

Washington Digest

National Topics Interpreted
By WILLIAM BRUCKART
NATIONAL PRESS BLDG. WASHINGTON, D. C.



Washington.—Many spineless officials of the federal government were horribly shocked the other day when several hundred farmers

Mast Curb Lewis
took matters into their own hands and drove a bunch of sit-down strikers out of the great Hershey chocolate plants in Pennsylvania. They thought it was terrible that men who were striking for higher wages should be beaten and slugged as the farmers at Hershey, Pennsylvania, treated the sit-down strikers. The strikers had closed the chocolate plants, thus cutting off the daily market for thousands of gallons of milk.

Fortunately for the country the number of these spineless creatures, charged with official responsibility, is very few. But I mention the fact because therein is a key to some of the things that have been happening in the Roosevelt administration's treatment of the labor disturbances.

I believe no one can support violence but there can be no doubt that the federal government is charged with responsibility for protecting rights. Rights are possessed by everyone under our Constitution and under our form of government and when a handful of individuals assume to disregard the rights of others it becomes something more than a situation about which soft words and tears for the down-trodden worker are required.

The importance of the action of the farmers at Hershey, Pennsylvania, cannot be minimized. It is a straw that points which way the wind blows. It means that unless the heading and unrestrained actions of John L. Lewis and his labor agitators are curbed, sooner or later we will pay with blood; we will pay with lives of citizens because the American people always have insisted and always will insist upon a square deal.

In treating of conditions within the country, it is well always to avoid inflammatory declarations. I hope I am never guilty of unfairness in anything I write. But the cold fact is that, in this country, the time has arrived when government must make a choice between its functions as government and allowing autocracy of labor leaders to destroy the rights and property of the other millions of our population. Labor has its rights and they must be protected, but it is equally important that the rights of those who are not members of any union, who want to work, who own property, be protected. Thus far in the present labor controversy, it must be said that the Roosevelt administration and the governors of most of the states have fallen short in their sworn duty.

There has been much praise accorded Governor Murphy of Michigan for "settling" the strikes in the automobile plants. Yet, I cannot help wondering whether the term "settlement" is correct when strikers thumbed their noses at the courts and when law enforcement officers were told by their superiors to hold off the execution of court decrees. It seems to me that we, as a nation, will have cause to regret "settlements" of that kind for a good many years to come.

I am inclining to the belief that there is only one word capable of describing the attitude of the Roosevelt administration in dealing

Political Cowardice
with strikers of the sit down character. Labor has a weapon in the strike and it is entitled to use that weapon because too many business interests have refused to be fair. But when labor abuses, instead of uses, the weapon available to it, then the time has come to call them to account just as business interests are called to account when they violate laws. The difference is that the ranks of labor involve millions of votes whereas, the ranks of business involve only a comparatively small number of votes. Therefore, by any line of reasoning I have been able to follow through, it seems to me that the federal government's position thus far can properly be described as political cowardice.

There are a number of reasons why I think this term is appropriate. First, there was the famous night conference when Mr. Roosevelt returned from his Georgia vacation and talked things over with the house and senate New Deal leaders. They emerged from that meeting with the President, saying that the federal government could do nothing; that no federal laws had been violated and that no request had come from any proper authority for federal government intervention.

It makes one laugh, such statements as these. If President Roosevelt and his administration had desired to curb sit down strikes, does anyone believe that he could not have conveyed word to Governor Murphy of Michigan that he was willing to help? I think there are

plenty of grapevines by which word could have been sent to the Michigan governor and, I truly believe, that if there had been a request for federal troops, there would have been a distinct change in the attitude of Labor Leader Lewis almost overnight.

Further, I have heard from plenty of lawyers in the house and senate that the decision that no federal law was being violated was wholly questionable. Those lawyers were quite convinced that Mr. Roosevelt had federal statutes at his command to use as the basis for action in the various sit down strikes—if he seriously wanted to get mixed up in the labor row.

Then, I am reminded of the very frequent attacks which were forthcoming from the White House and other New Deal spokesmen when employers and banks and business generally failed to measure up to New Deal demands in the recovery programs. The President spoke with emphasis on those occasions. He has been completely silent in the current situation.

And he has been able to maintain silence through protection given him by political maneuvering in the senate. As an instance of this, let

Kept Silent
me cite the efforts of Senator McNary of Oregon, the so-called Republican leader, in the senate, who attempted to put the question directly to the President. He sought, when the senate was floundering and dodging over a resolution condemning sit down strikes, to change the form of the resolution from one needing only concurrence of the house to a joint resolution which is a measure that requires the signature of the President. Majority Leader Robinson was quick to block that maneuvering. No one needs to tell you, of course, that Mr. Roosevelt did not want to have that resolution come to him.

So, as a second instance of federal government sissiness, we see a subservient majority of New Dealers adopting a resolution which said in effect, "You naughty boys! You know it is wrong to indulge in sit down strikes, to take possession of other people's property, and we are going to slap you on the wrist for it." Well, that was a declaration of policy but when the resolution was before the senate they could not resist the temptation to denounce business because they charged it was unfair to labor.

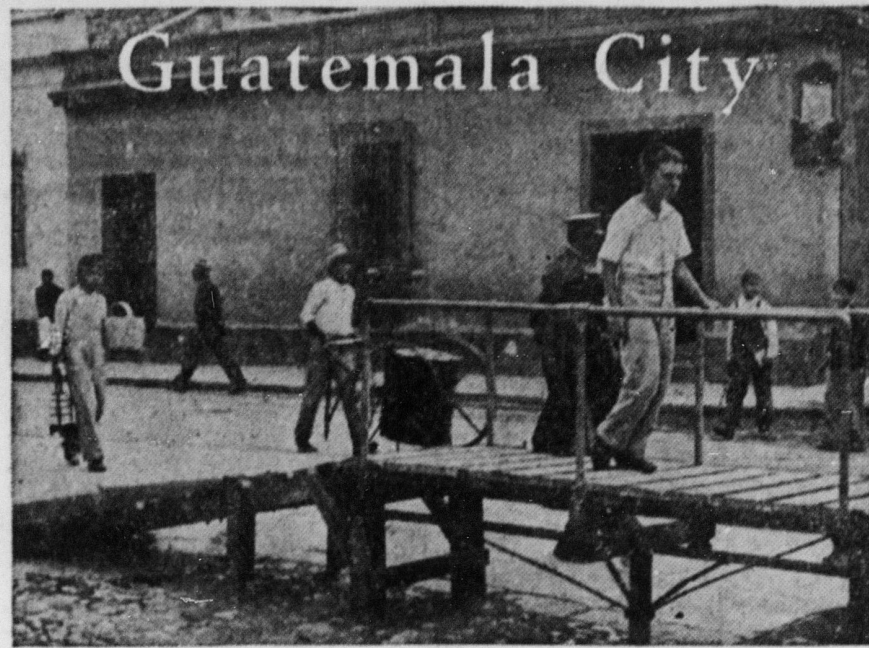
Then, we have another circumstance. Representative Dies, a Texas Democrat, proposed a resolution in the house for an investigation of sit down strikes. Mr. Dies was willing to condemn sit down strikes but he wanted to know what the facts were. Very quickly, many of the weak-kneed boys on the floor of the house smelled a thoroughgoing inquiry into labor organizations generally, into political activities of labor groups, into racketeering where local labor organizations are in the hands of irresponsible or scheming radicals. So, the house sneaked out from under and, as painlessly as possible, dodged this issue by depositing the Dies resolution on the table from which, of course, it will never be withdrawn.

I called these policies political cowardice in an earlier statement in this article. All of the elements seem to me to be present to justify that description. But there is another phase of the whole situation. It concerns the future of the politicians who have run away from the real issue this time. I am quite convinced it will rise up to hold them in the not too distant future.

In the course of the discussion of the labor controversy, I adverted on several occasions to the politics that is imbedded in the situation. There is so much of politics in the picture that one hears in the under current around Washington a discussion of President Roosevelt's future plans. It is curious, but it appears possible, that Mr. Roosevelt may be forced to run for a third term. Such a course obviously would break all precedents, but Mr. Roosevelt likes to break precedents.

He has stated on several occasions his ambition to leave the White House in 1940 with the nation at peace and economically prosperous. This observation has been repeated whenever the opportunity was propitious. On the last occasion, there were a number of observers in Washington who sustained the same reaction to the declaration, namely, that perhaps—and only perhaps—Mr. Roosevelt had a yearning in his heart to serve another four years after his present term expires. One writer, noted for his direct expressions, observed that only by constantly referring to his future retirement could the President invite groups to interest themselves in demanding him to run for a third term.

© Western Newspaper Union.



Rainy Season Bridge in Guatemala City.

Prepared by National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.—WNU Service.

WHEN you enter Guatemala City, you are in the most populous place in all Central America. With a population of 120,000, including about 6,000 foreigners, Guatemala City is a thriving metropolis of well-paved streets, department stores, luxury shops, cafes, country clubs, busy factories, garages, and modern hotels. Its motion picture theaters, showing mostly American "talkies" with Spanish subtitles, advertise with big electric signs overhanging the streets in Broadway style.

At the capital's covered central market, the largest in the country, the array of foodstuffs, textiles, utensils, furniture, and other commodities is endless. Its long aisles, and the streets adjoining the market building and cathedral, are always jammed with a noisy, restless throng of merchants and buyers.

And the odors, strange, spicy and heavy! The fresh scents of vegetables and exotic flowers mingle with the greasy smell of cooking food, the aroma of roasted coffee, and the balmy fragrance of copal incense.

Those with weak stomachs may not like the appearance or odor of freshly slaughtered meat. Nor will they find appetizing the leached corn mash for tortillas; or armadillo roasted in their shells; or crude brown sugar pressed into dirty blocks and balls. But visitors are delighted with bright tropical fruits piled in artistic display, graceful baskets and glazed pottery, and gay textiles woven on primitive hand looms.

Guatemalans are proud, and justly so, of the fine coffee grown in their highlands. Placards in English and Spanish remind the visitor at every turn that "Guatemala Grows the Best Coffee in the World."

On the days when tourist trains arrive in Guatemala City, the department of agriculture holds open house. Small packages of freshly roasted coffee, wrapped in glazed paper, are presented to each visitor. They are appropriate souvenirs of a nation which is the sixth most important coffee grower in the world, being exceeded only by Brazil, Colombia, the Netherlands Indies, Venezuela and El Salvador.

The second most important export is the banana, grown in the coastal plains bordering the Gulf of Honduras and the Pacific.

Airport a Busy Spot.
One of the busiest spots today in this busiest of Central American capitals is La Aurora airport. Here the trunk line of the Pan American Airways from Brownsville, Texas, to Panama connects with a half-dozen local air services to distant parts of the republic.

Many who do not come to Guatemala City by plane, come by boat, and dock at San Jose, a sleepy little tropical port. Between steamers this "back door" to Guatemala drowns in the shade of tall breadfruit trees and coconut palms, and carries on a desultory commerce with the Indians of the coastal lagoons.

Its dingy water front, ragged porters and fishermen, stifling heat, and main street pre-empted by railroad tracks give no promise of the color and activity of Guatemala's gay, modern capital, high up in the cool central plateau.

The first part of the 73-mile journey to Guatemala City follows a gently rising plain, whose black volcanic soil is planted thickly in bananas, sugar cane, cotton, cacao, and fruit trees. Guatemala City is nearly a mile above sea level, in the cool and healthful tierra templada, or temperate zone, and the train must gain most of this altitude in the last fifty miles.

Not far beyond Palin the line creeps through a narrow valley between two towering peaks and comes out on the edge of mountain-rimmed Lake Amatitlan. For several miles the railroad winds along the shore, passing groups of Indian women washing clothes in hot springs at the water's edge. It is a convenient laundry, for clothes may be boiled in the springs and rinsed in the cold fresh water of the lake without taking a step!

The train approaches Guatemala City through verdant suburbs which give way to warehouses and railroad yards, indicating the commercial activity of this busy Latin American capital.

"Winter" Means Rainy Season.
From the terminal, taxis whisk visitors over smoothly paved streets to their hotel, frequently a grandiose structure with a glass-covered

Murmurings of Spring



1257 "If you'd take a few steps, Sis, I believe I'd be inspired to answer that question, 'Did you ever see a dream walking?' You are nothing less than devastating—truly a menace!"
"You meow so sweetly, Connie. I'm a bit suspicious that this little peplum frock of mine has got you catty. Your eyes really aren't green by rights, you know."

Connie Sews Her Own.
"How could you? I think my dress looks as nice on me as yours does on you. Why practically all of the girls at the Laf-a-Lot last night wanted to know where I found such a lovely frock. Not one of them guessed that I made it myself. And did I feel elegant when I played Mendelssohn's Spring Song on Diane's new baby grand! The girls said I fit into the picture perfectly. I thought if only Dwight could see me now."

"I still say my two-piecer with its piped peplum, cute little buttons and stream-lines is the No. 1 spring outfit in this woman's town."
"Girls, girls, if your talk were only half as pretty as your frocks you'd be better off. Sometimes I wonder if you wouldn't be more appropriately titled The Check Twins, rather than The Chic Twins."

Okay, Mother, you win. Let's change the subject by changing clothes. We'll put on our collottes and join you in a round of golf, how's that? Gee, Mother, you never look sweeter than when you're wearing a casual young two-piece shirt dress. The plaid pique is just the thing for you, too. In fact, Mom, you're just about tops from any angle."

The Patterns.
Pattern 1257 is for sizes 12 to 20 (30 to 40 bust). Size 14 requires 4 1/2 yards of 39-inch material plus 11 yards of ribbon or bias binding. Pattern 1231 is available in sizes 14 to 20 (32 to 42 bust). Size 16 requires 4 1/4 yards of 39-inch material.
Pattern 1236 comes in sizes 14 to 20 (32 to 42 bust). Size 16 requires 4 1/4 yards of 39-inch material.

New Pattern Book.
Send for the Spring-Summer Pattern Book containing Barbara Bell well-planned, easy-to-make patterns. Exclusive fashions for children, young women, and matrons. Send 15 cents for your copy.
Send your order to The Sewing Circle Pattern Dept., 247 W. Forty-third street, New York, N. Y. Patterns 15 cents (in coins) each.
© Bell Syndicate.—WNU Service.

MM! BEST SOUP I EVER TASTED . . . IT'S PHILLIPS DELICIOUS!

Says **GEORGE RECTOR**
AMERICA'S FOREMOST COOKING AUTHORITY AND MASTER CHEF OF PHILLIPS DELICIOUS SOUPS

Delicious Southern SOUPS

LISTEN IN
Columbia Network
Wed.—Thurs.—Fri.
Afternoons 1:30
"DINING WITH GEORGE RECTOR"
Famous Recipes . . .
\$10 Good Cooking Award
at Every Broadcast.

Different Ups
You can't keep a good man down; nor an impudent one.

Be Careful—First Rule
No one has the right of way when a life is at stake.

PLEASE ACCEPT

THIS Exquisite \$1.00 GAME CARVING SET

for only 25c with your purchase of one can of B. T. Babbitt's Nationally Known Brands of Lye

This is the Carving Set you need for steaks and game. Deerhorn design handle fits the hand perfectly. Knife blade and fork tines made of fine stainless steel. Now offered for only 25c to induce you to try the brands of lye shown at right.

Use them for sterilizing milking machines and dairy equipment. Contents of one can dissolved in 17 gallons of water makes an effective, inexpensive sterilizing solution. Buy today a can of any of the lye brands shown at right. Then send the can band, with your name and address and 25c to B. T. Babbitt, Inc., Dept. W.K., 386 4th Ave., New York City. Your Carving Set will reach you promptly, postage paid. Send today while the supply lasts.

OFFER GOOD WITH ANY BRAND SHOWN BELOW

Babbitt Red Seal Chamber Red Devil Other

TEAR OUT THIS ADVERTISEMENT AS A REMINDER