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Operators For A "Czar"

WASHINGTON.—The plan by some big coal interests to set up a super-duper bargainer to deal with John L. Lewis brought on a congressional investigation today. The Senate banking committee voted unanimously for its small business group to start a probe next Monday.

Senator Robertson (D-Va.), sponsoring the investigation, said its aim is to find out if the plan being considered by a large segment of the soft coal industry violates the anti-trust laws.

Robertson said small and independent coal operators fear a "Czar," as he called it, would lead mine management to "the same type of monopolistic control now exercised, and apparently by authority of law, over the miners."

"Many of the operators do not believe our anti-trust laws permit them to go into such an agreement, the end result of which would be to fix prices," he told reporters.

The committee acted in the midst of a week-long strike ordered by Lewis in both soft (bituminous and hard (anthracite) coal fields to reduce the abundant stocks of already-mined coal.

The way the 480,000 miners, members of the United Mine Workers union which Lewis heads, responded to the walkout order demonstrated that the workers, at least, are rallied behind a single spokesman.

Lewis kept silent about the Senate committee action and the plan to set up a powerful management bargainer as his protagonist.

However, Lewis is reported favoring the co-ordinator idea. Frequently he has taunted the mine owners for "dismal lack of leadership" and squabble among themselves.

However, Lewis for years has taken advantage of the situation, dealing with one group of operators and another, and winding up by making the entire industry, both soft and hard coal, accept the best contract terms obtained from any one of them.

Right now, he seems in the process of doing that again. His present industry-wide contract expires in two weeks, June 30. He has started separate negotiations with southern producers and the U. S. Steel corporation's mines. And he has asked for other separate sets of negotiations with northern and western soft coal producers and eastern Pennsylvania's anthracite owners.

That was the setting when George Love, president of the big Pittsburg Consolidation Coal company announced the co-ordinator plan. He said a number of major coal operators in Pennsylvania, northern West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois are considering Harry M. Moses as their joint bargainer against Lewis.

Moses heads the H. C. Frick company, coal producing subsidiary of U. S. Steel. For a long time Moses has had a big say in management strategy against Lewis.

Love denied the co-ordinator would be an industry "czar" to fix production policies.

In Washington today for business meetings at the Commerce and Interior Departments, Love told a reporter the Senate investigation of the co-ordinator plan is "silly."

"That is something that is far off," he said. "It is away in the future and has no bearing on this year's negotiations."

Further, Love said he had no idea whether the industry would accept the plan or whether Moses would accept the job.

PERUVIAN DIPLOMAT NAMED TO HIGH-LEVEL ILO POST

Geneva.—Director-General David Morse announced the appointment of Luis Alvaado, Peruvian diplomat and educator, as Assistant Director-General of the ILO.

Dr. Alvaado served as minister counsellor of the Peruvian Embassy in Ottawa before being appointed Ambassador to the Dominican Republic. He has represented Peru on the ILO's governing body since 1944 and served as its chairman in 1948. He will be the first Latin American to serve as assistant director general of the ILO.

UN Probe of Slave Labor Voted Down

Geneva, Aug. 29.—The United States lost its struggle for a United Nations inquiry into the practice of slave labor.

On the critical amendment the vote in the Economic and Social Council was 10 to 5 against the United States. The council adopted an amendment to the United States resolution, for which the United States delegation would no longer vote, that merely requested the Secretary General to ask the member countries again, as he had done earlier this year, whether they would let the United Nations investigate labor in their territories.

Everyone knows what answers the Soviet Union and the other Communist states, against which heavy charges have been laid in

the debate, will give to such a request.

Britain, despite having launched a large-scale propaganda campaign against the Soviet Union for fostering mass forced labor, voted against the United States proposal for a commission of inquiry. The ostensible grounds for her opposition were that such an inquiry would do no good unless the commission could enter all countries.

In an earnest, eloquent plea to the other western countries to abandon this philosophy, Leroy D. Stinebower of the United States rejected this thesis completely. He said the fact that the council could not do everything it wanted to do did not mean it should do nothing about this evil. "The United States," he said, "is not prepared to retreat on an issue of this kind." He said the United States considered it the gravest moral or social issue ever to come before the council.

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