



PRESS CLIPPING SERVICE

ALBANY BUFFALO NEW YORK

MIAMI (Friday) HERALD
Sunday, February 14, 1932

The Herald is glad that you look upon itself the task of clearing the atmosphere.

IN OLD KENTUCKY

KENTUCKY has posted signs to keep out so far as the mining communities are concerned. Officials want no intrusion from the outside. They desire no relief for their people and public meetings are barred. Temporarily, sections of Kentucky have severed their connections with the union and the constitutional rights of free travel and free speech.

For some reason certain New York more or less literary gentlemen are stirred by the conditions in Kentucky and think something should be done. They have tried to invade and investigate personally and have come out second best in the encounters. They went with food supplies for the destitute, and according to their story, they were escorted out of Pineville to the Tennessee line where one of the party, Waldo Frank, was slugged, he claims.

The Pineville authorities deny the charges but, nevertheless, the writer fellows got out of Kentucky in a hurry. Then they hied themselves to Washington and demanded an investigation by congress of the mine war, alleged labor peonage, and other existing conditions. Some senators are favorable and others question the authority of the federal government, which really has enough on its hands right now in a national sense without bothering with local troubles.

Pineville objects to any probe, and suggests that the investigation, if there is to be one, should start in New York. Unquestionably there are conditions of poverty and suffering in New York the equal of those in Kentucky, and the novelists are not obliged to leave their metropolitan homes to discover causes of injustice and hardships. Probably, however, they seem more horrible in another state than next door.

That is often the case. We may be aroused by the depicted terrors in far off China or India and not notice the grime and evil in the next street. In fact, we may be more concerned in the conduct of our neighbor than in keeping our own doorstep clean. That is human nature.

The Kentucky situation is bad. The actions of the New York authors have served to turn the spotlight upon it. Now that they have accomplished this, they might devote their attention to the slums of their own town.

SOUTHWEST
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BUREAU

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WICHITA FALLS TEX TIMES

GETTING ON KENTUCKY'S NERVES

Members of a group of writers from New York who visited the troubled coal mining region of Kentucky have been arrested and banished from the state. Some of them were roughly treated in the process. Some others were jailed.

The suspicion is pretty strong that the writers came to foment trouble rather than to administer relief, which was their ostensible purpose. But Kentucky has increased the shame that already encompassed it, by its treatment of them. Force is a poor weapon for Kentucky to be using. The more use Kentucky makes of it, the deeper becomes the conviction that justice is not being done. A state that is dealing fairly and decently with strikers would not need to be so timid of visitors, whatever their mission. If visiting writers get on its nerves, the best way to regain composure is to set the house in order.