

# The Indianapolis Times

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*Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way*

## No Showdown Abroad Till We Have One at Home

ONCE again John L. Lewis is forcing the issue. Some time—and this seems to be it—our country must determine whether he is bigger than the government.

Coal is the most fundamental raw material. Our whole business system, our jobs and our national safety depend on it.

Coal has fallen under a one-man monopoly. Mr. Lewis alone can say whether we shall have it, and under what conditions and at what price.

He has shown, time and again during both war and peace, that he intends to use his monopoly as he alone sees fit. He places his own will above public health and safety, and above national security. He has brow-beaten and humiliated this nation over and over again, and made it bow to his dictates.

Now, in a time of crisis, Mr. Lewis is again acting as a one-man supreme court to overrule Congress and the President.

It is a strange thing that the best example of how bad monopoly can be, should be furnished by a union leader. For nobody has been so loud in warning against monopolies, and in insisting on ever stronger laws to prevent them, as have the unions.

But the anti-trust laws do not apply to unions. It was never suspected when they passed that the perfect flowering of monopoly would come through a union.

Under that exemption Mr. Lewis has gained absolute control over the labor of 400,000 coal miners—virtually all the coal diggers in the United States. He runs them through a union from which democracy long ago vanished. The United Mine Workers makes some pretenses of self-rule—actually Lewis decides everything of importance.

Not that the miners are unwilling captives. They follow him with fanatical loyalty. He has taught them to believe that he alone stands between them and persecution and abuse. So he need only nod and they follow blindly.

There may have been no outright violation of the labor law in the strike which followed his latest nod. There probably was no violation of contract. For only a year ago he forced on the U. S. Steel Corp. and the Pittsburgh Consolidation Coal Co.—and through them on the entire coal industry—a contract which said that miners need work only when “able and willing.”

It was worse than no contract. It completed his monopoly. It placed all American industry at his mercy.

WHAT, THEN, can America do? We shall soon see. This government, says the Constitution, was formed to “establish justice, insure domestic tranquillity, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare.”

Mr. Lewis imperils them all. We do not profess to know his reasons. Sometimes he seems to be suffering from the egomaniac that comes to men who rise to positions of vast power. Sometimes he seems to be suffering from a persecution complex, as indicated in Monday’s statement that one member of the President’s fact-finding board had sought to “harass and persecute his union and this writer.”

Whatever the basis of his astounding arrogance, it challenges the authority and power of our government. It is clear there must be a showdown in the strange case of Mr. Lewis now. We cannot risk any showdown abroad till that one is finished.

## Baruch’s Economic Mobilization

BERNARD M. BARUCH proposes a broader-based defense program. In his recent testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee he supported the Truman request for prompt enactment of Universal Military Training and the draft. But he would add an industrial and economic mobilization law for quick use when needed.

We agree. Military security without economic preparedness is a delusion. Moreover, the draft and rearmament if piled on top of the heavy foreign-aid load could create disastrous inflationary strains here unless effective controls were available.

The chaos and waste were bad enough when we were caught without economic preparedness by World War II. But it would be far worse now. Then there were idle plants and men to carry part of the extra load, while now there is none.

As Mr. Baruch points out: “Were war to burst upon us, the civilian economy would have to be drastically curtailed. There is no slack today in materials, factories, food, labor, prices, in anything. Unless the government were able to act quickly, with full mobilization powers, the confusion and inflationary havoc of sudden and full rearmament would be ghastly.”

This industrial mobilization system would include priority, allocation and rationing powers, taxation to take profits out of war, stockpiling of strategic materials, labor and professional pools, standby war plants, decentralization of factories, constant current surveys and balance sheets of economic assets and commitments, and ceilings over wages as well as rents and prices to prevent inflation.

Of course there will be objections from pressure groups. Business does not like ceilings on profits, farmers don’t want them on prices and labor fears control of jobs and wages. Some protest that these controls would violate our free-enterprise system and introduce police state methods. Mr. Baruch says: “Such people value freedom low indeed to be unwilling to accept the temporary restraints and disciplines necessary to preserve freedom in these critical times.”

There is not much doubt that we shall have this industrial mobilization and more, if war comes. The question is whether we prepare the plans now, while there is time.

Preparedness now not only can save us later waste, inefficiency and possible defeat, it may save us from war. Stalin will be less inclined to war if our vastly superior strength is organized.

## In Tune With the Times

### DEEP IN THE NIGHT

Deep in the night—somewhere—alone  
My hands are reaching for your own;  
And, though, I cannot find them there,  
For which I have searched—searched every-  
where,  
I seem to feel their gentle touch.

And in each sigh, each spoken word  
I heard your voice and yet unheard,  
I feel it in my heart, my soul  
Like billows on the sea that roll  
Against the crags and then to death.

I hear it in each trembling breath  
The warm, soft winds may whisper—oh,  
My dearest, I have loved you so;  
And, yet, I will find thee, I know  
Somehow—somewhere—deep in the night.

—MARVIN THEODORE JOLLY.

When you finish paying the grocer, butcher,  
or milkman and the rent, you understand  
why “you can’t take it with you.”

♦ ♦ ♦

### WHEN A LADY BUYS A HAT

When a lady buys a hat,  
She doesn’t want this,  
Or she doesn’t want that,  
She claims she wants one  
with a big red feather  
But when this is shown to her,  
She doesn’t know whether  
She wants a black one,  
Or a white one  
And, Oh, what fun  
I have watching.  
When a lady buys a hat.

—JACQUELINE KNOX.

When a cook applies for a job and finds  
they’ve just hired one, the thing to do is call  
again the next day.

♦ ♦ ♦

### EGALITE

Love,  
Thou art Mona Lisa  
Reincarnate;  
Love,  
Thou art Troy’s own Helen,  
So epicurean;  
Love,  
Cleopatra’s artistry  
Dwarfs beside thee;

Love,  
If you were none of these—  
Still I would adore thee.

—DR. H. LATELLE GREGORY.

Some of the new women’s shoes are more  
pointed. Too bad for husbands who play  
bridge.

♦ ♦ ♦

### AMITY

There is one cherished flower  
In my garden of friends,  
As its fragrance is scattered  
It all subtly blends.

Into thoughts that are priceless  
Bathed in memory’s dew,  
It was planted and cared for  
In my garden . . . by you!

—ANNA E. YOUNG.

It’s hard to look prosperous without a  
good job, and harder to get a good job unless  
you look prosperous.

♦ ♦ ♦

### MEALTIME

My infant has the most  
Extraordinary taste,  
He muddles ordinary food  
Into quite a ragout paste.

Spinach and his carrots  
Are a combination new;  
He prefers vegetables mixed  
In his own kind of stew.

To measure up to demands  
Is really quite a feat;  
Like diners out in public  
I entertain as he eats.

—MARCELLINE BRUCKER.

In these trailer days how can you expect a  
lost child to know where his home is?

♦ ♦ ♦

### FOSTER’S FOLLIES

(NEWARK, N. J.—Tax Consultant Held as  
Evader.)

This news might have saved us worry,  
Made our life much more sublime,  
But we never saw the story  
Till beyond tax-filing time.

For ‘tis said that this man’s system  
Was much simpler than you think,  
All the tax collectors missed him—  
He used disappearing ink.

### I WASHINGTON . . . By Peter Edson

## Survey Gives Fingertip Picture of Business

WASHINGTON, Mar. 31—A quick picture of U. S. business conditions is revealed in a new series of some 30 charts and supporting statistical tables prepared by the President’s Council of Economic Advisors. First of the series, ready Apr. 1, will be issued under the title, “Economic Indicators.”

It has a strictly limited circulation. Only 100 copies of the first issue are being printed. Copy number one will go to the President’s desk.

The Council’s intention is to revise the charts monthly. In January and June the charts will be issued as part of the President’s semi-annual report on economic conditions. The other 10 months of the year, “Economic Indicators” will be issued separately.

### Indicates Still Expanding Economy

WHAT THE FIRST set of charts reveals factually is a still expanding economy. Consumer prices—the cost of living index—are still going up. Wholesale prices leveled off in February.

Personal income of individuals is approaching an all-time high of over \$210 billion. Installment buying, charge accounts and other consumer credits have risen above \$13 billion. This is 50 per cent above a year ago, a third greater than prewar.

Industrial production has been rising since January, 1947, to an index number above 190, as compared with 100 in 1939 and 247 in November, 1943.

Other charts cover production in various industries, expenditures for new plants and equipment, strikes and lockouts, bank deposits, purchasing power, corporate profits, consumer income and spending, savings, average earnings, stock prices, cash farm income, prices received and paid by farmers and the parity ratio.

### Not the Most Exclusive

IN SPITE of the limited edition, this is not the most exclusive of the government’s publications. That honor is reserved for a series of hand-made colored charts called “The Budget in Operation.” Only six copies of this work are in existence.

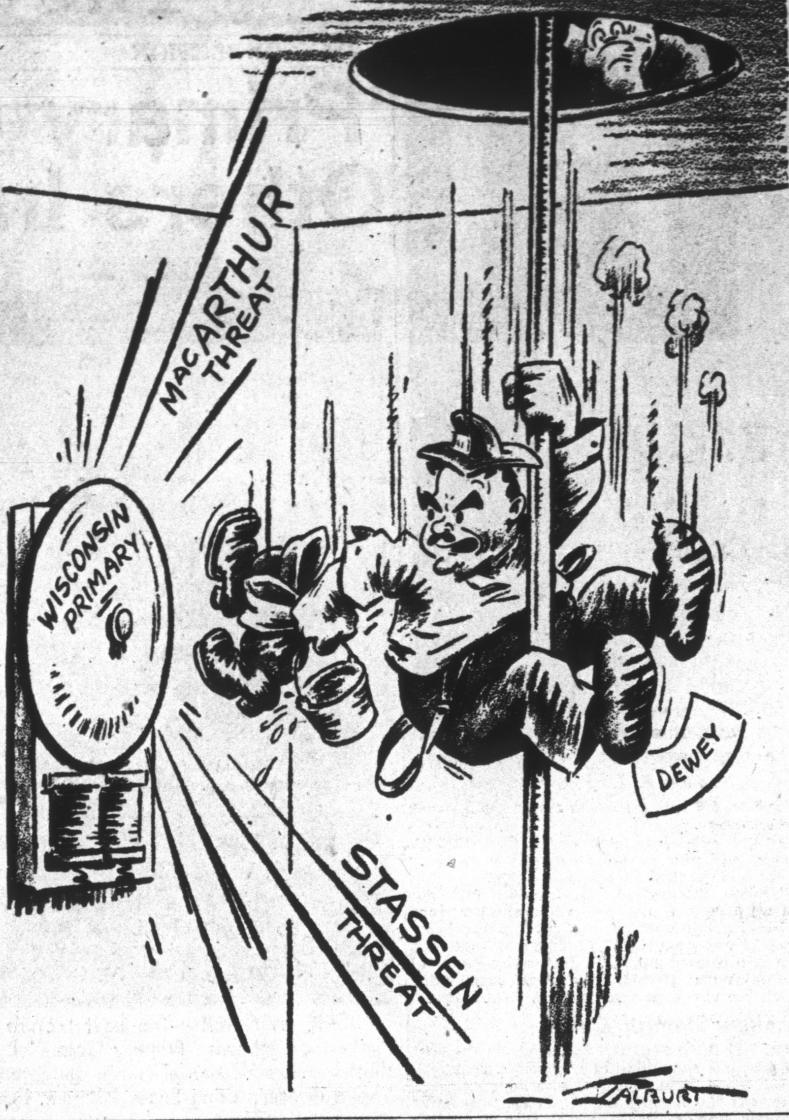
The President keeps copy number one in his top desk drawer. Other copies are held by Budget Director James E. Webb, Council of Economic Advisors Chairman Edwin G. Nourse, Treasury Secretary Snyder, Acting Chairman Mariner S. Eccles of Federal Reserve Board.

The sixth copy is a “floater.” Charts in the book are revised monthly. While one copy is being brought up to date the floater is substituted so no holder will ever be without his book.

When Council of Economic Advisors was created year and a half ago, it found a need for condensing the important figures from the mountains and mazes of government statistics. In the President’s January and June Economic Reports to Congress a number of supporting tables were included.

The trouble was that these data were made available only twice a year. The need was for quick monthly summaries. Out of this grew the idea for the “Economic Indicators” series.

## Two-Alarm Fire



NATIONAL AFFAIRS . . . By Marquis Childs

## TVA Again Becomes Political Goat

WASHINGTON, Mar. 31—This is the beginning of the season of political conversion. You hear the most surprising things from the most surprising people.

Take Sen. Tom Stewart of Tennessee, for example. The Senator has come out in favor of the Tennessee Valley Authority. What makes this so remarkable is that for years Sen. Stewart has followed the lead of his colleague from Tennessee, Sen. Kenneth McKellar, who devotes what little energy he has left at the age of 79 to carrying on his long campaign of sniping and sabotage against one of the most successful institutions of government.

There is a reason for Sen. Stewart’s conversion. He is up for re-election this year and it seems likely that he will be defeated. Ed Crump of Memphis, who is perhaps the most ruthless political boss in America today, decided to abandon Sen. Stewart because he had lost his vote-getting appeal. “Boss” Crump tapped a new man—Judge John Mitchell—to be the beneficiary of the Crump vote. Sen. Stewart figured he had nothing to lose and a lot to gain in coming out for TVA.

Fortunately for the voters of Tennessee, however, a vigorous younger candidate is also in the race this time. Rep. Estes Kefauver has consistently upheld the independence and integrity of the agency that has meant so much to the valley of the Tennessee. He is now conducting the kind of intensive crossroads, country-store campaign that sometimes prevails over the forces of reaction and boshism.

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These are demonstrable facts. Yet the politicians, goaded by reactionaries, chip away at the base of this monumental achievement.

The other day Presidential Candidate Harold Stassen fell compelled, in the course of seeking Nebraska’s primary vote, to throw off the TVA idea and oppose a Missouri Valley Authority.

He warned against the dangers of federal control.

In so doing he ignored another of TVA’s achievements. That is to put control in an autonomous board situated in the region and tied directly into the interests of the region.

Sen. McKellar would tie the agency with red tape to bureaucratic Washington and the Congress. What is astonishing is that the Republican majority sanctions this effort.

These are facts even in a political year. TVA deserves something better than this unending campaign of harassment.

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