

John L. Lewis Assuming Role Of Big-Time Banker

WASHINGTON (AP)—John L. Lewis seems to be taking on the unique dual role of big-time banker and big-time labor leader.

The 74-year-old United Mine Workers chief never has confirmed it, but five years ago, the UMW reportedly acquired control of the National Bank of Washington, the capital's oldest.

And now, it is reported that Lewis is or interests closely connected with him and the UMW gained majority stock control in a second Washington bank—the Hamilton National.

Hamilton directors held a special meeting and named as their new president Barnum L. Colton, who is also head of the National Bank.

Now banking groups here expect Hamilton National and the National Bank of Washington to merge soon. This would create a banking institution only second in size to

the Riggs National Bank in the capital.

Here, briefly is the history of the reported UMW venture into banking.

When the National Bank changed hands in 1949 two UMW officials, A. D. Lewis, a brother of John, and Union Counsel Welly K. Hopkins, became directors.

Then Colton was installed as president and overnight the UMW's newspaper, which normally carries no advertising began publishing the National's financial statements and advising UMW locals and members to deposit their funds in that bank.

In March of this year, the National invited a merger with the Hamilton National Bank. The Hamilton spurned the offer and then, in what appeared to be an effort to thwart Lewis, voted to merge with the American Security & Trust Co., also of Washington.

The very next day an investment firm began offering to buy Hamilton stock at about twice what it had been selling for only a few months earlier.

Hamilton stockholders were willing to sell and yesterday it was announced that Hamilton's directors had ditched the proposed merger with American and had elected Colton president.

Why Lewis' interest in banking? For one thing, the veteran union chief may be seeking an investment outlet for UMW funds. The union has a 40-million-dollar treasury and its separate UMW welfare fund has nearly 100 million in reserves.

Also, Lewis apparently is entering the banking field because he feels he can fill the union's needs and thus save added expense.

MISSING TARGET

RIALTO, Calif. (AP)—The ground observer corps for civil air defense went through its paces for a whole week and scheduled for the end of the week a shower of leaflets on the town from several airplanes.

Civil defense workers manned their posts throughout the city, scanned the skies and waited for the leaflet attack. No leaflets. After an hour of waiting and practicing the work to be done when the leaflets fell, the civil defense workers went home.

The 20,000 leaflets were dropped over nearby Fontana. The pilots got their signals crossed.



—NEA Telephone

PRECAUTION—Pickets at the Kohler Co. plant in Sheboygan, Wis., watch as Elmer Schrader hits his dog Dutches with a gas mask. Some 500 of the more than 1000 pickets at the plant have donned the masks in answer to testimony by Herbert V. Kohler at a Labor Relations Board hearing he had a "strong suspicion" the company had tear gas bombs on hand. The plant has been struck seven weeks.



—NEA Telephone

IN RED ROUNDUP—Mrs. Edith Abber, 33, alleged holder of various posts in the Communist Party, smirks in Boston jail. She was one of six persons arrested on conspiracy warrants by police in roundup after Suffolk County Grand Jury returned indictments against seven suspected Communists.

'For America' Group Is Debated Over TV

NEW YORK (AP)—Rep. Javits (R-NY) said he feared the new For America group "will become a cover for all kinds of bigotry and hate, which have always sought this kind of cover." Former Rep. Hamilton Fish, a For America founder, denied it.

Javits and Fish discussed the movement in a TV debate.

The organization of For America was announced early this month. Fish, a Republican, predicted the group would grow rapidly. He said it seeks all, regardless of race, creed or color, who oppose "superstition, interventionism, one-worldism and communism."

TB Eradication Certificate Sent To County Court

Douglas County has been declared a "modified accredited area" in the eradication of tuberculosis in cattle according to word received here from K. J. Peterson, DVM, state veterinarian.

A certificate has been received by the county court following finding that tuberculosis in county cattle does not exceed one-half of one per cent.

All cattle in the county have been tested during the past three years by Dallen H. Jones, DVM, and Don E. Bailey, DVM, county veterinarians.

The eradication program is carried out in cooperation with the U. S. Agricultural Research Service and the Oregon State Dept. of Agriculture.

Besides the county veterinarians and members of the court, J. R. and Parker, county agent, received notification of the county's status. The new rating is good for the next three years.

Payrolls Of Firms Set All Time High In 1953

SALEM (AP)—Payrolls of firms covered by Oregon's unemployment law reached an all-time high mark of \$1,298,330,028 in 1953. The total, reported by 18,509 firms, was 2.2 per cent over 1952, and 83.2 per cent over the 1946 figure.

However, average employment, totaling 329,726 persons, was down 1 per cent from 1952.

The lumber industry made the biggest payroll gain in the past seven years, amounting to 132 per cent. The 1953 payroll in the lumber industry was \$351,311,233, a gain of almost 9 million dollars over 1952.

Financial and utility concerns also have doubled their payrolls since the war, while construction, trade, transportation, mining and several industrial groups were close behind.

ALBINO DEFIES FOES

DES MOINES (AP)—For the past four years, a rare albino robin has spent the spring and summer months in the same residential neighborhood of Des Moines. With life experts say it is unusual for an albino wild bird to survive for long as its white coloring makes it easy prey for natural enemies.

New York City As Confident Today As It Was Jittery

By SAM DAWSON

NEW YORK (AP)—New York City is as confident today as it was jittery three months ago.

Businessmen here think the bottom was touched in the early days of this month. True, they look for a fairly quiet summer. But they seem confident that the fall will bring sure if modest gains.

In some things—like unemployment and the cost of living, both of which are up here—New York City just now is going counter to the national trend.

In others—like retail sales and construction, which are fairly high

here—it pretty much typifies what's happening most places in the United States.

In still others—like foreign trade and investment and bank loans, where the decline is noticeably slower—New Yorkers like to think their town is the bellwether.

Latest government figures for the nation as a whole show that the number now collecting jobless benefits is lower than at any time since the first of February. But unemployment continued to rise in April in New York City, largely due to the lull of the garment and textile trades.

But here, too, New Yorkers now think they've seen the worst. The synthetic fiber market remains mostly dull. But New York's Worth Street cotton merchants cite the recent flurry of orders for

land and fourth-quarter deliveries of cotton prints and broad cloths as offering the hope at least that the textile industry may at last be working itself out of its long downward cycle.

The garment industry says that the rising price tendency for wovens and worsteds means both the working off of inventories and an increase in consumer demand. If so, it could lead to more activity in New York's teeming garment section.

It still costs plenty to live here. While the government's cost of living index dropped slightly for the nation in its current report, the

index for New York City rose slightly, because food prices and medical care costs rose. Even so, Gothamites note their index is still slightly below the national average, so there must be more expensive places.

The year-long dip in manufacturing activity apparently hasn't affected one of the city's habits. Buildings are still being torn down. Modern office buildings are still going up. So are luxury apartment houses, in spite of an increasing number of vacancy signs on older ones.

And out on the outskirts of the city, new housing developments continue to spring up.

Retail sales here tend to trail last year a little. In the first four post-Easter weeks, department store sales in the city were 4 per

cent below a year ago, and apparel shop sales 9 percent below. Merchants, however, say they can fill their store by advertising bargains.

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Escaped Czech Flier Now Dusted Crops

SALEM (AP)—Fourteen months ago Mira John Slovak, a Czech airline captain, flew from behind the Iron Curtain to freedom. He now is living here, flying for Kreitzberg Aviation's crop dusting service.

Slovak and three of his friends overpowered the rest of the plane's crew on March 23, 1953, and landed at Frankfurt, Germany, asking asylum. He came to this country in December, 1953, was attached to the U. S. Air Force in Washington until a month ago, then took a course in crop dusting at Yakima. He came here last week.

The plane in which he flew to freedom was returned to Czechoslovakia when that country released William Oatis, imprisoned AP correspondent.

The simultaneous translation system used in the United Nations has been adapted for use in one Paris theater.



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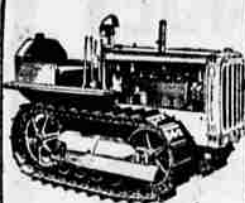
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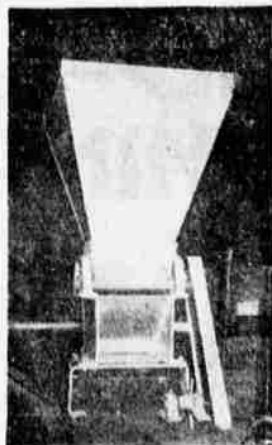


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