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Super-Union Idea Would Fail For Fear of a Super-Petrillo

By JAMES THRASHER
James C. Petrillo played some variations on an original theme for the American Federation of Musicians convention in Asbury Park N. J. Last March, when he lifted his ban on union music for television and renewed his contract with the networks, he explained that the broadcasters "simply said that they couldn't give us more men and more money, and I took them at their word."
But the AFM president told the convention that he had failed to get them more work and money for grimmer reasons. He said no union is strong enough to win a strike today. He said that if an employer gets into trouble he can go to the U. S. Attorney General, and that "if you go on strike they slap an injunction on you and you go to work anyway."

"You take what some bum offers you who knows nothing about your business," Jimmy told his boys. "An employer has the right to sue you for anything."

We don't know which is the real reason why the usually leonine Mr. Petrillo behaved like a lamb last March. But he is obviously exaggerating, as most union executives do, the horrors of the Taft-Hartley Law.

Unions can and do win strikes today. They are not forced to take anything offered them. The Taft-Hartley Law has now made a contract as binding on a union as on anyone else, and an employer can sue for breach of contract and resulting damages. But he cannot "sue you for anything."

Mr. Petrillo also knows how many injunctions have been slapped on how many unions. He knows the government has ordered the miners and railroaders to keep working because they would stop the country in its tracks if they didn't.

But all this lamentation—and Jimmy got so worked up at one point that he wept—was a buildup to a call to arms. He warned that many unions would be wiped out if organized labor—AFL, CIO, railroad brotherhoods and independents—did not band together to save itself.

He called for one big union of 20,000,000 workers.

Mr. Petrillo is an energetic, ambitious man. But we doubt that he will make much headway with his merger idea. We can imagine James Caesar casting himself in the role of head man. But others would have the same ambition.

This matter of power and who gets it is one thing that keeps the AFL and CIO apart. And it is the reason why John L. Lewis is out of both of them.

Mr. Petrillo has done some audacious things, such as defying the government on several occasions. But we think he'll find that Messrs. Green, Murray, Lewis, Whitney and the rest aren't so easy to handle. Maybe he can scare the rank and file with tales of Taft-Hartley terror. But the union chiefs know all about that law themselves, and can tell just as frightening stories.

So they're not likely to be stampeded into the risk of making Jimmy Petrillo one of the most powerful men in the United States—which is what he or anyone would be as the big boss of a 20,000,000-member national union.

Two Friends of the Soviet Union

Eduard Benes' resignation, like Jan Masaryk's death, will not help Czechoslovakia or restore its people's freedom. Both acts were gestures of surrender. Yet their negative protest may bring some positive results.

Both men were friendly to Russia. Both, though pro-democratic, were not anti-communistic. They were fair and reasonable and co-operative. Now Masaryk is dead and Benes is finished. Their fate shows what happens when a head of state "sits down and talks things over with Stalin," but balks at surrender when surrender is demanded.

Congressman Makes Friends By Mending for Other People

WASHINGTON — (U.P.) — When "Runt" Bishop doesn't have his finger in the legislative pie, he's got it in a thimble.
The little, gray-haired congressman from Carterville, Ill., is a tailor by trade and therefore in great demand around Capitol Hill.

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OUT OF THE WOODS

By JIM STEVENS

Paying for Forestry . . .

Timber is a soil crop under today's American forest management, and its main harvest is lumber. The modern lumber business represents engineering on the land. Its first goal is permanent productive land use. Through the 30 years since World War I American lumbering has been re-tooled in its basic thinking as well as in its production processes.

In times past lumbermen looked on the timber resource of the nation as a mine. One vein of virgin forest after another was worked out, and the camps were moved on. Now the last large stands of "old growth" forests are on the country's northwest strip, the Douglas fir region, and in mountain pineries.

Over nine-tenths of America's 462,000,000 acres of commercial forest land are outside the "virgin growth" classification; that is, we have more than 400,000,000 acres which are or ought to be growing crops of trees. This is the forest problem of the day. It remains the responsibility of private forest management. Forestry, even that in practice on the National Forests, must be paid for by the harvesting and sale of forest crops, principally in the shape of lumber.

Going Forward . . .

The vital national problem of forest-land use is being solved because the commercial value of forest land has risen steadily since the depression of the 1930's. Today lumbermen all over America are growing trees as a basic part of their business. Millions of acres that were thought to be next to worthless 20 years ago are now being replanted or reseeded and afforded protection against forest fires. Everywhere in the woods the forest engineer, with college diploma and shield of membership in the Society of American Foresters, works beside the boss logger of tradition.

Lumber nowadays bears comparison with wheat. The raw material grows from planned reseeded amid the "stubble" of the cutovers. The sawmill is the threshing machine of lumbering. Wheat goes mainly into bread, which people eat to live. Lumber goes principally into housing, which people build to live in. Each commodity is in high demand. The producers of both lumber and wheat are enjoying good returns, and so they increase production. Also, the returns are sufficient to pay for the expanding conservation programs which both lumberman and wheat men are applying to their lands. The technically trained men in forestry and in soils are in full employment. So we go forward.

The Chief Forester of the United States, "wilderness boss" of 180 million acres of national forests, was able to report in January, 1948:

"The increase in demand for stumpage has made it possible to sell species and types of material that have seldom heretofore been merchantable. It has been possible to make improvement cuttings through commercial sales as well as cutting of decadent elements in mature stands in advance of regular harvest cuts. . . . Increasing demand for poles and fence posts also provides opportunities for more intensive timber management."

Industrial Forestry Leads . . .

The lumber business has taken leadership in forestry and public forestry follows its course.

The individual user of wood products—you, the newspaper reader—bears responsibility for tree growing. The house you dwell in, the desk you write on, this newsprint, could not have been made without the leaving of stumps and debris on forest land, even as the bread you eat has left stubble on the wheatfields.

The lumber business is growing more trees among the stumps for more houses, more desks, more books, more newspapers. These things are growth of the soil, fruit of the forest, the end uses of America's 462 million acres classified as "commercial forest land"—nearly as many acres as we have in "farm crops."

This is the new outlook on the lumber business.

Potato Price Expenses Told

WASHINGTON — (U.P.) — The Agriculture Department said Tuesday it has spent about \$10,000,000 so far this year to keep the price of potatoes up.

By direction of Congress, the department has bought about 8,000,000 bushels of surplus potatoes that could not be marketed above the support level. Farmers got an average of \$1.50 a bushel for best-quality potatoes. Present surpluses are largely in North Carolina and Virginia.

The department is getting rid of a lot of its potatoes by selling them to industrial alcohol plants at about 21 cents a bushel. More are going for livestock feed at a penny a hundredweight. A few are going free to charitable institutions.

The original idea behind the program was to encourage production of potatoes during the war. Congress in its last hectic hours, however, extended the supports in modified form to the end of 1949. By next September the department expects to have bought 22,000,000 bushels of 1948 potatoes.

It bought about 34,000,000 bushels of the 1947 crop at a total cost of something like \$50,000,000.

Seems There's a Trick To Curbng Chickens

RICHMOND, Va. — (U.P.) — Police Judge Carleton E. Jewett is a city man but he knows how to keep chickens out of a garden.

James Wilson, 59, was brought before Jewett on a charge of allowing his chickens to trespass on a neighbor's property.

"What's the matter," Jewett asked. "Don't you know how to keep your chickens in?"

The defendant admitted he was having some difficulty.

"Clip one of their wings," Jewett said. "Not both of them."

He gave Wilson until Aug. 3 to find out what he meant.

Texas Citrus Cheap But Not By-Products

McALLEN, Tex. — (U.P.) — Citrus prices, with grapefruit going for as little as \$2 a ton, were down this season.

But not citrus by-products, especially molasses made from citrus peel.

"When the Citrus By-Products Co. opened its plant six years ago molasses sold for \$12 a ton," its manager, R. B. McLeash, said.

"Now we get \$47."

So far the molasses has been used for animal feed but the company is experimenting with processing it for human consumption.

'Let There Be Light' And There Was Light

LOGAN, O. — (U.P.) — Prof. Homer P. Cotterman of Capital University was delivering the commencement address at Gibsonville high school when a storm knocked out the school's power system, throwing the auditorium into darkness.

Candles were found and Prof. Cotterman continued his address.

Nearing the end of his talk, Cotterman said, "Open the door and let the light come in."

The lights flashed on.

Cotterman said later that never in his experience had one of his points been so aptly illustrated.

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'Minnie, the Muskies'

JAMESTOWN, N. Y. — (U.P.) — Fabulous Minnie is the dream of every fisherman in these parts.

Minnie is a muskellunge, residing in Lake Chautauque. She has been there some 17 years since the state conservation department dropped in an 18-inch-long fish, tagged 230.

She disappeared happily into the depths until 1945. Then a giant fish bearing tag 230 was caught in stripping nets.

Minnie had grown to more than 60 inches and weighed slightly more than the record of 62 pounds, eight ounces credited to a take from Lake St. Clair, Mich., in 1907.

Minnie was tossed back into the lake, and anglers here are convinced she will prove to be the world's largest muskellunge.

The fisherman who catches Fabulous Minnie is due not only

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