

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 1950

WHAT'S A CONTRACT WORTH?

CONTRACTS, by definition and tradition, are binding on both parties and hence legally enforceable. If it, were not so, our seconomic systems would fall apart, it would be impossible to carry on any kind of business or commerce above the barier stage.

be impossible to carry on any kind of busness or commerce above the barter stage.
Yet for a contract to be enforceable, the signers must be responsible agents. A man eannot sign a contract to dispose of the property of another man.
The goal strike of 1949-50 has called into question the whole structure of union-management labor contracts. Such contracts depend on the theory that a union is responsible for the acts of its members, and can be held liable for contract violations.

and can be held liable for contract vio-lations.

John L. Lewis has signed a new contract with the coal producers. Ordinarily, one would assume that the terms of the agree-ment would be adhered to until the ex-piration date. In this case, such an as-sumption would be risky.

When a Federal Court injunction was issued against the UNW calling for an end to the strike, Mr. Lewis and his lesser redering the men back to work. The minera did not budge. Union officials contended before Judge Keech that the men were sciting as individuals in exercising their right to work or not work as they chose. The Justice Department was either un-able or unwilling to pröve union respon-able or unwilling to pröve union respon-ability. In the absence of such proof. Judge Keech declared the UNW not guilty of contempt. By so doing, he rejected the principle lad down by Judge odlokborough in 1948 that:

CRACKING THE WHIP

PRODDED by Governor Scott, the members of the N. C. Utilities Commission have quit "dragging their feet" and are beginning to bear down on the telephone companies. in language about as abrupt and tough as His Excellency uses. In only one respect was there any indication of leniency: the Commission made it plain that companies would not be forced to expand beyond their profit-making ability, and emphasized that In one day, the Commission cracked the

whip twice:

1. In Raleigh, it issued an order requiring the Central Telephone Company to improve services in Wilkes County.

2. In Gibsonville, three Commissioners heard a number of complaints about the phone service provided by the Central Carolina Telephone Company, and then issued a six-point order for moderning and extending service.

If the Commission was still smarting from the Governdr's jabs and pokes, it gave no sign of it. Its orders were couched

Judge Goldsborough went on to declare that union responsibility is the very foun-dation upon which a union exists. He said:

dation upon which a union exists. He said:
You can't preserve a union any other way.
And the unions are the only thing which
labor has to give H comparable bargaining
power with capital. It is the only thing which
power with capital. It is the only thing which
parable bargaining power with his employer.
So, the rule of law which I have announced
the only rule which will preserve the unions.
It is not the property of the property of the control of the property of the propert

have to be socialised. In other words, they will have to be destroyed.

That's the point. "Orders" from the UNW were allosobeyed, and disobeyed with impunity. If the miners can flout the very authority that negotiters and executes a form the contract with the producers, how can have to be sufficient to the producers. In the contract with the producers, how can have do? What would prevent the miners from "agreeing individually" to leave the pits at some time in the future?

For the interested observer, established the contract of the miners from any things to wonder about, such as whether or not the miners could be counted on for a dependable supply, of coal in case of war, and whether or not a non-upion coal miner has any rights at all in this country, especially the right to work if he wants to. Cally the right to work if he wants to. This a poor discipling a well as a more Title a poor discipling a well as a more Title a poor discipling a well as a more Title a poor discipling as well as a more Title a poor discipling as well as a more Title a poor discipling as well as a more Title a poor discipling as well as a more Title a poor discipling as well as a more Title a poor discipling as well as a more Title a poor discipling as well as a more Title and Title a poor discipling as well as a more than the title of the title

In addition, the string prosesses as a poor rule, that doesn't work both ways. If the same authority that orders the miners out on strike can't order them back to work, and get them back to work, what's a United Mine Workers contract worth?

the consumers were going to have to pay for better service.

That is as it should be. No one expects a public utility to operate at a loss. But the people do expect, and demand, that utilities serve them according to their needs and their ability to pay. The transfer of the people do expect, and the people do expect the people d

PUT UP OR SHUT UP

TODAY, if everything goes along on schedule, Senator McCarthy of Wis-consin will get his chance to "put up or

A scheous, ocnasor and a superior constraint get his chance to "put up or abut up," as the wags say, and the Wisconstancion has been training across the nation hurling charges that the State Department is honeycombed with card-holding Commies. He has used different figures in his various plants, but not once has he given any names or afforded any proof.

proof.

McCarthy is scheduled to be the first witness before a subcommittee of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. And

me is owing given a clear field to call names and otherwise document his "tigs" and "reports".

Perhaps the Senator has something. Perhaps the will really prove that the State Department, knowingly or unknowingly. The part of the part

A LAST CHAPTER FOR 'SPOON RIVER'

And there is the silence of age,
Too full of wisdom for the tongue to utter

In words intelligible to those who have not lived The great range of life.

-Edgar Lee Masters, "Silence".

WHEN he died at 81 this week Edgar
Lee Masters was a shambling, unproductive old man, worn in body and
mind by years of sickness. Even when, a
few years ago, he lived in a Charlotte hotel he was through as a writer, pitiful as
only a great figure fallen can be pitiful.
But there was a time ... a wonderful,
vigorous time when his name grew from a
casual comment in Chicago to a great
shout that echeed over the world and
served as a railying cry for a whole generation of writers.

about that echoed over the world and served as a rallying cry for a whole generation of writers.

In 1915 and for the degade to follow, Mdgar Lee Masters was to be the Galahad for a band of literary knights seeking the Orall of human nobility in the little people of our nation.

A champion of truth—more often a bitter-sweet truth—Masters used the pain-ful knowledge of his years of experience as a criminal lawyer to lay bare the soul of a town in his volume of free verse, "Spoom River Anthology."

We were all in "Spoon River"—that huddled, ingrown midwestern town. We were the petty, the pompous; the benevolant and the brave; the diseased and dental the seek of the decident of the seek of spoon River the defect of all ideals; the sick minds and broken bodies of \$poon River were mirrored in every small town, in every large city. There was little triumph in Spoon River, yet there

POON RIVER'

was hope and searching and evidence that there is nobility in man.

Masters was the forerunner of such men as Sincialz Lewis, whose "Man Street" followed the path Masters cut through the "front" and hypocrisy of small town life. And for a time Masters' star rode high. But the time came—not long after "Spoon River" was published in 1912—when River was an Order of the River was published in 1912—when River was an Order of the River was published in 1912—when River was an Order of the River was published in 1912—when River was an Order of the River was published in 1912—when River was an Order of the River was an Order of the River was an Order of the River was and his insight lost its sharpness—but they were not the work of the man who reached into the darkness of our lives and shook loose our hidden evils.

Somewhere Edgar Lee Masters lost his work has been and final and now he come the path to the Grail and now he come the path to the Grail and now he can be applied to the Grail and now he has present a temptoness.

A Hill County farmer brought his wife to Jackson the other day for confinement in the Whitfield Mental: Hospital. "I just can't understand what got into Mamie." he said "She hadn't been out of the kitchen more than two or three times in 30 years.

—Jackson (Miss.) Dally News.

Occulists warn that it's dangerous to rub your eyes. When you get your income tax figured up, just pinch yourself.—Fort Myers (Fla.) News Press.

We heard a man say the other day that one of a woman's chief pleasures lies in letting a man talk her into doing something against her will, and then throwing it up to him the rest of his lite.—Lamar (Mo.) Democrat.

'And What Supports Atlas?'



Harassment Instead Of Force

That 'Toothless' FEPC Bill

An Editorial from The Greenville (S.C.) Fledmont)
SOME supporters of the Truman Administration
Flat Employment Practices Commission bill passed
by the House of Representatives as a "fraud, a shan
because it lacked "tech"; it provides no machinery
for enforcing the Hats of the commission it creates,
except "conclusion and persuastion."

Opponents of the Administration's civil rights pro-am insist that they, in effect, defeated the measure pulling its "teeth" before it was passed and sent to the Senate.

on io the Senate.

However, the contention that as, it stands the bill has no force is itself a "sham" a begging of the facts. In fact, the bill could lead to an enormal amount of harasament, irritation and just plain the bill habited become law, any commission President Truman would appoint could be counted on to use every lots of authority it could draw from the law, or assume, to plante employers.

**TEREE is a detailed emplantion of the TEREE bill as detailed

HERE is a detailed explanation of the FEPC bill as

It creates a Park Embryane Tractice Commission, to be composed of five persons, whose terms in the first instance shall be staggered from one to five the first instance shall be staggered from one to five the first instance shall be staggered from one to five the first instance in the first instance of the first shall be staggered from the first shall be staggered from the first shall be shall be

hearing is held."

The bill provides that "in case of contumacy or refusal to obey a subportal issued to any person," any the person subportal to be the person subportance of the person subportance to appear before the commission, to produce evidence if an ordered, or to give estimatory related to the investigation, and that failure testimacy related to the investigation, and that failure testimacy related to the product of the court. The bill further says no person shall be excused from attending and testifying in such an FEFC bearton obedience to a subportan on the grounds that the testimony or evidence required of him may tend to the product of the product of the product of the testimacy or evidence required of him may tend to refuse the product of the product of the product of the product of the refuse.

It creates an expectation of the persons, whose formulasion, to be composed of three persons, whose formulasion, to be composed of three persons, whose formulasion, to be composed of the persons, whose formulation to be composed of the persons, whose formulation in the first intantes shall be staggered from one to five
years. The President would designate the chairman
or male same in office. The members could not work at other jobs and would be paid \$11,000 a year.

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The Commission would be dury-bound to be inmembership, because of race, creed or colorderived the country and of the effect of such discrimination in different metropolitan districts and
sections of the country and of the effect of such
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Science Plots New Terrors For Edification Of Sleepers

By ROBERT C. RUARK

proving time, you sleep, and I time-ledge while you sleep, and I time-ledge while you sleep, and I time a Science, verily, hath murdered sleep, mark final refugee significa-sacet restorer now has been re-duced to a cramming session in the classroom, a catch-all for lib-binders and the hucksters. Accord-ing to Mr. Ratcliff, a Gean among might radio station for the edifica-tion of sleepers is just around the corner.

Bonn Government Not Allowed To Work As Governing Body

By JOSEPH & STEWART ALSOP

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EWART ALSOP

ance, however, the extremita are sees conspicuous and infinential in see sees conspicuous and infinential in the Bunderiag at Bonn than in our own Congress.

Output of the Bunderiag at Bonn than in our own congress, one begins to suspect the extistence of some sort of historiage and the bunderiage of the time of the unital the final defeat of Napoleon until the final defeat of Napoleon to Perenha sought to over-run European the Perenha sought to over-run European the Perenha sought to over-run and the Perenha sought to over-run and the time of time of

Drew Pearson's Agents Go To Work After Tax Exposes Merry-Go-Round

IT LOOKS as if the U. 8. attorners, some of them hitherto philegmatic about prosecuting income-tax fraits, were now getting to week.

On Jan. 20 this column published the sortial details of a dood-us scheme by which fire internal Revenue agents in obtains other by which fire internal Revenue agents in violated the tax laws, or clew samed to avoid the ordiner had violated the tax laws, or clew samed to avoid the ordiner had the control of the control of

Acheson Passes Deadly Test

Acheson Posses Deadly 1 est

A trada Man with an elegant mustache and a soft, cuttured voice went through a special variety of heli an
atth, smoke-fulled Senate room the other day.

His agony was there for the words to watch. Olaring
memeras stared at him. Reorieties excluded not voices
words picked at him aswagely. No tempers flared or voices
words picked at him savagely. No tempers flared or voices
bean Acheson. the Secretary of State, and before the
mishty Senate Appropriations Committee and an intent
had audience.

mighty Senate Appropriations Committee and an intention audience.

Audience Senat when turbane 56n. Sittle Bridge of New Hammshite casually asteed: "Mr. Secretary, what do you consider a security risk?" Everyone in the room knew Bridges' security risk? "was Aiger Hiss. An Assistant Secretary of State looked automaty at Jis boss. Actoorie extention of the security risk? "was Aiger Hiss. An Assistant Secretary of State looked automaty at Jis boss. Actoorie extended to the security risk? "Was Aiger Hiss." As a security risk. Bridges was back again with a smooth "Would you say that a friend of a known Communist would a security right and the security risk propriately security of the partied the thrust and was on guard again for the next one.

of a Communist front organization would be a security risk?"

The audience was watching with awed fascination. Would be Secretary of State fail into the tray? This was a game for security of the security of State fail into the tray? This was a game depends on whether the perion would know what his friend was up to."

Senator Bridges was playing the role of the charming waiting for his to say those was supported by the security of the security of the security of the security waiting for his to say those which was the senator was not ready yet. There followed more seminating the problems and eatitions reples.

'Then Bridges said, smiling pleasantly, "Would you say from the State Dept. classified first in defense of Alger Hiss would be a security risk?"

A ripple of oha and sha passed across the tiny chamber. The way of the security risk?

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A ripple of the

Capital News Capsules

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[RUMAN SLAMS DOOR—It happened some time ago, but
I it's still significant that the Fresident had a meeting
with Georgia's Ben. Dick Russell, the shrewed Southern Benafors would yield on some times it's
southern Senators would yield on some times it's
shadout compromising on the civil rights fight. Russell figured
Southern Senators would yield on some times it's
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Merry-Go-Round