

FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

MORNING

EVENING

SUNDAY

AMON G. CARTER, PRESIDENT

FORT WORTH, TEXAS

April 7, 1937.

C O N F I D E N T I A L .

Vice-President John N. Garner,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Garner:

Enclosed, herewith, please find an editorial which appeared in the Star-Telegram, April 7th, congratulating Governor Allred on his definite and vigorous stand against the un-American, arrogant and utter disregard for law and order - the sit-down strike.

I could make a rather good guess as to your attitude on this matter and I only wish that the President would make a definite stand against this method of operation. It seems fair on the part of the public to expect no less. Frankly, I have never had nor heard as much criticism from friends and supporters of the President as in this instance. However, I presume with a social worker heading the important Labor Department, who states frankly that she does not know whether it is against the law or not, that we should not expect too much.

I am firmly convinced that if Governor Murphy had enforced the laws of Michigan promptly and vigorously this fanatical wave, which is now sweeping the country, could have been nipped in the bud. Substantial and ardent supporters of the Administration are asking the question as to whether it is afraid of Mr. Lewis and, therefore, does not show sufficient intestinal fortitude to curb this kind of menace to the welfare of our people in this country.

The CIO has openly stated that the President wants everybody to join its union. While, I am sure he has made no such statement, at the same time the lack of a denial creates misgivings and uncertainty in the minds of the people. Just as an illustration of what can be done, the Pennsylvania Dutch took a rather forceful and effective stand in the Hershey Chocolate sit-down strike. More of this kind of medicine would be a real tonic for our business welfare.

Incidentally, recently, in Odessa,

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-2-

Texas, three of these CIO representatives appeared on the scene for the purpose of stirring up trouble. The sheriff collared the ring leaders and escorted them out of town, stating that their people were well satisfied; that there was no occasion for outsiders coming in and disturbing the orderly procedure, as well as the happiness of the community; that if they came back they would be rougher with them next time.

Business is making a strenuous effort to come back; therefore, I cannot see why the Administration should not be concerned, irrespective of votes and politics, with the enforcement of our laws which are made for the welfare of the country as a whole. If this disturbing, un-American element could be eliminated by a vigorous attitude on the part of the Administration, business would soon be out of the woods and on its way to the permanent recovery the Administration has spent billions of dollars to gain. So, why permit anyone to pour water on the parade? This is merely my personal view of the situation which I find is the consensus of opinion of everyone with whom I come in contact, including the substantial, reliable labor element.

Unless this situation is cured, we might as well pour water on the fire, call in the dogs and leave the country. Unfortunately, we have no other place to go. I realize you are tired and that I should not burden you with matters of this kind, but I could not resist the temptation of giving you these few thoughts for what they may be worth.

Hoping you and Mrs. Garner are well and with much love, I am,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to read "A. G. Carter". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with two parallel lines.

AGC.KD

News Behind the News

BY PAUL MALLON

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Lewis Credited With Defeat of Coal Sit-Down Ban

Influence.

WASHINGTON, April 9.—It was not President Roosevelt who blocked the congressional move to outlaw coal sit-downs. Nor was it entirely Floor Leader Robinson, although he has received the credit. The job was done by a man on the telephone with the voice of a Hamlet in rage. No Senator needed to be introduced. There is only one voice like that in the United States.

John L. Lewis has influence. He has not only introduced to America the technique of winning strikes against the law and court orders, by force, but he has become a major economic influence. He has raised the price of basic commodities as much as the armament boom in Europe. He has shortened hours, increased wages, and consequently prices, in steel, coal and probably eventually in autos. He has done it at a time when the Government professes to be frightened by price inflation and is working to prevent another boom and collapse.

To anyone who can do these things Senators are not so tough.

Argument.

Mr. Lewis got busy on the phone when he heard about the Byrnes amendment to his Guffey-Vinson coal bill, proposing to illegalize sit-downs in the mines. Those around the Democratic telephone booths that day say he must have talked to thirty Senators. Some say he changed only half a dozen votes or so, but he strengthened many.

His argument was this:

There cannot be a sit-down in coal. The men could not live in underground darkness without food or comforts. Guards at the mouth of the mine could easily isolate the strikers. Consequently, he never intended to have a sit-down in coal.

The proposal, therefore, was just a gratuitous insult to the auto workers who had won their strike and effected a settlement. There was just enough truth in what he said about coal sit-downs to convince some wavering Senators who might otherwise have been unawed by his voice.

Words.

Other unseen compliments to the talents of Mr. Lewis have developed here lately.

The story may be challenged, but there is a no good reason to doubt that the President and Vice-President have exchanged some warm unreported words on the subject of Mr. Lewis. 'Tis said, unquestionably, that Mr. Garner challenged the truth of reports being received by the President concerning sit-downs. The Vice-President implied Mr. Roosevelt was being misled as to the seriousness of the situation and the probable consequences of letting sit-downs encourage the flouting of laws which are enforced against citizens outside the C.I.O.

The conversation got down to the desk-pounding stage when Mr. Garner said something like this: "You have got to get those men out of those factories."

The nature, if not the exact wording, of the President's reply was: "I cannot do it without bloodshed."

"Well," said Mr. Garner in substance: "—John Lewis did. I guess that makes him bigger than the President of the United States."

Fear.

Despite his successes, Lewis is inwardly scared. Those who know him best vouch for that. Several things have come up which he did not reckon with in the beginning.

The main thing is the little unions affiliated with him are getting away from his control. Ambitious local leaders do not realize they can do the whole C.I.O. movement by

sit-downs. They want to get theirs. Consequently, the immediate outlook indicates a further expansion of little sit-downs, but no more big ones. Lewis can and probably will prevent the big ones, because he knows one more big one may ruin him.

Things like the Senate resolution and the Hershey incident have shown popular disfavor. They also show that the growing popular impatience may force the Government to act more strongly next time.

To get away with lawless strikes, Mr. Lewis must have the sympathy of those in high authority. He had it in the beginning, but he will not have it in the next one. That much seems to be certain.

Ford.

The current flag-waving about a big Ford strike may not be justified. The inside on that situation bears a distinct topographical difference from General Motors and Chrysler.

It seems that all of Mr. Ford's important plants, except one, sit back far from public highways and public property. They are surrounded by high barbed fences a considerable distance from the street. The feeding of sit-downers in his plants, therefore, would be a difficult proposition.

If some of Ford's men sit down, his ample guard force will just surround the building and prevent outside trespassers from coming on his property. If trespassers attack the guards in trying to get food to the strikers, you will have civil warfare or something so closely related to it that Mr. Lewis might find himself sitting down involuntarily and permanently, perhaps in a room with steel wallpaper.

John Lewis
April 10

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