CHARLOTTE NEWS

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1946

The Seeds Of Destruction

LYEN a casual visitor to the coal fields of the through which is an experiment comes away with the conviction that a coal mine is not a pleasant place to work, and that a mining viltage is not a pleasant place to live. Despite all the progress of the past two decades the mining country still bears the ugly scars of an era in which ruthless exploitation of the miners was a universal practice among the operators. And even more significant traums are to be found in the minds of the coal miners themselves.

coal miners themselves.

The union to which these mineworkers belong is not a democratic organization, and it can be demonstrated that they are held in economic slavery—no union membership, no job—by John L. Lewis. But the Lewis dictatorhip does not explain the blind loyalty of his followers. That explanation lies in the mental scars still borne by the mine workers, and in a set of cold figures: Members of the United Mine Workers now earn \$44.25 for five working days totaling 45 hours, \$4.25 for five working days totaling 45 hours, so \$75.25 for a \$4-hour sk-day week; they cannot be required to work more than 40 hours, but may do so voluntarily and collect timeand-a-half for it; most of them do accept overtime work, and in August, 1948, according to the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics their average weekly "take-home pay" was \$62.37.

It is not difficult to understand how any inter, comparing his present condition this that of the pre-Lewis ex-, would read-y accept the iron discipline Lewis de-nands. He may privately deplore the meth-de his master has used, methods that ame perilously close to treason in the next years when John Lewis holsted the urly rate by 65 per cent, and the weekly re-home gate (with overtime) by 381

per cent. But it is unreasonable to expect him to turn his back on the man who has wrought a genuine miracle in the coal fields.

Nor is it logical to expect the miner to be deeply, concerned because the course Lewis has dictated is contrary to the public interest. The public displayed little concern with the plight of the coal miner in the days when he suffered greater hardships and indignities than most Americans have ever known. He may be a support of the coal miner in the days when he suffered greater hardships and indignities than most Americans have ever known. He missed great have ever known to the contract that t

bootstraps.

This is an attempt to explain the attitude of the miners, not to justify it. There can be no justification for the methods being employed now by Lewis to justif through another enormous wage increase for the contract of the contract if he gets it. Even in the high-wage commy to which we seem to be committed, this is an uneconomic wage. It would aimset certainly raise the cost of coal above competitive fuels, and speed the process of industrial convergion to natural and synthetic gas, oil, or atomic energy.

If there is a moral in this, it is that exploitation carries with it the seeds of its own destruction. When the miners were unorganized the operators exploited their weakness, and in so doing increased their own profits, and even benefitted the general public by keeping down the cost of cost. But at the same time they created their cost of their cost

There is a cruel logic in this, and per-haps a timely reminder that Americans traditionally are the victims of their own

'And In This Corner-'

People's Platform

Off The Main Highway?

Editors, THE NEWS:

I HAVE sent the following letter to the Hon. Herbert
Baxter, Mayor of Charlotte: out for appointment as a member of the City Veter-ans Advisory Committee, under the appnoschaip of the Veterans Welfare Association.

ana Advisory Committee, under the sponsorship of the Veterans Wedfare Association-clation that a veteran of World War II should be on this committee for the purpose of consulting in matters of interest to veterans of World War II, who are Negroes, it was not been associated by the committee of the purpose of consulting in matters of interest to veterans of World War II, who are Negroes, it was not to be spanishment of the spani

Marquis Childs

Anti-Lewis Strategy

Drew Pearson's: Goldsborough Once Ruled In Lewis' Favor Merry-Go-Round

ONE of the most interesting things about the Government's injunction against John L. Lewis is that it was granted by Judge Alan Goldsborough, who previously had decided a vitally important case in Lewis's favor.

Thus the Justice Department had the fortune to appear before a judge who certainly cannot be suspected of prejudice against Lewis, especially in view of the sensational nature of the case which he decided.

of the case which he decided.

For on Jan, 10, 1945, Judge Goldsborough handed down a ruling, which, if it had gone the other way, might have shaken the iron throne from which John L. Lewis long has ruled over 400,000 miners. The case—also an injunction satist—involved the right of another mine leader to run as a rival against Lewis for president of the United Mine Workers.

rival against Lewis for president of the United Mine Workers.

If Judge Goldsborough had ruled the other way and
granted the injunction of rival mine leader Ray Edmundson,
by one stroke of the pen he would have opened up the entire
question of dictatorable vs. democracy inside the United
Mine Workers.

Here are the highly significant facts behind the dispute:

Squelching A Rival

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RAY EMUNDSON, once appointed by Lewis as president

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Ray and unly elected by his district as a delegate to the Cincinnati United Mine Workers Convention in 1844, at which he
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foor. This was contary to all the by-laws of the United

Ray Workers, which gives any delegate the Right of the Convention
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Lewis's Hatchet Man

TO those who knew the inside dealings of the mine workers, I Ray Edmundson's break with Lewis, had great significance; because for ten years Edmundson had been Lewis so-called hatchet man in the long and bloody illusor hatched hatchet man in the long and bloody illusor hatched hatched

Lewis's Secret Financial Deal

Miners Blast Lewis

iners Blast Lewis
FIER the U. S. Treasury unearthed the facts, local members of the United Mine Workers hit the ceiling.
The a hell of a policy to hand over our dues to a mine
The a hell of a policy to hand over our dues to a mine
That this come before the executive board I would have
poed it, "and donn Glasgow, a member of District 12"s
centive board. "Advancing money to mine owners into
idea of square unlocksm."



Was \$62.37.

Under the Lewis dictatorship the coal miners, once the worst paid of all American Industrial workers, have become the best paid industrial workers in the country (on a basis of average weekly earnings, not hourly rates). It is true they are rid-ing a high time, when every coal mine is running at Tull capacity and overtime is available for any man who cares to take it. Even so they have established a base wage of \$43.58 in the 50m year of 1933, and with less than \$10 a weekly earnings of \$33.58 in the 50m year of 1933, and with less than \$10 a week within the memory of most of the miners.

Roger, Wilco, Over And Out

EVER anxious to record progress in a lasten to take note of the modernization program launched recently by Charlotte's bootleggers. These enterpreneurs, according to late reports from City and County Police Readquaters, are equipping their liquor card which the request radio recedency which the county radio recedency calls and avoid possible legal obstacles as they beed into town with their fenders dragging.

and avoid possible segal obsacies as usey head into low with their fender dragging. This is progress, indeed, and surely the radio receivers are only a first step. It shouldn't be long before the major operators are able to establish complete shortware networks, with each car equipped with two-way sels. Then, in addition to keeping tabs on the police, the drivers, or crew chiefs, will be able to transact a good deal of routine business by air. A driver of deal of routine business by air. A driver of drop off a case of Old Gallions at a worthy customer's residence on his way in to the sarehouse to unload, thus speeding up delivery and cutting out needless trips. In time, it might even be possible to sarrange for prowl cars, loaded down with suitable stocks, to operate in each residential area of the town. Then a telephone call could be relieved by radio to the appropriate car and the thirsty customer would hear a welcome knocking on the door almost as soon as he hange up the telephone.

The basic organization, of course, is al-

The basic organization, of course, is al-ready in existence, although its present

operation is old-fashloned. In pre-war days it was possible in Charlotte to call any one of a variety of phone numbers for prompt, courteous service, but during the war years, due to the manpower shortes and brisk over-the-counter trade, many of our bootleggers allowed their home delivery service to lapse. A man dropped into the office the other day, however, bearing a small, chaste card which had been handed him on a busy street-corner. It bore a telephone number and the simple, dignified legend: "Call Yohn-Nothing But The Best." Our visitor displayed it with genuine pleasure, régarding it, he said, as a sure sign that reconversion has finally set in.

These are all signs of normaley, extains.

These are all signs of normaley, certainly, and indications that our bootleggers havent lost their old competitive spirit. It is possible that prices may even be reduced, but it is perhaps more probable that the number of bootleggers will be reduced, by gunfire, if competition should begin to cut into the tidy, tax-free little 200 per cent profit the trade now enjoys.

Ther is only a single dould on the boot-leg horizon, and as yet it is no bigger than an "S" on a ballot. There is always a chance that Meetkenburg might vote in ABC stores, but we gather that the boot-leggers, plowing their excess profits into new equipment and expanded service, face the future with full confidence that the citizenty will continue to rote dry and drink wet.

An Essay In Quotation Marks

THE newspaper reader who believes in Labels must be sady confused today. He has learned that the "reactionary" Senator Billo, member of the party supported by the "liberals," will be challenged, as he comes up to take the oath of Senator in the Eightieth Congress, by the "reactionary" Republicans, who, to the despair of the "progressives," have won control of that Congress. Senator Billo will be accused of fulminating, during his campaign for re-election, against the Negro race so viodierously defended by the "leffsits," who important, parties, and curropean should not have the same difficure the fact that the Republican Party was founded in a battle to defend the right of Negroes.

the new House of Representatives.

French politics is complicated. Under the Third Republic the Republicans of the Left were a leading Rightist party, and it has often been said that the Radical Socialists are neither radical nor socialist. The American system, of course, is simple. We have only two important parties, and Europeans should not have the same difficulty in understanding our politics that the by in understanding theirs. Or should they?—New York Headld Tribune.

lacks eight of the 35 sounds present in adult speech"—and makes up for it with a machinegun imitation quite beyond the mature larynx.