THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

W. C. DOWD JR. J. E. DOWD HARRY S. ASHMORE

SATURDAY, MAY 25, 1946

Sequel To Persuasion

As a flat and forthright statement of where he stood, President Truman's report to the country last night on the railroad strike measured up well beyond our expectations. He asserted his intention that the railroads should uru, and that nobody should interfere with their-running. He named by name, repeatedly and with unmistakable derogation, the two Evolutions of the result of the railroads should had chosen to exalt themselves over their Government and the people of the country. Over the heads of these gentry he addressed himself to the raink and file of their union, urging them to go into session with their consciences and return to work.

It was a message that dealt resolutely

It was a message that dealt resolutely with a critical emergency, and it was worthy of the high office which President Truman holds. But standing by itself it Truman holds. But standing by itself it was indequate to the proceeding, the proceeding, the proceeding in the sense that the President acoupt only to implore a cresation of this strike. He did not even hint at an intention of dealing with the conditions which allow such intolerable strikes, or of a purpose to prevent them with or without good faith on the part of erganized labor. There are as we stated vestering contains the proceeding in the proceeding in

good faith on the part of organized labor.

There are, as we stated yesterday, certain elementary steps which should be taken to outlaw strikes against the public welfare. The first—and, it should apply to all strikes, but not to lockouts—is to cease the practice of paying unemployment compensation to strikers. This would require action by the States, which administer unemployment compensation, but action can be as easily dictated by the Federal Government, since the whole system of unemployment compensation was thrust upon the States in the beginning.

A second step is to amend laws already

A second step is to amend laws already in the books, inserting the responsibilities I labor unions along with the privileges of labor unions accorded them.

A third step is to transfer the admin-istration of such laws from the biased agencies which interpret and enforce them to the courts, where exact justice is at least an ideal.

A fourth step is to find a means of com-pelling labor unions to obey the law. There

is such a means if the President and Congress can bring themselves to employ

It has been demonstrated time and again that, under our present labor laws, men cannot be coerced or cajoled into working against their will. Not even during war time, when both the persuasions and the authority residing in the Government were extraordinary, could strikes be wholly prevented. This emergency of the railroad strike and the coal strike demonstrate as clearly as could be desired that the Government's sole recourse lies in meeting most, if not all, of the unions' demands or in talking them into a compremise. But there is a way by which the Government can exercise authority, and without jeopardizing the rights of Labor. For the purpose of conferring benefits working against their will. Not even dur-

For the purpose of conterring benefits and privileges upon them, unloss are recontred as legal entities. The corollary follows in long, though not yet in law, that they are entitles for the purpose of exacting responsibility from them. Once they are recontred as legal entities and specifically unde sub-ject to the laws against conspiracies in restraint of trade, their officers and their treasuries fall as fully within the Federal jurisdiction as did the Standard Oil Co when, in 1907, the Government prosecuted its famous "Standard Oil Co when, in 1907, the Government prosecuted its famous "Standard Oil Rebate Cases" under the anti-trust laws.

The result of that litigation was an For the purpose of conferring benefits

anti-trust laws.

The result of that litication was an end to Standard Oil's defiance, obtained by Judge Kennesaw Mountain Landis' perceptive judgment of a \$22,000,000 fme. When the interests which sought to place themselves over and above the authority of the Government saw that their pocket-books were jeopardized, they came meekly to law.

to law.

The same precedure Is, with but little legislation, to be Invoked against labor unions which set themselves over and above the authority of the Government and the welfare of the people of the United States, And it is this procedure, and only this procedure or one similar to II, which will enable the President to deal effectively with strikes against the nation, with the president of the control of t

Without the intimation of that further purpose, the position taken by the President last night was inadequate. It dealt only with the means of pulliating intolerable conditions, not of getting to their

A Poor Way To Boost Revenues

A Poor Way To Boos

In City Council's scramble to find new
tources or revenue it has come upon
the trail of that hard-working, hand-shaking and currently prosperous citizen, the
salesman. He thrives in Charlotte, and
has since the beginning of its leadership
as a distribution center for the Carolinas,
His rise has closely paralleled that of the
community, and in recent years he has
spied the place from fair, and made it
his headquarters. Here, as elsewhere, he
has carried the same tax burden borne,
by the ordinary citizen.

Now the Council proposes, among other
things, to charge him a license fee of \$25
to operate in the City. The proposal is
somewhat vague; the statute fiself is
suddously non-specific, As yet, in fact, its
legality has not even been ruled upon by
the City Attorney. All that is certain now
is that the Council is serious about raising
revenue in this way, and that the tax

the City Attorney. All that is certain now is that the Council is serious about raising revenue in this way, and that the tax would apply only to Charlotte salesmen working in the City. It would apply only to those with authority to close deals, not to those who must have approval from offices in other states. It would not apply to on-the-premises aslesmen, such as clerks, salesladies and the like/
In the absence-of_green_opinion, even from the City's own attorney, our sus-

pictons of the statute's dubious standing are of little vidue. But we seriously question the wisdom of this proposal. Such a tax will certainly be difficult to collect, and eventually involve a good deal of red tape in establishing exemptions. The special tax collector suggested by Council would have a merry chase. The scheme would be stoutly resisted by the salesmen from the start, and would likely never have their co-operation.

*Further, there seems to be precious little revenue at stake. Ruling out all those in inter-state commerce would cut the fled sharply, and the effort to collect the fees from those remaining would hardly be worthwhile. The Council's very real problem of finding additional revenue, in the amount of about \$100,000 a year, would be

amount of about \$100,000 a year, would be needlessly complicated, it seems to us, by

And if the need for money is as press-ing as it seems to be, why there's another way. It wouldn't send us hunting and peck-ing into remote corrers, picking up a few dollars here and a few dollars there. And rather than raising \$100,000 a year we could raise upward of \$1000,000 it, too, would allenate a few men of business, but those operate outside the law. We could, you know, consider ABC stores.

The Road To Strike Was Paved

HE railroad strike was a long, long time THE railrond strike was a long, long time. In the making, The twenty brotherhoods arred notice on the roads in July of last year, and the wearying, complicated rounds of negotiations began. It was apparent then that failure of any one of the powerful groups to come to terms with the carriers would invalidate the efforts of all. For five and a half months the bargaining went on. There were wage scales to settle, and a long list of proposed "rule changes," involving higher pay for night work, terminal pay, vacations with pay and some demands that bordered on the illippant. In the end all but two of the brotherhoods agreed to arbitrate their differences. The tranmen and the engineers balled, and called strikes for March 11.

President Truman waited until lour days

and the engineers balked, and called strikes for March II.

President Truman waited until four days before the deadline, and then, following the course laid out by the Railway Jabor Act, named a fact similing board. The board was powerless, but while it sat and probed for the facts, the strike could not be called. About a month later the arbitration board, sitting since January 12 on the cases of the eighteen more tractable protherhoods, handed down its report. The eighteen brotherhoods accepted the actiliment offered—naturally a compromise-to-the board. The work of the strike and the strike of th

One day before the strike was scheduled the Government selzed the roads, and on the day of the scheduled strike President

Truman asked the two stubborn brother Truman asked the two stubborn brother-hoods to delay for five days in a final effort to delay for five days in a final effort to delay the blow. They agreed, But on the fourth day, when Mr. Truman of-fered a new compremise plan for settler-hoods accepted, the trainmen and engi-neers took it under advisement. They district, deliberate long. They struck the next day, and now the national economy, heading for this impasse for more than a year, is at a virtual standstill. virtual standstill.

this impasse for more than a year, is at a virtual standstill.

Throughout the long struggle the great majority of railroad men abided by the provisions of the Railway Act, and though their gains satisfied them no more than proferred settlements satisfied the trainment and engineers, they did not choose to use their power to strike against the nation. Two of the inventy groups, retusing offer after effer, have struck as foreibly as if every railroader in the country had word to walk out. Assuming that the analonal welfare is paramount to that of the whole rail industry, let alone a powerful minority, it appears that the Railway Labor Act, a tentative piece of pioneer labor legislation, its valuable only in delaying catastrophe. Against strong-minded dissenting groups it avails, as the laws of the Government now stand, nothing.

In busy Hollywood a film on the life of Al Jolson has gone into its 110th day of shooting. Can't they get him up off that knee?

Maybe they're all right—these digest magazines that crowd the events of a long novel into 50 pages or so. But can Amber stand the page?



People's Zlatform

Is Lewis The Root Of All Evil?

Editors, The News: * CHARLOTTE

A RE they giving the velerans a fair chance? Well
A I won't answer that question myself, I'll just let
each and every one of you draw your own opinion,
but I'll fell you one thing, you had better not ask a
veleran. You know must of these velerans, when
they went into service, they were all! in their teens,
one, and I think that when a guy spends those years
of his life away from his country, that he kinda forgiet things a little, flesides, when we left, the war
had just begun and things, hadn't changed any and
that he in zoch a fix so ours is in.

The country of the country that the country
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The country of the country

obn L. Lewis is a great man an right.

evil. Between the Devil and John L. Lewis, we have great fight on our hands.

—THOMAS P. JACKSON.

A Vet For Labor

CHARLOTTE Editors, Tree News:

IN reply to the "Velerans Protest of John L. Lewis" which appeared up the "Peoples Platform". I also am a veteran, of 31 months overseas, and a firm belever in organized labor. The writer of the article I refer to probably doesn't realize if it wasn't for the progress unions have made, that he would be working from sun up till sun down. for bare existence, and the sun of th

CHARLOTTE

Indeed, The Jackson of their unorganized, weaker heothers of labor. Generally weaker heothers of labor, and their unorganized, weaker heothers of labor, and also pledged to return overseas for another 21 months of all months, and their labor of their units of their productive production of their productive productions of their productive productions of their productive productions of their productive productions of their productive productive

A Slip Of Vowels

Editors, The News:

REFERENCE is made to the Atlanta Constitution's editorial, "A Week To Try Men's Souls", reprinted in your issue of May 21st.

Twas bade enough for the Constitution to missued the name of the greatest political sciential editions, and the manne of the greatest political sciential editions, and the manne of the greatest political sciential editions, and the manner of the greatest political sciential edition and the name of the greatest political sciential edition. It was the wise Franklin who said: 'The pen of Thomas Faine made the sword of Washington possible,'

-BOB CHERRY JR.

Hit 'Em Where It Hurts CHARLOTTE

DATE of the second of the seco

The People's Platform is available to any reader who cares to mount it. Communications possible, and on only one side of the paper. Libet and obscentify will be deleted—etherwise anything poss. Each letter must be signed, although, in exceptional cases and upon request, Tits News, School The write's name.—Editors, Tits News, Sec.

Marquis Childs

American Propaganda

WASHINOTON
BACK in the 20s, two ambilious young men had an advertiling firm called Benton & Bowles. They with that accurity, they started out to explore other fields of activity. These two men, Chester Bowles and William Benton, are today both the Covernment Bowles and William Benton, are today both the Covernment Bowles and William Benton, are today both the Covernment Bowles and William Benton, are today both the Covernment Bowles and William Benton, are today both the Covernment Bowles and William Benton, are today both the Covernment Bowles and William Benton for the control to the Covernment Bowles and William Benton for the control to the Covernment Bowles and William Benton for the control to the Covernment Bowles and William Benton to the public as rear-guard action for the control to the Covernment Bowles and William Benton to the public as rear-guard action for the control to the Covernment Bowles and William Benton to the public as rear-guard action of the covernment Bowles and William Benton to the public as rear-guard action for the covernment Bowles and William Benton to the Covernment Bowles and William Benton to the public as well known to the public as rear-guard action for the covernment Bowles and William Benton to the public as well known to the public as well a

It a real chance.

This means that, unless the Senate restores the cut, the short-wave broadcasting will have to be eliminated. It means that the voice of America will not be heard at all in the Balkans and Eastern Europe.

It means that the Russian short-

Samuel Grafton

The Russian Mind

LIVINGSTON, ALA.

VINGSTON is an olti-faultboned fown of the Deep South
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THE DIFFERENCE

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Drew Pearson's: Lewis Pledges Miners To Stay On Job Merry-Go-Round: Lewis Pledges Miners To Stay On Job

WASHINGTON
OHN L. LEWIS had a confidential conference with Labor
Secretary L. B. Schwellenbach on Monday at which he
we delibility assurance that his miners would stay on the
bit the Government took over the mines.
Here is what hammened at the

gave definite assurance that his miners would stay on the job if the Coverment took over the mines.

Here is what happened at the utira-secret meeting. Here is what happened at the utira-secret meeting it is not to the miners and asked on the following the state of the state of

Club Over Lewis

Club Over Lewis

IF Preadent Truman really had wanted to beat John L.
Lewis to the punch, he could have scared him to death
by both recting the St. Lawrence seeway previously urged
to the state of the scare of the state of the scare of the scare
gathering dust in the Senate for months.

There is nothing that worried John L. Lewis more than
cheap electric power—unless it be cheap natural gas. And
Truman also has neglected one other club he could brandish
over John L. Lewis—namely, the two Covernment-owned
gas operators want to take over Coast which Texas natural
gas operators want to take over Coast which Texas natural
with the threat of cheap natural gas piped into industrial
Pennsylvania and New Vork State and New England,
John L. Lewis might have started singing a less belignered
The twelve-vegar fight have started streams.

The twelve-year fight over the St Lawrence seaway is the greatest monument to effective lobbying ever seen in Washington. In part also it is a monument to Congres-sional inertia. Both Republican and Democratic leaders

Lewis's No. 2 Fear

Truman Peeved

INSIDE fact is that the leaders of the Railway Trair and Engineers, Brother Alexander F. Whitney and, Brother Alexander F. Whitney and Brother Alexander F. Whitney and Brother Alexander F. Washington to renegotiations with no assurances from carrier spokening concessions.

The President also has had on his desk, while talking to Whitney and Johnston, a confidential report pointing out that the 16 cents an hour wage increase recommended for railway trainmen and engineers by the President's emergency board amounted to an 18 per cent boost which is as high a percentage increase as has been awarded by any fact-finding board in any other industry.

* The Presiden's emergency board, the report continued, pointed out that this was the top figure that could be reached in a cost of living adjustment.

Since the day the United Nations moved to New York It has been been with headaches. One insult has followed according. New York officials are much more civil to a steam-ditters convention. But the crossing insult cam-from small compountates which held elections as to whether or not they should play host to the United Nations.