

John Lewis' Extravagant Gesture

REPRESENTATIVE REEVES, Republican of Missouri, calls the mourning period decreed by John Lewis for the victims of the Centralia mine tragedy "a thinly veiled and mocking strike order issued with contemptuous disregard for the Supreme Court's harsh and angry words, certainly, but fully justified."

There could be only two legitimate motives behind the Lewis order. If the stated purpose of mourning is accepted at its face value, a one-day, or even a one-hour, work stoppage marked by appropriate ceremonies would have been adequate. On the other hand, if the UMW boss is seriously trying to force the Government to give private operators to enforce more rigid safety standards, a one-week strike is totally inadequate; to support such a demand he would have had to pull the miners out of the pits and threaten to keep them there until the mines are made safe.

A good many competent observers believe that the great John L. is secretly promoting a merger of the AFL with the UMW. The idea of instantly capturing the leadership of the vast new union and establishing himself as the American labor czar. The "mourning strike" is presumed to be a part of that strategy—a spectacular gesture of defiance that will demonstrate his absolute control of his own union and impress rank and file members of all unions with his courage and his shrewdness.

A Topic For Jefferson Day

THE Democrats in the 80th Congress are considerably more loyal to their Party than were the Democrats of the 79th, but they still do not approach the discipline displayed by the Republicans. Part of this, we suppose, may be attributed to the natural erosion of long years in power, but the voting record still indicates a fundamental cleavage among the Democrats, a division between the conservative wing, largely Southern, and the main body.

This is demonstrated graphically by a study of the voting record for the first three months of the current Congressional session. There were 34 straight party roll-calls in the Senate and nine in the House. Republican discipline in the House was almost perfect; 90 per cent of the GOP members followed the Party line on 100 per cent of the roll-calls, and only a single Republican fell below the 75 per cent level. However, only 40 per cent of the Democrats voted with their own Party 100 per cent of the time, and 22 per cent voted Democratic on less than 75 per cent of the roll-calls. In the Senate 67 per cent of the Republicans followed the line on 90 per cent or more of the roll-calls, and only 10 per cent of the Democrats gave their Party leadership comparable loyalty.

Three Democratic Senators voted with the Republicans more often than they did with their own Party. All three are Southerners—Senators Byrd of Virginia (37 per cent Democratic), McKellar of Tennessee (38 per cent) and O'Daniel of Texas (17 per cent). Four of the six Democratic Representatives who cast a majority of their votes with the GOP also fall from one-party states.

Mecklenburg's Donation To York

IN 1946, South Carolina's retail liquor dealers earned, if they charged the maximum prices allowed under the law, a gross profit of \$10,694,084. This makes the liquor business a major trade in our neighboring state and provides a disturbing commentary on the state of public morals.

But before any citizen of Mecklenburg attempts to cast stones across the border, it might be well to examine the figures in more detail. Only three counties in South Carolina reported their gross retail liquor profits in 1946—Charleston, Richland (Columbia) and York.

The liquorators of our neighboring county sold enough tipple to guarantee a few dealers a gross profit of \$1,028,721. Did all these tainted dollars come out of the pockets of the good citizens of York? Not a bit of it. By a good many jugfuls, York has a reputation of 58,663, and the gross retail liquor profit in a South Carolina county of comparable size (Orangeburg) with a population of 63,701 was only \$233,261.

The other \$793,460 showing black on the books of York's liquor dealers is an annual profit from the citizens of Mecklenburg. And this, of course, represents only the profits of the legal trade, the whisky purchased by Tar Heels over the counters. Rum and brandy, smuggled and hauled back a gallon at a time with the blessing of the North Carolina courts. Certainly the gross profits of the even larger bootleg trade in Charlotte and Raleigh.

Another Voice  
Nepal, Pole And Pelieu

A STATE DEPARTMENT mission is going to Nepal, in the eastern Himalayas, to investigate the alleged activities of a "legation and discussion department" of Nepalese origin. The mission is headed by a "legation and discussion department" of Nepalese origin. The mission is headed by a "legation and discussion department" of Nepalese origin.

Our radio programs beamed at the Soviet Union are devoted to the idea that we feared the chain of the tobacco auctioneer might mean something in Russian.

I Call My Men Out Every Month'

WASHINGTON  
The power politics, the solemn hypocrisy, the snide deceit surrounding the Centralia mine disaster are deeply shocking. The 111 men who were caught in that deadly trap can never know the full story but it is important for the public to know the facts.

John L. Lewis has turned his anger on the Federal Government. He has failed to enforce the safety regulations. He has failed to enforce the safety regulations. He has failed to enforce the safety regulations.

COAL MINE FATALITIES

Phantoms Of Unreality

CHARLOTTE  
Calhoun and the great heart and the broad mind, the sympathy and understanding, Abraham Lincoln placed him among the great of earth and beyond the power of any state or any section or any class in addition to or detract from his own.

People's Platform

Senator Soaper Says:

Drew Pearson's: Centralia Center Of Lewis' Civil War

THE entire nation was deeply saddened by the tragic death of 111 coal miners at Centralia, and it is devoutly to be hoped that the disaster will prove a lesson to mine operators who have resisted Federal inspection recommendations.

Marquis Childs Behind Centralia

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