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TODAY and TOMORROW

As a result of the charges brought by John L. Lewis in labor committee hearings against Secretary of Interior Krug following the Centralia mine disaster, there is a chance that finally the federal government may be given authority to enforce the recommendations of its mine inspectors as to safety violations in the nation's mines. As of now, due to the tenacious theory of states rights, the congress has denied the authority to the federal government and sole power to enforce the safety laws in mines is in the hands of the various states. However, Mr. Krug as secretary of interior an dnominally in charge of the mines under government operation, could have order unsafe mines closed as he has done since the disaster. But those who are afmiliar with the situation point out that in attempting to fix responsibility for the disaster there is no single unit or person upon whom blame can be placed, that it is divided as between the states, federal government, the owners, and the unions and the miners themselves.

Every report of safety law violations by federal mine inspectors, it is pointed out, is sent to United Mine Workers headquarters in Washington, a copy to the mine operator, one to the state mine inspector and one to the local union which works the mine. A copy of these reports is ordered posted at the mine entrance or some other place where all can see. So, the unions, the miners themselves, the state inspectors, the mine owners and the union headquarters know when a mine is regarded unsafe. In addition, a union safety committee at each mine can recommend the mine be closed on belief that immediate danger exists. And mine managements are obliged to follow these recommendations unless the federal coal mine administrator rules otherwise. It is also pointed out that experienced miners probably know better than any state and federal inspector when a mine is unsafe and that they should refuse to enter an unsafe mine as John L. Lewis recently ordered them to do.

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The House - Senate conference committee attempting to iron out differences of opinion on the contemplated cut in the Truman budget is still stalemated and has been for two weeks. The house is holding fast to six billion and the senate conferees are standing by four and a half billion.

In the meantime the house has sent the Knutson tax cut bill to the senate with a graduated cut from 20 to 10 percent, knowing full well that it will not pass the senate in that form. They also have passed along two appropriation bills to the senate, knowing too that cuts to the labor conciliation and other services will be restored in the senate.

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The Civil Service Commission report of federal employment for February is just out, showing paid employment in Washington at a net decrease for the month of 839, over January, while the employment in continental U. S. showed a net decrease of 6,532.

There is considerable talk about the enormous corporation profits in the first quarter of this year and some indications that as a result prices will start down, led by U.S. Steel. Experts say that prices must come down or wages will go up again, starting another spiral. And on advice of federal reserve banks, member banks are tightening up on real estate loans. Buliding costs are too high and prices are too high, and the lenders do not propose to get caught in the inflated values.

The economists profess to see trouble ahead for the building industry because housing prices are all out of reason and there has already been a definite drop in new house purchases—all this in spite of the high sounding promises made by the real estate and construction lobbies, if only controls were taken off.

TUBERCULOSIS CURE IS LISTED AS "APPARENT"

Apparent cures in two cases of miliary tuberculosis—until recently considered invariably fatal—have been reported by the Baltimore City Hospitals.

The new drug, streptomycin, is credited with the curing of the two children who were admitted to the pediatric hospital in a condition that usually precedes a quick death.

MUSICAL FAMILY . . . Conductor Erich Leinsdorf, who has just returned from a successful European tour, leads his favorite "orchestra" in a music session at the Leinsdorf home, Larchmont, N. Y. Joshua, 1, held by Mrs. Leinsdorf, blows the fife. Gregor, 2, plays the violin and David, 4, beats the drum.

Farm Machines Coming Thru In Better Quantities With Demand Far Above Supply

Hardware and farm machinery, a critical item on the supply list since shortly after the Second World War began, shows signs at last of settling down into a more normal and smooth groove, dealers in the county said this morning. With most of the major strikes in these lines settled, and with steel becoming more plentiful, shelves and warehouses are once more looking more as they did ten years ago when it was more a problem of selling merchandise than it was of getting it in stock.

Small garden tractors, which have been almost unobtainable until recently, are now coming through in car load lots, one dealer recently receiving fifty machines at one time. Farm tractors, although still far behind the demand, are also being received here in steadily increasing numbers as are also other items of farm equipment.

Trucks, still on the critical list after being on the absent list entirely for four years, are also being received by automobile dealers in much heavier shipments, but it is estimated that, even at the present rate, it will take another twelve months to fill the most urgent demands. Passenger car output is growing each month but the average dealer still has his quota sold a year or more in advance.

In the hardware stores catering to the home trade and small items many merchants say their shelves are rapidly filling up with merchandise which they have been badly in need of for several years. Articles of brass and copper are still not readily available in many places, but they are becoming easier to get.

Boats and boat engines are gradually reaching here in large numbers. Engines of the marine type and rebuilt and new automobile engines are in good supply and usually obtainable for immediate delivery.

COURT UPHOLDS DEATH SENTENCE

A death sentence pronounced by the Baltimore Criminal Court on Weldon Jones, Jr., 19, of Chance, Md., upon his conviction of the murder of I. Rayner Graham on Deal's Island in January, 1945, was upheld by the State Court of Appeals today.

The court refused to sustain contentions of Jone's counsel that his confession was not made freely and should not have been admitted in evidence, that the State did not prove the crime of murder, and that a verdict of first-degree murder was unjustified because premeditation had not been proved.

The Baltimore court's conviction was the second given Jones on the same charge. He and his brother, Holbrook, 14, had been convicted by the Wicomico County Circuit Court, Weldon getting a death sentence and Holbrook one of life imprisonment.

The Baltimore court with three judges sitting as they, received the case after the Court of Appeals reversed the first conviction. Holbrook was acquitted.

Graham's body was found outside his packing house the night of January 12, 1945. He had been robbed and the packing house office rifled.

SALES TAX LAW BASIS OF SUIT

Hyman A. Prssman, attorney, filed a suit in his own name in Superior Court yesterday asking that the new sales-tax law be declared "invalid, unconstitutional and unenforceable."

The suit charged that Governor Lane "forced the ostensible passage of said purported law by the Legislature against the will of a majority of its members by coercing various members of the Legislature of Maryland."

Further, the suit charged that Governor Lane "thereby usurped the powers and encroached upon the jurisdiction of the Legislature . . ." in violation of the constitution of Maryland.

Both Governor Lane and James J. Lacy, State comptroller, were namel defendants in the suit. They will be required by the court to file an answer.

U. OF MD. HORSE SHOW SCHEDULED FOR MAY 24

The annual University of Maryland horse show will be held May 24 at the Meadowbrook grounds in Montgomery county, Ann Fenessy, of Berwyn, and Margaret Attcheson, of Laurel, Co-chairmen, announced today.

DONATES MILLIONS . . . Hugh Roy Cullen, wealthy Houston, Tex., independent oil operator and his wife, Mrs. Lillie Cullen, who have announced gift of oil estimated at $160,000,000. The money will be used for Texas educational, medical and charitable institutions. They say they want to see the money spent while they are still alive to see the good effects.

Phone Strike Has Slowed Business Here

A temporary slowdown has been noticed in County stores since the telephone strike began last week, merchants reported this week. Although not serious, many said the lack of the telephone trade had amounted to more loss than they formerly had estimated.

The slowdown was noted mostly by grocery stores who have a large telephone order and home delivery trade. It has brought into active shopping many persons that stores seldom saw before, they stated.

The automobile and hardware dealers have not noticed a great deal of change in sales due to the strike, although they have been greatly inconvenienced by not being able to make emergency orders of parts and supplies often badly needed. One wholesale house in the county said that they believed the loss to merchants would be greater than many realized, as a large part of the orders for food would not be placed after the strike is over. If the housewife can not order meats and groceries, and has no way to get to the stores for it, she usually makes out with something else. She then, is that much better off and the merchant, who has lost the sale permanently, that much worse off, the wholesaler pointed out.

FLU EPIDEMIC LIKE 1918's HELD LIKELY

Another influenza scourge similar to that of 1918 may now be imminent, Dr. C van den Berg director general of public health to the Dutch Government, told the World Health Organization.

He expressed the belief that influenza pandemics (epidemics on a world-wide scale) were liable to recur in cycles of from 25 to 30 years and that the danger was aggravated by conditions caused by a prolonged war.

Urging his colleagues to prepare in good time, Dr. van den Berg said:

"Thousands of lives could nave been saved if we had been ready to fight for them, and today we have the advantage of very effective remedies which were unknown at that time."

Dr. van den Berg pointed out that it was possible to immunize people against influenza with certain vaccines.

His plan of campaign, approved by his colleagues, is to lay in stocks of anti-influenza serum at strategic points, so that in the event of an outbreak, influenza workers such as doctors and nurses can be vaccinated immediately.

Since by far the greatest number of fatalities is caused not by influenza itself, but by resulting pneumonia, all resources of modern science, in particular penicillin and sulphur drugs, should be organized in advance, Dr. van den Berg urged.

The World Health Organization decided that the fight against influenza merits the same attention as the fight against tuberculosis and venereal disease.

It set up a special influenza committee, which will take immediate action by organizing the most urgent anti-influenza measures, and later, at the microbacteriologists, meeting at Copenhagen next July, will discuss further plans with leading bacteriologists.

Although in some countries, including Holland, special influenza committees have already been set up, Dr. van den Berg considers the problem one for international action.

ADD OFFICERS TO MD STATE POLICE

The Maryland State Police will have 25 additional officers and 15 more civilian employees, instead of the 125 extra officers asked under terms of the budget bill submitted last week by Governor Lane.

The Governor said that although Col. Beverley Ober, superintendent, had asked for a force of 350 men, the maintenance of such a force would reduce the amount available for highway improvement.

Rep. Miller Is Concerned Over Immigration

Representative Miller has voiced concern over the type and physical condition of the refugees who are being admitted to the United States from Europe, it was revealer in an extension of his remarks printed in the Congressional Record .

The Maryland congressman said he had been receiving reports relative to the old age and poor physical condition of these refugees.

Congressman Miller took the matter up with the State Department and asked to be advised of the total number of refuges expected to be admitted to the United State this year.

The department reported that a total of 1,474 persons had been issued immigration visas through January 31, 1947, under the President's directive of March 31, 1946.

He has learned, Mr. Miller, asserted, "that only a small portion of these, refugees will be capable of supporting themselves in the United States; that a large number of them are in such bad physical condition that they have to be carried on shipboard or stretchers; that, despite a policy of giving priority to children, many shipments contain more persons over 65 years of age than those under 10."

The department informed the Maryland congressman however that all applicants are examined physically. Visas are not issued to persons found to be afflicted with a dangerous or contagious disease.

STATE FISHERMEN OPPOSE VIRGINIANS

Marylanders are planning vigorous protests against the application of commercial fishermen of Northampton and Accomac counties, Virginia, who seek authority to extend pound nets to as much as 4 miles into the Chesapeake Bay.

It will be contended that the nets would constitute a menace to navigation, notably of deep-draft ships bound to and from Baltimore and jeopardize the State's fisheries management program.

Gilbert H., Moore, of the Maryland Commercial Fishermen Association, Inc., said that he will be accompanied to the protest meeting, to be held today in the schoolhouse at Willis Wharf, Va., by delegations of fishermen from nine tidewater counties.

"This is an out-and-out attempt at a grab," said Mr. Moose. "If the United States engineer at Norfolk were to permit this plan of the Virginians, it would dangerously deplete the population of trout, hardheads, shad and herring in the bay.

"Nets spread over such a mileage prevent shad and herring from getting to the upper waters of the bay to spawn, for it would mean a much greater percentage of the fish could thus be captured."

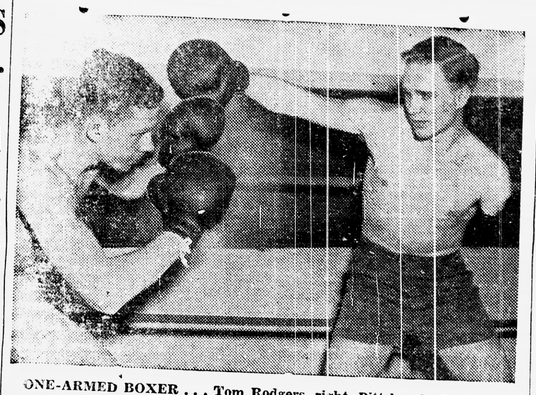
Mr. Moore said Senator Tydings and Representatives Meade and Fallon had already protested the Virginias' proposals to the district engineer at Norfolk and that others of the Maryland congressional delegation would register their protests on behalf of State fishing and conservation interests.

Senator Tydings has called attention of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to the proposal and urged it to intercede.

E. Arch Seidl, president of the Steamship Trade Association, directed Stevenson Masson, an official of the association, to protest the plan "because the stakes, nets and floats would constitute a menace to navigation."

Capt. Presley Carter, president of the Association of Maryland pilots, will represent that group at today's hearing.

"Our position is that the nets would come dangerously close to waters in which the great ore ships bound for Sparrows Point frequently navigate because of their deep draft, Captain Carter said. The nets would come within 1.25 miles of the deepest water in the bay and constrict the shipping lanes."



ONE-ARMED BOXER . . . Tom Rodgers, right, Pittsburgh, Pa., Harvard student who lost his left arm in a train wreck, is shown sparring with Dave Gill. He competed in two classes in the recent Harvard tournament. Rodgers also has a permanent limp as a momento of the train wreck.

Business Houses In County Look Forward To Good Year Despite Slump Predictions

Despite forebodings of a major depression, widely heralded throughout the country, merchants of this county are not worried about the immediate outlook, a checkup in towns throughout this section disclosed this week. Observers who have been keeping a close watch on developments in the real estate, building trades and mercantile fields say that while there may be some drop in the rapid pace business has been maintaining on the Shore since the end of the war, they expect to continue enjoying a good business for many months to come.

With grain prices up to almost record levels, farmers should have a good summer.

The prices on tomatoes and other farm products are still uncertain.

Government Seeks To End Telephone Rate Case

Again refusing to allow a mouth for preparation of cross-examination after completion of the telephone company's case for permanent rate increases, the Public Service Commission this week approved a schedule of direct and crossexamination under which the current hearing would end about May 8.

In making the ruling, Charles B. Bosley, chairman noted that the schedule, proposed by the company, provided people's counsel and counsel for the United States Treasury Department with "reasonable time" to study the record of direct testimony of the company witnesses.

The amount of time between the dates on which copies of testimony were suppliel in advance to the opposing counsel and the proposed dates for cross-examination ranges from two to four weeks.

Of the ten witnesses who have appeared so far for the company since the hearing got under way April 8, only one, Harry C. Gretz, assistant comptroller of the American Telegraph Company, has been cross-examined.

Two other witnesses, Richard M. Fowler, auditor of disbursements, and William N. Rosser, engineer, both of the Chesapeak and Potomac Telephone Company of Baltimore City, are scheduled to appear for cross-examination when the hearing resumes at 10 A.M. today to begin its sixth day.

Yesterday morning's session was marked by a clash between Mr. Bosley and Philip H. Dorsey, Jr., people's counsel, the latter charging that the company was trying to "dictate" to the commission as to the length of the hearing, the testimony and time allowed for cross-examination.

This was emphatically denied by the commission chairman. Both Mr. Dorsey and Charles M. Dinneen, representing the Treasury Department, had renewed their pleas for postponement of cross - examination, particularly with regard to testimony on current cost estimates.

Mr. Dorsey was denied a motion to strike out the entire testimony of William B. Spencer, chief estimator for the Consolidated Engineering Company of Baltimore on the subect of current cost of buildings. This testimony was completed yesterday.

Three witnesses testified yesterday concerning the Western Electric Company: Robert W. Thomas, of A.T.&T., and Burton R. Young and J. W. Myers, of Western Electric. They were followed by E. K. Patten, equipment and buildings engineer of the telephone company.

In approving the proposed schedule for the rest of the hearing, Mr. Bosley recalled that the case involving rates of the Gas and Electric Company that opened three years ago, had taken two years to try.

"That length of time was due to the fact that we permitted cross-examination two weeks after the typewritten testimony was furnished by the reporter," he said. "When that case came back a year ago, we instituted the practice of requiring the company to supply opposing counsel with copies of the testimony being introduced so as not to have a protracted delay.

"The second case was concluded in two months. If we had followed the same procedure as in the former case, it would have required another year.

"No doubt counsel for the telephone company knew we would wish to try this case as expeditiously as possible. I assume that is the reason testimony was supplied in advance in this case."

The telephone company received a temporary rate increase amounting to $3,500,000 mor than two months ago, and is seeking a permanent boost $1,800,000 above that amount for a total permanent increase of $5,300,000.

DOCTOR CITES CANCER CURES

Many cases of cancer have been cured and the patients have never known they had the disease, Dr. Beverly C. Compton, a member of the Medical and Executive Committee of the Maryland Division, American Cancer Society, tole advertising men this week at a luncheon in the Southern Hotel Baltimore

Dr. Compton said, however, in ever ycase where cancer was cured it was detected in the early stages of the disease while it was still curable.

Because of the fear of the disease many patients, he said, are not told they have cancer. He said, however, they should be told and those who have been cured should not keep it quiet but should let their neighbors know they have been cured.

INSURANCE AGENTS URGED TO HELP CANCER DRIVE

Maryland insurance agents have been urged to co-operate with the "Give to Conquer Cancer" drive by Lawrence E. Enser, State Insurance Commissioner.

Mr. Enser suggested the agents make their contributions through their own county chairman or send them to Lucien C. Lowndes, 202 American Building, Baltimore 2. Mr. Lowndes is chairman of the insurance agents' committee for the campaign.

Congress Makes New Study On Price Situation

With Administration spokesmen still pressing business to make voluntary price reductions Congress today announced plans to launch its own exhaustive investigation into the price situation.

Developments on the price-wage profits see as holding the key either to future prosperity or a future economic collapse included:

1. An announcement by Senator Taft (R., Ohio), chairman of the joint congressional Economic Committee, that it had been decided to call on leaders of industry, labor and agriculture for information and advice on the present economic situation

2. A renewed appeal to business men by John W. Snyder, Secretary of the Treasury, though the April treasury bulletin, to cut prices before consumer resistance forces a tumble.

3. Release by Senator Taft, as chairman of the senate committee on labor and public welfare, of an economic analysis by Congressional economists of the CIO case for higher wages. Entitled "data on wages and profits" this report endorses in part and emphatically refutes in other parts the now famous Nathan report which told industry it could raise wages 20 per cent without affecting prices.

Senator Taft said in announcing the decision of his committee to send out a general pricing questionnaire to business leaders followed by personal examination of select key-witnesses that a special statement on the price and economic situation will be issued by the committee Friday.

Taft and other members of the economic committee agree with the President that prices have got out of line. But they feel that it would be disastrous for the wage-price spiral ti go on climbing and they want to see, therefore, what can be done about bringing living costs down instead of yielding to widespread labor demands that wages be further nereased.

Secretary Snyder addressed his appeal direct to business on the ground that the future economic outlook will be jeopardized if business does not cooperate to bring prices down quickly.

"The hard way to get prices down," said Snyder, "is for people to cut down their buying. Retailers then start cancelling their orders and try to reduce their inventories through clearance sales. Factories in turn, have to curtail production and lay off workers which further reduces consumer demand. This is the hard way.

"There is a better way. I ask all who have a voice in pricing their products to co-operate in reducing prices before they are forced down."

Senator Taft said he could not go along with President Truman's idea that the alternative to bringing prices down is to send wages up again.

"An increase in wages now," said Taft, "will just peg prices permanently higher."

The congressional economists, headed by Gustav Peck, who were asked by Senator Taft to prepare an anlysis of the CIO wage case after Philip Murray, president of the CIO, testified February 19, disagreed with the labor leader's thesis that industry had waxed fabulously wealthy by blowing up a small wage increase into a phenomenal price rise thus cutting living standards and justifying labor asking for a new wage rise.

The report agrees that corporation profits did rise to $12,000,000,000 in 1946—a $3,000,000,000 gain. But soaring prices were not the sole—os Mr. Murray contended— cause of the soaring profits or even the most important cause, the economists of the legislative reference service point out.

There were three main causes of increased profits in 1946, they state—tax reductions, increased volume of business and higher prices—and "higher prices were a less important factor than the other two."