

Business

State Chamber of Commerce Incurring Wrath of Farm Bureau, State Teachers

By ROGER BUDROW

THE INDIANA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE'S participation in a nation-wide campaign to get congress to remove the federal tax exemption of farm co-operatives, which nobody bothered about until high wartime corporation taxes came along, is drawing the fire of the Indiana Farm Bureau.

Referring to a new department the State Chamber of Commerce has created to develop friendly relations with agriculture, I. H. Hull of the Farm Bureau editorialized in the Farm News of Marion County that farmers will have nothing but contempt for overtures when the same organization, with its other hand, attempts to scuttle the farmers' cooperative effort at self-improvement.

Mr. Hull says the "farm people, because of the sinister, unfair attacks, have lost about all confidence in the Chamber of Commerce leaders and objectives. No time should be lost in making other local contacts and setting up some other agency to plan and promote the development of the rural community."

THE TEACHERS also are on the outs with the State Chamber of Commerce, judging from an editorial in the Indiana Teacher, published by the Indiana State Teachers Association.

The national Chamber of Commerce has studied education's relation to the community and decided that good business as well as a sound social structure depend upon the expenditure of sufficient sums of money to support education on a very high plane, the editorial notes.

But "The State Chamber of Commerce, along with the Indianapolis Chamber, in the past four years, has violently fought further extensions of state support for education in Indiana. Such further extensions in many communities meant the life or death of adequate public schools in those places.

The position of the state chamber that the local communities should support local schools completely ignores the fact that concentration of wealth and industry in fewer places has drained away the resources from many others to an extent that makes local support of education impossible. If the State Chamber believes in an equal educational opportunity for children and believes that a higher level of education stimulates higher living standards and greater prosperity, then it is most certainly pursuing a course that leads to a diametrically opposite end."

ODDS AND ENDS: The Lynch Corp. of Anderson, which manufactures glass-making machinery, has bought the Toledo General Manufacturing Co. for \$325,000. . . . Privately bankers will tell you they are afraid the new treasury order requiring them to report "unusual" transactions in big bills will rebound and they'll be blamed when some black market tax cheater is thus caught. . . . Civilians will get a few more cigarettes this month because army-navy orders are smaller, temporarily, manufacturers say.

There are still 2500 new autos left in the national stockpile. . . . The army figures it will spend \$535,000 this year on each G. I. recruit in U. S. 15 per cent more than last year; that includes food, clothing and individual equipment, but not weapons, ammunition, transportation, shelter nor pay. . . . More than 26 million people now have hospitalization insurance, three times the 1940 number, and one out of 10 was hospitalized last year.

Former Local Man Promoted

John G. Wood, a native of Indianapolis, has been appointed chief engineer of the Chevrolet motor division of General Motors Corp., succeeding J. M. Crawford who has joined the engineering staff of General Motors Vice President C. L. McEuen.

Mr. Wood, who attended public schools here and the Indianapolis Academy, Leland Stanford and Purdue universities, began his career as a draftsman for the National Motor Vehicle Co. here. From 1908 to 1913 he was engineer for the Empire Motor Co. and the Indiana Die Casting Co. He then joined the Remy Electric Co. at Anderson and worked for Oldsmobile before joining Chevrolet in 1933.

ASKS SCRAPPING OF OBSOLETE PLANES

NEW YORK, June 4 (U. P.)—The Aeronautical Chamber of Commerce is urging that all unusable, obsolete and surplus military aircraft equipment be scrapped to save vast sums of taxpayers' money.

A chamber report, issued by H. M. Horner, United Aircraft Corp. president, warned that unless unusable surplus equipment—engines, propellers and components—is promptly disposed of, storage charges, which must come from current appropriations, will soon exceed the net worth of the obsolete material.

WFA TO LOAN ON WHEAT

WASHINGTON, June 4 (U. P.)—The war food administration has announced that a loan program for the war food administration has been offered to farmers on 1945 crop wheat at a national average of \$1.38 a bushel compared with the average of \$1.35 a bushel for 1944 wheat.

HARD COAL HAS 'FOOT IN GRAVE'

Strikes Are Latest Blow to Pennsylvania Mines.

By DALE McFEATERS

Script-Howard Staff Writer

PITTSBURGH, June 4—Pennsylvania's hard-coal industry, which had one foot in the grave before the war, is doing its best to get the other foot in.

The industry has been ailing for 28 years. The hard coal region of eastern Pennsylvania is the only area in the state—and possibly the country—that has been in an almost continuous state of depression since world war I.

After an outbreak of bootleg mining that received national notoriety in the '30s, the industry appeared ready to die. Then the war gave it a transusion in the form of shortages of fuel oil and gas.

But the latest of a series of wartime strikes has shaken the confidence of warborn customers. A 20-day walkout has caused a loss of almost four million tons—enough to heat 24,000 homes next winter.

Strikes Disrupt Markets

The industry's markets were disrupted by wildcat strikes last year and by four general walkouts in 1943.

The only solution Governor George H. Earle could find when his administration wrestled with the problem was to have the federal government buy Pennsylvania's hard coal lands and operate them. A commission set up in 1935 agreed that either the state or national government would have to take the reduction effective.

Another commission, formed by President Roosevelt, recommended in 1942 that new war industries be brought into the anthracite region and made to use hard coal for power. Legalized Bootlegging

Bootlegging of coal by miners who sank small, unauthorized shafts was a problem within a problem. The only solution offered was a suggestion to legalize the bootlegging. This was done in 1941.

In the late 1930s men laid off by mining companies returned to the properties, dug holes and began peddling coal wherever they could. Thus began one of the most fantastic chapters in American industrial history.

Bootlegging developed into a 35-million-dollar a year extra-legal industry employing 20,000 men. At one time 1000 trucks operated from the bootleg fields in Schuylkill and Northumberland counties. They shipped bootleg coal to Philadelphia, New York, Trenton, Baltimore and Washington.

Could Have Come Back

The bootleggers said they wouldn't stop until the companies opened the mines and gave them jobs. The operators insisted the bootleggers be cleared from their subject.

On Feb. 7, 1941, Governor Arthur H. James signed a bill legalizing bootlegging. It required the independent miners to pay a royalty to owners of the land, and it allowed legitimate producers to buy the output of bootleggers.

Then the war gave anthracite a chance to come back. But in September, 1941, the miners went on strike. It was a strike against the United Mine Workers union's special 50-cent assessment. A whole series of strikes followed.

7. REPUBLICANS 'TOO POLITICAL' FOR C.I.O.

The Indiana C. I. O. council has telephoned Indiana representatives in Congress. Forest A. Harness, Robert A. Grant, Charles A. Halleck, George W. Gillett, Raymond Spring, Noble J. Johnson and Earl Wilson, all Republicans, that it believed politics had so influenced their judgment of the OPA that it would be a waste of time and money to discuss the subject.

"We have discouraged these delegations," the telegram continued. "We wish it known, however, that C. I. O. in your district supports the extension of the price control act with the funds to do an adequate enforcement job. Your record on this matter will be observed and publicized."

NEW CASTLE RUBBER WORKERS GET RAISE

CHICAGO, June 4 (U. P.)—Edgar L. Warren, regional war labor board chairman, has announced the national WLB had affirmed a regional order granting a 3-cent hourly general wage increase to 1030 day workers at the Firestone Industrial Products Co., New Castle, Ind.

Fight Brews Over Putting Cocktail Bars in Airliners

WASHINGTON, June 4 (U. P.)—Battle lines were forming today over a proposal to install cocktail bars in post-war luxury airliners.

As one airline official expressed it, a controversy is "brewing in the wind."

All domestic airlines have shown interest in the proposal but there is some doubt that public opinion aboard planes has been a custom.

Europe for several years and proponents in this country feel that Americans should be accorded this same privilege.

Senator Edward V. Robertson (D. Wyo.) is spearheading a drive to block the "cocktails in the air" idea. He already has introduced a bill to prevent the sale of alcohol on domestic airlines.

"I am not a prohibitionist by any means," he said, "but I think it would be a most dangerous thing to serve liquor on planes. An unruly drunk can be checked when he is riding a train or bus, but obviously he cannot be thrown out when he is aboard a plane."

He pointed out that the passenger opinion is divided with a slight majority preferring that post-war

take two or three at sea-level without any ill effects "might become giddy on 7000 or 8000 feet this difficulty."

Proponents counter that pressurized cabins of the post-war luxury liners would overcome this difficulty.

There are no plans to install bars on planes now in service. They already are overcrowded and would have to lower their pay load to take care of the added weight.

Public opinion probably will decide whether the luxury liners are planned for the post-war era will serve drinks. American and United Airlines have found in an initial survey that potential pas-

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A man who can war planes remain dry.

U. S. SPENDING TO TAPER OFF

Truman and Congress Agree On Reductions.

WASHINGTON, June 4 (U. P.)—Believe it or not, the U. S. government today was within sight of beginning to taper off the biggest spending spree in history.

War spending in May still was the second highest on record—exceeding \$8,000,000,000. But the outlook is better with the change to a one-front war.

This is the last month of the 1945 fiscal year. By July 1 the government will have spent nearly \$100,000,000 in 12 months. It will have gone more than \$50,000,000 further into the red in the same period.

When the new fiscal year begins at midnight next June 30 the national debt will be so big as to be almost incomprehensible. The figure will be approximately \$240,000,000,000.

Inherited From Hoover

If you subtract a matter of \$16,000,000,000 or so from the national debt figure you will have the sum of money which the government has had to borrow in the past 14 years.

That would represent the extent to which the government has lived beyond its means since the first depression deficit in the latter part of Herbert Hoover's administration.

The \$16,000,000,000 was a holdover from World War I.

When the late Franklin D. Roosevelt took over in 1933 he announced an economy program which lasted less than four months. During his first few years in office Mr. Roosevelt talked confidently of balancing the budget—but always scheduled that painful operation for some future time. His administration operated on deficit from March 4, 1933, when he took office until April 12, 1945, when he died in his fourth term.

Began Right Away

President Harry S. Truman has the job of trying to get the treasury out of the red. He began in his first month as President with a request for a cut of approximately \$4,000,000,000 in projected merchant shipbuilding expenditures. Congress was enthusiastic and has actually enacted legislation making the reduction effective.

Another commission, formed by President Roosevelt, recommended in 1942 that new war industries be brought into the anthracite region and made to use hard coal for power.

After Mr. Truman's recommendation to prevent the expenditure of funds already appropriated, Congress is undertaking to reduce sums proposed for appropriation in the next fiscal year. The house appropriations committee last week whacked nearly \$112,000,000 from an appropriation bill to supply 19 war agencies. The cost still is large, \$770,000,000.

But in recommending the appropriations to the house the committee warned all concerned that there would be greater cuts next year and ultimate abolition of the various war debts at the earliest possible moment.

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