

L.T.-DELCO. MONDAY, DEC. 29, 1958.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

I find I have returned to New York just in time for the reappearance of the newspapers. I'd missed the big strike completely.

When the newspaper deliverers began the walkout, I was in Zanzibar; and out there in the Indian Ocean, the tie-up of the New York dailies could have been on the moon. Not a word about it.

But I have returned to read and hear plenty about this fantastic strike. What an economic disaster it brought. The nine New York daily papers, themselves - losing twenty-five million dollars in revenue. The total loss for everybody - estimated at more than fifty million; in a nineteen-day newspaper tie-up that included most of the Christmas buying season.

Looking at things with the fresh eye of a new arrival, in from Zanzibar, I suppose I was more astonished

than most when I read how the whole thing happened. The Union members - rejecting a contract, which had the approval of their own Union leaders. And now, after all the havoc, going back to work - accepting that same contract they had turned down.

The original rejection I am told was voted by less than half the membership. Most of the Union members - not bothering to attend the meeting.

Then, last night, most of the strikers turned up - for the vote that ended the strike. So here's the irony. Today, members of the deliverers union were saying - that, if a similar number had attended that previous meeting, the contract probably would have been accepted, and there would have been - no strike at all.

They don't have strikes in Zanzibar. The Sultan sees to that.

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Now - let's take a look at some important world news.

EUROPE

Western Europe reports - a surge of business activity.

A rise of prices in stock markets - with increases in wholesale and retail trade. All - the result of the financial reforms, announced over the weekend.

Ten European countries - now scrapping the money controls, which had been a crippling factor in the world of international commerce. (You ^(can now,) ~~could~~ for example, get American dollars in Britain, in exchange for British Pounds. Commercial firms - able to transact business freely from one country to another. Exchanging currencies - as they ~~might~~ see fit.

There had been some apprehension that people would rush - to convert the weaker money of Europe into "hard" American and Canadian dollars. But there were no such panicky moves - only an increase of business activity. The first day of money-freedom - called a success.

In France, however, the mood was not so cheerful.

The new DeGaulle austerity program - something of a shock for most Frenchmen. The franc, devalued - as had been expected.

The figure - nearly four hundred and ninety-four francs to the dollar. While, previously, it had been - four hundred and twenty, ~~to the dollar.~~ ~~And~~ The devaluation - accompanied by an increase of prices. A ten **per** cent hike - on commodities of every sort. Wages frozen - except in the case of the most poorly paid workers. Half a million of these - getting a raise. Other employees - restricted to their present earnings.

There are other reforms, too - making for greater freedom of commerce. Subsidies to farmers - abolished. DeGaulle - putting into effect a drastic revision of the French economic system.

The only ones who ^{were} cheering in Paris today/- the American tourists. Who found that, because of the devaluation, they could get more francs for their dollars. But ~~the~~ ^{an} increase in prices will soon make up for that.

BERLIN

Armored equipment - for American troops in West Berlin. Our four thousand G.I.'s - reinforced by armored carriers from West Germany.

This, actually, was done three weeks ago. The shipment of the armor - passing through Russian checkpoints - without interference.

U.S. Army officials tried to keep this reinforcement of the West Berlin garrison - a secret. But the truth was out - when armored carriers were seen in the city on training exercises. The Army saying - that all this has no connection with the new Berlin crisis, the Communist insistence - that the Western powers should leave Berlin. An American military spokesman says the shipment of armored equipment was planned several months ago.

CRASH

Over in England, an air crash - that was like a streak of devastation. One life lost - and it seems remarkable that many more were not killed.

At Ipswich, an American jet fighter caught fire - and went plunging to earth. The pilot - bailing out, and coming down by parachute. The jet plane hit the ground and exploded. Digging a deep crater - and hurling huge masses of flaming debris, like a cannonade. ~~which~~ ^{ing} ~~demolished~~ a nearby garage - and ripped ^{ing} through four bungalows, that went up in flames. While exploding ammunition popped all over the place - like firecrackers.

CUBA

The Cuban Batista government today struck through the air at the insurrectos in the Province of Las Villas. All day long, today, streams of bombers and fighter planes flew from Havana - assailing the rebels who are only six hours from Havana by automobile.

The rebels claim they'll soon obtain full control of Las Villas Province. That's at the waistline of the island. If they do they'll cut Cuba in two.

Today, for the first time, the Church entered the picture - with an ecclesiastical call for an end of the civil war. In Oriente Province, the Archbishop of Santiago sent a pastoral letter to all the churches; calling on all Cubans - to take action; to terminate the conflict between the Batista government - and the rebel forces commanded by Fidel Castro.

CHAPLIN

Charlie Chaplin - in a settlement with the U.S. government. Paying - ~~four hundred and twenty-five~~ thousand dollars to square a claim amounting to seven hundred thousand in back taxes and interest.

One tax official says - the government was glad enough to make the compromise. Because they couldn't locate any Chaplin assets in this country. So, even if they got a judgment for the full amount - how ~~ould~~ they collect?

Charlie Chaplin and his family left the United States in Nineteen Fifty-Two - and later on, they say, his wife came back and liquidated all properties belonging to the famous film comedian. Mrs. Oona Chaplin, daughter of the late playwright, Eurgene O'Neill.

POPE

At the Vatican today, the pope received a circus troupe - two hundred of them. He's an old time circus fan, and they put on a performance for him. And then the animal trainer tried to give him a lion - tried to place it in the Pontiff's lap. But the Pope shook his head. A live lion? Don - he belongs in Africa, not in a Pope's lap.

VODKA

Addressing the American Association for the Advancement of Science today, a scientist blamed the present American vodka vogue on the old-time American Temperance Movement.

"When alcoholic beverages," he explains, "were held up to children as poisons of the devil - usually whiskey and gin which were mentioned. Few, if any," he adds, "thought of mentioning - a liquor so remote as vodka."

And so, today, says the scientist nobody says to himself: "Father said it was wrong to drink vodka."

No? Well, father also didn't say it was wrong to drink sulphuric acid! And s-l-u-t-m.