

# The Clinton Chronicle

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## Lewis Fine Upheld

It was good news to read yesterday that the U. S. circuit court of appeals upheld the \$1,420,000 in fines imposed on that menace, John L. Lewis, and his United Mine Workers for slowness in calling off last year's nationwide strike over miners' pensions. The decision of the three judges was unanimous. This case, the most spectacular yet to arise under the Taft-Hartley act (which should be retained in spite of President Truman) is expected next to go to the supreme court.

It will be recalled that Lewis and his union were convicted for criminal contempt of court, and the decision brushed aside the union's contention that the fines were "excessive." Judge T. Alan Goldsborough was the first judge to put Lewis and his blind followers where they belonged when he "clipped his wings" and handed him the \$1,400,000 fine. The country needs more Goldsboroughs, as it needs more Harry Byrds. The American people will be about unanimous in the hope that the appeal now expected will be upheld and those responsible for the November-December 1946 coal strike will be made to pay every dollar of the fine. Through New Deal pampering Lewis had reached the point where he did as he pleased until he was stopped and made to understand that he could not forever defy the American public. And it is now rumored that this same Lewis intends to order his miners out for two months to use up surplus coal in order to hold the price high. He thinks he is bigger than government and the American people, and for such arrogance the New Deal regime of the past 16 years is largely responsible.

## Another Taxpayers' Bill

The disgraceful (political) filibuster in the state senate over the appointment of a woman to the State Board of Taxation, Commission cost taxpayers \$21,995, after which the buck was passed. The net result of the six-week talkathon was postponement until next January. The Thursday forces claimed a victory due to the fact that the senate agreed to vote on the matter, the governor's opponent claimed a sweeping victory since the commissioner whose term had expired, an Olin Johnston appointee, will continue in office until a successor is confirmed.

Don't lose sight of this fact, taxpayers, the two-weeks political show cost \$2,109.50 a day—and you will pay it.

The governor was perfectly within his right under the law in nominating a woman to office. It was the duty of the senate to reject or confirm her, and all the opposition on the ground that a woman would not be fair to labor was bunk and jabbering. It should be of no concern whether the members of this commission, which receives and is due much criticism, are appointees of Johnston or Thurmond. The thing that does matter is that the commission be efficiently and honestly administered, with less secrecy, and the public informed as to the alleged exorbitant attorney's fees many are receiving in the settlement of cases. Those on the commission should be interested primarily in administering the law impartially, and thinking less about holding their jobs through political connections. And this should be borne in mind—that because the commission has allowed attorneys to charge large fees in compensation cases, compensation insurance rates in South Carolina are unreasonably high—twice as high as in neighboring states.

Miss Clayton, the nominee, a woman of ability and character, most likely would have improved the commission. Those senators who think they have a monopoly on "brain" are under a delusion, and should be removed from public office.

The filibuster was the opening gun of the 1950 U. S. senate race.

## Summer Health Rules

Warning that the 1949 polio season is "just around the corner," the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis has issued a list of precautionary measures to be observed by mothers and others in charge of small children during the epidemic danger period which usually runs from May through October, reaching its peak during the hot, mid-summer months. Laymen know nothing of the dread disease, and medical authorities do not know too much, they are still not certain as to where victims get the virus which causes polio, yet there is

considerable opinion to the effect that children who follow certain health rules are unlikely to be stricken.

The five easy-to-follow health rules for children are:

1. Avoid crowds and places where close contact with other persons is likely.
2. Avoid over-fatigue caused by too active play or exercise, or irregular hours.
3. Avoid swimming in polluted water. Use only beaches or public pools declared safe by local health authorities.
4. Avoid sudden chilling. Remove wet shoes and clothing at once and keep extra blankets and heavier clothing handy for sudden weather changes.
5. Observe the golden rule of personal cleanliness. Keep food tightly covered and safe from flies or other insects. Garbage should be tightly covered and, if other disposal facilities are lacking, should be buried or burned.

The public is warned that if polio is actually diagnosed to contact the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis serving its community. Also as a protection measure the Laurens Kiwanis club, aided by the local Kiwanis club and others, has purchased an iron lung machine which is available at Laurens at all times for free care and treatment to any who may need help.

The safe plan is to try to teach children to be cautious.

## Getting Back to Normal

In an analysis of present business trends in this country, Nation's Business says, "Peaks attained in 1948 are not likely to be duplicated in 1949, but trade and industry have shaken down to more realistic levels. . . . When allowance is made for the normal seasonal dip in February and March, declines in those months are not so extreme as they seemed. . . . It is easy to exaggerate the extent of the decline that has taken place."

What it all adds up to is that the boom has pretty well spent its force, but that nothing which can be called a drastic depression is in view. There has been some decline in employment, due to the abnormal number of people at work and to the elimination of inefficient workers, which is a natural tendency at a time when industry is trying to cut operating costs in order to lower prices. From here on out there will be a higher premium placed upon employee efficiency all along the line. We are going back to aggressive selling which is now necessary, and inefficiency in either manufacturing, selling or employment will be penalized heavily. Proof is found in the fact that the number of business failures is far greater in the country today than it was a year or two ago.

On the consumer side, two important things seem to have happened. Many families which were living beyond current income and were spending war-accumulated savings have been forced to come down to earth. That always happens after a boom. This is reflected in declining prices and sales of luxuries. Then the fact that certain prices have been dropping during recent months has instilled in buyers the belief that still greater price drops are in prospect. So expecting things to get cheaper all along the line now or later, customers are postponing much of their buying.

It must be remembered that the American economy is being supported at a high level by tremendous government spending and extravagance. Many believe that the prosperity we are enjoying is artificial. It is based to a considerable degree on the huge arms budget made necessary by the cold war, by the Marshall Plan spending, by Treasury largess and an expensive bureaucracy in Washington that should be cut to the bone.

In the face of these readjustment conditions with which we are confronted, President Truman and many of his yes-men in Washington still want to give taxpayers a new shot in the arm with more taxes and spending. In a free market our problems will be gradually worked out through the functioning of the powerful forces of supply and demand. Don't let any politician fool you to the contrary.

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## As Washington Sees It . . . THE NATIONAL SCENE

Special to The Chronicle.

Washington, June 8—The economy bloc in congress can point to the action of the house in slashing three-quarters of a billion dollars off the appropriations for over-all foreign aid appropriations including the European recovery program.

This slash, however, works very much like the cuts made in the 80th congress, observers say, when that body sliced millions out of several appropriations, but at the same time granted what they called "contract authority" to spend more, which turned up later in the form of deficiency appropriations.

What the house did with ECA funds was to permit the President, if he deems it necessary, to spend the money in 13 instead of 15 months, so at the end of that time they can come back and get the money for the other two months if they need it. So on the face, it looks like a cut, but actually it's a phony cut, according to the real economists.

Harry E. Humphreys, Jr., president of United States Rubber company, is another business executive who comes forward with the idea that big business must sell itself and the capitalist system to the people to preserve "business freedom and with it, all our liberties." Said Mr. Humphreys:

"The eleventh hour is here for business to speak for itself. Now, and from now on, the men who run American business must devote as much, if not more, time and effort to the public relations of their business as they spend on finance, production and distribution. Unless they do, they will not need to worry about the latter problems. Government will be glad to handle them all."

The lobbyists are striking back. Smarting under the threatened congressional probe of the lobby situation, these various pressure groups are pointing the finger at governmental spending, particularly at a few key agencies. Cited as "brazen"

are the reclamation department of interior and the army engineers. It will be remembered that the chairman of the Hoover commission national resources committee called these two agencies "guilty of brazen and pernicious lobbying to achieve their ends." Other likely targets of the lobbyists, attempting to build a back-fire, likely will be such controversial issues as housing, rent control, health insurance, power and other questions.

It appears more than likely the congress will be able to adjourn by July 31, particularly if the administration follows through with its announced intention of abandoning the civil rights program and stakes its all on three major pieces of legislation, including a new labor law and extension of reciprocal trade agreements. The announcement by Senator Lucas of Illinois, Democratic senatorial leader, of the abandonment of the civil rights program, brought a sharp rejoinder from many liberal leaders and particularly from such organizations as Amer-

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icans for Democratic Action. Joseph L. Rauh, Jr., national chairman of this latter organization, branded the Lucas action as "more than a flag of surrender; it is a flat betrayal of the Democratic party platform."

The Democrats, however, stymied by the coalition of southern Democrats and northern Republicans on civil rights, again will take the question as an issue in the 1950 elections.

The Home Loan Bank board reports that the nation's home loan mortgage debt for non-farm families has reached a new peak of \$33,335,000,000 for 1948 as compared to \$19,208,000,000 in 1945, the last wartime year. The debt is 70 per cent above the pre-depression peak of \$12,500,000,000 in 1930.

But the board points out that this is a healthier debt, in that although it is due somewhat to high real estate prices and a lessened purchas-

ing power of the dollar, it is spread over a longer period, and the pattern is improved since depression days.

The dangerous short-term or straight mortgage, renewable only at a substantial cost and in lump sum payments, has been eliminated. Most loans today are written on a modern, amortized basis calling for regular monthly payments, in many cases including the precaution of advance deposits by borrowers to meet future taxes.

At the same time the bureau of agriculture economists reports that the farm mortgage debts as of January 1, 1949, is estimated as \$5,108,000,000, an increase of more than 226 million dollars or 4.6 per cent over a year earlier and 425 millions over January 1, 1946, when the debt reached a 34-year low.

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