

L.T. P.& G. TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 1949.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

In Washington tonight Mr. Truman attended the first function of the strenuous round of social engagements of inaugural week. A fifteen-dollar plate dinner under the auspices of the Democratic Truman-Barkley Club.

The President, in serious mood, urged his two thousand listeners to keep the Truman-Barkley club alive for nineteen fifty. Because, said he: "We do not want to elect another eightieth Congress." The President added that he expected the next four years in the White House to be what he termed "the greatest burden any President or Vice-President ever faced in the history of the country."

According to the news wire, "Everybody who is anybody in Democratic circles" is at this dinner.

Including former Democratic Chairman Jim Farley, Ed Kelley of Chicago, and so on.

As the President entered the orchestra played: "Hail to the Chief," then swung into "I'm just wild about Harry." With the filet mignon they played the Missouri.

Waltz, and My Old Kentucky Home for Senator Barkley.

With the President beating time.

INAUGURATION WEATHER

The inauguration on Thursday is involved in a gamble of the elements. What will the weather be? The answer is -- probably windy, colder and rather cloudy. But that is not at all certain. The weather man is in a quandry, telling of a complication of the elements that puts everything in doubt.

The government weather bureau reports a winter storm roaring out of the Great Plains of Canada - and heading down our way. At the same time, there's a cold front hovering over Tennessee and Alabama, scheduled to drift toward Washington. If the two should meet in the area of the national capital at inauguration time, the clash would mean the worst of weather for the big parade -- the Canadian blizzard in a tangle with the Tennessee-Alabama weather front.

It's all a question of timing, when it will happen. The weather man thinks that the collision of the elements will not occur until after the inauguration is over. So that is the hope - that the Truman festivities will have taken place before the weather goes into a turmoil at Washington.

ACHESON

The Senate, late today, confirmed the appointment of Dean Acheson as Secretary of State. The vote was overwhelming, eighty-three to six - half a dozen Republicans dissenting.

The official Republican view was expressed by Senator Vandenberg, who upheld the Acheson appointment - quoting what the ~~new~~ new secretary of State has had to say about being opposed to any policy of appeasement of Soviet Russia.

The Michigan Senator, stating the G O P position, declared that hereafter most Republicans in Congress will be willing to support cabinet appointments made by President Truman. But they will hold the White House to what Vandenberg called "strict unpartisan accountability". Accountability, that is, for the performance of the members of the President's official family.

ESPIONAGE

In Washington today Senator Pat McCarran of Nevada -- he is chairman of the Senate Judiciary committee - introduced a bill to make wire tapping legal in ~~xxx~~ espionage cases. To allow the proper authorities to listen in on ^{any} telephone conversation when the Security of the United States is involved. The Nevada Senator's bill sponsored by Attorney General Tom Clarke. It also permits the Army, the Navy and the F B I access to telegrams, radio and telephone communications. With the written permission of the Attorney General. And it will cancel the statute of limitations in crimes of espionage.

In sponsoring Senator McCarran's bill Attorney General Tom Clark spoke of what he described ^{as} the "swift and more devastating weapons of modern war; And the "treachery of those engaged in espionage." making it imperative for effective vigilance to be maintained in times of peace.

CHINA

China today presents a picture of a great and turbulent river, swarming with boats - a flight of refugees across the Yangtze. The Communists are pushing to the great stream, and today Pukow was being evacuated - the city across the river from Nanking, the Nationalist capital. The Yangtze is a mile wide at that point and was running swiftly today, with choppy waves--through which myriads of boats of every description battled their way.

In the north, Peiping appears about to fall to the Reds. Today a delegation with a white flag went out of the city to ask for a truce -- but it expected that the Communists will demand surrender.

All of which brought the deepest of gloom in government quarters - the darker because of the failure of the appeal for mediation by the big powers, Soviet Russia being the latest to refuse to intervene.

PALESTINE

In London - signs that British policy in Palestine is easing up. Today Foreign Secretary Bevin told the House of Commons that he will go into a debate next week. His attitude toward the Jewish State of Israel is being severely criticized in Britain, and there were demands that he should answer today - but he put that off.

However, announcing this, Bevin intimated that the London government may soon recognize Israel, and stated that Britain was ready to release Jewish refugees on the Island of Cyprus. These refugees are men of military age, who have been detained in accordance with armistice terms, which forbid any reinforcement of either side - like an increase of manpower. Bevin says the refugees of military age will be set free, as soon as Israel can provide transportation to take them to Palestine.

At Tel Aviv, it is announced that the way has been cleared for the withdrawal of Egyptian soldiers trapped at Falugja in the Negeb. Israel

announces that on Thursday a convoy bringing food and medical relief will cross the Jewish lines and enter Faluja.

... by the Communists. Our own American C I O belongs to it, and so does the British Trades Union Congress - or at least they did, until today.

For some time the British and American unions have been at odds with the Red leadership of the T. U. C. and now a definite split appears to be certain - with the American and British delegates walking out. Taking with them a number of other workers.

This is indicated by American delegate James Garry, Secretary-Treasurer of the C I O. When the morning session ended, he said: "It's all but finished". Then at the end of the afternoon session he was asked if he would return tomorrow, and replied: "I don't think so."

Garry of the C I O left the meeting with Arthur Deakin, who represents the British Trades

LABOR FEDERATION

In Paris - a split in the world federation of trade unions. That's a labor organization of global scope, ~~which is~~ dominated by the Communists. Our own American C I O belongs to it, and so does the British Trades Union Congress - or at least they did, until today.

For some time the British and American unions have been at odds with the Red leadership of the W.F.T.U., and now a definite split appears to be certain - with the American and British delegates walking out. Taking with them - seventeen million workers.

This is indicated by American delegate James Carey, Secretary-Treasurer of the C I O. When the morning session ended, he said: "It's all but finished". Then at the end of the afternoon session he was asked if he would return tomorrow, and replied: "I don't think so."

Carey of the C I O left the meeting with Arthur Deakin, who represents the British Trades

Union Congress - and who is, moreover, the Party
President of the World Federation of Trade Unions.
He seemed to be in full agreement with Carey -
a walkout by the Americans and British.

to continue against the remaining eleven of the twelve
reputed leaders of the American Communists.

The lawyers for the eleven protested, with
all their lung power, arguing that the testimony
of William E. Foster was necessary for the case of
the other defendants. They insisted that the trial of
the other eleven be discontinued - and were put in
the paradoxical position of complaining that because
Foster was left out.

Judge Medina ruled against them - as he did
against their repeated complaints that the trial
is being held in an atmosphere of terrorism and
intimidation. He said that such a trial is
inherently unfair - with the eleven conducting
a mass demonstration against the trial.

COMMUNISTS TRIAL

In New York, the chief of the Communist Party William Z. Foster, has been taken out of the trial of the Reds. Judge Medina today decided that Foster was too ill to stand trial, and ordered the proceedings to continue against the remaining eleven of the twelve indicted leaders of the American Communists.

The lawyers for the defense protested, with all their lung power, arguing that the testimony of William Z. Foster was necessary for the case of the other defendants. They demanded that the trial of the other eleven be discontinued - and were put in the paradoxical position of complaining ~~had~~ because Foster was left out.

Judge Medina ruled against them - as he did against their repeated complaints that the trial is being held in an atmosphere of terrorism and intimidation. Seems like a peculiar form of ~~terrorism~~ terrorism - with Red pickets conducting a mass demonstration against the trial.

BAKER

The Florida mystery of the shooting of Grenville Baker is now a study of - hands. Today the police took imprints of the palms and fingers of the three persons who were with him during the hours that ended with his death by a bullet. The theory of scientific detection is that a hand firing a pistol will show minute grains of powder imbedded in the skin, tiny particles of powder from the explosion -- and these will show up when an imprint is made in paraffin. So impressions were made today, and are being sent to the F B I - for study at the scientific laboratory of crime in Washington.

The case remains a blank mystery. Grenville Baker was a grandson of George F. Baker, who rose to financial power in the great era of Wall Street millions, half a century ago, and became an associate of J P Morgan, in banking and industrial empire. His grandson was a popular figure in social circles -- called "Beans" by his intimates. ^{"Beans"} He married a Mexican actress - and the

first news said that he had been estranged from her. But the latest is a statement by the widow that she and her ~~husband~~ husband were never estranged.

Last night Grenville Baker was at the great family estate near Tallahassee, Florida. He was in the company of the keeper of a drive-in tavern, a convicted bootlegger, and the tavern keeper's wife. Also, a twenty-one year old waitress, a car-hop. The story is that they were at the house on the Baker plantation, and then drove off - the young millionaire in a ^j jeep with the waitress. He was showing the way to the tavern keeper and his wife, who were driving their ~~antja~~ automobile. Somehow, as Baker was supposed to be leading the way, the other car passed the jeep, and got in front. So, on a lonely plantation road, Baker fired a pistol as a signal to them. Then the jeep got out of control, and crashed into a bank beside the road. The waitress was thrown out - and dazed -- "blacked out" she says. Then she found

Baker unconscious. The tavern keeper and his wife appearing, they thought he had merely been injured in the crash. But an autopsy showed that he had been shot through the head. Such is the story related, and it accounts for one shot being fired - as a signal. But two shells were missing from the pistol and a neighboring farmer says he heard the sound of two shots, after the noise of the crash. Sundry surmises are being made, including the supposition that the pistol may have been discharged accidentally, when the jeep ran off the road.

OPERA

In New York tonight Mayor O'Dwyer and Mayor Kennelly of Chicago announced that a Chicago City Opera Company has been formed, under joint artistic direction with the Met. A cooperative enterprise.

The Chicago Opera will form its own chorus, orchestra, ballet and administrative personnel. Also auditions for midwest singers.

The backers of the new enterprise hope that Chicago will have its own complete city opera company by Nineteen Fifty-one. But the New York City Opera Company will continue to pool its resources with the new group. Immediate plans are for New York to produce two new major operas in the Windy City this year using whatever resources Chicago has been able to obtain -- some local singers, and a Chicago chorus, orchestra and ballet.

RETURNED PICTURE

The New York Metropolitan Museum of Art received a package today from an anonymous sender. A package wrapped in brown paper mailed from the Bronx. It contained a valuable painting, worth five thousand dollars. A picture of Saint Thomas by the Italian artist Simon Martini. This stolen from the museum some five years ago.

The picture, which is painted on wood, arrived broken in half, but the museum authorities say it can easily be repaired. And they recall that its return clears up the only theft from their art galleries in the past twenty-two years. The masterpiece returned, probably because the thief could not sell it without risk of it being identified.

PONZI

Today brought to a close one of the most amazing financial careers written in the annals of crime. Old-timers will remember - Ponzi - who was in the biggest headlines of swindling thirty years ago. In Boston he did a business of two-hundred-and-fifty-thousand dollars a day, by promising investors -- "fifty percent profit in forty-five days." Money from dupes rolled in so fast, that it was crammed in the waste baskets in Ponzi's office.

Actually, he was paying interest to investors out of money that poured in from new investors, a snowballing operation that eventually had to come to a crash - and Ponzi was sent to prison. He served for seven years, and then was deported to his native country, Italy.

But he couldn't make money in Italy, couldn't run up any big financial operations, so he drifted to South America, Brazil, in Rio -- and there he made a comeback.

He became the owner of a fashionable hotel and did all right - but his bad ~~financial~~ financial habits led him again astray. He spent money so lavishly and ~~was~~ squandered so recklessly that he went broke.

Today he died in a charity hospital, blind, paralyzed, bankrupt -- leaving behind him a **flagrant legend of mad money, financial fantasy.**

SPACE

Here In Chicago today, James T. Mangan filed a claim in the office of the recorder of Cook County -- a ^{claim} ~~claim~~ to "all space in all directions". And State's Attorney John S. Boyle has handed in a two thousand word opinion, stating that Mangan's title to the celestial universe is legally correct.

The proud possessor has a name for his new astronomical empire. He calls it "Celestia" and he declares ~~announces~~ that his ownership will prevent the American Armed Forces from sending up those rockets to go circling around this world - the "earth satellite vehicle program," mentioned by Secretary of Defense Forrestal the other day. The rocket satellites would be trespassing on Mangan's interplanetary property.

~~announces~~ You may ask, what is he going to do with the outer universe? He answers by saying: "One hundred years from now, thousands of people will be living in space ships".

But that ~~is~~ ^{most} not the remarkable part.
~~will~~ The owner of Celestia plans to use inter-

planetary space as a - cemetery. The dear departed will be sent up as rockets to circle the earth. All fixed up in such fashion that they will reflect the rays of the sun and shine like stars.

~~Well, the Pharaohs of Egypt thought they were doing remarkably well, building the giant pyramids for their tombs. But even the most glorious of the Pharaohs never dreamed of circling the earth and shining like a star.~~

~~However,~~ ^{That's} the project for which legal papers were filed ^{here} in Chicago today - so what more is there to be said? ~~Well, we don't have to think of anything.~~ The proper remark is provided by James ~~T~~ Mangan himself, ~~that owner of interplanetary space, and monarch of Celestia.~~ ~~Today he said he:~~ "it is out of this world". And ~~he's~~ *he's right about that!*

In England today, George Bernard Shaw made a demand on the British government. As is usual with Shaw, there are sharp lively words - but there is also an abundance of good sense. The Irish wit and playwright asks the British tax authorities to put the arts of writing, painting and acting in the same category as betting on horse races.

The idea is financial, as is also usual with George Bernard Shaw -- who has never failed in artistic appreciation of the pound sterling. In Britain, writers, artists and actors have to pay a tax on their earnings, while the winnings of horse race gamblers are tax free. Which irks the great writer no little, he being one of the biggest taxpayers in Britain.

The Shavian contention is that people in the arts gamble on their work - as much as a horse player gambles when he bets on the race. To illustrate, the world famous dramatist gives his own experience: "Of the fifty odd plays I have written" he says, "a few proved gold mines, a few

silver mines, the rest - tin and pewter. If this is not gambling" he argues, "I don't know what gambling is." So he demands that the British government put the winnings in art in the same class as the winnings on horse races - tax-free.

In all his 90 odd years the inimitable G. B. S. never let ^{a rarer,} drop a more perfect pearl of wisdom than that. I speak feelingly! How about you, Nelson?