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The endeavor of the Union Press-Courier is to sincerely and honestly represent Trade Union Workers in efforts to obtain economic freedom through organizations as advocated by the CIO and AFL, and we solicit the support of trade unions. Material for publication must be authorized by the organization it represents and signed by the President and secretary, and bear the seal.

The Union Press-Courier gives its advertisers the advantage of the combined circulation of the two largest circulated weeklies in Cambria County and has a reader coverage that blankets Patton and the major mining towns.

RANDOM THOUGHT

Some things are so glaring that even the untutored are made to laugh. The best we have seen for weeks was contained on the first page of the Barnesboro Star last week, and likely in a lot of other Republican newspapers, and read: "Republican Governors in Six States Effect Substantial Savings."

But the biggest laugh of all arises in Pennsylvania being advanced as an example par excellence of this G. O. P. budget pruning, the statement claiming that Gov. James had submitted a budget which was about one hundred million dollars less than his Democratic predecessor. The statement broke the figure down to say that the state's relief allocation had been reduced 77 millions plus, and the rest of the budget was 13 millions less than for the previous biennium. It was interpreted by National GOP Chairman Hamilton,

who explained that all this big reduction was made possible "at a time when President Roosevelt and the New Deal are encouraging reckless and extravagant spending" because "there are men with the courage to wrestle with this problem."

Shades of Annias! Who gave Mr. Hamilton Pennsylvania's figures, and why would any newspapers published in Pennsylvania, where all citizens should know better, publish such bosh? The one hundred million dollar budget reduction credited to Governor James results directly and solely, from the fact that the state's assistance appropriation—for relief, mother's assistance, blind pensions, old age assistance—was calculated by simply using the figure left over after adding up all other state appropriations and subtracting the total from estimated total revenue.

Nobody at Harrisburg, Republican or Democrat, made any pretense that the figure thus arrived at, 127 millions, would be enough to last the full biennium. A special session is to meet next year when the money runs out. It will be interesting to note what the saving will be for the entire biennium. Likely it won't be anything. Maybe more will be spent than the last administration spent in the same period. But the "courage of Republicans to wrestle with this problem" isn't much when Mr. Hamilton's press release doesn't even amount to shadow boxing insofar as facts are concerned.

What's wrong with a president serving a third term? Washington started this tradition, not because he was really opposed to a third term, but because he didn't want the job any longer. It may have a tendency to perpetuate a man in office, but the argument is foolish. Sometimes that may not work out so well. If a man is the head of a going business for eight years, he should be in a better position to make the business even more prosperous by reason of his experience. The whole squabble about third terms for President rests on tradition—not upon any law that prohibits it.

We remember when Governor James was campaigning last fall, he swung through Cambria county, and at least appeared in Patton, with a "body-guard" of a couple of miners in working regalia, caps and all, the interpretation of which, we presume was a friend of labor. But the recent session of the Republican legislature didn't show any of this trend. The legislation actually passed opposing labor laws passed during the Earle administration. In the judgment of some of the state's leading

Republicans themselves, went too far, to do the party any good—and it may have a flare back that will be destructive to candidates all over the state this year.

However, the legislature, having passed this anti-labor legislation, and having sent it to the Governor, can see it become law only if and when Governor Arthur H. James, the candidate who last fall was accompanied by "laboring men in uniform" signs the bills. What the Governor will do, will be to sign the bills, according to newspaper stories. However, in the drastic "curb" on labor as drawn by the recent legislative session, the CIO and AFL in Pennsylvania, and the Brotherhoods of the railroads, too, are all united in urging the Governor to use his veto power. Governor Arthur H. James is on the "spot" with labor. He has two things to do—veto or sign. To him rests the opportunity of really making himself a friend of labor—or a friend of the interests who are opposed to the common people—and he has apparently chosen the latter course of action.

According to news stories the Republican faithful will begin receiving the job patronage at once, now that the legislature has adjourned—and there are a lot of Democrats who will get the skids this week and in the weeks to follow. Biggest trouble is that there are not nearly sufficient jobs to go around. George E. Prindle of Patton, a member of the Unemployment Compensation Board, will have served his term during this month. It isn't likely he will be reappointed by Governor James. And there are about a hundred other jobs above the \$5,000 a year mark, now held by Democrats, that will be changed at once.

In the light of Gov. James campaign promise of last fall of "jobs for all who want them; relief for all who need it," the 1939 regular session of the legislature, just adjourned, must be regarded as a failure. Although the Republicans were in full control of both branches of the legislature they did nothing to carry out either promise. All the taxes of the Earle administration which Gov. James raved about, we re-enacted, the promise of adequate relief was carried out by appropriating \$127,000,000 for the current biennium instead of the 205,000,000 the state will actually need. And on top of this Governor James has slashed this appropriation by another \$7,000,000. From all indications the "bite" will hit Republicans and Democrats alike on WPA right here in our home territory. The state will allow only \$8,000,000 for projects. That means the federal government can only furnish \$32,000,000. The federal government gives four times the amount of the state in road construction on WPA. And what the administration is giving won't be sufficient—or nearly sufficient to take up the load. And the state won't save by it, but the business men, the relief folk, the merchant—stand to lose plenty. Cambria county will have only 568 men on WPA doing road work after July 1st, as compared to 1,346 now at such employment. There will hundreds laid off. They will have but one recourse and that is to go directly onto the rolls of the Department of Public Assistance. The state will be paying them just the same as if they had put a larger fund into the highway pool. They'll sit at home and do nothing, and have less cash to spend instead of earning a bit more and building roads.

There are too many Casper Milque-toasts who seek to inject into labor their own timidity. Every time anything goes wrong, or some tories get tough, they say to labor: "Oh dear, oh dear, why do you try to do anything? Why don't you run?" The coal miners did not choose to run. The open-shoppers frowned and bullied all they could. Casper and his friends said reaction was in the saddle and that labor had better run along like a good little doggie. But the miners preferred to stand up for their rights like men. Under the fighting leadership of John L. Lewis, who has dedicated himself to the abolition of labor's inferiority complex, the United Mine Workers of America has won such a victory as may change the whole course of the labor movement. The union shop agreement won in the anthracite as well as the bituminous fields spells defeat for the whole open shop drive against labor. The UMWA has risen to its greatest strength in the face of attack, attempted disruption and the general offensive of reaction. In so doing it lends a courage an inspiration to every union. It demonstrates the basic strength and stability of the CIO. And it points the way to all of labor to advance and not retreat when challenged by its foes.

Let the Casper Milque-toasts of liberal politics also take note. Progressive labor, as represented by the CIO is solidly organized and militantly led. It believes that the workers have barely begun to get the consideration to which they are entitled and which they have the power to win. Those who fight boldly and bravely for liberal measures and democratic progress will find they have the loyal support of an advancing and determined army of labor. But the politicians who shrink and pussy-foot when reaction says, "Boo!" will fall by the wayside.

We glanced through the pictorial section of the New York Times last Sunday and came upon the group pictures of the graduating class of the West Point Military Academy. With its hundreds of faces, we searched out for one we knew—a Patton boy—Cadet Paul J. Long, son of Mr. and Mrs. Isidor Long, and somehow or other, we felt the elation that his parents, his neighbors, too, must have. For Paul Long is a graduate at the United States Military Academy today, because he so willed it. He did it himself. He

did it without the aid of Congressmen, or senators, or political pull of any kind. He, as a member of the United States army, won his right by competitive examination, to enter West Point. Too, we glanced over all those pictures in the New York Times, and considered what a very small percentage of them all, won the right to their graduation through only their own efforts. And we honor and congratulate Paul J. Long, and the satisfaction he must feel, for doing it.

Not only Cadet Long's family, but all his home town folks, do feel justly proud of his accomplishment and the defense forces of the United States will have gained a worthy officer as a result. May his career be a glorious one. May his life-span be marked with the same characteristics of his youth. And if such it is, Paul Long will go far in his chosen field, because he has shown that he has the determination of accomplishment, though obstacles be many.

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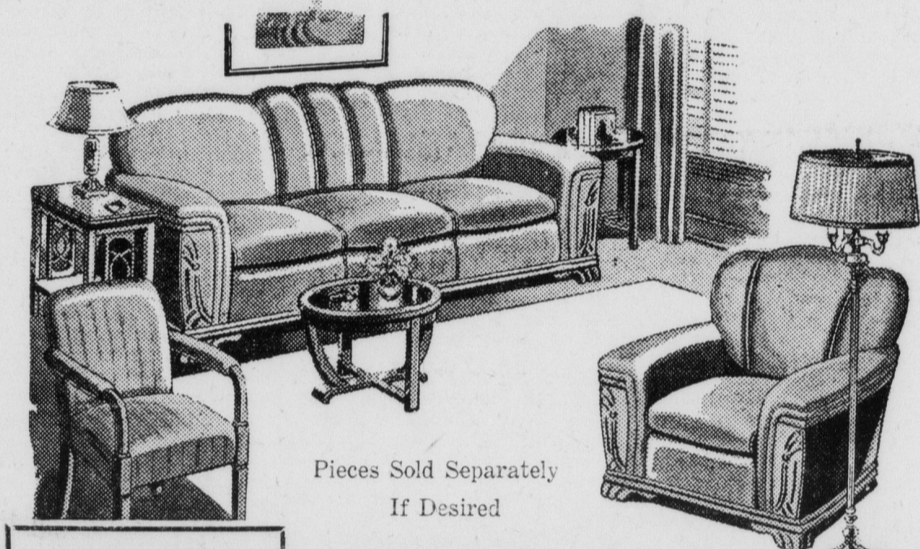
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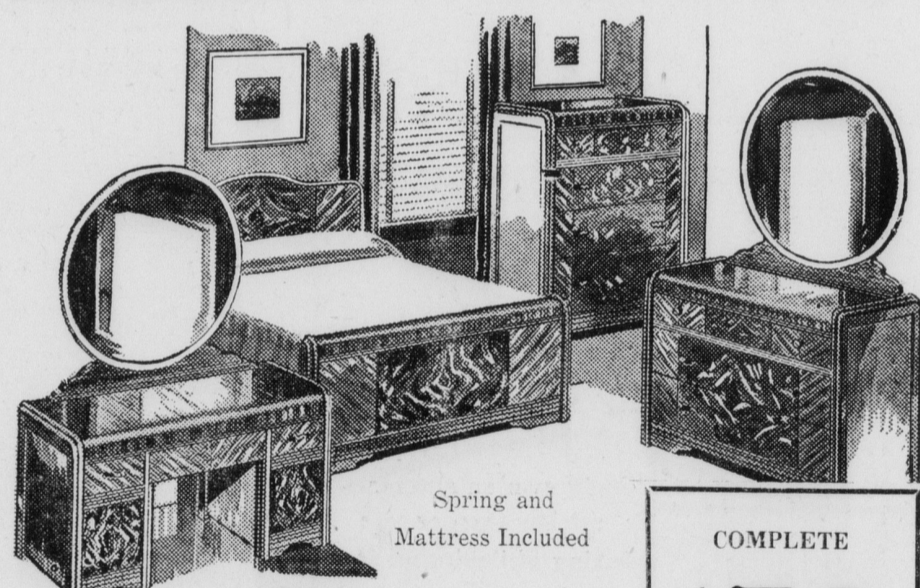


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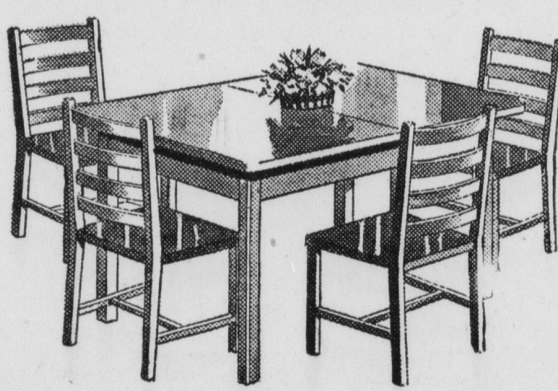


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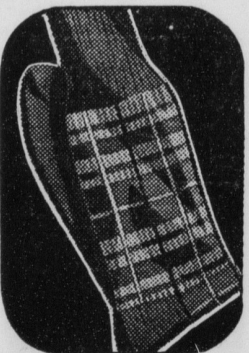
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