

# U. S. MINES IDLE

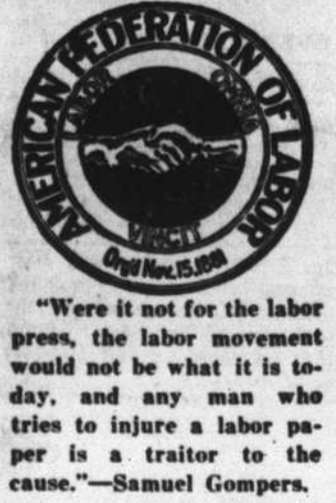
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"Were it not for the labor press, the labor movement would not be what it is today, and any man who tries to injure a labor paper is a traitor to the cause."—Samuel Gompers.

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# COURT INJUNCTION ISSUED AGAINST MINERS Contract Let For \$40,000,000 Celanese Plant In S. C.

**Washington, Nov. 21--John Lewis' United Mine Workers failed to enter the soft coal mines today as the zero hour passed for a previously announced notice of contract termination with Uncle Sam, which expired last midnight.**

**LATE TODAY JUSTICE T. ALAN GOLDSBOROUGH OF FEDERAL DISTRICT COURT BEGAN CONTEMPT PROCEEDINGS AGAINST MR. LEWIS AND THE MINE WORKERS UNION AND ORDERED THE MINE WORKERS PRESIDENT TO APPEAR IN HIS COURT ON MONDAY MORNING OF NEXT WEEK AND SHOW CAUSE WHY HE SHOULD NOT BE HELD IN CONTEMPT.**

It is understood here that President Truman has issued instructions to carry the fight through to a finish with the union and Mr. Lewis and the court order is likely in line with this aim.

Mr. Lewis was not in his office today as two men thought to be U. S. marshals visited the United Mine Workers headquarters and asked for him. Not finding Lewis there they left and shortly thereafter the chief of counsel for Lewis and his assistants left. They had "no comment" to all questions.

Associates of Mr. Lewis are said to have predicted that Mr. Lewis would be in court Monday morning to answer to the charges against him and his mine union.

### PAY RAISES GIVEN RESTAURANT AIDES IN SAN FRANCISCO

Washington, D. C.—Announcement was received here at AFL headquarters that wage increases averaging 17 per cent were granted to 12,000 workers in 209 San Francisco restaurants under terms of a new contract negotiated by the Golden Gate Restaurant Association and the Culinary Workers and Bartenders Joint Executive Board (AFL).

Typical wage increase was that of dishwashers, who won raises ranging from \$6.75 to \$7.50 daily. Other classifications got increases ranging from 11 per cent to 24 per cent.

At the same time word was received here that bar and restaurant owners at St. Paul, Minn., granted wage demands of 1,500 members of the Hotel and Restaurant International Alliance (AFL). Bartenders won a \$7 weekly raise for a total of \$55, and cooks, waitresses and other workers were granted a 15-cent hourly increase.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—In a precedent-shattering move, the Federal government obtained a court injunction restraining John L. Lewis from informing the members of the United Mine Workers that he considered the union's contract with Secretary of the Interior Krug terminated.

The injunction, issued by Federal District Court Judge Goldsborough on the application of Attorney General Clark, was so sweeping in its terms that Mr. Lewis and other leaders of the union refused to say anything for publication.

However, the injunction was temporary and Judge Goldsborough fixed Nov. 27 as the time for a hearing on whether it should be made permanent. At that hearing the union officials will have the opportunity to present their side of the case. The temporary injunction was summarily issued without giving the union any opportunity of contesting it.

The position of the government insists its contract with the union holds good as long as it continues to operate the coal mines; but the union, on the other hand, contends it has complied with the legal procedure necessary to terminate the contract.

The traditional UMW slogan is "no contract, no work." The union's purpose in seeking to end the contract was reported to be to reduce the back-breaking 54-hour week now in force in the coal mines and to obtain a reduction to 40 hours a week without loss of pay.

The government refused to bargain on this issue and instead suggested a 60-day truce during which the union should try to negotiate a new agreement with the coal mine owners. Since the mine owners have not yet even subscribed to the Lewis-Krug contract, the union felt it would be a waste of time to try to induce them to agree to better terms.

In his letter to Secretary Krug, Mr. Lewis said in part: "Your statements to the contrary notwithstanding, the mine workers constantly from November 1 to and including November 11 made concrete proposals to you on the matter set out in the notice of October 21. You, cavalierly, now propose a 60-day freeze of the existing conditions on terms which you have first negotiated with the operators, who are strangers to the Krug-Lewis agreement. You arbitrarily assert the right to designate that 60-day period to begin on November 16 and prescribe the method of conducting a conference between the mine workers and operators during that period. You, likewise, assert that the Krug-Lewis agreement can be 'modified by mutual consent.' Then, sir, where do you find a legal or moral right to deny to the mine workers their plain contractual right to reopen the contract, as we respectfully requested on October 21?"

"You now, at the last hour, of the last day, yield to the blandishments and soothing siren voice of the operators to place the United Mine Workers of America and its members between Scylla and Charybdis. This course we refuse to follow.

"The Government of the United States seized the mines and entered into a contract. The mine workers do not propose to deal with parties who have no status under the contract. We do not propose to be driven like dumb beasts to the slaughter of slow strangulation envisioned by your proposal and the operators' well known and long-used tactics of evasion and delay. We call upon you to honor your contract.

"This, therefore, Mr. Secretary, constitutes our reply in the negative to your proposal."

### UNION BRICKLAYERS BUILDING OWN HOUSE AS MAJOR PRICE LESSON TO CONTRACTORS

Yonkers, N. Y.—Convinced that a first-rate, five-room brick house can be built within the price ceiling of \$10,000, members of the Yonkers AFL Bricklayers' Union are building one themselves here to prove their point.

The union is paying union scale to its members working on the house, paying ceiling prices for materials and is keeping a strict accounting of the cost.

Members of the AFL carpenters' union will also have to be hired, but only to build the roof—the house is almost wholly of brick and masonry, even to its new-type concrete floors. And to make its venture into building contracting complete, the union is letting contracts for plumbing and heating and lighting.

Garrett Fitzgerald, 39, president of Local 22, explained it this way: "Contractors here say this kind of house can't be built for less than \$12,000 to \$14,000—the ceiling price is \$10,000," Mr. Fitzgerald said.

"So," he said, "there isn't much new brick construction going on." Fabricated houses costing \$8,500 (on which there is little work for bricklayers) are being constructed in relatively large numbers, he said.

Belittling the relative value of this kind of house, Mr. Fitzgerald said the men in Local 22 felt confident they could erect a top-flight, five-room brick house without exceeding the ceiling price. "And our house will be strong and (Continued On Page 3)

### AFL TRIO DENIED RIGHT TO VISIT MAINZ AREA

Frankfurt, Germany.—The three members of the American Federation of Labor delegation visiting Germany to study labor unionism in this country have been "denied permission by the French military authorities" to visit Mainz in the French occupation zone at this time.

Because of this denial, William C. Doherty, president of the National Association of Letter Carriers and a vice president of the AFL, told newsmen he and his colleagues had "declined the French invitation to visit the French zone at later dates." Mr. Doherty is accompanied by Israel Finberg, vice president of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, and Anton Jakobs, international representative of the Butchers and Meat Cutters Union.

### NLRB EXAMINER UPHOLDS PRINTERS IN FLORIDA CASE

Washington, D. C.—The International Typographical Union (AFL) was upheld by an examiner of the National Labor Relations Board in its year-old strike against the St. Petersburg (Florida) Evening Independent and The Times.

Thomas S. Wilson, the trial examiner, said the union's refusal to arbitrate was not a refusal to bargain, and recommended that the NLRB direct the publishers to bargain on request with the union. He further recommended the reinstatement, on request, of all employees who were on strike on January 12, 1946, to their former or substantially equivalent employment.

A five-day hearing was held on a complaint that management had refused to bargain with the union and had interfered with the right of self-organization. Thurman Arnold, former judge and one-time chief of the Department of Justice's anti-trust division, represented the newspapers.

The companies contended it was the union which refused to bargain. On that point the trial examiner said:

"The strike of November 20, 1945, was caused by the deadlock reached between the parties in their negotiations and by the refusal of the union to arbitrate that issue in order to break the impasse. . . . In the process of collective bargaining there is no duty on either party to arbitrate their differences in the absence of an agreement to do so reached through direct negotiation between the parties. . . ."

"It is, therefore, clear that the respondents (companies) are in error in claiming that the strike was caused by the union's 'refusal to bargain.' Although the union was not willing to arbitrate the difference, the facts show that it was at all times ready to bargain on that issue. Although the union has refused to arbitrate, it has not refused to bargain."

A contract was let a few days ago for a \$23,000,000 celanese plant to be constructed at Rock Hill, S. C., by the Celanese Corporation of America, according to information reaching The Charlotte Labor Journal through building tradesmen. It is understood a Greenville, S. C., contractor was successful bidder on the project. Several Charlotte contractors are said to have bid on the plant.

Such a huge plant as that proposed by the Celanese corporation will employ several thousand building tradesmen for many months and it is said that thousands upon thousands of pounds of construction steel will be required for the job. This plant will add greatly to the financial standing of the entire Rock Hill community, thousands of dollars trickling into the tills of Rock Hill merchants from the pay envelopes of the large number of workers to be employed in the plant after its completion. Rock Hill certainly is to be congratulated for receiving such a huge enterprise for its section of the State.

### ATTORNEY GENERAL CLARK ASSAILS MONOPOLISTIC INTERESTS WHICH HOLD DOWN LIVING STANDARDS

Boston, Mass.—A vigorous attack upon industry and business leaders who would stifle competition to fleece the public and hold labor in a halt was delivered here in a recent address by Attorney General Tom Clark before the Associated Industries of Massachusetts.

Lashing out in no uncertain terms at "these greedy men who clamor loudest for free enterprise and opportunity," Mr. Clark said "they would have freedom to insulate their business from the uncertainties of competition and freedom to gorge themselves with monopolistic profits."

Outlining methods pursued by monopolistic groups to suppress inventions and another discoveries which, given free rein, would go far toward raising the American standard of living, Mr. Clark told his audience:

"You know about the match trust and its miracle match which would light one thousand times—but which never reached the market. No conventional monopolist

would think of allowing such a match to reach the consumer. The consumer might be benefited but match sales would be drastically reduced.

"The introduction of fluorescent lighting was retarded. Here, power company revenues were at stake. Again, so that more electric lamps could be sold, the manufacturers built them with shorter life."

Vitamin D was deliberately withheld from sufferers from rickets, a disease of the undernourished, by monopolists, Mr. Clark asserted.

"Some years ago," he said, "patents for producing vitamin D by ultra-violet ray came into the hands of the university foundation located in a butter-producing area. The sole right to use this artificial method of producing vitamin D in foods belonged to the foundation."

"The foundation denied licenses for irradiating oleomargarine with vitamin D to manufacturers of (Continued On Page 3)

### AFL WILL ACCEPT ARGENTINE INVITATION IF ORGANIZED LABOR THERE BACKS BID

Washington, D. C.—The American Federation of Labor will send a delegation to Argentina if Argentina's invitation to such a mission is supplemented by a similar invitation from the Argentine Confederation of Labor, it was announced here by AFL President William Green.

In reaching this decision, Mr. Green said, the AFL was influenced by the fact that at the recent conference of the International Labor Organization at Montreal, all of the Latin American trade union delegates presented a resolution unanimously supporting the Argentine Confederation of Labor.

Mr. Green accepted the invitation extended by the Ambassador of the Republic of Argentina to assign representatives to visit Argentina as the guests of that government with this proviso:

"In conformity, however, with a traditional policy which we have ever scrupulously followed, we respectfully ask that the very kind invitation extended by the repre-

sentatives of the government of Argentina be supplemented by an invitation from the representatives of the organized labor movement in Argentina. If such supplemental invitation is extended, be assured the American Federation of Labor will designate a delegation of capable representatives to visit Argentina as the guests of the Argentine government at the earliest possible moment."

Discussing the significance of the AFL's decision in this matter today, Mr. Green said:

"Our willingness to send a delegation to visit Argentina under the proper circumstances does not imply either approval or disapproval of the present Argentine government and its policies. We regard the invitation as an opportunity to determine the facts at first hand and then we will be able to decide for ourselves whether the charges made against the Argentine government are well founded."

### LEGION GROUP HEARS AFL SPEAKER PRAISE W-E-T HOME-BUILDING PLAN

Washington, D. C.—The problem of American home-building can best be solved by private enterprise, under such a framework as is provided by the Wagner-Elender-Taft bill, which has had consistent support of the American Federation of Labor.

This was the statement brought to the recent Special National Housing committee of the American Legion here by Boris Shishkin, AFL economist, from Richard J. Gray, president of the Building and Construction Trades Department (AFL), who was unable to attend in person.

"The American Federation of Labor, with hundreds of other organizations," Mr. Shishkin quoted Mr. Gray as saying, "believes the Wagner-Elender-Taft program is the very minimum essential for preventing the present housing shortage from becoming perpetual and chronic. It is also the very minimum essential for the preservation of private enterprise itself against ultimate bankruptcy and failure. And finally,

it is designed to facilitate and stimulate the immediate provision of needed homes.

"This proposed legislation would provide only for a strictly voluntary program. It is thoroughly American and fully sound. Its primary purpose is to ease the cost of home purchase. It provides a set of aides and guides to the local community for sound community planning through a representative of the community itself. It is designed to aid private enterprise in serving a wider market by enabling it to reach families of low income which never before had been served by private enterprise.

"There is great urgency in the adoption of this program. It will help provide rental housing, so desperately needed by the veterans, at reasonable rents. At the same time, it will provide new incentive to home ownership on a basis on which families of modest means can assume the burden of home ownership on an easy payment plan."