

R.I. - P. & G. Tuesday, Oct. 19, 1948

ROME

In Rome tonight Premier De Gaspari told newsmen about his talk with American Secretary of State Marshall yesterday. De Gaspari's encouraging report was put in these words: "I can tell you that yesterday I finished my day well. Because, from General Marshall's words in the course of our conversation, I became convinced that one can have certainty of peace in the world".

(This heartening assurance was given after the interview ~~that the~~ Secretary of State ^{Marshall} had with Pope Pius, ~~the Twelfth~~ their discussion of the hope of avoiding a third world war.)

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The Moscow radio tonight is telling about Russian troops leaving northern Korea — great crowds seeing them off.

PALESTINE

Late news from Palestine pictures war on land and sea. (Fighting between soldiers in the southern part of the Holy Land, the Negeb, the desert -- Israeli and Egyptians. Today the conflict burst in a new fury.)

In the war at sea, the news tells of an engagement between ships and planes. Off the Palestine coast an Egyptian ship met two Jewish vessels. Fighting started, and Egyptian planes joined in attacking the two ships of Israeli. Whereupon two Jewish planes entered the fray. Battle in the sky. Cairo claims two Jewish planes were shot down -- one Egyptian plane missing.

(While these hostilities were going on, the United Nations today ordered an immediate "cease-fire.") The Security Council acted with a unanimous vote of nine to nothing -- Soviet Russia and the Red Ukraine abstaining both Israel and Egypt were told to stop fighting. The Egyptians are willing -- announcing that they will cease fire, if the Israeli do. It is believed the Jewish State, likewise, will abide by the Security Council order.

CRISIS

There was repetition in Paris today, the Western powers repeating their demand - that the Security Council of the United Nations take action in the Berlin crisis. The President of the Council agreed, and set a date - Friday. So that's showdown time - for the western accusation to go to a vote.

Security Council President Bramulia, the delegate from Argentina, still hopes that the small nations may be able to bring about some sort of compromise. Today Bramulia had another talk with Vishinsky, a long talk, fifty-five minutes. But the Soviet delegate seems to have given little encouragement - in the Council he continued his boycott of the proceedings, that Vishinsky sit-down strike. The Western delegates recited details about the hunger blockade still more rigid. That led to the demand for a show-down, and the setting of the date - Friday.

FRANCE

There's a minor civil war in French coal mine areas -- continuing the news we had from Paris last night. The center of the trouble is in the department of Loire, where there is a coal mine basin. The Communist-led miners are out on strike, ~~and a couple of days ago the Red bosses of the Union called out the maintenance workers, who had been ~~left~~ left to keep the mines in order. ^{It} One thing about the coal pits of the Loire is that they are liable to flooding. So the removal of the maintenance workers threatens them with ruin.~~ In Paris the Minister of the Interior, who is a Socialist, gave orders for military intervention -- save the mines from flooding, at any cost. ~~(Yesterday there was a battle, as the soldiers moved in. And today the story is repeated: ten thousand troops, with full battle equipment, continue to take over the mines and) at one coal pit there was the fiercest kind of struggle, as the Red strikers, fighting with crowbars,~~

defended a barricade -- the soldiers attacking with
xx tear gas bombs. ^R At last reports the troops had
seized control of a number of mines, and military
engineers were doing a pumping job -- clearing the
coal pits of the flooding water.

CHILD

After all these troubles of the world, let's go on to something small, personal, childish, pathetic. Today at Cedar Rapids, they found in the mail a postal card, which read:

"Please bring Mommy and Daddy back again. I love them both."

It was signed - Dorothy. *The postmaster was baffled - for*

x The card was addressed 'to' - "God in Heaven."

Yes, a small interlude in large events of headline news.

POLITICS

In the election campaign, Secretary of the Interior Krug, issues a denial tonight -- a denial that his tour of western reclamation projects is a political trip. The accusation was made today by Republican Congressman Harkness of Indiana, Chairman of a Sub-Committee of Publicity and Propaganda. The Congressman declared that Secretary Krug and a group of his aides, while supposedly on a tour of reclamation projects, are actually campaigning for the election of Secretary of Agriculture Anderson, running for the Senate. There is to be a Congressional investigation of this.

Secretary Krug, in his denial, admits that ^{during} his inspection of the western projects, ^{he} has praised and extolled the efforts on behalf of reclamation made by the Democrats. He says that he has made it his ~~responsibi~~ responsibility to denounce the attitude of the Republican candidates, Governors Dewey and Warren. He says he

thought the people of the west should, in his words, -- understand that the promises made by the Republican nominees will never be paid off by any Republican Congress. But the trip was not political. ^{The} Secretary of the Interior and his aides are merely inspecting reclamation projects. No electioneering -- no sir!

*on
by
now.*

~~President Truman is back in Washington tonight, after his trip south. At Raleigh, North Carolina, he gave two campaign addresses today, and warned the Dixiecrats that, if they vote against the Truman-Barkley ticket, they will only be helping the Republicans.~~

While in the south, the President, speaking as a Democratic candidate, made no mention of that subject of so much interest in the south -- his policy of Racial Rights. That draws a blast from the Dixiecrats, who are making enquiries -- does, or does not, the President still

stand for the Truman Racial Rights policy? Dixiecrat leaders, like candidate Governor Thurmond of South Carolina, are calling on Truman to explain.

When the President returned to Washington today, a letter was waiting for him -- from Mrs Eleanor Roosevelt in Paris. A delegate to the United Nations, the widow of the late President Roosevelt, gave official notice that she supports the Truman-Barkley ticket. Writing to President Truman she says: "I am unqualifiedly for you as a Democratic candidate for the Presidency".

EXPLOSION

Today we have an eye-witness account of an episode of flaming fantasy and terror in Texas last night. It happened just outside of Texas City, the petroleum chemical center which was devastated by explosion and fire a year and a half ago. This time, a pipeline of butane gas, under high pressure, blew up - butane being an important ingredient in the chemical industry. A cloud of the highly inflammable gas spread swiftly, and caught fire - and a sheet of flame flashed across the highway, where a line of automobiles was stalled by a passing freight train. Four lives were lost, nineteen persons injured. It was a weird flash in the night, a streak of flame shooting across highway and automobiles.

In the middle of the terror was a family in a car, and from them we have the eye-witness account - from the husband. Floyd Bailey, an oil refinery worker, tells how he was driving to a church social with his wife and two children, a thirteen year old girl and a seven year old boy. Their car, like others, was stopped by the passing of ^{the} a freight train. "Then," says

Floyd Bailey, "I saw a fog of butane gas. I've worked in a refinery for a long time, and I know butane gas when I see it." He got out of the car. The choking fumes of butane were increasing. He says people in other cars were growing panicky - and Floyd Bailey reached in his automobile, and pulled out the seven year old boy - while his wife and thirteen year old girl got out the other door.

"Then," he relates, "somebody hollered - 'run for your lives.' And we did. Everybody," he goes on, "was running in the darkness, holding their noses to try to keep from inhaling the fumes."

Then came the climax in a nightmare of fright.

"There was a blinding flash," says Floyd Bailey. "It went - 'woosh'. Not loud - and balls of fire came through the air."

Floyd Bailey was yelling, "Run, run," when he saw his wife - on fire. "The bottom of her dress was ablaze, and her hair was burning," he relates, and says: "I beat out the flames with my bare hands and managed to stop ~~there~~ a car that

came by. The kids," he adds, "were not hurt - just scared.

He took his wife to a hospital in Galveston, where she's under medical care tonight - after a cataclysm on a highway such as can occur when something in our industrial civilization goes wrong.

FOLLOW EXPLOSION

We seem to have an epidemic of mishaps tonight.

One reported from Baltimore - when a wing tank from a Navy bomber fell off and landed in a crowded Baltimore street.

The Navy, holding manoeuvres, was staging a mock air raid on Baltimore - seventy carrier planes swinging over. The one that dropped its wing tank was right over the center of the city.

The ponderous tank, loaded with gasoline, made a direct hit in Lexington Market, crowded with people - where the tank struck like a bomb and showered a deluge of gasoline on all sides.

The casualties? Not even an injury. The falling tank missed everybody, and the gasoline did not catch fire - so this mishap of human civilization was only spectacular.

VOLCANO

In South America - a stupendous cataclysm of Nature.

In the Republic of Chile, news of a volcanic eruption, the explosion of one of the world's famous mountains. The story tells of a freakish phenomenon of mingled fire and snow, floods of white hot lava - floods also of rivers, with a deluge of water, because of the volcanic eruption. ^PThe mountain - called Villarica, a towering summit of the Andes in southern Chile, four hundred miles to the south of Santiago. That's a famous peak in the world of winter sports ~~and~~ and skiing, Chile having developed Villarica into a resort

frequented by skiers from all over the world. I, myself, ~~missed~~ 'it when I visited Chile - - ~~have never been there~~ but I've heard about it a lot. ^{One of my ski friends, Emile Allais was due to be there early this month. At any rate a moment ago} ~~So today~~ I put in a telephone call to ^{another} a friend, John Jay, a traveler and skier - and he told me about Villarica.

He said it was a mountain nine thousand feet high, snow covered to its very base, and shaped like a cone. ^a ~~This~~ [^] ~~cone~~ [^] was so perfect, that, from the summit, you could go skiing down and around the mountain, circling, cutting a spiral to

the bottom. That was what ~~it~~ drew ~~the~~ skiers from all over the world. But there was something else. The lofty summit was crowned by a stream of white, a blowing cloud of steam and volcanic fumes. Hot gases issued from the pinnacle of the mountain ^{high up there} and turned snow into steam - giving Villarica an eternal plume drifting with the wind.

Near the base of the mountain were a number of blue lakes with bathing resorts. The section called the lake region of Chile. ^{Where} The water never froze, ~~but was~~ always limpid and blue - because of heat in the rocks below, subterranean fires. All - obviously volcanic. ^{How the} John Jay told ~~me that~~ local people ~~in~~formed the skiers that Mount Villarica had erupted in times gone by, and might explode again - but the winter sports enthusiasts only laughed at that, and took it as a local joke. ^{But,} it was no joke - as the news of today relates in spectacular fashion.)

^{There} were two explosions, one last night - the top of the mountain blown off, with tremendous clouds of

smoke and volcanic ash ^{hurled on} ~~blown~~ high into the sky. We have an eye-witness account from an American vacationist, Rita Gardiner of New York. She was at a swimming resort on one of the blue lakes, and tells of a gigantic mass of smoke ~~and~~ and ashes rising from the summit, pouring upward and shaped like a mushroom. She said it resembled pictures she saw of the explosion of the atomic bomb.

At the same time, streams of molten lava poured down the sides of the mountain. The skiing shelter above the five thousand foot level was overwhelmed and consumed.

^Q ~~The~~ famous resort hotel ^{also} was destroyed. Three villages were ^{blotted} ~~flooded~~ ^{TP} out. At the same time, the deluge came - a deluge of water. The heat of the lava, and of the fiery gases, melted the snow - the deep ^{frozen} layers that made the cone of Villarica a glistening white landmark. Huge floods of water poured down, into four rivers, and ~~this meant~~ these went into wild flood.

Reports tell of forty lives lost, largely because of the floods. ^{TP} If this were the skiing season down there, ^{— which is just over} ~~the~~

the death toll would have been much higher. ^{TP} The latest reports tell of four great streams of incandescent lava moving down toward the largest of the ^{blue} lakes - ^{which} ~~but it~~ is blue no longer, the waters ^{have} ~~to~~ take ⁿ on a new color, a reddish ~~grey~~ grey, perhaps from earth disturbances at the bottom.

So tonight the further possibility is raised - of *the* four streams of fiery lava ^{reaching} ~~pouring into~~ the lake, ^{pouring in,} ~~with still~~ *to create* another prodigy of the violence of Nature.

END

Now back to the ^{mis-}doings of civilization. Over in
Tokyo, they had - Fire Prevention Week, celebrat^{ed}~~ing~~ with
all sorts of appropriate ceremony, speech-making, instruction,
warning. ^{Tokyo} Fire Prevention Week came to a formal close today -
and within two hours there were fourteen fires.

And now how about a few
firey words from you, Nelson?

early Oct. 1948

In Paris, the United Nations have ordered an immediate "cease fire" in southern Palestine. The Security Council acted with ^a unanimous vote, nine to nothing - Soviet Russia and the Red Ukraine abstaining. Both sides are told to stop the fighting in the Negeb ^{- the} Desert.

The trouble is between Israel and Egypt - which sounds something like the Books of Moses, the seven plagues of Egypt, the passage of the Red Sea, that exodus of Bible times. But this time the children of Israel have been battling the Egyptians for possession of vital highways in the ^{camp} desert through which Moses led the twelve tribes those many centuries ago.

The U.N. tells them to stop, and the Egyptians are willing - having announced that they would cease fire, if the Israeli did. It is believed that the Jewish state, likewise, will abide by the Security Council order - and bring an end to the flare-up of war that's a grave threat to the Palestine truce in general.

Today an American Congressman entered the situation, Representative Emanuel Celler of New York - who stated that the murdered Count Bernadotte had been coerced by British and American diplomatic officials - in drawing up his plan for a Palestine settlement. The Bernadotte proposal includes a proviso that the Negeb ~~Desert~~ shall be transferred from Israel to the Arabs - in exchange for areas in northern Galilee. Israel objects to this, and now Congressman Emanuel Celler makes the charge - that Count Bernadotte was forced into his decision.

This is met with a quick denial from ~~Dr.~~ Dr. Ralph Bunche, the U.N. mediator who succeeded Bernadotte. Dr. Bunche says - "utterly untrue."

CAMPAIGN

There's to be a Congressional investigation of charges that Federal employees are playing an illegal part in the ^{political} ~~election~~ campaign. The allegation is that they are doing an electioneering job in New Mexico in behalf of ex-Secretary of Agriculture Anderson, ~~who is~~ running for the Senate. The inquiry was launched today by a subcommittee on publicity and propaganda, headed by Republican Congressman Harness of Indiana -- and the particular target was Secretary of ~~the~~ Interior Krug. ^{FF} Earlier in the day the Committee Chairman declared that Secretary Krug and a group of his aides are campaigning for Anderson in New Mexico. He stated that, officially, they are on a tour of reclamation projects in the West, but actually it's political -- so declared the Congressman. There's a law against Government employees mixing into election campaigns -- so now there's to be a Congressional investigation.

TRUMAN

President Truman is back in Washington tonight, after his trip South. At Raleigh, North Carolina, he gave two campaign addresses today, and warned the Dixiecrats that, if they vote against the Truman-Barkley ticket, they'll ~~be~~ only *be* helping the Republicans.

WEATHER

In the middlewest, the cold snap has broken, clear sunny skies and rising temperatures. But along the Atlantic coast, we're still having chilly weather. In New England, the thermometer sank as low as six above zero, and the South shivered in many places. Temperatures well below freezing as far south as Birmingham, Alabama.

This is due to last for another day, and then the warmer weather will come from the west - ending the first cold snap of winter.