

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

A new wage pattern for Nineteen Forty-Seven has been set for eight-hundred-thousand workers in the automobile industry. It has just been announced in Detroit that General Motors and the C.I.O. United Auto Workers have agreed to get together, -- to settle their wage dispute on the basis of a fifteen-cents-an-hour pay rise.

The settlement was announced jointly by Walter Reuther, United Auto Workers President, and L.G. Seaton, General Motors Labor Relations Director. The agreement calls for a flat eleven-and-a-half-cents-an-hour wage increase and six paid holidays annually for seniority employees.

The agreement must be ratified by the U.A.W. before May Fifth, but evidently that's just a formality now. Reuther says that the settlement will be acceptable to the Union.

Proctor and Gamble
Thursday, April 24, 1947

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:-

(The Foreign Ministers had only one thing left to do in Moscow tonight, survive an official banquet at the Kremlin.) According to the story just in, Uncle Joe himself was the host. And it was a banquet in the best Russian tradition, complete with bleenees, smetyana, zakouska, shaslik, and of course piles of caviar -- all washed down with those delightful wines from the Crimea, plus gallons of vodka.

With the Russian custom of bottoms-up for every toast, it must have been something of an ordeal for the Foreign Ministers.

Premier Stalin, in a gesture of friendship toward the United States, toasted the health of President Truman. The only toast offered by the Boss of all the Russias.

Molotov proposed most of the other toasts -- about twenty in all, some with red and white wines, some with champagne, some with vodka, some with cognac.

At the dinner Stalin wore his usual plain buff uniform, with the star of the Generalissimo glittering on his epaulettes. Stalin's toast was a long one built around his hopes for international unity.

Molotov toasted successful collaboration of the Big Four powers in the future. All told, a fine gesture, but unfortunately little unity or collaboration were evident at the Moscow conference.

When will they meet again? Well, that was the last thing the Foreign Ministers talked over, and (they decided to meet again, in London, next November.)

Secretary of State Marshall told newspapermen today that, although really nothing was accomplished at this conference, there is a reasonable chance of an agreement in the not-too-remote future.

Professional diplomatists familiar with the ways of the East, seem to think the hurry-up tactics attempted at Moscow were foredoomed to failure. When it comes to diplomacy, they say, we have to remember that the Russian is, after all, an Asiatic. And if you start negotiations with an Asiatic with the announcement that you want to speed up and be finished quickly, the Oriental just sits back on his divan, rubs his hands in silent satisfaction, and figures he will wait you out. Hence, the only way to tackle an Oriental in negotiations, and including the Moscovite, is to take your time and let the man on the other side of the table know that you are prepared to wait him out.

Secretary Marshall will be home in Washington by the end of the week, to find many problems waiting for him at the State Department. For one, there's the job of working out the details of that four-hundred-million-dollar gift to the Greeks and *Turks*.

~~the Turks.~~

General Marshall also will have the job of trying to convince Congress that Uncle Sam should give three-hundred-and-fifty millions for relief to the peoples of the countries devastated by the war -- which was his own suggestion. Likewise will he get the seventeen-million dollars in Lend-Lease pipeline supplies that Russia wants from us. Oh yes, and the two-hundred-million dollars for Korea. Plus the ^{tasks}~~prospect~~ of completing the peace treaty with Japan.

But first of all, when he comes home, the Secretary of State will speak to the nation -- tell us via the radio just what did happen at Moscow. Sunday or Monday probably will be the date for that. Soon after which he will appear before the Foreign Affairs Committees of the Senate and the House, and give them an off-the-record report.

ADD MARSHALL

~~late~~ This afternoon, the White House announced that President Truman has recalled General Bedell Smith, our Ambassador to Moscow. He has been recalled, the explanation runs, for routine conferences with the State Department. Possibly Secretary Marshall himself was responsible for the order. Whether he was or whether he wasn't, Washington considers the recall of Ambassador Smith as quite remarkable, because any routine

— well those
conferences ~~that are necessary~~ would be with the

Secretary of State himself, ^{and he} ~~who~~ is in Moscow, *holding*
daily conferences with Ambass. Bedell Smith!

LIDICE

The presiding justice of a court at Prague today read a sentence on six men, a sentence that brought tears to the eyes of the defendants, ~~They were~~ six officials of the ^{Hitler} Gestapo, ^{who were} responsible for the wiping out of the little town of Lidice in Czechoslovakia, ^{— for} ~~and~~ the massacre of its entire male population, in Nineteen Forty-Two.

The man who wept most was the chief Nazi, the man who ~~xxx~~ had issued the order to shoot every man in the town, to burn all its buildings and homes to the ground, to imprison women in concentration camps and scatter the children all over central Europe. His tears were not of remorse but of terror. ^{And - he} ~~He~~ was executed a couple of hours after he heard the sentence read, ~~and~~ ^{With} sobs he implored the hangman to make his death quick and painless. Five other Gestapo Nazis followed him to the scaffold. Nine others were sentenced to prison, for terms totalling a hundred and eleven years.

The wiping out of Lidice, as we recall, was Nazi revenge for the assassination of Heydrich the Hangman, chief of the Gestapo in Czechoslovakia.

ALGERIA

~~Stories from Algeria hint at more trouble for the French in that flourishing French colony. The~~

^{the} world-wide movement for national independence, as expected, has spread from the Dutch Indies, and French Indo-China, to North Africa.

There have been grumblings and mutterings, and an ^{occasional} outburst ^{in Algeria;} but hitherto the French have had no difficulty handling it. But, the Algerians have found a leader, a tall, bearded Arab named Messali Hadj. The word "Hadj" indicates that he has made the pilgrimage to Mecca, and enjoys a little special esteem among Mohammedans for having kissed the black stone in the wall of the Kaaba and drunk the waters of Zem Zem, and thrown rocks at the djinns.

Messali Hadj has been in the revolt business for twenty odd years, we hear; has been in jail several times, and exiled more than once. As long ago as Nineteen Twenty-six, he published a newspaper called the "North African Star," which the French suppressed.

Whereupon Messali Hadj went to Paris and enrolled at the Sorbonne -- and, became a Communist. But, after a while he found he didn't care for the comrades, so he left the party and went back to Africa.

In Nineteen Thirty-four, the French arrested him again, kept him in prison until the following year. But Messali Hadj was not squelched by prison sentences. He re-entered politics. The ^{French} ~~French~~ tried to arrest him again. And this time he escaped to Belgium.

In Nineteen Thirty-six, Premier Leon Blum, as head of the Popular Front Government, pardoned Messali, who straightway rushed back to Algeria and formed the Algerian Peoples' Party, and began demanding autonomy for Algeria. So, they arrested him again. This time keeping him in the bastille for three years.

In Nineteen Forty-one they banished him -- ordered him to stay away from Algiers and all the other principal cities of North Africa; an exile supposed to last fifteen years. But Messali Hadj fooled 'em. ■

He didn't do as he was told and now he's trying to arouse the Algerians to open revolt. The French took Algeria away from us by bloodshed, says he, and the only way to get it back is to shed more blood.

WHEELER

And now the mix-up about the former isolationist, Senator, Bert ~~on~~ Wheeler of Montana. It started yesterday when President Truman vetoed a bill *that* would have permitted Wheeler to serve as counsel for the Senate War Investigating Committee without giving up his right to practice law before Government agencies.

~~Today President Truman said his veto of the bill wasn't any mistake at all. He really meant it. The President's veto message said that the bill could be interpreted as giving Wheeler the right to initiate criminal and civil action on behalf of the United States. That's what aroused the Senate.~~

Senator Brewster of Maine and Senator Hatch responded to the veto by telling the Senate that the President was obviously mistaken -- that he, Mr. Truman, had signed similar bills, and the whole thing was just a misunderstanding.

The Senators hurriedly called the White House and the President's aides agreed with the Senators. Someone had blundered. Mr. Truman had been misinformed. So the Senators started to see whay could be done about rectifying the error.

That brought White House and Justice Department lawyers into a huddle: - should the Senate over-ride the veto or merely pass an identical bill? Then President Truman stepped into the picture again this afternoon at a press conference, he said that his veto of the Wheeler Bill was "no mistake." The Justice Department wx had recommended the veto, and even after a second look, it had advised him that he had made no error.

So the President apparently feels his blackball of Wheeler was in order and Berton Wheeler, a recently defeated candidate for re-election to the Senate, cannot serve as counsel for the Senate War Investigating Committee. That's President Truman's ruling.

RENTS

Federal rent control will last until at least the end of the year. The Banking Committee of the House voted to this effect today, and turned down the widely suggested demands for a ten per cent increase in rents. With which the House Committee reverses itself. For it had already approved a bill raising rent ceilings. And the Senate Banking Committee is also against it.

SUICIDE

Mysterious to the Western World are the ways of the East. ~~FROM~~ ^{FROM} Tokyo, we hear of a novel way to commit suicide. Incidentally, it was unsuccessful.

Genzo Kuriyama was twenty-nine years old and he couldn't make a go of things in post-war Japan, his business had collapsed and he and his three partners faced ~~with~~ bankruptcy, owing ten thousand yen.

So, thought Kuriyama, if ~~■~~ I die, my partners can collect one-hundred-thousand yen on my insurance policy and pay that debt. ~~His one idea~~ ^{And this} ~~of honor~~ drove him to the top of an eighty-two foot chimney -- from which he dived head first. ^{TP} But not outside the chimney. Oh, no! Kuriyama went head first down the inside of the chimney, figuring that the soot-lined walls would keep him from turning over and fix it so he'd die for sure for that one-hundred-thousand yen.

But Kuriyama didn't die even though he did
~~land~~ ^{LAND} on his head. In fact, he wasn't even seriously
injured. Kuriyama had been a paratrooper during the
war and, as he fell down the shaft, he
instinctively set himself for the jar. ^P The jar?
it wasn't much. Kuriyama had failed to notice when
he climbed the chimney a four-foot pile of soot
at the bottom, soft, black soot like a down-filled
mattress, and so he fell into the soot head first.

^{ACTUALLY, HE}
~~he~~ did come close to dying -- not from the
fall but from smothering, **IN THE SOFT, BLACK
SOOT.**

COFFEE

A former Vice-President of the United States won undying fame some thirty years ago announcing that what this country needs most is a good five-cent-cigar, -- Vice President Marshall of Indiana. Well, in Chicago today, a group of men got together at the Blackstone Hotel and announced that one of the things wrong with this country now is the lack of a good cup of coffee, or perhaps I should say, a cup of good coffee. That some eighty-three million of us start the day wrong because the coffee isn't brewed properly.

Who says so? Well, they are experts. And, they go on to say that the best thing that can be said for coffee that is brewed in America is that it is better than what you get in England or France.

Many real coffee fanciers insist that the one real paradise for coffee drinkers was Vienna -- ~~this~~ that is, before the war. The Viennese had a proud coffee tradition. Then there's the man from New Orleans. He'll tell you that it takes a Creole cook to prepare coffee perfectly.

COFFEE

Tycoons of the coffee industry -- so we hear today -- are going to tackle the problem by sending agents into restaurants, coffee shops, even into our homes, to discover just what's wrong with the process and to find out what can be done to make coffee faster, cheaper, and more palatable.

A famous President of these United States once hurled a cup of coffee into his wife's face.

Mom! Pour us a cup of coffee! And then -- let's sit back and relax, and listen to Nelson.

PRICES

When prices went skyrocketing after the First World War, people grumbled, just as they are grumbling now. But nothing much was done about it until a ~~New York~~ ~~press~~ press agent dramatized public feeling -- a man named Walter Kingsley, one of the top publicity men of the day. He promoted ~~in New York~~ a thing called "The Cheese Club," and staged parades ~~on Broadway~~ of men wearing overalls and women in cheesecloth. The example was followed elsewhere.

Kingsley had aroused the public imagination and stimulated an unofficial but widely effective strike of buyers. People stayed away from stores in large numbers. And before long prices came toppling down. All of which brought about what economists call "a sharp recession," -- a recession that didn't last long, and that was, in fact, the prelude to the big boom of the 'Twenties.

There has been no Walter Kingsley to stimulate and arouse public resentment this time; but, a survey,

mainly in the mid-west,
~~centralized in Chicago,~~ shows that millions of people are beginning to button up their pocketbooks. The United Press reports that this is most conspicuous in the liquor industry. In Chicago, for example, hundreds of tavern owners are preparing to go out of business. And in New York, Detroit, Washington, Miami, Minneapolis, San Francisco and Texas, liquor tax collections have taken a dramatic drop. I heard much about this up and down the Pacific Coast on my recent Western trip.

Then there is the Newburyport example, which is now being copied in the Middle West, with manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers combining to cut prices to the tune of ten percent.

One result of the present buyers' strike is that it has

been felt in the building industry. In several sections of the country, numbers of newly erected dwellings are ready to be occupied, ready with everything but tenants and buyers.

The U.S. Department of Commerce ~~may have just~~ reported ^S~~that~~ there will be ~~even~~ fewer houses built this year than ~~there were~~ last year, fewer by thirteen per cent, ^{This,} because builders are ~~so~~ uncertain about future costs, prices, and general business conditions.

Tragedy flew on the wings of the storm that has been raging around the British Isles. It brought disaster to no fewer than four ships, and brought death to sixty-two men.

Off the southern coast of Ireland ^a ~~the~~ gale ~~reached~~ a speed of a hundred miles an hour. ^{With} mountainous waves ^{sinking a} ~~sank~~ Spanish vessel ^{— all} ~~with every~~ ^{IF also} ~~man~~ on board lost. ~~But the worst disaster~~ ^{off} the Welch coast, ~~there~~ a British freighter ^{priced} ~~ran~~ onto the rocks and ~~crushed~~ ^{crushed} into three parts. There again the entire crew ~~was~~ lost, forty-two men. A lifeboat put out trying to save them, but the waves ^(swamped) ~~swamped~~ it, and killed eight of the Coast Guard. Hundreds of spectators lined the shore watching the tragedy ~~by~~ ^{by} the light of automobile lamps.

There were anxious reports ^{today} about the great ~~— the new Maurétania —~~ liner Mauretania. She was on a trial run ~~and had been~~ [^]

~~just~~ reconditioned, after doing service during the war as a troop carrier. In the middle of the trial run, the storm caught her off the Scottish coast, ~~and there were fears that she was in jeopardy.~~ But she rode out the storm and made her way ~~back~~ safely to Liverpool.

PALESTINE

In Palestine, the British authorities ^{are} expecting a new terrorist outbreak ^{on a greater} ~~at any moment on a~~ scale ^{than} ~~any~~ ^{so far.} ~~previously encountered.~~ What makes the British situation more serious is the probability that the Irgun and Stern Gang have made up their quarrel and are now ready to work hand-in-hand under the single command of a ^{leader} ~~person~~ known as Menahem Beigin.

The ~~British~~ High Commissioner, Sir Alan Cunningham, returned to Jerusalem tonight, after a short visit to Cairo. The unofficial report is that he asked the ~~B~~ritish Commander in the Middle East for troop reinforcements.

The United Nations debate on Palestine is to begin Monday at Lake Success. The New York authorities ^{say they} are determined ~~that~~ there ~~shall~~ be no terrorist shennanigans around the ~~UN~~ U. N. Assembly, and ^{are taking} ~~they have taken~~ precautions. A special force of

two hundred uniformed police are on duty at Lake Success, along with the regular U.N. Security guard of fifty men. In addition the New York Police Commissioner has assigned a special service squad of specially trained men who in years gone by were known as the Bomb Squad.

There will be no picketing around U.N. headquarters. An ordinance of New York City forbids any picketing on city property, so the ordinance will be enforced there.

RALLY

A demonstration against labor legislation in Detroit virtually stopped all production in the ~~automobile~~ automobile capital. Walter Reuther, President of the United Automobile Workers, ordered all the members of his union in Detroit to knock off for the afternoon. The U.A.W. invited other C.I.O. and also A.F. of L. unions to join in the rally.

So thousands of men left the assembly line and jammed Cadillac Square to listen to speeches. The rally completely shut down the plants of the Ford and Chrysler Companies. General Motors reported that some of their assembly lines were still producing. According to some estimates, half a million men joined in the demonstration.