

LOOKING AT WASHINGTON

By Hugo S. Sims, Washington Correspondent

Friction Increases Between Laborers

President Roosevelt's leadership has mainly been confined to the field of foreign affairs. In the past several months he has not taken an active lead in pushing through any important legislation on domestic issues. He has left the enactment of an effective price control measure and an anti-strike bill up to the two houses.

Although President Roosevelt has given the go-ahead signal to Congress on anti-strike legislation there is some doubt whether he really favors

such action. He would like to have maintained labor laws in their present status had it not been for John L. Lewis' captive coal mine strikes.

It was hard enough to iron out differences between the CIO and the A. F. of L., but now mediation policies have to deal with two CIO factions. Although the majority of the CIO workers and A. F. of L. workers are willing to cooperate with the President in his plan to stop defense strikes through voluntary cooperation, John L. Lewis says, "No." The mine workers stand behind him. Mr. Lewis' position today is very

similar to his position some years ago when he broke with the A. F. of L. Friction between the different factions of labor made it very difficult for Government mediation to operate effectively. The main obstacle to the Government's labor policy is John L. Lewis' unsettled coal strike.

Although Congress bellowed loudly for a chance to enact strong anti-strike laws before President Roosevelt gave the go-ahead signal, it has now settled down to considering only very mild measures. Congress realizes that laborers cannot be forced to work; it also realizes that best production results are to be obtained by giving the workers freedom. Congress has not attempted to compel workers not to strike, but has merely strengthened present Government mechanism for refereeing the bouts between management and labor.

Congress Goes Slow On Price Control Bill

In order to avert the threat of inflation President Roosevelt asked Congress for price control legislation more than four months ago.

On the last Friday night in November the House finally passed a price control bill, 224 to 161. Senate Minority Leader McNary has just called this bill "toothless and timorous."

The bill passed by the House calls for a Price Administrator to be appointed by the President, subject to Senate confirmation. It also creates a five-member board with power to over-rule decisions made by the Price Administrator. The creation of this board prevents the Price Administrator from becoming an economic czar. Farm prices are protected. The Price Administrator is not allowed to establish a ceiling lower than the highest of the following three levels:

(1) A price equal to 110 per cent. of parity; (2) the market price prevailing October 1st, 1941; (3) the average price for the period, 1919-1929.

The House bill permits the establishment of a ceiling on rents in defense areas. Any tenant living in a defense area may appeal to the administrator if he believes his rent to be too high.

In order to prevent undue fluctuation, the House bill permits the Government to buy and sell in the domestic market.

No one should be deceived that this flimsy legislation called a price control bill could succeed in stopping inflation. To begin with the bill does not call for over-all ceilings, but for individual ceilings over those commodities which get out of line. The Administration might be able to control inflation with only individual ceilings if it was allowed to license all business men engaged in dealing in controlled commodities. Then, licenses could be revoked if price ceilings were violated.

An effective price control bill must put some restraint on wages, because wages are an important element in the cost of production and prices. The House bill failed to put any restraint whatsoever on wages or salaries.

According to the opponents of the House bill, food and other agricultural necessities may continue to rise as much as thirty per cent. above their present level. The rise in the price of agricultural products must be controlled if price control legislation is to be effective.

Efforts of the House to control inflation are distressing. The prospects of the Senate tackling this very important task are not at all good. In fact, in the most reliable quarters, it is revealed that the Senate probably will not begin considering a price control bill until, at the earliest, in January.

BOOTH—CARTWRIGHT

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Cartwright announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Blanche Dorothy, to the Rev. Luther Lamberth Booth, son of the Rev. and Mrs. J. W. Booth, of New Orleans, Louisiana.

The wedding will take place the latter part of December.

Auto-Suggestions

Charley the Chain is a good, reliable fellow. He's a good man to have around in an emergency. You'd be surprised at the number of holes he'll pull you out of and the number of skids he'll prevent. But even Charley warns against over-confidence. He makes it clear that drivers should exercise as much care while he's with them as when he's at home in the garage. Charley says that according to The Travelers latest highway safety booklet "Here Today—" there were almost 1,500 accidents in 1940 which wouldn't have happened if drivers had used chains when road conditions clearly indicated their need.

Burning Cotton Stalks Is Expensive Practice

Burning cotton stalks will cost the average North Carolina farmer just about \$5 an acre, says Dr. E. R. Collins, agronomist of the Experiment Station at N. C. State College.

In a warning against this practice, now commonly employed after the crop has been harvested, Dr. Collins pointed out that cotton stalks on an acre of good land contain approximately 27 pounds of nitrogen, 7 pounds of phosphoric acid, and 36 pounds of potash.

At present prices for these fertilizing materials, the State College agronomist explained, the farmer would have to pay around five dollars an acre.

He said the amount of plant food removed by raking and burning the stalks would be equal to 400 pounds of a fertilizer analyzing 6.75 per cent nitrogen, 1.75 per cent phosphoric acid, and 9 per cent potash.

"What's more," Dr. Collins continued, "burning destroys from 1,500 to 2,000 pounds of organic matter badly needed by most soils. Turning under or killing all cotton stalks before frost is an important factor in boll-weevil control, but to remove them from the land is a serious drain on the fertility of the soil.

"Where only the lint and seed are removed," the State College man went on, "a bale of cotton removes a total of only 70 pounds of plant food, as compared with 95 pounds for 60 bushels of corn, leaving the stalks and fodder on the land, 100 pounds for 30 bushels of wheat in straw, and 115 pounds for 50 bushels of oats in straw."

MISS BLANCHE CARTWRIGHT HONOREE AT SHOWER

Mrs. Eddie Harrell charmingly entertained at a lingerie shower on Friday evening at the home of Mrs. Henry Cartwright in honor of Miss Blanche Cartwright, bride-elect of the month.

Bronze and gold chrysanthemums were effectively used to decorate the lower floor.

The guests were greeted by Miss Elizabeth Layne and Miss Maxine Harrell presented each guest with a miniature corsage.

Games and contests were enjoyed, with prizes being won by Mrs. Ralph Harrell, Miss Bertha Chappell, Miss Elinor Eure and Miss Hazel Mathews.

The honoree opened and acknowledged the numerous lovely gifts.

Those present and sending gifts were, in addition to the honoree, Misses Maxine Harrell, Elizabeth Layne, Hazel Mathews, Elinor Eure, Bertha Chappell, Lucille Cartwright, Maude Cartwright and Beatrice Benton; Mesdames Ashby Jordan, Vernon Winslow, Odell Cartwright, Leonard Pierce, James Pierce, Benjamin Smith, Kermit Benton, Ralph Harrell, William Whedbee, Floyd Mathews, Henry Cartwright and Eddie Harrell. The hostess served a delicious salad course with soft drinks.

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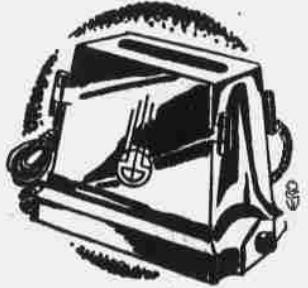
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