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THURSDAY, APRIL 29, 1943

Saboteur Lewis
Coal Strikes Should Be
Halted By Federal Action

The threat of complete work stoppage in the soft coal fields by John L. Lewis brings another crisis in the relationship between the Lewis Family and the people of the United States. The United Mine Workers protest that the War Labor Board (which has handed down decisions which would have been considered revolutionary ten years ago) has been guilty of "malicious prejudice." The UMW will have to do some fast talking to sell that line to the public or the Government.

In direct negotiation with mine owners, UMW spokesmen got nowhere. The settlement has been under way for long days and nights; when the month-long truce expires, no workers will be in the mines. Already, in what labor's irresponsible, gangster-styled leadership is wont to call "unauthorized" strikes, some 61,000 miners are idle. The issue is very clear to us: There is a no-strike pledge. To fulfill it, there is a no-management management arbitrate themselves, or submit their problems to W.L.B. Both methods have been tried, but UMW refuses to accept a settlement. It charges W.L.B. with political trickery. These men have been beaten back into the ranks on an equal footing with other groups in the United States, then we will have lost our national unity.

The Promise
Message to the Theosonians
May Be Heard Again Today

The United Nations, through the solemn pledges of their trusted leaders, have made pledges to the captive peoples of Eastern Europe. Behind the walls of their prison camps, millions of men and women are waiting for the day when the deliverers are not at hand. There must be fears for the long duration of the untold agonies; there must be an ever-ebbing hope among the people where executions and fearful retaliation against the innocent are the order of the day.

It must be difficult, in bondage, to trust that the day is coming when the armies of the right storm across the barriers and strike the chains from the neck of the United Nations; it seems to us, might be found in the ancient words of First Thessalonians. In the second chapter, verses 1 through 9, Paul wrote words of encouragement to the suffering that might well be written to the Europe of today.

For yourselves, brethren, know our entrance in unto you, that it was not in vain; but even after that we had suffered before, and were shamefully entreated, as ye know, at Philippi, we were bold in our God to speak unto you the gospel of God with all contentment.

For our exhortation was not of deceit, nor of uncleanness, nor in guile; but as we were allowed of God to be true in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts. For neither at any time used we flattering words, as ye know, nor a cloak of covetousness; God is witness.

preached unto you the gospel of God.
The words, it seems to us, might again be the high message to the oppressed; the message that cries that the captive peoples must not relinquish hope; the message that tells of our Philipp in Tunisia; the message that tells of the great labors of the conquerors to come. And the message that promises deliverance before many months have passed.

The Hammers
Slow Progress Marks Last
Phase of Tunisian Campaign

As commanders in the field freely predicted several weeks ago, the fighting in Tunisia has entered upon a slow, hard time. It is fighting of a grudging nature; slowly, the defenses must be battered and men must die. Finally, as the strong points fall, the enemy must retreat to new lines. And as the new lines approach, the fighting will be on, the troops must be evacuated or slaughtered. But there can be no bold dash for the coast by the British-French-American armies, as there was a dash by the Germans at Dunkirk. This pounding must continue until the end.

It is well that this is so. For now the test is one of weapons against weapons, and men against men—and in this test we have a growing strength. It is in battle like this and not in swift flashing across countries and continents, that we must forge the decision in the end. There will be, of course, no return to the trench warfare of another generation, but there will continue to be great clashes between masses of troops. Our air power will become more and more important as a weapon—but even in so small a theater as Tunisia, more air force, that alone cannot be the answer. The queen of battle must make the final thrust, as ever. After the planes and tanks, the infantry will surge forward. It is in preparation for that thrust that the guns and the bombs burst in the Tunisian triangle.

High Whisky
Black Market Investigation
Needed To Check Monopoly

So far as we're concerned, hard liquor is one of the most essential commodities in this time, but we're heartily in favor of a Government investigation into the alleged manipulations of prices and stocks by four big distillers. We don't know the facts beyond the charges of Representative Maury of Kentucky (whose statements are sometimes wide of the mark), but we are positive that something untoward has happened to the whisky market.

There are, we are told by the thirsty, myriads of new brands of liquor on the market—most of them cheap, new and green, and selling at prices much higher than quality liquor once brought. There is the charge that distillers have brought up all available stocks at inflated prices and shoved the new brands upon the market, catching an informally rationed public at a disadvantage, and forcing it to buy poor whisky at sky-high prices. We hope OPA's investigation is complete, and fear that it will show willful conspiracy on the part of some dealers, retailers or manufacturers. We are inclined to believe the retailers innocent.

His Food Was Glory, Which Was Poison To His Mind.—SIR HENRY TAYLOR

All-American Greed
On The Great Rubber Scandal

By Dorothy Thompson
WASHINGTON
THE Undersecretary of War has stated that our all-out air war is threatened with an immediate shortage of high octane gas. Mr. Tokes, the Petroleum Administrator, says the trouble is due to competition between high octane gas and synthetic rubber for scarce naphtha. High officials of the Navy Department assert that vessels needed to fight submarines cannot put out to sea because equipment has been diverted to the synthetic rubber program.

There will be attempts to reduce this struggle to the question: Should we have more or less synthetic rubber? That is not the question. We need vast quantities of synthetic rubber. We also need vast quantities of high octane gas. Behind this dilemma is just one basic cause: the collision of the oil interests, through the octopus of pressures which they have organized through Government departments, to keep the manufacture of synthetic rubber, the so-called Buna-S in their own hands with the same exclusiveness as the producer of aviation gas.

We have a shortage of high octane gas because high octane gas ingredients are diverted to the manufacture of Buna-S, and because the manufacture of Buna-S from oil, which has not yet overcome all technical troubles, and requires much critical material, has been favored over other processes for its production which would not deprive the air-force of a single drop of gas.

From the day that the war cut us off from natural rubber, there has been a controversy between oil and grain as a basis for synthetic rubber. The oil companies, who had bought the rubber process from the German chemical trust leaped into

the game with their formidable process power. The chemists, who favored rubber from grain, had nothing but reason on their side. The Russians, who have been making synthetic rubber for years, used grain and offered us their formula, but it was neglected. There was the so-called Polish process, which is also based on grain. So that, evidently, rubber can be made from grain. Mr. Jefferson knows it. Mr. Nelson knows it. But grain has not been looked upon.

The process of making rubber from oil is the following: Oil is "cracked" to form liquid and gaseous naphtha. In the gas produced we find butane and butylenes. The former, which is also convertible into butadiene, which is the base of Buna-S, by substituting two hydrogens. This last stage in the process is an intricate operation, as admitted by the chemists interested in it. The process is tedious and requires many critical materials.

There is no reason why we should have these difficulties. Butadiene can be produced and has been produced without using a drop of naphtha when it is produced through butylene at all or, again, by producing pure butylene without a drop of oil—namely from grain.

There are three methods of making butadiene and therefore Buna-S by fermentation of grain. One can make alcohol from it directly or through various intermediate stages produce butadiene by the Russian or Polish method. One can ferment grain to butylene-glycol, which in turn is convertible directly into butadiene. Or one can produce butyl alcohol and acetone, and transform the former into chemically pure

butadiene. The same substance which Sir Henry Taylor described in 1917.

The industrial production of butyl alcohol has been practiced in this country for 25 years. It is simple and requires comparatively little critical material. There are few raw materials needed for producing butyl alcohol. The American people should know the Government and the few monopolists are needed to produce our children's best grades of millions of bushels of grain, bought and paid for, out of which is made all the butadiene they need.

But butadiene does not prevent the full utilization of the rubber program. Buna-S is hard, good for the tread, but not for the inner parts of tires. The Bureau report has already stressed that the ideal base for synthetic rubber would be isoprene. Isoprene is known to produce soft rubber. And its production would thus not only relieve the pressure of the demand for butylenes but would improve our chances to get satisfactory tires. There is some little isoprene made in this country and chemists know that it is possible to make this important substance fairly easily.

The Government has ignored every process except that of the oil companies. It has granted priorities for great plants requiring materials needed by Army and Navy. Mr. Jefferson's office has claimed to have the rubber problem licked; when it is not even technically licked. The problem of producing octane gas shortages has worried experts for months and the attention of Mr. Tokes must have been called to it in permitting a rubber monopoly to the oil interests.

It is what is grounding our planes, and threatening our war plan. Greed and monopoly.

But Boys, We All Must Help Take Care of It!
By Dorman Smith
The Industries, edited and published by Senator Robert H. Taft. It is typical, this attempt to discredit Stalin and our cause, of the style of home-grown fascism and hatred of Russia and democracy for Nazism that has characterized the publicists from their beginning.—Editors, The News.

Russia First
Stalin Is Alone
(This article is reprinted from The National Record, formerly The Industries, edited and published by Senator Robert H. Taft. It is typical, this attempt to discredit Stalin and our cause, of the style of home-grown fascism and hatred of Russia and democracy for Nazism that has characterized the publicists from their beginning.—Editors, The News.)

The Russian Government some fifteen months ago executed a couple of Polish Socialists and labor leaders named Victor Alter and Henryk Jablonski for allegedly helping Hitler's cause. The party of Poland, which was being conquered by the other part of Poland.

The Soviet embassy announced the execution only a few weeks ago. It stirred up a great flutter in American and British Socialist, Communist, Trotskyist and fellow traveler circles. Even Mayor La Guardia of New York finally got into the argument, on the ground that those who object to what is called Stalinism are the true Socialists. (Socialists and Communists usually have one another worse than they hate capitalists.)

To us, Stalin's execution of these two political enemies of his furnishes the latest of many keys to the allegedly inscrutable nature of this supposed mystery man of the Kremlin. It also gives a tip, we think, on how Americans and Britons can most sensibly regard Russia—a question now worrying many Americans and Britons.

Stalin is no mystery man. He is nothing but a Russian Hitler, and an extreme one at that. Everything he does is calculated to advance the power and prestige of his own country. He acts always for the interests of Russia, never for the interest of any other nation.

Grasp that fact, and the mystery of Stalin disappears. So does the bitter question whether American and British Americans should hate him, trust him, or distrust him. The record of Stalin's contributions to Russia's power is a long record. In late August of 1939, he concluded a management treaty with Hitler, because he didn't want to fight Germany at that time. But for that treaty, the present war might not have started when it did—but that was no sin of Stalin's neck.

In December, 1939, he attacked Finland, stating without a smile that Russia had been reneged by Finland. In this practice, too, Stalin found that the Red Army was a sloppy fighting machine, so he used the time he had bought from Hitler to make the Red Army a great deal better.

He is now fighting Hitler, and doing an excellent job of it; but, though accepting enormous "lend-lease" help from the United States and Britain, he is not fighting Japan, which is fighting both the United States and Great Britain. This is plainly because Stalin does not want to take on another enemy; the fact that it would help us to base bombers in Siberia counts not at all with him.

He lets the Japs take in his Far East waters—which also means he lets the Japs take in his Far East waters—which also means he lets the Japs take in his Far East waters—which also means he lets the Japs take in his Far East waters.

Meanwhile, he keeps virtually quiet about U. S.-British aid to Russia when he is not fighting Japan, which is fighting both the United States and Great Britain. This is plainly because Stalin does not want to take on another enemy; the fact that it would help us to base bombers in Siberia counts not at all with him.

Side Glances
(When we had hundreds I thought they talked a lot, but when I was alone I thought we talked so much.)



United Nations
We're Coming Apart

By Samuel Grafton

IT CERTAINLY was a great day for the Allies, earlier this week. Russia broke off relations with Poland. A newspaper columnist, Mr. Drew Pearson, quoted Mr. Roosevelt directly as quoting Mr. Churchill directly to the effect that de Gaulle could be made to behave because the English "didn't mind," i. e. financially supported his movement. Then it turned out that we had sent 200,000 gallons of lubricating oil to France from Philadelphia, but when high-grade lubricating oil is worth its weight in blood to the Axis.

Simultaneously, the Chicago Tribune began its new editorial campaign suggesting that Australia, Canada, England, Scotland, Wales, etc., come into our country as an additional state, in the same sense in which Mr. Churchill's movement is supported by us through lend-lease, but that hardly constitutes "pay." That arrangement would not make de Gaulle a paid agent of Britain any more than lend-lease makes Mr. Churchill a paid agent of America, and these points must be made clear to the public.

It is highly unusual for any reporter to quote the 'suyun' (foreign) news agency (foreign) news agency and one is compelled to ask whether Mr. Pearson was

Quote, Unquote

A LOT of people think we're running a race, trying to beat each other. I think we're competing. A pilot who hasn't shot down one plane yet has five lives there. He's not his leader and to fight rates higher than the pilot with the big score.

Business must take an increasing interest in government, but it must have a positive program. The necessary conclusion from that event, that we like to get things done; that accomplishment and progress are the first order of business.