

WSM June 1 - 1946

GOOD MORNING FRIENDS

A little past midnight last Friday the Senate finally passed the emergency strike control bill requested by President Truman but only after pulling most of its teeth. The action of the House and the Senate in this emergency demonstrates the fundamental differences in these two houses of Congress. Of course, it is but natural I suppose that being a Member of the House I am partial to the House of Representatives but, viewed unbiasedly, there are many ways in which the House of Representatives is superior to the Senate as a legislative body. Let us take the action in this emergency as an example. On last Friday night a week ago, the country's economy was paralyzed by a nation-wide <sup>railroad</sup> strike. The President of the United States went on the radio and discussed the emergency with the American people and then the next day, a week ago yesterday, he came before a joint session of Congress and asked for legislation by which the Government could assert its power over the imperious will of labor leaders intoxicated with and ambitious for more power. This sentiment of the people, whose Government it is, was undoubtedly with the President. The American people felt, as President Truman felt, that no one man or small group of men should have the power to defy the Government and create nation-wide havoc. To demonstrate that the House of Representatives is nearer to the people, we began immediate consideration of the bill requested by the President and within less than two hours we had not only passed the bill but had also passed a second bill which he requested setting up a commission to study a long-term revision of all the nation's labor laws--and the vote was well nigh unanimous - 306 to 13. The Senate went back into session that day but Senator Taft, obviously determined to make what political capital he could of the emergency, objected to consideration of the bill that day. Then on Monday something else came

up and then the talk fest began and they talked and they talked and they talked. *If there is anything in Washington that needs changing it is the rule of the senate that allows members to talk.*  
Finally, after a full week the bill was passed, ~~an action which required less than~~  
~~two hours by the House of Representatives.~~ But the length of time necessary to act  
is only one of the differences illustrated by action on this bill. The House  
passed a bill with teeth in it, designed to give to the Government sufficient  
power and authority to deal effectively with strike emergencies. *as the* ~~During the week,~~  
*Week were one* ~~one by one~~ *one by one by the Senate* those teeth were pulled until now there is not much left in the  
bill. ~~At last~~ *should* the country ~~will~~ *rich* know what body of Congress is most representative  
*of* to thier will, which body acts with the most dispatch and which body is catering  
most to organized minorities and thereby playing politics with the paramount domestic  
issue before the American people.

Speaking of politics, the political developments attendant to the labor  
crisis is a source of wide interest and speculation. One week ago President  
Truman was being proclaimed as a national hero who had put the national welfare above  
politics and had risen to met the challenge, *of a crisis* had shown courageous leadership  
and it was freely said that he had greatly increased his status. I believe  
all these things are just as true today as they were last Sunday but there are  
many who now say that because President Truman has offended labor, he can not  
*Will, has it come to pass that a president cannot stand up for the American people against a few home growing dictators and be elected.*  
now be reelected. They say that he played bad politics. Senator Taft who is  
now the man with the ~~bill~~ *95* stick in the Republican party has been berating  
President Truman for asking drastic power to quell strikes against the Government

and you have a bloody-fisted administration on undemocratic + anti-ratic.

There is an old saying that some people can not see the forest for the trees. I think it is very difficult for any of us to clearly see anything more than the broad outlines and the general direction of the political, social and economical revolution through which we are now and for the last several years have been passing. At the time our system of Government was conceived and organized, labor unions, cartels or <sup>holding monopolies</sup> companies and many other collective concentrations of power were virtually unknown. Individualism, the dignity of individual citizens, the rights of individual citizens, the representatives of the individual citizens was the basis of thought of men like George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin and the rights and privileges of the individual citizen was and for that matter is now the key to the foundations of our system. Since then our society has become more complex, changes have been wrought. Today we are the <sup>most</sup> leading industrialized nation of the world. Instead of a nation in which most of the people till the soil or hew the wood only one worker out of 8 now works on a farm. Along with the growth in complexity of our society has come the growth of collective groups, economic groups, political groups, social groups, governmental agencies have been set up with particular duties to perform and laws to administer, <sup>designed by certain groups of men or interests</sup> for instance, the Interstate Commerce Commission deals with transportation, the wage and hour laws <sup>are</sup> for the benefit of individual workers. What I am trying to say is that into our jurisprudence and system has come recognition of group or collective benefits and rights - benefits and rights extended not to all citizens but to a particular group of citizens. Some people have objected to this development saying that it ran contrary to our basic concepts of equal treatment to all citizens but despite those objections these group, these groups or collective rights and benefits have been administered, have entered our jurisprudence and have been extended, to these groups and to individual members thereof.) The real

seat of our trouble now is that the Government has not required group and collective responsibility. Responsibility that is to the general welfare. Along with power and rights must go responsibility else our system will not <sup>run</sup>. All of these collective organizations <sup>whether</sup> organizations of business, of labor, of finance or for social objectives must be subject to the regulatory power of Government. Nothing except religion should be beyond the arm of the law, if the majority of the American people in the exercise of their judgment and in pursuit of their general welfare deem it wise to bring such judgment within the scope of the law. If an organization, such for instance, as a labor organization is extended



# The News

A SCRIPPS-HOWARD NEWSPAPER

1013 13th St. N. W. (Zone 5)

Phone District 7777

In Metropolitan Washington, by Carrier, 15c Per Week;  
By Mail: Month, 65c; for 6 Months, \$3.25; by the Year, \$6.00.

JOHN T. O'ROURKE

EARL D. BAKER

Editor

Business Manager

"Give light and the people will find their own way."

FRIDAY, MAY 31, 1946

## OPEN SEASON ON MR. TRUMAN

SO now a lot of people seem to be trying, all of a sudden, to make President Truman out the chief culprit in the country's labor crisis.

Sen. Taft and other Republicans—whose motives, of course, are free from any political tinge—are berating Mr. Truman for asking drastic power to quell strikes against the Government. Seventy senators have voted down his plan to draft strikers in Government-seized industries. And Ohio's ex-Gov. Bricker made a Memorial Day address at Gettysburg the occasion for calling the striker-draft proposal "abhorrent to the American way of life."

Abhorrent it may be. But does Mr. Bricker think that strikes to paralyze the entire nation are harmonious with the American way of life? And what would he have done if he'd been President this month of May?

Meanwhile, the Pepper, Morgenthau (more about him below) and Ickes variety of "liberals" scream that Mr. Truman has deserted and betrayed the memory of his great predecessor. Mr. Roosevelt, they say, never would have resorted to such treachery to labor's cause. Well, let's see.

On June 25, 1943, Mr. Roosevelt wrote this to Congress:

"I recommend that the Selective Service Act be amended so that persons may be inducted into non-combat military service up to the age of 65 years. This will enable us to induct into military service all persons who engage in strikes or stoppages or other interruptions of work in plants in the possession of the United States."

What did the Pepper-Morgenthau-Ickes "liberals" say then?

The critics' role is easy. And Mr. Truman's handling of the strike situation may have been less than masterly. But, in all fairness, remember that he had no effective law with which to act. Mr. Roosevelt and his "liberal" supporters saw to it that labor remained free of legal responsibility.

Remember, too, that many of the same Republicans and Democrats who now denounce the President were yelling at him, only a little while ago, to do something—anything—to save the country from disaster.

Even now the union bosses, the Commies and the Pepperite "friends" of labor-right-or-wrong are demanding that Mr. Truman veto the Case bill, passed overwhelmingly by both branches of Congress. (We print an analysis of that bill on Page 28 today. Read, and decide for yourself whether it is "vicious, Fascist, anti-labor." We think it is sound and good, and can help to prevent more crises like the one just seen.)

The President knows how greatly he was handicapped in doing his best to bring the country thru a deluge of trouble. Surely he will not fall for the idiotic optimism of those who say we didn't quite drown that time, so now it ain't gonna rain no more and we don't even need to keep an umbrella handy.

## LOOK WHO'S TALKING!

...whose services as Secretary of