

REFER COAL STRIKE TO F.D.R.

Illinois House Votes Parole Reform Bills

Mystery Veils War Contract Payment Quiz

WLB GIVES UP CASE IN FACE OF LEWIS DEFIANCE

More Pits Closed; 60,000 Men Out.

BRITISH SMASH AT AXIS HILL 21 MI. FROM TUNIS

French Sever Road Near Pont Du Fahs.

8th Army Also Advances

NEWS SUMMARY OF THE TRIBUNE (And Historical Scrapbook) Thursday, April 29, 1943

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ACTS TO WIDEN JUDGES' POWER ON SENTENCES

2 Hour Debate Ends in 105-27 Victory.

BY GEORGE TAGGE. (Chicago Tribune Press Service.) Springfield, Ill., April 28.—A two hour struggle in the Illinois house today ended in a 105 to 27 victory for the Connors-Rennick parole bills which would give trial judges the right to impose minimum and maximum sentences in criminal cases.

The bills would eliminate the current practice whereby a judge assesses an indeterminate sentence and the parole board fixes the length of time served. Under the new bills, judges would fix the minimum and maximum terms and the parole board determine the time of release within these limits.

Debate was heated as opponents fought the plan, first submitted to the legislature in 1937. Legislation passed that year was vetoed by Gov. Henry Horner, and similar bills narrowly missed passage in 1939.

1937 Law Invalidated. In 1941 the legislature enacted a law with the minimum-maximum sentence feature, limited by a clause empowering a state board to change the penalties. The Illinois Supreme court invalidated the statute on the basis of this clause.

Today it was stated that the administrative agency had used its power to alter sentences only six times during the year the law was in operation.

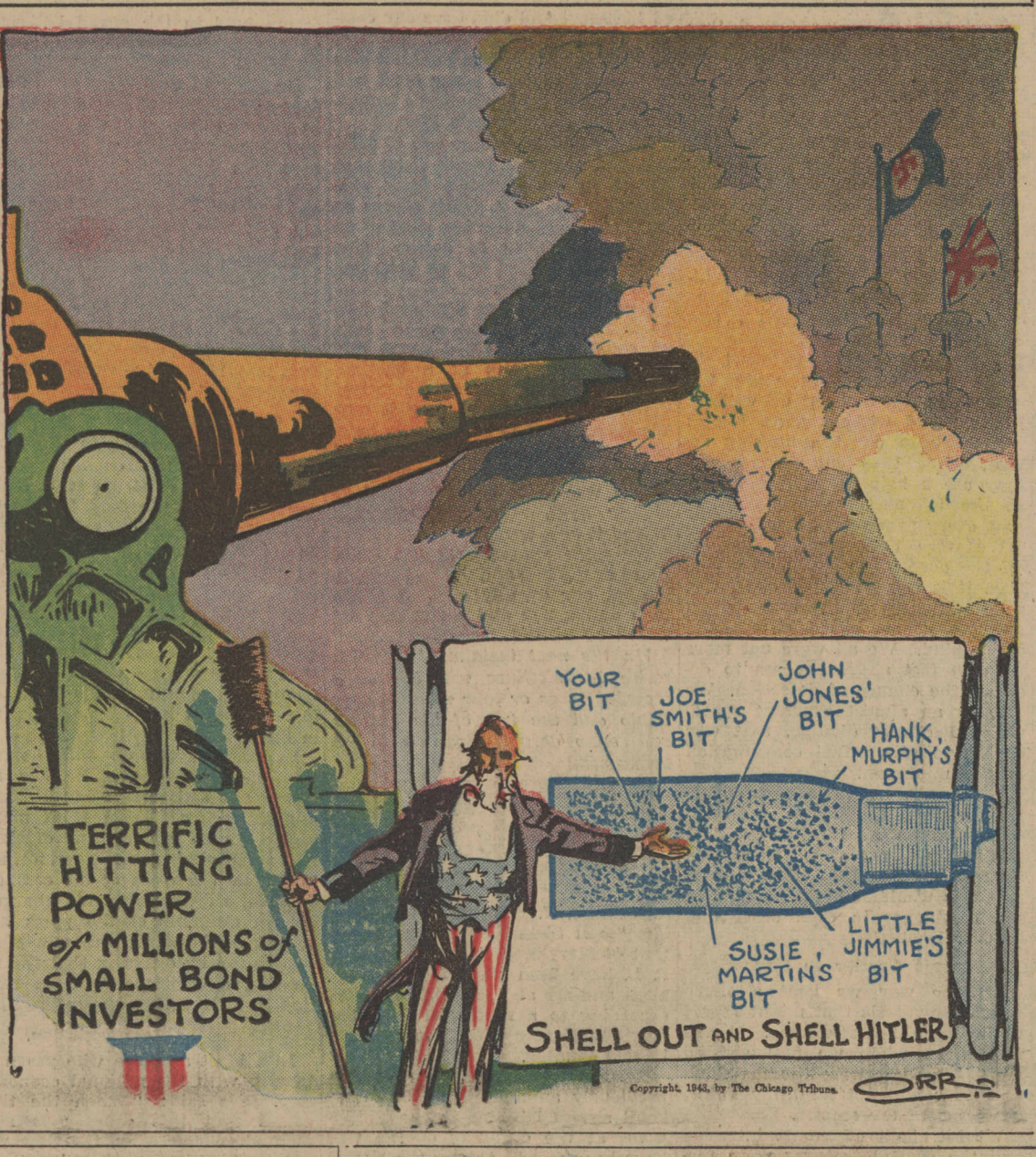
The new bills received long study to guard against any upset when the plan is tested in the high court. Speaker Elmer J. Schnackenberg (R., Chicago), co-sponsor of the original bills, worked out the details with Rep. Frederick W. Rennick (R., Budal), who shares basic authorship with Sen. William J. Connors (D., Chicago).

Follow No Party Lines. Party and geographical lines meant nothing today. Voting for the bill were 20 Republicans and 20 Democrats from Cook county, plus 48 G. O. P. members from downstate, aided by 17 downstate Democrats. Opposition likewise was divided.

"These bills have been considered thoroughly," Rennick told the house. "In the senate they were passed by a vote of 49 to 1. The house judiciary practice committee recommended them unanimously."

"Judges who have heard all of the evidence are in a better position [Continued on page 14, column 1]

LITTLE GRAINS OF POWDER



TOKIO REPRISAL SLAYINGS BARED

Massacred Chinese in Yank Landing Areas.

San Francisco, April 28 (AP).—Japanese troops have slaughtered every man, woman and child in the coastal areas of China where American flyers landed after bombing Tokio, Secretary Henry Morgenthau said tonight.

Morgenthau said his information was contained in a cablegram received from Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek. He read the message at a gathering of war loan workers here.

Recalls Executions of Yanks. The secretary of the treasury spoke of the horror with which the nation a few days ago learned that some of the American flyers captured by the Japanese had been executed.

"Now, with a deep sense of shock and anger," he said, "I must bring you further news. I have here a cablegram which reached me this morning. It comes from Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek. Let me read it to you:

"After they had been caught unaware by the falling of American bombs on Tokio, Japanese troops attacked the coastal areas of China, where many of the American flyers had landed. These Japanese troops slaughtered every man, woman, and child in those areas—let me repeat—these Japanese troops slaughtered every man, woman, and child in those areas, reproducing on a wholesale scale the horrors which the world had seen at Lidice [Czechoslovakian village wiped out by the Nazis], but about which people have been uninformed in these instances.

"No Code of Decency." "The dastardly execution of these American flyers, who were taken prisoners of war, has made it clear to all Americans that we face an enemy who knows no codes of law or decency. The only language which such an enemy understands is that of the weapons of war, and in the bond campaign which you are pushing for the war effort our people wish you all success."

Scouts Buy Plane to Rip Axis; Girl Does 'Bit' in 3 War Jobs

Their Good Deed. Some time in the early future, enemies of the United States in some undesignated theater of war will reap the harvest of one American Boy Scout troop's traditional good deed when the \$300,000 bomber Barrington Boy Scout Troop No. 21 shows down \$100,000 worth of bombs.

In six months the 29 members of the Barrington troop, under the leadership of its scoutmaster, Roy Wilmering, have sold \$400,000 in war bonds.

Its original goal, set last November, was \$300,000 to purchase a bomber, which the army promised would be named for the troop. When this amount had been raised, the boys voted to sell \$100,000 more for bombs.

When one of the troop members contracted measles and couldn't go outside his home, he sat all day at the telephone, still selling bonds. His father, not under quarantine, delivered the bonds and collected the money.

Praised by Gen. Aurrand. The result of their drive evoked the warmest praise from Maj. Gen. H. S. Aurrand, commanding general of the 6th service command, who said yesterday:

"I have been informed of the impressive record made by the Boy Scout troop of Barrington, Ill., in selling war bonds at an average rate of \$13,796 per member in a drive started last November. They exceeded their original quota of \$300,000 to buy a bomber and went on to raise \$100,000 more to buy some bombs for that warplane. It was a fine 'good deed' for those Barrington boys and I want to commend their action, not only to Boy Scout troops throughout my service command, but also to organizations of adults."

Ceremonies Honor Troop. The bomber hasn't come off the assembly lines yet, but the \$400,000 was turned over to army officials last night in ceremonies in the Catlow theater at Barrington honoring the troop. Present were more than 800 persons who had bought bonds from the Boy Scouts.

The army sent to the theater, as a treat for the boys, a 10-foot model of the plane-to-be, with the troop's name emblazoned upon it. [Story of Chicago area's war loan drive appears on page 9.]

BY WILLIAM MOORE. (Chicago Tribune Press Service.) Washington, D. C., April 28.—A dinner attended by army or navy officers in a Washington mansion became the center of a spectacular congressional investigation of war contracts today.

Mystery surrounded the inquiry, conducted at a public hearing by a house military affairs subcommittee headed by Rep. Carl T. Durham (D., N. C.). Members of the committee declined to divulge what motivated the investigation or the significance of questions asked of the witnesses.

But a manufacturer's representative, who testified that he negotiated a 2½ million dollar subcontract for gun mounts with the Ford Motor company, was questioned about officers he met at the dinner, and about \$3,050 in checks he wrote for a woman in a six week period in 1942.

And a woman was asked if she had leased the mansion, once the home of Secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau Jr., and if she had received the checks.

Won't Tell His Name. The woman, a Mrs. Eula Smith, stood on her constitutional rights and refused to answer questions. The surprise occasioned by her defiance of the congressional committee had scarcely subsided when a man, called to the witness stand, refused even to tell his name, and announced:

"My wife has been tapped. I have been told by high New Deal officials that I am going to be framed and persecuted. My attorney has advised me not to answer any questions."

This man responded to a subpoena issued to John Monroe. One of the questions asked him was how it happened that his automobile bore a congressman's identification plate.

Tag Is Morrison's. The witness refused to answer, but Rep. James H. Morrison (D., La.) later volunteered the information that the plate was his. Rep. Morrison said that at one time he had borrowed the witness' car after his own had been damaged, attached the tag, and neglected to remove it later.

The inquiry, which many on Capitol hill predict may rock official Washington as it extends further into war contracts, began in a routine manner. H. Ralph Burton, general counsel for the military affairs committee, called Albert Bennett Fey, the manufacturer's representative, of East Orange, N. J., to the witness stand.

Fey, a youthful, smiling, little man, identified himself as a former representative of the Narragansett Machine company of Pawtucket R. I. He testified that he had arranged a subcontract by which his firm was to make 2½ million dollars' worth of gun mounts (mountings for cannon) for the Ford Motor company.

This contract, he said, was later canceled, the Narragansett company failed to renew his contract as its representative, and he is now suing the Narragansett firm for \$125,000 in commissions on other contracts.

War man power commission plans to ease job freeze throughout nation. Details on page 31.

Washington, D. C., April 28 (Special).—Unable to cope with John L. Lewis and his miners, the war labor board announced late today that it is referring to President Roosevelt the critical soft coal wage controversy, in which a full scale strike has been threatened for Saturday. White House action was not expected until tomorrow.

The board, which the President created to handle war time labor issues, said it was taking the action because its own orders and appeals have been ignored by Lewis' United Mine Workers. In addition to defying the board, Lewis has snubbed it twice recently and the UMW policy committee yesterday denounced it in scathing language and asked its removal from the case.

Other Cases Recalled. With more than 60,000 miners already idle, 130 pits closed, and more mines shutting down almost hourly, there was talk of the possible use of troops as guards to protect those who might want to work.

It was recalled that in two other labor defiance cases which the WLB referred to the White House—both, incidentally, involving the UMW—the President ordered workers to return to their jobs and implied that continued disobedience would result in armed intervention to assure protection of company property workers.

In the present trouble, UMW leaders have asserted that the growing walkouts are unauthorized but they pointed out that Lewis had not forbidden them.

Confronting the President are two major points—the mine union's refusal to submit its case to the WLB and its demand for wage increases without regard for the "little steel" formula.

Would Cripple Production. Overshadowing these issues, however, was the immediate question of whether Mr. Roosevelt could avert a crippling halt in the production of fuel necessary to keep the wheels of war production turning.

[Chicago area coal supplies sufficient only for "short strike." Details on page 8.]

Scarcely velling the threat of a general work stoppage by 600,000 miners, Lewis has declared that in the absence of a new work contract by Friday midnight—when a one month contract extension expires—that miners "will not trespass on company property."

Lewis is asking a \$2 daily wage increase, a basic wage of \$8 a day, payment for underground travel, and unionization of minor bosses. The operators have contended that they are not free to grant such increases under government regulations based on the "little steel" formula—which allows a 15 per cent increase above the level of Jan. 1, 1941—because miners two years ago received a raise exceeding that sum.

Strike Called Mutiny. Luther Harr, bituminous coal consumers' counsel, a federal official, declared in a statement that a "general strike would be little short of mutiny. Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins also took a hand in the dispute tonight when, in a letter to the UMW, she asked that all work stoppages "cease at once." She defended the WLB and expressed confidence that the board could consider the case "with fairness and intelligence."

UNION SLAYING SUSPECT TAKEN AFTER SIX YEARS

Cragin police were notified last night of the arrest in New York City of Charles Cain, who had been sought since 1937 in connection with the fatal shooting of John White, an organizer for the United Automobile Workers, a CIO affiliate. Cain also was a CIO agent.

The shooting occurred Oct. 19, 1937, in a union hall at 5948 Grand avenue. The specific reasons for the shooting were never fully revealed, but presumably concerned an internal union row.

THE WEATHER

Table with weather data for Thursday, April 29, 1943, including sunrise, sunset, moonrise, moonset, and temperatures in Chicago and vicinity.

Total average net paid circulation MARCH, 1943 DAILY IN EXCESS OF 935,000 THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE