

C.I. - P. 4. Thurs. May 11 - '50

LABOR

The American Federation of Labor tonight made a definite move toward unification with the C.I.O. which would put fourteen million Union members in one giant labor organization. A.F. of L. President Greene at Philadelphia made the motion whereby a committee was named to negotiate with the C.I.O. Negotiate for -- "organic" unity.

Previously the C.I.O. had made a suggestion for a sort of cooperation, "functional" unification, an arrangement to work together. But to this the response was that the Federation would only consider an amalgamation of the two labor groups. At Atlantic City President Phillip Murray of the C.I.O. says that his organization will similarly appoint a committee -- to deal with the group named by the A.F. of L. tonight.

STRIKE

Unemployment follows in the wake of the railroad strike - as was inevitable. The lines, tied up by the walkout, are laying off more than a hundred and twenty-five thousand workers, until a settlement is reached with the striking firemen.

There was violence today in Kentucky - two shots fired at locomotives operated by non-striking employees, while the Union claims that at Knoxville pickets were assailed by stones.

REORGANIZATION

The Senate this afternoon rejected President Truman's plan to abolish the office of General Counsel of the National Labor Relations Board - which would have ousted Robert N. Denham. This was one item in reorganization plans not recommended by former President Herbert Hoover. The opposition contended that the abolition of the post was merely intended to get rid of General Counsel Denham, who has been assailed by labor organizations. The President argued that the present set-up is, a -"two-headed freak", the General Counsel having a position independent of the Labor Board.

The Truman insistence was repeated today - in a telegram to Vice-President Barkley. But the Senate voted the other way, a coalition of Republicans and Democrats mustering a majority of fifty-three to thirty. This rejection by the Senate ends the whole thing - since any reorganization proposal can be killed by a vote in either House of Congress.

JOHNSON

Secretary of Defense Johnson ~~xxxx~~ issues a vigorous argument in favor of his policy of economy -- cutting the costs of the Defense Forces. "Russia", said he, "hopes to conquer America by making us overspend ourselves on national defense -- until our economy is wrecked." He made this declaration to the Convention of the Kiwanis Clubs meeting in Miami. He said that war is not likely. ~~xxxx~~ "We may stumble into the accident of war", he argued, "but war is not on the horizon at the moment." The more immediate danger, he thinks, is to -- American economy. "It doesn't do any good," he argued, "if the Army, Navy and Airforce are perfect, if in achieving that, we bankrupt America."

All of which is decidedly strong talk -- in the face of a ~~wkkt~~ belief, in high quarters, that we may be cutting down our defence funds too much.

BIG THREE

In London, the Big Three plunged into international business today - the beginning of the conference held by Secretary of State Acheson, Foreign Secretary Bevin, and Foreign Minister Schuman. Their chief topic is, of course, the proposal for a Franco-German partnership in coal and steel - with the French Foreign Minister ^(giving) ~~giving~~ his colleagues a personal explanation of the project he suggested.

The British are still taking a cautious attitude - Prime Minister Attlee telling the House of Commons today that the scheme for a Franco-German economic pool would have, what Attlee called - "far ~~far~~ reaching implications." He said he welcomed it, as a means of quieting the old feud between the French and Germans. But said it would require - "very careful study."

ARMY FINANCE

The uproar about army finance is in huge figures - over-payments of a hundred and sixty million dollars, for example. They say there is no fraud involved - a congressional committee agreeing ^(with) ~~that~~ army authorities on that point. But a thorough-going investigation is to be made, looking into the - irregularities.

The hot spot of the scandal is the St. Louis Finance Center, which handles gigantic sums of money. The over-payments are said to have been made to dependents of servicemen, and to these the center paid nineteen billion dollars during the past seven and one-half years - including war years. The discrepancies amount to less than one-fifth-of-one-per cent of the total, and yet that tiny fraction comes to - a hundred and sixty million dollars.

The Army says that of ~~a~~ this, all has been recovered except some thirty-five million. ~~and about a hundred million~~
~~of one per cent of the grand total. But, still, it's~~

~~thirty-five million~~ The over-payments are attributed to lax methods and careless handling of these stupendous amounts of public money.

Moreover, the congressional committee makes a charge of Communist infiltration at the St. Louis Finance Center, and declares that fraudulent documents were placed in loyalty files, to protect employees. Also - a "conspiracy" to discredit Army Intelligence and the F.B.I. The ~~congressional~~ committee recommends a court-martial of an Army finance officer.

FLOODS

The Canadian Army calls it - "the battle of the bridges".

They're trying to hold the bridges open at Winnipeg, so as to keep the flooded city supplied with food. The rivers are still rising, and they're protecting the bridges by barricades of sandbags, reinforcing these all the time. Women and children are streaming out of Winnipeg, by every line of escape - the Army Canadian authorities ■ urging them to leave.

Today four electrical generators were flown by plane, to take the place of power plants washed out by the deluge - and provide emergency electricity. Surely - an amazing plight of surging waters ^{for} ~~is~~ one of the important cities of this continent. Winnipeg, metropolis of the Canadian prairie.

FLOODS

It is the other way round in Cuba, a city starved for water -- the U.S. Navy on the job. Santiago, one of Cuba's most important cities, has run out of water -- the level of the reservoir having fallen that low. So, according to a late story tonight, ^{two} Navy Water barges carrying nearly six hundred ^{thousand} gallons, are on their way from the American Naval base at Guantanamo.

Today, Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Sherman, ordered the barges to continue the trips every ~~day~~ day, six hundred thousand gallons at a time, as long as the water shortage continues at Santiago.

MINE DISASTER

One of the worst of mine disasters - in Belgium.

A shattering explosion of coal gas, sixteen hundred and fifty feet underground. Forty-one lives lost - as miners were trapped by collapsing shafts and deadly fumes.

CANDIDATE

In Nevada, a candidate for the Senate is breaking up marriage - in preparation for a legislative career in Washington. A lady candidate - who thinks her husband would not fit so well in the Washington world of high politics. At least, that's what he says - in explanation.

She is Ann Cooper-Hewitt Nicholson, an heiress, who has been in the news from time to time, and who is now campaigning in a hot political fight. Her husband, whom she married two years ago, is known as a cowboy disc jockey, appearing on the air as - Rodeo Boy. With a first class Western drawl. Rodeo Boy sounds like the lone prairie as he ^{spins} ~~turns~~ the records of - "Deep in the Heart of Texas" and "Home on the Range."

^{At that} ~~well~~, maybe it wouldn't be so dignified for a Senator to introduce her husband as - Rodeo Boy.

GENERAL ROOSEVELT

I'm broadcasting from an American Legion Post tonight, and that would seem to be an odd place for a discussion of - art. But, just the same, it's a proper time to consider ways of developing personality in a portrait. The Legion Post in question, just founded - is dedicated to General Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., who was one of the high ranking casualties of the D-Day invasion of Normandy.

They decided to have a portrait of "young Teddy," as he was called for so long. But they felt that the panoply of war, army, rank, would not be a true expression of a personality so warmly sympathetic, unpretentious and friendly. Hence the picture - of a General talking to a peasant. An actual episode - when, in the wild turmoil of the D-Day invasion, General Theodore Roosevelt stopped for a chat with a simple Norman farmer of the countryside. Which was an eloquent way of developing personality in the life-size portrait, unveiled here tonight.

The Roosevelt family is represented by Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., Archibald Roosevelt, Alice Roosevelt Longworth, famous as Princess Alice of the White House.

For the Army, General Wyman, Commander at Governors Island, who served with General Roosevelt in France. Navy - Admiral Halsey, that renowned Bull Halsey of the South Pacific. Air Force - General Jimmy Doolittle of the Tokyo Raid and Eighth Air Force.

Meeting at headquarters, here at the Press Box, the General Theodore Roosevelt Post is electing a new commander to succeed its founder, F. Darius Benham. The election has not yet been held, but I have an inside tip of who is to be chosen - unanimously. Gene Tunney - former heavyweight champion of the world, a private of the Marines in the First World War, and a Navy Commander in the Second. This - as homage is paid to General Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., worthy son of a great father, and one of the best of friends. - one of America's greatest soldiers,

BAPTISTS.

We hear the Southern Baptists are thinking of removing the word "Southern" from the name of their church. Baptists from the south are holding a convention in Chicago, ^{where} the feeling seems to be that so sectional a name is not quite the thing -- dating back as it does to the times of the Civil War. But one difficulty ~~xxxx~~ is to find a substitute for the word -- "southern". It would not just do to say -- "The Baptist Church" because there are other branches of the Baptists. "American" might do alright -- except for the fact that the Northern Baptists are planning to remove the sectional term from their church. And call themselves -- American Baptists. The Negro denomination is calling itself -- National Baptists -- so what's left for the Southern Baptists?

We hear that this ^{is} the ^{big} question as the Conference in Chicago elects a new president of the Church, Dr. Robert G Lee of Memphis, Tennessee.

LONGEVITY

Here's a headline - stating that women thrive on married life. As if we didn't know that already. The Metropolitan Life Insurance Company releases figures to show that the wives get along fine - but it doesn't say anything about the husbands. Statistics indicate that during the past half a century, the death rate of married women has been cut in half - from sixteen per thousand to eight per thousand. On the other hand, the death rate for women without husbands, spinsters, widows and divorcees, has declined much less.

So it would seem that marriage agrees with the ladies. - ~~as Joe Henpeck said, as he ducked a rolling pin.~~

Extra

At Carnation, Washington, they had an automobile chase today, worthy of the Keystone cops of Silent movie days.

A young bandit walked into the Washington State Bank, pulled a gun on the cashier, and dashed out with seven hundred dollars. But, as he ran to his getaway-automobile, the robber was seen - and the fire department was nearby. So, the next thing you know, the sirens of the fire truck were shrieking. Volunteer firemen responded, and the fire wagon took up the pursuit. ~~By~~ By this time people all over the place were leaping into their automobiles, and chasing the bandit car - grocery store keepers, soda clerks, bartenders. Actually, when they caught up with the fugitive - the bank cashier was in the lead, the one who was robbed.

It all ended on top of Novelty Hill - aptly named for the occasion today. The bank robber, in his anxiety to get away from the army of automobiles, fire trucks and all-stepped on the gas so hard, that the radiator boiled over. His car stalling he surrendered meekly and mildly - to the bank cashier, his victim.

HOBO

Here's one for the book of curious law cases - a hobo suing a railroad for damage ~~damages~~ while "riding the rods." At Pontiac, Michigan, Joseph Knight has gone to law, giving his address as - "Anywhere, U.S.A."

Joe is a hobo, who says he was hitching a ride on a dining car of the New York Central, when the kitchen help ordered him off. But Joe stood on his constitutional rights - meaning that it takes a good constitution to ride the rods. So what did those dining car fellows do? They poured hot water on him. There's usually no lack of hot water in the kitchen, and that potful was - steaming.

Hence the hobo damage suit today - for fifty thousand dollars. ~~Hot~~ Hot water damages ^(of a) ~~surprising~~ ^(kind) ~~surprising~~, the news dispatch quoting the hobo as follows: "He said his injuries prevent him from working."

Which certainly sounds like fifty thousand dollars' worth of something - a hobo ^{(prevented from working.} ~~prevented from working.~~

WRESTLER

Many of us have wondered about the way people can become excited and emotional over a wrestling bout; that form of alleged sport being recognized as - show business. But there are some who go into spells of indignation, sympathy, anger - especially when the villain of the wrestling troupe fights foul against a clean-cut square shooting opponent.

One of the most ill-favored of the villains is a ponderous pachyderm, who has the nightmare name of Ivan-the-Terrible Rasputin. - and last night at Joliet, Illinois, Ivan-the-Terrible Rasputin was fighting his foulest against a wrestler named Walter Palmer, a mild, pleasant name, quite appropriate for a fine upstanding young athlete.

Growling, snarling, gouging, kicking, hitting low - the villain went into a tangle with the hero, and they both rolled out of the ring. They hit the floor - where Ivan-the-Terrible Rasputin kept on mauling and fouling, right there among the spectators. Then - wham! - a spectator - Somebody ^ conked Ivan-the-Terrible Rasputin over

WRESTLER - 2

the head with a monkey-wrench, and knocked him cold.

So there was an appearance in a police court today - with the janitor of the wrestling hall accused of swinging that monkey-wrench. He denied it - and then it was disclosed that he used to be a wrestler, himself, having appeared under the name of Kid West.

"Let me at him," roared Ivan-the-Terrible Rasputin. He demanded a wrestling bout right there in the courtroom. But the police put a stop to that - and, at last reports, Ivan-the-Terrible Rasputin was nursing the bump on his head. Growling and snarling - like the villain he is.

SINATRA

If reports from Spain be correct, Frank Sinatra must be crooning the blues. That favorite singer of radio went to Barcelona to join Motion Picture Actress Ava Gardner. His interest said to be - sentimental.

It was in the gossip for some time that Frank Sinatra was escorting Ava Gardner around the night clubs of New York, before she went to Spain to make a movie there. So now he has arrived at Barcelona - and there, according to the news dispatch, he was promptly informed that the lady has fallen in love ~~at~~ with a bullfighter. It seems that the movie she is making has to do with affairs of the bull ring and el toro - as would be likely in ~~the same kind of~~^a movie made in Spain.

In any case, the leading man in the picture is a toreador, and Frank Sinatra has been told about him. Today's news dispatch states: "Sinatra listened glumly to reports of a romance between Miss Gardner and the bullfighter."

Well, those things can happen. Remember how la Bergman went to the volcano, Stromboli, to make a movie with

Rosselini? In Italy, volcano. In Spain - bullfighter. All-
according to the custom of the country, *Nelson!*