

L.D. *Sumner - A.B.* Sunday, July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1917.

Mr. McGilluchudy, Governor McConoughy, Mayor Danaher,

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Good Evening Everybody:

Those names ~~may~~ might suggest that I am with the  
Irish tonight. And I am. No not Carson, Nevada. It's a  
place, not of silver mines, but of things made of <sup>the</sup> silver *from Nevada.*

*It's* Meriden, Connecticut, the nation's number one center of the  
silver plate industry. You know that silver spoon you were  
born with in your ~~mouth~~ mouth? Or maybe not. But my coming here  
has nothing to do with silver -- it's Connie Mack Day ~~home~~ in  
Meriden. They are celebrating a home coming of the eighty-four  
year old manager of the Philadelphia Athletics, Cornelius  
McGillicudy, who for so many years, has been so prominent, and  
distinguished, in the national game that he is Mr. Baseball himself.

But before we talk any more about Connie Mack, ~~and~~  
~~radio~~, let's take a quick look at some of the important headlines  
in the day's news:

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TRUMAN.

President Truman is embroiled once more with his republican congress. For the fifth time since the middle of June, the chief executive has sent congress a stinging rebuke. Today the president became wrought up over the G O P economy campaign - a campaign which republicans promised they would put into effect if elected by the voters last fall.

Congress has cut twenty million dollars from the funds of the

Treasury's Internal Revenue Bureau - the agency <sup>that</sup> ~~which~~ collects taxes, makes refunds to those who pay too much, puts the law <sup>(what a pleasure it is to receive one of)</sup> on the trail of those who pay too little. The president signed a bill today, <sup>of</sup> ~~effecting~~ <sup>slashing</sup> the agency's funds. But not before he had a word to say about it.

<sup>The President</sup> ~~Mr. Truman~~ declared that he has been informed by the Secretary of the Treasury that this reduction will throw five thousand bureau employees out of work and will result in a loss to the government of four hundred million dollars during this fiscal year. He added that the agency already has a back log of thirty thousand cases of suspected tax evasions and that this number will now jump <sup>dangerously</sup>.

(Mr. Truman's running fight with Congress is ~~xxxxxxx~~ looming into a major campaign issue for Nineteen Forty-Eight.) The President fired the first salvo on June Sixteenth when he vetoed the Republican sponsored income tax bill. He won that round, the House sustaining that veto.

Then came the veto of the labor act - that one overridden by both house and Senate. Then ~~xx~~ his veto of the Wool Import Quota Bill. Congress not even bothering to argue about that one.

Yesterday Mr. Truman extended Federal rent control until Marsh First, but in doing so made it clear that he was yielding to Congressional pressure.

Today he's angry again. He signed the bill taking away twenty million dollars from the ~~Bxx~~ Bureau of Internal Revenue - but he didn't like doing it a bit.



## MARSHALL

Angry words from the usually affable George Marshall, Secretary of State, today. His most bitter denunciation of Russia and her political and economic tactics since assuming his new office.

Step by step General Marshall today outlined Russia's recent scurrilous attacks on our policy. Step by step he refuted them. It was clear, cold logic in the manner of another great American who died only a few years ago, and who used to say: "Let's look at the record."

(The Secretary of State rejects as "malicious distortion" the charge that American offers to help Europe have been inspired by imperial motives.) He added: "There could be no more fantastic misrepresentation than the frequent propaganda assertions that the United States has imperialistic aims, or wishes to fasten upon the recipients some form of political and economic domination."

Then, in a scornful vein, General Marshall contrasted American and Russian actions in Europe. He



declared: "No political parties have been left behind by us in European countries to attempt the conquest of governments from within. No American agents have sought to dominate the police establishments of European countries.

No American-dominated companies have been forced upon reluctant foreign governments."

Marshall went on to say "I do not cite this record by way of indulging in national boasting, but merely because it is true, and judging from some of the charges leveled against the United States it is in danger of being forgotten."

Is our program or aid to the stricken peoples of Europe entirely disinterested? Not at all.' admits the Secretary of State. We demand that what we contribute shall be used for the purpose for which it was intended. That it shall not be employed by selfish economic or political interests. Lastly, and most important, it must serve the great purpose of restoring hope and confidence so that the world will know peace and security in the future.

## CONFERENCE

So what about that meeting of the Foreign Ministers? It looked for a while today as if the big three conference in Paris was going to break up in another failure -- the Russians obdurate, France and Britain equally firm. Then, at the eleventh hour, the French submitted a new proposal for bringing the Marshall plan to Europe. And Soviet Foreign Commissioner Molotov gruffly agreed to hold one more meeting with his colleagues tomorrow afternoon -- after the inevitable consultation with the Kremlin.

Never was the division between East and West so pronounced as at the start of today's meeting. British Foreign Secretary Bevin angrily declared that all efforts to draw Russia into a European joint-recovery-program seemed hopeless. And Britain and France, facing the diversion of Europe into Soviet-dominated and western blocs hurried to rally the western European countries to their side.

Unless the Soviet attitude changes over night -- which is not likely -- it is now believed that the French

and British will issue a common appeal to all Europe to renounce Russia and join with them in a program of rehabilitation.

Such a Western European bloc would include, besides France and Britain; Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Italy and the western zones of Germany -- oh yes, and Ireland we hear. The Scandinavian countries may not participate, much as they would like to do so, because of their proximity to the Russian Bear.

Both the British and French feel that such a line-up of nations would stand a good chance of obtaining loans from our Congress, whereas Congress might readily balk were Russia and her satellites included.

French Foreign Minister Bidault, in his desperate move to delay, if he cannot prevent, a final breach between East and West, made these points at today's session: that Europe must start toward recovery by helping herself, but that American aid will be necessary to put over the effort. Bidault asked that a special organization be set up at once to coordinate the



resources and needs of Europe -- that organization to consist of such European powers as might desire to take part.

And the French Minister promised that such an organization would not interfere with the domestic affairs of participants nor infringe in any manner upon their sovereignty.

This matter of "infringement of sovereignty" seems to be the chief worry of the Russians, Molotov claiming ever since the conference opened that the Marshall Plan would in effect, make Europe both politically and economically dependent upon the United States. Rather strange, that worry for Uncle Joe who has done ~~mx~~ so much infringing himself.

## PARIS

Now about that alleged rebellion in France. It still seems to be a mystery. But more than two thousand armed policemen are patrolling the streets of Paris tonight -- alert against any possible demonstration by left-wing workers growing out of yesterday's amazing disclosure that extreme right-wing elements were plotting to overthrow the Fourth Republic. The Paris Government is pursuing its investigation of the plot, and civilian policemen are being aided by the War Office. All this having to do with the rebellion that they say France to be taken over by a dictatorship -- maybe.

The War Office took personal interest today when it was reported that police had arrested Air Force Captain Andre Pratt, on suspicion of being the liason man between the plotters and the French Air Corps. The War Office fears that other high army officers may be implicated.

And there was a further sensation in the French capital today when authorities announced the arrest of Colonel Gilbert Renaud, who during the war was a bold

resistance leader and who ultimately joined the staff of General DeGaulle.

When an aide of DeGaulle was informed of Renauds arrest he could only exclaim, "This is impossible."

Not all Paris newspapers, however, are as excited over the affair as the ordinary Frenchman on the boulevards. Some editorials pointed out today what a lucky thing it was for the government that all this happened right now, taking the people's mind off France's economic and political worries.



## NEW LEAD STRIKE BILL

With the threat of a nation-wide coal strike, Senator Taft has appealed tonight to bot coal operators and the United Mine Workers to come to an agreement on a new wage contract. Failing such an agreement, Taft says he'll ask the President to determine whether a national coal strike at this time will affect the health and safety of the Nation. Under the new labor reform bill -- which Senator Taft co-sponsored -- the President has the power to intervene in any strike which he considers detrimental to the country's welfare.

Meanwhile, there are reports ~~ix~~ from Washington that John L. Lewis met secretly with a group of Northern and Midwestern Coal operators. The reports also have it that these operators and the mine chief are close to agreeing on a contract that would cover much of the industry.

The report is the operators are willing to offer a daily pay scale of thirteen dollars and five cents per eight hours work. Also five cents per ton of coal mined

to the Union Health and Welfare Fund.

Lewis has already made it clear that he'll sign a new contract only if a majority of the industry will represent it.

Congressman Hartley, sponsor with Senator Taft of the Taft-Hartley Labor Bill told a Washington audience today that the threat of the coal strike could be ended immediately provided President Truman would invoke the powers given him by the new law. Moreover, said Hartley, if President Truman does not act immediately, he will have failed to live up to his own appeal to make the new law work.

As a final warning to Lewis, Hartley declared tonight that should a coal strike take place before Congress plans for further and more stringent labor legislation.



## FLOODS

( Only one major dyke, a natural levee protecting Central Saint Louis, stands tonight between that city and the worst flood disaster in its history.) Just that one levee is still intact along a hundred mile stretch of the Mississippi river from Saint Louis to Grand Tower, Illinois.

( The crest at Saint Louis tonight is now above forty feet, the highest in a-hundred-and-three years.) And thousands of Mississippi valley residents those not already isolated by flood waters, are fleeing before a torrent greater than any in their experience.

More Torrential rains in the last two days. Four more levees giving way. The Illinois town of Dupon, doomed. Four thousand people fleeing.



CONNIE MACK

And ~~now~~ now let's turn to <sup>the</sup> a long lean gentleman who is sitting here beside me -- Connie Mack. Tonight's story goes way back to Eighteen Eighty-four, when a young skinny Irishman came to Meriden in the Spring, with a baseball glove in his overcoat pocket. He had been working in a shoe factory at East Brookfield, Massachusetts, and wanted to become a ball player. He had applied to several teams in New England towns for a job -- New Britain, Hartford, Willamantic -- but nothing doing. So, now he was asking for a job with the Meriden team of the Connecticut ~~league~~ league. They weren't too ~~enthusiastic~~ enthusiastic, but took him on as a catcher -- without a ~~contract~~ contract.

Catcher Connie Mack did all right behind the bat and when the season was over, he was voted the most valuable player on the Meriden Club. They gave him a picnic and presented him with a gold watch. In replying with a few words of thanks, Connie made a promise. He was going to the Hartford Team next season, but said he sure was coming back to Meriden mighty soon. I asked Connie Mack a moment ago how about that promise to come back to Meriden. He said yes, but it had taken him sixty three years to get around to it.

Better late than never -- even if sixty-three years late! Connie Mack put off returning ~~for~~ for sixty-three years because he was too busy winning American League pennants, and the World Series time after time, and having such a distinguished career that today we call him -- Mr. Baseball.

The Silver City in Connecticut is commemorating the One Hundredth Anniversary of the beginning of the Silver industry here, founded by the three Rogers Brothers. The climax today -- Connie Mack Day.

You should have seen the crowd when Mr. Baseball got off the train here this afternoon, and you should have ~~had~~ heard the uproar of cheering that greeted Connie Mack. You should see him here tonight. At eighty-four, tall straight, alert, keen eyed, and full of wit and wisdom. We all admire, his vitality. How does he do it? He says it's because he doesn't drink, doesn't smoke, and takes care of himself. He looks fit enough to keep going for another eighty-four years. Yes, and he says he 'll never sell the Athletics -- that there isn't enough money in the world to buy them,

*And now Nelson, back to you -- and may you live to be as old and as wise as Carmelina Mc-Sillicuddy -- Connie Mack.*