

L.T. P.& G. FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 1949.
(Given by Mr. John Kieran)

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

According to A. F. of L. President Green, Mr. Truman is going to make a radio fireside chat - to take his fight for compulsory health insurance right into our homes. The President will be following the practice of F.D.R., who inaugurated the radio fireside chat, and used it so effectively when he wanted the nation's ear.

Mr. Green told Washington newsmen today that sometime next week the President is sending his health plan to the Senate in a special message. And that he will follow up this message with a radio fireside chat - a personal appeal to sell compulsory health insurance direct to the consumer as it were. In case you've forgotten, Mr. Truman's health plan includes compulsory medical insurance, to be financed by payroll taxes. Every man, woman and child will get free medical, dental and optical care. To which plan the Eighty-First Congress is largely cold. Well, the British have been having nationalized medicine for some time and now their

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taxes have gone up again - and we are told they are griping because they have to stand in line at the doctors. But Mr. Truman's mind is apparently made up and he is going to try out a fireside chat to support his compulsory health plan.

CHINA

Secretary of State Dean Acheson is under fire in Washington today. Because he wrote to Chairman Tom Connally of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, that further United States military aid to Nationalist China would, as he put it, do more harm than good.

Senator Styles Bridges is demanding that the Committee hold a full dress investigation of Acheson's remarks. He designates the Secretary of State's attitude toward China as thoughtless, tactless, unfriendly and damaging. Dean Acheson, says he, couldn't do more harm to Nationalist China if he were to dispatch American divisions to fight with the Chinese Communists.

Dean Acheson wrote to Senator Tom Connally to express the State Department's opposition to ^{the} ~~that~~ proposal by Senator Pat McCarran of Nevada for Uncle Sam to give the Nanking government an additional one billion, five hundred million dollars - in military and economic aid. Such an act, said Dean Acheson in his letter to the Texas Senator, would be truly

"catastrophic." And he added that the only way to stop the Chinese Communists from winning the civil war would be to throw a large force of United States troops into combat.

Also, he said - merely furnishing military material and advice to Nanking would only prolong the hostilities - keep the fighting going. And thus inflict further suffering on the Chinese people. They, commented the Secretary of State, are sick of the civil war. They are ready for peace at any price: and he reveals that most of the arms we have sent to China have fallen into the hands of the Communists anyhow. So he wants to call a halt and let the common man of China have peace - even if it is under oriental Communism.

WEATHER

The weather acted up today. Snow, sleet and rain in the midwest, with below freezing temperatures. Six inches of snow in Mason City, Iowa, and a record high temperature of eighty-three degrees in Philadelphia. Freak weather for Easter.

The unexpected snow in Iowa has put State Highway officials in a proper fix. They packed their snow plows away for the summer, and so the highways around Des Moines are almost completely blocked, with one-way traffic operating in some places.

And the Army reports that the Missouri River has flooded over a hundred thousand acres of farmland.

CATS

awkward Governor Adlai Stevenson of Illinois is in an ~~awkward~~ dilemma. ~~Late~~ Tonight he is reported to be thinking twice -- debating whether he dare sign a law to curb the privileges of the domestic cat. And thus get the backs up of all the cat lovers in the world.

There is a bill before the Illinois Legislature to fine cat owners who let their pets run loose. And both upper and lower houses have passed it. Now the terrible decision is up to Governor Stevenson -- to sign or veto. Supporters of the bill call themselves the friends of the birds. Its opponents are banded into the Cat Lovers International. Their chairman has issued a grim warning to Governor Stevenson -- "don't take a chance," he says. And he adds -- "There are ladies and gentlemen among cats."

Well, I must confess I would ~~not~~ like to be the Governor of Illinois. No! And who would relish having to sign a bill to curb the privileges of the American

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mouser? And if the cat curb bill is passed -- how are the good folks of Illinois going to keep cats indoors of a night? I wouldn't know.

CRIME

In Orlando, Florida today, the Air Force disagreed with a judge.

Two enlisted men were convicted in Alabama of automobile theft. The judge placed them on probation - on condition they remained in the Air Force. To make it stick, he wrote to the commanding officer of the Orlando Air Force base, telling him of his decision, and saying that, should the two airmen be discharged, they must report immediately to his court for further action. In other words, as long as the men were in the army, their sentences are suspended.

To which the Air Force replied that it is not operating a reform school. "Nothing is further from the fact," said an Air Force spokesman at Orlando. He want^{ed}~~ing~~ the judge, and everyone else, to know that it is not the policy of the U.S. Air Force to harbor criminals or potential criminals; And also that any man convicted on civil charges is booted out.)

So the prospect of enjoying in the sunshine of Florida those sentences suspended in Alabama, doesn't seem too bright for the two Air Force men.

VATICAN CITY

In Rome today, His Holiness, Pope Pius the Twelfth, asked that the City of Jerusalem be internationalized.

The Prelate of St. Peter's praised the armistice in the Holy Land. But, he said, that armistice is not a true peace. And that is what he wants to see - true peace in Palestine. The region which the Pope describes as "so dear to the heart of every Christian."

The Papal views on Palestine were expressed in a Good Friday encyclical, a message to the Catholic clergy of the world; in which the Pope called for the safeguarding of all holy places in all parts of Palestine; and a guarantee of free access to Jerusalem by pilgrims of all nations.

SHRINE FOLLOW JERUSALEM

And how was it in Jerusalem this Good Friday?

For centuries, pilgrims from all over the world visited the Holy City to worship at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

But today the historic church was visited by the smallest pilgrimage ever remembered in history. Ten people, led by Mark Ethridge. He is an American member of the United Nations Conciliation Commission, now at Amman, Transjordan.

These ten people from the outside world joined with the local inhabitants in the Rites of the Adoration of the Cross. Ten strangers - where formerly thousands of Christians from every part of the world joined in the procession through the Old City, from where Pontius Pilate is credited with having delivered his portentous verdict - to the scene of history's greatest drama.

The ten pilgrims were joined by two other Americans. The wife and daughter of James McDonald, Washington's Ambassador to the Republic of Israel. But Ambassador McDonald himself stayed behind, stayed in the Jewish section. He ^{did} not

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~~son~~^{go} with his wife and daughter to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Why? Perhaps because the report is true that he

had just reported to Washington - that Israeli Premier

David Ben Gourion ~~had informed him~~ ^{says} that Israel will never

agree to the internationalization of the Holy City.

Prime Minister
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RELEASE

In Frankfurt, ~~Germany~~ today, General Lucius Clay ordered the release of Mrs. Wilma Ybarbo; she ^{was} serving a prison sentence of five years for the slaying of her ^{C.I.} husband last September. In releasing her, the Commander of the United States forces in Germany said that her conscience will be punishment enough. He spoke of extenuating circumstances, and added that he could not separate the widow from her six year old son. She, Mrs. Ybarbo, declared General Clay, is not a vicious person.

The General ordered the released woman to return to the United States immediately. And the word in Frankfurt tonight is that she will join her mother, Mrs. Charles Bailey, New Bedford, Mass., where six-year-old Jimmy is attending a nursery school.

Well, this will be one Good Friday that Wilma Ybarbo will surely remember - all her life.

MIRACLE

From Konnersreuth, Germany, comes one of those strange stories, for which there is apparently no physical explanation. All day thousands of people have been praying outside the house of Therese Neumann, a farm girl. She is bleeding from her eyes, her wrists, her feet and her head. This has happened to her, on every Good Friday, for the last twenty-three years; a strange malady accompanied by grievous pain.

The doctors have tried to diagnose the farm girl's affliction, and to cure ^{her} without success. But Therese has an explanation. On Good Friday, Nineteen Twenty-Six, she says, she beheld a vision of the Saviour, praying on a mountainside. Her hands and her feet and her side began to bleed. Although there were no visible wounds, and never have been!

She believes that every Good Friday she is chosen to suffer the physical agonies of the Divine Carpenter of Nazareth - the pains of the Crucifixion. Father Franz, the

old parish priest, has prayed with the afflicted woman each Good Friday since the first manifestation. Therese suffers physically until she falls into a deep coma, with no pulse beats perceptible - as if she were dead. But on Saturday night she revives. On Sunday she attends mass; fit and strong again, and ready for her week's work of plowing with a ^{yoke} ~~team~~ of oxen.
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Truly a strange story.

GOLD MINE

Out in Mesa, Arizona, eight men are heading into the mountains tonight. They're going to search for the lost Dutchman Gold Mine, that fabulous store of precious metal, said to be one of the world's richest *deposits*.

Local legend tells of scores of people who lost their lives searching for the Dutchman's mine. Old-timers in Mesa speak of a legendary Apache curse on any white man invading the area. The curse was put on eighty years ago, when the Apache Indians exterminated four hundred men and a thousand mules. These prospectors were reported to have found the mine high up in those rugged mountains: ~~the mine was~~ ~~discovered~~ but they never came back. The mine once belonged to Jacob Walz. He was the Dutchman. When he died he left no trace of his claim - only the fabulous stories of an inexhaustible store of gold.

The party ^{that} ~~which~~ left Mesa today, to search out the Dutchman's mine, is equipped with scientific instruments, and every known method of finding the gold. They will travel

through a hundred and seventy miles of Arizona's wildest country. This after eighteen months of preparation. And even if they don't find the gold, they're hoping that ~~may~~ they'll find what happened to those others who through the years scaled the mountains, - never to return.

early 4/15/49

In Baltimore today, my friend Joe DiMaggio told reporters he has no idea of retiring from baseball. That ailing right heel, which has sent him back to hospital, is not going to keep the New York Yankee's brilliant outfielder out of the game.

Joe was in better mood today than when he first arrived in Baltimore from Fort Worth, Texas and wouldn't talk to the reporters. The doctors at Johns-Hopkins had told him to keep quiet then, he says - so Joe did the right thing, like a good patient.

But today he ^{feels,} ~~says~~ retiring doesn't enter into his plans. He figures injuries have been cured before, so why be gloomy. Getting back to the game, he says, is only a matter of time. Even if he doesn't turn out for the Yankees this year, Joe told the newsmen he thinks he'll be Okay after a year's rest.

Joe revealed that he has been wearing a block under the arch of his right foot, to take the pressure off his heel

while walking. He can walk without any trouble now, he says, and he thinks he could get back into shape to play within a week, if his heel is right.

One of the reporters asked whether Joe would consider a managerial job - if that heel doesn't get right. To which Joe retorted sharply that he would rather wait until that particular bridge comes, before trying to cross it. So, definitely he is not anticipating going into management yet. Joe DiMaggio's firm conviction being that he has many more years of active baseball ahead.

Well, we all hope so, Joe.

JUMP

What some people will argue about! In Paris today, a certain Madame DuBois got into an argument with her paratrooper husband. She said there wasn't anything special in jumping out of a second floor window.

So to prove she was right, she jumped. The result, a smashed rib and a fractured ankle, and the prospect of a long stay in hospital. She paid her bet, but the husband -- well, he has to pay the hospital bill.

DOUGLAS

The news from London indicates that Ambassador Lewis Douglas is not as well as might have been expected. As was related on this program, the Ambassador hooked his own eye while fishing in the south of England.

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Today, Britain's Foreign Minister Bevin arrived in Southampton, from his visit to America, he went straight to the hospital, to see the Ambassador. But the doctor refused to let him in, saying that only members of the Douglas family could be admitted to the ~~sick room~~ sick room.

Mr. Green went to the White House as a member of the Committee for the nation's health. The Committee members told Mr. Truman that they are going to wage an uncompromising fight against that Republican health bill, which Senator Robert Taft induced last week. The Taft bill would provide federal funds for each state to improve its medical services; provided the states pay a share of the cost.

In support of his bill, Senator Taft says the nation's health should be looked after by the government, but not on the philosophy of something for nothing. He describes Mr. Truman's plan as a menace to our freedom. But Mr. Truman's mind is made up, we are told. And so he'll try out the fireside chat to support his compulsory health insurance plan.

BALLOON

The Moscow radio announces a new altitude record - ~~eight miles~~ made by a balloon, telling how a Soviet Aeronaut soared to nearly forty thousand ^{— 8 miles.} feet. That sounds queer, because the records show that back in Nineteen Thirty-five two Americans, Captains Orville Anderson and Albert Stevens soared in a balloon to a height of more than seventy-three thousand feet, ^{some 14} ~~six~~ miles.

FLYING DISCS

The long drawn out mystery of the flying discs takes a new turn today with ~~the~~^a published account about an Air Force pilot who got the closest look at one of those weird objects, so far as is known. We have heard before that the Air Force takes a serious view of the flying saucers, intelligence officers keeping a careful check on them. ^{all} The reports ~~that~~ ~~give~~ ~~they~~ ~~give~~ have been assembled at Wright Field, Dayton, ~~Ohio~~ ^{There} ~~They have been~~ kept a ~~max~~ secret. But today the Dayton Journal-Herald prints a long article said to be based on these unpublished reports.

The story of the Air Force pilot who got closest to a flying disc, relates that it happened on January Seventh, Nineteen Forty-Eight, when a mysterious object was sighted over Fort Knox, Kentucky. Whereupon four fighter planes were sent up to intercept ~~the~~ it, but the only ^{pilot} ~~one that was~~ able to get close was Captain Thomas Mantel. Chasing the soaring saucer he reported to the ground by radio, and the description he gave is quoted as follows: "I'm closing in to take a good look," the flier is

reported to have said. "It looks metallic, and of tremendous size. It's going up now as fast as I am. That's three hundred and sixty miles an hour. I'm going up after it."

Then, a few minutes later, the plane crashed and the flier was killed. His story cut short, his account lost in oblivion. ^HThe Dayton, ~~Ohio~~ newspaper states that the Air Force, right now, receives an average of twelve reports a month on flying discs. A total of some two hundred and forty reports have been received in this country, thirty from foreign countries. Air Force intelligence has investigated them all, and this is the result:

Thirty percent come from people who sighted natural objects, things that can be explained as ordinary. Another thirty percent ~~are~~ pertain to natural phenomena, like ^{meteors.} ~~meteors.~~ But the remaining forty percent remain a mystery -- according to best investigation by Air Force intelligence.

But what are they? The Air Force doesn't ~~not~~ believe the flying discs can be aircraft or

missiles launched in a foreign country, because they are so superior to anything that we have here in America. The Dayton newspaper states: "It is believed ~~very~~ unlikely that any other nation of the ~~xxx~~ earth could have knowledge so far above the level of ours". Some have suspected -- space ships from other planets. But that ^{also is} ~~is~~ regarded as fantastic. The Air Force can simply think of no ~~xxx~~ rational explanation -- mere mystery.

CAR

At Cincinnati a terrifying scene as an automobile, a blue convertible, ran ~~over the~~ ^{off a} landing and into the Ohio River. Going at a lively clip the car went off the edge, and plunged into deep water. There was a rush of horrified spectators with attempts to rescue the ~~the~~ driver. But he came up okay, soaking wet, and unhurt.

He was Charles McClees, a merchant marine engineer of New Orleans. Breathlessly they asked him -- how did it happen? To which he answered: "I got tired of the car, and decided to get rid of it".

Well, a lot of us can sympathize. You know how an automobile can act up and you get tired of it. But it certainly would seem to be the height of motoring impatience when you get rid of the car by driving it off a landing into the ~~Ohio~~ River, with yourself at the wheel.

BIRTHDAY

I wonder how many of us would say no when the boss unexpectedly suggests we take a half day off from work.

In Albany today Mrs. Harriet Ballantine's boss told her to take a half day off to celebrate her birthday. No, she said, I want to stay and keep the other girls going. They need me. So she stayed.

Mrs. Ballantine, I should tell you, is eighty years old, with the best attendance record in the shirt factory of all its three hundred odd employees. How about that, Nelson? Would you like a half day off to celebrate your eightieth birthday?

For Lowell Thomas, so long until Monday.