

# Washington Digest

National Topics Interpreted  
by William Bruckart  
National Press Building  
Washington, D. C.

## NEWS NOTES OF THE NORTHWEST

A Brief Summary of Events of Special Interest to Oregon, Washington and Idaho Communities.

Washington.—Congress lately has passed and President Roosevelt has just signed the

### Coal Will Be Higher

Guffey-Vinson coal bill. It is, therefore, a law. And presently, as a result of the passage of this legislation, you and I and every other person who uses soft coal will be paying higher prices.

The increase in price that will result, however, is not the only phase of the Guffey-Vinson law that seems to be open to criticism. There are many who believe that in passing the Guffey-Vinson bill (and it was done under the lash of administration leaders) our government has taken a step which is very close to, even actually a step toward, fascism in America. It is an action so near to the policies of fascism in Italy that close students of the Mussolini plan say they can hardly discern any distinction.

Let us see what the Guffey-Vinson law does. It permits all soft coal producers in the United States to organize as in a monopoly under government control. True, the government is supposed under the law to fix the price of soft coal but actually the law is going to work out so that the producers and the mine unions will establish the prices, subject to the approval of a government commission. It will work out this way because the law has actually legalized the right of the producers to agree on the prices they will charge by virtue of the fact that those prices are based on the production costs in regional areas.

It is provided in the law that the United States shall be divided into 23 regions or sections. The United States coal commission is empowered to prescribe the prices, both minimum and maximum, to which coal from each of these areas or regions may be sold. In that manner, the law guarantees that the soft coal producers shall gain an acceptable rate on their investments. Since labor costs enter directly into production costs—indeed, they constitute a major factor—it becomes plain that whatever wages labor demands and obtains influences the level of the production costs and the result is a change in the selling price to the consuming public. Thus, when John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers of America and head of the C. I. O., determines that the mine workers are not being paid sufficiently high wages, he demands an increase from the mine owners. The mine owners or producers, now that the Guffey-Vinson monopoly law has passed, simply submit the new costs to the coal commission and it has no alternative but to approve an increase in the selling price. In consequence, therefore, every bucketful of coal going into your stove and every shovelful that goes into the furnace of a home or the fire box of a factory carries an additional tax that has been legalized by law.

So, we see the bulk of the coal industry pass from the field of free competition into the form of a monopoly under government control. If that can be described otherwise than as fascism, I am ignorant of what constitutes fascism.

There remains the question whether the law promoted by Senator Guffey of Pennsylvania and Representative Vinson of Kentucky is constitutional.

### Question Validity

It will be remembered that the Supreme court once threw out the original Guffey-Vinson law. It threw out that law because it held that the original legislation attempted to fix hours and wages for workers and that, in accordance with the unanimous decision of the court when it invalidated the NRA, was an illegal act by congress. The labor provisions alone were discussed in the litigation at that time. But in the current Guffey-Vinson law, those objectionable factors have been omitted. There is no way to discover whether the Supreme court will find the monopolistic practice authorized in the current legislation to be improper except the hunch that such a declaration of policy by the congress is not in conflict with the constitution directly.

Some members of the congress opposed the Guffey-Vinson bill because they believed it to be unconstitutional. There were so few of those, however, that the house of representatives debated the bill only a day and a half and the senate debated it only a few hours.

Some sections of the soft coal industry objected to the bill but they were quickly resigned to the intangible fact that it would become a law because of the power that John L. Lewis wielded over congressional leadership. The chief reason for the division of sentiment among the coal producers was that there is a wide range of costs among the producers. There are many mines which have low production costs and consequently they are able, or were

able under open competition, to sell at lower prices than many of their competitors. There is another section of the mining industry where production costs are high and in consequence that section of the industry was barely able to scrape out a living return. Under the new law, the high cost mines will be assured of a reasonable return and that means that the low cost mines will gain exorbitant profit.

On the face of things, it would seem that the low cost mines would be all for this law because of the heavy returns they can make. Such, however, is not the case. Thus mine owners, pretty generally, would prefer taking their chances in open competition because they can make a larger profit through a heavy volume of sales at lower prices than under the new scheme whereby the high cost mines are bound to get a share of the business.

Proponents of the law contend that there is an obligation to the owners of the high cost mine or to the workers they employ. But what, I ask, is the user of coal going to do about it? What has he to say and how can he say it?

Again, sponsors of the legislation explain that interests of the consuming public are to be protected through the office of a consumers' council. That is, there is a government official who is supposed to look after and protect your rights and mine against excessive prices. It may work out satisfactorily. I believe, however, that the odds are heavy against any of us receiving any benefits in this direction.

A few days after President Roosevelt signed the Guffey-Vinson law,

### Strike at Trusts

Attorney General Cummings came forth with a letter urging congress to revise and tighten the anti-trust law. He said that monopoly was growing in the United States and that small businesses were being driven to the wall by the inroads of great masses of capital.

There is evidence that capital is massing. We need not look any further for proof of this than the Guffey-Vinson law itself which permits capital to work together—the only hindrance being that which is subjected somewhat to the influence of organized labor under the Guffey-Vinson law. The result is exactly the same whether the massing of capital takes place under private arrangement or under government supervision such as is legalized in the Guffey-Vinson law.

This situation impresses me as being a bit incongruous. It seems to be a circumstance where the administration is trying to run in two directions at one and the same time. It is further exaggerated by the fact that the President lately has spoken with emphasis about the rapid increase in retail prices. Yet, besides raising wages for labor, the only tangible result that I can see under the Guffey-Vinson law is higher prices for all of us to pay.

Surely, monopoly has a tendency always to increase prices. It has been the chief subject of harrange against monopoly and the Attorney General adverted to this fact in his recent appeal for legislation to prevent monopoly. But why is it bad for monopoly, privately arranged, to force higher prices and good for monopoly, legalized by congress, to force higher prices?

### No Stock Gambling

President Roosevelt has sent word around through all government departments to the effect that no government worker may engage in stock market speculation. He has told the civil service commission that "among the matters to be considered" when passing upon an employee's qualifications for retention or advancement, the commission may consider whether that employee has engaged in speculation in securities or commodities.

At first blush, this did seem to be a sound order. I have heard much discussion of the matter, however, that gives rise to other thoughts about it. I think there can be nothing more reprehensible than for a public official or employee to use the confidential information which he obtains officially as the basis for stock speculation. On the other hand, is it not questionable whether a government should try to tell any of its employees that they cannot invest their surplus earnings in securities as a means of increasing their income? The President said that "bona fide investments" are all right but the question for which I have not been able to find an answer is "how can it be determined whether the purchase of a few shares of stock is speculation or bona fide investment?"

That brings up of necessity the difficulties of enforcement. It also brings to the forefront a real danger. That danger is not as remote as it seems. I refer to the use of power in the hands of the Chief Executive to take away individual liberty of action.

BOISE, Ida.—WPA crews, among their multifarious operations last year, treated more than 4000 acres for plant disease and rid the state of 4714 pests.

EUGENE, Ore.—Ralph S. Schomp has announced his resignation as director of educational activities at the University of Oregon, a post he has held since organization of the department last year.

PORTLAND, Ore.—Approximately 2,526 Oregon wage earners or their estates are expected to file claims during 1937 for lump-sum or death benefits with the Bureau of Federal Old-Age Benefits, James E. Peebles, Portland Field Representative, has announced.

CLARK FORK, Ida.—A library, sponsored by the WPA and NYA will be opened here soon. Mrs. Bessie L. Teague will be senior librarian, and Miss Mary Louise Clifford will be junior assistant. Coeur d'Alene has donated 150 books, and 200 will be received from a traveling library.

SANDPOINT, Ida.—W. H. Heath, engineer and supervisor of the city dock WPA project, said today that despite handicaps at the start they were making fine progress. The project calls for a combined dirt fill and piling structure dock 1390 feet in length at a total cost of \$26,000.

OROFINO, Ida.—The first lease for sheep grazing of the Clearwater Protective association area on Canyon creek was signed last week by J. H. Dobbins of Enterprise, Ore. The association is anticipating approximately 50,000 head of sheep this year. Several contracts await signatures.

SOUTH BEND, Wash.—Distribution of 360 pheasant eggs was being made today by County Agent T. R. Cole to 11 boys in two 4-H clubs at Mill Creek and South Bend. The eggs will be hatched and reared to ten weeks age and then turned over to the state game department for liberation in Pacific county.

KENNEWICK, Wash.—Most of the land in the Kennewick highlands under the Kennewick Irrigation company's canal has been sold within the last two years, with the majority of buyers immigrants from the drought areas. The tendency is toward diversified farming on larger acreage, replacing the small-tract farm.

MONTESANO, Wash.—Examiners will begin a tour of Grays Harbor county schools next week to conduct standardized tests in the first, second, third and eighth grades. It is announced by Mrs. Adele Alton Oliver, county superintendent. Eighth grade tests will be the basis for promotion to high school, replacing the old-time state eighth grade examinations.

DAVENPORT, Wash.—Gordon Bonser recently had a narrow escape from death when a "tree climber" woodsaw he was using on a tree flew back, ripping his back badly. The youth walked half a mile along after the accident before finding a car to bring him to Davenport for medical treatment by Dr. J. H. Foynter. The wound required 28 stitches to close, but was not deep.

NEWBERG, Ore.—A wedding ring lost nearly 21 years has been returned to its owner because W. E. Mulkey chose the right place to dig some fishworms. In 1916 Mrs. O. J. McCoy, lost her wedding ring while working in her garden. A few days ago Mulkey, a brother of Mrs. Elvora Sackafosse, who now owns the property, found the ring while digging bait in the back-yard. The name of the owner was engraved on the inside and the ring was promptly returned to Mrs. McCoy, who is still a resident of this city.

FUR BEARERS DECREASE

OLYMPIA, Wash.—Washington's wild game and predatory animals are increasing and its fur-bearing animals growing fewer in number, a comparison of the 1935 and 1936 game census reports of the U. S. forest service reveals. With the exception of elk and black bear, all game animals showed increases during 1936. "Nose counting" showed an estimated 2230 porcupine compared to 7700 in 1935. In the fur-bearing class only skunks and racoons increased.

FUTURE FARMERS ELECT

CORVALLIS, Ore.—James McAlister of Enterprise was elected president of the Oregon Future Farmers of America at the business session of the annual convention here last week. Other officers elected were Robert Lundy, Myrtle Point, vice-president; Howard Conner, Henry, secretary; Phil Heinoman, Amity, treasurer; and Jack Koch, Salem, reporter. Instructors named to the executive committee were Alfred Loy, Enterprise; Ralph Morgan, Salem; and W. S. Carpenter, Grants Pass.

## GEORGE VI AND ELIZABETH CROWNED

Five Million Voices Cry, "God Save the King!" as Guns Boom Glad Tidings From Historic Tower of London.

London, England.—"God save the King!"

As the great guns of the Tower of London boomed forth the news that the Archbishop of Canterbury had placed the weighty Crown of St. Edward, the Crown of England, upon the head of George VI, the cry came forth in a mighty swell from five million throats as from the throat of one man.

This was the climax of the greatest show on earth, a show for which a generous share of the throng which lined the six and one-half miles of the processional route had waited without moving from their places through the dampness of a London spring night and, indeed, through part of the preceding day.

Those of the King's subjects who had not been able to afford \$2 to \$250 for a seat that would assure them a glimpse of their new monarch on his proudest day began marking off space along the curb on the afternoon of May 11. Smart alecks who thought they could put off their vigil until sunrise of Coronation Day were doomed to stretch their necks an inch or two in twelve hours of straining to see over several rows of earlier arrivals.

### "A Quiet Empire."

It was a heavy day of work at the end of many back-breaking weeks of preparation for the 9,000 gentlemen and ladies of the peerage whose rank and purse entitled them to sit for an entire day in 10 to 25 pounds of clothing per capita, on a hard seat 19 inches wide without ever moving. But it was a magnificent show.

"The Lord give you fruitful lands and healthful seasons," said the archbishop in the benediction which followed the crowning of the King, "victorious fleets and armies, and a quiet Empire. . ."

No one in Britain could deny that in a time of world-wide unrest, a time of urgent necessity for imperial strength and unity, the political expediency of "a quiet Empire" prompted the government to make of this the most splendid coronation in all history. The government expense in the crowning of George VI has been estimated to be double that in the coronation of his father 26 years ago; its backing of the dazzling pageantry required expenditures of \$2,620,000 of public funds, not counting an estimated \$500,000 spent by the royal household in entertaining royal and foreign guests.

In the vast coronation pageant the government hoped to lend new emphasis to that sentiment which is the real bond holding the empire together, and which is symbolized by the crown and the man who wears it. There is still an undercurrent of dissatisfaction over the abdication of Edward VIII. The new King and Queen must be popularized to the fullest possible extent. The coronation was an opportunity to accomplish this, and the government could afford to let none of it slip past.

The show and the crowd lived up to all advance billing. It was estimated that there were 300,000 visitors who had to cross the ocean. All London's 12,000 hotel rooms were sold out. Souvenir manufacturers and vendors did the expected land office business. The drink bill for toasting the new King was guessed at \$10,000,000.

### Queen Goes First.

Pomp and regal solemnity were byword of the day from the time the King and Queen boarded the coronation coach at Buckingham Palace in mid-morning. Eight magnificent cream-colored horses drew the ancient four-ton vehicle down the streets it has traversed since 1761, when it was built for Queen Anne. In its heavily ornate gold and jewels it carried the spectators back through the pages of history to those days before the American colonies had revolted and prevented the British Empire from including the lion's share of North America.

The ancient coach, a tradition at coronations, bore the royal couple down the mall to the Abbey, where the Queen's procession left the King to enter first, so that she could stand and wait for him by the chairs of state, or recognition chairs, in front of the royal box where the other members of the royal family were seated.

Peers and peeresses were in their places before the central figures of the coronation drama arrived. And before them the real martyrs had assumed their positions. These were the eight newspaper photographers the government had permitted to be present.

Abhorring the thought of flash bulbs marring the solemnity of such an occasion, but still anxious that pictures be taken, officials hit upon a solution. They provided camouflaged quarters for camera men in false pillars and other positions which blended into the background of the Abbey. Narrow slits in the walls of these refuges enabled the cameras to peer out at the spectacle. But the poor "photogs!" They had to be "set up" before anyone entered the Abbey and maintain their



King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, officially crowned in one of history's most spectacular and colorful coronations.

cramped positions for eight or nine hours. They were not permitted to withdraw until everyone else had left.

A general color scheme of blue and gold with rich, soft velvet hangings made a brilliant background for the cast and for the spectators in their gorgeous uniforms and gowns. Peeresses wore robes of crimson velvet, trimmed in ermine, unless they happened to be of royal blood, in which event they were required to don the purple velvet of royalty. The court gowns worn underneath were of white, cream, silver or gold. Fashion experts estimated that the most economical of them cost at least \$1,200. Uniforms of the men started at about \$800 and went up from there.

### History's Greatest Gem Display

This did not, of course, include the jewelry or the coronets. The cheapest coronet could hardly have been purchased for less than \$100. The total of all the rings, bracelets, necklaces, etc., worn by the 9,000 present must have run into the millions, and was probably the most costly and magnificent display of



The Crown of St. Edward, or Crown of England, made for Charles II in 1662 and worn, because of its excessive weight, for but a fleeting moment by George VI during the coronation ceremony.

gems ever worn in one place at one time in the world's history.

Rank of the members of the nobility was indicated by the amount of ermine on the robes of the women and the length of their trains. A duchess was marked by four rows of ermine on her robe, and a train two yards long. A marchioness was permitted three and one-half rows of ermine and a one-and-three-fourths-yard train; a countess half a row less of ermine, half a yard less train; rank was further graded down at half a row and half a yard per classification.

The head of the procession, which had included a great list of dignitaries, the King's representatives and royal persons with their families from all over the world had been waiting at the west door of the Abbey, and as the royal coach approached, filed in to await their monarch. Following them came the chaplains, deans and officers of Westminster, then the archbishops with the Queen consort and the ladies and gentlemen of the court.

### Enter the King.

Noblemen close behind bore the staff and the sceptre, with the cross and the golden spurs, and the three swords which signify mercy, temporal justice and spiritual justice. These were the trappings of St. Ed-

ward, with which English kings are invested.

Then came more dignitaries, and the King's sceptre with the dove symbolic of mercy and equity; the King's gold and diamond orb, surmounted by the Christian cross; the crown of St. Edward, the patent and the chalice and the Bible.

Then entered George VI in the crimson robes of state, to join his Queen, and march through the choir and up the stairs to the theatre. Passing the thrones, they then knelt at the faldstools before the recognition chairs to offer prayers. Next they proceeded about the Abbey to all four sides before the view of the assemblage. The King went to his chair and once more faced each side of the Abbey as the Archbishop, in loud tones, announced him.

After the regalia had been brought and placed by the dean of Westminster upon the altar, the Archbishop asked the King, according to ritual, "Sire, is your Majesty willing to take the oath?" and the King answered, "I am willing." He gave his oath to govern the peoples of the British Isles and the Empire according to their laws and customs; to maintain the profession of the Gospel and the Church of England. After he had kissed the Bible and signed the oath, the King repeated and subscribed to the declaration required by parliament and, with the assemblage, prepared for the communion service.

Following this lengthy service, the King, having first removed the cap and robes of state, ascended to the throne of St. Edward, the ancient chair which contains beneath its seat the historic Stone of Scone upon which the kings of Scotland sat as they were crowned a thousand years ago. After a silken pall had been put over the King, the Archbishop anointed him upon the hands, breast and face with the holy oil, and he was ready to be presented with the spurs and the sword.

### King Receives His Crown.

These given, George VI removed the pall and was clothed for the first time in the royal robe of purple. The orb and cross were brought from the altar by the Dean of Westminster and placed in the King's hands by the Archbishop. He was next invested with the ring and the sceptres.

Then as the King bowed his head the Dean of Westminster brought the Crown of St. Edward, and the Archbishop, receiving it from him, held it but momentarily upon the head of the King (its weight is terrific).

This was the signal for the trumpets and the guns in the Tower of London, for the peers and peeresses to cry "God save the King!" and for the millions who, along the processional line outside, had been waiting for that moment, to toss their hats in the air and cry likewise, "God save the King!" The peers were now allowed to put on their coronets.

There followed more religious ceremonies of great length and solemnity, and then the coronation of the Queen, following which the peeresses cried, "God save the Queen!" and donned their coronets.

Still more long hours of ceremony. Then, in the early evening the King's coach at last passed once more down the processional route, and the millions who had waited all day for the sight went home happy.