

C.J. - P.H. Monday, April 18, 1949.

Leadville, Colo.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Tonight the news of the world crisis stands against a striking background - at least it does in my mind. The background of the country I've been through during the past five days.

It may seem odd why a journey through these western mountains should be appropriate as a background for the news of a world crisis -- the feud between east and west, doings of the Soviets, deliberations of the U N, and questions of American armed power. But, first let's make a survey of that line of news, then a look at the background.

BERLIN BLOCKADE

There are rumors tonight that Soviet Russia is trying to find a way to raise the Berlin Blockade -- without losing face. The Airlift has defeated the Blockade so completely that--what's the use? So the Soviets are said to feel! Moscow seeking a way out!

This rumor was given in detail today by German newspapers in the Western Zone -- stating that a former Soviet Ambassador to Germany had arrived in Berlin for the purpose of making arrangements with the Soviet commanders for a plan to lift the Blockade. "These efforts are reaching a decisive stage," said one German newspaper.

NAZIS

An argument in Congress over death sentences imposed on six Nazi stormtroopers found guilty in the Malmedy massacre -- when eighty American soldiers, prisoners of war, were murdered. Today Senator McCarthy, of Wisconsin, demanded that the execution of these Nazis be delayed, while there is an investigation of reports that illegal tricks were used to obtain confessions from them.

One story is that an investigator posed as a Catholic priest to obtain a confession. Also -- that mock trials were held in a darkened prison cell, candles and crucifix on table were false. Senator McCarthy declared: "There is a constant stream of reports that we are doing things in Europe that we have accused the Russians of doing."

All this transpired before a hearing by an armed services sub-committee of the Senate. Army Secretary Royall appeared, and said he believed officers who used illegal means to obtain confessions

should be prosecuted. But he added that confessions, though obtained by trickery, should not be disregarded if they gave proof of guilt.

THOUGHT BOMBS (precede Durango)

In the United States Senate today a suggestion was made for bombing Soviet Russia -- but not with explosives. Senator Ralph Flanders, of Vermont, suggested - thought bombs! That is, planes to fly all over Soviet Russia and drop pamphlets, propaganda material, propaganda for freedom.

But what would the Soviets be doing? Well, the pilots ~~■~~ would have to take that chance. Senator Flanders today proposed that refugee aviators be enlisted, and paid - the financing to be done by private ~~individuals~~ individuals, Americans to put up the money for the propaganda of thought bombs; dropped by Russian pilots who have ~~■~~ come over to our side. Sometime ago we had a story about the thousands and tens of thousands of Russian officers and men who have deserted to the western zone.

Meanwhile, the focus of international attention, at Lake Success, in Russia, and here, is on another kind of bomb. Which takes us to that

background appropriate to the news of the world ~~crisis~~ ^{crisis}

DURANGO

Here is something important, and not generally known, that I have come upon. The greatest source of uranium in the recent war was southwestern and western Colorado. Our government authorities ~~we~~ went to great lengths to keep this information from getting out during the war, and even after it was over.

One of the world's leading geologists and mining engineers, Blair Burwell, and his colleagues, took over an old smelter at Durango, Colorado. There, the uranium ore was shipped to be refined, ^{— all a secret.} Then for a time after the war, it was out of operation. Now it's going strong again.

The white tailings, the residue after the extraction of the uranium, in a neat pile, not far from the window of my room at the Strater Hotel, ~~in~~ Durango.

~~But~~ Over all this region was spread such a veil of secrecy, during the war, that even today, when the secret is no longer guarded, almost no one knows about it.

After the atomic bombs were made from the ore

^{for the bombs}
smelted here, ~~these~~ [^] dropped in Japan and at Bikini -
~~then~~ the smelter was shut down. Orders came from
Washington that everything was to be destroyed, to make
it difficult for anyone to find out just how it had
been done. Whether the order was a wise one or not
might be open to question. ~~Because~~ ^{here} now we are
extracting uranium again.

The story of the finding, and the opening up
of the uranium ~~deposits~~ deposits of southwestern Colorado
is one that has never been told. Mining engineer -
Geologist Burwell rounded up more than one hundred
of the top experts of America and sent them scouring
all through this region. At the same time, he and
others sent experts to all parts of the world, [^] Europe,
Africa, Australia, South America, Asia, yes even the
vast spaces of Russia and Siberia. Almost no one knows
how extensive was that search.

That was before the bombs were made, when the
Manhattan Project was getting under way, ^Q world-wide
search ~~was~~ made for two reasons: First, to find uranium

for the Manhattan Project, [^] the experimental work and the manufacture of the atom bomb. Second, our scientists and engineers scoured the world because it was vitally important for us to know just what uranium resources other nations might have.

~~And~~ And lucky for us that was in the days when the Russians were borrowing engineers from us to use in other ways.)

And so it was that we came in to possession of the vast knowledge ^{we now} ~~that we~~ have ~~today~~ of where uranium has been found and where there is likely to be more of it.)

Some of this information is still top secret. But, the results of that study, if known generally, would give the American people a feeling of considerable relief.

Two weeks ago I told of my return visit to the world's Number One, cyclotron, - synchrotron, - bevatron, - center, the atomic research laboratory at Berkeley, California. ~~And~~ I said ^{that} ~~it~~ [^] was one of the high spots of this western broadcasting trip. →

→ Another of those high spots has been my visit to this greatest of all sources of uranium, the remote high mountain region in southwestern Colorado.

It's interesting to reflect on the fact, — now so well known to us, [^] that the Russians are frantically driving one hundred thousand workers, one hundred thousand slaves, in Bohemia. There behind the Iron Curtain, using one hundred thousand slaves in a frantic effort to get what uranium they can out of the deposits there — the region in Czechoslovakia where the original ore came from for the historic Curie radium research. And it should be of colossal interest to all Americans to know that the deposits out here in these ~~my~~ mountains where I am tonight, are many many times, scores of times — perhaps hundreds of times greater.

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Uranium comes from two sources: pitchblend, and from sea deposits that go back hundreds and hundreds of millions of years. That incredible length of time ago, tiny microcosims, in their life processes

in the seas - in the Paleozoic ooze - extracted the rare minerals vanadium and uranium from the sea water. They died, their cells containing those rare minerals. Layers of sandstone formed over them. Hundreds of millions of years went by, and now, here in the West, those microorganisms of the early days of this planet are yielding up uranium, which is refined in Durango,

Where did the uranium come from before those simple two-or-three celled living creatures extracted it from the waters that then covered ^{ing} much of the earth? Probably from ^m the basic ^c rocks of the earth, the rocks that made up our planet before the ^{those} ages of sandstone and limestone deposits.

I hope all this doesn't sound too complex! What is of such tremendous interest to all of us is that at this the ~~xxx~~ ushering in of the atomic era, it was this region, so veiled in secrecy during the ^r war, that played a number one role. And now, with atomic power ~~so we are told~~ to play such an important part as a peace-time source of energy, this is the

region that will provide so much of the uranium that will be required.

It gives one something of a feeling of awe to visit the place whence came the fundamental materials that brought about this, the Atomic Era in which we all now live - and in which we hope not to be destroyed by ~~us~~ ^{the} new power that comes from the splitting of the uranium atom.

Ireland

Today was the first day of the new Irish republic--the decision to establish independence now going into effect. At Dublin crowds of one hundred thousand watched a huge parade--and all over the new Irish republic there were mass demonstrations hailing today as being, formally, the first day of the new independence.

FOLLOW IRELAND

While the Irish celebrated, Britain was trying to keep India from following the Irish example and walking out of the British commonwealth of nations. Hindu India, after being granted its freedom, elected to stay in as a dominion. But now India shows signs of wanting to pull out -- the problem to be placed before a special secret conference of Empire prime ministers, beginning Thursday.

COMMONISTS

At the trial of Communist leaders in New York, a negro witness testified today that the Reds planned to establish an independent negro state extending from Virginia to the Delta of the Mississippi. He is William O'Dell Nowell, a member of the Communist Party from 1929 to 1936. He stated that the plan was discussed at the Communist convention in 1930, when Jacob Stechel, one of the Red leaders on trial, told him of the "black belt" republic. This was to be, in the words of the witness today--"part of a proletarian revolution in the United States."

Carrier

The navy has gone ahead and laid the keel of that super aircraft carrier, about which there has been so much discussion. Today at Newport News, Virginia, without any fanfare or even advance notice, the construction job was begun on the 189 million dollar craft.

The super carrier, to be called SS United States, has been a central point of contention between the navy and air force on the subject of long-range bombing, especially atomic bombing-- and, in this matter, Congress has failed to support naval aviation with new funds. It seemed as if the giant craft might be cancelled out. But no-- the keel of the 65,000 tonner was laid today.

Kidnap

Today brought an end to the great Hollywood kidnapping mystery--the one that caused so much puzzlement a few days ago. A five-year-old boy was snatched and held for ransom, and it now turns out that--Mama did it. Today Mrs. Mary Goodman confessed that she arranged the hoax, together with two fellow conspirators--she declaring at the time that she paid thirty-three thousand dollars to get little J oey back.

She left town immediately after the kidnap sensation, and went back to her original home--in Georgia. Upon leaving Hollywood she said: "It's too bad my son has to have a gambler for a father". Goodman, senior, is a gambler, and at first the police suspected the kidnap was a hoax connected with gambling debts. They thought--Papa did it. But now, it turns out--Mama did it.

Mrs. G oodman lost the money playing the horses, taking thirty thousand dollars out of her husband's safety deposit box.

Boy

From Winnemucca, Nevada, the story of how a thirteen year old boy jumped in front of a freight train to save his dog; and, the train ran over him. The pooch was out on a trestle, ^{with} ~~and~~ the fast freight ~~was~~ coming.

The boy ran out in front of the locomotive, picked up the dog, and, couldn't get away.

R Today he said: "I remembered what my daddy told me. I put my dog under me and I squeezed the ground". The fatherly advice was to lie flat between the tracks, if you couldn't get out of the way of a train. So Billy Marrs did--flat with his dog under him. ^R That locomotive and eleven freight cars passed over him before the horrified engineer could bring the train to a stop. Then Billy crawled out, one arm broken but otherwise okay. The pooch--uninjured.

B aseball

In baseball, the big league season began today--with President Truman throwing the traditional first ball in Washington. But, along with the old cry of "play ball", there is a note of discord--a lawsuit filed by one ball club against another. The St. Louis Browns are trying to evict the St. Louis Cardinals.

During recent years both teams have played, alternately, on the same ground-- sportsmans park. The American League team owns the place, the National Leaguers using it under a lease. The lease runs until 1950, with a ten year option. But the claim of the Browns is that the contract went out of effect when the ownership of the Cardinals changed, last January--the ball club purchased by a syndicate, ~~which is~~ headed by ^{Bob} ~~Robert~~ Hannigan, former National chairman of the Democratic party. The Browns ask the courts to evict the Cardinals--toss ^{them} ~~them~~ out. Which is hardly in harmony with that slogan--"play ball".

Add

Baseball

~~After sentence about Truman.~~

About that Washington D.C. game.

As for the result, of the game, the

President had his way. The Washington Senators
beating the Philadelphia Athletics in the
ninth inning, scoring two runs in the ninth
to win by three to two.

By the way: Truman today threw a left-handed spit ball. The spit ball is an illegal pitch, and only a President can get away with it.

And now Ken what do we get from you: A fast one, a wide curve, or the homerun ball right over the plate?

Greece

In Greece they have been holding a trial-- in the murder of George Polk, foreign correspondent of the Columbia Broadcasting System. ^{Polk} ~~He~~ was killed, his body thrown into ~~the~~ Solonika bay-- while he was on a trip trying to contact leaders of the Red insurgents.

On trial is a Greek newspaperman, George Statkopoulos and his mother--he being charged with having lured George Polk, the C. B. S. correspondent, to his doom. Today the Greek newspaperman testified, on the witness stand, that Polk was killed by the Soviet cominform. He says he was trying to show the C. B. S. correspondent a way to reach the Red guerillas, was doing so in good faith. "I intended to help my colleague" he states. "I swear I did not know they wanted to execute him". To which he adds "I denounce

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the Greek communist party, the cominform and
Moscow as perpetrators of the crime".

U N

At Lake Success, the political committee today blocked a Soviet demand for intervention to halt the execution of two Greek trade union leaders condemned by the Athens government for activity in the Red insurrection.

The delegates of Moscow and the satellites insisted that the U N do something about it, but the ruling was that the case was outside the province of the United Nations -- which ruling was supported by the vote of the committee, thirty-one to six against the Soviet demand.