for which the install the property of the prope

with definite director, when with those authorius with the definition and the occasion for removing such controls?

For a long time I have felt so keenly the damper that this area of the OPA extension problem might be completely overshadowed in the general propagands registered in Washington in the general propagands registered in Washington in the general wholly allent upon and really by-passing the point I am discussing that I devoted my time before the House Banking & Currency Committee on March House Banking & Currency on May 3rd to a committee on Bank & Currency on May 3rd to a committee on Bank & Currency on May 3rd to a committee on Bank & Currency on May 3rd to a committee on Bank & Currency on May 3rd to a committee on Bank & Currency on May 3rd to a complete on Bank & Currency on May 3rd to a complete such that the dust cloud of propagands of propagands cloud clear speculy and that when the propagands cloud clear pseculy and that when the propagands cloud clear pseculy and that when the propagands cloud clear of a controlled economy, completely planned and regulated from Washington, will have been advanced the country's will as I believe it exists today, the cause of a controlled economy, completely planned and regulated from Washington, will have been advanced were substantially as a substitute for our traditionally effective competitive economy in the hands of free men.

badly needed liems of desirable low-cost goods from the market.

I have had no criticism to offer of price control is a war emergency measure nor an i concerned at the control of the control is a war emergency measure nor an inconcerned at the control of the control is a series of the control is a series of the control is a series of the war any to protect against dangers accumulated from dislocations experienced in the serving of the war bureau, finding all of their originally stated conditions for price de-control met begin to devise and market to the American people the filmsy excuses for the continuation of price control in areas of the contoury where supply is in full balance with demand, I think that the American clises should be thereby the freetom of the citizen and to our traditionally effective industrial method.

—8. CLAY WILLIAMS.

-S. CLAY WILLIAMS,
Chairman of the Board of Directors,
R. J. Reynolds Tebacco Co.

The People's Platform is available to any reader who cares to mount it. Communications should be less than 300 words, my method to possible, and on only one side of the paper. Libel and obscerify will be deleted—otherwise anything goes. Each letter must be signed, although, in exceptional cases and upon request, we will weighhold the writer's name.—Editors, Tax News.

## Age Of Unreason

Samuel Grafton

NEW YORK
If the age of imreason, which is
dur age, a great war mich and
men and at once that the Governe
up its controls and plans, and that
the thuman activities freely find
their own levels. Then a great
coal etitle lakes place, and the
their own levels. Then a great
coal etitle lakes place, and the
that, and howl, and point distr
fingers at the President and declaim against him because he will
not "do anything."

Many a conservative newspaper,
Government does too much, and
interfers too often, found last
week that the trouble with President Truman was that he was
not that he was not interfering.
More than one commentator abruptly lost his taste for the law
of supply and demand last week,
and for the dear theory that that
More than one commentator abruptly lost his taste for the law
of supply and demand last week,
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OF THREE

some phanning.

The coal strike has led to some thing likes a national disaster; but it is an only one of three major disasters which are matching and the character of a move to the state which are matching the state extent, if we were to reapply rationage, at the risk of irritating the state extent if we were to reapply rationage, at the risk of irritating the state extent if we were to reapply rationage, at the risk of irritating the state extent of the several extent of irritating the state extent of the several extent of irritating the state extent of the several extended extended as about the basis of a two hirds at time the several extended exten

about by so-called natural process, and without government interference of the process of the process of the process of the production of the production of the production of the producting national chaose and of producting national chaose and contusion. Controls over the farmer have been, in part, stripped sway; controls over business are mailting, when a major strite comes along, when a major strite comes along the production of the property of the partern which has given the common of the property of the proper of the property of the p

### Richard M. Boeckel

## The Right To Strike

The Right To Strike

WASHINGTON

Sen. Lucas. Democrat. Blunds. has been working an a bit which would make it a criminal offense "to conspire to break down and paralyze the industries of the public welfare suffers."

The right to strike, while generally accepted in this country was a bit with the substantial action. The strike of secretary accepted in this country was a bit of secretary accepted in this country was a bit of secretary accepted in this country was a bit of secretary accepted in the substantial decisions, beginning with a famous decision by the Supreme Court of the bit of secretary acceptance and the substantial country was a substantial to the substantial country was a substantial to the subst

# Drew Pearson's: Personal Ego Key To Lewis' Personality

WABBINGTON

WABBINGTON

WABBINGTON

WABBINGTON

WABBINGTON

THOSE who have known John L. Lewis during the years

concluded long ago that one of the dominating forces in

John L. in the washroom of s. Pullman care, brushing his
hair, combing his eye-brows, looking in the mirror from this
hair, combing his eye-brows, looking in the mirror from this
hair, combing his eye-brows, looking in the mirror from this
hair, combing his eye-brows, looking in the mirror from this
hair, combing his eye-brows, looking in the purpose

Or If you are limching in the Carlon Hotel here at its
as a hush settles over the dining room and every guest turn

to watch Lewis stride the entire length of the room to his

as a hush settles over the dining room and every guest turn

to witch Lewis stride the entire length of the room to his

dine workers, formerly the dignified University Club just a

sloope's throw from the White House, your suspicions are

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slooped throw from the White House, your suspicions are

slooped throw from the White House, your suspicions are

unquestionably if John L. Lewis hands built up his own

ego, he wouldn't be where he is today. Ego had done a lot

for John But sincellines ego has interferred with the

interests of the country.

Today, for insiance, labor friends say that one thing

friking Lewis is the fact that most of Phil Murray's nego
the White House. Murray were as from the United States.

The lappene that Lewis, on the other hand, heavy been

leven that recognition.

It happene that Lewis, on the other hand, heavy been

and partners in organizing the COL Lewis septil, finally went

back to the AFL. Meanwhile, Murray helps govern two

great unions—the seld and auto w

Alice Longworth

to Switzerland for safe-keeping.

Like the Capone gang, the Swiss won't return this looted gold to France, Demark, Relgium and other countries from which it was stolen.

The show-down came to a head the other day over twe

points:

First, the Allied delegations told the Swiss they must give
the Allies all the Nasi gold (\$130,000,00); and second, the
Swiss must hand over one-thrid of the Nasi stocks and bonds
To each of these, Dr. Waller Stucki, head of the Swiss
delegation said: "No!"

#### Offer Rehabilitation Fund

W/E do not recognize any obligation to return the gold," he said. He added, however, that Switzerland was willing to give \$25,000,000 to help rehabilitate Europe.

willing to give \$23,000.000 to help rehabilitate Europe.

"That is an insulit" remarked French colegate Paul
Charguseaud, adding that more than \$120,000.000 of Allide
2014 could be provine to have gone to Switzentand.

That same morning. Remisting Paul, kep V. S. negotiafor, sent a lester to Dr. Stanck asyring that unless the Allies
heard to the contrary promptly, they would have to report
to lists' Government the collapse of the negotiations.

Stanct Insulity replied that he had meenly walked out in order

Describe all this, some. Thereure officials ures a beliefer.

Despite all (tils, some Treasury officials urge a city cases of the Swise. It happens that they in \$00,500,600 in sasets now frusen in his country is \$00,500,800 in gold, and the French are preparing to et on these assets. Some Treasury officials, hove