

# COAL MINERS NEED WAGE BOOST BUT JOHN L. LEWIS' STRIKE MOVE IS BRANDED AS DANGEROUS

John L. Lewis and his 400,000 striking coal workers caused America to celebrate its traditional Thanksgiving Holiday in the gloomy shadows of a dim out.

Looking behind Lewis' legal battle with the government, observers pointed to the union's demand for a reduced work week with no loss in take-home pay as the real bread-and-butter issue in the soft coal miners' walkout.

Although generally sympathetic with the miners' need for more pay, Catholic labor observers feel that the strike is ill-timed and unfortunate. They fear that the manner in which Lewis has challenged the government holds no promise of long-range gains for the miners or anybody else.

Father Raymond S. Clancy, noted labor priest of Detroit, admits that he "can find no justification, morally or economically for Mr. Lewis' present action, particularly in view of the disastrous effect which it will have."

In the past, Father Clancy pointed out, "Mr. Lewis and his mine workers were battling, often very gloriously, against stubborn private employers. Now the fight is against the government and the people of the United States, and the latter will



JOHN L. LEWIS FACES THE PRESS AFTER FACING COURT ON CONTEMPT CHARGE (INT SOUND PHOTO)

not submit meekly to the treatment which the UMW Chieftain is administering."

Lewis will change his tactics and put public interest before his own opinions, and that Congress will not blindly, in the heat of anger, forget the obli-

gation of justice and exact retribution. Scoring the strike as "a dangerous move," *Editorial*, organ of the *Detroit Free Press*, Detroit, explains editorially:

"We simply do not believe that John L. Lewis has made a sufficient effort to get better pay for miners by methods which would avoid the national disaster."

"It is worth remembering, however," the paper adds, "that the deadlock in the coal industry is a long and bitter struggle between coal mine operators and their workers—whom they employed and employed for years before the union became what it is today."

The miners are now calling for a 45 hour week at the same pay which they now get for a 34 hour week.

Average earnings for a soft coal miner in August were \$52.37. This pay was for the average week of 42.7 hours in August.

The \$52.37 weekly earnings compare with the \$75.25 figure generally cited as the miners' present wage. The \$75.25 is a top figure, earned only when the miner puts in a full 54 hour week, which includes 35 hours of straight time and 19 hours of time and a half.

## ON GUARD!

Key West and Coal  
Why Is L. L. Tough?  
Scandal of Miners

By REV. P. J. FLYNN

President Truman has returned to Washington, after a vacation in Key West, Florida, to deal with the defendant John L. Lewis whose word has called 400,000 United Mine Workers out of the mines and paralyzed the nation.

John Lewis is a tough leader and smart. The brilliant chief of the striking United Mine Workers is so tough that he can stand up and battle the Government of the United States with a better than fair chance of winning.

And sending Lewis to jail would send his devoted miners back to digging coal. The miners are loyal to their chief because the union which Lewis has built is almost the only protection which they have against starvation, death and economic slavery. Few groups in America have suffered as much as our miners. The story of our mine workers, the grim specters who toil in the dark and damp caverns of the earth, is one of shame and cruelty. The man who battled to break the fetters of penance from the miners was John Lewis. He is the Lincoln who smashed slavery in the coal fields of America.

It is unfortunate that Mr. Truman did not make his vacation in the coal fields rather than in the sandy dunes of Key West. Admittedly he would have had a miserable time if he put up for a few days in a mining town but he would have learned why Lewis is so powerful. The miners can tell how their life at garbage in 1930 depression days. They haven't forgotten either the dreadful days when the mine-operators hired company Pinkerton agents and thugs armed with guns and lead pipe. This is why John Lewis is tough. He and his union cleaned up these shameful conditions and he and his union are the best guarantee that these evils shall not return.

Those of us who never come any closer to a mine than a Hollywood movie or one of Dr. Cronkite's news are now all up in the air about Mr. Lewis. But how many of us have ever given any thought to the plight of the miner? It is easy to scream about Mr. Lewis when we see our coal pile go down but the miners will stick by their boss because they remember other days and not too far distant either.

In 1913 when the miners tried to unionize the Colorado mining company their wives and children were fired on and 22 women and youngsters were burned to death by wild state troopers in the notorious "Ludlow massacre."

Older miners recall "Bloody Harlan," in Kentucky, where the company goons ruled with revolver shots and visiting newspaper men were run out with shot guns.

And it is not so long ago that the miners were forced to buy in company stores where the prices were fixed so high that the coal diggers ended up the week only a dollar or two ahead, after swinging a pickaxe a mile down for 60 hours.

In the past, most of us ignored these horrible conditions. But John Lewis fought this system and that is why he is a strong man now. He is a strong man now. He is a strong man now. He is a strong man now.

# THE CATHOLIC Courier Journal

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE ROCHESTER DIOCESE

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## Reds' Nerve War Cited By Budenz to House

Washington (NC)—Soviet Russia is engaged in a "war of nerves" against the United States, employing tactics similar to those used by Adolf Hitler but with "Soviet variations," and this could lead to the point of military action, Louis F. Budenz, a former leader of the Communist Party in this country, charged in testimony before the House Committee on Un-American Activities today.

Other highlights of Mr. Budenz's testimony were:

1. U. S. communists and their fellow-travelers are part of a "Russian fifth column" operating in a conspiracy entirely on behalf of Soviet Russia.
2. The NKVD, Russian secret police, certainly operated in this country in 1936-37 and probably still is at work here.
3. A revelation that Richard Wright, who lives in New York, is a top communist in this country, would lead to such leaders as William Z. Foster and Earl Browder being ordered from this country.

## PRIMA SPURS CLOTHES DRIVE

Rochester diocese will be joining in a nationwide "Clothe The War-Stricken" campaign sponsored by the War Relief Services—National Catholic Welfare Conference, a minimum of 65 archdioceses and dioceses having now rallied to the appeal. Magr. Edward E. Swannstrom, assistant executive director of the organization, reports.

The drive in Rochester was given impetus on Thanksgiving Day when a special broadcast from the stage of the RKO Palace Theater was featured by Louis Prima and his orchestra. Participating in the program was the Rev. John S. Randall, diocesan director of the Clothes Campaign.

Co-operating in the drive, the theater permitted a box to be placed in the Palace Theater lobby and all attending the theater during the coming week are being encouraged to drop contributions in the box.

Original plans in the "Clothe The War-Stricken" campaign called for conducting the drive in the country in areas adjacent to the War Relief Services' N. C. W. C. warehouses. This was decided to speed shipment of donations overseas.

Reports from WRS-NCWC representatives overseas, Monsignor Swannstrom emphasized, indicate increased suffering among the ill-clad and starving millions of war-ridden and over-increasing need for more relief.

## 'America's Hour' In Missionary Field, Says Pope

Vatican City (NC)—An earnest call to America, "to providentially grasp the historic opportunity to carry the Gospel to the vast and unchristianized continent of North America," was issued by Pope Pius XII in a special broadcast to the United States of America.

"It is America's hour," he said. "The millions await the response."

The broadcast was in connection with New York's celebration of the 20th anniversary of the death of the first North American martyr, St. Elizabeth Seton.

## Father Meagher Dies, Pontifical Rites Set

Solemn Pontifical Requiem Mass for the Rev. Edward T. Meagher, pastor and founder of Our Lady of Good Counsel parish, will be offered Friday morning, Nov. 29, by His Excellency, the Most Rev. James E. Keenan, Bishop of Rochester at 10:30 a. m. in Father Meagher's church.

Each came to the pastor at Rochester (The Lady of Good Counsel Church at Monday, Nov. 23, 1942 at St. Mary's Hospital, where Father Meagher died after a brief illness of age 54 years, 1942.

Born Jan. 28, 1888, he was baptized by the late Archbishop John J. Neumann, in his early days before the highest tribunal, ordained in the same year, and was given the Archdiocese of New York.

His first assignment after graduation was as assistant pastor at Church of the Immaculate Conception, Boston, where he went on June 28, 1910. He was named professor of logic and history of philosophy in St. Bernard's Seminary on Sept. 17, 1917 and taught at the Seminary until named pastor of Our Lady of Good Counsel.

## Supreme Court Weighs Pupils' Bus Riding Rights

Washington (NC)—The nation this week awaits a ruling by the United States Supreme Court on the right of public school children to ride transportation facilities provided by the state.

The case involves a statute enacted in 1941 in New Jersey, which already has been upheld in the New Jersey courts. The statute was attacked by a New Jersey taxpayer, Mrs. A. J. Brown, who contends that the law is unconstitutional because it is a violation of the separation of church and state.

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## The Bishop's Appeal

The bishops of the United States have received a most poignant appeal to rush clothing to Europe and the Far East. The National Catholic Welfare Conference has facilities for the immediate transportation and distribution of this clothing under the auspices of the various dioceses in Europe where such help is so badly needed.

May I in the name of Christian Charity, ask you to take a personal part in this collection of a supply of clothing to help alleviate further suffering in these war-stricken areas. There should be a distinct sense of gratification in feeling that the garments you take the trouble to gather together, many of which you do not need yourself, will bring a purvey of thanks and benediction from the lips of some unknown sufferer to whom the comfort of warm clothing will come as a new experience.

The clothing of those in need will be remembered to our credit on the day of judgment. Let us then see Christ, and we should with the eyes of faith, in His needy children, and make this clothing campaign worthy of the best traditions of our parish and our diocese.

With a blessing on your generous efforts on behalf of Christ's needy ones, I am  
Your devoted Shepherd in Christ,  
+ James E. Keenan  
BISHOP OF ROCHESTER

## Bishop Kelleher Of Boston Dies

Boston (NC)—Most Rev. Louis F. Kelleher, Auxiliary Bishop of Boston, died of a heart attack Nov. 26, 1942, in the rectory of St. Catherine of Genoa Church, Somerville, of which he was pastor. His age was 67.

## Jap Envey's Son To Enter Seminary

Tokyo (NC)—A former pupil of Sacred Heart parochial school, Washington, D. C., and St. Ignace, New York City, John Envey, young Japanese lawyer, has sailed for Rome via the United States to study for the priesthood. He is accompanied by two other Japanese seminarians.

## Show Welfare Head

New York (NC)—George W. Shaw, former Assistant Secretary of State, holder of the Lantry Medal for 1945, was elected president of the Welfare Council for the South.

## Flowers For The South

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## ABP STEPHAN REPORTED TAKEN TO PENITENTIARY

Baltimore, September 26 (AP)—Archbishop Stephanos of Baltimore is reported to have been taken to the Federal Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kan., after being arrested by the U. S. Supreme Court in 1942.

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