THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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The Lions In The Path

ONE of the most loyal Democrats in these United States took a flying trip to Washington this week to visit at the White House and review his party's prospects for the next two years, during which a failing Democratic Administration will face a Republican Congress. Josephus Daniels came back to North Carolina with a grave warning for the readers of his *Raleigh News & Observer*, and, significantly, his lengthy editorial report dealt with foreign policy, not domestic affairs.

Mr. Daniels is plainly shocked by the talk of a "honeymoon" period of co-operation between Mr. Truman and the Republican Congress, and he even notes in passing that a good deal of it is sounding in his beloved Solid South. Co-operation with the Republicans, he believes, is possible only if the President "could be seduced into turning his back on the Roosevelt policies."

Mr. Daniels recalls that twice before Democratic Presidents have heard the siren call to abandon their principles and bed down with the G.O.P. Cleveland lost his battle against ruinous high tariffs when the Republicans first took control of the Congress with the aid of a handful of Democratic deserters" and then formally assumed power in the 1894 mid-term elections. "They offered Cleveland a honeymoon if he would abandon his devotion to low tariffs, his hostility to Hamiltonian imperialism and devotion to the Monroe Doctrine. In other words their invitation, then as now, was: Will you come into my parlor, said the spider to the fly . . ." Again, in the second Wilson Administration, when Mr. Daniels was a member of the Cabinet, the Republicans offered a Democratic President a honeymoon—this time in return for his accepting isolationism "at the sacrifice of world peace."

Today, says Mr. Daniels, Mr. Truman is being "urged to go on a honeymoon with Taft, Reece, *The Chicago Tribune*, and other Republican isolationists . . ." He concedes that there are others, like Austin and Vandenberg, who "promise to rise above party and make a world peace," but he also recalls that in 1920 Warren Harding rode into the White House on an empty Republican promise to support the League of Nations. That promise, Mr. Daniels, recalls, was hedged with reservations not unlike the Republican reservations of today. He cites, as an example, the insistence of John Foster Dulles, the Republican foreign policy adviser, that the Pacific Ocean be made "an American lake" in accordance with the Navy's plan for fortifying certain Far Eastern islands. Mr. Daniels lumps this scheme together with Russia's territorial demands and British and French imperialism as "the three lions in the path of peace," and he concludes:

> The only sort of honeymoon the American people will tolerate is one that secures peace now. Delays and debates and division of the world and world commerce ought not to invite or make possible a repetition of the crime that followed World War I. The dangers abroad—political and selfishness—exist now as then. They must be overcome and no pumped up so-called honeymoon on domestic policies should deter the officials from carrying out the mandate of World Peace in our time.
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> If that fails, nothing else matters. We invite chaos to take the place of civilization.

Mr. Daniels' report seems to us as a significant document. We have frequently deplored here the absence of any coherent criticism of our new "bi-partisan" foreign policy, and of the dangerous tendency of its supporters to shout down as un-American any who dare challenge it. Mr. Daniels may be accused of excessive partisanship, as he often is, but no man can question his qualification for the role of prophet, or his patriotism. Most of us are inclined to swallow the cynicism implicit in our current diplomacy as being shaped by forces outside our own nation; Mr. Daniels comes forward with a badly-needed reminder that our policy is also being shaped by historic forces within our own body politic. This is criticism no thoughtful person can afford to dismiss lightly, for it is pure American—as American as Josephus Daniels himself.

The Baptists And Gene Talmadge

WHEN Gene Talmadge declared for Governor of Georgia last Spring his opponents opened up on him with both barrels. It wasn't really a political fight, for Gene stands for a good deal more than a [illegible] was right was between enlightenment and the peculiarly vicious sort of ignorance in which Gene's political strength is rooted.

The newspapers of Georgia, with the exception of a few journals too far gone in anti-New Deal bitterness to concern themselves with anything except the defeat of Talmadge's progressive opponent, led the battle against Ole Gene. The two excellent Atlanta dailies, *The Constitution* and *The Journal*, prepared an extensive bill of indictment against Talmadge, and day after day they hammered away at Talmadge's neo-Fascism, and personal corruption. They managed to convince a majority of Georgians, but under the county unit system Gene was voted into the governorship on a platform of "white supremacy" and unadulterated Ku Kluxism.

Actually, the newspaper crusade against Talmadge backfired. Talmadge employed the demagogue's usual trick; he replied to the documented charges brought against him by claiming that "them lyin' newspapers" were persecuting him, and through him all the rural residents of Georgia. The harder the papers fought, the more of a martyr Gene became in the eyes of his followers. When they elected him the red-necked boys in the back country believed, in all honesty, that they had won a great victory over city-bred forces of evil.

But the technique that worked so effectively against the newspapers will be [illegible] madgism that showed in three significant outcroppings last week:

(1) Representatives of 600,000 white Georgia Baptists, meeting in their annual Convention in Savannah, extended a warm invitation to Georgia's Negro Baptists, assembled in Convention in the same city, to join them in a joint session.

(2) The Negro Baptists, in a separate session, adopted a resolution calling for a state-wide day of prayer for Governor-elect Talmadge, affirming the Negro Baptist's hope that "Christianity will prevail in Georgia."

(3) The white Baptist Convention capped its week's activities by adopting a resolution condemning "hate groups," and concluding: "We hereby proclaim . . . our traditional stand that every man has the same right to participate in the blessings of our American way of life, and that none shall be discriminated against because of race, creed, or color."

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'This Flurry Of Declarations . . . .'

THE RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH, which customarily defends the Old Dominion by running down her neighbors, fired a blast some months ago at the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence. The validity, indeed the very existence of that hallowed document was questioned, in accordance with the doubts expressed some years ago by a Virginian by the name of Thomas Jefferson.

Alert subscribers of *The Times-Dispatch* (sometimes we suspect that at least half of them maintain permanent residence in the stacks of the Richmond Public Library) promptly rushed forward with evidence from the archives, the standard, or Philadelphia Declaration of Independence, and the earlier Mecklenburg Declaration, were old hat. V. Garland Davis of Forksville reported that the Liberty Point Declaration was drafted, ratified, and adopted in South Carolina 20 days before the local hotheads assembled here in Mecklenburg.

This intelligence brought forth a communique from E. L. Colle of Richmond: "I wonder if the Dominoneers and the Tarheels are not scrapping over yesterday's news. Three years before this flurry of declarations, and while the white-wigged, silver-buckled gentlemen of Virginia along with the landed gentry of Tarheelia were still paying homage and tribute to John Murray and Josiah Martin respectively as emissaries of His Majesty, George III, the mountain boys in that section of the country which is now East Tennessee were standing on their own hind legs and paying obedience to no "furrin" power. This independence was exemplified in the formation in 1772 of the Watauga Association which was "the first constitution ever adopted by a community of American-born free men . . ."

Well, let glory fall where it may, we always say. But we do feel constrained to note that the Watauga country was in Western North Carolina, not East Tennessee, at the time the boys reared up on their hind legs; it would be yet if some of our landed gentry, after successfully defying George III, hadn't let themselves be euchered out of our western provinces along about 1796.

The build-up of favorite sons for '48 begins at any moment now. Here and there little groups are to be seen, ready to stuff a shirt, if there were shirts.

For his inability to answer any question correctly, a sailor pulls down $600 in a quiz show. As it pays more than crime, the smart citizen will take up ignorance.

A reviewer of our experiences with meat is amazed that so many mistakes could be made on a single subject. In the words of Mortimer Snerd, "It ain't easy."

The prosecution in Germany moves on to those sad cases, the industrialists who made Hitler's weapons under the winsome impression that they were the guns puffed oats were shot from.

If it happened, you won't find it in the Moscow newspapers. This differs from the Nazi technique in Hitler's great years, when the coming event was written up in full in the past tense.

'Now Here's A Nice Number—'

Harold Ickes

Coal Negotiations

WASHINGTON

BECAUSE the negotiations have been proceeding in a series of complicated moves difficult to follow, the general public has not been aware of how much turns on the outcome of John L. Lewis' newest demands for his coal miners. Personalities and politics are deeply involved in this savage tug-of-war.

If Lewis gets all that he is asking from the Government — and that is plenty — it will be the signal for the second round of strikes. The CIO unions will have to follow the Lewis lead. They will have to ask for even more because of the intensive competitiveness between the AFL and CIO.

But the CIO unions are not in the same position as Lewis and his miners. They will face not the Government but private owners determined not to yield and backed by an aroused public opinion. Neither do they have anything like the financial resources which Lewis wields.

There are those who believe that one of Lewis' chief objectives in the present struggle is to wreck the CIO. His hatred of Philip Murray makes the passion felt by certain large employers seem pale by comparison. Interestingly enough, Lewis' present maneuver coincides with the convention of the CIO in Atlantic City, where, it now seems likely, Murray will be presented upon to take another term as CIO chief.

KRUG TAKES STAND

Against this background, Secretary of the Interior J. A. Krug, in charge of the coal negotiations for the Government, has taken a firm stand. He has told the President, not once but several times, that if the Government gives in to Lewis, then it will be in the position of actually sponsoring the second round of strikes.

Backed by a strong legal memorandum, Krug insists that the Smith-Connally Act will apply if the miners walk out on the ground of "No Contract." Lewis can be punished under the act even though he says that such action would not be a strike, Krug contends. While Attorney - General Tom C. Clark began by taking the opposite view, he is now understood to be in agreement with the Department of the Interior.

In making the preliminary moves to checkmate Lewis, Krug, an adroit chess player, has had his eye not merely on Lewis, but on Lewis' good friend in the White House. This friend is John R. Steelman, director of the Office of War Mobilization and Reconversion.

Steelman is very close to President Truman. He has also been from time to time very close to Lewis. At least once before, he intervened in a coal dispute which was settled on terms highly favorable to Lewis. But his contact with the United Mine Workers began considerably before that, when, as a college professor, he arbitrated local coal-mine disputes.

IN STRONG POSITION

While Krug has made no threat of resignation or anything like it, he does make it perfectly clear that he will not back down from a stand he believes to be correct. For several reasons, he happens to be in a strong position.

Although he has been Secretary of the Interior only since March, he has made a good impression in that office. During that time, he has inspected the work of the department at every important center, including Alaska. Veterans in the department say he has done more traveling than former Secretary Harold L. Ickes did during his 13 years in the same office.

At the same time, Krug has had several very flattering offers from private business. One of these, we mean, it is said, a salary of at least $100,000 a year, which compares with the $15,000 he receives as a Cabinet officer.

His departure from the Government on the coal issue would cause major repercussions within the battered Truman Administration. At the time of his appointment, following the rumpus over Ickes' resignation, Mr. Truman said that Krug was his own personal choice for the office.

OWNERS WILLING

Krug's real objective is to turn the mines back to the private operators. They are willing to discuss such a move. But at the same time they say they will not accept the terms of the May 29 contract which was signed when the Government took over.

Lewis is demanding much more than he gets under that contract. As the negotiations move toward a showdown, Mr. Truman will be on a Florida vacation. Somehow or other, the three men around the chess board—Krug, Lewis, and Steelman—will have to play the game to the end.

Samuel Grafton

Americans Divided

NEW YORK

HAVING [illegible] through an election, etc., we Americans have not exactly been our big happy family lately. One of the [illegible] control is that this may pass yet another strain on our national unity, splintering us some more. A lot of people who have been getting on fairly well together now find they have to oppose each other, and make faces at each other; and not all of the times the classical form of labor-management disputes.

We hear store executives, for example, calling on their customers for help them hold prices down. Editorial writers have a new heroine, the housewife who will not pay high prices for meat. The idea of buyers' resistance receives support from rather startlingly conservative sources. This is economic struggle; the housewife and the producer whose price she is resisting, are not, at the moment, friends. There is an increased individual consciousness of belonging to a group, and of group interests, which Sen. Taft, I'll be bound, never bargained on, since he seems not to believe in the theory that one thing leads to another.

INDUSTRY DIVIDED

The divisive strain shows up in industry itself, in some sections of which there is talk of a kind of purchasing agents' strike against higher prices. Business is a buyer as well as a seller, of course; and the buying portion of industry is quite unhappy about current price increases. There are some quotations from purchasing managers in industry, about the economic dangers of price increases, which might, at this moment, be rather embarrassing to the selling ends of the same or allied organizations.

Where the strain shows up most clearly, of course, is in agriculture. Here you really get it, with dramatic clarity, because farm prices have been going down at the very moment when the prices of manufactured goods have started smartly up. Corn dropped from $1.28 to $1.20 between Nov. 1 and 15, for example, while a leading producer announced a 2 per cent increase in the prices of farm implements and tractors. [illegible] distance between them can increase with terrifying rapidity.

SMALL COMFORT

It is true that the farmer has already had his price increase, while manufacturers have not yet had theirs, to the same extent; but that is small comfort as shoes jump 20 per cent and soap 50 per cent, retail, at a time when there is woe in the cotton belt.

The struggle between agriculture and industry over prices is one of the great constants of American history; much of our national story can be told along this one theme. The suppression of this quarrel was one of Mr. Roosevelt's greatest achievements; he really did do that; and its possible renewal now sadly rings a familiar bell. The strain on our national coherence at a critical time is a manifest danger.

When to this you add the curious waiting game which management and labor are now playing with each other, as they both watch the price-wage equation, you get a real feeling of the divisive tensions and pulls now maturing. It will take real statesmanship to pull us through, in good order; bumbling and platitudes will not do now, for, with the wartime flush ebbing, the adventure in words is changing into an adventure among realities. Planning, for all its critics, did avoid some of these tensions, a diagram of which would resemble nothing so much as a shark's safety glass that had been hit by a rock.

MAGNIFICENT CHOICE

Now we shall have to judge, from Republican actions, whether the victorious party's program is one for internal peace or internal war. It is a high and magnificent choice, and one hopes doggedly that there will be great spirits in the party to make it correctly.

People's Platform

After The Storm

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

THE nation-wide political storm has subsided. Like leaves before the wind, a host of leaderless liberals were blown into the Republican camp.

If you Republicans are wise, you will treat your camp followers kindly. These bewildered children of the storm served you well; and will do so again if you do not deny them the crumbs that fall from the rich man's table.

Of course, you will not rely upon the loyalty, or overestimate the intelligence, of the meandering Mecklenburgers. What dependence can be placed in 10,000 adults who voted for a ten-gallon hat!

However, not all of the liberals rode with the wind. Some elected to stay in the old camp to wait the day when another great leader would come along to fan the smoldering embers of liberalism into a [illegible] madgism that showed in three significant outcroppings last week:

(1) Representatives of 600,000 white Georgia Baptists, meeting in their annual Convention in Savannah, extended a warm invitation to Georgia's Negro Baptists, assembled in Convention in the same city, to join them in a joint session.

(2) The Negro Baptists, in a separate session, adopted a resolution calling for a state-wide day of prayer for Governor-elect Talmadge, affirming the Negro Baptist's hope that "Christianity will prevail in Georgia."

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—LEWIS AYER SMITH.

Rags To Riches

FROM time to time I have written articles, long and brief, dealing with Charlotte-Fort Mill booze relations. I have on occasion mentioned the fact that on Saturdays Negroes drift in and out of Fort Mill from the metropolis in large numbers. I have said that they come empty-handed and returned well fortified. I am convinced now that I didn't know what I was writing about. My information was second-handed. I had never stood in the heart of Fort Mill's liquor section and watched these darkies descend on this little city like swarms of migrating black birds. But now I know. I was down there last Saturday and witnessed this spectacle. And, Brother, I'm here to tell you that these North Carolina Negroes work in and out of the whisky stores like black ants on a new hill.

From every south-bound bus that arrived a score or more would alight. Some came prepared with paper shopping bags, others had flat suitcases. Others possibly figured that the bags furnished by the stores were good enough for them, because they came sans luggage. But that isn't the way they left.

After staying inside a short while they came out with all containers bulging. Some carried bags under each arm.

I made my way through the milling throng to Chambers Station, where I had a matter of business to attend to.

"You know," I said to Mr. Chambers, "this is the first time I ever watched this closely". "You can't judge it very accurately by this Saturday," he replied. "This is sort of an off day."

"Who are they getting it for?" I asked, observing that one man or woman could not possibly consume in one week as much as most of them had. He replied that some of it doubtless went to big scale bootleggers, but those who buy it keep much of it—they re-sell it themselves for a very good profit.

"I've been [illegible] short period of time," he said. "When they first started coming they were very shabbily dressed, always rode the bus and made small purchases. Soon their clothes improved, and a little later they would start making the trips in an old model car. In a matter of weeks their attire would become natty, their purchases were substantial and their car—an expensive, smooth-looking vehicle that looks to be much better than most of us have around here."

"That's a story of from rags (bags) to riches in fifteen to twenty easy trips," I told him.

As I turned to leave Mr. Chambers said again, "Yes, this is an off Saturday. Most Saturdays they start pouring in before daylight—about 6 A. M. They wait nearly two hours for the stores to open, and its that way till sundown when the stores close."

As I reached my car, parked nearby, to leave this jam, I found two Negro women and three Negro men leaning on it. They had deposited their purchases on my running board. As I reached for the door to open it, one of the Negroes almost turned white. He looked as though he was preparing to have a heart attack. He thought I was going to open the door and knock his bottles to the pavement and break them.—WILLIAM R. BRADFORD JR., in the Fort Mill Times.

Hold, Enough

MOUNT ULLA

Editors, THE NEWS:

WE went to the polls and changed our vote to say we had "had enough" Democratic dictation.

Now they want to revive that AAA to limit the farmers crop saying "we have too much food" when all the world is starving.

Let the farmer raise all he can that we may have something to give without taking the food out of our children's mouths.

—MRS. BESSIE G. HAMILTON.

(NOTE: If there's any movement afoot to revive crop restrictions, it's news to THE NEWS.—Eds., THE NEWS).

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

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Lewis Causes Turmoil In Capital Society

(Ed. Note—This is the second of Drew Pearsons' columns on America's most powerful labor leader, John L. Lewis).

WASHINGTON

ALL sorts of legend has grown up about the life of John L. Lewis. As a young man he is supposed to have encountered a vicious mine mule named "Spanish Pete" and to have knocked the mule down with one blow of his fist.

Whether this is fact or fiction, it is no legend that when Lewis encountered 250-pound Bill Hutchinson, head of the Carpenters Union, at an Atlantic City labor convention, he floored him with one blow to the chin. The two men are now bosom pals; nevertheless, and both ardent rooters for the Republican Party.

Another legend has it that Lewis eats three beefsteaks for breakfast. Lewis does like red meat, and his jaunting against the OPA regarding meat was partly personal. However, this writer, who has lunched with Lewis many times, can testify that, regardless of breakfast, he eats only one beefsteak at lunch.

Another myth has it that Lewis does not hesitate to use violence against labor factions which oppose him. This idea probably arises from the Herrin, Ill., massacre, in which about 400 of Lewis' miners surrounded a handful of steam shovel workers, who were strip-mining with modern methods, and killed them. Unlike the relatively bloodless jurisdictional strikes of today, the members of the Steam Shovel Men's Union were rounded up in a field and shot in cold blood. A New York Times account of the massacre makes it as gruesome as anything ever perpetrated by the Nazis.

Lewis was blamed for the Herrin massacre because of an inflammatory telegram he sent his Herrin local that they were "justified in treating this crowd (the Steam Shovel Men's Union) as an outlaw organization and in viewing its members in the same light as they would view any other common strikebreakers."

Lewis And Hope Diamond

ANOTHER Lewis legend is that he dotes on Washington society and loves to be lionized by jewel-encrusted dowagers. This story stems from the fact that Lewis sometimes dines at the home of his great-friend, Evalyn Walsh McLean, owner of the Hope Diamond and Washington's most inveterate entertainer. In recent years, however, Lewis has dined at the McLean home infrequently and then usually when the dinners are small.

In Alexandria, Va., where he lives, John gets along reasonably well with his neighbors, and those who know him well like him. One exception is Mrs. Fleming Holland, who objected vigorously at showing her colonial mansion if Lewis's was also to be on the annual tour of old Alexandria homes. This put Virginia citizens very much on the spot, because the Lewis home, originally occupied by Dr. William Brown, Physician General to the Continental Army, was a landmark not to be ignored.

Later Lewis sold his home, but bought an even more historic mansion where Light-Horse Harry Lee made his famous oration at the death of George Washington. So in the end, Mrs. Holland got the citizens of Alexandria off the spot by withdrawing her house from the tour, leaving John L. Lewis victorious.

The GOP's Foundling Child

THE Republican Party has now begun to realize that it is on somewhat the same spot as the good citizens of Alexandria. They don't particularly love John L. Lewis, but also they don't want to snub him—especially if they can let the Democrats do it instead.

Various Republican stalwarts already have honeyed up to John L., with Robert Wason, president of the National Association of Manufacturers, describing him as a "great American" even in the middle of the last coal crisis.

All this is one reason why the Republicans have been so fervently hoping that the current coal crisis will be settled by the Democrats, so they themselves won't have to wrestle with Big John.

Friends say that John L. himself also had this in mind when he called for a showdown now. He knows that after January the new GOP Congress will crack him with something even more drastic than the Case Bill—if he dares stick his chin out.

Republicans also know that John L. Lewis, despite his power in labor ranks, is not the type of gardenia they want to sport in their buttonholes when they walk down the Main Street of America.

They know that the American public, despite its short memory, has not entirely forgotten how John L. Lewis was the only important labor leader to strike against his Government in wartime.

Lewis' first real strike against the war effort came in the autumn of 1941 shortly before Pearl Harbor, when the nation was desperately preparing itself for what every intelligent person knew was certain battle.

Lewis Aided Germany

THAT, however, did not seem to worry John L. Lewis. It has now been disclosed by the Senate report that during 1940 Lewis used his influence with Mexican leaders to arrange for the sale of vitally needed oil to the Germany Navy. Hitler at that time had swept over part of Europe and President Roosevelt was doing his best to discourage shipments of oil to Germany. Despite that, Lewis not only used his influence to obtain oil for Nazi submarines, but, according to the Rogge report, also discussed with a member of the German Economic Ministry a plan to swing labor votes against Roosevelt during the 1940 election.

Indirectly at least, Lewis gave further help to the Nazi cause when, in the Fall of 1941, he pulled 100,000 miners out of the captive coal mines causing 200,000 others to strike in sympathy. The captive coal mines supplied fuel for the nation's steel industry, at that time working day and night to turn out big guns and armor plate.