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## CIO'S BETHLEHEM DEMAND IS AIM AT RISING PROFITS

New York Times Sunday Has A Story Bearing on Election in Cambria County.

The election in Cambria county last week, and its bearing on the Steel Strike in Johnstown some time ago, is linked together by Howard Carroll, a writer for the New York Times, who had the following story in last Sunday's edition of that metropolitan paper, and is herewith republished for what you think it is worth: The story was under a Pittsburgh dateline.

Election day was not chosen by mere coincidence for the placing of a "virtual ultimatum" on the doorstep of the Bethlehem Steel Corporation by the Steel Workers Organizing Committee, CIO affiliate.

The date was selected with an eye not single to the current profits of Bethlehem, impressive as these mounting figures are, but with more than a glance at a then impending sweep to victory of the Democratic forces in Cambria county, where are located Johnstown and the Cambria Steel plants, scene of the spectacular 1937 strike in the budding days of the CIO.

In the balloting, Daniel Shields who as Mayor of Johnstown fought the S. W. O. C. through the strike effectively and with skill, was defeated by the Democrat, John A. Conway, in the Mayorality contest.

An enthusiastic friend of labor, Eddie McCloskey, one time boxer, former Johnstown mayor and member of the State Boxing Commission was returned as a County Commissioner, an office of large powers. In general a slate which was alleged to be largely the selection of the SWOC was victorious by a large margin.

This result was attained against a trend which found a large majority of the western counties, except industrial Allegheny, Westmoreland, Fayette and Cambria, back again in the Republican tradition. Naturally it will be used as a weapon by the CIO negotiators in any discussion with Bethlehem officials.

Said a spokesman of the SWOC: "Cambria County has clearly shown that public opinion has swung solidly in back of the steel workers' union. The voters have spoken so decisively that the heads of Bethlehem cannot help but heed."

So the message to Bethlehem was geared to timeliness in at least two ways. It was only a fortuitous circumstance that the Federal Court of Appeals in Philadelphia only Saturday handed down an opinion favorable to CIO and upholding a National Labor Relations Board ruling directing the Republic Steel Corporation to rehire 5,000 Ohio workers involved in the "little steel" strike of 1937, and to pay them back wages estimated at some \$7,000,000. But this decision is not being overlooked by the SWOC chiefs as they gird for the Bethlehem discussions. It is remembered that the Bethlehem also has causes pending on appeal which grew out of that same dramatic 1937 period.

Undoubtedly the SWOC demand on Bethlehem came as a surprise to a public forgetful of labor strife while intent upon war abroad and the upsurge of industry at home. It appears now that the CIO heads have been laying the groundwork for months.

In the more immediate background a first manifestation came late last August when, without fanfare, some forty-eight leaders of the Bethlehem Employees Representation Plan, styled by the labor leaders as a "Company union," came to Pittsburgh and conferred with Philip Murray, head of the SWOC, and other CIO leaders. These men, it was asserted, represented all the Bethlehem plants over the country and each stood for large groups of fellow workers. They were E. R. P. leaders, it was stated, who had gone over completely to SWOC and were then working for CIO objectives.

The winning over of these men was accomplished by development of a technique first applied in the maneuvering preliminary to the discussions with United States Steel leading to the famous contract with "Big Steel."

## DEADLINE NEARS IN A TIME RACE ON COAL PRICES

Minimum Schedules Must Be Set Up By First of Year, and It's Going to Be Big Job.

It is technical, hard to understand, and highly legal and official—but a "race against time" is going on at Washington, as the Interior Department's coal division works to set up minimum prices for bituminous fuel before January 1st.

That date is important because within a few weeks thereafter Congress will meet, and certain members thereof will inquire what has been done under the bituminous coal act which received the official signature of President Roosevelt on April 26th, 1937.

The hub of the coal law is the minimum price schedule. The same hub was in a former law, which the Supreme Court invalidated. The new law is more than one and one-half years old and still there are no minimum prices. Under present conditions the coal business needs them less than it once did, but parts of the industry say the need "is just around the corner."

Opponents of the coal law are said to be hoping that when Congress convenes it will find the bituminous statute a "hopeless case," with the result that repeal or devitalizing amendments will be enacted.

The interior department's coal division resumed hearings Monday, after illness of an official key witness, in an effort to complete them by mid-December. But a new complication has appeared.

The Carter Coal Company, operating in Southern West Virginia, which brought the suit which knocked out the old coal law and has expressed its antagonism to the present statute, has filed a request that it be permitted to examine the voluminous statements of coal concerns competing with the Carter concern.

The coal producers board for central Pennsylvania has objected, calling the Carter motion a "fishing expedition," and intimating that the object is delay to the hearings leading toward price determination.

Coal division examiners have not ruled yet.

**ANNUAL RAFFLE AND BINGO PARTY, PATTON NEXT TUESDAY NIGHT**  
The annual turkey raffle, card party and bingo party held annually at this season by Branch No. 90, Knights of St. George for the benefit of St. Mary's Church and School, will be held on Tuesday evening next, November 21st in the Firemen's Hall, Patton. This year the affair promises to be the best ever, and the general public is cordially invited. No admission charge to the raffle. Cards, 25 cents. Bingo, 25 cents for 26 games and a prize each game. The raffle will start at seven o'clock, and cards and bingo at 8:30, with the raffle continuing after the cards. Don't miss this.

## PNEUMONIA WAR IS STARTED IN STATE

Harrisburg—Dr. John J. Shaw, secretary of health, predicted Monday that the pneumonia death rate in this state will be cut in half through an extensive, new free state medical program.

He said that all the 170 pneumonia control stations throughout the state have been supplied with free serum, and sulphapyridine and that laboratory equipment has been added to provide physicians with accurate diagnosis of pneumonia germ types.

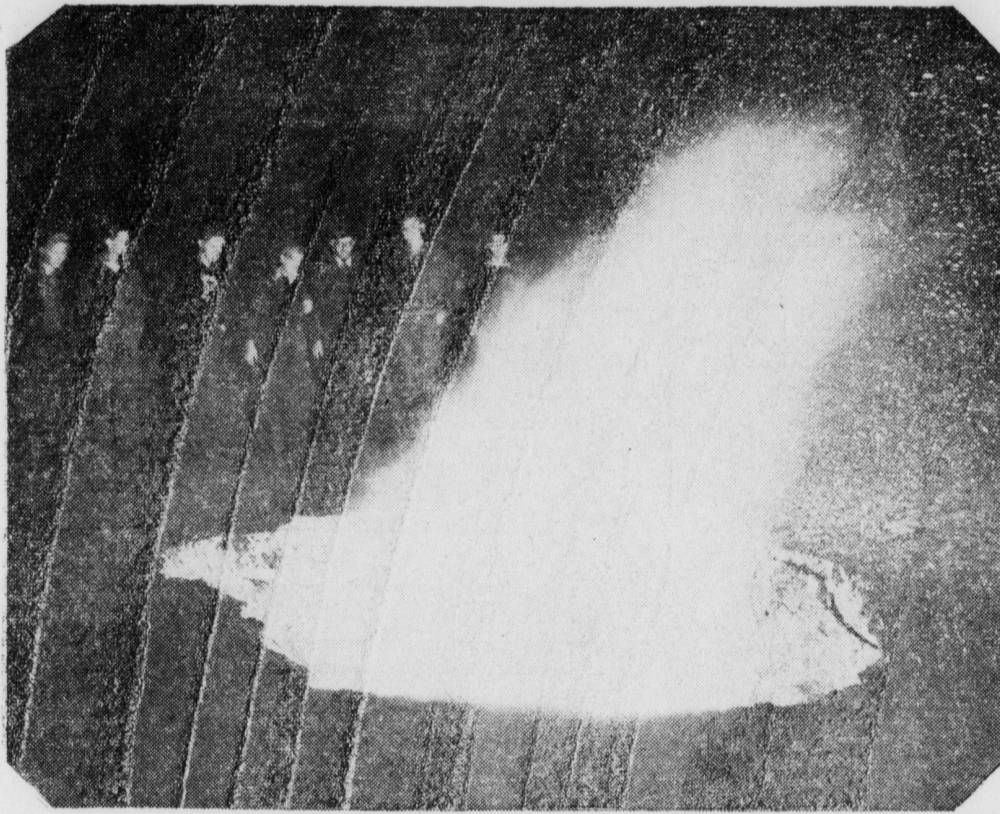
"This is the only state in the union that has a complete pneumonia program, with serum, sulphapyridine, and laboratory diagnosis," Dr. Shaw said. Approximately \$100,000 has been invested in serum and another \$25,000 in sulphapyridine, for free distribution, on a physician's prescription, to needy patients in anticipation of the "pneumonia season" during the winter months.

Minimum wage would make into the Bethlehem income has not been estimated. That, in a current phrase, would be "up to management." But as the "prince or pauper" cycle of the steel industry swings again to the royal phase, though perhaps not to remain there long, labor is found knocking at the door.

Labor leaders may look upon the situation as they wish, but industrialists hereabouts are steering carefully away from the word "boom." They say the prices received for the product are the true index to the industry's condition, not the fact that output has risen from 52.40 per cent of capacity in July to 62.12 in August, and so on vertically to about 94 per cent in this district in the current week.

## FLAMES LEAP FROM SECOND CAVE-IN OF LOCAL MINE

Picture Courtesy of Johnstown Democrat.



The above cut shows flames leaping from 15 to 20 feet into the air from the cave-in of the abandoned mine out at the clay works in Patton. The cave-in occurred last Friday afternoon. The second cave-in occurred about 60 feet from a previous cave-in last May. Patton residents have become alarmed as to the extent of the underground fire.

Local officials said Friday's cave-in covered about 22 square feet. Flames shot from the huge crevice for several nights and attracted many visitors.

This second cave-in gives indication that the underground fire is spreading rapidly and will continue to spread toward the town unless stopped within a short period.

Another danger if the burning coal vein is pointed out by Mine Inspector Dennis Keenan, Barnesboro, of the

Pennsylvania Bureau of Mines. He says that carbon monoxide given off by the burning coal and bony was extremely poisonous.

On February 1, 1936, nineteen persons living in the vicinity of the abandoned mine were overcome by carbon monoxide gas, reported to have seeped from the abandoned workings. It was reported that it was possible that gas might escape in other sections of that district over which the coal is burning.

After the first cave-in borough officials made every possible effort to receive aid in bringing the fire under control. They asked aid from the department of mines, but were informed there was no money allocated for that purpose. Council adopted a resolution asking the County Commissioners to sponsor a Works Progress Administra-

tion project to combat the fire, but as yet no action has been taken on the request.

In the opinion of Mine Inspector Keenan the only way to halt the fire is to dig a deep trench around the burning area. He indicated it would be first necessary to dig test holes to determine the extent of the burning area and then start digging a 20 foot trench around the area.

The fire is a problem to the borough. It lacks sufficient funds to even sponsor a WPA project and even if it did have such funds, it would not be permitted to use them because part of the burning area is located in Elder township.

Meantime the borough officials are trying every avenue for financial help to combat the menace. State, county and federal contacts are being made.

## HIGHEST COURT UPHOLDS NLRB AND COAL LAW IN DECISION GIVEN MONDAY

The Supreme Court upheld the government on Monday in cases involving the National Bituminous Coal and National Labor Relations Acts.

The court ruled that Atlanta, Ga., had no grounds on which to attack the constitutionality of the coal statute. The plea for invalidation was based on the contention that the law threatened to increase the city's fuel costs, possibly forcing it to adopt a new type of heating unit. The decision affirmed a ruling by a three-judge federal district court.

## STATE'S THANKSGIVING IS DATED FOR THURSDAY OF NEXT WEEK

Governor James last Saturday proclaimed November 23 as Thanksgiving Day and urged that the flag be flown that day from all homes and public buildings.

The date had been suggested by President Roosevelt.

Text of the James proclamation: "In no place under the shining heavens is there more cause for giving thanks in than in our land."

"As has been our American custom for more than three centuries, we give thanks to the Almighty for His many gifts. We give thanks for the natural blessings of our land. "We rejoice in the progress which the commonwealth has made this year. We have seen many of our people return to employment and have been permitted to witness the alleviation, to a considerable extent, of much economic suffering.

"We live in a land which has followed the principles of liberty, virtue and independence, and today we are at peace when much of the rest of the world is at war.

"Our cherished custom of setting apart a day of Thanksgiving was started by the Pilgrims. One hundred and fifty years ago President Washington issued the first Thanksgiving Day proclamation. No day is more wholly American.

"Therefore, I, Arthur H. James, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, following the proclamation of the President of the United States, and the date he has designated therein do hereby proclaim Thursday, November 23, 1939, as Thanksgiving Day, a day of prayer to be observed by all

## PATTON HIGH TO PLAY BENEFIT AT EBENSBURG

Football Squads Meet Friday Evening to Augment Fund for Underprivileged Children.

With the Ebensburg Kiwanis Club acting as sponsor, a post season football game between Ebensburg-Cambria and Patton High Schools has been arranged for Friday evening of this week. The contest will be played at night under flood lights on the Ebensburg field.

The proceeds derived from the game will be used in giving aid to the underprivileged children.

To date the county seaters have won six of nine games, bowling over Cresson, Nanty-Glo, Hollidaysburg, Westmont, Franklin and Huntingdon, while losing to Barnesboro, Conemaugh and Ferndale. They have scored 139 points against 77 for opponents.

Engaging in seven games Patton has defeated Spangler, Cresson, Lilly and Portage township while losing to Cherry Tree, Nanty-Glo and Carrolltown. Coach Tom Hughes team was also charged with a forfeit loss at the hands of Barnesboro when a game was not played because of an exceptionally muddy field.

Folks in the north of the county are specifically reminded that the proceeds from this game will be given jointly to the Ebensburg and Northern Cambria County Kiwanis Clubs for their underprivileged children's fund. Our readers well know the purpose is a worthy charity, so turn out for the game. Help along!

Scoring the second frame as the result of a blocked punt and in the third stanza on a neatly executed forward lateral pass, Patton high school turned back Portage Township, 13-0 at Patton last Saturday afternoon to complete play in the Northern Division of the Cambria County Conference.

## DRIVERS ARE TOLD OF DEADLINE FOR CHANGE OF RESIDENCE, ADDRESS

Harrisburg—The Department of Revenue reminded motorists this week that November 25th is the deadline for notifying the Motor Vehicles Bureau of change of address for new operators' licenses.

Printing of new cards, compulsory after February 1st, will begin November 27th. The 1939 legislature advanced the date for renewing drivers' licenses from February 28 to February 1, but set back the deadline for new license plates from January 1 to April 1st.

Failure to submit a change in address before November 25th will result in considerable delay, said Secretary William J. Hamilton.

## FATHER I. J. DENNY IS APPOINTED RECTOR OF CATHEDRAL PARISH

Rev. Father I. J. Denny, administrator, has been appointed rector of the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, succeeding the late Rev. Dr. Morgan M. Sheedy, whose death occurred recently.

The new rector had been administrator of the Cathedral parish since June 17th, 1938. He is a native son of the parish, but received his early education in Gallitzin. Ordained to the priesthood at St. Francis Seminary on August 18, 1918, he has served the following parishes: St. Francis Xavier, Cresson; St. Joseph's, Williamsburg; St. Thomas, Ashville, and St. Patrick's at Spangler. He was stationed at the last church for seven years prior to being assigned to Altoona.

Joseph Shander, 21, of Vintondale, was taken to the Memorial hospital at Johnstown the other day for treatment of a gunshot wound of the right foot, sustained when accidentally shot by a hunting companion.

## ONE DAY EARLIER

Because of the Thanksgiving holiday, and in order that our housewife readers may benefit in food values offered for the Turkey day by our food store advertisers, The Union Press-Courier will be issued on Tuesday of next week. Advertisers' announcements and all others are urged to have their copy in this office on Monday.

## GEORGE HOPPEL IS NEW HEAD OF KIWANIS CLUB

Unemployment Representative Is Speaker at Meeting Last Monday Evening.

At the meeting of the Northern Cambria Kiwanis Club held at Brandon hotel in Spangler on Monday evening, George C. Hoppel of Patton, was elected President of the club for the year of 1940; Ralph H. Greenwood was chosen vice president and Fred B. Buck, treasurer. The board of directors will be John Foreman, J. Edw. Stevens, Louis Luxenberg, John R. Nicholson, H. C. Kenny, W. R. CRAIG, R. L. Struble, George A. Clark and D. George.

Principal speaker at the meeting of the Kiwanians on Monday night was Miss Anna B. Sandt, special women's representative of the Division of Unemployment Compensation and Employment Service, on the staff of the executive director, Ernest Kelly, who spoke on the subject of "Insurance Against Unemployment."

Miss Sandt explained that the huge problem of unemployment existing in our country today is responsible for unemployment compensation legislation. She stressed the fact that unemployment compensation benefits are a measure to alleviate the suffering caused by involuntary unemployment. She stated that the primary objective of the Division of Unemployment Compensation and Employment Service is to secure jobs in private industry for the unemployed. Approximately 95,000 placements have been made in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania since the first of January this year, 75 per cent of which were in private industry. In Cambria county alone approximately 1,000 jobs have been secured.

Miss Sandt explained in detail the requirements on the part of the unemployed compensation claimant and the manner of computing the weekly compensation rate and the maximum amount of benefits payable to eligible claimants for unemployment compensation benefits.

She further stressed the fact that a person may not voluntarily quit his job and be eligible for benefits and that he must be able to work and be available for work, and must have earned within his base year wages from covered employers of not less than 13 times his weekly compensation amount.

Miss Sandt also explained in detail the waiting period, the base year and the benefit year requirements under the Pennsylvania Unemployment Compensation law.

She urged the co-operation of employers in reporting irregularities in connection with illegal attempts to secure unemployment compensation benefits. She also urged the cooperation of employers in building up the employment service in their communities so that it would be a real asset to employers and employees alike. She urged their contacting Employment Service offices when it was necessary to secure additional workers for their industries and businesses.

Miss Sandt explained that contributions as received by the state from the employers are first deposited in the state treasury and from there are removed to the federal treasury where they are set aside in a trust fund under the title of "Pennsylvania Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund."

Miss Sandt stressed the fact that all contributions made by employers to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for unemployment compensation, are used for only one purpose and that is to pay benefits to eligible claimants for unemployment compensation in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

## HOLD ST. MICHAEL MAN IN STABBING

William Jerome, aged 24, of St. Michael, is in a serious condition in the Windber hospital, and Robert Hayman, 24, also of St. Michael, is in the Cambria county jail, charged with having stabbed Jerome twice during a fight in a wooded section of Croyle township on Saturday evening. Jerome suffered knife wounds of the stomach. Hayman was taken into custody by state motor police. The men were engaged in a quarrel over women.

## Colver Brothers Hurt.

Two pedestrians, Louis Valeri, 52, and his brother, Joseph Valeri, 50, both of Colver, were injured early on Monday morning when struck by a car driven by Mike Datsko, 22, of Colver. Datsko informed officials that the two men were walking in the center of the highway between Tripoli and Colver when he struck them. He declared that he had rounded a curve and did not see the two men until he was too close to avoid the accident.