

THIS FILE IS MADE AVAILABLE THROUGH THE DECLASSIFICATION EFFORTS AND RESEARCH OF:

# THE BLACK VAULT

THE BLACK VAULT IS THE LARGEST ONLINE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT / GOVERNMENT RECORD CLEARING HOUSE IN THE WORLD. THE RESEARCH EFFORTS HERE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DECLASSIFICATION OF THOUSANDS OF DOCUMENTS THROUGHOUT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, AND ALL CAN BE DOWNLOADED BY VISITING:

[HTTP://WWW.BLACKVAULT.COM](http://www.blackvault.com)

YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO FORWARD THIS DOCUMENT TO YOUR FRIENDS, BUT PLEASE KEEP THIS IDENTIFYING IMAGE AT THE TOP OF THE .PDF SO OTHERS CAN DOWNLOAD MORE!



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

**JOHN L. LEWIS**

**PART 12 OF 13**

**FILE NUMBERS: 44-845 AND  
62-2998**

FILE DESCRIPTION

BUREAU FILE

SUBJECT JOHN L. LEWIS

FILE NO. 44-845

SECTION NO. A

SERIALS 3/30/43

thru

11/22/43

mk

# Evidence Not Strong Enough D. J. Believed I Case Against Jo

By United Press

Justice Department officials would not commit-  
ports that they had abandoned plans to have  
jury determine whether United Mine Workers  
L. Lewis and the Mine B. Coal Co., Springfield, Ill.,  
civil rights statute in a \$350,000 transaction. The  
that the department had decided that evidence it  
relating since mid-summer did not warrant action.

Atty. Gen. Biddle was known to have  
assigned some of his top-flight attor-  
neys to the case, which involved a  
question whether the transaction was  
in violation of the Wagner Act right  
of Mine B. employes to bargain col-  
lectively. That would have been con-  
sidered a violation of the 73-year-old  
civil rights statute.

It was said that Lewis lent or gave  
about \$350,000 to the company in 1938,  
allegedly to cover its losses in a lock-  
out of employes who were members of  
the AFL Progressive Mine Workers.  
Evidence of the transaction was  
brought to the department's attention  
by the Internal Revenue Bureau, which  
discovered it while investigating a pos-  
sible income tax case. It later was  
found that no tax law violation was  
involved.

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. E. A. Tamm
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Ladd
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tracy
- Mr. Egan
- Mr. Gurnea
- Mr. Hendon
- Mr. Mumford
- Mr. Quinn
- Mr. Nease
- Mr. Gandy

b7c John [unclear]

mk

144-8745-A  
NOT RECORDED  
87 NOV 22 1943



449  
61 NOV 22 1943

**Tax Trouble**

**Justice Dept.  
May Act in  
Lewis Case**

By Linton Burket

The Department of Justice will decide "very soon," possibly during this week, whether it will seek grand jury action against John L. Lewis, United Mine Workers president, on charges involving income taxes. It was revealed last night by Gerald L. Wallace, assistant attorney general.

While withholding details of the information in the hands of the Justice Department, Wallace said that there had been received from the Treasury Department data relative to an alleged deal whereby Lewis is said to have contributed funds to an Illinois mine operator which were to be used to fight an American Federation of Labor mine union. The crux of the probe revolves around whether these funds were properly reported on income tax returns made by the mine operator and whether Lewis would be involved in any possible effort at tax evasion.

Wallace said a decision as to whether any action would be sought would be made after the return of Samuel O. Clark, Jr., Assistant Attorney General, who has charge of the matter. Clark was out of the city yesterday but is expected to return the first part of the week.

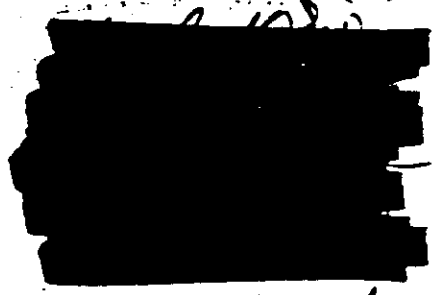
However, the only comment Wallace would make for publication was:

"I can say only that we did receive information from the Treasury Department relative to Lewis and funds received by a mine operator. We are studying the material and a decision will be made very soon."

He would not disclose the name of the mine operator.

K. C. Adams, normally spokesman for Lewis, said a grand jury in Springfield, Ill., received the information last week and refused to return an indictment, but admitted that the case was presented as a matter under the National Labor Relations Act rather than as an income tax matter.

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Coffey
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Ladd
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tracy
- Mr. Egan
- Mr. Gurnea
- Mr. Harbo
- Mr. Hendon
- Mr. Mumford
- Mr. Quinn
- Mr. Nease
- Miss Gandy



b  
7  
c  
File in  
44-845-

144-845-1  
NOT RECORDED  
87 NOV 18 1943

86 NOV 18 1943 91

THE WASHINGTON POST  
MORNING EDITION  
NOV 14 1943  
Date

File

## John L. Lewis' War of Nerves

**JOHN L. LEWIS'** announcement that his calling off of the coal strike is merely another "truce" till June 20 once more demonstrates that this would-be fuchrer of American labor, who has just been fulsomely eulogized by Hitler's *Voelkischer Beobachter*, will stop at nothing to gain his ends. There can be no compromise with this war of nerves. Before June 20, if no settlement of the differences between coal miners and operators has been reached, the government must act to prevent any further sabotage.

From the standpoint of the country and the mine workers, Lewis' second coal strike was disastrous. But from the standpoint of Lewis himself, the strike brought certain compensations. It interfered with war production. It allowed him to prove his loyalty to the defeatists and to those Republicans who support a negotiated peace and the appeasement of Hoover, Taft, Vandenberg, Landon, and Ham Fish. For Lewis must be credited with putting over the union-busting Smith-Connally bill in the House. In addition, he weakened the fight against inflation. He seriously delayed efforts to get on with the war. His actions will result in the deaths of more young Americans than could be accounted for by a wolf-pack of Nazi submarines or a division of Axis troops.

Lewis has indulged in a good deal of self-righteous posturing. He has talked of his devotion to the rank-

and-file miners, but his actions during the mine "truce" belied his words. He refused, with the eager collaboration of the mine operators, to push for settlement of the miners' demands during the period of the "truce." Instead, he blocked negotiations, turned his back on the War Labor Board's every effort to settle the dispute equitably, while he carefully perfected plans to violate labor's no-strike agreement once again, and by so doing to endanger the security of the labor movement.

His timing is worth consideration. He ordered the second strike just as the Smith-Connally bill reached the House floor, and called off the strike the moment the bill was passed. Thereby, Lewis advanced his plot against both the CIO and AFL. Thereby, he made his "contribution" to the Hoover-Taft scheme to throw the domestic economy into confusion, from which reaction hopes to "rescue" it with a negotiated peace, a sellout to the enemy. At the time of Munich, Daladier played chorus to Chamberlain. Now Lewis is Daladier to Hoover and his friends.

Though the House passed the legislation Rep. Howard Smith has been trying to slip through for years, it can still be stopped in the Senate or, if that fails, by mobilizing proper support behind the presidential veto. President Roosevelt and the heads of key government agencies have expressed opposition to this war-wrecking bill.

It must also be recognized that Lewis has been able to seduce a large number of coal miners only because they have justified grievances which he has pretended to support. Apart from the wage question, the principal source of these grievances is the continued failure to keep living costs within bounds. At the White House meeting of Labor's Victory Board, Presidents Murray and Green stressed that the anti-inflation program was being undermined by OPA Director Prentiss Brown's vacillations and by the concerted attack of reactionaries in Congress, in the Republican Party, and from inside the OPA itself. The refusal so far to grant subsidies to make possible the roll-back of prices plays into the hands of Lewis and his masters. Lewis has made much of the high cost of living while deliberately spurring inflation. He has gambled on smashing OPA, hoping for uncontrolled inflation which will debauch the economy. The real weapon against Lewis is to push prices back to the levels of September 1942.

Lewis has done his best to wreck and divide. His entry into the AFL would give him another and greater opportunity to scuttle organized labor. The President stressed this point when he met the labor representatives, and added his wish—which is the wish of the win-the-war groups everywhere—for unity between the AFL and CIO. Lewis cannot survive such unity, or the resultant inflation which it would impose on him.

This is a clipping from page 6 of the NEW MASSES for

July 144-845-A  
7/19/42

Clipped by the Seat of Government

51 NOV - 9 1943

249

67

# Lewis Signs Wage Pact With Ickes; Ends Strike

Basic Daily Pay of \$8.50 provided; Contract Goes to WLB

By JAMES A. WHEELER  
PM's National Editor

WASHINGTON, Nov. 4.—John L. Lewis and Interior Secretary Harold L. Ickes today presented the WLB (War Labor Board) with a formula for ending the eight-months-old coal wage crisis. It was not immediately clear whether the Board would accept the present.

In four conferences lasting a total of only one and a half hours, the United Mine Workers' leader and the one Government official who has remained on cordial speaking terms with him throughout the coal conflict, labored and brought forth a rabbit. Most observers expected the WLB to spend many turbulent hours deciding whether to accept the agreement or to precipitate a new collision.

## Cuts Lunch Period

Two key provisions in the agreement laid the basis on which the UMW Policy Committee last night ordered the coal miners to return to the pits:

¶ The UMW reduced the miners' customary lunch period from 30 to 15 minutes. The additional working time will give the miners daily pay equivalent to the terms of the UMW contract with Illinois operators rejected by the WLB. They will get \$8.50 a day instead of the \$8.12½ which was granted in the WLB decision.

¶ The same daily wage will be paid to other miners throughout the

time cut and the arbitrary fixing of travel time at 45 minutes throughout the Appalachian area—are the issues that may cause the sharpest controversy within the WLB.

Ickes and Lewis estimated that an additional 20 million tons of bituminous and 2 million tons of anthracite coal would be yielded by the additional work time, but other observers expressed doubt that the miners would faithfully abide by the 15-minute luncheon period and might interpret it for themselves as a face-saving formula which they were not compelled to recognize.

## Victory Debate

The agreement also created much debate as to the extent of the victory which Lewis has won if the WLB grants its approval. This again appeared to depend on whether the rank-and-file miners rebelled against the curtailment of their luncheon period or chose to accept the plan as an easy way out of the deadlock.

Some labor sources contended

There was the usual scramble by each side to justify its acceptance of the revised wording of the Connally resolution. Connally and Sen. Arthur H. Vandenberg (R., Mich.), a member of the subcommittee, insisted that the new paragraph really didn't say anything more than the original resolution. Sen. Claude Pepper (D., Fla.), Joseph H. Ball (R., Minn.), Carl A. Hatch (D., N. M.) and others of the strong resolution bloc said it certainly did.

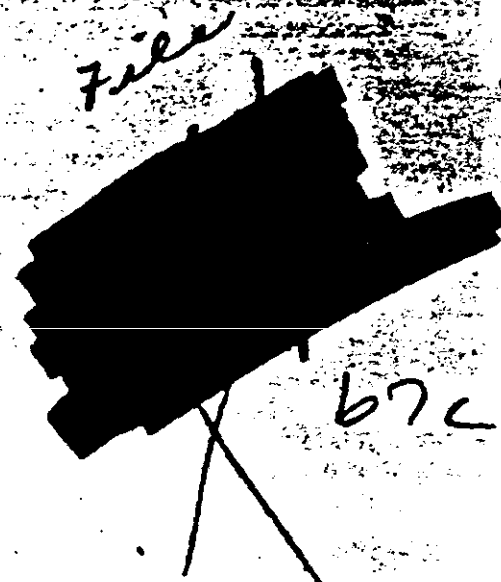
Obviously the new form is a lot stronger, if for no other reason than that it gives outright support to the Moscow declaration.

Dr. Karpman is seriously concerned about the morals of the Varga hustlers who hang out around Page 60 every month in their doublets. They are characterized by a distressing absence of modesty and innocence. I do believe, he said, "there is a virgin among the Varga girls." The defense put into evidence

Oh, I keep that book here, Karpman said yesterday, tapping his forehead. Bromley signed a wistful sigh, and his emerald brightened up visibly. They had looked there.

OK, Joe?

13 NOV 12 1943



INDEXED  
29 44-845-A  
NOT RECORDED  
4 NOV 5 1943

This is a clipping from  
page 5 of PM  
for Nov. 4, 1943  
Clipped at the Seat of  
Government

# Mines Seized by F.I.C. After Coal Men Strike

## Next Move Up to Lewis; Ickes Again Put in Charge

By JAMES A. WHEELER  
F.M.'s National Editor

WASHINGTON, Nov. 2.—The fourth nationwide coal strike today resembled a movie that everybody had already seen three times.

Once again John L. Lewis had dawdled while the miners suddenly and silently struck; and once again President Roosevelt had ordered Government seizure of the mines as the first move toward ending the walkout.

Today according to the old and familiar scenario it is Lewis' turn to stride onto the stage and announce—after due deliberation with his colleagues—that the coal miners will return to work.

### Lewis Silent

But there were still some uncertain elements in the performance; Lewis gave no assurance that he would play his customary part now that the President has set the stage for him. Following issuance of the White House order last night he maintained his usual reticence; he was not expected to speak out until the U.M.W. policy committee assembles at 4 o'clock this afternoon.

While it is generally anticipated that he will yield, it is highly uncertain whether he will swallow the wage-terms laid down by the War Labor Board or whether he will decree that the miners work under the conditions of their old contract pending some new negotiations or talk or maneuvers.

### FDR Acts Promptly

Another unpredictable item is whether the rank-and-file miners, apparently further embittered and rebellious over the latest developments, will troop willingly to the mines when the flags go up. Most believe Lewis and his followers will demand a back-to-work order as a last

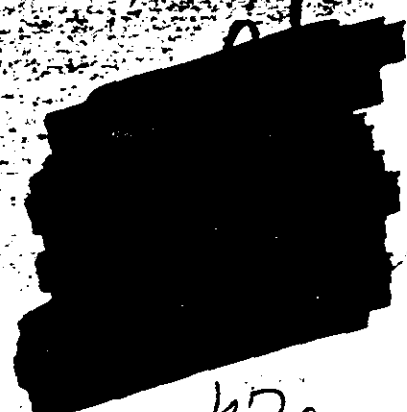
strike, after the government has taken over the mines, would make union officials liable to prosecution under the criminal penalties of the Smith-Connally act.

Seizure of the mines brought no joy to the coal operators who have repeatedly claimed they are the innocent victims of this procedure. Edward R. Burke, spokesman for the Southern Appalachian Operators, lamented last night:

"It would seem that in a sensible and reasonable society there should be some way of punishing the guilty and not the innocent party."

While the operators brooded FDR's action had banished any doubt in Lewis' mind that the Government would try to wait him out. Once again the next move is Lewis's; if he hesitates, the White House will again not wait for his answer. The reel is moving faster this time.

*fail*  
*United Mine Workers*



*67c*  
*X*

INDEXED

*July* 44-845-A  
NOT RECORDED  
4 NOV 8 1943

This is a clipping from page 7 of P M

for Nov. 2, 1943  
Clipped at the Seat of Government

The War Labor Board has directed the Brewster Aeronautical Corp. and the United Auto Workers, CIO, to sign a new contract designed to eliminate union-company discord at the three Brewster plants.

13 NOV 11 1943





# The CIO's Path

AS A third day of the general coal strike passed, with John L. Lewis still holding a club over the nation's war effort, millions of Americans both at home and in the armed forces are boiling with indignation that such a situation could happen in the midst of war.

The miners are mistakenly following Lewis in this disastrous strike because they have so far, seen no other leadership in their union. They are isolated from the rest of the labor movement and are not fully aware that there are ways other than strikes through which they can win their demands.

The CIO, now in convention at Philadelphia, took a stand that showed once more that it really expresses the patriotism and will of the workers. Its program should be brought to the miners. The CIO called for scrapping of the outworn "Little Steel" formula and for wage adjustment. But not for the purpose of doing away with a stabilization program, but in order to assure it.

The CIO further declared that it is possible to win this policy and wage adjustment only if the no-strike pledge is strictly upheld. It called upon the miners and railroad workers to join with the CIO in a drive to win the people for the change.

The leaders of the American Federation of Labor, on the other hand, are still silent on the mine strike. This strengthens the suspicion that the AFL's convention at Boston delayed readmission of Lewis because it did not want to have the embarrassing strike on its hands. These schemers may rest assured, however, that when the score is added up they, too, will not escape some responsibility.

The CIO shows not only that its first concern is for the war, but it also recognizes that you can't win America for wage adjustments, price roll-back and a fair tax program by a policy that plays into the hands of the defeatists and their Lewises.

To win the people, labor has to really put forward its entire united strength—CIO, AFL, Railroad Brotherhoods, miners. The Lewis path is one that serves those who want to drive away public support from labor.

The AFL's members, as vitally interested as the CIO in the policy outlined at Philadelphia, have the big task of bringing out their unions for it. To do so they must bring the full weight of their pressure against the Woll-Hutcheson Republican defeatist forces who are engaged in intrigues with Lewis in efforts to smash the CIO when labor unity is the urgency.

This is a clipping from page 8 of the

144-845-A  
NOT RECORDED  
35 NOV 8 1943

DAILY WORKER

Date Nov 4 1943  
Clipped at the Seat of Government



b7c

530  
NOV 11 1943  
SA

# Mine Strike JA

IN ORDERING government seizure of the mines, President Roosevelt took the only course open to him to protect the interests of a nation at war.

In ordering the fourth mine strike, John L. Lewis has once more extended a helping hand to the Axis, and he did it at the very moment when the cables on the Moscow conference agreements were spelling out an early doom for Hitler. While Senators Reynolds and Wheeler, Lewis' political friends, were mouthing their dissatisfaction because the last weapons were knocked out of Hitler's hands, Lewis sought to knife the home front.

Once more the country can see who really leads labor. At Philadelphia, the CIO convention under President Philip Murray's leadership, reaffirmed its unqualified no-strike pledge at a special order of business. The CIO fully recognizes that Hitler's doom is near, but it also recognizes that it will still take hard fighting and sacrifices to make that possible. It warned against complacency, Lewis is scabbing upon that policy of labor, and is exploiting the grievances of the miners to accomplish his purpose.

As we have stated many times, the miners are justified in their dissatisfaction with the WLB agreement. But this cannot serve as an excuse for the strike.

The reactionary bloc in Congress which even at this hour is preparing to fight the President's program for a roll-back in prices that he outlined in his food subsidy message Monday, is, like Lewis, responsible for the situation; so are the profit-hungry employers and so is the inflexible attitude of some government officials and the War Labor Board.

But by striking and playing into the hands of labor's enemies, the miners are jeopardizing their own interests both as workers and citizens. They should instead join the general stream of labor in a campaign to win a sound stabilization program, price roll-backs, democratic taxes and wage adjustments. Through a united effort, labor could win much without harming the war effort.

44-895-A  
NOT RECORDED  
4 NOV 5 1943

This is a clipping from page 8 of the

DAILY WORKER  
Date Nov 3, 1943  
Clipped at the Seat of Government

b7c

530  
NOV 2 1943

# Lewis Stalls, Strike Continues

## Confers With Ickes, Shutdown Crippling Output

(Special to the Daily Worker)

WASHINGTON, Nov. 2.—With many vital war plants already feeling a fuel pinch, John L. Lewis tonight still made no move to end the coal strike of 330,000 coal miners.

Despite President Roosevelt's back-to-work ultimatum to the miners asking them to report to work by Wednesday morning, a scheduled meeting of the union's policy committee was not convened this afternoon.

The committee was subject to immediate call, however, as Lewis was in conference with Fuel Administrator Harold L. Ickes, whom the President appointed as government custodian of all the mines.

### PRODUCTION AT STANDSTILL

The nation's coal mines were flying the Stars and Stripes today, the symbol that they are government property, by order of the President. Production everywhere was practically at a standstill.

While no statement was issued, and none promised later tonight, the conference between Lewis and Ickes was believed to be on efforts to reach an agreement on the basis of the War Labor Board decision. The President has authorized Ickes to negotiate such an agreement.

Lewis planned to meet with a 28-man subcommittee of the policy committee that was named yesterday to bring back a report on the situation. Presumably they will meet to hear a report on the talks with Ickes.

Ickes warned that unless output is quickly resumed the government may have to institute a share-the-coal program. He froze some 2,000,000 tons of coal in transit and restricted retail fuel deliveries as further conservation measures.

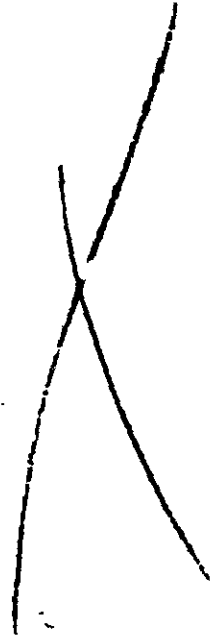
Failure to agree and continued interruption of production may lead Stabilization Director Fred M. Vinson to use his Presidentially-conferred authority to withhold the union's dues-check-off funds, curtail miners' draft deferments and withhold certificates of availability for employment from those who refuse to work.

Ickes' action restricting retail fuel deliveries means retail dealers and other selling in less than car-load lots are banned from deliveries. Consumers are prohibited from accepting soft coal unless they have less than 10 days' supply on hand. Deliveries to householders within these limits are limited to one ton each.

In his warning of a possible share-the-coal program, he said it would be instituted among householders to protect the health of war workers. He hoped it would prove unnecessary but said if it was needed he was confident persons with more than sufficient coal would gladly share it.

He informed presidents of all coal companies producing more than 50 tons a day that the primary aim of government management is maintenance of full production for the effective prosecution of the war.

"All officials and employees of the company are to perform their usual functions and duties in connection with the mine operations," he said.



This is a clipping from page 1 of the

DAILY WORKER

Date Nov. 3, 1943

Clipped at the Dept. of Government

144-845-A  
NOT RECORDED  
4 NOV 6 1943

b7c

532  
245  
61 NOV 10 1943



# Coal Is Ammunition

EVERY patriotic miner will agree and support the President's assertion that "we can no more tolerate the letting down of coal production than we can tolerate letting down the shipping of supplies to our fighting men."

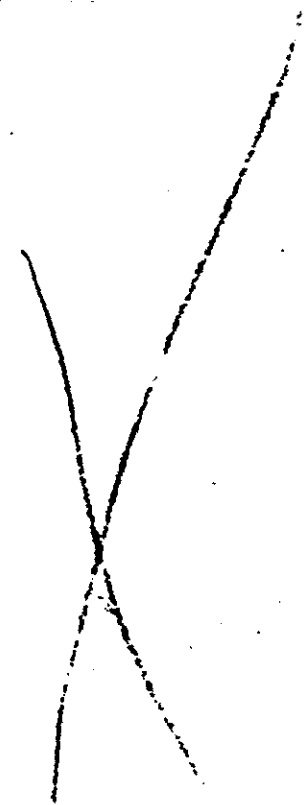
This means that the policies of John L. Lewis sabotaging the prosecution of the war must not be tolerated. Coal production must continue. A fourth general coal strike must not be permitted.

This is the course to take irrespective of merits or demerits of the War Labor Board's decision. The four labor members on the WLB, and the editorial columns of this paper, have already expressed criticism of some of the provisions of the WLB decision on the proposed contract for the soft coal miners, as well as on its 32-cent anthracite raise.

The President has correctly stressed some of the good features of the decision, especially the recognition for the first time of the principle of portal-to-portal pay for which some compensation is granted. This is undoubtedly a partial victory. And it is principally due to the vigorous voice President Philip Murray of the CIO raised in behalf of the miners.

But for the miners now to take again to the Lewis strike path is to undermine the chances for a further adjustment in their wage standards and at the same time to harm the entire labor movement. Further improvement for them will be possible only if the fight is successful against the congressional bloc that is scuttling sound stabilization; against the profits-first crowd and against the tax-the-poor crowd, as against those who cling to the outward "Little Steel" raise limit.

But this fight can succeed only by labor fully honoring its no-strike pledge and carrying its fight to the people through united political struggle.



44-245-A  
NOT RECORDED  
35 NOV 8 1943  
This is a clipping from page 8 of the

DAILY WORKER  
Date Nov 1 1943  
Clipped at the Seat of Government



676

530

NOV 11 1943

# Lewis Meets UMW Officials

## as Miners Avoid Pits

### FDR Still Firm; Won't Allow Further Defiance of WLB

By JAMES A. WECHSLER

PM's National Editor

WASHINGTON, Nov. 1.—John L. Lewis, who enjoys big moments, faced a long hour of decision today.

While thousands of restive, angry coal miners stayed away from the pits in the fourth general strike of 1943, Lewis prepared to go into session here with 200 officials of the United Mine Workers union.

They assembled in the face of President Roosevelt's warning that he would act to "insure" production of coal if the UMW rejected the latest wage terms laid down by the WLB (War Labor Board.)

As the UMW chiefs gathered Government officials were watching the clock. Although the President had fixed no exact deadline for acceptance of the WLB's decision, it will be certain he would not tolerate any prolonged filibuster by the miners leaders. Some sources doubted he would wait longer than nightfall for his answer.

#### War of Nerves

In customary fashion Lewis gave no advance hint of any recommendations or remarks he may make to the union's policy committee. He was once again carrying his war of nerves to the breaking point. He remained in silent seclusion over the week end.

There was no visible crack in the solidarity of the miners ranks as the eight-month-old conflict reached a new climax. Once again, without an official signal, they appeared ready to invoke their ancient slogan: "No contract, no work."

At the same time Government officials, led by President Roosevelt, were reported more determined than ever to "throw the book" at the UMW if it renewed its defiance of the WLB. No talk of compromise was in the air.

#### Possible Measures

Possible measures being discussed ranged from immediate cancellation of the UMW's check-off privileges to ultimate re-seizure of the mines, prosecution of any strike leaders under the Smith-Connally law and induction of miners who refused to work. Whether any or all of these steps would produce coal remained to be seen. The prevailing view appeared to be that Lewis would not risk the test.

Some officials contended it would be easier to promote a back-to-work movement this time since the WLB has approved an agreement that substantially increases the miners' take-home-pay—even though it falls 37¢ cents a day short of the Illinois pact submitted to the Board. But others voiced doubt that Lewis and his policy committee could halt the insurgence promptly even if they voted to accept the contract.

#### Way Out for Lewis

One "out" had been suggested to the UMW chiefs by President Roosevelt Friday and reiterated in a weekend message from the WLB. Answering Lewis' claim that the new agreement would involve a cut in the basic wage-rate, the Board formally told him it would approve a clause guaranteeing that no miners receive less for a day's work than they obtained under the old contract.

If he is unwilling to face a fight to the finish, Lewis could conceivably cite this guarantee as remov-

ing his objection to the WLB terms.

There were reports, moreover, that Lewis might receive some assurance from the White House of the WLB that the major outlines of the WLB's wage proposal would be extended to cover other sections of the Appalachian region. One informed source took the view that the new strike was primarily designed to win that assurance.

In any case the next move was up to the miners' chieftain. Nobody knew whether he would respond with a bang or a whimper.

INDEXED

144-845-A  
NOT RECORDED  
4 NOV 8 1943

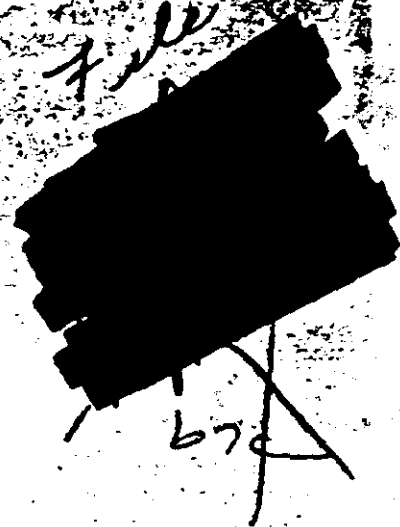
This is a clipping from page 5 of PM

for Nov. 1, 1943  
Clipped at the Seat of Government

13 NOV 11 1943

294

UNITED MINE WORKERS



# Mine Seizure Likely Move If Workers Go on Strike

Roosevelt Won't Act  
Until After UMW  
Meeting Monday;  
142,000 Men Out

## Strife Within

WAR LABOR BOARD public members protest charge by AFL members of the board that coal decision was dictated by other Government agencies. Wayne Morse demands that they prove or retract the charge. (Page 5.)

## Deadline Near

By Ben W. Gilbert

President Roosevelt promised last night "to take decisive action to see that coal is mined" in the event the United Mine Workers policy committee rejects the War Labor Board's Illinois decision at a scheduled Monday morning meeting.

The President's statement was contained in a letter to War Labor Board Chairman William H. Davis made public by the White House at a time when more than 142,000 coal miners were reported idle.

Seizure of the mines, immediately invoking the criminal penalties of the Connally-Smith Antistrike Act, was regarded as the most likely "decisive" action the President would take, although a Selective Service order to induct striking miners was also in the picture.

## "Watching Situation"

Spokesmen for the Appalachian coal operators estimated that 90,000 soft-coal operators were idle yesterday. The Associated Press reported that an additional 52,000 hard coal miners stayed away from work yesterday to celebrate John Mitchell Day, in honor of a founder of the UMW and leader of historic anthracite strikes in 1900 and 1902.

President Roosevelt said he would take no action until after the policy committee meeting, but was "watching the situation carefully."

The seriousness of the coal shortage was emphasized by the President and by Secretary of Interior Harold L. Ickes, who in a separate action froze at the mines all hard and soft coal in domestic sizes to use as an emergency pool to provide home heating coal needed to relieve distress situations.

In a remark believed directed at the threatened fourth general coal strike starting with the expiration of the current coal "truce" tomorrow midnight, the President said, "We can no more tolerate the letting down of coal production than we can tolerate letting down of the shipping of supplies to our fighting men."

The effect of the President's letter was to put the miners squarely on the spot—to decide whether to

go ahead with a complete shutdown involving 530,000 miners and threatened rejection of the WLB proposal for an alternative contract to replace the one turned down in the Illinois case for containing an unjustified wage increase of 37 1/2 cents a day).

Without mentioning UMW President John D. Lewis by name, the Chief Executive included two pointed digs at the mine leader.

"Certainly in wartime, the miners will not take the position that they will sign no contract other than one dictated by their leaders," the President said. "We are at war, and all of us must make sacrifices for our common good and common safety."

Mr. Roosevelt also said "there is no basis for the assertion that the board's proposals involve in any way a reduction in the basic rates that the miners are receiving," thus challenging a statement made by Lewis in a telegram to his lieutenants which was interpreted as a signal for a general coal strike.

Davis, in a letter to the President which the White House made public when the President's answering letter was released, stated:

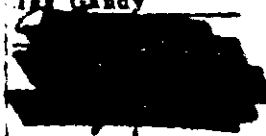
"The issue is the same clear one which it has always been since the beginning of the coal controversy, namely: Shall the wage stabilization policies of the Government be applied and enforced irrespective of the displeasure of any group toward these policies?"

The Illinois decision—which indicated the type of adjustment of the portal-to-portal controversy the WLB would approve—"has resolved every reasonable doubt with respect to the requirements of the stabilization program in favor of the miners' demands," the President said.

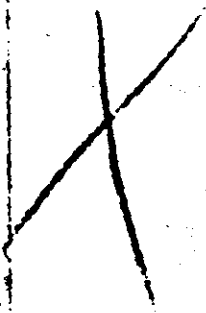
"Some may reasonably question whether the board has not gone too far," he added.

The President explained that the board's Illinois proposal would give the miners \$54 for a 51-hour "portal to portal" 8-day week, or \$2.50 a week more than they are now receiving for 42 hours actual work at their working places in the mines, and \$2.50 a week less than under the original Illinois contract which WLB rejected. For a 46 1/2-hour week under the old contract—equivalent to 51 hours "portal to portal"—the miners would have received \$52.25, the President said.

- Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. E. A. Tamm ✓
- Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Acers \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Mumford \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Starke \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_
- Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_



67c



532 246

61 NOV 10 1943

OCT 30 1943  
WASHINGTON POST

NOT RECORDED  
4 NOV 3 1943

44-843-

"I am confident that when the patriotic American miners realize the substantial increase in benefits the board's proposal offers them, they will not reject the opportunity given them to secure a contract," Mr. Roosevelt said.

"But, if I am mistaken, and the miners do not accept the board's proposals, I shall take decisive action to see that coal is mined."

#### Freeze Order

Other developments in the coal situation included the following:

1. Mr. Ickes freezing all domestic-size coal in cars at the mines, Ickes and the Interstate Commerce Commission also took control over all industrial anthracite coal now on rails. The freeze of domestic sizes was ordered after a number of major coal-consuming cities reported insufficient reserves of coal to heat homes adequately in the event of a spell of cold weather.

2. Spokesmen for the Appalachian coal operators issued a statement disclaiming any responsibility for the coal stoppages. "Beginning with the wage negotiations that started in March, the operators have at all times supported and complied with every policy and requirement of Government. This present controversy is not between the operators and the mine workers, but rather between the United Mine Workers and the Federal Government."

3. Lewis, reached at his home, declined to comment on the President's statement or other developments.

4. The Department of Interior disclosed that soft coal production declined a second successive week, with 11,300,000 tons produced during the week ended October 23, compared with 11,725,000 for the previous week. A goal of 12,500,000 tons a week has been set.

5. Ickes requisitioned coal from Illinois for the Pennsylvania Railroad and from Ohio for the New York Central Railroad to keep both carriers operating at full capacity.

# Line Crisis Challenge

## EDITORIAL

More than a million members of affiliates, in convention at Buffalo, endorsement of their executive board pledge without qualification. They vote it as unanimously as the board in behalf of such a large segment of every timely and holds significance view of the present critical moment in faces a test.

Next will mark another contract dead-end. At this writing more than 60,000 with at least the tacit approval of whole situation is again in the hands Monday, from all indications, Lewis I-blown general strike of coal miners. the railroad workers are taking a

On many occasions pointed to the justice of the coal miners and railroad workers. criticized sharply the War Labor Board authorities for clinging to an outworn and burns.

and for a wage adjustment to enable cope with the cost of living rise. But we are said again and again. Such adjustment by keeping the no-strike pledge and stabilization program. We regard program as absolutely essential for we nation would be most harmful to the common people in general. All adjustments be made for the purpose of strengthening program.

Ability for the failure of this program Republicans in Congress who, jointly with Democrats, scuttled the administration's program. They have emasculated measures and at this very moment continue to they engineered the notorious Ruml soak-up and are now scheming further steps in; they killed the President's \$25,000 and greased the way for a Roman holiday.

The Office of War Mobilization Director James F. Byrnes and Stabilization Director Fred Vinson, who have yielded to these disrupters and saboteurs of stabilization, and still continue to do so, share in this responsibility. Vinson's veto of the eight cent raise to railroad workers, is an example.

The War Labor Board also refuses to recognize realities. The board has allowed itself to be mechanically hamstrung.

In the same decision the WLB took months to find a loophole for a formal recognition of portal to portal (underground travel) pay, in the dusty files of the wage-hour administration, but they steered clear of the more flexible provision in the stabilization act itself which gives them and the Byrnes-Vinson offices authority to take any measures necessary to aid in the prosecution of the war. The fact that coal production was falling off and manpower had been flowing out of the coal industry, was to them not a sufficient enough reason for a ruling.

The decision giving the Anthracite miners the ridiculous raise of 32 cents a day, also because of a mathematical strait-jacket, is further evidence of the board's policy. The very least the WLB members could have done was to join with the four labor representatives' demand for a change.

The employers are responsible for the present situation by their insistence that profits go above all other considerations. Their position dovetails perfectly with that of Lewis, for neither is he interested in furthering production, placing his defeatist policy above all other considerations. If the employers and Lewis were interested in production they could have easily agreed upon a program that would be both an incentive to more coal output and to a corresponding increase in wages—a formula that even the WLB would have to approve.

Finally, the labor movement itself is not absolved of responsibility; first because of the disunity in its ranks, and secondly because Lewis, utilizing this disunity, is able to cultivate some support, when every union in the country should hold him up as an object of scorn. Isn't it John L. Lewis who presented labor with the Smith-Connally Act?

44-845-A

NOT RECORDED  
35 NOV 8 1942

This is a clipping from page 1 Sec. of

THE WORKER  
Date 10-30-43  
Clipped at the seat of Government



What path should labor take now?

The Lewis path of strikes is certainly out, for it doesn't win wage increases, and what is more important, it negates the basic consideration that this is labor's war and any qualification of the no-strike vote is scabbing upon the war to wipe out fascism.

The constructive alternative is the mobilization of labor's vast, and still hardly used political strength. No, this doesn't mean waiting until next election to cast a ballot although a blow to the defeatists and reactionaries in the many elections this coming Tuesday will be very important. It means a drive RIGHT NOW to win the vast majority of the people—who are not in labor's ranks—to the idea that a sound stabilization program is imperative for a quick and decisive victory over the Axis.

The Transport Workers Union of New York gave a practical example of what this means on a local basis. A fight which seemed almost impossible to win ended in a great victory for the union—and the war effort—without a strike.

Congressmen will continue to sabotage the stabilization program, stabilization authorities will continue to yield to them, employers will continue to think only of profits—just as long as they feel labor's political apathy and know that the public generally is not yet aroused.

If labor wants a sound stabilization program, with the President's seven points fully applied; if a wage policy is to be realistic with production and a high morale the uppermost consideration, then labor must unite its forces to launch its greatest drive to win the people.

What path should labor take now?

The Lewis path of strikes is certainly out, for it doesn't win wage increases, and what is more important, it negates the basic consideration that this is labor's war and any qualification of the no-strike vote is scabbing upon the war to wipe out fascism.

The constructive alternative is the mobilization of labor's vast, and still hardly used political strength. No, this doesn't mean waiting until next election to cast a ballot although a blow to the defeatists and reactionaries in the many elections this coming Tuesday will be very important. It means a drive RIGHT NOW to win the vast majority of the people—who are not in labor's ranks—to the idea that a sound stabilization program is imperative for a quick and decisive victory over the Axis.

The Transport Workers Union of New York gave a practical example of what this means on a local basis. A fight which seemed almost impossible to win ended in a great victory for the union—and the war effort—without a strike.

Congressmen will continue to sabotage the stabilization program, stabilization authorities will continue to yield to them, employers will continue to think only of profits—just as long as they feel labor's political apathy and know that the public generally is not yet aroused.

If labor wants a sound stabilization program, with the President's seven points fully applied; if a wage policy is to be realistic with production and a high morale the uppermost consideration, then labor must unite its forces to launch its greatest drive to win the people.

file

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

b7c

## Lewis Ignores Peace Formula

PM's Bureau

WASHINGTON, Oct. 28.—Another nationwide coal strike appeared inevitable today, as John L. Lewis failed to give any indication that he cared to discuss the peace formula advanced by the WLB (War Labor Board) in an attempt to settle the six-months-old wage controversy between the United Mine Workers and the coal operators.

The WLB's offer would have resulted in a basic wage of \$8.12% for an 8 1/2 hour work day.

The UMW yesterday summoned its policy committee to meet at 11 o'clock Monday morning—too late to call off the stoppage fixed for Monday morning.

INDEX 144-845-A  
NOT RECORDED  
36 NOV 1 1943

This is a clipping from  
page 4 of PM

for Oct. 28, 1943  
Clipped at the Seat of  
Government

530  
47 NOV 1 01943

# To Eye Lewis Union 'Deal'

By United Press

A Federal Grand Jury will be asked soon to determine whether President John L. Lewis, of the United Mine Workers, and Mine B. Coal Co., Springfield, Ill., violated the civil rights statute in a \$350,000 transaction, it was learned yesterday.

Reliable sources said that an inquiry by the Federal Bureau of Investigation was about completed, and that the matter would be placed before a Federal grand jury here or at Springfield.

Justice Department officials declined to comment.

## Wagner Act Involved

It would be up to the grand jury to determine whether the transaction warrants an indictment for conspiracy to violate the right of Mine B. employees to bargain collectively—a right guaranteed them by the Wagner Act. Conviction on charges of interfering with an individual's rights resulted in a decision that no violence, imprisonment and \$10,000 fine.

Lewis, it was said, loaned or made a gift of about \$350,000 to Mine B. Coal Co. in 1938, allegedly to cover losses of the company in a lockout of its employees who were members of the Progressive Mine Workers (AFL). The Government is expected to allege that the purpose was to break the AFL union, which resulted from a split with the UMW in 1932, and permit Lewis to regain control over the miners.

## Tax Bureau Hares Case

The Internal Revenue Bureau first discovered evidence of the transaction during an investigation into a possible income tax case. However, a study reportedly resulted in a decision that no violation of the tax laws was involved.

As far as is known, this is only the second time that the civil rights statute has been applied to cover an alleged violation of the Wagner Act. A Brooklyn (N. Y.) Federal grand jury in May indicted two baking companies, two of their officials, and two officers of the Bakery and Confectionery Workers International Union (AFL) on charges of conspiring to injure employees of the companies in the exercise of rights guaranteed them under the Fair Labor Standards Act.

## Employees Threatened

In the Brooklyn case it was charged that the defendants conspired to threaten with discharge and otherwise intimidate employees unless they signed waivers of claims for unpaid minimum wages, unpaid overtime and liquidated damages. That indictment charged that as part of the conspiracy the

does from those who refused to sign such waivers and threatened to certify them as delinquent so the companies could discharge them under closed contracts.

It has been reported that the presence of FBI agents in Springfield was the cause for Lewis' recent automobile trip to that mining area. The trip is under OPA investigation to determine whether he violated the gasoline rationing regulations.

- Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Kramer \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. McGuire \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_
- Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_



b7c  
2/11

INDEXED 44-845-A  
110 NOT RECORDED  
SEP 15 1943

9-4-43

WASHINGTON TIMES-HERALD  
BULLDOG EDITION

60 SEP 11

Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Kramer \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. McGuire \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
 Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

[Redacted]  
 [Redacted]  
 [Redacted]

b7c

File

**Lewis Driving Charge Still Awaiting Action**  
 The Alexandria rationing board last night revealed that the case of U.M.W. President John L. Lewis, whose recent motor trip to Illinois to see his mother, drew widespread criticism from gas-starved motorists, has been turned over to the State OPA office in Roanoke and to National OPA headquarters for disposition.  
 Capt. James Douglas, secretary of the board, said he was unable to state what action, if any, will be taken. Lewis maintains his legal residence in Alexandria.

INDEXED  
110

44-845-A

9-18-43

WASHINGTON TIMES-HERALD  
BULLDOG EDITION

30 SEP 18 1943

- Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Kramer \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. McGuire \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_
- Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

## OPA Satisfied With Lewis' Explanation of Illinois Jaunt

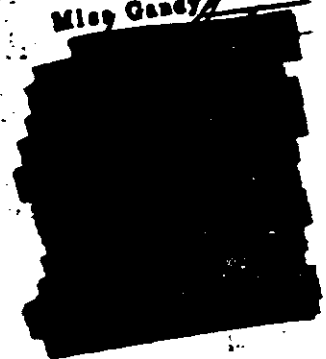
The OPA investigation of John L. Lewis' much-discussed trip to the Illinois coal fields last August, during which he also visited his mother, was closed yesterday after the United Mine Workers head made an "entirely satisfactory explanation" of the matter.

The announcement that the pleasure driving charges had been dropped came from Herbert Williams, attorney of the enforcement division of the Richmond district office.

Williams said the "satisfactory explanation" was contained in a letter written by Lewis to James S. Douglas Jr., chairman of the Alexandria War Price and Rationing Board, September 25.

The letter follows:  
 "Absence from the city has delayed reply to your letter of September 25.  
 "I quote your questions and make categorical reply as follows:  
 "Q. Would the trip have been made regardless of where your mother happened to reside?  
 "A. Yes.  
 "Q. In case the visit was made, was it merely incidental to the trip?  
 "A. Yes.

"Q. Between which two business stops was it made?  
 "A. Following Indianapolis engagement and prior to Cincinnati engagement.  
 "Q. Did such visit require mileage additional to the business calls, if so what distance and what class of gasoline coupons were used?  
 "A. Distance from United Mine Workers Building, Springfield, Ill., to my mother's home, 1180 block West Lawrence Avenue, approximately 15 city blocks. All gasoline purchased on trip through usage of 'C' coupons, approximately five gallons 'A' coupon gasoline in car tank at beginning of trip. During two days in Springfield car was not used in connection with business or other calls about city.  
 "Explanatory Note: Visit to Indianapolis was made in connection with voluntary liquidation affairs of United Labor Bank and Trust Co., of which the undersigned was president. Visit to Springfield was necessary in connection with financial and legal affairs of United Mine Workers of America, which maintains branch offices in that city. Visit to Cincinnati was made



b7c

*File*  
44-4

Jul 144-815-A-  
NOT RECORDED  
87 NOV 10 1943

44.  
59 NOV 12 1943

Oct. 5, 1943  
WASHINGTON TIMES-HERALD  
MORNING EDITION

# To Eye Lewis Union 'Deal'

By United Press

A Federal Grand Jury will be asked soon to determine whether President John L. Lewis, of the United Mine Workers, and Mine B. Coal Co., Springfield, Ill., violated the civil rights statute in a \$350,000 transaction, it was learned yesterday.

Reliable sources said that an inquiry by the Federal Bureau of Investigation was about completed, and that the matter would be placed before a Federal grand jury here or at Springfield.

Justice Department officials declined to comment.

## Wagner Act Involved

It would be up to the grand jury to determine whether the transaction warrants an indictment for conspiracy to violate the right of Mine B. employees to bargain collectively—a right guaranteed them by the Wagner Act. Conviction on charges of interfering with an individual's rights resulted in a decision that no violation warranted imprisonment and \$10,000 fine.

Lewis, it was said, loaned or made a gift of about \$350,000 to Mine B. Coal Co., in 1938, allegedly to cover losses of the company in a lockout of its employees who were members of the Progressive Mine Workers (AFL). The Government is expected to allege that the purpose was to break the AFL union, which resulted from a split with the UMW in 1932, and permit Lewis to regain control over the miners.

## Tax Bureau Bares Case

The Internal Revenue Bureau first discovered evidence of the transaction during an investigation into a possible income tax case. However, a study reportedly resulted in a decision that no violation of the tax laws was involved.

As far as is known, this is only the second time that the civil rights statute has been applied to cover an alleged violation of the Wagner Act. A Brooklyn (N. Y.) Federal grand jury in May indicted two baking companies, two of their officials, and two officers of the Bakery and Confectionery Workers International Union (AFL) on charges of conspiring to injure employees of the companies in the exercise of rights guaranteed them under the Fair Labor Standards Act.

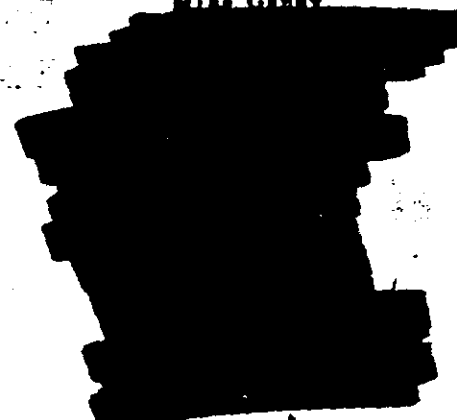
## Employees Threatened

In the Brooklyn case it was charged that the defendants conspired to threaten with discharge and otherwise intimidate employees unless they signed waivers of claims for unpaid minimum wages, unpaid overtime and liquidated damages. That indictment charged that as part of the conspiracy the

men from those who refused to sign such waivers and threatened to certify them as delinquent so the companies could discharge them under closed contracts.

It has been reported that the presence of FBI agents in Springfield was the cause for Lewis' recent automobile trip to that mining area. The trip is under OPA investigation to determine whether he violated the gasoline rationing regulations.

Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Kramer \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. McGuire \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
 Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_



b7c

*File*  
 44-845

MX

144-845-A  
 NOT RECORDED  
 87 SEP 9 1943

9-4-43

WASHINGTON TIMES-HERALD  
 BUREAU EDITION

34 SEP 9

**FBI Has Studied It,  
Grand Jury May Examine  
John L. Lewis Mine Deal**

By United Press

A Federal grand jury will be asked soon to determine whether President John L. Lewis of the United Mine Workers, and Mine B Coal Co., Springfield, Ill., violated the Civil Rights statute in a \$350,000 transaction, it was learned today.

Reliable sources said that an inquiry was about completed, and that the matter would be placed before a Federal grand jury here or at Springfield.

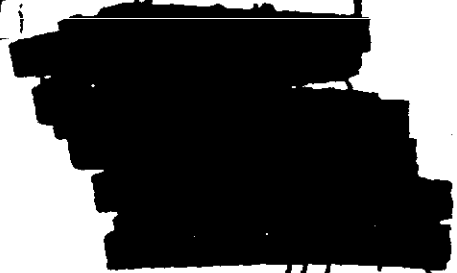
It would be up to the grand jury to determine whether the transaction warrants an indictment for conspiracy to violate the right of Mine B employees to bargain collectively—a right guaranteed them by the Wagner Act. Conviction on charges of interfering with an individual's rights carries maximum penalties of five years imprisonment and \$10,000 fine.

Lewis, it was said, loaned or made a gift of about \$350,000 to Mine B Coal Co. in 1938, allegedly to cover losses of the company in a lockout of its employees who were members of the Progressive Mine Workers (APL). The Government is expected to allege that the purpose was to break the AFL union, which resulted from a split with the UMW in 1932, and permit Lewis to regain control over the miners.

The Internal Revenue Bureau first discovered evidence of the transaction during an investigation into a possible income tax case. However, a study reportedly resulted in a decision that no violation of the tax laws was involved.

It has been reported that the presence of FBI agents in Springfield was the cause for Lewis' recent automobile trip to that mining area. The trip is under OPA investigation to determine whether he violated the gasoline rationing regulations.

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. E. A. Tamm
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Coffey
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Ladd
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tracy
- Mr. Avers
- Mr. Carson
- Mr. Egan
- Mr. Gurnea
- Mr. Harbo
- Mr. Quinn Tamm
- Mr. Nease



b7c

file

INDEXED  
66-44-845-A  
NOT RECORDED  
15 SEP 16 1943

176  
60 SEP 18 1943 Washington Daily News - 9-3-43



# \$350,000 Lewis 'Loan' to Mine

## Grand Jury to Probe

### FBI Is Working on Case; That Explains His 'Pleasure' Trip to Illinois

By GORDON H. COLE  
PM's Bureau

WASHINGTON, Aug. 30.—John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers, is innocent of any charge that he used gasoline for pleasure driving on his recent trip to Springfield, Ill.—even though he spent 36 hours visiting his 84-year-old mother, Mrs. Anna Lewis.

Any public report on the OPA investigation of the trip will exonerate Lewis of all charges and show that the mine union chief's drive from Alexandria, Va., to the Illinois coal fields was no pleasure jaunt.

#### Covered It Up

Lewis drove to Illinois on business—business that he chose to cover up by his remark to a reporter at Decatur, Ill., that he was just driving up to Springfield to see his mother. Lewis' C book for gasoline permits him to use his Buick for union business.

The fact is that Lewis went to Springfield because agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation were there checking into the financial transactions between Lewis' union and the Mine B Co., a coal operator that engaged in a long and costly lockout of members of a rival A.F.L. union at a time when Lewis was trying to oust the rival union from the Illinois coal fields.

#### Listed as LOAN

The case is scheduled to be presented to a grand jury at Springfield within the next few weeks, it was learned here.

The facts in the case, first reported by PM last Fall, indicate that Lewis' union handed the Mine B Co. some \$350,000 at about the time of the lockout that enabled UMW organizers to raid the rival union's membership.

The transaction is listed on the union books as a loan. Since the FBI investigation was begun, Carl Elshoff, president of the Mine B Co., is reported to have paid \$1000 on the debt.

There also are charges that Lewis kept some 14 members of the rival union, the Progressive Mine Workers of America, A.F.L., on its payroll during the time of the fight for exclusive bargaining rights.

The FBI is investigating the possibility that the union leaders conspired illegally to deprive employees of the Mine B Co. of their civil rights under the National Labor Relations Act. That law guarantees workers the right to join the union of their own choice.

A written law put on the books in 1870, principally to break the Ku-Klux Klan, makes such conspiracy illegal.

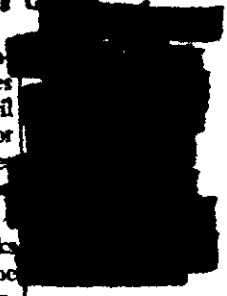
It was this same law that was used to aid the UMW in 1938—the year of the Mine B lockout—during the prosecution of coal operators in Harlan County, Ky. The Justice Dept. lost that case because the jury was unable to agree.

Conviction under this law carries criminal penalties.

Evidence of the financial transaction between the UMW and the Mine B Co. was first discovered by agents of the U. S. Treasury Department during an investigation of Lewis' and the UMW books in a tax matter.

The facts were referred to the White House and thence to the Justice Dept. for prosecution. Justice officials, fearing charges that they were attempting to persecute Lewis for political reasons, delayed action in the case so long that there have been charges that they are neglecting their duty in the matter.

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. E. A. Tamm
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Coffey
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Ladd
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tracy
- Mr. Acers
- Mr. Carson
- Mr. Harbo
- Mr. Hendon
- Mr. Mumford
- Mr. Starke
- Mr. Quinn Tamm
- Mr. Nease
- Miss Gandy



b  
7  
c

532

57 SEP 9 1943

AUG 30 1943

PM DAILY  
Page 4

144-845-A  
NOT RECORDED  
87 SEP 6 1943

# FINANCIAL DEAL BY JOHN LEWIS PROBED BY F.B.I.

## Charge He Paid Illinois Mine Company to Break Rival Union.

BY EDWIN XLAHEY.

Special Dispatch from Staff Correspondent  
Washington, Aug. 26.—The Federal Bureau of Investigation has undertaken an investigation of the financial dealings between John Lewis and the Mine B Coal Co. in Springfield, Ill., it was learned here today. The facts in the case will be laid before a grand jury in Springfield late in September or early in October, it was further learned.

As previously revealed in The Chicago Daily News, the case involves a subsidy of the Mine B Co. by the United Mine Workers to reimburse the company for the losses suffered in the lockout of members of the Progressive Mine Workers, an A.F. of L. group which revolted from the Lewis leadership in 1932. The amount of money paid to the company by the union, it is now learned, was in the neighborhood of \$350,000. The lockout in question took place in 1938.

### Case Causes Cabinet Rift.

The case has already caused a slight rift between Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau and At-

orney General Biddle. ~~These~~ agents found evidence of the financial transactions between U.M.W. and the Mine B Co. an investigation of the union's Lewis' accounts, and turned file in the matter over to White House, whence it was sent to the Department of Justice. Failure of the Justice Department to initiate an immediate criminal investigation caused a minor cabinet crisis, which has since been resolved.

Although it is reported that there are some tax evasion aspects, to the federal investigation, the F.B.I. inquiry is concerned with possible violations of the old civil rights statute of 1870, passed to break the Ku Klux Klan, but never invoked very successfully. The Harlan County (Ky.) coal operators were prosecuted under this statute in 1938, but the case ended in a jury disagreement. The statute provides criminal penalties for a conspiracy to deprive citizens of their civil rights, in this case the Illinois miners who would have been so deprived in the event of a conspiracy to break their union.

### Listed as a Loan.

Incidentally, it was this F.B.I. investigation which brought Lewis to Springfield recently, where he became involved with the OPA, following the complaint of citizens that he had driven his automobile from Alexandria, Va., to Springfield on nonessential business.

The money advanced by Lewis and the U.M.W. to the Mine B Co. appears on the books of the company as a loan, it was learned. Federal investigators found, however, that there was reasonable ground for permitting a grand jury to decide whether the \$350,000 was a loan by the union to the company or an out and out grant to reimburse the company for breaking a rival union group. Since the F.B.I. investigation was initiated, it was learned, the Mine B Co., headed by Carl Elshoff, has repaid \$1,000 of the loan.

- Mr. E. A. Tamm
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Coffey
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Ladd
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tracy
- Mr. Egan
- Mr. Carson
- Mr. Hendon
- Mr. Mumford
- Mr. Quinn Tamm
- Mr. Nease
- Mr. Gurnea



b7c  
File

CHICAGO DAILY NEWS

8/26/43

INDEXED 144-845-A  
110 NOT RECORDED  
R2 SEP 16 1943

60 SEP 18 1943

# The Washington Merry-Go-Round

By Drew Pearson

WHEN MEMBERS of the AFL executive council took up the application of John L. Lewis, United Mine Workers chief, for re-entry into the AFL this week in Chicago, they didn't bother to tell reporters that Lewis might have been back in the AFL some time before, except for strong intervention from the White House.

It can now be revealed that the President was extremely perturbed about the burly mine labor chief's efforts to climb back on the AFL bandwagon. In fact, he expressed himself to friends in very blunt language about how foolhardy it would be for the AFL to welcome back a man who was in disrepute for openly defying the Government during the mine dispute.

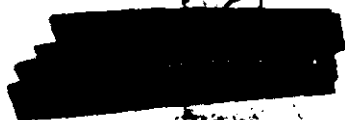
It also can be revealed that William Hutcheson, AFL carpenter's boss, and other Lewis friends on the executive council had the stage all set for a special meeting of the council last May to consider Lewis's application. This was the inside reason why John L. inclosed a fat \$60,000 check for advance dues with his application.

Just who blocked the move—and how closely the President himself was involved—is a secret. But Administration insiders report that Marvin McIntyre, the President's secretary, a great friend of the railroad brotherhoods, had a hand in it.

Furthermore, immediately after Lewis requested readmission, the President had separate conferences with Dan Tobin, teamsters' boss and a top-rung member of the AFL executive council, plus George Harrison, railway clerks' head, who is the most powerful figure in the brotherhoods.

Immediately afterward the move for a special executive council meeting was abandoned. In the course of one of those conferences the question of Lewis's application for readmission was discussed at some length—and the President expressed himself point-blank against it.

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. E. A. Tamm
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Ladd
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tracy
- Mr. Carson
- Mr. Coffey
- Mr. Hendon
- Mr. Kramer
- Mr. McGuire
- Mr. Quinn Tamm
- Mr. Nease
- Miss Gandy



*W.C.*

*File -  
John L. Lewis  
Civil Rights  
& Domestic Violence*

INDEXED  
D12

44-845-A  
NOT RECORDED

51 AUG 1 1943

8/12/43  
WASHINGTON MORNING EDITION

SPRINGFIELD FIELD DIVISION

ILLINOIS STATE REGISTER

AUGUST 3, 1945

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. E. A. Tamm
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Coffey
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Ladd
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tracy
- Mr. Egan
- Mr. Gurnea
- Mr. Harbo
- Mr. Hendon
- Mr. Mumford
- Mr. Quinn
- Mr. Nease
- Mr. Carson
- Mr. Egan
- Mr. Gurnea
- Mr. Harbo
- Mr. Hendon
- Mr. Mumford
- Mr. Quinn
- Mr. Nease
- Mr. Carson
- Mr. Egan
- Mr. Gurnea
- Mr. Harbo
- Mr. Hendon
- Mr. Mumford
- Mr. Quinn
- Mr. Nease
- Mr. Carson

# J. S. Grand Jury To Sift F.B.I. Investigation Into U.M.W.-Mine B Deal

## U.S. GRAND JURY TO PROBE DEAL

Continued from Page 1.

federal grand jury in May indicted two baking companies, two of their officials, and two officers of the Bakery & Confectionery Workers International union (A.F.L.) on charges of conspiring to injure employes of the companies in the exercise of rights guaranteed them under the fair labor standards act.

In the Brooklyn case it was charged that the defendants conspired to threaten with discharge and otherwise intimidate employes unless they signed waivers of claims for unpaid minimum wages, unpaid overtime and liquidated damages. That indictment charged that as part of the conspiracy the union officials refused to accept partial payment of arrearages in union dues from those who refused to sign such waivers and threatened to certify them as delinquent so the companies could discharge them under closed contracts.

It has been reported that the presence of F.B.I. agents in Springfield was the cause for Lewis' recent automobile trip to that mining area. The trip is under O.P.A. investigation to determine whether he violated the gasoline rationing regulations.

### Doyle Says "No Word"

U. S. District Attorney Howard L. Doyle said today he "knew nothing whatsoever" about the reported forthcoming grand jury investigation of the John L. Lewis-Mine B Coal Co. loan deal.

"I have received no instructions of any kind from Washington on this case," he said, adding, however, that a regular grand jury would be called to meet here within a month.

Washington, Sept. 2 (UP) — A federal grand jury will be asked soon to determine whether President John L. Lewis of the United Mine Workers and Mine B Coal Co., Springfield, Ill., violated the civil rights statute in a \$350,000 transaction, it was learned today. Reliable sources said an inquiry by the federal bureau of investigation was about completed, and that the matter would be placed before a federal grand jury here or at Springfield.

Justice department officials declined to comment.

It would be up to the grand jury to determine whether the transaction warrants an indictment for conspiracy to violate the right of Mine B employes to bargain collectively—a right guaranteed them by the Wagner act. Conviction on charges of interfering with an individual's rights carries maximum penalties of five years imprisonment and \$10,000 fine.

Lewis, it was said, loaned or made a gift of about \$350,000 to Mine B Coal Co. in 1938, allegedly to cover losses of the company in a lockout of its employes who were members of the Progressive Mine Workers (A.F.L.). The government is expected to allege that the purpose was to break the A.F.L. union, which resulted from a split with the U.M.W. in 1932, and permit Lewis to regain control over the miners.

The internal revenue bureau first discovered evidence of the transaction during an investigation into a possible income tax case. However, a study reportedly resulted in a decision that no violation of the tax laws was involved.

As far as is known, this is only the second time that the civil rights statute has been applied to cover an alleged violation of the Wagner act. A Brooklyn, N. Y.,

Continued on Page 6, Column 2.

# Blame Strike Policy for Connally's Anti-Labor Bill

Condemnation of John L. Lewis came yesterday from another AFL affiliate, the International Boilermakers Union, one of the largest unions of the AFL.

This was expressed in the June issue of the "Boilermakers Journal," the union's official magazine, under the title "Why Should Labor Be Made to Suffer for the Whim of an Egotist?"

"We have often commented in these columns that John L. Lewis was interested in no one but himself, and his recent actions further demonstrates that fact," says the editorial.

"By permitting his personal and political dislike for the Administration and some of the agencies set up by the government, his spiteful attitude and arrogance toward every one, to influence his official conduct as head of a great labor organization, he is doing not only his own organization, but all organized labor a most grievous wrong. He has caused a lot of anti-labor legislation to be introduced, which will be an irreparable injury to labor should it pass."

People, "down all organized labor because of the stubborn refusal of Lewis to accept the established rules of procedure and fight it out along that line," the editorial says.

## BACKS MINERS, HITS LEWIS

The journal fully supports the wage fight of the mine workers, but goes on:

"However, calling a strike at this time, while we are at war, in an industry that would virtually stop production in this country, is a matter that can not be lightly dealt with. He has placed himself and his organization in an embarrassing position, especially if some agreement is not made acceptable to him, for he will be at war with the government, if the issue is not soon settled."

"As far as Lewis is personally concerned, we do not believe he would care, but we do not believe it expressed the sentiment of a vast majority of his membership."

"Recently in St. Louis, William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, bluntly denounced the unpatriotic and obstructive tactics by Lewis, which resulted in the work stoppage."

"This attitude reflects the overwhelming sentiment of practically every man of organized labor, even, as before stated, the mine workers."

"In his present position he stands alone as a leader, the remainder of whom believe that nothing is more important than the winning of the war."

"Should organized labor be tried and convicted for the bull headed tactics of one lone egotist?"

144-845-1

NOT RECORDED

4 NOV 2 1943

INDEXED

This is a clipping from page 5 of the

DAILY WORKER

Date 6/15/43

Clipped at the Seat of Government

530  
41 NOV 11 1943

[Redacted] 67c

BYRD HITS DELAY  
IN CURBING LEWIS

Senator Asks "Who is Boss of  
U. S.—John L. Lewis or  
President Roosevelt?"

URGES ACTION BY CONGRESS

He Asserts Failure of Execu-  
tive Branch Leaves Job  
for Senate and House

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.  
WASHINGTON, June 2—Sen-  
ator Byrd of Virginia said today  
that millions of Americans are ask-  
ing the question: "Who is the boss  
of the United States of America;  
is it John L. Lewis or President  
Roosevelt?"

He put the question and others  
into the Congressional Record as  
the Senate completed its business  
late this afternoon. Unless the  
executive branch takes decisive ac-  
tion in the present situation, he  
held, the Congress must "do the  
best it can to perform what the  
Executive branch has failed to do."

"What hidden power has John  
L. Lewis so that he, and he alone,  
can defy the government of the  
United States in an hour of the  
greatest peril this nation has ever  
faced?" Mr. Byrd asked. "Has  
the American flag which now flies  
over the coal mines of America lost  
its power and prestige?"

The public was told, Mr. Byrd  
stated, that no strike could occur  
against the United States govern-  
ment, that Secretary Ickes was op-  
erating the mines as the govern-  
ment's agent and that the United  
States was the employer.

"Yet, today, in the third day of  
the strike," he said, "The Associat-  
ed Press reports that 500,000 min-  
ers remain idle. Mr. Lewis has de-  
fied the War Labor Board. He has  
refused to appear before it or to  
negotiate directly with it. Piece  
by piece he is obtaining all that he  
has asked for."

If Mr. Lewis can defy the gov-  
ernment and the flag now, Mr.  
Byrd asserted, "how can he be con-  
trolled in time of peace in the vol-  
canic readjustment period follow-  
ing the war?"

"I introduced legislation sixty  
days ago providing for 'work or  
fight,'" Mr. Byrd continued. "Im-  
mediately the various departments  
of the government opposed this  
legislation, saying that it would be  
harmful to national morale to re-  
quire those to fight who have re-

refused to work and produce materi-  
als for those who were fighting.  
"The winning of the war abroad  
will be delayed with much greater  
loss of life unless we can control  
our domestic affairs at home. We  
cannot temporize any longer with  
this situation."

144-845-A  
NOT RECORDED  
36 NOV. 1 1943

This is a clipping from  
page 11 of the  
New York Times for

Dec 3, 1943  
Clipped at the Seat of  
Government.

NOV 5 1943

FILE

## Finger Points to Lewis

ANY strike is inexcusable today. But there isn't a shred of plausible reason, lest it be outright sabotage of the war, for the strike of a half million coal miners.

Labor must hold John L. Lewis responsible for the walkout, regardless of the evident provocations from some of the operators.

The government, through its custodian of mines, Harold L. Ickes, advanced a proposal that would guarantee the miners a substantial temporary wage raise pending final settlement. The War Labor Board had already provided for other improvements for the miners in its decision. All wage changes are retroactive. It was no longer a question of whether the miners are entitled to an improvement. It was only a matter of bargaining over the margin of difference and HOW MUCH the improvements was to be. To call a strike under such conditions shows a desire not to serve the interests of the workers but complete indifference and even sabotage of the war.

Lewis, as the Communist Party's statement yesterday said in point blank words, "is trying to assume veto power over U.S. participation in the war. He sets himself above the labor movement and above the government. The miners must choose between their country and John L. Lewis.

The miners must return to work immediately."

It is urgent that all labor leaders speak out and assure the President their support for decisive action.

The no-strike pledge and the entire conception that this is Labor's war means nothing if Lewis is permitted to defiantly carry out his treasonous program. As Julius Emspak, secretary-treasurer of the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers told the President in a wire, labor expects him to take "decisive action" to stop Lewis and the "tremendous majority" of the trade union movement will back him.

Moreover, Mr. Emspak sees the issues as far beyond those directly affecting the mine dispute.

"We regard a shutdown on the right of Lewis to organize disruption of the war effort as something that must come regardless of the particular settlement of the dispute."

Of one thing we are certain. Neither Lewis nor that small group of "powerful operators," as Ickes called them, have the slightest interest in the country's safety. The President is duty bound to act to insure that our war effort does not falter, and all loyal Americans will be behind him

144-845-A  
NOT RECORDED  
36 NOV 1 1943

This is a clipping from page 8 of the

DAILY WORKER

Date June 3 1943

Clipped at the Seat of Government

56 NOV 5

1943



b7c

FILE

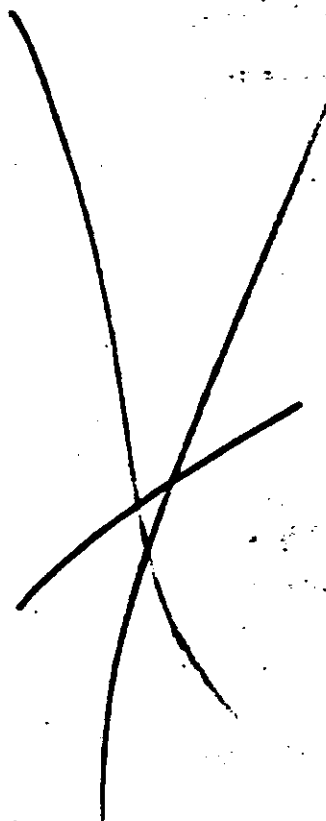
# Ray Edmundson Defies Lewis

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., May 1. (UP).  
Ray Edmundson, whose resignation as president of the Illinois Mine Workers of America followed a dispute with international president John L. Lewis, returned to the rank and file today—as a coal digger.

Edmundson, reported for work on the day shift at the Peabody Coal Company's capitol mine. He will draw \$59.85 for a six-day, 48-hour week.

His resignation as state president was effective yesterday, and his last act was to defy instructions of Lewis by turning over district files and office keys to the Springfield executive board member of District 12. Lewis had telegraphed Edmundson to turn the files and keys over to his brother-in-law, R. Olin Miller, manager of the United Mine Workers Building here.

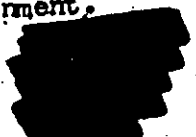
Lewis has called district board members and some board alternates to Washington and may appoint a new provisional president this week. The quarrel was said to have resulted from refusal of Lewis to grant "home rule" to the Illinois district.



INDEXED  
128  
198

144-845-A  
NOT RECORDED  
87 MAY 4 1944

This is a clipping from  
page 6 of the  
DAILY WORKER  
Date May 2 1944  
Clipped at the Seat of  
Government.



b7c

62 MAY 20 1944

458



...front  
...nd ...  
...he ...  
...ho ...  
...This ...  
...rike ...  
...iring ...  
...hed ...  
...air ...  
...a ...  
...this ...  
...the ...  
...ar ...  
...dra ...  
...pres ...  
...in ...  
...sp ...  
...tea ...  
...the ...  
...That ...  
...ar ...  
...of ...  
...ound ...  
...it ...  
...This ...  
...is ...  
...ph ...  
...mine ...  
...all ...

44-875-A  
NOT RECORDED  
APR 2 1943

This is a clipping from  
page 8 of the  
DAILY WORKER  
dated April 28 1943  
at the Seat of

29c

# OPINION

## Labor and the Administration

The price-and-wage picture, which had begun to get definiteness and stability of outline last week, is once more anyone's picture puzzle. The President's hold-the-line Executive Order of Apr. 8 does not, at present writing, look as if it will really hold the line. Labor leaders postponed their judgment for a week in order to get some perspective on how it would operate. Now that they see its workings, they don't like it. And now Manpower Administrator McNutt's job-freezing makes them like the total picture even less.

This is not a matter of labor's selfishness. Nor is it a matter of questioning the main lines of the Administration's strategy in the struggle against cost-of-living chaos. It involves the raising of serious doubts about the application of that broad strategy in the case of labor.

And one must remember that these doubts are raised not by someone as irresponsible as John L. Lewis or by a group of farm-block leaders who have consistently followed the tactics of a pressure group.

They are raised by men like Philip Murray and William Green and Walter Reuther who have, as labor leaders, accepted for their membership a far greater measure of Government wage control and a far more drastic scrapping of the traditional trade-union weapons than any labor movement in a democracy has ever done.



Philip Murray

### Threefold Case

What is labor's case? It is a three-fold one. And the three propositions are somewhat as follows.

¶ There is a serious doubt as to whether, even if labor accepts complete wage and job rigidity, the cost of living will really be controlled. The Office of Price Administration (OPA) under Prentiss Brown has not shown a capacity to keep prices down, nor any militancy in doing its job, nor does it—thanks to Congress—have money for adequate enforcement machinery. Since the "inflationary gap" between purchasing power and the available commodities already exists, its result is likely to be either higher prices or the spread of black markets. In either event the ordinary worker and housewife would be the sufferers.

¶ There are already signs that the freezing of wages has affected production. It is well known that a man's productivity depends to a great degree upon his morale. If workers feel that they are getting the short end of the stick, the result will be reflected in the Government's getting the short end of production. This is not a matter of dispute but a fact—and a disastrous one.

¶ The problem cannot be solved by scolding workers for lack of patriotism. What they feel is the expression of a perfectly simple and basic human impulse of equality. Workers, like other men, want to have the sense that they are not being made to bear the brunt of economic suffering as a result of the war. They are willing to sacrifice, but they insist on some equality of sacrifice.

In short, the difficulty with James F. Byrnes and the way he has been administering the broad strategy of economic stabilization is that he has viewed it wholly as a problem in economics and in political tactics, and not enough as a problem in psychology.

The British did not make that mistake. From the very beginning they established the principle of equality of sacrifice, and have managed to keep labor satisfied and working hard. They did it partly by severe limitation of big incomes and by drastic taxation as well as by labor control; and they did it also by entrusting the task of administration to trade-union heads like Ernest Bevin.

It is difficult to see how we in America will be able to resolve our problems by dealing gently with the big-income groups and using a big stick on labor. That is the importance of Congress' failure to accept the President's \$25,000 salary limitation.

### Representation

That is the importance also of the continued threat in Congress that the big tax incomes will be remitted under some form of the Ruml plan. That is the importance of the lack of flexibility shown by Administrator Byrnes in the application of the President's freezing order to the inequities in wages. And, above all, that is the importance of the failure to give labor any real representation in the Administration, at all commensurate with the Big Business representatives in the War Production Board, the OPA, and Congress.

The case of the War Labor Board (WLB) is a case in point. It has been doing a separate job in holding wages in line. And the trade-union leaders have been showing restraint all along in co-operating with it. It is perhaps the most successful example within the Administration of the tripartite board, on which business, labor and government are represented. Yet it has now been practically wiped out, and has become only a sort of arm of the Byrnes office, doing the job that a few statisticians could do.

I do not say that the President's Apr. 8 order was a mistake. It was necessary and courageous. But what happened was that no flexibility was shown in applying it. And the new job-freezing order of McNutt has only served to re-affirm the intent of complete rigidity.

### The WLB's Status

What needs to be done is not complex but it will be far-reaching in its effect on labor's morale. The President must, within the framework of his Apr. 8 order, restore the WLB as an independent agency, operating within its judgment and discretion. It has shown that it can be trusted, and it has the labor leaders.

I believe in a trade-union movement which is national-minded. I believe that the real interests of the workers are in line with the interests of the nation as a whole. But one must remember that labor is still in its basic thought habits, wage-minded just as business is still profit-minded.

We can demand greatness of soldiers, because that is the military tradition. But how can we ask greatness of labor when we do not ask any comparable greatness of our businessmen?

That is the question the Roosevelt Administration will have to answer. If the answer is not satisfactory, the Administration runs a risk not only of losing labor's political support, but also of diminishing labor's productivity in the war.—MAX LEONARD

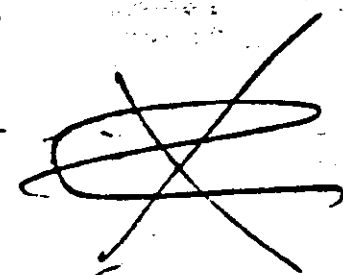
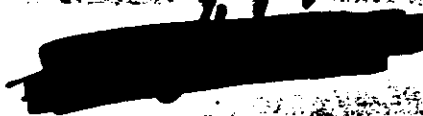
Copyright, 1943, by World Publications

This is a clipping from page 2 of the *Washington Post* for April 20, 1943. Clipped at the Seat of Government.

NOT RECORDED  
4 NOV 1943

44-3845

File



b7c

# Lewis Defies WLB At Celanese Plant

Staff Correspondence

NEWARK, Apr. 16.—John L. Lewis's reply yesterday to the War Labor Board's (WLB) demand that he end the "raid" strike at the Celanese Corp. plant here was direct but unofficial.

Members of District 50, United Mine Workers, voted to continue their work stoppage at the war plant and reformed their picket-lines.

The company, which manufactures essential plastics for the Army and Navy, said, however, that more employes were returning to work, and that production was increasing. The Textile Workers of America, CIO, whose local Lewis is raiding, confirmed the statement.

Meanwhile, Mayor Vincent J. Murphy of Newark was reported to have warned Roy Dugan, District 50 sub-regional organizer, and Howard Gill, another UMW official, to call off their strike immediately.

Gill, who formerly headed the Textile Workers local, is now out on bail of \$2000, accused of having obtained money under false pretenses.

The charge against him and Mrs. Henrietta Flechy, former recording secretary for the local and now a District 50 member, also out on bail, is that they took \$1170 of the CIO union's fund when they went over to Lewis. Both now face grand jury action.



INDEXED

144-845-A

NOT RECORDED

94

This is a clipping from page 3 of the

April 16, 1943  
Clipped at the Seat of Government.

530  
NOV 9 1943  
SRK

*The Inside Story*

# Special Group For Lewis 'Out'

## Administration Leaders Reject His Request for New Board To Settle Coal Dispute

By JAMES A. WECHSLER  
*PM's Bureau*

WASHINGTON, Mar. 30.—Administration leaders—led by FDR—won't yield to any proposal by John L. Lewis for creation of a "special commission" to settle the coal dispute. This point was settled some days ago, it is understood, when Secretary of Labor Perkins informally proposed establishment of a three-man board, led by Harold Ickes, to decide the conflict. FDR and Economic Stabilizer Byrnes both rejected the idea, insisted that—unless the operators and union agree among themselves—the case will go to the War Labor Board. FDR made that official in his telegram to the negotiators last week.

A drastic personnel shakeup has taken place quietly in CIO's Oil Workers Union. Edwin S. Smith, director of the union's organizing committee and former member of the NLRB, has resigned; so has Milton Kaufman, organizer who formerly worked for the Newspaper Guild. William Taylor, who helped organize Ford and later worked in aircraft, will replace Smith. It all adds up to increased strength for anti-left wingers inside CIO.

Paul V. McNatt has selected a new chairman for the Fair Employment Practices Committee, but the announcement is being delayed mysteriously. At his press conference yesterday, McNatt was asked about the

appointment. "No comment," he said. "No chairman, either?" a reporter asked. "No comment," McNatt repeated. Best guess is that the new appointee comes from Harold L. Ickes' Dept. of Interior. (It's not Ickes.)

The American delegation that visited Bolivia after the row over Bolivian labor conditions is back and has submitted its report to the State Dept. Members are waiting for the Department to release it. Bob Watt, AFL member of the delegation, reports that the group found the slogan "Bolivia for the Bolivians" plastered on walls by Nationalist groups. But in one place a cynical native had written under the slogan: "They deserve it."

Leo Goodman, formerly with the Treasury Dept., has been named Washington representative for Samuel Wolchok's United Retail and Wholesale Employees Union. He'll concentrate on OPA issues. . . . Robert Lamber, counsel for the Tolan Committee, will be named shortly to head a new non-power unit in the War Production Board. . . . A high AFL official says that the British labor delegation, led by Sir Walter Collins, dined as guests of "Big Bill" Hutcherson of the carpenters' union on their recent visit; another guest, he reports, was John L. Lewis.

When Robert Nathan, WPB planner, decided to enter the Army after WPB's latest reshuffle, he asked top officials at the Board to release him from his draft deferment. Carlson Hayward, WPB personnel man, promptly wrote Nathan's draft board saying that he was no longer needed—but omitting the fact that he had asked for the release.

INDEXED

NOT RECORDED

This is a clipping from page 6 of the

PM for March 30, 1943  
 Clipped at the Seat of Government.

*Handwritten scribbles and lines on the right side of the page.*

*Handwritten number: 44-845-1*

**FILE DESCRIPTION**  
**BUREAU FILE**

**SUBJECT** JOHN L. LEWIS

**FILE NO.** 44-845

**SECTION NO.** A

**SERIALS** 3/30/43

thru

11/22/43

# Evidence Not Strong Enough D. J. Believed I Case Against Job

By United Press

Justice Department officials would not comment that they had abandoned plans to have a jury determine whether United Mine Workers L. Lewis and the Mine B. Coal Co., Springfield, Ill., violated a federal civil rights statute in a \$350,000 transaction. The department had decided that evidence it had gathered relating since mid-summer did not warrant action.

Atty. Gen. Biddle was known to have assigned some of his top-flight attorneys to the case, which involved a question whether the transaction was in violation of the Wagner Act right of Mine B. employees to bargain collectively. That would have been considered a violation of the 73-year-old civil rights statute.

It was said that Lewis lent or gave about \$350,000 to the company in 1938, allegedly to cover its losses in a lock-out of employees who were members of the AFL Progressive Mine Workers. Evidence of the transaction was brought to the department's attention by the Internal Revenue Bureau, which discovered it while investigating a possible income tax case. It later was found that no tax-law violation was involved.

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. E. A. Tamm
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Ladd
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tracy
- Mr. Egan
- Mr. Gurnea
- Mr. Harbo
- Mr. Hendon
- Mr. Mumford
- Mr. Quinn
- Mr. Nease
- Mr. Gandy

b7c John [unclear]

mk  
144-845-A  
NOT RECORDED  
87 NOV 22 1943

449  
61 NOV 22 1943

**Tax Trouble**

**Justice Dept.  
May Act in  
Lewis Case**

By Linton Burkett

The Department of Justice will decide "very soon," possibly during this week, whether it will seek grand jury action against John L. Lewis, United Mine Workers president, on charges involving income taxes, it was revealed last night by Gerald L. Wallace, assistant attorney general.

While withholding details of the information in the hands of the Justice Department, Wallace said that there had been received from the Treasury Department data relative to an alleged deal whereby Lewis is said to have contributed funds to an Illinois mine operator which were to be used to fight an American Federation of Labor mine union. The crux of the probe revolves around whether these funds were properly reported or income tax returns made by the mine operator and whether Lewis would be involved in any possible effort at tax evasion.

Wallace said a decision as to whether any action would be sought would be made after the return of Samuel O. Clark, jr., Assistant Attorney General, who has charge of the matter. Clark was out of the city yesterday but is expected to return the first part of the week.

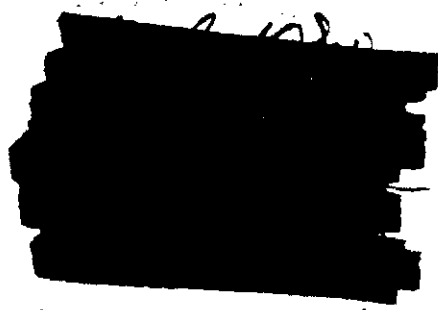
However, the only comment Wallace would make for publication was:

"I can say only that we did receive information from the Treasury Department relative to Lewis and funds received by a mine operator. We are studying the material and a decision will be made very soon."

He would not disclose the name of the mine operator.

K. C. Adams, normally spokesman for Lewis, said a grand jury in Springfield, Ill., received the information last week and refused to return an indictment, but admitted that the case was presented as a matter under the National Labor Relations Act rather than as an income tax matter.

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. E. A. Tamm
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Coffey
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Ladd
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tracy
- Mr. Carson
- Mr. Egan
- Mr. Gurnea
- Mr. Hendon
- Mr. Pennington
- Mr. Quinn
- Mr. Nease
- Miss Gandy



b  
7  
c

File in  
44-845-



filed 144-845-A  
NOT RECORDED  
87 NOV 18 1943

56 NOV 18 1943 91

THE WASHINGTON POST  
MORNING EDITION  
NOV 14 1943  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

File

## John L. Lewis' War of Nerves

**J**OHAN L. LEWIS' announcement that his calling off of the coal strike is merely another "truce" till June 20 once more demonstrates that this would-be fuehrer of American labor, who has just been fulsomely eulogized by Hitler's *Voelkischer Beobachter*, will stop at nothing to gain his ends. There can be no compromise with this war of nerves. Before June 20, if no settlement of the differences between coal miners and operators has been reached, the government must act to prevent any further sabotage.

From the standpoint of the country and the mine workers, Lewis' second coal strike was disastrous. But from the standpoint of Lewis himself, the strike brought certain compensations. It interfered with war production. It allowed him to prove his loyalty to the defeatists and to those Republicans who support a negotiated peace and the appeasement of Hoover, Taft, Vandenberg, Landon, and Ham Fish. For Lewis must be credited with putting over the union-busting Smith-Connally bill in the House. In addition, he weakened the fight against inflation. He seriously delayed efforts to get on with the war. His actions will result in the deaths of more young Americans than could be accounted for by a wolf-pack of Nazi submarines or a division of Axis troops.

Lewis has indulged in a good deal of self-righteous posturing. He has talked of his devotion to the rank-

and-file miners, but his actions during the mine "truce" belied his words. He refused, with the eager collaboration of the mine operators, to push for settlement of the miners' demands during the period of the "truce." Instead, he blocked negotiations, turned his back on the War Labor Board's every effort to settle the dispute equitably, while he carefully perfected plans to violate labor's no-strike agreement once again, and by so doing to endanger the security of the labor movement.

His timing is worth consideration. He ordered the second strike just as the Smith-Connally bill reached the House floor, and called off the strike the moment the bill was passed. Thereby, Lewis advanced his plot against both the CIO and AFL. Thereby, he made his "contribution" to the Hoover-Taft scheme to throw the domestic economy into confusion, from which reaction hopes to "rescue" it with a negotiated peace, a sellout to the enemy. At the time of Munich, Daladier played chorus to Chamberlain. Now Lewis is Daladier to Hoover and his friends.

Though the House passed the legislation Rep. Howard Smith has been trying to slip through for years, it can still be stopped in the Senate or, if that fails, by mobilizing proper support behind the presidential veto. President Roosevelt and the heads of key government agencies have expressed opposition to this war-wrecking bill.

It must also be recognized that Lewis has been able to seduce a large number of coal miners only because they have justified grievances which he has pretended to support. Apart from the wage question, the principal source of these grievances is the continued failure to keep living costs within bounds. At the White House meeting of Labor's Victory Board, Presidents Murray and Green stressed that the anti-inflation program was being undermined by OPA Director Prentiss Brown's vacillations and by the concerted attack of reactionaries in Congress, in the Republican Party, and from inside the OPA itself. The refusal so far to grant subsidies to make possible the roll-back of prices plays into the hands of Lewis and his masters. Lewis has made much of the high cost of living while deliberately spurring inflation. He has gambled on smashing OPA, hoping for uncontrolled inflation which will debauch the economy. The real weapon against Lewis is to push prices back to the levels of September 1942.

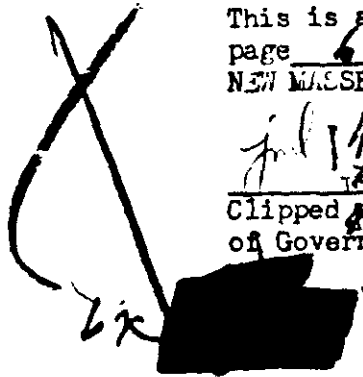
Lewis has done his best to wreck and divide. His entry into the AFL would give him another and greater opportunity to scuttle organized labor. The President stressed this point when he met the labor representatives, and added his wish—which is the wish of the win-the-war groups everywhere—for unity between the AFL and CIO. Lewis cannot survive such unity, or the resultant inflation which it would impose on him.

This is a clipping from page 6 of the NEW MASSES for

144-845-A  
10/19/43

Clipped from the Seat of Government

51 NOV - 9 243 249





# Lewis Signs Wage Pact With Ickes; Ends Strike

Basic Daily Pay of \$8.50

Provided; Contract Goes to WLB

By JAMES A. WECHSLER  
*PM's National Editor*

WASHINGTON, Nov. 4.—John L. Lewis and Interior Secretary Harold L. Ickes today presented the WLB (War Labor Board) with a formula for ending the eight-months-old coal wage crisis. It was not immediately clear whether the Board would accept the present.

In four conferences lasting a total of only one and a half hours, the United Mine Workers' leader and the one Government official who has remained on cordial speaking terms with him throughout the coal conflict, labored and brought forth a rabbit. Most observers expected the WLB to spend many turbulent hours deciding whether to accept the agreement or to precipitate a new collision.

## Cuts Lunch Period

Two key provisions in the agreement laid the basis on which the UMW Policy Committee last night ordered the coal miners to return to the pits:

¶ The UMW reduced the miners' customary lunch period from 30 to 15 minutes. The additional working time will give the miners daily pay equivalent to the terms of the UMW contract with Illinois operators rejected by the WLB. They will get \$8.50 a day instead of the \$8.12½ which was granted in the WLB decision.

¶ The same daily wage will be paid to other miners throughout the

time cut and the arbitrary fixing of travel time at 45 minutes throughout the Appalachian area—are the issues that may cause the sharpest controversy within the WLB.

Ickes and Lewis estimated that an additional 20 million tons of bituminous and 2 million tons of anthracite coal would be yielded by the additional work time, but other observers expressed doubt that the miners would faithfully abide by the 15-minute luncheon period and might interpret it for themselves as a face-saving formula which they were not compelled to recognize.

## 'Victory' Debate

The agreement also created much debate as to the extent of the victory which Lewis has won if the WLB grants its approval. This again appeared to depend on whether the rank-and-file miners rebelled against the curtailment of their luncheon period or chose to accept the plan as an easy way out of the deadlock.

Some labor sources contended

There was the usual scramble by each side to justify its acceptance of the revised wording of the Connally resolution. Connally and Sen. Arthur H. Vandenberg (R., Mich.), insisted that the new paragraph really didn't say anything more than the original resolution. Sen. Claude Pepper (D., Fla.), Joseph H. Ball (R., Minn.), Carl A. Hatch (D., N. M.) and others of the strong resolution bloc said it certainly did.

Obviously the new form is a lot stronger, if for no other reason than that it gives outright support to the Moscow declaration.

Dr. Karpman is seriously concerned about the morals of the Varga hussies who hang out around Page 60 every month in their honorable. They are characterized by a distressing absence of modesty and innocence. I do believe, he said, "there is a sin virgin among the Varga girls." The defense put into evidence

"Oh, I keep that book here," Karpman said yesterday, tapping his forehead. Bromley sighed wistful sigh, and his emissary brightened up visibly. They had looked there.

OK, Joe!

13 NOV 12 1943



INDEXED  
 29 144-845-A  
 NOT RECORDED  
 4 NOV 5 1943

This is a clipping from  
 page 5 of PM  
 for Nov. 4, 1943  
 Clipped at the Seat of  
 Government

# Mines Seized by F.D.R. After Coal Men Strike

## Next Move Up to Lewis; Ickes Again Put in Charge

By JAMES A. WECHSLER  
F.M.'s National Editor

WASHINGTON, Nov. 2.—The fourth nationwide coal strike today resembled a movie that everybody had already seen three times.

Once again John L. Lewis had dawdled while the miners suddenly and silently struck; and once again President Roosevelt had ordered Government seizure of the mines as the first move toward ending the walkout.

Today according to the old and familiar scenario it is Lewis' turn to stride onto the stage and announce—after due deliberation with his colleagues—that the coal miners will return to work.

### Lewis Silent

But there were still some uncertain elements in the performance; Lewis gave no assurance that he would play his customary part now that the President has set the stage for him. Following issuance of the White House order last night he maintained his usual reticence; he was not expected to speak out until the U.M.W. policy committee assemblies at 4 o'clock this afternoon.

While it is generally anticipated that he will yield, it is highly uncertain whether he will swallow the wage-terms laid down by the War Labor Board or whether he will decree that the miners work under the conditions of their old contract pending some new negotiations or talk or maneuvers.

### FDR Acts Promptly

Another unpredictable item is whether the rank-and-file miners, apparently further embittered and rebellious over the latest developments, will troop willingly to the mines when the flags go up. Most believe Lewis and his followers will be a last-

strike, after the government has taken over the mines, would make union officials liable to prosecution under the criminal penalties of the Smith-Connally act.

Seizure of the mines brought no joy to the coal operators who have repeatedly claimed they are the innocent victims of this procedure. Edward R. Burke, spokesman for the Southern Appalachian Operators, lamented last night:

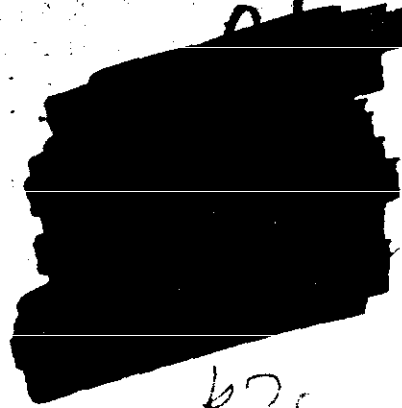
"It would seem that in a sensible and reasonable society there should be some way of punishing the guilty and not the innocent party."

While the operators brooded FDR's action had banished any doubt in Lewis' mind that the Government would try to wait him out. Once again the next move is Lewis'; if he hesitates, the White House will again not wait for his answer. The reel is moving faster this time.

*United Mine Workers*

*file*

*file*



*b7c*  
*X*

INDEXED

*file* 44-845-1  
NOT RECORDED  
4 NOV 8 1943

This is a clipping from  
page 7 of P M

for Nov. 2 1943  
Clipped at the Seat of  
Government

*The War Labor Board has  
directed the Brewster Aircraft  
Corp. and the United Auto Wor  
ers, CIO, to sign a new contr  
at designed to eliminate union-co  
m-pary discord at the three Brews  
plants.*

13 NOV 1 1943



# The CIO's Path

AS A third day of the general coal strike passed, with John L. Lewis still holding a club over the nation's war effort, millions of Americans both at home and in the armed forces are boiling with indignation that such a situation could happen in the midst of war.

The miners are mistakenly following Lewis in this disastrous strike because they have so far, seen no other leadership in their union. They are isolated from the rest of the labor movement and are not fully aware that there are ways other than strikes through which they can win their demands.

The CIO, now in convention at Philadelphia, took a stand that showed once more that it really expresses the patriotism and will of the workers. Its program should be brought to the miners. The CIO called for scrapping of the outworn "Little Steel" formula and for wage adjustment. But not for the purpose of doing away with a stabilization program, but in order to assure it.

The CIO further declared that it is possible to win this policy and wage adjustment only if the no-strike pledge is strictly upheld. It called upon the miners and railroad workers to join with the CIO in a drive to win the people for the change.

The leaders of the American Federation of Labor, on the other hand, are still silent on the mine strike. This strengthens the suspicion that the AFL's convention at Boston delayed readmission of Lewis because it did not want to have the embarrassing strike on its hands. These schemers may rest assured, however, that when the score is added up they, too, will not escape some responsibility.

The CIO shows not only that its first concern is for the war, but it also recognizes that you can't win America for wage adjustments, price roll-back and a fair tax program by a policy that plays into the hands of the defeatists and their Lewises.

To win the people, labor has to really put forward its entire united strength—CIO, AFL, Railroad Brotherhoods, miners. The Lewis path is one that serves those who want to drive away public support from labor.

The AFL's members, as vitally interested as the CIO in the policy outlined at Philadelphia, have the big task of bringing out their unions for it. To do so they must bring the full weight of their pressure against the Woll-Hutcheson Republican defeatist forces who are engaged in intrigues with Lewis in efforts to smash the CIO when labor unity is the urgency.

This is a clipping from page 8 of the

DAILY WORKER

Date Nov. 4, 1943  
Clipped at the Seat of Government

144-545-A  
NOT RECORDED  
35 NOV 8 1943



67c

530  
NOV 11 1943  
67c

# Mine Strike *JA*

**I**N ORDERING government seizure of the mines, President Roosevelt took the only course open to him to protect the interests of a nation at war.

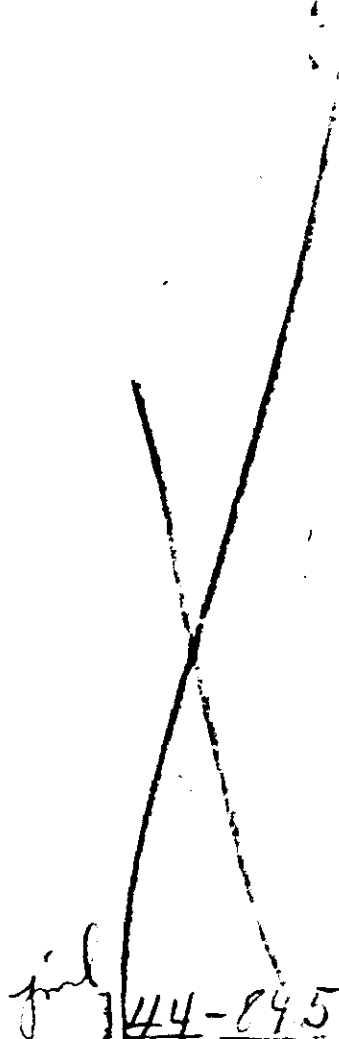
**I**n ordering the fourth mine strike, John L. Lewis has once more extended a helping hand to the Axis, and he did it at the very moment when the cables on the Moscow conference agreements were spelling out an early doom for Hitler. While Senators Reynolds and Wheeler, Lewis' political friends, were mouthing their dissatisfaction because the last weapons were knocked out of Hitler's hands, Lewis sought to knife the home front.

Once more the country can see who really leads labor. At Philadelphia, the CIO convention under President Philip Murray's leadership, reaffirmed its unqualified no-strike pledge at a special order of business. The CIO fully recognizes that Hitler's doom is near, but it also recognizes that it will still take hard fighting and sacrifices to make that possible. It warned against complacency. Lewis is scabbing upon that policy of labor, and is exploiting the grievances of the miners to accomplish his purpose.

As we have stated many times, the miners are justified in their dissatisfaction with the WLB agreement. But this cannot serve as an excuse for the strike.

The reactionary bloc in Congress which even at this hour is preparing to fight the President's program for a roll-back in prices that he outlined in his food subsidy message Monday, is, like Lewis, responsible for the situation; so are the profit-hungry employers and so is the inflexible attitude of some government officials and the War Labor Board.

But by striking and playing into the hands of labor's enemies, the miners are jeopardizing their own interests both as workers and citizens. They should instead join the general stream of labor in a campaign to win a sound stabilization program, price roll-backs, democratic taxes and wage adjustments. Through a united effort, labor could win much without harming the war effort.



*file* 44-845-A  
NOT RECORDED  
4 NOV 5 1943

This is a clipping from page 8 of the

DAILY WORKER  
Date Nov 3, 1943  
Clipped at the Seat of Government



*b7c*

*530*  
*2475*  
*53 NOV 1943*

# Lewis Stalls, Strike Continues

## Confers With Ickes, Shutdown Crippling Output

(Special to the Daily Worker)

WASHINGTON, Nov. 2.—With many vital war plants already feeling a fuel pinch, John L. Lewis tonight still made no move to end the coal strike of 530,000 coal miners.

Despite President Roosevelt's back-to-work ultimatum to the miners asking them to report to work by Wednesday morning, a scheduled meeting of the union's policy committee was not convened this afternoon.

The committee was subject to immediate call, however, as Lewis was in conference with Fuel Administrator Harold L. Ickes, whom the President appointed as government custodian of all the mines.

### PRODUCTION AT STANDSTILL

The nation's coal mines were flying the Stars and Stripes today, the symbol that they are government property, by order of the President. Production everywhere was practically at a standstill.

While no statement was issued, and none promised later tonight, the conference between Lewis and Ickes was believed to be on efforts to reach an agreement on the basis of the War Labor Board decision. The President has authorized Ickes to negotiate such an agreement.

Lewis planned to meet with a 28-man subcommittee of the policy committee that was named yesterday to bring back a report on the situation. Presumably they will meet to hear a report on the talks with Ickes.

Ickes warned that unless output is quickly resumed the government may have to institute a share-the-coal program. He froze some 2,000,000 tons of coal in transit and restricted retail fuel deliveries as further conservation measures.

Failure to agree and continued interruption of production may lead Stabilization Director Fred M. Vinson to use his Presidentially-conferred authority to withhold the union's dues-check-off funds, cancel miners' draft deferments and withhold certificates of availability for employment from those who refuse to work.

Ickes' action restricting retail fuel deliveries means retail dealers and other selling in less than car-load lots are banned from deliveries. Consumers are prohibited from accepting soft coal unless they have less than 10 days' supply on hand. Deliveries to householders within these limits are limited to one ton each.

In his warning of a possible share-the-coal program, he said it would be instituted among householders to protect the health of war workers. He hoped it would prove unnecessary but said if it was needed he was confident persons with more than sufficient coal would gladly share it.

He informed presidents of all coal companies producing more than 50 tons a day that the primary aim of government management is maintenance of full production for the effective prosecution of the war.

"All officials and employees of the company are to perform their usual functions and duties in connection with the mine operations," he said.

This is a clipping from page 1 of the

DAILY WORKER

Date Nov 3, 1943

Clipped at the Seat of Government

532  
245

61 NOV 10 1943

144-845-A  
NOT RECORDED  
4 NOV 6 1943

67c

FILE



## Coal Is Ammunition

EVERY patriotic miner will agree and support the President's assertion that "we can no more tolerate the letting down of coal production than we can tolerate letting down the shipping of supplies to our fighting men."

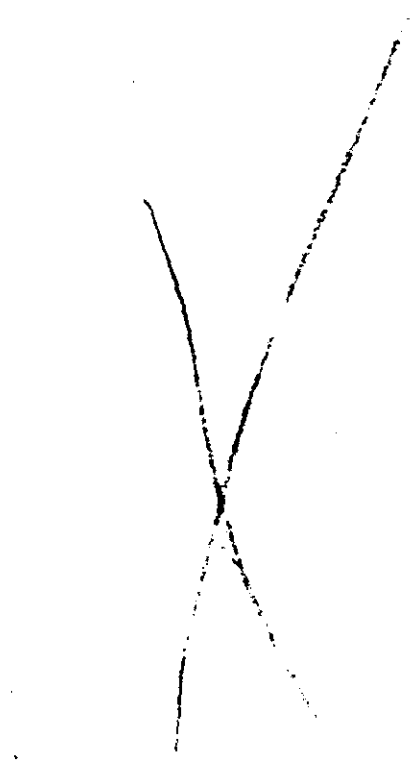
This means that the policies of John L. Lewis sabotaging the prosecution of the war must not be tolerated. Coal production must continue. A fourth general coal strike must not be permitted.

This is the course to take irrespective of merits or demerits of the War Labor Board's decision. The four labor members on the WLB, and the editorial columns of this paper, have already expressed criticism of some of the provisions of the WLB decision on the proposed contract for the soft coal miners, as well as on its 32-cent anthracite raise.

The President has correctly stressed some of the good features of the decision, especially the recognition for the first time of the principle of portal-to-portal pay for which some compensation is granted. This is undoubtedly a partial victory. And it is principally due to the vigorous voice President Philip Murray of the CIO raised in behalf of the miners.

But for the miners now to take again to the Lewis strike path is to undermine the chances for a further adjustment in their wage standards and at the same time to harm the entire labor movement. Further improvement for them will be possible only if the fight is successful against the congressional bloc that is scuttling sound stabilization; against the profits-first crowd and against the tax-the-poor crowd, as against those who cling to the outward "Little Steel" raise limit.

But this fight can succeed only by labor fully honoring its no-strike pledge and carrying its fight to the people through united political struggle.



44-245-A  
NOT RECORDED  
35 NOV 8 1943  
This is a clipping from  
page 8 of the

DAILY WORKER  
Date Nov 1, 1943  
Clipped at the Seat of  
Government



b7c

530

34 NOV 11 1943

# Lewis Meets UMW Officials

## as Miners Avoid Pits

File  
[Redacted]  
b7c

### FDR Still Firm; Won't Allow Further Defiance of WLB

By JAMES A. WECHSLER  
PM's National Editor

WASHINGTON, Nov. 1.—John L. Lewis, who enjoys big moments, faced a long hour of decision today.

While thousands of restive, angry coal miners stayed away from the pits in the fourth general strike of 1943, Lewis prepared to go into session here with 200 officials of the United Mine Workers union.

They assembled in the face of President Roosevelt's warning that he would act to "insure" production of coal if the UMW rejected the latest wage terms laid down by the WLB (War Labor Board.)

As the UMW chiefs gathered Government officials were watching the clock. Although the President had fixed no exact deadline for acceptance of the WLB's decision, it will be certain he would not tolerate any prolonged filibuster by the miners leaders. Some sources doubted he would wait longer than nightfall for his answer.

#### War of Nerves

In customary fashion Lewis gave no advance hint of any recommendations or remarks he may make to the union's policy committee. He was once again carrying his war of nerves to the breaking point. He remained in silent seclusion over the week end.

There was no visible crack in the solidarity of the miners ranks as the eight-month-old conflict reached a new climax. Once again, without an official signal, they appeared ready to invoke their ancient slogan: "No contract, no work."

At the same time Government officials, led by President Roosevelt, were reported more determined than ever to "throw the book" at the UMW if it renewed its defiance of the WLB. No talk of compromise was in the air.

#### Possible Measures

Possible measures being discussed ranged from immediate cancellation of the UMW's check-off privileges to ultimate re-seizure of the mines, prosecution of any strike leaders under the Smith-Connally law and induction of miners who refused to work. Whether any or all of these steps would produce coal remained to be seen. The prevailing view appeared to be that Lewis would not risk the test.

Some officials contended it would be easier to promote a back-to-work movement this time since the WLB has approved an agreement that substantially increases the miners' take-home-pay—even though it falls 37¢ cents a day short of the Illinois pact submitted to the Board. But others voiced doubt that Lewis and his policy committee could halt the insurgency promptly even if they voted to accept the contract.

#### Way Out for Lewis

One "out" had been suggested to the UMW chiefs by President Roosevelt Friday and reiterated in a weekend message from the WLB. Answering Lewis' claim that the new agreement would involve a cut in the basic wage-rate, the Board formally told him it would approve a clause guaranteeing that no miners receive less for a day's work than they obtained under the old contract.

If he is unwilling to face a fight to the finish, Lewis could conceivably cite this guarantee as remov-

ing his objection to the WLB's terms.

There were reports, moreover, that Lewis might receive some assurance from the White House of the WLB that the major outlines of the WLB's wage proposal would be extended to cover other sections of the Appalachian region. One informed source took the view that the new strike was primarily designed to win that assurance.

In any case the next move was up to the miners' chieftain. Nobody knew whether he would respond with a bang or a whimper.

INDEXED

144-845-A  
NOT RECORDED  
4 NOV 8 1943

This is a clipping from page 5 of P M

for Nov. 1, 1943  
Clipped at the Seat of Government

13 NOV 11 1943

UNION MINE WORKERS

# Mine Seizure Likely Move If Workers Go on Strike

Roosevelt Won't Act  
Until After UMW  
Meeting Monday;  
142,000 Men Out  
Strike Within

WAR LABOR BOARD public members protest charge by AFL members of the board that coal decision was dictated by other Government agencies. Wayne Morse demands that they prove or retract the charges. (Page 5.)

## Deadline Near

By Ben W. Gilbert

President Roosevelt promised last night "to take decisive action to see that coal is mined" in the event the United Mine Workers policy committee rejects the War Labor Board's Illinois decision at a scheduled Monday morning meeting.

The President's statement was contained in a letter to War Labor Board Chairman William H. Davis made public by the White House at a time when more than 142,000 coal miners were reported idle.

Seizure of the mines, immediately invoking the criminal penalties of the Connally-Smith Antistrike Act, was regarded as the most likely "decisive" action the President would take, although a Selective Service order to induct striking miners was also in the picture.

## "Watching Situation"

Spokesmen for the Appalachian coal operators estimated that 90,000 soft-coal operators were idle yesterday. The Associated Press reported that an additional 52,000 hard coal miners stayed away from work yesterday to celebrate John Mitchell Day, in honor of a founder of the UMW and leader of historic anthracite strikes in 1900 and 1902.

President Roosevelt said he would take no action until after the policy committee meeting, but was "watching the situation carefully."

The seriousness of the coal shortage was emphasized by the President and by Secretary of Interior Harold L. Ickes, who in a separate action froze at the mines all hard and soft coal in domestic sizes to use as an emergency pool to provide home heating coal needed to relieve distress situations.

In a remark believed directed at the threatened fourth general coal strike starting with the expiration of the current coal "truce" tomorrow midnight, the President said, "We can no more tolerate the letting down of coal production than we can tolerate letting down of the shipping of supplies to our fighting men."

The effect of the President's letter was to put the miners squarely on the spot—to decide whether to

go ahead with a complete shutdown involving 530,000 miners and threatened rejection of the WLB proposal for an alternative contract to replace the one turned down in the Illinois case for containing an unjustified wage increase of 37 1/2 cents a day).

Without mentioning UMW President John L. Lewis by name, the Chief Executive included two pointed digs at the mine leader.

"Certainly in wartime, the miners will not take the position that they will sign no contract other than one dictated by their leaders," the President said. "We are at war, and all of us must make sacrifices for our common good and common safety."

Mr. Roosevelt also said "there is no basis for the assertion that the board's proposals involve in any way a reduction in the basic rates that the miners are receiving," thus challenging a statement made by Lewis in a telegram to his lieutenants which was interpreted as a signal for a general coal strike.

Davis, in a letter to the President which the White House made public when the President's answering letter was released, stated:

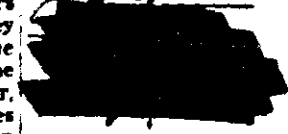
"The issue is the same clear one which it has always been since the beginning of the coal controversy, namely: Shall the wage stabilization policies of the Government be applied and enforced irrespective of the displeasure of any group toward these policies?"

The Illinois decision—which indicated the type of adjustment of the portal-to-portal controversy the WLB would approve—"has resolved every reasonable doubt with respect to the requirements of the stabilization program in favor of the miners' demands," the President said.

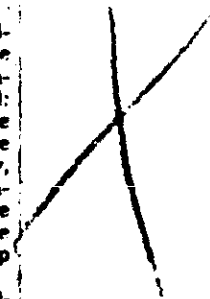
"Some may reasonably question whether the board has not gone too far," he added.

The President explained that the board's Illinois proposal would give the miners \$54 for a 51-hour "portal to portal" 6-day week, or \$8.50 a week more than they are now receiving for 42 hours actual work at their working places in the mines, and \$2.50 a week less than under the original Illinois contract which WLB rejected. For a 48 1/2-hour week under the old contract—equivalent to 51 hours "portal to portal," the miners would have received \$52.25, the President said.

- Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. E. A. Tamm ✓
- Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Acers \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Mumford \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Starke \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_
- Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_



b7c



532 246

61 NOV 10 1943

OCT 30 1943  
WASHINGTON POST

NOT RECORDED  
4 NOV 3 1943

44-845-



"I am confident that when the patriotic American miners realize the substantial increase in benefits the board's proposal offers them, they will not reject the opportunity given them to secure a contract," Mr. Roosevelt said.

"But, if I am mistaken, and the miners do not accept the board's proposals, I will take decisive action to see that coal is mined."

#### Freeze Order

Other developments in the coal situation included the following:

1. In freezing all domestic-size coal in cars at the mines, Ickes and the Interstate Commerce Commission also took control over all industrial anthracite coal now on rails. The freeze of domestic sizes was ordered after a number of major coal-consuming cities reported insufficient reserves of coal to heat homes adequately in the event of a spell of cold weather.

2. Spokesmen for the Appalachian coal operators issued a statement disclaiming any responsibility for the coal stoppages. "Beginning with the wage negotiations that started in March, the operators have at all times supported and complied with every policy and requirement of Government. This present controversy is not between the operators and the mine workers, but rather between the United Mine Workers and the Federal Government."

3. Lewis, reached at his home, declined to comment on the President's statement or other developments.

4. The Department of Interior disclosed that soft coal production declined a second successive week, with 11,300,000 tons produced during the week ended October 23, compared with 11,725,000 for the previous week. A goal of 12,500,000 tons a week has been set.

5. Ickes requisitioned coal from Illinois for the Pennsylvania Railroad and from Ohio for the New York Central Railroad to keep both carriers operating at full capacity.

# Mine Crisis CHALLENGE

## EDITORIAL

ES of more than a million members  
NO affiliates, in convention at Buffalo,  
commendation of their executive board  
be pledge without qualification. They  
rove it as unanimously as the board  
in behalf of such a large segment of  
very timely and holds significance  
a view of the present critical moment  
ain faces a test.

ight will mark another contract dead-  
ls. At this writing more than 60,000  
te with at least the tacit approval of  
whole situation is again in the hands  
by Monday, from all indications, Lewis  
all-blown general strike of coal miners.  
the railroad workers are taking a

any occasions pointed to the justice of  
he coal miners and railroad workers.  
iticized sharply the War Labor Board  
authorities for clinging to an outworn  
ne burns.

ed for a wage adjustment to enable  
up with the cost of living rise. But we  
ve said again and again. Such adjust-  
n by keeping the no-strike pledge and  
he stabilization program. We regard  
program as absolutely essential for we  
ation would be most harmful to the  
common people in general. All adjust-  
fore be made for the purpose of strength-  
ion program.

bility for the failure of this program  
publicans in Congress who, jointly with  
emocrats, scuttled the administration's  
gram. They have emasculated measures  
and at this very moment continue to  
they engineered the notorious Ruml soak-  
gram and are now scheming further steps  
line; they killed the President's \$25,000  
and greased the way for a Roman holiday

The Office of War Mobilization Director James F. Byrnes and Stabilization Director Fred Vinson, who have yielded to these disrupters and saboteurs of stabilization, and still continue to do so, share in this responsibility. Vinson's veto of the eight cent raise to railroad workers, is an example.

The War Labor Board also refuses to recognize realities. The board has allowed itself to be mechanically hamstrung.

In the mine decision the WLB took months to find a loophole for a formal recognition of portal to portal (underground travel) pay, in the dusty files of the wage-hour administration, but they steered clear of the more flexible provision in the stabilization act itself which gives them and the Byrnes-Vinson offices authority to take any measures necessary to aid in the prosecution of the war. The fact that coal production was falling off and manpower had been flowing out of the coal industry, was to them not a sufficient enough reason for a ruling.

The decision giving the Anthracite miners the ridiculous raise of 32 cents a day, also because of a mathematical strait-jacket, is further evidence of the board's policy. The very least the WLB members could have done was to join with the four labor representatives' demand for a change.

The employers are responsible for the present situation by their insistence that profits go above all other considerations. Their position dovetails perfectly with that of Lewis, for neither is he interested in furthering production, placing his defeatist policy above all other considerations. If the employers and Lewis were interested in production they could have easily agreed upon a program that would be both an incentive to more coal output and to a corresponding increase in wages—a formula that even the WLB would have to approve.

Finally, the labor movement itself is not absolved of responsibility; first because of the disunity in its ranks, and secondly because Lewis, utilizing this disunity, is able to cultivate some support, when every union in the country should hold him up as an object of scorn. Isn't it John L. Lewis who presented labor with the Smith-Connally Act?

44-845-A

NOT RECORDED  
33 NOV 8 1943

This is a clipping from  
page 1 Sec. of  
THE WORKER  
Date 10-30-43  
Clipped at the seat of  
Government

**What path should labor take now?**

The Lewis path of strikes is certainly out, for it doesn't win wage increases, and what is more important, it negates the basic consideration that this is labor's war and any qualification of the no-strike vote is scabbing upon the war to wipe out fascism.

The constructive alternative is the mobilization of labor's vast, and still hardly used political strength. No, this doesn't mean waiting until next election to cast a ballot although a blow to the defeatists and reactionaries in the many elections this coming Tuesday will be very important. It means a drive RIGHT NOW to win the vast majority of the people—who are not in labor's ranks—to the idea that a sound stabilization program is imperative for a quick and decisive victory over the Axis.

The Transport Workers Union of New York gave a practical example of what this means on a local basis. A fight which seemed almost impossible to win ended in a great victory for the union—and the war effort—without a strike.

Congressmen will continue to sabotage the stabilization program, stabilization authorities will continue to yield to them, employers will continue to think only of profits—just as long as they feel labor's political apathy and know that the public generally is not yet aroused.

If labor wants a sound stabilization program, with the President's seven points fully applied; if a wage policy is to be realistic with production and a high morale the uppermost consideration, then labor must unite its forces to launch its greatest drive to win the people.

**What path should labor take now?**

The Lewis path of strikes is certainly out, for it doesn't win wage increases, and what is more important, it negates the basic consideration that this is labor's war and any qualification of the no-strike vote is scabbing upon the war to wipe out fascism.

The constructive alternative is the mobilization of labor's vast, and still hardly used political strength. No, this doesn't mean waiting until next election to cast a ballot although a blow to the defeatists and reactionaries in the many elections this coming Tuesday will be very important. It means a drive RIGHT NOW to win the vast majority of the people—who are not in labor's ranks—to the idea that a sound stabilization program is imperative for a quick and decisive victory over the Axis.

The Transport Workers Union of New York gave a practical example of what this means on a local basis. A fight which seemed almost impossible to win ended in a great victory for the union—and the war effort—without a strike.

Congressmen will continue to sabotage the stabilization program, stabilization authorities will continue to yield to them, employers will continue to think only of profits—just as long as they feel labor's political apathy and know that the public generally is not yet aroused.

If labor wants a sound stabilization program, with the President's seven points fully applied; if a wage policy is to be realistic with production and a high morale the uppermost consideration, then labor must unite its forces to launch its greatest drive to win the people.

File

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

67c

# Lewis Ignores Peace Formula

PM's Bureau

WASHINGTON, Oct. 28.—Another nationwide coal strike appeared inevitable today, as John L. Lewis failed to give any indication that he cared to discuss the peace formula advanced by the WLB (War Labor Board) in an attempt to settle the six-months-old wage controversy between the United Mine Workers and the coal operators.

The WLB's offer would have resulted in a basic wage of \$8.12<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> for an 8<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> hour work day.

The UMW yesterday summoned its policy committee to meet at 11 o'clock Monday morning—too late to call off the stoppage fixed for Monday morning.

INDEX  
75

144-845-A  
NOT RECORDED  
36 NOV 1. 1943

This is a clipping from  
page 4 of P M

for Oct. 28, 1943  
Clipped at the Seat of  
Government

530  
47 NOV 1 1943

# To Eye Lewis Union 'Deal'

By United Press

A Federal Grand Jury will be asked soon to determine whether President John L. Lewis, of the United Mine Workers, and Mine B. Coal Co., Springfield, Ill., violated the civil rights statute in a \$350,000 transaction, it was learned yesterday.

Reliable sources said that an inquiry by the Federal Bureau of Investigation was about completed, and that the matter would be placed before a Federal grand jury here or at Springfield.

Justice Department officials declined to comment.

## Wagner Act Involved

It would be up to the grand jury to determine whether the transaction warrants an indictment for conspiracy to violate the right of Mine B. employees to bargain collectively—a right guaranteed them by the Wagner Act. Conviction on charges of interfering with an individual's rights resulted in a decision that no violation warranted imprisonment and \$10,000 fine.

Lewis, it was said, loaned or made a gift of about \$350,000 to Mine B. Coal Co. in 1938, allegedly to cover losses of the company in a lockout of its employees who were members of the Progressive Mine Workers (AFL). The Government is expected to allege that the purpose was to break the AFL union, which resulted from a split with the UMW in 1932, and permit Lewis to regain control over the miners.

## Tax Bureau Bares Case

The Internal Revenue Bureau first discovered evidence of the transaction during an investigation into a possible income tax case. However, a study reportedly resulted in a decision that no violation of the tax laws was involved.

As far as is known, this is only the second time that the civil rights statute has been applied to cover an alleged violation of the Wagner Act. A Brooklyn (N. Y.) Federal grand jury in May indicted two baking companies, two of their officials, and two officers of the Bakery and Confectionery Workers International Union (AFL) on charges of conspiring to injure employees of the companies in the exercise of rights guaranteed them under the Fair Labor Standards Act.

## Employees Threatened

In the Brooklyn case it was charged that the defendants conspired to threaten with discharge and otherwise intimidate employees unless they signed waivers of claims for unpaid minimum wages, unpaid overtime and liquidated damages. That indictment charged that as part of the conspiracy the

...dies from those who refused to sign such waivers and threatened to certify them as delinquent so the companies could discharge them under closed contracts.

It has been reported that the presence of FBI agents in Springfield was the cause for Lewis' recent automobile trip to that mining area. The trip is under OPA investigation to determine whether he violated the gasoline rationing regulations.

- Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Kramer \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. McGuire \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_
- Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_



b7c  
7/11

INDEXED 44-845-A  
NO. NOT RECORDED  
SEP 14 1943

9-4-43

WASHINGTON TIMES-HERALD  
BULLDOG EDITION

60 SEP 17 1943

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Kramer \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. McGuire \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
 Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

[REDACTED]  
 [REDACTED]

67c

*File*

**Lewis Driving Charge Still Awaiting Action**

The Alexandria rationing board last night revealed that the case of U.M.W. President John L. Lewis, whose recent motor trip to Illinois to see his mother, drew widespread criticism from gas-starved motorists, has been turned over to the State OPA office in Roanoke and to National OPA headquarters for disposition.

Capt. James Douglas, secretary of the board, said he was unable to state what action, if any, will be taken. Lewis maintains his legal residence in Alexandria.

INDEXED  
110

44-845-A

9-18-43

WASHINGTON TIMES-HERALD  
BULLDOG EDITION

30 SEP 18 1943

- Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Kramer \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. McGuire \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_
- Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

## OPA Satisfied With Lewis' Explanation of Illinois Jaunt

The OPA investigation of John L. Lewis' much-discussed trip to the Illinois coal fields last August, during which he also visited his mother, was closed yesterday after the United Mine Workers head made an "entirely satisfactory explanation" of the matter.

The announcement that the pleasure driving charges had been dropped came from Herbert Williams, attorney of the enforcement division of the Richmond district office.

Williams said the "satisfactory explanation" was contained in a letter written by Lewis to James S. Douglas Jr., chairman of the Alexandria War Price and Rationing Board, September 29.

The letter follows:  
"Absence from the city has delayed reply to your letter of September 25.

"I quote your questions and make categorical reply as follows:  
"Q. Would the trip have been made regardless of where your mother happened to reside?  
"A. Yes.

"Q. In case the visit was made, was it merely incidental to the trip?  
"A. Yes.

"Q. Between which two business stops was it made?  
"A. Following Indianapolis engagement and prior to Cincinnati engagement.

"Q. Did such visit require mileage additional to the business calls, if so what distance and what class of gasoline coupons were used?  
"A. Distance from United Mine Workers Building, Springfield, Ill., to my mother's home, 1100 block West Lawrence Avenue, approximately 15 city blocks. All gasoline purchased on trip through usage of 'C' coupons, approximately five gallons 'A' coupon gasoline in car tank at beginning of trip. During two days in Springfield car was not used in connection with business or other calls about city.

"Explanatory Note: Visit to Indianapolis was made in connection with voluntary liquidation affairs of United Labor Bank and Trust Co., of which the undersigned was president. Visit to Springfield was necessary in connection with financial and legal affairs of United Mine Workers of America, which maintains branch offices in that city. Visit to Cincinnati was made



b7c

*File*  
44-149

file 144-845-A-  
NOT RECORDED  
87 NOV 10 1943

44  
59 NOV 12 1943

Oct. 5, 1943  
WASHINGTON TIMES-HERALD  
MORNING EDITION



# Grand Jury To Eye Lewis Union 'Deal'

By United Press

A Federal Grand Jury will be asked soon to determine whether President John L. Lewis, of the United Mine Workers, and Mine B. Coal Co., Springfield, Ill., violated the civil rights statute in a \$350,000 transaction, it was learned yesterday.

Reliable sources said that an inquiry by the Federal Bureau of Investigation was about completed, and that the matter would be placed before a Federal grand jury here or at Springfield.

Justice Department officials declined to comment.

## Wagner Act Involved

It would be up to the grand jury to determine whether the transaction warrants an indictment for conspiracy to violate the right of Mine B. employes to bargain collectively—a right guaranteed them by the Wagner Act. Conviction on charges of interfering with an individual's rights resulted in a decision that no vio-years imprisonment and \$10,000 fine.

Lewis, it was said, loaned or made a gift of about \$350,000 to Mine B. Coal Co. in 1938, allegedly to cover losses of the company in a lockout of its employes who were members of the Progressive Mine Workers (AFL). The Government is expected to allege that the purpose was to break the AFL union, which resulted from a split with the UMW in 1932, and permit Lewis to regain control over the miners.

## Tax Bureau Bars Case

The Internal Revenue Bureau first discovered evidence of the transaction during an investigation into a possible income tax case. However, a study reportedly resulted in a decision that no violation of the tax laws was involved.

As far as is known, this is only the second time that the civil rights statute has been applied to cover an alleged violation of the Wagner Act. A Brooklyn (N. Y.) Federal grand jury in May indicted two baking companies, two of their officials, and two officers of the Bakery and Confectionery Workers International Union (AFL) on charges of conspiring to injure employes of the companies in the exercise of rights guaranteed them under the Fair Labor Standards Act.

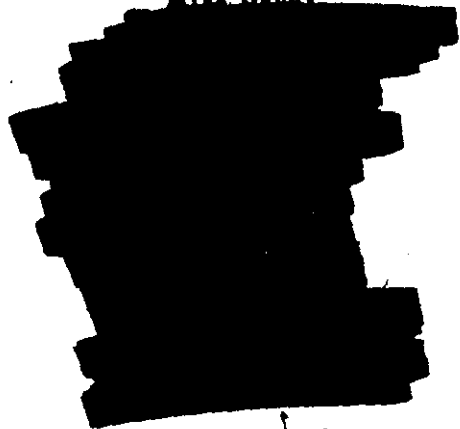
## Employes Threatened

In the Brooklyn case it was charged that the defendants conspired to threaten with discharge and otherwise intimidate employes unless they signed waivers of claims for unpaid minimum wages, unpaid overtime and liquidated damages. That indictment charged that as part of the conspiracy the

partial payment in arrears of union dues from those who refused to sign such waivers and threatened to certify them as delinquent so the companies could discharge them under closed contracts.

It has been reported that the presence of FBI agents in Springfield was the cause for Lewis' recent automobile trip to that mining area. The trip is under OPA investigation to determine whether he violated the gasoline rationing regulations.

- Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Kramer \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. McGuire \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_
- Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_



*File*  
*44-845*

*144-845-A*  
NOT RECORDED  
87 SEP 9 1943

9-4-43

WASHINGTON TIMES-HERALD

SUNDAY EDITION

34 SEP 9

# FBI Has Studied It, Grand Jury May Examine John L. Lewis Mine Deal

By United Press

A Federal grand jury will be asked soon to determine whether President John L. Lewis of the United Mine Workers, and Mine E. Coal Co., Springfield, Ill., violated the Civil Rights statute in a \$350,000 transaction, it was learned today.

Reliable sources said that an inquiry was about completed, and that the matter would be placed before a Federal grand jury here or at Springfield.

It would be up to the grand jury to determine whether the transaction warrants an indictment for conspiracy to violate the right of Mine E employees to bargain collectively—a right guaranteed them by the Wagner Act. Conviction on charges of interfering with an individual's rights carries maximum penalties of five years imprisonment and \$10,000 fine.

Lewis, it was said, loaned or made a gift of about \$350,000 to Mine E Coal Co. in 1938, allegedly to cover losses of the company in a lockout of its employees who were members of the Progressive Mine Workers (AFL). The Government is expected to allege that the purpose was to break the AFL union, which resulted from a split with the UMW in 1932, and permit Lewis to regain control over the miners.

The Internal Revenue Bureau first discovered evidence of the transaction during an investigation into a possible income tax case. However, a study reportedly resulted in a decision that no violation of the tax laws was involved.

It has been reported that the presence of FBI agents in Springfield was the cause for Lewis' recent automobile trip to that mining area. The trip is under OPA investigation to determine whether he violated the gasoline rationing regulations.

- Mr. Tolson.....
- Mr. E. A. Tamm.....
- Mr. Clegg.....
- Mr. Coffey.....
- Mr. Glavin.....
- Mr. Ladd.....
- Mr. Nichols.....
- Mr. Rosen.....
- Mr. Tracy.....
- Mr. Acers.....
- Mr. Carson.....
- Mr. Egan.....
- Mr. Gurnea.....
- Mr. Harbo.....
- Mr. Hendon.....
- Mr. Mumford.....
- Mr. Quinn Tamm.....
- Mr. Nease.....



b7c

*File*

INDEXED

44-845-A

NOT RECORDED  
15 SEP 15 1943

176  
60 SEP 18 1943

Washington Daily News - 9-3-43

# \$350,000 Lewis 'Loan' to Mine

## Grand Jury to Probe

### FBI Is Working on Case; That Explains His 'Pleasure' Trip to Illinois

By GORDON H. COLE  
PM's Bureau

**PM** WASHINGTON, Aug. 30.—John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers, is innocent of any charge that he used gasoline for pleasure driving on his recent trip to Springfield, Ill.—even though he spent 36 hours visiting his 84-year-old mother, Mrs. Anna Lewis.

Any public report on the OPA investigation of the trip will exonerate Lewis of all charges and show that the mine union chief's drive from Alexandria, Va., to the Illinois coal fields was no pleasure jaunt.

#### Covered It Up

Lewis drove to Illinois on business—business that he chose to cover up by his remark to a reporter at Decatur, Ill., that he was just driving to Springfield to see his mother. Lewis' C book for gasoline permits him to use his Buick for union business.

The fact is that Lewis went to Springfield because agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation were there checking into the financial transactions between Lewis' union and the Mine B Co., a coal operator that engaged in a long and costly lockout of members of a rival AFL union at a time when Lewis was trying to oust the rival union from the Illinois coal fields.

#### Listed as Loan

The case is scheduled to be presented to a grand jury at Springfield within the next few weeks, it was learned here.

The facts in the case, first reported by PM last Fall, indicate that Lewis' union handed the Mine B Co. some \$350,000 at about the time of the lockout that enabled UMW organizers to raid the rival union's membership.

The transaction is listed on the union books as a loan. Since the FBI investigation was begun, Carl Elshoff, president of the Mine B Co., is reported to have paid \$1000 on the debt.

There also are charges that Lewis kept some 14 members of the rival union, the Progressive Mine Workers of America, AFL, on its payroll during the time of the fight for exclusive bargaining rights.

The FBI is investigating the pos-

ibility that the union leaders conspired illegally to deprive employees of the Mine B Co. of their civil rights under the National Labor Relations Act. That law guarantees workers the right to join the union of their own choice.

A written law put on the books in 1870, principally to break the Ku-Klux Klan, makes such conspiracy illegal.

It was this same law that was used to aid the UMW in 1938—the year of the Mine B lockout—during the prosecution of coal operators in Harlan County, Ky. The Justice Dept. lost that case because the jury was unable to agree.

Conviction under this law carries criminal penalties.

Evidence of the financial transaction between the UMW and the Mine B Co. was first discovered by agents of the U. S. Treasury Department during an investigation of Lewis' and the UMW books in a tax matter.

The facts were referred to the White House and thence to the Justice Dept. for prosecution. Justice officials, fearing charges that they were attempting to persecute Lewis for political reasons, delayed action in the case so long that there have been charges that they are neglecting their duty in the matter.

- Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Acers \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Mumford \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Starke \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_
- Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

[REDACTED]

File  
45-500

[REDACTED]

b  
7  
c

532

57 SEP 9 1943

AUG 30 1943

PM DAILY  
Page 4

144-845-A  
NOT RECORDED  
87 SEP 6 1943

# FINANCIAL DEAL BY JOHN LEWIS PROBED BY F.B.I.

## Charge He Paid Illinois Mine Company to Break Rival Union.

BY EDWIN A. LAHEY.

Special Dispatch from Staff Correspondent  
Washington, Aug. 26.—The Federal Bureau of Investigation has undertaken an investigation of the financial dealings between John L. Lewis and the Mine B Coal Co. in Springfield, Ill., it was learned here today. The facts in the case will be laid before a grand jury in Springfield late in September or early in October, it was further learned.

As previously revealed in The Chicago Daily News, the case involves a subsidy of the Mine B Co. by the United Mine Workers to reimburse the company for the losses suffered in the lockout of members of the Progressive Mine Workers, an A.F. of L. group which revolted from the Lewis leadership in 1932. The amount of money paid to the company by the union, it is now learned, was in the neighborhood of \$350,000. The lockout in question took place in 1938.

Case Causes Cabinet Rift.

The case has already caused a slight rift between Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau and At-

torney General Biddle. ~~Special agents found evidence of the financial transactions between U.M.W. and the Mine B Co. an investigation of the union's Lewis' accounts, and turned the file in the matter over to the White House, whence it was sent to the Department of Justice. Failure of the Justice Department to initiate an immediate criminal investigation caused a minor cabinet crisis, which has since been resolved.~~

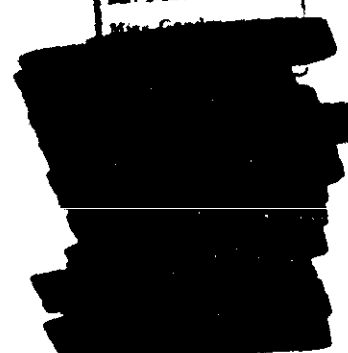
Although it is reported that there are some tax evasion aspects, to the federal investigation, the F.B.I. inquiry is concerned with possible violations of the old civil rights statute of 1870, passed to break the Ku Klux Klan, but never invoked very successfully. The Harlan County (Ky.) coal operators were prosecuted under this statute in 1938, but the case ended in a jury disagreement. The statute provides criminal penalties for a conspiracy to deprive citizens of their civil rights, in this case the Illinois miners who would have been so deprived in the event of a conspiracy to break their union.

Listed as a Loan.

Incidentally, it was this F.B.I. investigation which brought Lewis to Springfield recently, where he became involved with the OPA, following the complaint of citizens that he had driven his automobile from Alexandria, Va., to Springfield on nonessential business.

The money advanced by Lewis and the U.M.W. to the Mine B Co. appears on the books of the company as a loan, it was learned. Federal investigators found, however, that there was reasonable ground for permitting a grand jury to decide whether the \$350,000 was a loan by the union to the company or an out and out grant to reimburse the company for breaking a rival union group. Since the F.B.I. investigation was initiated, it was learned, the Mine B Co., headed by Carl Elshoff, has repaid \$1,000 of the loan.

- Mr. Tolson.....
- Mr. E. A. Tamm.....
- Mr. Clegg.....
- Mr. Coffey.....
- Mr. Glavin.....
- Mr. Ladd.....
- Mr. Nichols.....
- Mr. Rosen.....
- Mr. Tracy.....
- Mr. Egan.....
- Mr. Gurnea.....
- Mr. Harbo.....
- Mr. Hendon.....
- Mr. Mumford.....
- Mr. Quinn Tamm.....
- Mr. Nease.....
- Miss Gandy.....



b7c.  
File

CHICAGO DAILY NEWS

8/26/43

INDEXED 144-845-A  
110 NOT RECORDED  
82 SEP 16 1943

60 SEP 18 1943

212

# The Washington Merry-Go-Round

By Drew Pearson

WHEN MEMBERS of the AFL executive council took up the application of John L. Lewis, United Mine Workers chief, for re-entry into the AFL this week in Chicago, they didn't bother to tell reporters that Lewis might have been back in the AFL some time before, except for strong intervention from the White House.

It can now be revealed that the President was extremely perturbed about the burly mine labor chief's efforts to climb back on the AFL bandwagon. In fact, he expressed himself to friends in very blunt language about how foolhardy it would be for the AFL to welcome back a man who was in disrepute for openly defying the Government during the mine dispute.

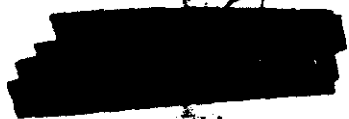
It also can be revealed that William Hutcheson, AFL carpenter's boss, and other Lewis friends on the executive council had the stage all set for a special meeting of the council last May to consider Lewis's application. This was the inside reason why John L. inclosed a fat \$60,000 check for advance dues with his application.

Just who blocked the move—and how closely the President himself was involved—is a secret. But Administration insiders report that Marvin McIntyre, the President's secretary, a great friend of the railroad brotherhoods, had a hand in it.

Furthermore, immediately after Lewis requested readmission, the President had separate conferences with Dan Tobin, teamsters' boss and a top-rung member of the AFL executive council, plus George Harrison, railway clerks' head, who is the most powerful figure in the brotherhoods.

Immediately afterward the move for a special executive council meeting was abandoned. In the course of one of those conferences the question of Lewis's application for readmission was discussed at some length—and the President expressed himself point-blank against it.

- Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Kramer \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. McGuire \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_
- Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_



67c

File -  
John L. Lewis  
Civil Rights  
Domestic Violence

INDEXED  
P12

44-845-A  
NOT RECORDED

51 AUG 1 1943

8/12/43  
WASHINGTON MORNING EDITION

SPRINGFIELD FIELD DIVISION

ILLINOIS STATE REGISTER

AUGUST 3, 1943

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. E. A. Tamm
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Coffey
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Ladd
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tracy
- Mr. Acers
- Mr. Carson
- Mr. Hendon
- Mr. McGuire
- Mr. Mumford
- Mr. Quinn
- Mr. Nease
- Mr. Tamm

# J. S. Grand Jury To Sift F.B.I. Investigation Into U.M.W.-Mine B Deal

## U.S. GRAND JURY TO PROBE DEAL

Continued from Page 1.

federal grand jury in May indicted two baking companies, two of their officials, and two officers of the Bakery & Confectionery Workers International union (A.F.L.) on charges of conspiring to injure employees of the companies in the exercise of rights guaranteed them under the fair labor standards act.

In the Brooklyn case it was charged that the defendants conspired to threaten with discharge and otherwise intimidate employees unless they signed waivers of claims for unpaid minimum wages, unpaid overtime and liquidated damages. That indictment charged that as part of the conspiracy the union officials refused to accept partial payment of arrearages in union dues from those who refused to sign such waivers and threatened to certify them as delinquent so the companies could discharge them under closed contracts.

It has been reported that the presence of F.B.I. agents in Springfield was the cause for Lewis' recent automobile trip to that mining area. The trip is under O.P.A. investigation to determine whether he violated the gasoline rationing regulations.

### Doyle Says "No Word"

U. S. District Attorney Howard L. Doyle said today he "knew nothing whatsoever" about the reported forthcoming grand jury investigation of the John L. Lewis-Mine B Coal Co. loan deal.

"I have received no instructions any kind from Washington on this case," he said, adding, however, that a regular grand jury would be called to meet here within a month.

Washington, Sept. 3. (UP) — A federal grand jury will be asked soon to determine whether President John L. Lewis of the United Mine Workers and Mine B Coal Co., Springfield, Ill., violated the civil rights statute in a \$350,000 transaction, it was learned today. Reliable sources said an inquiry by the federal bureau of investigation was about completed, and that the matter would be placed before a federal grand jury here or at Springfield.

Justice department officials declined to comment.

It would be up to the grand jury to determine whether the transaction warrants an indictment for conspiracy to violate the right of Mine B employees to bargain collectively—a right guaranteed them by the Wagner act. Conviction on charges of interfering with an individual's rights carries maximum penalties of five years imprisonment and \$10,000 fine.

Lewis, it was said, loaned or made a gift of about \$350,000 to Mine B Coal Co. in 1938, allegedly to cover losses of the company in a lockout of its employees who were members of the Progressive Mine Workers (A.F.L.). The government is expected to allege that the purpose was to break the A.F.L. union, which resulted from a split with the U.M.W. in 1932, and permit Lewis to regain control over the miners.

The internal revenue bureau first discovered evidence of the transaction during an investigation into a possible income tax case. However, a study reportedly resulted in a decision that no violation of the tax laws was involved.

As far as is known, this is only the second time that the civil rights statute has been applied to cover an alleged violation of the Wagner act. A Brooklyn, N. Y.,

Continued on Page 6, Column 5.

118

# Blame Strike Policy for Connally's Anti-Labor Bill

Condemnation of John L. Lewis came yesterday from another AFL affiliate, the International Boilermakers Union, one of the largest unions of the AFL.

This was expressed in the June issue of the "Boilermakers Journal," the union's official magazine, under the title "Why Should Labor Be Made to Suffer for the Whim of an Egotist?"

"We have often commented in these columns that John L. Lewis was interested in no one but himself, and his recent actions further demonstrates that fact," says the editorial.

"By permitting his personal and political dislike for the Administration and some of the agencies set up by the government, his spiteful attitude and arrogance toward every one, to influence his official conduct as head of a great labor organization, he is doing not only his own organization, but all organized labor a most grievous wrong. He has caused a lot of anti-labor legislation to be introduced, which will be an irreparable injury to labor should it pass."

People, "down all organized labor because of the stubborn refusal of Lewis to accept the established rules of procedure and fight it out along that line," the editorial says.

## BACKS MINERS, HITS LEWIS

The Journal fully supports the wage fight of the mine workers, but goes on:

"However, calling a strike at this time, while we are at war, in an industry that would virtually stop production in this country, is a matter that can not be lightly dealt with. He has placed himself and his organization in an embarrassing position, especially if some agreement is not made acceptable to him, for he will be at war with his government, if the issue is not soon settled."

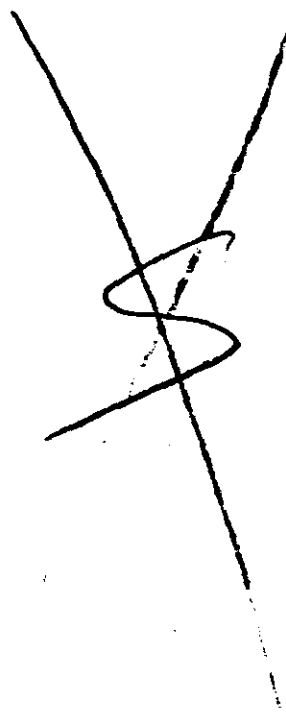
"As far as Lewis is personally concerned, we do not believe he would care, but we do not believe it expressed the sentiment of a vast majority of his membership."

"Recently in St. Louis, William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, bluntly denounced the unpatriotic and obstructive tactics by Lewis, which resulted in the work stoppage."

"This attitude reflects the overwhelming sentiment of practically every man of organized labor, even, as before stated, the mine workers."

"In his present position he stands alone as a leader, the remainder of whom believe that nothing is more important than the winning of the war."

"Should organized labor be tried and convicted for the bull headed tactics of one lone egotist?"



INDEXED 51  
144-845-A  
NOT RECORDED  
4 NOV 2 1943

This is a clipping from page 5 of the DAILY WORKER.  
Date 6/15/43  
Clipped at the Seat of Government

530  
41 NOV 11 1943



67c

BYRD HITS DELAY  
IN CURBING LEWIS

Senator Asks 'Who Is Boss of  
U. S.—John L. Lewis or  
President Roosevelt?'

URGES ACTION BY CONGRESS

He Asserts Failure of Execu-  
tive Branch Leaves Job  
for Senate and House

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, June 2—Sen-  
ator Byrd of Virginia said today  
that millions of Americans are ask-  
ing the question: "Who is the boss  
of the United States of America;  
is it John L. Lewis or President  
Roosevelt?"

He put the question and others  
into the Congressional Record as  
the Senate completed its business  
late this afternoon. Unless the  
executive branch takes decisive ac-  
tion in the present situation, he  
held, the Congress must "do the  
best it can to perform what the  
Executive branch has failed to do."

"What hidden power has John  
L. Lewis so that he, and he alone,  
can defy the government of the  
United States in an hour of the  
greatest peril this nation has ever  
faced?" Mr. Byrd asked. "Has  
the American flag which now flies  
over the coal mines of America lost  
its power and prestige?"

The public was told, Mr. Byrd  
stated, that no strike could occur  
against the United States govern-  
ment, that Secretary Ickes was op-  
erating the mines as the govern-  
ment's agent and that the United  
States was the employer.

"Yet, today, in the third day of  
the strike," he said, "The Associat-  
ed Press reports that 500,000 min-  
ers remain idle. Mr. Lewis has de-  
fied the War Labor Board. He has  
refused to appear before it or to  
negotiate directly with it. Piece  
by piece he is obtaining all that he  
has asked for."

If Mr. Lewis can defy the gov-  
ernment and the flag now, Mr.  
Byrd asserted, "how can he be con-  
trolled in time of peace in the vol-  
canic readjustment period follow-  
ing the war?"

"I introduced legislation sixty  
days ago providing for 'work or  
fight,'" Mr. Byrd continued. "Im-  
mediately the various departments  
of the government opposed this  
legislation, saying that it would be  
harmful to national morale to re-  
quire those to fight who have re-

refused to work and produce materi-  
als for those who were fighting.  
"The winning of the war abroad  
will be delayed with much greater  
loss of life unless we can control  
our domestic affairs at home. We  
cannot temporize any longer with  
this situation."

144-845-A  
NOT RECORDED  
36 NOV. 1 1943

This is a clipping from  
page 11 of the  
New York Times for

June 3, 1943  
Clipped at the Seat of  
Government.

NOV 5 1943



# Finger Points to Lewis

ANY strike is inexcusable today. But there isn't a shred of plausible reason, lest it be outright sabotage of the war, for the strike of a half million coal miners.

Labor must hold John L. Lewis responsible for the walkout, regardless of the evident provocations from some of the operators.

The government, through its custodian of mines, Harold L. Ickes, advanced a proposal that would guarantee the miners a substantial temporary wage raise pending final settlement. The War Labor Board had already provided for other improvements for the miners in its decision. All wage changes are retroactive. It was no longer a question of whether the miners are entitled to an improvement. It was only a matter of bargaining over the margin of difference and HOW MUCH the improvements was to be. To call a strike under such conditions shows a desire not to serve the interests of the workers but complete indifference and even sabotage of the war.

Lewis, as the Communist Party's statement yesterday said in point blank words, "is trying to assume veto power over U.S. participation in the war. He sets himself above the labor movement and above the government. The miners must choose between their country and John L. Lewis.

The miners must return to work immediately."

It is urgent that all labor leaders speak out and assure the President their support for decisive action.

The no-strike pledge and the entire conception that this is Labor's war means nothing if Lewis is permitted to defiantly carry out his treasonous program. As Julius Emspak, secretary-treasurer of the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers told the President in a wire, labor expects him to take "decisive action" to stop Lewis and the "tremendous majority" of the trade union movement will back him.

Moreover, Mr. Emspak sees the issues as far beyond those directly affecting the mine dispute.

"We regard a shutdown on the right of Lewis to organize disruption of the war effort as something that must come regardless of the particular settlement of the dispute."

Of one thing we are certain. Neither Lewis nor that small group of "powerful operators," as Ickes called them, have the slightest interest in the country's safety. The President is duty bound to act to insure that our war effort does not falter, and all loyal Americans will be behind him

144-845-A  
NOT RECORDED  
36 NOV 1 1943

This is a clipping from page 8 of the

DAILY WORKER

Date Nov 3 1943

Clipped at the Seat of Government

56 NOV 5

1943

[Redacted] b7c

FILE

11X

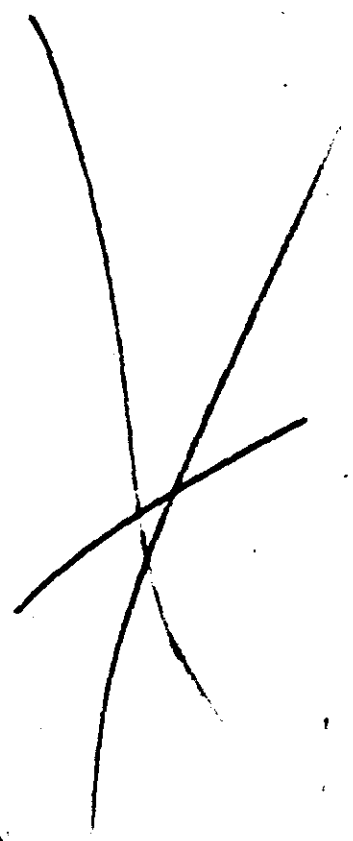
# Ray Edmundson Defies Lewis

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., May 1. (UP). —Ray Edmundson, whose resignation as president of the Illinois Mine Workers of America followed a dispute with international president John L. Lewis, returned to the rank and file today—as a coal digger.

Edmundson, reported for work on the day shift at the Peabody Coal Company's capitol mine. He will draw \$59.85 for a six-day, 48-hour week.

His resignation as state president was effective yesterday, and his last act was to defy instructions of Lewis by turning over district files and office keys to the Springfield executive board member of District 12. Lewis had telegraphed Edmundson to turn the files and keys over to his brother-in-law, R. Olin Miller, manager of the United Mine Workers Building here.

Lewis has called district board members and some board alternates to Washington and may appoint a new provisional president this week. The quarrel was said to have resulted from refusal of Lewis to grant "home rule" to the Illinois district.



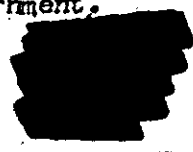
copy

144-845-A  
NOT RECORDED  
87 MAY 4 1944

INDEXED

127  
198

This is a clipping from  
page 6 of the  
DAILY WORKER  
Date May 2 1944  
Clipped at the Seat of  
Government.



b7c

62 MAY 20 1944

458

# NEWS

...be front  
...nd the open  
...he has of  
...who at the re  
...This the  
...rike we he  
...iring, said  
...led for pa  
...ain-...ca  
...se away from  
...This they t  
...the as a  
...our, fighting, fo  
...drag onto  
...erest with  
...ent: all m  
...ep protection  
...ces being  
...nder which  
...No g...  
...tion  
...ing m...  
...l sw...  
...ar L...  
...s op...  
...ound...  
...the or...  
...king...  
...k...  
...This...  
...d al...  
...is...  
...mme...  
...all w...  
...the...  
...ver



44-845-A  
NOT RECORDED  
APR 2 1943

This is a clipping from  
page 8 of the  
DAILY WORKER  
April 29 1943  
The Seat of

27c

## OPINION

### Labor and the Administration

The price-and-wage picture, which had begun to get definiteness and stability of outline last week, is once more anyone's picture puzzle. The President's hold-the-line Executive Order of Apr. 8 does not, at present writing, look as if it will really hold the line. Labor leaders postponed their judgment for a week in order to get some perspective on how it would operate. Now that they see its workings, they don't like it. And now Manpower Administrator McNutt's job-freezing makes them like the total picture even less.

This is not a matter of labor's selfishness. Nor is it a matter of questioning the main lines of the Administration's strategy in the struggle against cost-of-living chaos. It involves the raising of serious doubts about the application of that broad strategy in the case of labor.

And one must remember that these doubts are raised not by someone as irresponsible as John L. Lewis or by a group of farm-block leaders who have consistently followed the tactics of a pressure group.

They are raised by men like Philip Murray and William Green and Walter Reuther who have, as labor leaders, accepted for their membership a far greater measure of Government wage control and a far more drastic scrapping of the traditional trade-union weapons than any labor movement in a democracy has ever done.



Philip Murray

#### Threefold Case

What is labor's case? It is a three-fold one. And the three propositions are somewhat as follows.

¶ There is a serious doubt as to whether, even if labor accepts complete wage and job rigidity, the cost of living will really be controlled. The Office of Price Administration (OPA) under Prentiss Brown has not shown a capacity to keep prices down, nor any militancy in doing its job, nor does it—thanks to Congress—have money for adequate enforcement machinery. Since the "inflationary gap" between purchasing power and the available commodities already exists, its result is likely to be either higher prices or the spread of Black Markets. In either event the ordinary worker and his wife would be the sufferers.

¶ There are already signs that the freezing of wages has affected production. It is well known that a man's productivity depends to a great degree upon his morale. If workers feel that they are getting the short end of the stick, the result will be reflected in the Government's getting the short end of production. This is not a matter of dispute but a fact—and a disastrous one.

¶ The problem cannot be solved by scolding workers for lack of patriotism. What they feel is the expression of a perfectly simple and basic human impulse of equality. Workers, like other men, want to have the sense that they are not being made to bear the brunt of economic suffering as a result of the war. They are willing to sacrifice, but they insist on some equality of sacrifice.

In short, the difficulty with James F. Byrnes and the way he has been administering the broad strategy of economic stabilization is that he has viewed it wholly as a problem in economics and in political tactics, and not enough as a problem in psychology.

The British did not make that mistake. From the very beginning they established the principle of equality of sacrifice, and have managed to keep labor satisfied and working hard. They did it partly by severe limitation of big incomes and by drastic taxation as well as by labor control; and they did it also by entrusting the task of administration to trade-union heads like Ernest Bevin.

It is difficult to see how we in America will be able to resolve our problems by dealing gently with the big-income groups and using a big stick on labor. That is the importance of Congress' failure to accept the President's \$25,000 salary limitation.

#### Representation

That is the importance also of the continued threat in Congress that the big tax incomes will be remitted under some form of the Ruml plan. That is the importance of the lack of flexibility shown by Administrator Byrnes in the application of the President's freezing order to the inequities in wages. And, above all, that is the importance of the failure to give labor any real representation in the Administration, at all commensurate with the Big Business representatives in the War Production Board, the OPA, and Congress.

The case of the War Labor Board (WLB) is a case in point. It has been doing a first-rate job in holding wages in line. And the trade-union leaders have been showing restraint all along in co-operating with it. It is perhaps the most successful example within the Administration of the tripartite board, on which business, labor and government are represented. Yet it has now been practically wiped out, and has become only a sort of arm of the Byrnes office, doing the job that a few statisticians could do.

I do not say that the President's Apr. 8 order was a mistake. It was necessary and courageous. But what happened was that no flexibility was shown in applying it. And the new job-freezing order of McNutt has only served to re-affirm the intent of complete rigidity.

#### The WLB's Status

What needs to be done is not complex but it will be far-reaching in its effect on labor's morale. The President must, within the framework of his Apr. 8 order, restore the WLB as an independent agency, operating within its judgment and discretion. I have shown that it can be trusted, and I have the labor leaders.

I believe in a trade-union movement which is national-minded. I believe that the real interests of the workers are in line with the interests of the nation as a whole. But one must remember that labor is still in its basic thought habits, wage-minded just as business is still profit-minded.

We can demand greatness of soldiers, because that is the military tradition. But how can we ask greatness of labor when we do not ask any comparable greatness of our businessmen?

That is the question the Roosevelt Administration will have to answer. If the answer is not satisfactory, the Administration runs a risk not only of losing labor's political support, but also of diminishing labor's productivity in the war.—MAX LERNER

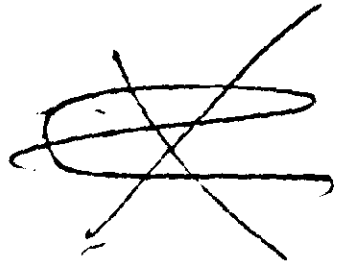
Copyright, 1943, by World Publications

This is a clipping from page 2 of the PM for April 20, 1943 Clipped at the Seat of Government.

NOT RECORDED  
4 NOV

44-845

File



# Lewis Defies WLB At Celanese Plant

Staff Correspondence

03

NEWARK, Apr. 16.—John L. Lewis's reply yesterday to the War Labor Board's (WLB) demand that he end the "raid" strike at the Celanese Corp. plant here was direct but unofficial.

Members of District 50, United Mine Workers, voted to continue their work stoppage at the war plant and reformed their picket-lines.

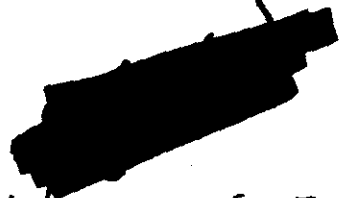
The company, which manufactures essential plastics for the Army and Navy, said, however, that more employes were returning to work, and that production was increasing. The Textile Workers of America CIO, whose local Lewis is raiding, confirmed the statement.

Meanwhile, Mayor Vincent J. Murphy of Newark was reported to have warned Roy Dugan, District 50 sub-regional organizer, and Howard Gill, another UMW official, to call off their strike immediately.

Gill, who formerly headed the Textile Workers local, is now out on bail of \$2000, accused of having obtained money under false pretenses.

The charge against him and Mrs. Henrietta Plechy, former recording secretary for the local and now a District 50 member, also out on bail, is that they took \$1170 of the CIO union's fund when they went over to Lewis. Both now face grand jury action.

b7c



INDEXED

144-845-A  
NOT RECORDED

94

This is a clipping from page 3 of the PM for

April 16, 1943

Clipped at the Seat of Government.

530

NOV 9 1943

SRE

The Inside Story

# Special Group For Lewis 'Out'

## Administration Leaders Re- ject His Request for New Board To Settle Coal Dispute

By JAMES A. WECHSLER

PM's Bureau

WASHINGTON, Mar. 30.—Administration leaders—led by FDR—won't yield to any proposal by John L. Lewis for creation of a "special commission" to settle the coal dispute. This point was settled some days ago, it is understood, when Secretary of Labor Perkins informally proposed establishment of a three-man board, led by Harold Ickes, to decide the conflict. FDR and Economic Stabilizer Byrnes both rejected the idea, insisted that—unless the operators and union agree among themselves—the case will go to the War Labor Board. FDR made that official in his telegram to the negotiators last week.

A drastic personnel shakeup has taken place quietly in CIO's Oil Workers Union. Edwin S. Smith, director of the union's organizing committee and former member of the NRLB, has resigned; so has Milton Kaufman, organizer who formerly worked for the Newspaper Guild. William Taylor, who helped organize Ford and later worked in aircraft, will replace Smith. It all adds up to increased strength for anti-left-wingers inside CIO.

Paul V. McNatt has selected a new chairman for the Fair Employment Practices Committee, but the announcement is being delayed mysteriously. At his press conference yesterday, McNatt was asked about the

appointment. "No comment," he said. "No chairman, either?" a reporter asked. "No comment," McNatt repeated. Best guess is that the new appointee comes from Harold L. Ickes' Dept. of Interior. (It's not Ickes.)

The American delegation that visited Bolivia after the row over Bolivian labor conditions is back and has submitted its report to the State Dept. Members are waiting for the Department to release it. Bob Watt, AFL member of the delegation, reports that the group found the slogan "Bolivia for the Bolivians" plastered on walls by Nationalist groups. But in one place a cynical native had written under the slogan: "They deserve it."

Leo Goodman, formerly with the Treasury Dept., has been named Washington representative for Samuel Wolchok's United Retail and Wholesale Employees Union. He'll concentrate on OPA issues. . . . Robert Lamber, counsel for the Tolan Committee, will be named shortly to head a new manpower unit in the War Production Board. . . . A high AFL official says that the British labor delegation, led by Sir Walter Citrine, dined as guests of "Big Bill" Hutcheson of the carpenters' union on their recent visit; another guest, he reports, was John L. Lewis.

When Robert Nathan, WPB planner, decided to enter the Army after WPB's latest reshuffle, he asked top officials at the Board to release him from his draft deferment. Carlton Hayward, WPB personnel man, promptly wrote Nathan's draft board saying that he was no longer needed—but omitting the fact that he had asked for the release.

INDEXED

NOT RECORDED

This is a clipping from  
page 6 of the  
PM for

March 30, 1943  
Clipped at the Seat of  
Government.

**FILE DESCRIPTION**

**BUREAU FILE**

**SUBJECT** JOHN L. LEWIS

**FILE NO.** 62-2998

**SECTION NO.** 1

**SERIALS** 1

thru

31

File #2255

Instructions of Special Agent in Charge, Edw. J. Brennan

|  |                                   |  |                               |
|--|-----------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| REPORT MADE AT:<br><b>NEW YORK, N.Y.</b> | DATE WHEN MADE:<br><b>7-22-22</b> | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE:<br><b>7-21-22</b> | REPORT MADE BY:<br>[REDACTED] |
|--|-----------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|

TITLE AND CHARACTER OF CASE:  
**RE: ALDERNEY ANKLET BASILAR**  
**(In Code)**

GENERAL INTELLIGENCE  
[REDACTED]  
Confidential Matter.  
DIVISION

FACTS DEVELOPED:  
**NEW YORK, N.Y.**

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 4-11-83 BY [REDACTED]

62-2998-1

Agent was in Room 1376 Pennsylvania Hotel, and at 8 A.M. Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] appeared to shadow above subject.

Agent received instructions from the office that he was to secure the written reports of Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and bring same immediately to the office. This agent did.

Agent, at noon secured a room closer to subject, viz: #1712, subject having 1606. Agent was unable to get a closer connection than this.

Agent [REDACTED] having followed a man who had been engaged in conversation with subject in the lobby of the hotel and this agent being at the telephone at the time of their departure remained with Agent [REDACTED] in the lobby to cover subject, who had returned to his room.

While seated together, agent observed former [REDACTED] in the lobby. He passed agents several times and it appeared that he had made us.

Agent decided to leave agent [REDACTED]

Read by [REDACTED]  
JUL 24 1922  
Edw. J. Burns.

62-2998-1  
RECORDED  
JUL 24 1922  
[REDACTED]

REFERENCE: COPIES OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO: Washington 2: New York 1:

ORIGINAL



Confidential Instructions: Edward J. Brennan, Special Agent in Charge

|  |  |                                   |                                 |
|--|--|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| REPORT MADE AT:<br>New York City   | DATE WHEN MADE:<br>7-25-22   | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE:<br>7-21-22 | REPORT MADE BY:<br>[Redacted] ✓ |
| TITLE AND CHARACTER OF CASE:<br>IN RE: ALDERNEY AUKLET BASILAR (CODE)  |  |                                   |                                 |
| FACTS DEVELOPED:<br><p><u>July 21.</u> Pursuant to above instructions, proceeded to the Hotel Pennsylvania and joined Agents [Redacted] and [Redacted] at 5.30 P.M. Agent remained in the lobby of the hotel until 6.30 P.M. at which time was informed by Agent [Redacted] to discontinue and proceed to Bureau Office.</p> <p>Upon my arrival at Bureau office was informed subject had left the city on the SS. PRISCILLA of the FALL RIVER LINE, at 5.30 P.M. Agent remained at office and was later instructed to take the 11 P.M. train for Providence, R. I., which was done.</p> <p><u>July 22.</u> At 12.01 A. M. was enroute to Providence in company with Agent [Redacted] for the purpose of meeting the SS Priscilla at Fall River, Mass. and keeping subject under surveillance.</p> <p>The train arrived at Providence, R. I. at 4.35 A.M., which was 20 minutes late and agents therefore missed their connections for Fall River, Mass. We then boarded the next train, leaving at 5.30 A.M. and arrived in Fall River at 6.20 A. M. (Standard Time), and took taxi to the Fall River Line Wharf, where we learned the boat had decked at 5.30 A. M. (Standard Time).</p> <p>Agents then got in touch by telephone with Special Agent in Charge, Edward J. Brennan, at New York, who instructed us to get in touch with Agent in Charge Daly at Providence. Providence agents were informed by Mr. Daly that subject had [Redacted]</p> |  |                                   |                                 |
| REFERENCE:   | COPIES OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO:<br>Washington -5- New York -1- |                                   |                                 |

SEARCHED by  
 GENERAL INTELLIGENCE  
 JUL 28 1922  
 DIVISION  
 J. J. Burns.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
 DATE 2/6/83 BY [Redacted]

62-2985-2  
 RECORDED

another part of the lobby, which he did.

While watching agent [redacted] and covering the 33rd Street side exit of the hotel as well, agent observed [redacted] in conversation with a man whom agent did not know. This man left [redacted] after a few moments conversation and went over and sat beside Agent [redacted]. Agent watched [redacted] to see what his next move would be and when agent turned again to look at agent [redacted] he had disappeared, presumably through the main entrance on 7th Avenue as he did not leave by the 33rd Street side exit.

Agent then returned to his room, 1712 and there awaited further developments, which came in the form of a telephone communication from the office at about 7:30 to check out of the hotel and discontinue this matter. This agent did, leaving the hotel at 8 P.M. \*

Unless otherwise instructed, agent will consider this investigation concluded.

b7c

\* Subject having left for summer resort near  
Waits, N. H.

|  |   |                                       |   |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|---|
| REPORT MADE AT:<br><b>New York City</b>  | DATE WHEN MADE:<br><b>7-26-22</b>   | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE:<br><b>7-24</b> | REPORT MADE BY:<br>[REDACTED]   |
| TITLE AND CHARACTER OF CASE:<br><b>IN RE: ALDERGEY AUKLET BASILAR (CODE)</b>   |   |                                       |   |
| FACTS DEVELOPED:   |   |                                       | <div data-bbox="1089 223 1441 407" data-label="Text"> <p>GENERAL INTELLIGENCE<br/>DIVISION<br/>JUL 28 1922</p> </div> |
| <p>Pursuant to instructions to cover <sup>DIVISION</sup> train arriving from Boston at 7.45 P.M., and place subject under surveillance reported at Grand Central Station at 7 P.M. and joined Agent [REDACTED]. Subject arrived at 7.56 P.M. (Standard Time), accompanied by his wife. They boarded taxi, followed by agents, and rode to Pennsylvania Hotel, went to their room after purchasing several evening papers.</p> <p>The writer communicated with office and received instructions to follow subject should he leave town. Was also instructed to engage room at hotel. Inquired for room at 10.30 P.M. and was informed by clerk they were holding only reservations.</p> <p>Surveillance was continued up to 12 midnight, and as subject did not leave up to this hour, agents discontinued, as we concluded he was going to remain for the night.</p> |   |                                       |   |
| <div data-bbox="269 1316 734 1426" data-label="Text"> <p>ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED<br/>HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED<br/>DATE 11/16/00 BY [REDACTED]</p> </div> <div data-bbox="546 1433 947 1654" data-label="Text"> <p>Read by<br/>JUL 28 1922<br/>Mr. J. Burns.</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1195 1437 1622 1758" data-label="Text"> <p>AUG 1 - 1922<br/>62-2998-3<br/>RECORDED<br/>INDEXED<br/>BOOKED</p> </div>  |   |                                       |   |
| REFERENCE:   | COPIES OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO:<br><b>Washington -3- New York -1-</b> |                                       |   |

7998

hrc

Instructions: Edward J. Brennan, Special Agent

File 42253  
Charge

REPORT MADE AT:

New York City

DATE WHEN MADE:

7-26-22

PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE:

7-21-25 inc

REPORT MADE BY:

TITLE AND CHARACTER OF CASE:

IN RE: ALDERNEY AUKLET BASILAR (CODE)

62-2998-4  
b7c  
AUG 29 1922

FACTS DEVELOPED:

July 21st. Pursuant to the above instructions, today proceeded to Pennsylvania Hotel for the purpose of keeping subject under surveillance, arriving there at 8 A. M. and was joined by Agent [redacted]

At 11.15 A.M. subject alighted from the elevator with his wife and proceeded to the dining room and remained until 12 noon, and then went to the lobby, remained there about a half hour with his wife and later visited the barber shop, later returning to his room.

Agents noticed the subject's secretary, while with subject constantly looking around as though looking for a possible "shadow", and agents used extreme care as per instructions previously received, so that subject would not become aware of the fact that he was being placed under surveillance.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2/2/05 BY [signature]

It was learned that subject was occupying Room 1606 A and Agent [redacted] then secured Room 1376.

At 4 P.M. subject came out of the elevator and entered the lobby, and appeared to be looking for some one. He later met his secretary and another man, and subject had a conversation with this man for about a half hour, after which the man left, agent following, while Agent [redacted] was remaining at the hotel in order to watch subject.

Agent learned that the man in question was a reporter for the New York Times, and he entered the Times Building Annex, West 44th Street, and went to the third floor.

62-2998-4

REFERENCE:

COPIES OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO:

Washington -3- New York -1- RECORDED

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE