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LABOR RIVALS IN GRAPPLE IN THE UNITY PROBLEM

Fundamentals of Original Dispute Before AFL and CIO Committees.

The seven men appointed to explore the possibility of ending organized labor's three year interine war took four long peeks into the Pandora's box of their controversy last week and then adjourned to meet again in the national capitol on Friday of this week.

Definite, affirmative progress in a settlement of the conflict between the American Federation of Labor and the Congress of Industrial Organizations had not been expected in the opening peace conference sessions. A kind of negative progress however was apparent. Industrial unionism was the cause of the main gripping. There was a man to man discussion of views and the discussion involved the fundamentals of the dispute, though lack of time prevented any real progress.

The meeting brought together men whose chief occupation for many years had been bargaining—though with employers. John L. Lewis, president of the CIO, who even now is helping his united Mine Workers to negotiate with the coal operators of the Appalachian area for a new contract, was spokesman for the CIO committee, which also included Philip Murray, chief of the CIO's steel labor forces, and Sidney Hillman, veteran negotiator of many collective bargaining contracts.

On the AFL's side as chairman was Harry C. Bates, a Texan, bricklayer by occupation and chief of the Bricklayers' Union, a key organization in the Building Trades. With him were Matthew Wolf of the Photo-Engravers' union; Daniel J. Tobin, chief of the strategic teamsters' organization, and Thos. A. Rickert of the United Garment Workers. Messrs. Wolf and Tobin, walking encyclopedias of labor history and union practice, together with Mr. Rickert, were among the aides and confidantes of the famous labor chief, Samuel Gompers.

This was in apparent that the men on the two committees were fairly evenly matched in ability, experience and resourcefulness.

Each side began, as might have been expected, by making its maximum demands and tentatively offering its minimum concessions. The CIO suggested formation of a kind of super-federation of labor comprising both the AFL and CIO together with the railway brotherhoods. This was rejected by the Bates committee, which proposed that the committees take up the discussion where it stood in December, 1937, when peace conferences ended without result.

Immediately two questions arose:

(1) Where did the 1937 conference break off?
(2) What changes have occurred since 1937 that may have affected the relationship of the two labor groups?

On the first question the AFL maintained that its side had made important concessions toward the industrial union idea. It was argued that the federation's peace committee had expressed willingness to reserve certain basic and other industries for the industrial unions.

The federation spokesmen also argued that in those fields where dispute existed as to jurisdiction between affiliates of the rival groups joint meetings held by those groups in order to straighten out jurisdictional tangles.

The Lewis forces admitted there had been considerable discussion in 1937 respecting the various industries which were to have been "spotted" for industrial union organization efforts, but maintained that the boundaries and limitations of these industries had not been fixed. Indeed, Mr. Lewis sought to obtain from the AFL committee a precise formulation of these boundaries, as fixed at the 1937 conference.

The AFL group made no definite reply but sought in turn to ascertain from Mr. Lewis what boundaries he proposed to fix for some of the industries in which the CIO was interested. It then developed that the boundary question in 1937 and the same question today were not one and the same thing.

Since that year Mr. Lewis had extended his jurisdiction, so far as the miners' union is concerned, by taking in the coke industry and the chemical and explosives industry. Today also the Amalgamated Clothing Workers has a considerable block of laundry workers and employes in other and related fields.

If the AFL was willing in 1937 to accept without discussion the return of the original founding unions of the CIO, such as the miners and clothing workers, would the federation be agreeable to taking them in now, with their present jurisdictions? When this question was asked by the CIO, the AFL asked in turn, what boundaries the CIO unions wished to fix at this

WAGES & HOURS REAL ISSUES OF MINE CONFABS

Conferences Go Steadily Ahead in New York City With Hope for Settlement.

New York.—A spokesman for the soft coal operators said Tuesday following another session with the United Mine Workers that he hoped a new wages and hours contract would be signed before March 31st, expiration date of the old agreement.

Charles O'Neill of New York said the committee of 32 discussed wages and the mechanization of mines and the problems arising from displacement of hand labor.

O'Neill said wages and hours were the real issues and expressed belief that discussion of the six hour day should not take more than a day. He did not indicate when he expected the subject of wages—on which the two groups are far apart—would be concluded.

Philip Murray, vice president of the union, agreed to O'Neill's outline but made no comment on the outlook for early settlement of the differences.

No vote has been taken on any of the proposals, spokesmen said. The negotiators of a new contract for the Appalachian area in which 338,000 miners are employed are weighing labor's demands for a wage increase and a shorter work week and the operators' counter proposal for a pay cut.

Meanwhile, preliminary to negotiating a new wage and hour scale for the anthracite industry, the tri-district convention of the UMWA begins today.

BINGO UNDER BAN IN COUNTY AND DRIVE IS NOW ON

But Apparently Only the Commercialized Game Is Threatened by District Attorney.

What appears to be the beginning of a general campaign against various boards paying cash "off the counter," Cambria County has been launched by county authorities.

In swift succession, county detectives struck at bingo, cash punch boards and the "treasury" lottery. Steps were taken over the week-end to curb bingo that had developed into a major pastime in Cambria County. This was followed by orders to merchants and others to get all punch boards paying cash "of the counter."

It was reported that county authorities have notified merchants and others to get rid of punch boards which pay cash prizes.

It was understood that operators of bingo establishments had received the "suggestion" that they eliminate all cash prizes, including "jackpots" and "specials," in the future.

Further commercializing of bingo by banning those establishments operated by private groups or individuals solely as an enterprise for personal profit have been ruled out, it also was learned.

However, it was learned that various civic, religious and fraternal groups have and are continuing to operate bingo games, minus the cash "jackpots" and "specials." Under the "suggestion" offered by county officials awards are being limited to groceries or merchandise.

The Patton Fire Company, however, will conduct their regular weekly bingo party in the Municipal Building on Friday of this week in the usual manner, and will, after this week continue the games also, under plans to be announced later, and in conformity with the regulations of the authorities.

BOY SHOT THROUGH FOOT IN ACCIDENT

Paul Venesky, 13-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Venesky of Bakerton, suffered a gunshot wound of the right foot last Monday afternoon while engaged in shooting mark with a companion, William Murphy.

Venesky told authorities he was using a .22-caliber rifle in shooting mark and that the gun discharged accidentally while he was resting it on his foot. The bullet passed through the foot. Venesky was removed to the Spangler Hospital. His condition was reported as good.

time if their return were agreed to.

Both of these questions went unanswered. They were left hanging in the air and the AFL group went to President Green to report in Washington. Friday brings the two groups together once again. What may be ironed out is a matter of conjecture.

ENGINEERING IS PLANNED TO BE OF HELP TO COAL

"Restore Coal AS King" Is Slogan of Gigantic Research to Be Started.

Pittsburgh.—Fifteen engineers representing the Nation's bituminous coal producers charted a \$700,000 three year research program designed to restore coal production to the 500,000,000-ton boom-time peak by wresting markets from gas and oil industries.

Constituting the research committee of the Bituminous Coal Research Inc., which is sponsored by the bituminous industry and coal hauling railroads, the engineers met to draw up a program for development of automatic coal heating and other devices for homes and the steel and ceramic industries.

The bituminous research supervises and underwrites research projects at various coal laboratories and schools. One of the principal laboratories in a previous three-year study was the Battelle Memorial Institute in Columbia, Ohio.

E. R. Kaiser of Columbus, O., assistant to the president of the group, would "increase production in the 6,000 commercial coal mines in 28 states from 340,000,000 tons in 1938 to well over 500,000,000-ton peak of the 1929 boom period."

"Coal is the lowest-cost fuel in many markets," Kaiser said. "The lack of proper technical development of automatic firing devices and improved methods of handling coal gave gas and oil, with their automatic devices, and advantage."

The program, Kaiser said, also seeks to provide suitable equipment for firing of bituminous coal in pulverized form in steel heating and in heat treatment in ceramics and in industrial melting and for automatic gasification of coal. Construction of an internal combustion engine, "unlike present coal dust engines used in Europe," is also contemplated, he said.

"Our opportunities have hardly been tapped," Kaiser said declaring that coal research had failed to keep pace with that of other industries.

"Whereas coal executives are now busy with matters of settling wage contracts with miners' unions and attempting to establish prices on bituminous coal as set by the Bituminous Coal Act of 1937, the engineers on the other hand have organized a program of research that appears to be more significant to the industry."

NEW SYSTEM NOW

Is In Operation in the County Treasurer's Office.

Completion of a new accounting system in the office of County Treasurer John Lloyd Jones, including a tax records new method of keeping delinquent tax records was announced on Tuesday by County Controller Henry L. Cannon under whose supervision the system was installed.

The new system took four months to install, and President Judge John H. McCann stated that he believed it the most simple system of ascertaining delinquent taxes on any particular property that he ever noted.

BARNESBORO MAN IS INJURED AT WORK

Edwin Binder, senior member of the Binder Bros. hardware store in Barnesboro and prominent north county Legionaire, was admitted to Miners' Hospital, Spangler, at 7:15 o'clock last Thursday evening suffering of a fracture of the right ankle. He was assisting workmen to install a stove in the home of Larry Pestanin in Colver when the stove slipped and fell upon his ankle. Binder is deputy county commander of the American Legion and is service officer of the Barnesboro Post.

LEWIS DAY EVENT PLANNED APRIL 1

The Northern Cambria Industrial Union Council, at a meeting last Wednesday evening in Moose Hall at Barnesboro, voted to sponsor a John L. Lewis Day for the north of the County on April 1. The celebration, the place for which has not yet been selected, will feature a parade. A special meeting was called last night to complete arrangements for the event. R. G. Davis of Spangler is president of the Council.

A fortune in old violins, including a \$10,000 Stradivarius, was destroyed by fire last Friday when the auto in which they were being transported from Pittsburgh to New York City plunged down a forty foot embankment and burned on the Lincoln highway. Occupants of car escaped injury.

FACTORIES OF DISTRICT SHOW PAYROLL GAINS

Conditions Appear Again to be on Upswing With Optimism More Prevalent.

Factory payrolls in the Johnstown industrial area took a sharp jump during the month of February, it was disclosed this week in a report issued by the Philadelphia Federal Reserve Bank.

Factory employment in the district, which comprises Cambria, Somerset, Indiana Counties, also showed an increase for the month, but it was not nearly as pronounced as the upswing in payrolls. Employe hours showed a sharp gain for the month, however, and this was believed to account for the sharp payroll gain.

The index of factory payrolls for the area climbed above the 100 mark in February for the first time since November, 1937.

The February payroll index for the area was 101.2 as compared with 92.2 for January. The increase was 9 full points, or approximately 9.6 per cent. The February index of payrolls also showed a gain of a full 19 points over the rating of 82.2 for February, 1938. It was 10.2 points above the best rating for any one month in 1938—91 points in October.

The district's index of factory payrolls started to drop sharply in September, 1937, as the recession began to make itself felt. It slid to a low of 76 in March of last year before starting a slow climb. The depression low in the payroll index was 22.9 in December, 1932, and the post-depression high was 217.9 in May, 1937.

The district's index of factory employment climbed from 88.3 in January to 89.6 last month for a gain of 1.3 points, or a little over one percent. It was still 5.6 points under the rating for February, 1937, when the index stood at 95.2.

PLAN A PROGRAM

Music Tournament to Be Held Last of the Week.

Plans for a musical festival of Cambria County students were outlined last Saturday evening at a dinner-meeting of the Cambria County Music Supervisors Association in the Metropolitan Hotel in Ebensburg. The event will be held Saturday, May 20, in the Ebensburg-Cambria High School. The festival will be staged in the afternoon and a concert will be given in the evening by an all-county high school band.

Edmund D. Horner, supervisor of music in Westmont-Upper Yoder High School, and president of the association, presided at the meeting, which was attended by 15 supervisors of music in the county. Application forms will be mailed to all schools this week, with the request they state the number of students who will participate in the festival.

While no time limit has been set for the length of each number to be presented at the festival, it is believed that about 10 minutes will be allotted each group.

Rehearsals for the all-county band will be held in the Ebensburg-Cambria High School on April 22 and May 6. Music will be furnished members of the band by the association.

Efforts will be made throughout the county to have Parent-Teacher Association members furnish transportation for students participating in the programs.

Two committees were named at Saturday's meeting. The committee on band membership and music selections is composed of William Smathers, Ebensburg-Cambria Township; John Lodzsun, Franklin, Richard O'Connor, Cresson; George Wilson, Portage; Homer Baker, Ferndale; Claude Amps, Adams Township, and Robert N. Gobrecht, Barnesboro.

The committee on the festival is composed of Mrs. Jane Allison Thompson, Cambria Township; James Bruno, East Conemaugh, and Chester A. Risher, South Fork.

PEDESTRIAN HURT WHEN HIT BY CAR

Bakerton.—Peter Nastasi, 60, of Bakerton, was painfully injured at 10:40 Wednesday night when he was struck by an automobile as he was walking along the highway near Bakerton. The car which struck Nastasi was operated by Frank Shortencarrier of Bakerton, who told police the pedestrian stepped from the side of the highway into the path of the car.

Shortencarrier removed Nastasi to Spangler Hospital, where an examination showed he was suffering from brush burns of the scalp and bruises of the left leg. His condition was reported as good.

FIRST AID MEET PLANNED FOR STATE MINERS

Secretary of Mines Names Men to Make Arrangements for a Big Field Gathering.

Mine rescue and first-aid teams of Cambria County will be given an opportunity to compete in another statewide contest this year, according to word received this week by state mine inspectors in this territory.

John Ira Thomas, secretary of mines, announced that the State Department of Mines, cooperating with the U. S. Bureau of Mines, would conduct a state-wide contest similar to the one held last year. Richard Maize, Uniontown, a state mine inspector, has been designated by Thomas to head the committee on arrangements.

Preliminary arrangements for the contest, including a series of regional eliminations, will be worked out at a meeting called for 2 p. m., March 31, in the auditorium of the U. S. Bureau of Mines headquarters, 4800 Forbes St., Pittsburgh, Pa. R. D. Joseph, state mine inspector of the Sixth Bituminous District, will represent the Cambria County region at the meeting.

PREPARE TO PUT NEW TEETH IN LIQUOR CONTROL

Bill Would Put Ban on Number of Road Houses and Provide Stricter Regulations.

Harrisburg.—Leaders of a House Committee last Friday proposed to put new teeth into state liquor laws, giving the liquor control board new powers to limit the number of licenses throughout the state.

"We're going to do it if we can get it through the House," said Representative Thomas Lyons, Republican, Mercer, chairman of the House Liquor Committee.

The proposed program of liquor legislation also would grant the board the right to press a vigorous campaign, with more latitude in the number of offenses for which it might revoke or suspend a license.

Lyons estimated that by gradual elimination of objectionable beer or liquor licenses, the number of drinking places might be cut one-third.

The proposed legislation originated in a special all-Republican committee, which was to have been abandoned at the end of the February recess, but the Republican members have continued to hold meetings.

It also was learned that the committee members suggested means of obtaining approximately \$25,000,000 extra every two years in liquor revenues, in return for a reduction or elimination of the present personal property tax, estimated to yield \$20,000,000 in the two year period.

They estimated the state might obtain an additional \$17,000,000 a biennium through elimination of the present 16 and one-half percent discount on liquor sold by the state stores to retailers for resale, and \$8,000,000 from another source of the liquor revenue which committee members declined to reveal.

ANNOUNCE PROGRAM FOR COAL MEETING AT CINCINNATI

With modernization of methods and equipment claiming the interest of coal mine operators and executives as the primary factor in reducing production costs and regaining markets lost to competitive fuels, the industry will meet in Cincinnati, April 24-28 at the 16th Annual Coal Convention and Exposition of the American Mining Congress for discussion of common problems. Prominent among these problems are preparation of coal for the market, mine haulage, methods of conveyor mining, mechanical loading, mine supervision, and modern safety programs.

National economic problems will also be highspotted at the meeting where particular attention will be paid by delegates to the merits and demerits of the Guffey Coal Act and to the benefits of mechanization to the coal industry. Two prominent coal leaders are scheduled to discuss these subjects. George B. Harrington, President, Chicago, Wilmington and Franklin Coal Corporation, Chicago, will present the pros and cons of federal regulation, and Dr. L. E. Young, Vice President, Pittsburgh Coal Company, Pittsburgh, will outline the benefits derived by the industry through mine mechanization. The program for the meeting has been drafted by a National Committee directed by W. J. Jenkins, President, Consolidated Coal Co., St. Louis, Mo.,

EXPECT TO LABEL CARELESS AUTO DRIVER IN MOVE

Bill Would Put Drastic Penalties on the Chap in State Who Is Reckless.

A proposal to further reduce Pennsylvania's highway death toll through labeling careless drivers and automatic license revocation after the fourth motor law violation was before the 1938 legislature this week.

Conceding the difficulty of matching the near 30 per cent reduction in automobile deaths achieved in 1938, state safety experts were studying the bill carefully in the hopes it might carry on unabated the success of the 50-mile speed law enforcement.

The measure was introduced by Senator Charles A. P. Bartlett, Republican, Northampton. It was drafted by the Legislative Reference Bureau along plans suggested by Fred C. Kline, Bethlehem director of Public Safety.

A complete revision of the operator's licensing system, the bill would establish drastic standards for all drivers and increasingly sharp penalties for successive violations of safety laws. The system would be put into full operation next year and the regular licensing period thereafter would expire February 28 instead of January 31.

Licenses designated "Class A" would be issued at the start to all licensed operators. The number years the driver had operated a motor vehicle without conviction of a violation of the motor code would be marked on the reverse side and perfect records indicated with a star. If more than one violation were recorded against a driver the number of years since the last would be indicated.

After the first violation bearing a fine from \$10 to \$25 the "Class A" license would be lost for at least a year and must be surrendered to a local magistrate who returns it to the Revenue Department. On payment of \$2 fee the license would be returned with the Class A corner removed, making the license type "B."

The next violation would repeat the same procedure and the license returned as a "Class B probationary" type. The third of this class of violation or the first violation bearing a fine of more than \$25 is penalized by the "Class C" license. This license is issued only on written request of the operator and on payment of a combined fee of \$15, \$5 for the license and \$10 for "Class C plates" which must be displayed on the front and rear of all vehicles operated by a Class C driver. It is estimated 10 per cent of drivers will receive Class B cards and less than five per cent Class B probationary.

Any further violation brings revocation of all operating privileges for a year.

Any driver who is demoted to Class C for drunken driving or failure to stop and render assistance may operate a motor vehicle only from sunrise to sunset. Any class C driver who has his license privileges revoked for ordinary cause must wait an additional year before they may be restored.

Violations of the act would be penalized by \$150 fines.

While the bill is more severe than the great majority of state licensing laws, the system of penalizing habitual violators has been widely advocated. The James administration has indicated no position on the measure, but has pledged its full support to other strong safety measures such as license suspension for speeding, which is given a great part of the credit of the credit for the 1938 reduction in fatalities.

The State Motor Police have fixed their goal for 1939 at 20 per cent reduction, which would cut the 1937 toll of 2,564 in half.

Col. Cecil M. Wilhelm, acting head of the Motor Police, said late last week that excessive speed on the state's highways was the "exception to the rule."

A meeting of the Cambria County Sportsmen's Association will be held in the Courthouse at Ebensburg, this Thursday evening, March 23, at 7:30 P. M.

Mr. Bloom, representing the Fair Ground ownership, will be present, to discuss the location for the proposed field day of the sportsmen.

and composed of progressive mining leaders representing each of the coal producing districts. In addition to national economic problems, this Committee has scheduled a list of topics which embraces every important phase of the industry at the present time.

Representing this district in the discussions will be T. F. McCarthy, Gen. Supt., Clearfield Bituminous Coal Corp'n., Indiana, Pa., and C. P. Britton, Mining Engineer, Barnes & Tucker Coal Corp'n., Barnesboro, Pa. Their subject will be "Engineering Studies and Conveyor Cost Analyses."