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SEVENTY-SIXTH YEAR

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SEVENTY-SIXTH YEAR

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Speech Made in the Senate By Senator Harry F. Byrd

The use of military forces to seize the retail stores of Montgomery-Ward and Company and forcibly eject their chairman will cause grave concern to millions of Americans. It has ominous implications which should receive a very quickened public interest, even at this time when the attention of the country is overwhelmingly concerned with our military operations abroad.

The Attorney General of the United States flew to Chicago to assume personal command of the armed forces, which he utilized to enforce his demands upon the business operations of Montgomery-Ward and Company. He personally directed the soldiers to enter the office of the chairman and to remove the person of the 69-year-old chairman from his own office by physical force. He then directed the soldiers to seize all the books and other property of Montgomery-Ward, using the military forces of the United States Government, if such need was necessary.

For the first time in the history of our country we witnessed the spectacle of the Attorney General of the United States, acting as a generalissimo in personal charge of military forces to seize a non-war business operation.

The Montgomery-Ward organization is engaged in the operation of retail stores. It is not a war industry. It does not come within the purview of the only law (Smith-Connally Act) passed by Congress authorizing the seizure of any "plant, mine, or facility," for the "manufacture or production of any article," necessary for the war.

If Mr. Biddle can use the armed forces to seize the non-war business of Montgomery-Ward without the approval of either Congress or the Courts, he can seize any plant or business operation, using the same military power whenever such person or a business does something to displease him, or does not immediately obey a directive of one of the numerous bureaus of the Federal Government.

Have we reached a state in this country that the directives of a Federal bureau can be enforced at the point of the bayonet? If the directives of the War Labor Board can be so enforced on a non-war business operation, then so can the directives issued by the Office of Price Administration, the War Production Board, and the dozens of other government agencies, with the result that the constitutional rights of the citizens of America will be denied to them of adjudication of their rights in the proper court of law.

In this instance, Mr. Biddle assumed the position of both the judge and the prosecutor. Are we coming to a Gestapo in this country? Does Francis Biddle cherish the ambition to be an American Himmler?

Our boys enlisted and were drafted to fight the Japs and the Germans. They did not enlist to enter the offices of business men throughout the country and drag these men from their businesses by physical force and thus violate the very principles of freedom at home for which our sons are fighting and dying abroad to preserve.

The American people are shocked by this unwarranted use of military power.

I do not at this time attempt to reach a decision in the controversy between the management of Montgomery-Ward and the War Labor Board, but these facts are clear to me:

Montgomery-Ward is engaged in a non-war business operation. It is true that it furnishes through its mail order department and retail stores farming implements and other things that have a connection with the successful prosecution of the war, but in answer to this Mr. Sewell Avery says that, notwithstanding the strike and the removal on April 13 of the Post Office employees from the mail order house of Montgomery-Ward, where they had been stationed for 30 years, the company is up to date in the filling of all mail orders.

If Montgomery-Ward is engaged in a war business, then a vast majority of all the business in America is likewise so engaged, as hardly any business does not have some contact in one way or another with the operation of the war.



HARRY FLOOD BYRD

No imperative need has so far been shown for such extraordinary action as that taken by the Attorney General of the United States in using military forces to seize a business operation which can very properly be classed as non-war, and in which there has been little loss, if any, of equipment necessary to prosecute the war. What reason, then, actuated the Attorney General of the United States in leaving his duties in Washington and going personally to Chicago in a spectacular air trip to take charge of the military forces that ejected the chairman of the board of Montgomery-Ward? What reason had he to refuse to refer this case to the arbitration of the courts so that under our constitutional procedure it could be determined whether the War Labor Board was right or Montgomery-Ward was right?

If he succeeds in this usurping the power of both Congress and the Courts, will he then use the military forces to compel compliance with all of the directives of the various other bureaus of the government?

Today the American people are in the hands of a centralized and entrenched bureaucracy such as America has never before known. It is imperative, so as to preserve our freedoms, that we safeguard the rights of the individual citizens to appeal to the courts and require that differences that may occur between the citizens and any bureau of the government shall not be settled by military force but be determined by the Congress and the courts.

It is very pertinent in this connection to contrast the action of the Attorney General in taking personal command of troops of the United States in order to eject the Chairman of the Board of Montgomery-Ward from his office and to take possession of all its properties, books and equipment, with the attitude of the President of the United States, the Attorney General and all branches of the Government toward the most arrogant labor leader America ever produced—John L. Lewis—who three times successfully defied his Government in time of war.

Generalissimo Biddle did not lead an invading Army into the office of John Lewis. In fact, so far as I have observed, not one word of condemnation has been uttered by him of the fact that John Lewis instituted strikes, which occasioned the loss of more than 40 million tons of the production of coal, which is the most basic industry of all in producing military equipment. Neither has the President at any time condemned John Lewis by name. To the contrary, although John Lewis, in the time of the most desperate peril that has ever faced our country, deliberately incited the coal miners to strike and cease producing coal. Not only was he not even verbally reprimanded; not only was he not prosecuted, but he was rewarded by having the Government surrender to him in his demands. I expect later to show on the floor of the Senate that both directly and by subterfuge John Lewis obtained more for the members of his union than he actually first requested and did it because the Administration, from the President down, did not have the political courage to do those things that could have been done to compel the continuation of coal production.

On February 11, 1944, I wrote to Mr. Biddle, asking him this question:

"The Honorable Francis Biddle, the Attorney General of the United States

THE HOUNDS OF SPRING



LIEUT. BRADFORD PROMOTED

Announcement is made of the promotion of Archie L. Bradford, 24, son of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Bradford, Manassas, Virginia, to 2nd Lieutenant to First Lieutenant. Lieutenant Bradford has served the Armed Forces for three and a half years and for the past seven months has been on duty in India with the Tenth Air Force.

He has had 355 combat hours amassed in 39 missions over Jap-held Burma and adjacent territories.

Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Attorney General: The Smith-Connally War Labor Disputes Act provides that:

"It shall be unlawful for any person to coerce, instigate, induce, conspire with, or encourage any person, to interfere, by lock-out strikes, slow-down, or other interruption, with the operation of such plant, mine or facility" seized by the government. Such a person is subject, under the Smith-Connally Act, to a "fine of not more than \$5,000, or to imprisonment for not more than one year, or both"

On November 1, 1943, at 6 o'clock, the government seized the bituminous coal mines, yet the strike continued for some days thereafter.

Was an investigation made by the Department of Justice or by any branch of the government, to your knowledge, to determine whether or not John L. Lewis was guilty of encouraging or instigating this 'strike, slow-down or interruption' of work in the mines seized by the government? Was a decision made by the Department of Justice that John Lewis was innocent of a violation of the Smith-Connally Act?

He replied on March 9th, as follows:

"The Federal Bureau of Investigation has discovered no evidence which indicates that Mr. John L. Lewis, or any of the other international officers of the United Mine Workers, has violated Section 6 of the War Labor Disputes Act."

Mr. Biddle evaded my question as to whether or not the Department of Justice had conducted an investigation to determine whether John Lewis was innocent of the violation of the Smith-Connally Act, and his reply is so worded as to indicate that an investigation was not made by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

I will have more to say about this, Mr. President, on the floor of the Senate in the next few days but I do want to emphasize this: that the action taken by the Attorney General in using military forces in this instance presents to the Congress a fundamental question which we must meet face to face—

If Congress permits any official of this Government to disregard the courts and to use military force to compel acquiescence in the directives of various bureaus, then we have failed to perform our oath to preserve the Constitution of our country.

I am offering, therefore, Mr. President, a resolution requesting that this entire matter be promptly investigated by the Committee of the Judiciary.

PLEASE NOTICE CHANGE

Red Cross Rooms will be open for surgical dressings Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9 a. m. to 1 p. m. No afternoon hours during summer months.

BUFFET SUPPER FOR BRIDES

Mrs. Richard C. Haydon, in honor of this year's brides of the Junior Woman's Club, gave a lovely buffet supper on April 13, at 6:30 p. m.

The cutting of the cake was started by the year's oldest bride, Mrs. William Truslow. The lovely centerpiece was white snapdragons and the table was beautifully done in keeping with the event.

Her regular monthly club meeting followed and the election of new officers as follows:

President, Mrs. Helen Smith; vice president, Mrs. Jane Roseberry; secretary, Mrs. Dorothy Trusler; treasurer, Mrs. June Wilkins.

The outgoing officers and committees who have served faithfully have completed a successful term.

FARM AND HOME NEWS

By NELL GRIM
Home Demonstration Agent

More Ice Cream

The American appetite for ice cream and other frozen desserts is due for extra satisfaction shortly. The War Food Administration reports that more ice cream, and possibly richer ice cream, and more milk sherbet will be coming to market in May and June. About 15 million more gallons of these frozen dairy foods will be manufactured at this season than were originally anticipated. Milk quotas for ice cream manufacturers have been upped to make use of all the extra milk which cannot be used for milk powder, evaporated milk or other dairy products needed directly for the war effort because of manpower shortages and in some sections also because of shortages of processing equipment.

Arithmetic Aid For Home Canners

"How many jars of food may I expect to can from a fruit or vegetable as bought or picked?" That's the home canner's own arithmetic problem. By figuring answers beforehand, she can better plan her work. She can judge how many jars and other supplies to have at hand. Also, she may avoid the dilemma of bringing into the kitchen more fresh food than she can use in one canning session.

To help homemakers figure approximate yields of canned food from fresh, the U. S. Department of Agriculture offers the table below, with the reminder that legal weight of a bushel varies in different States and that weights given here are average.

Apples—1 bu. (48 lb.) yields 16 to 20 qt., 2 1/2 to 3 lb. yield 1 qt.

Beans, lima, in pods—1 bu. (52 lb.) yields 6 to 8 qt., 4 to 5 lb. yield 1 qt.

Beans, snap—1 bu. (30 lb.) yields 15 to 20 qt., 1 1/2 to 2 lb. yield 1 qt.

JENNIE C. ROBSON

On Friday, April 28, 1944, at her residence, Manassas, Va., Jennie C. Robson, nee of Huntington, W. Va., beloved widow of the late Houghton A. Robinson. She also is survived by one daughter, Mrs. C. Paul Nelson; three sisters, Mrs. A. W. Soderburg, Mrs. E. S. Wright and Mrs. R. C. Davis, all of Pittsburgh, Pa.; three brothers, D. W. Shoemaker of Los Angeles, Calif.; O. H. Shoemaker of Great Falls, Oreg.; and B. L. Shoemaker of Coonauat, Pa.; four grandchildren, Mrs. Taylor Vinson of Huntington, W. Va.; Lt. E. R. Nelson, M. D., prisoner in the Philippines; Mrs. C. F. McQuire, Jr., of Washington, D. C., and Capt. J. H. Nelson, now serving in India, and seven great-grandchildren. Funeral services on Monday, May 1, at her late residence, Manassas, Va., at 2 p. m., conducted by Dr. E. B. Willingham, pastor of Fifth Ave. Baptist Church, Huntington, W. Va. Interment Manassas Cemetery. Services by the Hall funeral home, Manassas, Va.

CHARLES A. ALFAUGH TELLS KIWANIS

Mr. Charles Alfaugh was disappointed that the person who, he had hoped, would put on the program of information for the Kiwanis Club did not come. Instead he had to take over himself. He was not unprepared for he had numerous clippings on his chosen subject, "Rationing and Taxing." He tried to point out what he considered injustices in the plan. In his opinion the purpose was to break down the morale of the people. He started his argument as far back as the Thanksgiving Day that President F. D. R. had predated. He seemed to think that the people of Russia are better off than we in America, for he claimed the stores are open there for whoever wants to buy. He made much of rationing gasoline to the millions of automobiles in America. He

expressed what the auto taxes have been doing for highways and other conveniences in America.

He had Robert A. Hutchinson, Percival Lewis, and O. D. Waters making statements on some of his arguments. However, the meeting ended in peace and harmony.

Boys Available For Summer Work

Applications For Services Being Taken at County Agent's Office

The State Department of Education reports that between 400 and 500 boys between the ages of 14 and 17 have been recruited to work on farms as soon as school is out. These boys desire to live in farm homes and work during the vacation period.

Wages will vary with individual arrangements and it is hoped that the service rendered will be of considerable help to farmers needing assistance during the summer months. Recruiting and training of these workers is being done by the State Department of Education through the Vocational Agricultural Instructors of the State while applications for the services of the boys are being taken through the various County Agent's offices.

If the boys are not needed on farms and if applications are not received for their services during the summer months at an early date, they will make arrangements to work elsewhere.

All farmers of Prince William County desiring this assistance are asked to leave their applications at County Agent Frank Cox's office within the next ten days in order that reservations for the boys may be made through the Department of Education.

LOCAL F. F. A. BOYS WIN JUDGING CONTEST

The judging contest for Future Farmers of America chapters and 4-H Clubs sponsored by the Shenandoah Valley Purebred Polled Shorthorn Association at their Spring Sale held in Winchester on April 29th was won by the Manassas team composed of Burgess Hoffman, William Piercy and C. H. Roseberry, Jr. There were 67 boys participating.

Burgess Hoffman of the Manassas chapter and Dennis McCarty of the Marshall Chapter tied for the high individual prize. Burgess also won first place in judging one class of heifers and second place in the class of bulls. William Piercy placed fourth in judging the heifer class. Dennis Irvin of the Nokesville chapter won third place in judging the class of bulls.

This is the second year that a team from the Manassas F. F. A. chapter has won the contest, having won last year.

R. R. Fishpaw, Agriculture Instructor of the Manassas and Nokesville Schools, stated that these boys should be highly congratulated as the competition was unusually keen.

BETHEHEM GOOD HOUSEKEEPERS CLUB

The Bethlehem Good Housekeepers Club met in the dining room of the Prince William Hotel on Wednesday, April 19th, with Mrs. Round and Mrs. P. A. Lewis as hostesses. Fifteen members and one guest were present. The usual custom of answering the roll call by some favorite quotation or poem elicited several outstanding selections from various members. Reports from the various committees were given. As usual the Club is participating in civic activities, taking part in supporting the Service Club, the Rest Room, the Welfare Committee, the Bennett School Library, plans for I Day meetings, etc. Substantial contributions have been made to the Red Cross and the Virginia Child Home Society. Copies of the history of Prince William County are constantly being sold. Miss Eugenia Osbourne urged members of the Club to enter the Wagener book contest. At the close of the business meeting, the program committee, Mrs. Burks and Mrs. Marion Lewis introduced Mrs. J. W. Cox, who told of some aspects of daily life in France. This was followed by a birthday party in honor of Mrs. Round, who shared a delicious birthday cake with the other members.

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