

NEWS BEHIND THE NEWS

By PAUL MALLON

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CIO LEADERS MANEUVER TO OUST COMMUNISTS

WASHINGTON. — The epochal movement within leftwing labor to shake off the Communists is being quietly helped by the White House. What is behind it can now be set forth as follows:

Since Mr. Byrnes firmed his back against further Russian encroachments in world affairs, the more radical CIO-PAC crowd has been arousing criticism against President Truman and the administration . . . or was until lately. Statements and speeches from the southpaw people took the Moscow line on pending international issues, adhering to the same technique as when a union picketed the White House to call Mr. Roosevelt a war monger for helping Britain before Russia was invaded, and more recently when the state department was picketed by a union urging ouster of Mr. Byrnes for opposing Russia.

The latest rousing of criticism got under Mr. Truman's skin, as well as some very high union labor hide. Important labor leadership immediately became involved in an internal conflict, the ramifications of which have not yet been disclosed. The CIO-PAC director, Sidney Hillman, has been conspicuously laying low, while some unions in CIO have been taking steps to revise their constitutions to bar Communists from office and membership. Hillman has close relations with the American Labor party in New York, for whom the Communists have been the most active doorbell ringers and vote-fixers. Apparently this element of labor hates to lose its Communist schemers with an election campaign in the offing.

MURRAY 'TIRED OF IT'

But CIO Pres. Phil Murray is reported getting tired of Communist use by CIO-PAC, or what might more accurately be called Russian use of them for international policy purposes. Some labor authorities report him cool toward Hillman, suggest Hillman may be replaced as head of CIO-PAC or predict a showdown between Murray and Hillman.

Regardless of these reports, any level eye can plainly see Mr. Hillman is caught in an enigmatic whirlwind. If he lets the Communists go, he may lose his organization; if he keeps them, the organization may crack.

I would not be surprised if the White House aided in the cracking, strange as this may sound. Latest appointments of an undersecretary and three assistants in the labor department went the AFL way. CIO has one labor undersecretary and is pressuring Truman through him. The latest appointments, however, have been followed by reports that AFL no longer intends to split administration patronage with CIO on an equal basis, but will see what it can get for itself.

Then AFL is going into the south to organize unions on the greatest scope of opposition it has yet presented. CIO plans in the south are supposed to call for 200 experienced organizers working under leadership of the Textile Workers union, men who have been trained in the Hillman school of action. In competition with this activity, AFL is planning an even greater organizing campaign in the south, and the catch-all district 50 of John L. Lewis has marked out an anti-CIO organizing campaign to get in all the loose unions otherwise unclassifiable in AFL.

INTENSE RIVALRY COMING

Thus an intense organizational rivalry is springing up which may reach its bitterest proportions in the fields of textiles, telephones, chemicals and plastics. I say these are apt to be the sharpest fields because few observers expect the rivalry in the south to be of great industrial consequence. In the first place, there is not much industry in the south which is not already organized one way or another. The field there at least is limited by comparison with the greater industrial sections of the country. Southern organizing, especially the CIO-PAC kind, is apt to cover political activity (ousting of southern congressmen and senators who have resisted labor legislation) rather than develop any great new numbers for the unions.

Out of this high pressured situation, observers are commonly predicting a new wave of many hundreds of small jurisdictional strikes during coming months, and a period of exceptional labor unrest.

I want to find the man who changed UNO to UN.

UNO is a collection of letters in euphonious order conveying the thought of unity. It is not cumbersome. It is accurate for the "United Nations organization."

UN is negative. Alone it cannot be pronounced except as an enigmatic grunt. And, as it signifies the opposite of what the United Nations organization stands for, the mystery surrounding its origin may be worth perusing by authorities who have greater facilities than I.

The Washington MERRY-GO-ROUND

By DREW PEARSON

WASHINGTON. — John L. Lewis confided his strike strategy to a friend the other day as follows:

"Before you can get action, you've got to have a crisis. And in any crisis, someone's nerve has got to crack. I always bet that I can hold out longer than the government or the operators. My nerve won't crack first."

GOP CONGRESSMAN REWARDED

Few congressmen have enjoyed a higher rating at the White House in the last two decades than hard-hitting Richard J. Welch of California, a Republican congressman for 21 years.

Always subordinating party interest to the national welfare, Welch's rugged integrity won him the esteem of both Presidents Hoover and Roosevelt, with Harry Truman equally fond of him.

It is an axiom in congress that when Dick Welch wants something at the White House, he gets it. His last visit, to request Presidential support of another bridge connecting San Francisco and Oakland, was no exception.

Despite opposition from the navy, which contends that expanded aircraft and water-transport facilities in the bay area make a new bridge inadvisable, Welch told Truman that the bridge was imperative. Traffic on the present Oakland bridge, he said, was moving "bumper-to-bumper."

"All we are asking is a public hearing to state our case, Mr. President," said Welch, "but the navy is even opposed to that."

"This is an election year," commented Welch with a grin, "but there are no political considerations in the bridge project as far as I am concerned."

Truman may have been thinking of Welch's unflinching battle to support OPA as he replied:

"In your case, Dick, it wouldn't make any difference to me whether there were any political considerations in it or not."

CONGRESS RETREATS

It isn't often that the public rises up in protest so quickly and effectively as over the recent cutting of price control in the house of representatives. However, the "Save OPA" mail drive on congress now appears to have scored a bull's eye. Senate opposition to crippling house amendments is mounting and anti-price control senators one by one are beginning to yell "uncle!"

Despite this, OPA Boss Paul Porter and Economic Stabilizer Chester Bowles are awaiting the senate showdown with crossed fingers. What they fear is a compromise senate bill — a watered-down, but still dangerous, version of the house "repeal" measure.

Porter warned of this in a recent secret conference with Bowles and other top officials when the question was raised as to whether the outspoken Bowles should continue his cannonading for air-tight OPA legislation. Bowles himself felt that it might be smart for him to pull punches temporarily.

Porter, however, vigorously advised the contrary.

"This is no time to trim our sails or for you to let down, Chester," he told Bowles.

MISSOURI POUND CAKE

President Truman's first cousins, Nellie and Ethel Noland of Independence, Mo., are writing quite a few letters these days about the famous "pound cake" which long has been a favorite delicacy of the Truman and Noland families.

Last Christmas, while Truman was in Independence for the holidays, one of the Noland sisters' cakes was featured on the menu. A writer for the Associated Press, apparently inexperienced in the kitchen, obtained the recipe and published it. Later housewives throughout the country tried their hand at preparing the cake. But something was wrong. Scores of letters began pouring into the Noland mailbox at 216 North Delaware street. Housewives were having kitchen difficulties.

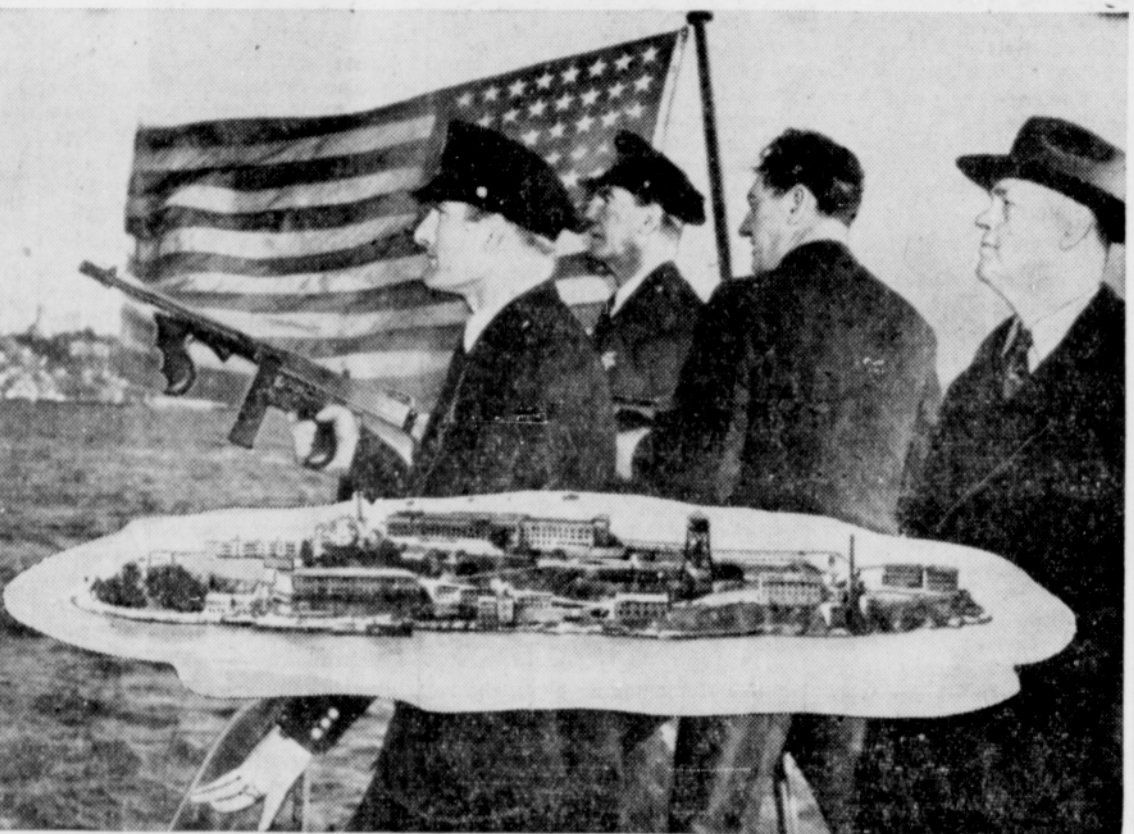
A check revealed the Associated Press reporter had failed to include in the recipe one pound of butter — necessary for good results in baking the cake. Perhaps the AP reporter was patriotic and didn't think butter should be used in cake in view of the edible fats shortage. Anyway, President Truman's cousins have been writing letters ever since.

MERRY-GO-ROUND

Eighty-five professors at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton school of finance and commerce were polled regarding the continuation of OPA. Eighty-one signed a petition urging continuation of price controls. . . . Telegrams were sent to clothing manufacturers recently by the civilian production administration asking a report on the men's suit shortage. Reply was that the government's goal of 28 million men's suits will be almost met. . . . If that helps any.



TRUMANS ENTERTAIN PAGE BOYS . . . Ninety page boys of the senate and house were guests of President and Mrs. Truman. The boys were brought to the east wing of the White House where they met the President and First Lady of the Land, then they were escorted through the White House by their host and hostess. Here are the Trumans with the future senators and representatives during their recent visit to the White House. They represented every state in the Union.



REVOLT ON THE "ROCK" QUELLED . . . Upper photograph shows members of the San Francisco police department, who together with marine corps and coast guard aided guards at federal prison, Alcatraz, the "rock" in San Francisco bay, when prisoners revolted. Before the revolt had been brought under control three prisoners and two guards were killed and scores wounded. Insert, view of the "rock."



REBEL AGAINST GIRL DUNGAREES . . . Turn about is fair play. Annoyed by the practice of girl students appearing for class clad in dungarees, these three students of the Robert E. Lee school, Richmond, Va., decided to turn the tables and arrived at school wearing dresses. Photo shows the daring trio.



BIKE SAVES ELECTRICITY . . . Joe Benak, right, Chicago filling station operator, solved the electricity shortage by rigging up a one-bike power motor to his gas pump, with Dick Frederick doing the leg work, while the consumer, happy to get gas, looks on from his car window. Coal shortage brought about by the strike resulted in many Chicago industries being curtailed or completely shut down.



UNDERGROUND HERO . . . General Tadeusz Bor-Komorowski, Polish underground leader, who commanded the uprising in Warsaw in 1944, shown as he spoke at the 155th anniversary of Polish constitution, held at Chicago. General Bor, as he is usually called, addressed the colorful ceremonies at statue of General Kosciuszko, Revolutionary war hero, in Humboldt park.



PARIS GETS NEW PHONE BOOKS . . . Paris hasn't had any new telephone directory since before the war; so the issuance of one was an event. A pretty girl sits on stack of phone books here.

Household Hints

Liquid floor waxes give a better surface if a thin coat of paste wax is first applied.



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