

BIG FOUR

C.T. - Sunoco and P. & G. Tues, March 11, 1947.
(Sun Valley, Idaho.)

(The Big Four conference in Moscow is only two days old, but already a major Soviet diplomatic offensive is developing. Russia struck the opening blow yesterday with her demand that the Big Four Foreign Ministers also include on their agenda a discussion of the turbulent conditions within China. Today Secretary of State Marshall refused flatly to permit such a discussion unless China were allowed to take part. ^π However, Marshall did yield slightly to the Russians by agreeing, along with British Foreign Secretary Bevin, to hold secret American-British-Russian discussions over the explosive Chinese situation. ^π Then Molotov tried to get from Marshall ~~ix~~ and Bevin an agreement that communiques would be issued on the three-power discussions over China - Molotov taking the position that they should be aired to the world. ^{And that} ~~ix~~ was a strange ~~re~~versal of form, ~~ix~~ Molotov the Russian, pleading for open discussions, Marshall and Bevin demanding ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ secrecy.

At the end, Bevin and Marshall won out. Whatever is said in Moscow about China will remain top secret. Russia then dropped another explosive problem into the lap of the conferees - the ~~xx~~ demilitarization of Germany. ^R Molotov presented a four point program calling for the elimination of German war industry by the end of Nineteen-~~xxxx~~ Forty-eight, and the complete destruction of German war material by the end of Nineteen Forty-nine. Also, the disbandment of any German military organization now being maintained in ~~xxxxx~~ western occupation zones, and the abolition of all camps for non-German nationals in Germany. ^R This produced an argument. Molotov and Bevin had ^{ing} one of their familiar clashes over Russian charges that Britain is maintaining big German military units in her zone of occupation.]

Bevin replied by demanding that Russia report on the number of German war prisoners still being held in the Soviet Union.

~~Secretary of State Marshall finally ended.~~

That ^{recent} sharp American note to Moscow, protesting Soviet interference in Hungary, gets the usual reception. Not only do the Russians brush it aside, but they ^{answer} ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ with counter-charges ^{of} ~~in~~ their own.

You may be surprised to know it, but it's the United States of America which has been meddling with Hungarian affairs! [!] At least, so says Moscow, in a message to ~~our~~ State Department today. ^π In our original protest, we accused the Soviets of trying to substitute a communist dictatorship for Hungary's present freely elected government. We ^{asked for} ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ an Allied investigat^{ion} of the recent arrest of Bela Kovach, prominent member of Hungary's Democratic majority party, who has been seized and is being held incommunicado on charges of anti-Soviet espionage and terrorism. That's what Moscow calls ~~XXXX~~ meddling.

The Soviets do not take kindly to our interest in what goes on in Hungary, or what happens to certain prominent Hungarians. They label our note as -- "rude and open interference in Hungarian affairs".

As to the American proposal for an Allied inquiry, the Russians reject that flatly.

They claim that whatever action they have taken in Hungary has been only to protect the Red occupation ~~for~~ forces there. They claim there has been widespread anti-Soviet plotting among members of Hungary's majority government. Moreover, say the Soviets, many of these plotters have admitted their guilt. So what are we fussing about? ^{TP} Well, it's peculiar how often anti-Soviet "plotters" confess.

SCHWELLENBACH

Secretary of Labor Schwellenbach made a statement today that should be echoing even now in the meeting places of America's Reds, Pinks and Fellow Travellers; for Schwellenbach, stated flatly to the House Labor Committee that he sees no reason "why the Communist party should not be outlawed".

Why, he demanded, "should we recognize the Communist party in the United States?" Why should the Reds be eligible to run for office when their purpose ~~is~~ is to destroy this government?

These declarations were prompted by a question from Congressman Landis of Indiana, who is sponsoring an amendment to the Wagner Act which would prevent Communists from holding office - places in unions. ^{Sec. of Labor} Schwellenbach indicated he had objections to the ~~amendment~~ amendment, so Landis wanted to know what was wrong with it. "Nothing" Schwellenbach replied, "except that it does not go far enough."

Then he went on to ~~may~~ explain: "Here's what we're up against:- We get a report from the

F B I saying that this or that person is a Communist, that he regularly attends communist meetings and participates in party work. So we call him in, and he denies attending any meetings. He denies being a Communist. That's the first thing a communist learns, to lie about being a communist".

That's why the ~~SMF~~ Secretary of Labor does not believe the Landis' amendment goes far enough. He wants a more sweeping ban against communists than a mere restriction keeping them out of official positions in labor unions.

SLAYING

In Illinois, there's a frantic police hunt for clues to last night's murder of George P. McNear, President of the strike-bound Toledo, Peoria and ~~and of~~ western railroad - and an implacable foe of unionism. McNear was killed in Peoria, while walking down a neighborhood street less than a ~~xx~~ hundred feet from his home. The assailant stepped from behind a bush directly into the path of the ~~xxx~~ fifty-six year old railroad executive and fired a single shot-gun blast into his chest.

According to Sheriff Earl Spaenhower, the slaying was "definitely an imported job." The slayer, says the Sheriff, must have followed McNear for several days. He obviously knew his victim's habits, especially his evening walks. The street on which McNear was killed had been darkened by a power shortage, which affected all of Peoria, just a short time before the shooting occurred. And it was the power blackout which gave the killer his perfect opportunity.

However the Peoria Sheriff says that, even

if the railroad executive ^{had} survived last night's attack, he was a marked man. And today McNear's widow stated that her husband's life had been threatened many times during his long and bitter conflict with striking employees of his railroad - a conflict punctuated more than once by gunfire and dynamiting.

For five years McNear had refused to sign a contract with the strikers - defying equally the union and the government. He said: "I'd rather sell the road for junk than accede to the demands of the strikers". Last night, this unwavering firmness was rewarded by a murderous shotgun blast - a blast delivered by an assailant from ambush in the dark.

What has the union to say?

W. C. Keiser, negotiator for the strikers, makes the following statement:

"I am sorry to hear of Mr. McNear's death. I am sure that no union member had anything to do with it. But, I am also sure that the union will not offer a reward for the apprehension of the assassin. So says the union leader.

ADD SLAYING

In Washington Congress is concerned.

Fred Hartley of the House Labor Committee asserted late today, that, when McNear appeared before ~~their~~ committee two weeks ago, he voiced strong fears for his life. At that time McNear testified in support of severe curbs on labor.

The ~~Exec~~ Department of Justice states tonight that the fact that McNear was recently a Congressional witness justifies the entrance of the F.B.I. into the case.

PHILIPPINES

The chairman of the Philippine Congress of Labor organizations has been arrested by the Manila police as a participant in yesterday's unsuccessful attempt to assassinate philippine President Manuel Roxas.

As Roxas was addressing an audience in Manila's main Plaza, a hand grenade, thrown from the crowd, landed on the stage behind him. Quick thinking aides of the President kicked the bomb off the platform, but the resulting explosion wounded seven persons, one of whom has died.

The bomb thrower, one Julio Guiling, was apprehended immediately and now the word is that after police questioning, he has implicated the labor leader, Amado Fernandez, in the assassination plot. Fernandez who is also a prominent newspaper editor in Manila, is said by police to have admitted helping the would-be assassin. This in a curious way. Guiling, they say, expected to be killed, mobbed by the President's bodyguard, and he wanted to leave a statement explaining

his act. Labor leader Fernandez aided him in the preparation of the statement - so say the Manila police.

BRITAIN

In London today Clement Davies, leader of Britain's once great Liberal Party, took sharp issue with the Labor government. On the sidelines, cheering the Liberal leader on, was the old tory Winston Churchill. Davies attacked the Labor Government's economic policy, and urged that military expenses must be cut. He called on Britain to renounce what he called -- "the two-century old policy of policing the world." The United States, said the Liberal leader, has been ruthless in cutting military expenses. So have the Dominions. Why should Britain carry the burden she has carried for two-hundred years?

Labor Minister George Isaacs presented the Government's case. Isaacs told the House that, in his words -- the fundamental fact is that Britain has not sufficient people to do all the things that need to be done and to produce all the goods that must be produced."

Then the opposition took over, Sir John Anderson for the Conservatives. ~~He criticized what he~~

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His main point was that the Labor Government is so busy abolishing capitalism in Great Britain, it cannot see that the whole economic structure in Britain is collapsing in the process.

FRENCH ASSEMBLY

The French have a saying that -- "The more things change the more they are the same". Which proverb was amply demonstrated today at a session of France's new National Assembly. That legislative body has ~~xxxx~~ replaced the old Chamber of Deputies. But an observer today might have been excused for thinking the old Chamber was still in uproarious existence. ^{TR} Today's meeting ended in a near riot. Just like the good old days. Communist and Rightist Deputies became embroiled this afternoon over the alleged desertion of Communist Maurice Thorez from the French Army during the war. ^{TR} It was a great fight while it lasted, with flying ~~in~~ fists and shouted insults. Deputies fought in the Chamber and in the corridors, screaming imprecations. ^{TR} Bedlam broke out when a Conservative Deputy asked ^{the} _A Communists: "How can we forget that your Secretary-General Thorez deserted the French Army and fled to Moscow in Nineteen Forty?"

Thorez was on his feet in an instant. "I was

ordered to Moscow by the party", he shouted, "and I went where duty called me".

The Conservative Deputy started to speak again, but was hooted down by the Communists. He persisted. The Communists shouted louder. Rightist Deputies joined in and hurled insults at the Reds. The Communists retaliated by slamming their desks ~~tops~~ ^{tops} open and shut.

The Premier of France, Ramadier, stepped in with an impassioned appeal. Cried he: "You are the lawmakers of France, the eyes of the world watch you. What of the dignity of the nation if you cannot even keep order among yourselves"? But by this time the Deputies were too ~~ax~~ far gone to consider France or dignity or anything else. And Ramadier, showing the logic for which the French are famous, adjourned the meeting.

Tonight Parisiens are ~~ax~~ happily describing the ~~xxx~~ riot as one of the worst in years. ^{So,} Maybe the good old days are coming ~~ax~~ back, after all.

GRUBSTAKE

Somewhere in the United States there may be a former Army sergeant who grubstaked the two brothers way up in British Columbia a few years ago and who will be glad in turn to know that the brothers haven't forgotten him.

Chuck and Pete Schwerdt are successful ~~xxxxx~~ prospectors now in British Columbia. But they haven't always been ~~xxx~~ successful. A few years ago they were down and out. They had dreams of finding gold in the northwest ~~xxxxxxx~~ territories, but were running a road-stand on the Alcan Highway, in British Columbia. The hot dog stand wasn't doing so well either.

Then one day in walked an Army sergeant -- they think his name was Albers or Alberts. He had coffee and ~~xx~~ doughnuts, and listened to the brothers talk about their dreams of finding gold and where they would hunt if they had the money. "I'll grubstake you" said the sergeant. "I can't spend any money up here anyway".

That was all there was to the deal. The

sergeant lent the money and the brothers shoved off for Yellowknife where they struck it rich.

By the time they returned to their hot dog stand, the sergeant -- attached to company A, Three-hundred and Forty-First engineers -- had disappeared. They've been looking for him ever since, and now are on their way to New York to start a search in a big way. They say they are bringing along a gold nugget the size of an Idaho potato, plus valuable mining claims, to give to their unknown partner. And they are appealing to the War Department for aid in finding him. Being just simple minded folk, they still believe that one good turn deserves another.

And now Nelson what Sun Valley inspiration do you have tonight.

CHINA

The Soviet surprise proposal that the Big Four Foreign Ministers discuss Chinese affairs, without China being represented, is causing the highest indignation at Nanking. As another example of Russia's talent for losing friends and alienating people, this can hardly be equalled. Already, American prestige is rebounding from its recent low position in China, American prestige booming as a result of the news that Secretary of State Marshall will strongly oppose the Soviet proposal to settle Chinese problems without the Chinese.

Today China's Foreign Secretary, Wang Shih-chih, made it emphatically plain that Chinese international affairs are not a subject for discussion by the Big Four. Wang pointed out that China, too, is a member of the Council of Foreign Ministers - the Big Five - and has objected to any discussion of Far Eastern matters by any conference which does not include China.

It seems that China will not consider

sending representatives to Moscow to discuss Chinese problems, even if such an invitation is forthcoming. Moreover, the Chinese government will not consider itself bound by any Big Four decision on China, feeling that the Russian proposal is only the forerunner to open Soviet support for the Chinese communists.