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Gloomy Picture In Mine Situation Is Developing

CIO CHARGE IS MADE OF LABOR ACT SABOTAGE

Charge Green, Manufacturers' Association and Chamber of Commerce in 'Conspiracy.'

Washington.—The CIO charged on Monday night that AFL President William Green, the National Association of Manufacturers and the Chamber of Commerce of the United States are "engaged in a definite conspiracy" to break down the Wagner Labor Relations Act. Green said the accusation was untrue.

The CIO sent to all senators and congressmen a compared comparison of the AFL, NAM, and Chamber of Commerce amendments to the act as the senate education and labor committee prepared to begin the public hearings which started Tuesday.

"If these amendments are passed they will disturb existing collective bargaining relations in many industries, create disorder and confusion in the whole matter of labor relations and promote industrial strife in place of the industrial peace which has progressively followed upon acceptance of the Wagner act by employers," the CIO declared.

Scheduling of the hearings already has caused the indefinite postponement of the AFL-CIO peace talks sponsored by President Roosevelt and many believe that the show down on this issue will block hope for reunion of the warring labor factions.

The CIO statement said that the campaign to amend the act revealed a "strange line-up between anti-union manufacturers and certain leaders" of the AFL.

It declared that neither the NAM, Chamber of Commerce nor Green "truly represent the interests of those for whom they claim to speak." It said that many AFL organizations are on record against all amendments to the Wagner act and a number of them have made various specific objections to the Walsh amendment.

"The membership of the AFL in general has benefitted greatly from the Wagner act and wants to see it preserved," the statement continued. "That is why the AFL leaders who advocate amendments pretend that it is for the purpose of strengthening the act, whereas the facts will show that all proposed amendments would actually cripple and destroy the act in performing the purposes for which it was created."

Comparison of the National Association of Manufacturers, Chamber of Commerce and (Senator David L.) Walsh-Green amendments shows that they represent in fact a conspiracy on the part of selfish minority interests against fair employers, against labor, and against the welfare of the general public."

NICKTOWN REORGANIZES ITS BASEBALL CLUB

The Nicktown Independent Baseball Club held a reorganization meeting in St. Nicholas Hall, last Sunday afternoon last, in which the following officers were elected for the ensuing season: Irvin Hoppel, Chief Coach; Fred R. Pfister, Business Manager; G. R. Lovette, Secretary. Abe Peters, treasurer of the club, acted as chairman of the meeting.

Last season Nicktown had the strongest independent baseball nine in Northern Cambria, playing 35 games and winning 29. The team is sponsored by the Nicktown Civic Club.

All candidates for the team this season are requested to attend the next regular meeting which will be held in St. Nicholas Hall, Nicktown on Sunday, April 16, at 1:00 P. M.

NANTY-GLO BURGESS DIES IN HARRISBURG

T. P. Burns, aged 63 years, Burgess of Nanty-Glo, and well known all over Cambria county, died on Monday morning in a Harrisburg hospital. He had been stricken with a heart attack on Saturday after arriving in Harrisburg to spend Easter with his only sister, Miss Sue Burns. He was taken to the hospital and was placed in an oxygen tent. He rallied on Sunday but relapsed Monday morning and died a short time later.

In addition to serving as Burgess Mr. Burns served as justice of the peace in Nanty-Glo for the last seven years. Prior to entering politics he was engaged in business. He operated a meat market in Nanty-Glo for a number of years. Mr. Burns was a member of St. Mary's Catholic church in Nanty-Glo.

NON-UNION COAL DUMPED IN THE DYSART DISTRICT

Approximately 50 tons of coal were dumped near the highway in the Dysart district, Cambria County, nine miles north of Altoona last Friday.

John Conzo of Dysart, secretary-treasurer of the United Mine Workers, Local 6530, said the coal had come from non-union mines which were operating in the Blandburg-Clearfield district.

Marcellus Wharton, president of the Dysart Local, called a meeting for 8 a. m. Saturday of all union miners about Cresson and Dysart to organize picket lines and halt any further shipments.

CIO AND AFL INDEFINITELY DELAY TALKS

Wednesday Night of Last Week Saw Hopes for Early Peace Flicker Out.

Hope for early peace between the A. F. of L. and the C. I. O. flickered and went out last Wednesday.

Unity negotiations between the two labor groups were postponed indefinitely, and some persons close to the conferees doubted that the two peace committees, set up at President Roosevelt's personal request, ever would meet again.

A bitter and long-standing dispute between the A. F. of L. and the C. I. O. over proposed amendments to the controversial Wagner Labor Relations Act was the cause of the conference's postponement.

C. I. O. President John L. Lewis, announced the postponement and said he had telephoned A. F. L. Vice President Matthew Woll and that they had "easily agreed" to defer further meetings until a "mutually satisfactory date." He stressed the word "easily."

The committees had been scheduled to meet at 8:30 p. m.

Lewis gave these two reasons for the postponement:

1—Hearings on Wagner Act amendment proposals which start before the Senate education and labor committee in Washington April 11. Both A. F. of L. and the C. I. O. leaders will appear before this committee.

2—Collective bargaining negotiations now in progress between the Lewis' United Mine Workers of America Union and Appalachian bituminous producers. Approximately 338,000 soft coal miners have been idle since their contract expired on April 1. In addition Lewis begins contract negotiations April 10 with Pennsylvania Anthracite operators, whose agreement expires on April 30.

If the peace picture actually is as black as it appeared last Wednesday, there was a hint that Mr. Roosevelt may take additional steps to force a settlement. A first meeting of the peace committees he said that "direct negotiations without outside interposition is always best if possible."

The Wagner Act issue is one of the most important between the two groups. The A. F. of L. is backing several major changes to correct what it charges is bias in favor of the C. I. O. by the National Labor Relations Board.

The C. I. O. opposes all changes in the act. Lewis is understood to have informed the A. F. of L. that he could not cooperate in the search for peace with one hand, and fight their Wagner Act amendments with the other. C. I. O. Vice President Philip Murray telegraphed the Senate education and labor committee before the hearing date was set that he believed hearings would hamper any prospects for peace. The A. F. of L. contends, however, that the hearings should aid rather than injure peace negotiations.

U. M. W. A. TO FIGHT COMPENSATION ACT'S PROPOSED REVISION

Harrisburg.—The United Mine Workers of America will "undoubtedly" oppose the Wilson House bills scaling down the workmen's compensation benefits and repealing the occupational disease supplement to the compensation law, Former Assemblyman John Yourishin, a U. M. W. A. district official said last Thursday.

The Dent workmen's compensation bill in the Senate, covering Supreme Court objections to the 1937 liberalization of the 24-year old statute, will be amended to encompass U. M. W. A. recommendations, Yourishin said, which will be drafted by the union officials at a conference next week with Senator John H. Dent, Democrat, of Westmoreland County, sponsor.

MINING SCHOOL DINNER FETE TO BE OBSERVED

Will Be Held at the Brandon Hotel in Spangler on Saturday Night of This Week.

Sponsored by the students of mining classes in Carrolltown, Bakerton, Hastings, Patton, Nanty-Glo and Twin Rocks, the fifth annual banquet of the mining school group will be held Saturday, April 15, at 7:00 p. m. at Hotel Brandon.

There are more than eighty students enrolled in the mining schools in the five towns mentioned. Instructors are James Logan and his son, Lawrence Logan, both of Spangler, the former an instructor of miners preparing for first grade foreman certificates and the latter in charge of the class studies for fire boss certificates. The mining students recently completed their six-month instruction period. Classes will resume in October.

It is expected that the attendance at the banquet will reach the 125 mark, invitations having been extended to a number of guests to attend the affair.

Musical selections will comprise part of the dinner program, Joseph Hayes of Nanty-Glo to entertain with vocal selections, and Clayton Refner to feature with piano numbers.

Invited guests of the mining students are: Thomas Aiken of Ebensburg, general manager of the Ebensburg Coal Company; Daniel Sullivan, mine foreman of the Ebensburg Coal Company; John Foreman of Bakerton, general manager of the Sterling Coal Company; Charles Hannigan of Bakerton, superintendent of the Sterling Coal Company; David Davidson of St. Benedict, general manager of the Peale, Peacock & Kerr Coal Company; J. G. Nicholson of Barnesboro, superintendent of the Pennsylvania Coal and Coke Company; William Filer of Ebensburg, mine inspector of the 10th district; W. B. Wardrop of Indiana, mine inspector of the 30th district; Thomas Lawther of Indiana, retired mine inspector; Rop Joseph of Johnstown, inspector of the 6th district; John Burlas of Latrobe, inspector of the 19th district; P. F. Nairn of Carrolltown, mine inspector; William Lamont of Ebensburg; Dennis Keenan of Barnesboro, state mine inspector; George Steinheiser of Indiana, inspector of the 25th district; Joseph Hayes of Nanty-Glo, vocalist; and Clayton Refner, of Spangler, pianist.

LOVER'S QUARREL ENDS IN DEATH OF COUPLE

Climaxing a lover's quarrel, John Smith, 21, of Creslo, an unemployed miner, on Monday afternoon shot and killed Agnes Kolesarda, 16, of Coral, Indiana county, and then committed suicide in the home of Stanley McCloskey at Onalinda, a mining community near Beaverdale. The tragedy occurred about 3:30 o'clock.

The murdered girl had been a domestic in Johnstown. She went to Onalinda for a visit over the Easter holidays. Smith had been keeping company with the girl for some time but they had quarreled recently. Friends said Smith warned the girl, "You can't make a monkey out of me!"

Shortly before the shooting Smith took another girl, Mary Zolar, to the home of an uncle, and according to the girl he remarked, "You won't see Agnes any more."

Smith drove to the McCloskey home and parked his car in front. He went to the rear of the house passing McCloskey on the way, and entered the home. Smith asked the girl to come outside to talk, and when she refused he showed her a .22 caliber hunting revolver. As the girl walked out onto an enclosed porch in the rear of the McCloskey home, Smith opened fire, sending one bullet through the girl's right lung and then fired two shots into himself. The girl died almost instantly.

COALMEN INVITED TO HEARING BY HALUSKA

Senator John J. Haluska (D-Cambria) last Wednesday invited soft coal operators and miners to a hearing before the Bituminous Coal Study Commission.

Chairman Haluska said the committee had visited several mines to study the problem of mine car pushing. He said after the hearing, the commission would make its recommendations to the Legislature.

The hearing will be held in the Senate caucus room at 2 p. m.

C. I. O. OPPOSES ANY WAGE-HOUR CHANGES

Washington.—The Congress of Industrial Organizations, in letters to the Senate and House labor committees, expressed opposition last week to the amendments to the Wage-Hour Law.

Lee Pressman, general council of the C. I. O., wrote the virtually every one of a series of amendments proposed recently would "benefit" the employers and do nothing to strengthen the act for the benefit of the workers.

Pressman said no attempt to amend the law should be made without holding hearings on the proposals.

THREE YEARS' WORK LISTED BY STATE WPA

Accomplishments Include 635 Buildings and Seven Thousand Miles of Highways.

Harrisburg.—A long list of accomplishments of the Works Progress Administration during its first three years of operation in Pennsylvania was made public last Saturday by E. C. Smith, Jr., acting state administrator.

The listed accomplishments range from the building or repairing of 7000 miles of roads to the unearthing of 11,158 archaeological pieces.

The bulk of the work was, of course, in the construction fields.

Some 635 public buildings were constructed, and 3888 others were modernized or repaired.

In addition to the 7000 miles of roads, 10,705 new culverts were built and 442 new bridges erected. New drainage ditch and pipe were provided to the extent of 6,300,000 linear feet.

New water mains and distribution lines totaled 167 miles, and new storm and sanitary sewers 488 miles. More than 30,000 sanitary toilets were installed in rural areas.

The WPA expanded the State's recreational facilities by constructing 118 athletic fields and improving 157 others; building 94 new playgrounds and improving 512; building 24 swimming and wading pools and improving 70; providing 243 tennis courts and five golf courses and improving 236 parks.

Land improvements included planting more than a million trees, constructing 273 miles of firebreaks, cutting 1099 miles of fire and forest trails, and establishing 16 bird sanctuaries.

Four airports and 500 air markers were created.

Physical accomplishments other than construction projects included renovation of 1,600,000 library and public school books, cataloging 4,200,000 library volumes, serving 1,600,000 hot lunches to undernourished school children, production of 10,700,000 garments for the needy and public institutions, and distribution of 174,000 quarts of milk and 25,600,000 pounds of foodstuffs to needy families.

Art projects turned out 2962 drawings, murals, statues, and the like. The museum extension projects made about a half million museum pieces for use in the schools.

The educational section was teaching 15,121 persons to read and write in typical month, and had 10,214 vocational students. For the blind, 66,947 pages of Braille were transcribed.

"The facts and figures in this report show that WPA is, as its name implies, a work program," Mr. Smith commended. "It must be remembered that the purpose of WPA has not been merely to give jobs to the unemployed — itself an invaluable contribution to the morale and general welfare of the Commonwealth — but to employ them on useful public work."

The report covers the period from the beginning of the WPA program in Pennsylvania to June 30, 1938, and does not include work which was not completed on that date.

MEETING IS CALLED TO REORGANIZE OLD BASEBALL LEAGUE

A meeting of the original Northern Cambria Industrial Baseball League will be held in the American Legion Home at Carrolltown on Monday, April 17, at 7:30 o'clock P. M. The following towns are cordially invited to send delegates: Patton, Bakerton, Spangler, Colver, Barnesboro, Emigh, Twin Rocks, Moss Creek, Revloc, St. Benedict, Hastings, Allport, and Nanty-Glo.

Complete Shutdown is Threatened by Lewis

WAGNER DEFENDS LABOR ACT WHEN HEARINGS START

Challenges Foes to Prove Their Suggestions Would Help, and Not Destroy Function.

Washington.—Senator Wagner, Democrat, New York, challenged advocates of a revised labor relations act Tuesday to prove that their suggestions would help the operation of the law and not destroy it.

"Any diminution of its effectiveness would be a national evil," Wagner told the Senate Labor Committee. "Its mutilation would be a national calamity."

As the committee took up the controversial question of modifying the act, Wagner agreed that if the need for alterations were shown, he would introduce amendments or support those of other senators. He said repeatedly, however, that the basic principles of the act were sound.

He said he would support proposals to let employers petition for elections to ascertain which bargaining agency should represent their workers, but contended that a ruling of the labor board and not the act itself prevented such petitions.

Wagner said that the labor law which bears his name has proved an "effective instrument for economic peace and industrial justice."

"It has vastly benefitted workers employers and the public at large. No one challenges its objectives; no responsible party openly advocates its repeal."

He declared that "reckless tampering with the act" would "substitute uncertainty for certainty in the law" and would start a long string of law suits.

INJURY IS FATAL TO EBENSBURG MINER

Complications, superinduced by injuries he suffered in a mine accident in December, last Thursday morning resulted in the death of Jerry Hull Johnson, 38, of 719 West High Street, Ebensburg. Johnson was injured while working at the mines of the Monroe Coal Company at Revloc and had since been a patient at his home.

The deceased was a son of Mr. and Mrs. Jeremiah Johnson of Ebensburg and was born in Clearfield on October 26, 1900. He came to this section with his parents a number of years ago.

Surviving are his parents, who reside in Ebensburg; his widow, Mrs. Catheryn (Hofman) Johnson, two children, Gerald and Donald Johnson, both at home, and these brothers and sisters; John William, Norman, Raymond and Carrie Johnson, Mrs. William Rorabaugh and Mrs. Leroy Wiseman, all of Ebensburg; Sanor Johnson, Akron, O.; Mrs. Gilbert Burgess, Mrs. John Morgan and Mrs. Thomas Morgan, all of Nanty Glo. Two sisters, Nora and Dora Johnson, preceded him in death.

Funeral services were conducted at the Johnson home at 2:30 o'clock last Saturday afternoon by Rev. Ralph Robinson, pastor of the Ebensburg Methodist Church, assisted by Rev. Cecil Kelly of Wilkingsburg, formerly of Ebensburg. Interment was in Lloyd's Cemetery under the direction of Duke J. Rosensteel, Ebensburg mortician.

BOYS WIN HALUSKA COLLEGE AWARDS

The John J. Haluska senatorial scholarships awarded by Johnstown Post 294, American Legion, and the 20th District Committee, American Legion were won by Calvin Charles Rush of Southmont and Donald Schissler of Spangler, it was announced.

Rush will enroll at the University of Pittsburgh next fall as a pre-medical student. Schissler will enroll in Pennsylvania State College.

LEGION WILL BUILD PORTAGE PLAYSPOT

Portage.—Members of the John R. Moyer Post, American Legion of Portage, have launched a program for the construction of a playground here. A committee of Legion members is now engaged in clearing brush from the ground. Sand bins, slides, swings, and other playground equipment will be installed in the near future.

Negotiations Reach Apparent Deadlock and Miners Insist on Concession Grants.

FOR PROTECTION OF UNION

THE picture presented by the status in negotiations between miners and operators in New York City, at our press time, on Wednesday afternoon, is not a particularly pleasant portrait. Indications are that unless satisfactory and signed contracts are forthcoming in short order the United Mine Workers will utilize all their economic means to force their demands.

On Tuesday night, John L. Lewis, President of the U. M. W. of A., made a threat to halt work in the entire soft coal industry unless an agreement is reached soon between the union and the mine operators in the Appalachian region.

In statements issued simultaneously, the UMWA president and Charles O'Neill, spokesman for the operators, disclosed that negotiations for a new labor contract virtually had reached a stalemate.

Meanwhile all union miners in the Appalachian region, with the exception of skeleton maintenance crews, have ceased work. Operations in outlying districts have continued under special agreements, which Lewis threatened Tuesday night to cancel.

The Appalachian region produces 70 per cent of the Nation's soft coal and its labor contract terms traditionally have been the basis for the rest of the industry.

"It is a bad time for the operators to undertake to destroy the United Mine Workers in 1939 to please the labor-baiting interests who are opposed to collective bargaining," Lewis said.

"We assert that this cannot be done and assert that the coal industry should not permit itself to be used as a cat's paw in this situation. If this attitude continues on the part of the operators nothing will satisfy them but the blood of the union."

"The United Mine Workers of America would be compelled to consider broadening the base of this struggle and to call for cancellation by fifteen days' notice of all agreements outlying the Appalachian region—that's all the coal fields."

In their statements, Lewis and O'Neill, speaking for a sub-committee of four miners and four operators, which is charged with negotiations, said that the operators had agreed to renew the existing contract, which expired Mar. 31, but had refused consistently to grant either one of the two UMWA demands.

These proposals were for a closed shop or elimination of enforcement provisions in district contracts which provide penalties for strikers.

"Our stand," said Lewis, "is that the miners have made 26 concessions and one is due from the operators." He referred to the fact that the UMWA made 26 proposals upon opening negotiations and yielded on all of them.

The union demands are simply for their own protection. Any let down on one or the other of the demands would throw them open to exploitation by outside labor-baiting interests. "Don't try to tell the public the issue which caused this break down was the union shop," Lewis warned the operators. "We'll accept two year extension of the old contract, plus the abolition of the penalty clauses." In the absence of the union shop, he continued, the UMWA is unwilling to be penalized for idleness due to the activities of dual unions which might enter "foul conspiracies" to destroy the UMWA.

Coal supplies over the nation are now reported as becoming meagre, following two weeks in which the major mining activities have ceased. A continuation of the present situation shortly cannot help but be felt, and unless an early agreement is reached the mine situation will become one in which all people will feel the effects.

The United Mine Workers of America after building up the excellent organization they now have, cannot immediately reposition by making possible any avenue for inroads by those who in the final analysis, have nothing but hatred for all unions—and would use any pretext to make their inroads a fact.