

L.T. P.& G. THURSDAY, JUNE 2, 1949
Tampa, Fla.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

All the way from Florida tonite. I'm broadcasting from the West Coast -- here looking out over the Gulf of Mexico -- or rather Tampa Bay. I flew a 1000 miles today to be with my father when he receives a Doctor of Laws degree.

All of which gives me an opportunity to look at the news from the Deep South -- where every newsman should come every year -- of oftener.

ATOMIC

The Atomic Energy Commission announces it has found that pint sized brown bottle containing Uranium oxide -- which was missing from the Argonne Atomic Laboratory near Chicago. The first thought was theft by an enemy agent. So the FBI was called in, and they conducted a search, which resulted in the bottle being found in a dump of radio active waste.

The Argonne plant officials are now convinced that none of the Uranium product was ever in the hands of an outsider -- that the bottle and its precious contents were always within the carefully-guarded area of the laboratory.

TROMAN

President Truman says he is going to stick at his desk all summer - and longer, if necessary. With no let up in his endeavor to get the administration program through Congress. But he adds that he has shelved that idea of stumping the country--to make a personal appeal to the electors if Congress doesn't do what he wants. He'll stay right at his desk -- no matter what the Washington heat is like. And it can be endured in air-cooled quarters such as all top officials have.

Administration leaders say they hope Congress will be able to call a halt some time in August. Get everything out of the way by then.

AIRFORCE..

Two ~~Air-Force~~ stories tonight. The senate has passed a bill creating a special medal for the men who flew the Berlin Air lift--and broke the Soviet blockade. The Medal of Humane Actions, to be presented by President Truman--as he thinks fit.

And, today in Washington, General Arnold who commanded the Air Forces during World War Two--he was an Army officer then, was granted a special commission. A five-star general in the Air Force--now a separate service. General Hap Arnold ~~one of its top brass~~ ~~He~~, an Army General no longer.

Mr Lowell Thomas

Terrace Hotel Tampa Flo

NOTE:

the following story about the FCC came in late from CBS.

Mr Paley asks if we could use it. I am sending it here-with

and will also ask Pros to do a follow story on tomorrow's

early show. Regards

Keith.

FCC.

The Federal Communications Commission--The body which controls
broadcasting, arrived at an ~~important~~ ^{of some consequence} decision today. To lift
that eight-year-old ban against editorializing by radio stations.

The FCC reversing by a vote of two to one the famous Mayflower
ruling of nineteen-forty-one. Under the Mayflower ruling it was
decided that a broadcasting station must not be an advocate

for the cause that it viewed most favorably. The ruling,

however, did not apply to news analysts and commentators;

but only to the radio stations. Now that ^{'s} all off; and the

licensee of a radio station will be allowed to air his personal
viewpoint. Provided, of course, that it is not too partisan, or

too one sided. That is how the FCC puts it.

FCC-2.....

William S Paley, CBS chairman hails the decision as one of utmost importance. ~~He terms it a great step forward for us broadcasting--~~CBS, he reminds us, has always believed in the right of a broadcaster to editorialize in his own name--to support the party or cause that he favors. And so, adds the CBS chairman, "now that the FCC recognizes this right, columbia intends--from time to time--to broadcast radio editorials in its name."

NEW LEAD-ALGER HISS....

There was a mystery man in New York federal court today at the trial of Alger Hiss, for perjury. Everything surrounding his appearance dramatic. According to a CBS correspondent, defense attorney Paul Stryker suddenly complained that the chair in which he was sitting was too uncomfortable. Whereupon an usher brought the attorney another chair. And then, in the crowded court, there appeared the man whom the reporters are calling "The mystery man of court room two."

Now ~~the most outstanding~~ thing about that chair, was its position--directly in front of Whittaker Chambers, ^{who was} giving evidence. The mystery man, wearing glasses, and writing in a note book. After a few minutes, the prosecuting attorney, Thomas F Murphy, asked: "I would like to know, who is this man?" At which the defense attorney said: "This is the gentleman we talked about in ^cChambers."

Whereupon the judge heightened the suspense by saying, "we will have no further words about him. Not at present."

And so the case continued, with the mystery man of court room two taking notes--presumably writing down everything ~~that~~ Whittaker Chambers said.

At the end of the hearing, the reporters followed him into the corridors. But he escaped, his identity still a mystery. The only clue: When Mrs. Alger Hiss greeted him affectionately outside, she called him Doctor. The reporters, we hear, are wondering - is the mystery man a prominent psychiatrist? And will his testimony play an important part in the trial?

Today
~~Earlier~~ the jury heard Whittaker Chambers tell of Hiss in Nineteen-Thirty-Five -- fourteen years ago -- producing official documents on U.S. munitions to be sent to Russia. -- munitions made in 1935. Whittaker Chambers, who admits he himself was then a communist, described how he introduced Hiss to one Colonel Boris Bykov -- in nineteen thirty-seven. And he went on to tell the court how he had explained to Hiss that Bykov was the head of the underground set-up with which Hiss was to be put in contact. The meeting between Hiss and Bykov, according to Whittaker Chambers, was arranged in a Brooklyn movie house -- in the back of the mezzanine, where Bykov was seeing a film. At the appointed moment, Bykov came up to the mezzanine and spoke to Hiss - the interpreting being done by Whittaker Chambers.

Whittaker Chambers also told the court that Hiss obtained some secret documents from The State Department in the name of the Senate Munitions Investigating Committee

These documents, said Chambers on oath, Hiss asked for in his official capacity as counsel for the

NYE Committee - the Senate group. Chambers said he personally photographed the documents and gave copies to J. Peters, alleged to be the head of the U.S. communist underground at that time. Hiss doing all this to help Russia combat fascism.

Whittaker Chambers is the government's chief witness in this effort to convict Alger Hiss of perjury; prove the former state department employee lied to the Federal grand jury, when he said he had not turned over any government paper to any Russian agent.

BIG FOUR

The Western foreign ministers have discovered that secrecy is a valuable weapon in dealing with Soviet Foreign Minister Vishinsky. In private, Vishinsky will apparently make concessions instead of sticking to Russia's original demands. But in public, at this Big Four Paris session, he merely smiles and wisecracks and gives nothing.

So tomorrow the meeting in the Pink Palace in Paris, will be a secret one, to discuss a five-point plan for unified control of Berlin. It is our plan, and it calls for an election for all of Berlin, Berlin to be under four-power control. A new city constitution to be drafted; and restoration of the old four-power command.

When Vishinsky heard this, he promised to study it and call Moscow tonight for instructions. So there may be an argument tomorrow and because they want to get somewhere with Vishinsky, who still maintains a compromising mood, the Western Power ministers have agreed to a secret session. No publicity while Vishinsky argues, temporizes or concedes on the all-important matter of a unified government for all Berlin.

BIOLOGY

Here's one of special interest to the members of the faculty here at the University of Tampa, and all professors everywhere -- in fact to all of us. Flying down to Tampa I read the latest issue of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists. In it I found something startling that has nothing whatever to do with atomic science. It's about Biology. The nuclear physicists of America devote their whole magazine to the latest Soviet purge -- of the Russian Biologists. In the article American biologists try to explain the strange twister of politics and natural science in the Red Utopia.

It's all involved in complications of genetics and theories of heredity, but there are some angles dramatic enough to floor the ordinary citizen. (The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists prints a full account of a congress of biologists in Moscow, at which ~~the~~^{ed} purge was launched -- and this turns out to be the kind of drama that ends with a knockout punch line. The star performer was Stalin's pet biologist, Lysenko, who has been destroying his opponents in science, having them ousted,

sending them to Siberia. In his address to the scientific gathering, Professor Lysenko read a report blasting the Russian biologists who differed with him. Whereupon they got up and replied, presenting their own arguments, defending their own points of view, and assailing the scientific theories of Lysenko. Thus far it was all according to Hoyle, the usual way of a scientific congress—a debate in which one presents a theory, and attacks other theories, and the others reply. But then, at the end, came the kicker!

After his opponents had presented their view,⁵
Lysenko had one final thing to say. In a quiet off-hand way, to make it more dramatic, Stalin's pet biologist announced that his report had been okayed by the Central Committee of the Communist Party.

That was the bombshell, and Lysenko's antagonists were flattened! One after another, those biologists got up and took back everything they had said. They confessed they had been wrong, and agreed with Lysenko on all points—yielding abjectly to Stalin's pet biologist and the

Central Committee of the Communist Party. Which, however, didn't do them too much good. Their confessions of error were esteemed not enough, and they were purged, ousted and sent to labor camps -- the Stalin dictatorship forcing the science of biology to conform to the party line.

But what's all the shooting about? What is the point at issue? That goes into complications. But, in general, it's the quarrel about heredity. The Soviet Government is now enforcing a doctrine called "The Inheritance of Acquired Characteristics." But biological world science is based on the Mendelian theory -- that inheritance is contained in the germ cell, and varies according to combinations of hereditary factors. For instance, if you cut off a dog's tail -- that being an acquired characteristic -- the dog does not have bob-tailed pups. Or - take a blond couple with fair skins. They are in the sun a lot, maybe a tropical sun; they become tanned; their skin growing dark. So, will that darkening of the skin -- an acquired characteristic -- be transmitted to their children? Or will the children be born with the

same fair complexion, the family heredity? Orthodox biology holds that the tan acquired by the parents will not affect the skin color of the children.

Of course, the inheritance of skin color varies, one child with a little more pigment than another - and that variation is transmitted by heredity. Perhaps the one with a little more color will get along better under a tropical sun, and will have a better chance to live and reproduce, - and thereby transmit the inheritance of a darker skin. Such is the view of World biology.

But why do the Soviets reject this view?

Because they say, the inheritance of acquired characteristics is in accordance with the political doctrines of Marx and Lenin! They held that, by changing conditions in life, you can change the heredity of people. For example, if a backward people, living in poor conditions, have a low heredity - all you have to do is improve their living conditions, and their heredity will improve. Which fits the Party Line.

Still further, the Soviets have ideas that this can be applied to the improvement of agriculture. They say you can alter the heredity of plants by changing the conditions in which you grow the plants. In that way you can perform miracles in agriculture according to the theories of Lysenko, Stalin's pet biologist. It's now the Party Line. And for those who disagree it's off to Siberia.

CRASH.

The mystery of that shocking air crash of the Philippine Air lines plane on May seventeenth, was cleared up today. And it proves to be a drama of passion and illicit love.

In Manila tonight two men have been arrested by the Philippine Bureau of Investigation. Both ex-convicts, they have confessed they were paid about one hundred American dollars by a man and a woman to place a time bomb aboard the airliner. So it would crash and kill the woman's husband who was a passenger. And the plot was successful. Fifteen people perishing, among them the unlucky and unloved husband.

TAMPA

Now about Tampa for a moment. Sam Brumbaugh, from Darke County, Ohio -- Sam is or was a pal of Annie Oakley -- has just been telling me how this Tampa Bay area has grown by over one hundred thousand since the war. And no wonder. It seems like a tropical paradise to a northerner who has been spending the winter amid the snows of the Rockies and High Sierras -- and marooned in snow thirteen feet deep in Donner Pass.

My father, who is eighty years old this week, is getting an LL D tonite at the University of Tampa. And I couldn't miss that. My father retired from active practice as a physician and surgeon at the age of seventy-nine and this year has been on the faculty, teaching at N. Y. University.

All my life my work has brought me in touch with the remarkable men of our day -- and none more unusual than my own Dad. I hope I'm half the man that he is when I'm eighty!

Tampa University is one of the newer universities of the country -- with a student body of

some thirteen hundred -- built up largely by the driving force of its President, Dr. E. C. Nance. With its palm trees and its moorish architecture it might be the palace of the Sultan of Morocco. But it seems to be growing fast in this one of our fastest growing states.

FEVER

Medical science comes up with a cure for a fever that's not listed in any medical dictionary. But it's a fever all right. It's not hay fever, typhoid fever, or malaria. No, it's the gambling fever. And they say they have a drug to cure it.

In Los Angeles today, a forty-nine year old housewife appeared before the judge -- on her second charge of passing bad checks. She has seven children, and, ample housekeeping money. But she could never make ends meet, because of the gambling fever. She could resist games of chance. And the children went hungry, after the checks their mother used to buy food came bouncing back.

In court today she tearfully told the judge, "I just can't help it. I have to gamble. I love those **one-armed bandits!** And I can't resist the races!"

Whereupon the Los Angeles county physician, who was in court, decided that the mother was under a hypnotic urge to bet, so he told the judge that he was willing to cure her by the use of a new drug, glutamic acid.

Glutamic acid, we hear, increases the supply of oxygen to the brain cells, and thus enables our thinking functions to operate better.

So successful has been the use of the drug in the case of backward scholars and people under hypnotic influences, that the Los Angeles County doctor told the judge he was sure he could cure the lady of her gambling fever, and restore her to the role of a devoted and hard working mother.

Nelson -- shall we pass you the glutamic acid?