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## SENATOR JIM DAVIS LAUDS OUR PAPER IN RECENT LETTER

Unsolicited Message from Pennsylvania's Senior Member Is Much Appreciated.

The following letter from United States Senator James J. Davis, unsolicited, which reached us last Saturday morning, is much appreciated. It is self-explanatory.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 3, 1942. Mr. Thomas A. Owens, Editor, Union Press-Courier, Patton, Pa. My dear Mr. Owens: I have before me your Thanksgiving edition of the Union Press-Courier which I find both interesting and enlightening.

Particularly impressive to me was the Thanksgiving feature expressed on your front page. It is well to call to mind the terrible nature of the enemies against whom we are pitted in this struggle to the death. It is well to point out the woe and misery that have befallen those who did not resist with every fiber and every thought.

With the continued expression of such thoughts as these, the Union Press-Courier is making a necessary and valuable contribution to the war effort.

As a long-time friend of Labor, and as one who has himself labored in many fields, I am impressed at the content of your paper, and I feel that it can be read from end to end with great benefit to the reader.

Very sincerely yours, JAMES J. DAVIS

## LACK OF PARTS AND MECHANICS IS ANOTHER CURB TO CAR DRIVING

A growing scarcity of auto parts and mechanics is fast becoming as effective a check on driving as gasoline and tire shortages.

The car owner unlucky enough to smash up faces the possibility of having his vehicle laid up for the duration of the war. Even now it is impossible to get such "appearance" parts as fenders for some makes of cars.

Normal wear and tear on working parts presents an increasingly serious problem—in view of the fact that the greater number of cars on the road are more than three years old, auto men report.

"Seriousness of this situation has been overlooked in the endeavor to conserve gasoline and rubber," one official commented. The stockpile of parts for cars is running low and all plans to replace them are inadequate.

Service stations have been instructed by factories to repair worn out parts, if possible, rather than seek new parts.

Even more critical to most garage operators is a shortage of skilled mechanics. As fast as a man is trained, they complain, he is taken away by the war industry or drafted.

Dealers of one large auto manufacturer in the Pittsburgh zone have lost 566 mechanics thus far this year. Of this total 276 took jobs in war industries, 206 went into the armed forces and 86 moved to miscellaneous jobs.

## GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF WHITEDES

Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Whited of Barnesboro, observed their golden wedding anniversary on Sunday and held "open house" to their many friends during the afternoon and evening. Both Mr. and Mrs. Whited are in excellent health. Mr. and Mrs. Whited were both born and reared in Susquehanna township, this county, and were married in Hastings by the Rev. Clawson in 1892. Mr. Whited was a carpenter by trade, but gave up this occupation later to manage a restaurant. He is best known throughout the county for his duties as chief county detective, having served under ex-District Attorney D. P. Weimer from 1919 to 1932. He is active in church and civic organizations. Mr. and Mrs. Whited are parents of Mrs. John Moore, residing in Nanty-Glo, and chief-of-police J. Dean Whited, living in Barnesboro.

## SOFT COAL BILL TO BE DELAYED UNTIL JANUARY

Washington.—Efforts to re-enact the Bituminous Coal Stabilization law which will expire April 26, are off until after the new Congress opens in January, Representative Thomas A. Jenkins (R., Ohio) says.

Mr. Jenkins, the House sponsor of a bill which would continue the general system of setting minimum mine prices for soft coal, but would transfer administration back to a commission, said it would be impossible to get consideration from the House Ways and Means Committee before January.

The Jenkins bill is a duplicate of a Senate measure introduced by Senator Joseph F. Guffey (D., Pa.). It follows the general regulatory lines of the present law, but makes the important change that administration would be taken from a division of the Interior department and placed in a commission composed of three members—one each representing the public, the United Mine Workers and the coal operators.

The legislative language embodying this change was prepared by the United Mine Workers legal staff. It would give to John L. Lewis, head of the miners' union, a voice which he has lacked in administration of the coal law since the former commission was abolished.

The Interior Department is reportedly preparing to resist this change of administration and to make its view known either through another legislative proposal or through testimony before the Congressional committees that will deal with the subject.

Coal operators are said to be divided on the change of administration but likely to be inclined toward retaining the present system. The former coal commission was dropped as a result of patronage troubles and disagreements between members representing the public, operator and union representatives.

The coal operators who would speak for the industry on this question have been busy in recent weeks in the effort to work out arrangements with the United Mine Workers by which the present 35-hour working week in coal mines can be increased to meet war conditions. The union has offered to work six days a week instead of five seven hour days if the contract provision of pay-and-one-half for extra time is carried out.

The operators assert this will necessitate an upward revision of the minimum prices for coal, under the coal law, and their present effort is to get approval for such an increase from the government agencies that deal with the coal problem.

## COLVER MINER TAKES LIFE BY SHOOTING SELF

Funeral services for Alfredo Moretti, 50 year old Colver miner, who committed suicide early last Wednesday by firing a shot gun charge into his neck, were held on Saturday, with burial at Ebensburg.

Coroner Patrick McDermott was informed that the man had been in failing health for some time and that he was despondent the night before the act, although he had worked as usual during the day in the Colver mine of the Ebensburg Coal Company.

Moretti arose at 4 a. m. last Wednesday, made a fire in the furnace at his home and then assisted in preparing breakfast for two of his sons prior to their departure for work. Some time later he went to an out-building, tied a string to the trigger of a shot gun and attached the other end of the string to his right shoe. He pulled the trigger by kicking his foot.

The coroner listed death as due to gun shot wounds of the head with suicidal intent. He said an inquest will be unnecessary.

The victim leaves his widow and two sons. —Britain has a plan to modernize its country villages after the war.

## ENLISTMENTS ARE BANNED IN FUTURE IN EXECUTIVE ORDER

And Paul McNutt Given Full Authority Over All Manpower in Co-ordination Move.

President Roosevelt in an executive order on Saturday transferred the Selective Service System to the War Manpower Commission under Chairman Paul V. McNutt, terminated enlistments in the armed forces of men 18 to 38, and gave the WMC virtually unlimited authority to hire, recruit and transfer labor.

The order made McNutt the nation's manpower boss subordinate only to the President himself. It made both the War and Navy Departments completely dependent upon Mr. McNutt in meeting their manpower commitments and placed every agency of the government at Mr. McNutt's disposal in all matters involving manpower.

Release of the order by the White House ended weeks of speculation as to how the President would meet the nation's steadily growing manpower problem. In its scope it matched even the most daring guesses of observers who have been watching for signs of how Mr. Roosevelt would act.

In transferring the Selective Service System to the WMC, the President directed that the functions, powers and duties of Maj.-Gen. Lewis B. Hershey, director of the Selective Service, including all authority previously delegated to him by the President—be transferred to Mr. McNutt and henceforth be exercised by Gen. Hershey "and such other officers, agents, and persons and in such manner as the chairman may determine."

The order directed the Secretaries of War and Navy to determine the number of men needed by the Army and Navy each month to fulfill their total requirements. When they have done that, the order continued, the WMC "chairman shall furnish the required number of men through selective service system."

Under the order no men over 33 years will hereafter be inducted into the armed forces, and some now in service may be released to enter war production work.

Inductees now may be sent to the army, navy or marine corps. McNutt said that since voluntary enlistments in the armed forces have been banned, selectees will be allowed to say which branch of military service they prefer, but that the individual's preference will not necessarily be controlling as to whether he will be put in the Army, Navy, Marines or Coast Guard.

If a man expresses a preference for the Navy and is unable to meet the physical requirements for that branch for example, he will be placed in the Army if he can pass the army's physical examination.

## EXPLOSIVE PERMITS REQUIRE NEW FORMS, INCLUDING AFFIDAVIT

Additional restrictions have been placed on the issuance of explosives permits, according to an announcement of Prothonotary John L. Hite, licensing agent for Cambria County. Mr. Hite has just received a copy of the new instructions to agents sent out by the Bureau of Mines in Washington.

These new requirements provide that every individual and every partner, where a partnership applies, is required to file affidavits supporting the application executed by at least two responsible citizens, neither of whom is a blood relative.

These affidavits are required even if the licensing agent personally acquainted with the applicant, and regardless of the age and citizenship of the applicant. The form of supporting affidavit on the back of the application is not sufficient.

New forms covering these affidavits are being prepared by the Bureau of Mines and will be in the hands of the licensing agents in the near future. All licenses are good for one year from the date of issuance. Applicants whose licenses expire during March and April should not wait until the last day or two to make application, as several hundred licenses expire during these two months.

## NAME CRESSON MAN FOREMAN OF JURY

With eight women and seven men serving, the Cambria County December grand jury is on its deliberations this week. Edward Morrissey of Cresson, an insurance agent, was named foreman of the body. Forty-two cases are scheduled for consideration during the week.

The shortage of lubricating oil is becoming critical for the Germans in Norway. In the near future railway locomotives and coastal ships will begin using wood as fuel, and Germans are ravaging Norwegian forests.

## PRESIDENT ORDERS WPA'S LIQUIDATION EARLY NEXT YEAR

Says That Workers Still on Relief May Find Jobs on Farm and in Industry.

President Roosevelt last week ordered complete liquidation of the Works Projects Relief Program. The President, in a letter to Maj. Gen. Philip B. Fleming, federal works administrator, said the WPA rolls had greatly decreased through the "tremendous increase in private employment, assisted by the training and reemployment efforts of its own organization, to a point where the national work relief program is no longer necessary."

Mr. Roosevelt ordered the closing out of all project operations in many states by February 1, 1943, and in other states as soon thereafter as is feasible.

"By taking this action the President said, there will be no need to provide project funds for the Works Projects Administration in the budget for the next fiscal year."

Mr. Roosevelt said certain groups of workers still on relief rolls may have to be given relief by states and localities; others would be able to find work on farms or in industry at prevailing rates of pay as private employment continues to increase.

"Some of the present certified war projects," he added, "may have to be taken over by other units of the Federal Works Agency or by other departments of the federal government. State or local projects should be closed out by completing useful units of such projects or by arranging for the sponsors to carry on the work."

## DON'T SNUB MAN WITHOUT UNIFORM

Pennsylvanians have been asked not to snub the man without a uniform — chances are the army would not accept him if he tried to enlist.

"Big, strapping 200 pound men, who look big enough to handle 18 or 20 Japs, may have weak hearts or other physical defects which cause rejection by the armed forces," said Col. Benj. F. Evans, acting state selective service director.

"Other men, physically fit, are barred from enlisting because selective service officials believe they are more valuable in the country working at defense jobs or highly-skilled agricultural employment."

Neighbors should first find out why the man has been deferred before making disparaging remarks about him, Evans asserted.

Although state headquarters receive a lot of letters from persons believing a draft board has treated a neighbor favorably, Evans said most of the people are fair once they discover the reason for deferment.

Most of the letters are anonymous, the writers being too ashamed to sign their names, Evans said. Each of the cases is examined, however, and in almost every instance deferment is absolutely proper, Evans concluded.

## CHRISTMAS GIFTS AT MARCH PRICES, OPA OFFICE STATES

Harrisburg. — Christmas shoppers will continue to pay March prices for gifts despite reduced overhead costs enjoyed by retail stores eliminating consumer services, the Central Pennsylvania branch of the Office of Price Administration said.

OPA explained that the order permitting stores to curtail deliveries and other customer services was designed to save gasoline and tires. Although it permits a reduction of many overhead costs it does not direct a similar reduction in prices, fixed to March levels.

## ROOSEVELT PREPARES DECEMBER BROADCAST

Washington.—President Roosevelt said during the week he may take occasion in his next fireside chat—some time this month—to clarify public misunderstanding over the \$25,000 net salary ceiling.

He told his press conference there seems to be a widespread and erroneous impression that all a man can earn is \$25,000 a year out of which he must pay taxes. Actually, he declared, the ceiling permits a man to earn a gross income of \$67,200 of which a clear \$25,000 would remain to him after payment of taxes and certain fixed obligations.

He also acknowledged widespread dissatisfaction over lack of controls on income from investments and said he is curious as to what Congress will do toward limiting such earnings.

## AFL AND CIO ARE SOMEWHAT CLOSER TO HARMONY MOVE

Washington.—A. F. L. and C. I. O. peace committees reached an agreement last Wednesday providing in substance for arbitration of jurisdictional differences pending full resolution of the two organizations.

The agreement was made subject to the approval of the A. F. L. executive council and C. I. O. executive board and with the understanding that unity negotiations would be continued. Another meeting was planned for later this month.

Both sides hailed the agreement as a great step toward complete labor peace and the removal of impediments to war production. C. I. O. President Philip Murray said it was the first agreement reached between the A. F. L. and the C. I. O. since the split in the American labor movement in 1935. It was reached in a day and a half of conferences.

Under its terms, a joint committee will be set up. It will attempt to resolve jurisdictional differences and, failing that, will try to agree upon an arbiter whose decision will be binding. If it cannot agree on an arbiter within five days the President of the United States shall be requested to name one.

The framework of the agreement itself left many questions unanswered as to its application to specific cases. Conference meeting with news-men later declined to discuss it in specific relation to any of the current inter-union difficulties, outstanding among which is the Kaiser shipyard case. A. F. L. unions have closed shop contracts with three yards in the West and is fighting bitterly the attempts of the C. I. O. Marine and Shipbuilders' Union, through the National Labor Relations Board, to have them invalidated and a collective bargaining election held.

## LESS LIQUOR FOR HOLIDAYS AND NEW PRICES EFFECTIVE

New prices on liquor went into effect in Pennsylvania on Monday with a warning from the Liquor Control Board that less liquor and gin will be available for the holiday season.

The board said, however, that "the overall supply of whiskies should be sufficient to meet requirements during the approaching holidays if consumers do not buy beyond their current needs."

Philadelphia, however, already felt the pinch with many state stores reporting stocks almost exhausted. Except for high priced bonded whiskies, the shelves in some stores there were bare and a similar shortage was reported on gins.

The new price list carries OPA ceiling prices and federal taxes imposed last November 1.

"Prices are the same or slightly higher than those shown on the supplementary price list issued on November 2," the board said.

Chairman Frederick T. Gelder said there would be a shortage of low-priced whiskey since the board is "able to get only 25 per cent as much as heretofore" and that gins were becoming increasingly scarce.

## STABILIZATION OF WAGES EXPLAINED BY RADIO SPEAKER

McCUTCHEON SAYS PRIMARY PURPOSE OF ORDER IS TO COMBAT INFLATION TRENDS.

President Roosevelt's executive order giving the War Labor Board jurisdiction over adjustment of wages and salaries does not "freeze" the pay of working men and women. The primary purpose of the order is to combat inflation. Wage stabilization is a wartime economic measure calling for equality of sacrifice to speed victory to our nation.

These assertions were made last Thursday night by John B. McCutcheon, senior inspector for the Wage-Hour and Public Contracts Division, U. S. Department of Labor, during a broadcast over Station WJAC. He was interviewed by Elmer E. Meadley executive secretary of the Johnstown Chamber of Commerce.

"The object of Congress and the President is to keep down the cost of living," Mr. McCutcheon said in explaining the purpose of the stabilization plan. "Inflation is the enemy of all of us and is one of the deadliest enemies of a nation at war. This was one of the major production and living problems in the last war."

Questioned as to the procedure in obtaining wage changes, the inspector said wage-hour field offices have been established as contact points for employers and employees. Application for wage changes are made at these field offices and forwarded to the War Labor Board's regional office in Philadelphia for action.

Wage increases can be made as a result of individual promotions or reclassifications, individual merit increases with established rate changes, for increased productivity, under an apprentice or trainee system, or under a plan for providing increase of pay based on length of service, Mr. McCutcheon answered in response to a question. Wage changes under other conditions must be approved, he added.

Collective bargaining agreements calling for wage changes effective after October 3 must be approved by the War Labor Board, it was pointed out during the interview, although the agreement might have been signed before that date. Mr. McCutcheon advised employers and employees in doubt on the wage stabilization program to consult a division representative at the Field Office of the U. S. Employment office, in Johnstown.

## DATA ON YOUR TIRES MUST BE KEPT ACCURATELY. DAVIS CAUTIONS

Unless tire inspection records are kept up-to-date, motorists will not be eligible for gasoline rationing renewals or for tires under the mileage rationing program, W. Winston Davis, president of the Johnstown Motor Club, warned car owners this week.

Tires on all vehicles must be inspected at official OPA tire inspection stations before January 31, 1943, and after this date "A" card holders are to have tires inspected every four months while others must have tires inspected every two months, it was pointed out by the Johnstown A. A. A. official. Mr. Davis said that Wilbur Wright, county rationing administrator, had announced the names of numerous inspection stations over the county so that motorists would not have to go far to have their tires inspected.

Motorists were warned that the deadline for selling extra tires to the government has been extended to December 12.

"After this date it will be illegal to drive an automobile if the owner has more than five tires in his possession," Mr. Davis said.

As a result of the government's program to reduce speeds as a tire conservation measure, there has been a very definite reduction in pace of traffic on highways, Mr. Davis pointed out that the average speed of passenger cars on highways has been reduced to 37 miles per hour.

"Although the average is only slightly above the 35-mile federal speed limit," the Motor Club official stated, "there are still many cars that are going in excess of this speed."

"It should be remembered that a motorist's eligibility for rationed tires and gasoline can well be jeopardized by repeated or flagrant violations of the speed limit. A tire purchase certificate can be refused if the tires show evidence of abuse."

—Following the recent request by Philip Murray, president of the CIO, that every able-bodied CIO member donate blood for the American Red Cross blood bank, 15 workers of the national office of the labor organization at Washington visited the blood donor center there. The group was headed by James B. Carey, secretary of the CIO and a member of the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America.