

Safety & Coal Mines

DEATH came slowly for at least some of the 111 miners killed in the Centralia, Ill., disaster. A notice on the rock face above a huddle of bodies told rescuers to "look in everybody's pockets. We all have notes. Give them to our wives." Grimy coal-smudged sheets, torn from a foreman's time book, bore tragic messages scrawled in darkness.

"To my wife. It looks like the end. I love you, honey, more than life itself."

"Goodbye. God bless you and the two boys. Please do as your father has told you & listen to Mom."

"My dear wife: Goodbye. Name baby Joe, so you will have a Joe. Love all, Dad."

Long before he read the messages, John L. Lewis, United Mine Workers head, bitterly proclaimed a week's shutdown for the soft coal industry as a memorial to the victims and a protest against conditions which make such catastrophes an old story in the mines.

The 400,000 soft coal miners walked out Monday at midnight in obedience to the Lewis order while probes were started by a special Senate committee, state and federal bureaus.

Industry, in general, bridged the gap without serious shutdowns. Explained the Tri-State Industrial Association, composed of 135 steel plants in Ohio, West Virginia and Pennsylvania: "We learned a lesson in the past and now have adequate coal stockpiles."

Called a 'Strike' Walter Thurmond, secretary of the Southern Coal Producers Association, called the mourning period a "strike" and said forcing miners to lose \$28,000,000 in wages was a "peculiar method of paying respect to the dead."

But Lewis had an answer for that. In his proclamation calling for the shutdown, he said:

"Coal is saturated with the blood of too many brave men and drenched with the tears of too many widows and orphans."

"There is public sorrow at the moment, but we know from harsh experience that it is only a momentary feeling of pity on the part of the public, and this sacrifice soon will be forgotten."

Federal Safety Code Lewis accused Interior Secretary J. A. Krug, government mines operator, of "criminal negligence" in not enforcing the federal safety code. Bureau of Mines statistics show, he said, that of 3,345 federal inspections in 1946, only two mines were found "complying completely" with regulations.

One official in the Coal Mines Administration, which Krug heads, said the safety record had shown "steady improvement" since May 29, 1946, when the government took over the mines. Fatalities, he said, had declined to an average of 72 a month compared with an average of 93 a month before then.

The coal stoppage might prove an extended one. Union officials in a number of local districts declared miners would not go back to pits considered dangerous.

RADIO: Sabotage in Munich

Muting America's Voice

The first American shortwave broadcasts to Russia barely hopped the "iron curtain," could be heard in Moscow only as faint spluttering in the most expensive receivers. The U. S. State Department revealed why: someone had sabotaged the Munich relay transmitter by beaming its antenna not at Russia but at South America.

A special consultant to the State Department cabled from Munich that

The WORLD This WEEK

U.N.: Does the 'Truman Doctrine' Bypass It?

PRESIDENT TRUMAN and Warren Austin, American delegate to the Security Council, emphasized this week that American financial aid to Greece and Turkey was an emergency measure and that the United Nations eventually would be expected to take over the responsibility.

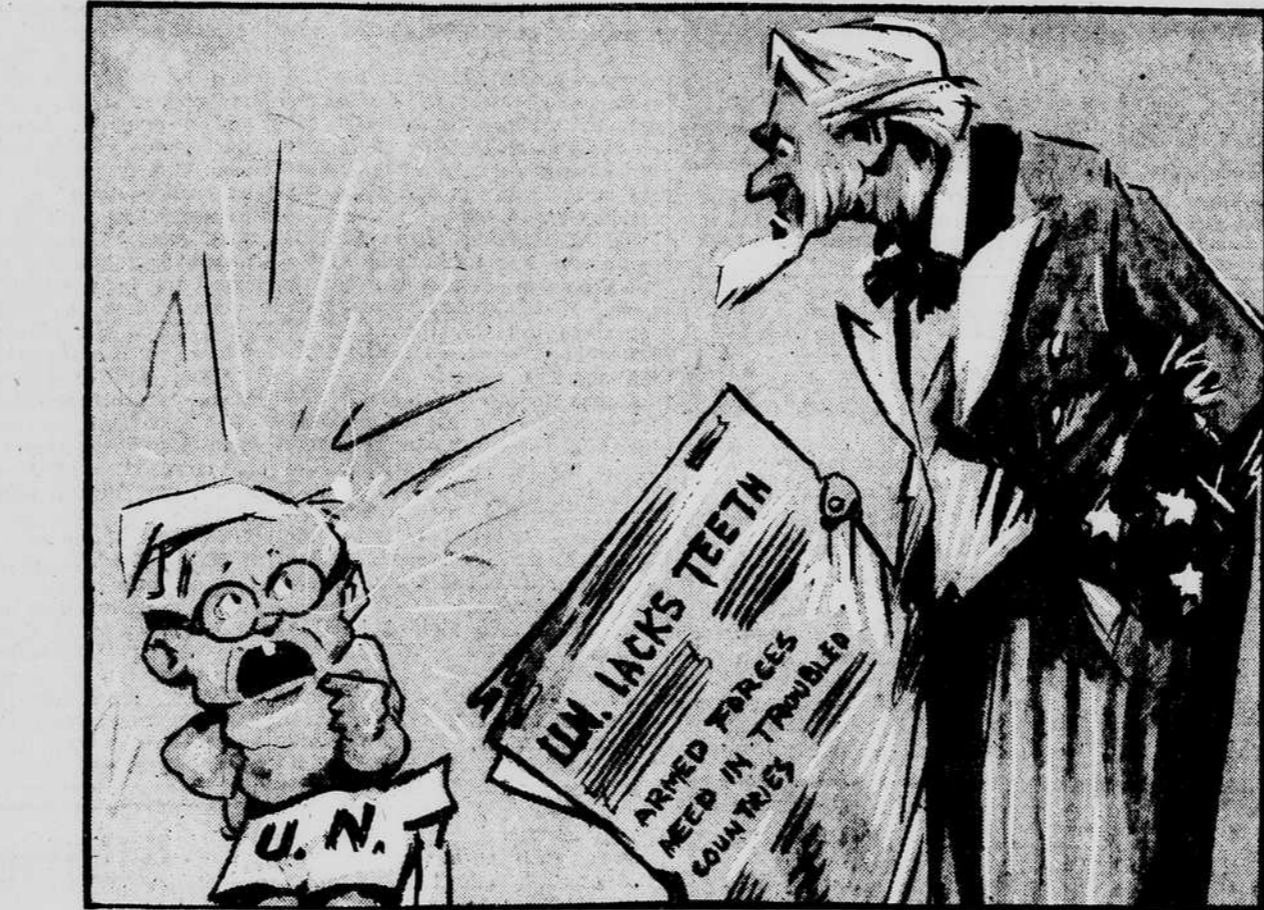
In Congress, Sen. Arthur Vandenberg (R-Mich) proposed that the U. N. be given the power to change or halt American aid to Greece or Turkey any time a majority of the General Assembly or seven of the eleven Security Council members saw fit.

Vandenberg, chairman of the Senate foreign relations committee, said his amendment submitting American aid to U. N. review would end any suspicion that this country was flouting the authority of the world peace organization.

Congressional reaction to the Vandenberg proposal was mixed. Objectors claimed it would weaken the U. S. stand both in the eyes of Russia whom it was designed to stop and in the eyes of small states whom it was designed to buttress.

Legal Issues Raised The Vandenberg plan, they said, would also involve the infant U. N. in legal squabbles over interpretation of the charter. In agreeing to abide by decision of the General Assembly, it runs counter to the charter which limits assembly authority to making recommendations.

Another legal stumbling block, experts said, is in the phrase "if requested by a procedural vote of the Security Council." The charter provides that procedural questions be decided by seven affirmative votes out of 11, while on questions of substance there must be seven affirmative votes, including all of the five permanent members. This is the vital veto power



"TAKES TIME TO GROW 'EM"

Loring, Providence Bulletin

possessed by the Big Five, and used frequently in the past by Russia.

In view of council actions in the past, it is regarded as highly unlikely that it could succeed, without challenge, the position that any important phase of the Greco-Turkish question was a matter of procedure.

Sen. Harry F. Byrd (D-Va) said the Vandenberg plan was unworkable but suggested that the President's plan to

combat communism be turned over to the U. N. and that Russia be kicked out if she vetoed it.

"If Russia is an enemy and persists in being an enemy to free peoples," Byrd said, "it is better to have her outside the family than inside."

Byrd also proposed the use of economic sanctions against Russia. At present, he declared the U. S. is "trying to ride two horses going in opposite

Moscow Conference At Showdown Stage

THE Big Four conference in Moscow arrived this week at the showdown stage in the east-west deadlock over Germany's future. After almost a month of preliminary discussion, the foreign ministers took off their diplomatic gloves and stopped talking generalities. The exchanges were sharp, the language at times bitter. At grips on disputed points, the ministers huddled closer, limiting conferees to a few aides in place of the big, unwieldy delegations. It was a tactic that at times had proved successful in Paris and New York in bringing about real bargaining on points that must be compromised.

The restricted sessions followed a blunt speech by American Secretary of State George C. Marshall flatly rejecting Russia's ultimatum that reparations from current German production must be a condition of Germany's economic unity. The United States opposed, said Marshall, policies which would make Germany "an economic powerhouse in the center of Europe."

Marshall used some of his sharpest language informing the Russians it would be impossible to reach agreements on the basis of an "ultimatum."

Long-Range View "We are here to resolve not accentuate our differences," he declared, "but we should not seek agreement merely for the sake of agreement. The United States recognizes that its responsibilities in Europe will continue and it is more concerned in building solidly than in building fast."

"Unless we have a real meeting of minds and a real desire to carry out both the spirit and letter of our agreement, it would be better if none were reached."

In referring to the Potsdam agreement and the Russian claim for current reparations, Marshall said: "It looks very much to us as though the Soviet Union is trying to sell the same horse twice."

"We do not approach this problem as merchants," retorted Vyacheslav M. Molotov, Russian foreign minister, "but we do not want other merchants selling our horse at a low price without our consent."

Crux Is Reparations The Soviet diplomat said he could not understand U. S. concern about reparations since it had neither been occupied during the war nor suffered any war damage. German economy managed to sustain a tremendous war effort, he said, and the 10 billion dollars in reparations which the Russians demand could be paid if German industry were revived and the German people carried out their duties honestly.

Marshall said that Russia's import plan for Germany, if adopted, would reduce German rations to a starvation level. He also referred to former German provinces now taken over by Poland, which Russia has insisted are now permanently Polish.

Former Secretary of State James F. Byrnes in his speech in Stuttgart, Germany, last September, said this country did not consider final the assignment of this territory to Poland. Marshall's reiteration of the subject rekindled another American-Russian dispute over German boundaries.

The campaign was a stormy one. Root injected international issues and charged that a vote for his Democratic opponent was a "vote for war."

At the close of World War I, influenza raged through Europe. Modern medicine, using penicillin, vaccines, sulfa drugs and DDT, has been able to prevent serious postwar epidemics and hold influenza in check. Europe's health, however, is far below prewar standards. The white plague of tuberculosis, flourishing among millions of ill-fed and ill-housed, has reversed the downward trend of a century and now is the continent's chief scourge.

An AP survey of 18 countries showed that only Sweden escaped a wartime increase in tuberculosis. Germany, Poland, Romania, Yugoslavia, Austria and Greece are the continent's blackest plague spots with Moldavia, perhaps, the blackest of all. Germany, which before the war had one of the world's lowest TB rates, now has one of the highest.

Britain, Italy and Spain apparently are recovering from wartime health slumps. In Britain, TB spurred briefly early in the war but again is on the decline. Despite cold, hunger and medical supply shortages, Italy's birth rate is up and its death rate down. Spain, almost isolated from the rest of Europe, is recovering steadily from the effects of its civil war. The 1946 death rate probably was the lowest in Spanish history.

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"Our proved reserves of petroleum and natural gas appear great enough for only a relatively short period in the face of increasing demand," said Ralph A. Sherman, supervisor of the fuels division of the Battelle Memorial Institute. "But our reserves of coal are almost limitless and technological advance has been so rapid our earlier fears of excessive cost for converting coal to liquid fuel now appear wholly unjustified."

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Science

Fuel of the Future

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ABROAD: Three Trouble Spots

Holy Land's Easter

It was an uneasy Eastertide in Palestine. While pilgrims gathered for their annual devotions at the stations of the Cross, the Jewish underground continued its terrorist activities.

Ten days ago England's highest court, the Privy Council in London, refused to lift the death sentence imposed on Dov Bela Gruner of Irgun Zvai Leumi for participating in a raid in which two policemen were killed. Jewish terrorists struck back by firing the Haifa oil docks which blazed 36 hours before they were brought under control.

Damage was estimated at \$4,000,000 and a British spokesman said the "community would have to pay for the damages." Haifa's 80,000 Jews were placed under house arrest but the curfew was lifted shortly after.

India's Holy War Meanwhile in India, Hindu-Muslim disorders in Bombay, Calcutta and Cawnpore killed 49 persons and injured 187. The Bombay riots were

broken up only after police fired repeatedly into the mobs.

In New Delhi, Mohandas K. Gandhi, spiritual leader of the predominantly Hindu Congress party, conferred with Viceroy Viscount Mountbatten on problems relating to Britain's plans for relinquishing sovereignty over India. Gandhi had just returned from a several weeks' tour on foot of the Bengal and Bihar provinces where communal rioting had accounted for hundreds of deaths.

Troubled Ruhr Ten days ago a crowd of 50,000, biggest gathering of Germans since the palm days of the swastika, massed in Dusseldorf to protest inadequate food rations.

British administrators conceded that full food rations had not been met in big Ruhr towns "for some time" but blamed the failure on tieup of water transport on the frozen Rhine and stupidity of German administrators in not allowing industry less and railroads more coal to meet the emergency.

Maps

Aerial Cartographers

The Philippines Republic comprises 114,830 square miles on 7,083 islands, of which only 2,441 are named. The archipelago has a 14,407-mile coastline, with 21 good harbors, including Manila, with its 770-square-mile roadstead, finest in the far east.

U. S. Army engineers are well into a project to map the entire Philippines, something never before attempted.

Planes of the 13th Air Force are taking bombsight readings and making photographs of hitherto unknown mountain and jungle areas, some of them within 40 miles of Manila. The Army also is training two companies of Philippine Scouts for on-the-ground surveys.

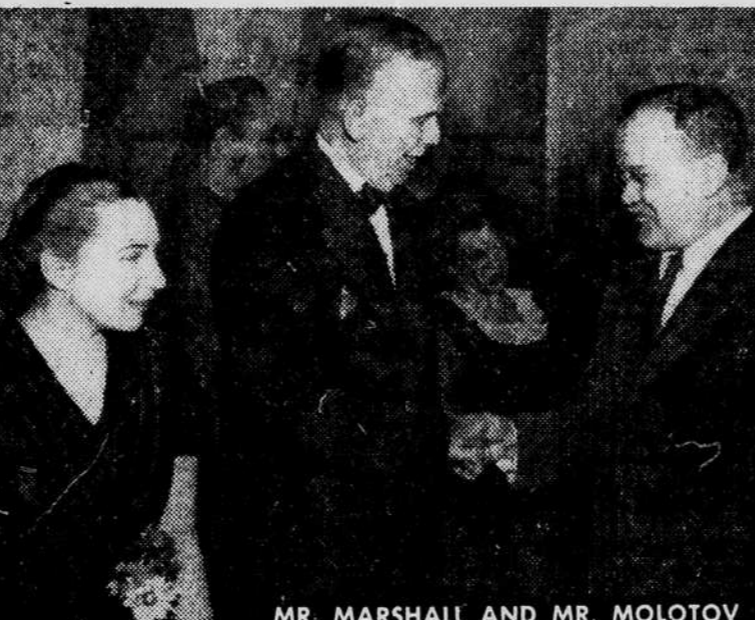
The late Gen. Tomoyuki Yamashita, Japanese commander in the Philippines, remarked last year during the trial which led to his death that anyone who fought on Leyte in the future deserved better maps. "Both MacArthur and I," he said, "used the same American maps and thus lost a good deal of time."

NEWSWORTHY



GOOD WILL TOUR

GOOD WILL TOUR—U. S. Cruiser Providence arrives at Malta, British bastion against the Nazis, after participating in Mediterranean maneuvers recently with other American vessels.



MR. MARSHALL AND MR. MOLOTOV

DIPLOMATIC HANDSHAKE—Soviet Foreign Minister Vyacheslav Molotov (right) greets U. S. Secretary of State George C. Marshall in Moscow. At left is Molotov's daughter, Svetlana.



CAR STACKER

STREET CLEANER—Solution to the nation's parking problems may prove to be this new device for vertical parking. Mobile lift places car on top deck in less than two minutes. In garages, racks would be placed side by side without need of diagonal braces. This demonstration was held in Spokane, Wash.

Quotes

William L. Cimillo, Bronx driver seized in Hollywood, Fla., with a missing 44-passenger New York bus: "I didn't know where I was headed—Florida, Mexico, California. . . I just started out and kept going. Fellows at the bus company will understand, I'm sure."

Henry Wallace, former Vice President and Cabinet member: "Sooner or later Truman's program of unconditional aid to anti-Soviet governments will unite the world against America and divide America against herself."

Volcano

Mt. Hekla on Rampage

For the first time since 1845, Mt. Hekla, a 4,764-foot volcano in Iceland, blew its top. The peak was ablaze clear across the top and thousands of tons of glowing boulders and lava were tossed high in the air.

Dense clouds of fumes rose six and seven miles, blacking out a wide area. A fine volcanic ash fell in Copenhagen, 1,250 miles away.

Geologists, who set up stations near the volcano, said they expected the eruption to continue for several months. Previous eruptions of Mt. Hekla usually have lasted at least that long.

