

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS



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TUESDAY, JULY 19, 1949

INDUSTRIAL CZAR

The United Mine Workers Journal justifies the three-day work week ordered by Boss John L. Lewis on the grounds that the operators can't sell the coal the miners dig out in a longer week.

"The operators can't find markets to furnish the full employment miners desire," the Journal reports.

"The United Mine Workers policy of a temporary three-day work week was conceived and made effective for the purpose of protecting miners, stockholders and mining companies against a return of cut-throat competition among coal companies which would impoverish all these elements."

Such reasoning may appeal to UMW members, but it leaves many unanswered questions in the public mind.

1. Isn't the high price of coal — partly due to round about of wage increases and the resistance of the UMW to labor-saving devices — one big reason the producers can't sell more?

2. Since when did the UMW become so solicitous of the pocketbooks of stockholders?

WEAK HIGHWAY LINKS

ANOTHER weak link in Highway 29 will be strengthened if Ninth Division Commissioner Joe Graham has his way. He told a group of highway commission members at the Gastonia Saturday that he and Engineer Lewis Peck had agreed that the widening of the Gastonia-Kings Mountain section will be started next year.

Deriving families with the stretch will recognize the need for the project.

Years ago, when the direct link between the two cities was flat, eliminating the round-about Beasler City route, many errors were made which have been corrected to that era of road-building. There are many unnecessary curves, many steep grades, and there are long stretches where visibility ahead is so poor that a motorist takes a real chance in trying to pass another car.

It has been the scene of many accidents, also. As Commissioner Graham said: "Too many people are getting killed on that road."

The plan is to make it a four-lane highway, equivalent in every respect to the Charlotte-Gastonia section.

And while the Commission is on the subject, we'd like to mention another weak Highway 29 link—the by-pass route around Concord, Kannapolis, and China Grove. Narrow, winding, extremely bumpy in places, it is a constant source of trouble in inclement weather, it is simply not able to carry efficiently and safely the terrific traffic load it bears.

Strengthening of these two links, now the line Lexington-Thomsonville route has been opened, will greatly increase the utility of Highway 29 and will be of benefit to the whole Piedmont.

THE POLLSTERS ARE BACK

ONE sure sign that we're in the midst of the Summer still season is the emergence from their hiding places of the Presidential pollsters.

We thought they were still busy trying to get the last November's mistakes, but along comes George Gallup's crew with some recent sampling of Republican tastes on potential Presidential candidates.

Gallop sent his people from coast to coast to try to find out the favorite Republican Party standard-bearers for the 1952 election. The result, in this order, Eisenhower, Stassen, Dewey, MacArthur, Taft, Vandenberg, Warren, Bricker, Martin, Lodge.

Then the Gallupers sampled the so-

1. What would the UMW say if the producers got together and agreed to cut production to a two-day week or a one-day week and then charge the public a still higher price for the resulting scarce commodity?

The truth of the matter is that the UMW, being a labor union, is exempt from the anti-trust laws and has taken upon itself the assignment of limiting the nation's supply of coal for the dual purpose of (1) keeping prices at their unreasonably high level, and (2) putting themselves in a better bargaining position by reducing the supply of coal.

On top of that the UMW has the effrontery to intervene in an application for natural gas line through the Piedmont Carolinas in an attempt to deny this region the advantages of using a competing fuel in residences and industry.

We have grown accustomed to thinking of John L. Lewis as the coal of the Mine Workers; it now appears that he is making himself a czar of the whole industry.

ATLANTIC PACT

Congress and President Truman agreed that the nation has some tough economic problems, but a good many legislators still with him on how to solve the situation.

The Chief Executive, in his July 11 message to Congress, said certain economies are fine, but that too much emphasis on budget balancing right now could slide us into a depression fast. He urged expansion of the nation's economy to help provide more jobs.

His supporters cheered, and July 15 they introduced the much-discussed Economic Expansion Act of 1949 to carry out his recommendations.

But a large bloc of legislators showed in talks and action that they think strict economy steps are the best way to ease economic troubles. Dominating the Appropriations Committee, they proceeded to slash away at various funds bills which came before them.

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THE MATTER OF PLAYED an important part too, in the unexpected delay of a Senate vote on the Atlantic Pact ratification. Several Senators said they hesitated to vote for the Pact because they feared it would bring them too much publicity, rather than an accompanying arms program. A favorable vote still is expected by July 20, however.

Despite this heavy emphasis on economy, the House passed two bills which will cost the Government more money if the Senate agrees. One would boost salaries of top Federal employees, particularly Cabinet officers and agency heads. The other would authorize Federal loans to help increase the number of rural telephone lines.

According to 1948 figures the nation has \$350,100 farms, with 1,886,100 or 21.6 per cent having phones. North Carolina has 267,412 farms, with 14,329 phones, or 5.3 per cent.

An interesting angle in the rural phone vote was that the measure was sponsored chiefly by Southern Democrats, usually opposed to Federal sponsorship of such broad programs. Most of them, for instance, strongly opposed to Federal housing bill.

The disabes in appropriations included:

1. The Senate Committee cut RCA funds 10 per cent below budget estimates. Committee bill would allow \$2,828,000 for the fiscal year starting July 1, plus a \$150 million loan from the Treasury for Export-Import Bank loans to European countries.

2. State, Justice, Commerce funds bill went to White House with total of \$887,372,102, compared to budget estimate of \$1,000,000,000.

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4. Senate Committee cut Independent Offices funds bill from budget estimate of \$1,051,343,830 to \$748,000,000. Funds included \$800,000, however, for the General Accounting Office to carry out a pilot expenditure analysis of the Executive branch.

COMMITTEE ACTION

MAJOR committee developments included a decision by the House Armed Services group to reverse itself and work with President Truman on a new defense bill.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

SUMMER is not a time when the American public likes to worry about world problems. Nor is Summer a time when a newspaper columnist particularly likes to write about them.

For reasons unknown, however, fate has seen to it that some of the world's worst catastrophes were catalogued upon the Fourth of July. And we are celebrating it with a party.

There are certain similarities between that financial crisis of 1931 and the present financial crisis in the U.S. In both cases, the world was in a state of economic depression and the U.S. was in a state of economic depression.

Between 1931 and 1933, the United States had poured several billion dollars into European reconstruction in the name of the League of Nations. It was the League of Nations that was the main reason for the economic depression of 1931 and the main reason for the economic depression of 1933.

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Joseph Alsop

No Ideas, No Ideals

In a good many ways, Maj. Gen. Harry Vaughan is the epitome of the failure of the Truman Administration on the domestic front. With Gen. Vaughan's aid, the Truman Administration has been able to do nothing for the people of this country. It has not done so.

The trouble is that the two essentials of successful progressive government are, first, a strong second, ideal. You cannot very well progress, unless you have some notion of where you are going and why. And you cannot induce people to follow you along the difficult road of social change, unless you can inspire them with an idea of where you are going.

For these reasons, the fact that the President has chosen such a favorite as his military aide becomes especially significant.

Certainly no one would ever accuse Gen. Vaughan, with his peculiar talent for blunders and smugness, of having any ideas or ideals. He himself, no doubt, would agree with this.

And a Presidential atmosphere in which Gen. Vaughan can bloom and flourish, the very atmosphere in which the President's "deal" is not taken altogether seriously, is a sure sign of a failure of the White House military aide.

Other kinds of favors, such as permits to travel, crop up here and there.

The absence of any imagination that Gen. Vaughan has is a sure sign of a failure of the White House military aide. It is equally a sure sign of a failure of the White House military aide.

Those standards need to be carefully reconsidered. A solution is urgently needed to the problem of staffing the government of this country in such a way that it will not find cracks and crevices to get into and cause a slide toward property and glory.

Robert C. Ruark

Follow The Rules

THE recent high kicks, or can-can, of the President's military aide, seems to me, are almost too much in point as analogy to the situation in the White House in the everling USA.

Even the pursuit of a military aide, which is a sure sign of a failure of the White House military aide, is a sure sign of a failure of the White House military aide.

Princesses gawping behind us in black stockings and red pants, to get a better look at the military aide, that used to be called "wicked" except for one thing. The fiery little girl, who is a sure sign of a failure of the White House military aide, is a sure sign of a failure of the White House military aide.

Before the birth of her nephew, young Maggie stood in succession to the throne of England. She lives on a state-granted gold, and she is a sure sign of a failure of the White House military aide.

Personally I do not care a farthing if little Maggie pulls a string, but she is a sure sign of a failure of the White House military aide. She is a sure sign of a failure of the White House military aide.

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