THE CHARLOTTE NEWS



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1949

ROAD BOND TEST CASE

A TEST suit filed by a Durham road-builder to prevent alleged "diversion" of rural road bond money has two pur-

poses:

1. To block expenditure of any of the \$200 million on stabilization of existing roads and to require that it all be spent on

roads and to require that it all be spent on new construction;

2. To forbid the use of bond money to buy new road building machinery for the State Highway Commission.

There would appear to be the filmsiest of legal grounds for his first contention. The roads bond at passed for the roads bond at passed fillfully in General and the state of legal grounds for his first contention. The roads bond at passed fillfully in General 12 that, "Said proceeds (of the bonds shall be used by the State Highway and Public Works Commission exclusively for the purpose of building or improving roads and structures for those roads that now or may hereafter make up and constitute the State-maintained county road system..."

system ..."

Stabilizing secondary roads is certainly improving them, and the language of the act would indicate such use of the money is in order.

But nowhere in the law is there any authorization for using bond money for buy-

thorization for using both money for buy-ing \$5 million worth of machinery. The section quoted above says that the pro-ceeds shall be used exclusively for building and improving roads and road structures formed to the state of the state of the state formed has News recently that the money, for machinery would come from the 10 per cent equalization fund provided for in the act, But that section also states clearly that the equalization fund is to be used by

the Commission "for secondary road pur-poses, such purposes to include any and, all streets and extensions thereof in in-corporated cities and towns which form important connecting links to the State highway system or the county highway system or farm to market roads, and in-cluding roads or streets in that border or frings' section which is neither city nor country." No mention of machinery.

trings' section which is neither city nor country." No mention of machinery.

Dr. Henry Jordan, Commission chairman, compliains that the temporary restraining order which will be heard on October 1s will "tear our program all to the devil." Surely the delay of a couple of weeks work have such dier results. "
On the contrary, the legal question needs clarification, whe hold no brief for the road contractors in their resentment at what they call a "double cross." When they chipped in so liberation when they consider they call a "double cross." When they chipped in so liberation when they can be a read to the principle of awarding cointracts by competitive bidding. In times of normal supply of labor and materials, the competitive bidding. In times of normal supply of labor and materials, the competitive bid is about the best, assurance the people have that their State money is being expended efficiently.

When a State agency blossoms out into a huge construction enterprise, with millions of dollars to appear and the unautance that is not the contraction of the con

UNITED FRONT FOR TEXTILES

THE formation of the American Cotton
Manufacturers Institute and the establishment of its general headquarters in
Charlotte is final proof — if any were
needed—that the South has truly become
the center of the U. S. textile industry and,
indeed, of world textiles.

American textiles represent approxi-mately one-third of the world's annual consumption of cotton.

In this nation there are some 43,400,000 spindles, 18,200,000 of them, or 77 per cent, in the South And of those 18,200,000 Dixle spindles, 6,000,000 are within a radius of 150 miles of Charlotte.

Beyond recognizing this region's pre-eminent role in the industry, formation of the Institute has broader implications.

the Institute has broader implications. The textile industry is first among the nation's manufacturing industries. It has had its ups and downs—with serious consequences to farmers, labor, and capital alike—through the years, largely because of its inability to stabilize production and

petition.

Recently, cotton has faced new threats from competitive fibers and synthetics, threats which cloud an otherwise bright.

from competitive the characteristic bright interests which cloud an otherwise bright. We the first time in history the industry has formed a "united from!" for the never-ceasing effort to produce more and better textile products at a lower cost, and thus to make possible greater consumption. Research, industrial efficiency, promotion, marketing — these and many other phases of the vast industry will be co-ordinated in the Charlotte office and the Washington and New York branch offices. Important, too, to the Southers office and the second of the control o

ONE-MAN 'CONSPIRACY

UNE-MAN CONSPIRACY
THE article from Forfuse elsewhere on
this page develops a new aspect to
John L. Lewis monopoly over the coql industry. Mr. Lewis is no dnyl looking after
the interests of his miners; he has also set
himself up as a one-man "conspiracy" to
hold together as industry which is being
undermined to other pources of energy.

Mr. Lewis is beyond the anti-trust laws.
He cannot be charged with conspiracy because he doesn't have to conspire with
anyone. And since labor unions are specifically exempted by the Clayton Act in
its definition of illegal combinations or
conspiracies in restraint of trade, there is
no law in the land that can reach him.

When the Sherman and Clayton anti-

GERM WARFARE

In the absence of public information about the state of our war weapon arts, imaginative writers have had a field day. They have been limited somewhat in writing about atom bombs by the extent of public knowledge about Hiroshima, Nagaraki, and Bikini, there has been no similar about a sub-cert startes about series about series about series. saki, and Bikini, there has been no similar limitation on the scare stories about germ

warfare.

They have had saboteurs toling vest pocket vials filled with enough bacteria to wipe out whole populations. They have contaminated water aupplies by tiny germ bombs dropped from airplanes. Thisy have wiped out agriculture, spread deady disease among livestock, and decimated baterials.

talions of men.

Certainly the prospect of mankind's
deliberate spreading of the diseases he
has been fighting for penturies is a horrible
one. But the calm appraisal of biological
warfare in pestenday's News, written by AP
Bedence Editor Howard W. Blakeslee, is reassuring. Germ warfare is apparently more
popular, with fiction writers than it is with
the profiler with fiction writers than it is with

scientists and military men.

The fact that the U. S. is spending only
\$3.5 million for biological flow are as against
\$3.5 million for biological flow are as against
\$3.5 million for atomic war is indicative of
the relative importance of the two Annois
the shortcomings of biological flows
and shortcomings of the shortcoming of the shortcoming
and truese can't be stored like bombs and
shells; (4) the scientists are discovering
antidotes as fast as they find new germs;
(5) science knows how to protect crops
and livestock against most known diseases.

trust acts were adopted, labor power was not an issue. What threatened the welfare of the nation was the concentration of power in management and the frequent

of the nation power in management and the Irequestables of that power.

But monopoly is monopoly, no matter who exercises it. And the public stake in the restraining of monopoly is the same, whether it is exercised by management or

by labor.

Mr. Lewis has clearly shown that he can limit competition and hold the price of coal at an ahonomal level. The Congress should need no further proof that a revision of our anti-trust laws is necessary which would give the people of this country some protection against the unbridled aspirations of a labor crar.

Because of these deficiencies, biological warfare may never be resorted to by this or any other nation. Even so, the relatively small expenditures will not be wasted. U. S. science is learning a jereat deal from these experiments, and the second the sec

. A news story tells about a crowd of school boys fearing up a school bus on the way home from a ball game. A proper sequel to that story would tell of some parents tearing up what those boys were sitting on in the bus. — Greenville (S. C.) Piedmont.

It would be a help if the manufacturers of electric lamps (or electric-light bulbs, as many call them) would find a way to fank the number of watts so we wouldn't have to try holding them at 40 or 50 different angles to the light in order to read the figures. — Lexington (Ky) Leader.

All these stories about the present De-pression being over must be written by youngstefs who are too young to remember what a depression was like. — Lexington

Marquis Childs

Anybody The Winner?

Robert C. Ruark

Umpirical Infallibility

Lewis Protects Owners

Coal Vs. The People

The upshot was that prices fell, wages fell, and its vanished—even in the otherwise prosperous

Supply-Demand Ratio Unbalanced

FINALLY, last Spring, the secular trend seemed to assert itself. Prices weakened somewhat as the supply of coal again increased faster than demand. This presented John L. Lewis with his great opportunity—the greatest opportunity probably ever to come to any labor leader.

to come to any labor leader.

The Shraman Act forbade the operators to get: forciber and stabilize the industry, but the Clavica Act exempted labor. The labor of a human below as the company of the com

Lewis' Primary Objective

What Can Be Done?

The only other course, saide from handing to industry to Mr. Lewis, is to try, somehow to fit or mining into the modern enterpties ayatem, with has discovered how to compete without committed that the said of t

with their unwillingness to break the law.

It may be Lewis colosal insolence, indeed, that keeps alive much of the operators' antagonism to-ward him. He has been denounced as a monopolist even by those who benefit by his actions. And, of course, he has plenty of bons after complianants. The size of the results of the contribution to that income course, he has plenty of bons after complianants. The

Mr. Marshall Misses The Point

By W. T. BOST

In The Greensbere Daily Nemy

that Is my not have been at the recommendation of the control of t

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

British Wanted A-Bomb News Kept Secret

'Bomb' Explodes
WITH doors bolted and shades drawn, the Senate-House
Atomic Energy Committee got an advance report that
Russia had exploded an atomic bomb.
The legislators listened with long, solemn faces to the
announcement from Chairman Brien McMahon of Connec-

Russis had explosed an atomic country solemn faces to the announcement from Chairman Brien McKahon of Connecticut.

The property of the control of temperates the most momentum and the most momentum services the most momentum new "since Hirochima". He added that it was also the most momentum new "since Hirochima" by Soviet Foreign Then the read excepts form a speech by Soviet Foreign Mineral Control of the Most appearance in the sound to the words, "seeking vengeance."

That's the key to the whole thing—vengeance, broke in Sen. Vandenberg, thating a finger gravely.

That's the key to the whole thing—vengeance, broke in Sen. Vandenberg, thating a finger gravely and the service of the servi

Miners' Welfare Fund

WHAT very few people-including the minets—realize about MylATA very few people-including the minets—realize about John Uil-Keist welfare fund is that the pension part of the fund was never exhausted.

In the fund was never exhausted struck when Lewis announced that payments would stop because the coal operators had not been contributing to the welfare fund. But what they didn't know was that:

1. Only three or four coal operators in the entire United disability of the coal operators and the coal operators and the coal operators in the entire United disability.

2. The pension part of the fund was not overdrawn and could have continued paying pensions.

Maybe Lewis Wanted Depletion