

THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON

A Resume of Governmental Happenings in the National Capital

Washington, D. C. May 14. — Renewed hope that congress may at last do something to curb unscrupulous labor activities, because of the blatant disregard for the country's welfare shown by John L. Lewis and James Pettrillo, seems to be based entirely on wishful thinking. Each time there is a crisis in a major strike, or when some labor leader angers the whole American people, the public looks to Washington for a legal vaccine against recurrence, but it is fairly apparent by this time that the senate will never permit passage of legislation opposed by labor leaders.

The house of representatives by passing the Case bill, showed that it had at last decided to heed the cry of the public for a degree of control over labor. But even though some senators have made strong demands for labor reform, the pro-labor senate committee on education and labor seems to be able to pigeon-hole any and all proposals which are frowned upon by union leaders.

Those who feel that labor legislation is essential to avoid disaster in

this country — and the mail received by congressmen indicates that there are plenty of people who feel that way—also are disappointed with the apparent inaction of the administration regarding labor problems. They feel that the government could have done a lot more toward ending the coal strike, that President Truman should have shown more personal interest in it before an emergency was reached, and that the strike problem will become worse rather than better unless there is a major revision in present government policy.

Closely linked with future labor problems is the fate of OPA. If price ceilings are eliminated or relaxed, and higher prices absorb the increased wages which labor unions have won, there is every reason to expect the strikes to start anew. Yet if prices are not relaxed somewhat, there is apt to be a strike on the part of producers who will refuse to continue to manufacture products on which they cannot make a profit. Thus a vicious circle has been created which is apt to heighten the bad feeling between labor and management.

Testifying on the continuation of OPA before the senate banking and currency committee, Secretary of Agriculture Anderson was extremely pessimistic over clearing up the growing black market in meat. He said that if the OPA's latest move to restore slaughter quotas is unsuccessful, the only alternative would be to abandon all controls over meat prices.

It is unlikely that the OPA was fully behind him in this view, since it is the opinion of OPA officials that meat prices would all reach black market levels if price restrictions were removed entirely, but so far no one here has been able to offer an alternative solution.

Bee owners along the Nile place their hives on boats and float them to regions where flowers are abundant.



KENNEY FOR CONGRESS
... John F. Kennedy, 29, son of Joseph P. Kennedy, former U. S. ambassador to Great Britain, and hero of naval fighting in Pacific, has announced his candidacy for the Democratic nomination to congress from the 11th district, Boston. Mayor James M. Curley gives up his seat at end of his year.

SIX-INCH SERMON

By REV. ROBERT H. HARPER

A Friend Who Learned to Believe. Lesson for May 19: John 11:7, 8, 16; 20:24-29.

Memory Selection: John 20:29. The name, "Doubting," which has been given Thomas does not give full credit to his character. He was ready to die with his Lord (John 11:16) but he asked, after the resurrection, to see the wounds of Calvary and to put his hand in the Master's side, that he might believe.

He thus asked for the lowest order of proof, the crude evidence of the senses. There is an old saying, "Seeing is believing," but in the spiritual realm the order should be reversed—men must believe, to see the unseen, to hear the unheard, and to know the unknown.

Thomas was an honest doubter who found no joy in unbelief, no triumph in bringing others to share his doubts. In his case there lived "more faith in honest doubt . . . than in half the creeds." And with supreme satisfaction and joy, when he saw the Lord, he cried, "My Lord and my God."

But we do not need to run all the changes and the chances of doubt. In our age, when, as one has written, the device is bishops dormant, a question mark rampant, and the motto Query, be persuaded that the spiritual is not learned with a test tube and not measured with a yardstick, but through the power of faith. Spiritual things are spiritually discerned. "The things which are not seen are eternal." So let us seek those things which are above—through the blessed power of faith to see the unseen.

Two Week's Truce Called in Coal Strike

The 40-day soft coal strike was temporarily halted Friday night as operators accepted John L. Lewis' proposal for a two weeks' truce.

The White House announced that both sides to the conflict crippling the American economy had agreed to the principle of a health and welfare fund, but they were still far from accord on the details of a new contract. President Truman told them to reach one and bring it to him by next Wednesday.

One jump ahead of expected action by a congress alarmed over the industrial crisis, Lewis ordered his 400,000 bituminous miners to dig coal until May 25 if the operators would agree to make any pay increases retroactive to Friday.

The "captive" mines—which are owned by the steel companies and the output of which goes into steel production—quickly agreed.

Blowing Rock Road* Will Be Closed Until Until Late Summer

(Wake Bridges in Hickory Record) Blazing of a motor vehicle trail that would have kept Kit Carson staring until the tail of his coonskin cap turned as white as George Bernard Shaw's beard is forcing folks of the southeast foothill regions of Western North Carolina to take the long way around to Blowing Rock, the popular Blue Ridge mountain summer playground.

Carson and all the Catawba Indians ever born couldn't have built such a trail in 400 years with the tools and implements they had at their disposal, but for the price they could have bought half the United States. In fact, it sounds like the national debt to the ordinary man—something over a million snackers.

But in the days of Carson it would have taken lots of powder, lead, coonskins, bearskins, honey and whatnot to have planted a trail of most any kind along the mountainous route of the new four-mile link of Highway 17 eleven miles northwest of Lenoir.

Using powerful man-built machines, the link of which Carson nor any other citizen of his day ever dreamed, the W. A. Grannis Construction Company is literally turning a mountain into a molehill.

To hasten completion of the new link, which will top one of the most picturesque waterfalls along the route, the highway has been closed to all except local motorists, which means that folks living in the foothills or starting their journey therefrom must find other roads to the summer playground high in the hazy Blue Ridge. From Hickory, some will go by way of Taylorsville, North Wilkesboro and Boone, which lengthens the distance from 42 to 86 miles. Others will go to Lenoir, then proceed by way of North Wilkesboro and Boone, a distance of 91 miles.

And there are some who, when the weather is fair, will cut across country near Lenoir and take what is known as the Globe road, but the pavement on this route ends at Collettsville and chances are that a stranger will need either a good map or a Kit Carson—or both. However, this route is the nearest one to Blowing Rock.

Checking a map of Western North Carolina, The Record reporter discovered that the Rock can be reached over a black-snake route by way of Valmead, Collettsville, along Johns River to Globe and Upton. From paved Highway 321, this route branches off onto the Collettsville road to above Valmead and winds along Mulberry creek and John's river. The road, improved extensively by CCC boys in pre-war years, is an all-weather route to Globe. A passable road leads from Globe into the heart of Blowing Rock.

An alternate route—and a good one—is by Collettsville nearly to Globe, up Staircase hill to Mortimer and Edgemont, via Carey's Flat to

the intersection with the Yonahlossee Trail about four miles east of Linville.

The mountain laurel and rhododendron soon will be in full flower. Blowing Rock's hostilities and the 18-hole golf course soon will be open. And they're expecting a banner season, what with rationless gasoline and tires—and plenty of lettuce on the hips of most vacation-minded citizens.

That's the story, Mr. and Mrs. Foothill Motorist, until late this summer, when construction work will be finished. You could fly, but there's no place to land. You could walk like Kit Carson but chances are that before you managed to find

your way through "them thar hills" the tail of your coonskin cap would have rafted off instead of whittened like George Bernard Shaw's beard.

The Swiss flag is one of the oldest in Europe, and was used as early as 1339.

Vatican City is about the size of an 18-hole golf course.

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