Bruckart's Washington Digest

Lewis' Violent Blast at Garner Wrecks Influence as Labor Leader

Resentment Spreads Quickly and Things Begin to Happen; Reaction in House Labor Committee Is Immediate; Strengthens Political Position of Vice President.

By WILLIAM BRUCKART

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WASHINGTON.—There have been so many instances in history where one act or one expression, or one omission, has changed the course of events that it is necessary here to make mention only that such things happen. Everyone has seen them. In only a few instances, however, have those on the scene been able to make a guess as to the far-reaching consequences. On the other hand, a number can be recalled which obviously were going to raise cain from the start. It is one of the latter type about which I write now.

When John L. Lewis burst forth with angry violence and referred to Vice President Garner as "a labor-baiting, poker-playing, whiskey-drinking, old man," he wrote "finis" for his long career as a labor leader. Even with his ability to shake his bushy hair and wrinkle his beetled eyebrows and evolve the most biting of all language into a description of his enemies, even with this capacity and a million or so workers paying him dues, John Lewis is through as a political influence in behalf of organized labor.

It is not meant here that Lewis will not continue to shout and tear his hair and accuse everyone of being unfair to organized labor; he still has his vicious tongue, and he is still president of the Congress of Industrial Organizations. As long as he has that title he can go places and make speeches and drive home threats and yell "bloody murder," and, of course, he will get newspapers to print his statements. What I am saying is, however, that Lewis has created such resentment around the capitol building as seldom has been seen, and instead of having weasel congressmen obey his dictates, their greetings to him hereafter are likely to be of the thumb-to-nose variety.

Reaction Comes Quickly In House Labor Committee

As an illustration of how these things react, mention may be made that immediately after the Lewis eruption of political lava, the house labor committee decided to go forward with legislation amending the federal wages and hours law — amendments to which Lewis was violently opposed. True, there was no member of the committee had the guts to give Lewis a call-down in the hearing, but they did vote to send the legislation to the floor for debate and, in effect, tell Lewis to take his marbles and go home.

It was the second time that Lewis has pulled stupid boners, actions so dumb that they seem inexplainable when they come from a man who has had the build-up given Lewis as a labor leader and politician. It will be recalled how, a year ago, Lewis walked into the office of Speaker Bankhead of the house, and announced what the house must do about some labor legislation. Mr. Bankhead, a thoroughly level-headed Democrat from the deep South, fixed things right up for the labor leader—to make sure that Lewis would lose out. One would think that Lewis would have learned his lesson from the dictatorial arrogance he displayed on that occasion, but he came back for more.

Perhaps, the circumstances of the Lewis statement should be related to give a clear picture of the consequences that seem certain to flow from his personal attack on Mr. Garner. The house committee invited Lewis to appear as a witness to give the C. I. O. views on the amendments that were proposed. Lewis spent a few minutes in discussing the text of the amendments and then launched into a sour-puss tirade about the Democratic party. He asserted that the party, after having accepted labor's gifts—C. I. O. having supported President Roosevelt with money and men in both presidential campaigns—had now turned out as a traitor. He argued that he never had looked for help from most of the Republicans but had believed the Democrats would stick by him and his dues-paying workers.

But through the last year or more, however, Lewis found someone in the Democratic party who was "searching for the heart of labor" and that individual, he shouted in red-faced anger, is "a labor-baiting, poker-playing, whiskey-drinking, evil old man, named Garner." The vice president was the "genesis" of a great campaign against labor, so Lewis declared.

News Travels Rapidly and Then Things Begin to Happen

Well, I have witnessed fast traveling of news around the halls of the Capitol many times, but I never have known word to get from office to office and to the far corners of every building any faster than the Lewis statement. And things began to happen.

Before the afternoon was over, the Texas delegation had met and had taken a resolution condemning Lewis and expressing the "deep resentment and indignation" at his "bitter, personal attack" upon the vice president. There was talk around the house and senate later about a proposition to bar Lewis from any further appearance before congressional committee hearings but that faded away. Nevertheless, my guess at this stage is that if and when Lewis does appear before any congressional committee again, he will be subjected to a grilling that will tan him to a deep brown.

Now, thus far, this column has dealt only with Lewis. There is more.

Wherever politicians gathered around Washington during the week following the intemperate action by Lewis, one could not fail to hear conjecture as to its effect upon the movement to make the vice president the Democratic presidential nominee next year. The feeling was almost unanimous that "Cactus Jack" could have had no better break, politically. That is to say, an attack by Lewis, who led the sit-down strikers and who has been tied in like a hand in a glove with certain of the radical elements, could not fail to swerve voting support behind Garner. Most of the politicians know now that the C. I. O. is a crumbling and disintegrating mass of badly led workers. Throughout the rural areas and in the small towns, he has hurt the cause of union labor beyond compare.

Factions of Democratic Party Split Further Asunder

The influence of the Lewis statement does not stop there, however, for there is a definite cleavage in the ranks of the majority party already. It is to be remembered in this connection that the backbone of the Democratic party has been the "solid South." The South, generally speaking, has clung to conservative ways and modes of living and has maintained traditions which have served its people well. That viewpoint is quite contrary to the New Deal and to the President's advisors of this month. Nor have the President's advisors enjoyed the knowledge that a lot of Mr. Garner's friends have been pushing him very hard for the party nomination in 1940. Naturally, these folks around the White House are the leaders in the plan to have President Roosevelt seek a precedent-breaking third term. They do not like to see a man become too popular or who might offer real resistance to a Roosevelt nomination.

From these facts, it becomes more or less obvious that the Lewis attack on Mr. Garner constitutes something of a bombshell in splitting the two factions of the Democratic party further asunder. With the Lewis record of support of everything new dealish, it can not fail to convince voters of the brand of Garner democracy.

There is still a further phase or sphere of influence to be mentioned. Mr. Garner has long been known as a conservative Democrat and he has long been powerful in the councils of his party. To enter upon an assumption, then, that he may be the Democratic nominee next year, where does that leave the Republicans? Republican leadership has been steering to the right, to the conservative side, as far as they have shown their hand. The question to be asked after that statement is, where does that leave the New Dealers?

Lewis Does More Harm to Labor Than Any Other Man

One could follow these questions on down into the state political situations and a merry time would be had by all. I have no guess as to which way the thing will come out. Probably Mr. Garner will not be the Democratic nominee at all. But these conjectures I have been making have been thrown more as proof of the assertion that Lewis demonstrated his lack of political ability than for any other reason. And in making that statement, I still entertain a belief that Lewis has done more harm to organized labor's cause than any other one man in America.

One has only to realize that the Lewis prestige already was on the down grade. The leadership he has been exerting has been shown in its true colors. When these are coupled with the fact that he stooped to make the personal life of a national figure the subject of his remarks, some think he started the machinery to drive himself into oblivion. I have known Mr. Garner many years. I believe there can be no question about his integrity. His ability long has been recognized. If, then, by any chance, Mr. Garner should be the Democratic nominee, where does that leave John L. Lewis? From this rail fence, it appears that Lewis has led his faction of union workers into another blind alley.

(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

Chic Fur Ingeniously Trims Gorgeous Woolens for Fall

By CHERIE NICHOLAS

AN INGENIOUS and out-of-the-ordinary use of fur trimmings is in prospect for fall. As a matter of fact, the vogue has not really been held back until the arrival of cool days, for during the summer, suits and ensembles of daintiest, sheerest wools in rapturous pastels highlighted with touches of delicately toned fox have held high favor with women who pride themselves on keeping pace with the mode.

Then, too, "coming events cast their shadows before" in advance midseason collections which include many fascinating ensembles done in alluring wools that are enhanced with lovely, lightsome fur after the manner of the stunning costume illustrated. Gaston of Paris designed this handsome beige wool crepe ensemble trimming it with exquisite color-matched fox.

From beginnings such as evidenced in this fascinating ensemble the vogue for fur trimmings is rapidly developing into a passion for unique and highly decorative treatments that will manifest itself in full force as the autumn and winter style program unfolds.

Preparatory to the coming call for fur trims that are distinctively new and out of the ordinary, designers have put on their thinking caps in order to play up the idea in ingenious ways for it is said that emphasis will be placed on unique touches of fur that have dramatic appeal. For instance, such intriguing effects will be worked as bow-knot appliques of fur, bands of fur that outline the fronts of jackets forming pockets in cunningly eccentric ways. The cuff-muff idea is a cute trick that cuffs bishop sleeves in fur flared from a tight wrist. The cuffs form a muff when the hands are clasped together. Then again the fur yoke, front or back, is worked in varied ways. Cloth sleeves that are patterned all-over with applied huge polka dots of fur present an attractive new note. Then there are bindings and borderings galore together with swatches here and there in unexpected places that make for decorative and amusing fur fantasies.

However, not by any means does all the glory go to the furs that trim. They tell but half the story of the enchanting fashions under way for the new season. It's the perfect teamwork that carries on 50-50 between luxurious wool weaves plus dramatic fur trimmings.

That the forthcoming is going to be a season of luxuriant fabric there is no doubt and the new vintage of woolen materials gives emphasis to this forecast. It is said that plaids will be more conspicuously in the mode than ever, and when we say plaids as now are it means as resplendent an array as ere eye has seen. For the girl going away to school the cape costume pictured in the inset panel is enough to excite the envy of every sorority sister on the campus. The cape is fashioned of a strikingly handsome wool plaid. It tops a two-piece navy wool suit. The suit can be worn alone and the cape with other costumes. The fur that collars it adds chic and charm to a high degree.

In regard to the grand and glorious woolens that will feature for fall and winter it is said that vertical stripes in raised effects or contrasts of yarn are scheduled among weaves that will prove foremost in fashion. There are many mossy worsted crepes too that are highly attractive in the new wool fabric showings.

(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

Lace-Top Dress

One of the most attractive fashions on the current style program is that of the lace-top dress. The model pictured shown at a revue held by the Style Creators of Chicago is proving to be one of the big successes of the season. It is liked particularly, for worn with a jacket, it will carry on through midseason into fall. It is navy for the corselet skirt with white for the lace top. The idea of the lace top admits versatile interpretations.

Warm Honey Beige Smart Tan Shade

The "look pretty" edict this season extends to headgear, footgear and makeup. Though some well-tanned skins are seen (treated this year with a new shiny finish and no other makeup except vivid rouge), the most talked-of tan tint is a warm honey beige, made up with a little rouge, mat powder and colorful lipstick.

Heads are topped with peaked hoods attached to suits, wide hats and fishnet turbans caught with two big colored hairpins. Cork clogs and raffia sandals are seen on smart feet. Beach bags are bigger than ever, and can be liberally equipped with makeup to insure that pretty look.

Fetching Costume In White and Blue

White and deep blue linen are combined for a natty costume from Bruyere, the blue making the deep sailor on the jacket and the bodice of the dress. On the shoulder of the dress is a white anchor, embroidered, and the anchor on the jacket sleeve is blue, outlined in red. The buttons are flat, of mother-of-pearl.

Gray Woolens High Style

Gray wool weaves that blend to gray furs will be featured this fall. The coming coats and suits stress the gray vogue.

Hatful of Stars

Small fabric stars captured between layers of maline are the imaginative creation of a French hat designer.

HOW TO SEW

by Ruth Wyeth Spears

SO MANY requests for copies of these directions have been received, they are being printed again to accommodate those who neglected to clip and save them when they appeared before.

The mat is made of heavy white cotton cable cord such as you buy at the notion counter for seams and trimmings. The design is copied from a luncheon mat made years ago of corset strings! There was a fad at one time for sewing these in braided and scroll designs with fine stitches on the wrong side of the mat.

Follow the directions in the sketch, making the circles in pairs, using No. 40 cotton thread to sew them. Braid three cords together and then sew the braided strip around and around to make the center of the mat. Sew a row of the circles to the edge of this center part; then add another braided row, being careful to "ease in" the inside edge just enough to keep the mat flat. Continue adding alternate rows of circles and braiding until the mat is size desired. To join the ends of the braided rows, pull one end through the braiding to the wrong side of the mat; then trim the ends and sew them flat.

NOTICE: Every Homemaker should have copies of the two books containing 96 How to Sew articles. You may secure SEWING, For the Home Decorator; and Gifts, Novelties and Embroideries; both for 25 cents; and your choice of the Patchwork Quilt Leaflet showing 36 authentic stitches; or the Rag Rug Leaflet FREE, while the supply lasts. Don't delay, as the offer of both books at this low price will be withdrawn soon. Send your order at once to Mrs. Spears, 210 S. Desplaines St., Chicago, Ill.

AROUND THE HOUSE

Boiled Frosting.—If you have trouble making boiled frosting, try boiling the sugar and water until it forms a soft ball in the water, instead of till it spins a thread. Most people cook the sugar and water too long.

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Lemon Juice in Dressing.—Use lemon juice instead of vinegar in dressing for lettuce, and so increase your vitamins.

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Removing a Splinter.—When a splinter has gone very deep into the flesh try extraction by steam. Heat a wide-mouthed bottle and fill it two thirds full of very hot water and place under the injured spot. The suction draws the flesh down when a little pressure is used, and the steam in a few minutes removes both splinter and inflammation. This method is particularly good when the splinter has been in for some time.

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Lasting Paper Dolls.—Children like to play with paper dolls. Try pasting them on coarse muslin and they will last much longer.

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When Bureau Drawers Stick.—If doors or bureau drawers stick in hot weather, a little wax rubbed on the surface where friction occurs will end the trouble.

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Centerpiece for Child's Party Table.—A bouquet of lollipops in many colors makes an attractive centerpiece for the children's party table. The lollipops may be fitted into a flower holder that is placed in a bowl or low basket.

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Beaten Egg Whites. — Never leave egg whites after they have been beaten still. If let stand they will flatten and will not beat up again.

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Repairing Last Year's Bathing Suit.—If last year's bathing suit is found to have a hole in it, the hole may be repaired and then covered with a small aquatic figure, such as a fish, diving girl or duck which may be purchased inexpensively.

• If your dealer cannot supply you, send 20c with your dealer's name for a Trial Package of 48 genuine PE-KO Jar Rings; sent prepaid.

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