

## White House Cool to Schricker's Plea for Action

(Continued From Page One) suspicion that it was more political than economics which inspired it.

### Given to Steelman

The message from the Indiana Governor was turned over to Dr. John Steelman, assistant to the President. He commented that he didn't know if President Truman would care to answer it or not.

"The President usually doesn't answer such messages when they are given out to the press and public before they are received here," Dr. Steelman said.

"I know Gov. Schricker is usually in a hurry. Right now his labor commissioner, Tom Huston, has a long distance call in here from Indianapolis for me. So I guess what we say in that call will cover the matter, whenever I get time to phone him back."

The "politics" involved would be the pressures being brought to have the President act under the Taft-Hartley law and thus give supporters of the law a new chance to exert its supremacy.

President Truman, who wants the law repealed, has used it in

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## CIO Expects Steel To Line Up Fast

(Continued From Page One) previous strikes. So far, however, he has sought to avoid invoking it, in the steel and coal controversies.

### Week's Supply

Indianapolis' General Hospital had a week's supply of coal in stock, was receiving additional supplies from the Morgan mine near Attica. Most other city buildings were on steam heat, supplied by Indianapolis Power & Light Co., which reported it had supplies to operate for about 60 days.

The four Marion County institutions, Julietta, Sunnyside, the Juvenile Center and the Guardian's Home, had a three-week supply of coal according to maintenance superintendent Clifford E. Kean.

The city of Alexandria provided cheering news when it set up rationing of coal to its citizens and found it was better off than it had thought. There were no coal emergency calls on the first day of rationing.

Columbus' municipal water works averted threat of shutdown within 24 hours by borrowing a month's supply from a tannery.

### "Bottom of Barrel"

Meanwhile, coal dealers were looking at the bottom of the barrel.

All but the big yards were filled with lump and egg for furnaces. But most dealers had coke at \$17.75 a ton. Others were mixing screenings with lump and egg to make "mine run" stretching supply.

Stephen Weber, executive secretary of the Indiana Coal Merchants Association, reported that in Wabash and Goshen dealers were selling wood to heat homes. "At Goshen," he said, "one company is cutting a stand of wood to keep customers warm."

### Trucking From Mine

Dealers in Vincennes and Brazil were reported trucking coal direct from piles at the mines.

But most of the little dealers in Central Indiana were nipping hard at the city's coal supply, bringing trucks and signed checks to the big yards.

By today dealers who have been rationing customers to one or two tons were tightening up. Borrowing between dealers had practically disappeared.

There was a little slack around with few takers. It was hard to burn. And consumers were afraid coke would not burn in their furnaces.

### Shy at Coke

Coke seemed to be the answer. Dealers were telling customers, "If I were cold, I'd burn something in the furnace." But buyers shied away. They weren't that bad off yet.

If the coal situation gets down to wearing overcoats in the house, there may be a "run" on electrical heating equipment. The four big power companies serving the state looked ahead to end to 57 days of power production.

But the little municipalities were hard hit. They went into the coal strike with lean inventories and their yards were getting empty. The Southern Indiana Gas & Electric Co. at Evansville was helping out three power plants at Tell City, Boonville and Rockport.

But the picture at large was getting darker by the hour, and dealers were beginning to recommend lower household temperatures, 60 to 65 degrees.

The word to home coal users was "save it or suffer."

### Little Towns Suffer

Little towns were hardest hit. Dealers bringing trucks to Indianapolis for "ton or two," but they are getting little help. Reported out of coal: Zionsville, Noblesville, Danville, Coatesville, Lebanon, Delphi, Linton, Pittsboro, Brownsville, Plainfield, Clayton and Mooresville. They are being offered coke. Some take it.

From Greencastle Mayor Harold Stewart reported more than 300 families without coal. The high school there had only a three-day supply. The mayor, himself, had to borrow coal from neighbors. He said if the situation became worse it might become necessary for the city to confiscate DePauw University's supply to pass out among desperate families.

On the power front, the four companies serving most of Indiana have from 52 to 57 days supply of coal. Indianapolis Power & Light Co. has 57 days, with 165,000 customers in Marion County. Public Service Co. of

## Lewis to Seek Indiana Pact

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Lewis did not care to go further with the state's idea of having operators turn mines over to the state voluntarily with the state calling on the UMW for miners.

Mr. Lewis told Gov. Schricker that steel plants and other manufacturing units are "hoarding" 1 million tons more than they need of high grade coal in Indiana.

He said Gov. Schricker's emergency state coal committee should

arrange to distribute that "hoarded and excess fuel" to tide over the emergency.

In his telegram yesterday Gov. Schricker said a meeting of public officials and representative citizens found that public utilities, hospitals and many schools will be forced to suspend operations unless dwindling stock piles are replenished.

**Untold Suffering**

"This will result in untold suffering and hardships for all of our people," Gov. Schricker wired the unions' chief.

"It was agreed that I should appeal to you for an immediate settlement of the controversy between the operators and miners in order that this tragedy and suffering might be averted.

"Your co-operation to this end is the only effective answer to our needs."

Government experts hoped Mr. Lewis' call for the Chicago meeting of his policy committee foreshadowed an early break in the strike.

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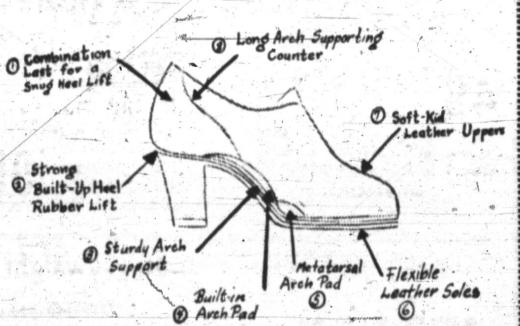
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