

C.I. - P. & G. Wednesday, July 14, 1948.

Here in Philadelphia, we have just witnessed what well may be the shattering of a political party; ~~what may be~~ at least a temporary break-up. Actually, (a Southern secession from the Democratic Party was about to begin ^{late this afternoon} - and was only blocked by a hasty motion to adjourn.) This convention, ^R as headlined in the news, ~~was~~ ^{had run} along in dreary, hot weather dullness - until this afternoon. Then, suddenly, the tedious inaction of speeches and formalities turned into a violent flare-up of drama.

(The source of the explosion was that keg of dynamite that has been noted all along, - as potential danger and devastation - the racial rights issue.) But we never dreamed the blast would catch fire in a fashion ~~as~~ as unexpected as it did during the several hours just past - with ^{its} surprise development, ^{its} ~~an~~ unexpected twist.

Things began this afternoon according to form, the way things were supposed to happen. ^{The Roosevelt-Truman Platform, as they call it, came} ~~The platform came~~ to the Convention, and was read with due ceremony. The only [^]

point of suspense in it was the plank on racial rights.

And this turned out to be as expected, a moderate statement on civil liberties, a compromise calculated to mollify the Southerners, and avert an open split, a walkout, Southern secession. This moderate plank was the pride and joy of the responsible leadership of the party, which strove mightily to head off a Southern explosion, and bring about an appearance of harmony. The top leaders ^{had} won what looked like a solid success - in that moderate plank.

The Southerners, on their part, did what was expected.

They ^{had} announced that they would call for a plank ^{on} States rights, as a means of neutralizing the racial issue, or at least saving their faces. ^{So, this afternoon} the Southerners introduced three minority reports, each calling for resolutions, confirming the rights of States. These were likely to be voted down, but it was understood that, even so, most of the Southerners would go along with the moderate plank on racial rights - after having made their motion in behalf of States rights.

(One after another ^{in mid-} ~~this~~ afternoon, Southern delegates took the platform and pleaded their cause.) Pleased - is about the right word. In tones of moderation, they made appeals to the Convention to adopt their minority report in favor of States rights.

(Then came the surprise - though this, too, began as expected.) (It was known that northern New Dealers, not content with voting down the Southerners, ~~on the rights of states,~~ would counter with a demand of their own - a demand for a drastic plank on racial rights, something that would go far beyond ^{the} moderate plank drafted by the top leadership as a compromise. ^{He} ~~The~~ spokesman for the Northern New Dealers was ~~former~~ Mayor Humphrey of Minneapolis. He went into a ringing burst of oratory, fervent championship of rights for all minorities.) The New Deal minority report, which he presented, called for a complete endorsement of President Truman's program of racial rights, which has aroused such hot anger throughout the South, and also made a pledge of federal

legislation, laws by Congress, to enforce those Truman racial rights.

(The eloquence of the speaker was such that the ~~convention~~ Convention went into a stampede. That was the surprise - a wild ovation by the host of Northern delegates, who, in ^a ~~the~~ sweep of enthusiasm, rallied against the moderate compromise worked out by the high leadership of the party.) ~~The~~ frantic scene on the Convention floor was a tip-off to what was soon to happen.

(Each of the minority reports went to a vote -) The three Southern proposals for the rights of States and ~~that~~ ^{the} ~~drastic~~ New Deal demand.) ~~for the strongest kind of plank on racial rights.~~ The Southerners were promptly voted down.)

^{The first} minority report, entered by former Governor Moody of Texas, went to a roll call and was snowed under by a large majority. The other two were overwhelmed by mere voice votes.

Next came the racial plank of the New Dealers, and now the tension was on. There was a roll call, state after

state reporting its vote. As the tally went on, the drastic racial rights plank kept running ahead, and it soon became evident that it was likely to be carried. This happened when Wisconsin cast its vote - overthrowing the moderate attempt of a compromise to keep the Southerners in the fold. (The middle-of-the-road plank went out of the platform, and the New Deal plank went in.)

The Convention was in a pandemonium. A majority of the Alabama delegation announced that they would take a walk - and now Alabama was calling for recognition, the Alabama standard waving high. But Alabama was not recognized. Instead, (a fast motion was flashed through for adjournment - to head off the new Southern secession.)

A minute later, the Alabama Chairman, speaking into a C.B.S. microphone, said: "If the Convention will not recognize Alabama, Alabama will not recognize the Convention."

ADD CONVENTION

Tonight the Democratic leadership is reeling. Their state of mind is described by the newsmen with such terms as -- stunned, consternation. (Nobody knows how many of the southerners will return to the Convention, after the recess -- to the evening session, ^{the fireworks of} ~~which are beginning right now~~ ^{about to begin.})

Nor does anybody know how many Southerners who may return will stay on. (There is word that ~~some~~ ^{have} ~~of them will~~ returned just to get a chance to vote against President Truman when his nomination comes up tonight-- ~~they will~~ vote for some other ^{vote against Truman,} candidate and then bolt.)

Meanwhile, there is all kinds ^{of} ~~of~~ doubt about the Vice Presidential nomination. Yesterday Senator Barkley of Kentucky seemed as good as ^{on the ticket,} ~~nominated~~ but at this moment, the Senator has not yet made known his own attitude -- whether or not ^{he} ~~he~~ would accept. To complete the confusion revolting Southerners today were talking about nominating Barkley for President, which really would be something -- Barkley in opposition to Truman for the Number One place

on the ticket after Truman has already accepted him for
Number Two.

Pres. Truman right now must be ^{on his way here --} ~~at the Union Station in~~
~~Washington~~ -- the White House having announced that he would
take a train for Philadelphia at ⁷Seven P.M. Eastern Daylight
time. He comes to the City of Brotherly Love to accept the
nomination for the Presidency ---at a time when ~~the~~ brotherly
love is ^{exceedingly} conspicuous by its absence at the convention.

He comes to face as wild a state of confusion as
any political party has ever known, Truman may arrive
just in time for a new southern secession.

The latest - the ~~train~~ presidential train will make
a stop at Wilmington, to give Mr. Truman a chance to get a
message from the Convention and learn how things are going.
He will arrange his schedule accordingly. If the
proceedings are running behind schedule, the train will slow
down on its way to Philadelphia.

BERLIN

Reports on the Soviet note indicate - a rejection.

In Washington, London and Paris today, the Russian ambassadors presented diplomatic notes to the American, British and French governments - replies to the bitter protest of the Western Allies, complaining against the starvation blockade of Berlin.

In Washington, Red Ambassador Panyushkin, upon emerging from the State Department, was asked - would he give the newsmen any indication of the contents of the communication? Panyushkin snapped - Nyet. Which his interpreter, rather needlessly, translated - the Ambassador says No.

That reply was about as near to an illuminating official statement as anything the news gives us tonight - but there are unofficial indications. One of these is an article in a Berlin Communist newspaper, an official journal of the Russian military administration. This editorial ridicules the protest of the Western Allies, and echoes the Soviet view

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that the United States, Great Britain and France have no right to remain in Berlin. This voice of Soviet journalism calls for the Western Allies to get out. Undoubtedly, the Moscow diplomatic note, handed in today, was not so plain-spoken, but it is believed that its contents are pretty much the same. Specifically, we hear that the Soviets are ^{re}ejecting any notion of a four-power conference on Berlin, and are suggesting a palaver on Germany in general.

This would have plenty of meaning for the new government, which the Allies have set up in Western Germany - and would throw the very existence of that Western government into another of those big-time palavers with Soviet Russia. The Western powers, in their complaint, informed Moscow that they will not go into any four-power conference - until after the blockade of Berlin is lifted - and the guessing is tonight that Moscow may be holding the lifting of the blockade as bait. That is - as an inducement to persuade the Western powers to go into a conference involving the existence of the West German government that they have established.

PALESTINE

The prospects of the Palestine dispute are that the American proposal before the Security Council of the United Nations will go through. This resolution, entered yesterday, follows the advice given by U.N. Mediator Count Bernadotte - who asked the U.N. to order Israel and the Arabs to stop fighting, under pain of economic penalties and military action.

Today shows an assured majority on the Security Council in favor of the Bernadotte proposal, as introduced officially by the United States. Hitherto, Canada and Belgium had been opposed to strong measures of intervention in Palestine, but today the Canadian and Belgian delegations announced that they would vote in favor of the American resolution. That will procure a majority - in ^{spite} ~~favor~~ of bitter Arab opposition, as expressed by the Moslems today. At the Security Council they declared that another truce, which the American resolution proposes to enforce, would strengthen the state of Israel, while tying the hands of the Arab states.

ITALY

This afternoon in Rome, the Premier of Italy visited the bedside of Communist Leader Togliatti. This was to be expected, as the shooting of Togliatti today was an unmitigated misfortune for the moderate government of Premier de Gasperi. The moment the news flashed, that the leader of the Italian Reds was the victim of an assassination attempt, de Gasperi exclaimed: "This is the worst thing that could have happened."

Togliatti, as he emerged from Parliament, was shot down by a Sicilian student, a fanatical nationalist, who explained his deed by saying: "I consider Togliatti an enemy of my country."

Then immediately trouble, as foreseen by de Gasperi, flared up throughout Italy. The Communist Federation of Labor called a general strike for tonight, and immediately wildcat strikes jumped the gun, in Rome, Genoa, Milan. In Milan, called the "Red capital of Italy", a state of emergency was proclaimed - and tonight armored cars and tanks are patrolling

the streets of the industrial city of North Italy. The story is one of disturbances and mob scenes far and wide - the Reds enraged at the attempted assassination of their leader.

Late this afternoon in Rome, Premier de Gasperi held an emergency Cabinet meeting, after which he made the following official statement: "In behalf of the Government I express the hope and fervent desire that Togliatti may overcome the consequences of this execrable attack, and may rapidly recover full health. The shooting was a criminal attack, which is provoking horror and indignation in all Italians." So stated the Premier of Italy, as he denounced the shooting of the Communist leader.

At last reports, Togliatti was out of danger - though he was hit by three bullets, two of which pierced his body. The best medical attention was given him, and the doctors say they think he'll pull through.

END

Now back to the latest ^{here at} from the Convention; and the word we have raises a question full of suspense; how many hostile southern delegates will be there to face President Truman, when he arrives? We hear that some of them may express their opinions by leaving the hall when the President goes to the speaker's stand, - taking a walk when it will be noticed the most.

And now, I'm hurrying back to the ^{floor of the} Convention Hall, to cover the last act of this huge political drama. ~~What happens~~ What happens tonight will provide material for headlines that will come tomorrow. ^{But just a moment.} ~~Meanwhile, here is Nelson, Case.~~

Here's something later still. Carry on Nelson, while I

The news has just come that Governor Laney of Arkansas has withdrawn from nomination. Governor Laney had announced himself as an anti-Truman candidate.

Governor Laney has just stated that he could not allow his name to appear, after the adoption of the platform, which he calls a Socialist platform.

LAKE SUCCESS

C.T. - P. & G. Thursday, July 15, 1948.

~~Here is some news that everyone has been waiting for~~
~~for a long time.~~ Tonight ^{tonight} at Lake Success the United Nations Security Council ordered the Jews and Arabs to stop fighting -- ^{end their war} in the Holy Land -- within three days.) Sitting at a special session, the Security Council branded the ~~war~~ ^{trouble} in Palestine as a threat to world peace. The resolution proposed by the United States, ^{and} passed seven to one. Syria opposing, Russia, the Ukraine and Argentina abstaining.

The United Nations measure contains two cease-fire ultimatums, one for all of Palestine, one for the Holy City. Each ultimatum is backed by the threat of stern United Nations punishment -- economic sanctions, or intervention of armed forces ^(against whichever) ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ side defies the ruling. ^{come out and} This is the first time that the United Nations has declared an international situation a threat ~~to~~ world peace. The first time in its history that the United Nations has made a show of strength by invoking that section of its Charter which contains punitive measures.

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Tonight's meeting at Lake Success was marked by a bitter attack on Count Bernadotte by Manuilski. The Ukrainian delegate ~~He~~ blamed the Swedish mediator for the resumption of fighting in Palestine, charging him with having worked for the interest of "certain oil companies" in utter disregard of the interests of the Arabs and the Jews. Manuilski spoke for forty-five minutes in a torrent of virulent oratory which shocked those listening.

When Manuilski had finished Count Bernadotte took the floor. Quietly he told the Council that he considered Manuilski's attack ~~was~~ unjustified. But, he said, he would not defend himself because "every hour we discuss this matter in the Council, hundreds of Arab and Jewish lives are lost". Whereupon the Count left to get ready to fly back to the island of Rhodes to ^{resume his task} ~~start again on his work on~~ ~~at that end -- on the scene.~~ ~~mediation in the Holy Land.~~

JULY 15, 1948.

ITALY

And, dramatic news from Rome, ^{Word} tonight ~~tells~~ of a dramatic victory for the De Gaspari Government. The Italian Communists have called off that general strike of six million workers -- ~~the strike in~~ ^{which the Reds staged as a protest} ~~because of~~ the shooting of Togliatti. Earlier today the ^{trouble in Italy} ~~strike~~ had assumed alarming proportions. The entire nation crippled ~~with reports of~~ ^{reported far and wide.} violence and sabotage ~~from all parts.~~ The situation so desperate that the De Gaspari Government gave up efforts at persuasion and threatened to break the strike by force of arms --- at any cost. The Reds thought it over after the Moderates in their ranks quit to side with the government, and finally as rioting and bloodshed increased, they called it off. ~~the strike~~

Meanwhile ^{the} ~~Italy~~ ^{Peninsula} remains paralysed by the early effects of the strike. This morning as the National Assembly met in Rome to hear the grim news of the revolt, thousands

of Reds surged through the streets of the ancient capital crying -- "Revolution. Down with the government!" In the Assembly guarded by troops and tanks the Interior Minister of Italy, told the delegates how police guarding Rome's great electric power station at Albatia San Salvatore had been attacked with guns and bombs. How another mob was attacking the government reinforcements going to the relief of the garrison there. The Interior Minister also told how three trunk railroads leading to Rome were blocked -- due to explosions. And of an armed mob attacking the city's power station.

In Genoa, Italy's largest port, the government proclaimed an emergency this morning as Leftist mobs set up ~~govern~~^{gun} ~~ment~~ [^]implacements in the main streets of Genoa. Last night they stormed the telephone exchange and captured the power station, which the police recaptured after a bitter battle.

Italians in many cities awoke this morning to find no railroad transportation, electric power reduced to a minimum. Some cities with none at all. No street cars; shops and offices closed. In Rome, electric power so curtailed that the government issued its bulletins on its private radio station in the Viminale Palace, under police protection plus two thousand troops, with tank battalions in support.

And then, ^{tonight} [^]the surprising collapse. ^{The} [^]Reds who had ^{walked} [^]~~quitted~~

^{at} [^]the General Assembly, giving the order to their men to return to work. ^{Meanwhile the} [^]~~This in the face of confidence of the De~~

^{de} [^]Gaspari Government ^{had claimed to be in a} [^]~~which jubilantly explained that its~~

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strong position ~~is~~ due in ~~no small measure~~ to the Marshall Plan, ^{and} ~~also~~ to its ~~great anti-communist~~ victory in the election ~~xxx~~ three months ago. Thus bolstered, Italy's Democratic Government ~~went to work and~~ called the bluff of the Reds.

And how is Togliatti? The Russian radio today announced that he was dying. But from the Polyclinic Hospital, where the Reds are silently parading with flags and banners bearing the picture of their idol, the Rome government announced ^d that Togliatti ^{was} ~~is~~ resting quietly, his condition much better. "Reports of his death, which are frequently circulated," says the government bulletin, "are false".

MUTINY

Remember that mutiny on the high seas ^{we heard} ~~is told of~~

^{about} on Monday? ~~night~~ How the Liberty ship CARSON sent a radio message saying that she was in distress, -- her crew mutinous. And then silence. The news tonight adds a note of mystery. ~~and drama to the affair.~~ A Dutch freighter has reported to the ship's owners in Savannah, Georgia, how she received a blinker message from the WILLIAM CARSON. The message saying that the ship's Radio Operator -- Gerald Melton, a veteran of Anzio Beach -- had fallen overboard. Then another blinker message to the Dutch ship -- that the mutiny had been quelled, and all was well.

And where is the Liberty ship CARSON tonight?

Nobody knows. A U.S. coastguard cutter from a British port is searching for her. ^{Meanwhile} ~~to investigate the case. The~~
~~question everyone is asking now is --~~ →

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--- "did the radio operator fall overboard as a result of sending the message about the mutiny. And who sent those blinker messages, one reporting the loss of Gerald Melton, the other saying the situation was under control?" The answers ~~to these questions~~ must be aboard the WILLIAM CARSON, last sighted by the Dutch ship two hundred and fifty miles northeast of the Azores, ~~since when she has~~
~~vanished.~~

TRUMAN

Now about Mr Truman ^{and his} quickly ~~acted on that~~ promise to recall Congress, ^{- the promise} ~~which~~ he made ^{when we were all} in Philadelphia, ^{in the wee hours} last night. This morning in Washington, the chief executive issued a proclamation summoning Congress to convene on July twenty-sixth, for a special session, in what the President's proclamation termed - "the public interest". The President is expected to send Congress a special message on the opening day, dealing with high prices, housing, and civil rights; ~~And, according to a White House spokesman,~~ ^{and those} other "vitally needed measures" which the Republicans say they are for, ^{said the White House spokesman.}

Senate President Vandenberg denounced the President's move as the last hysterical gasp of an expiring administration. He said he doubted whether any possible good could come to the country from it; but he added that he is cancelling his own vacation plans to go back to Washington.

Meanwhile, in Philadelphia Governor Fielding ~~W~~

WRight of Mississippi issued a formal call to the Southern

Democrats to attend the states rights conference on Saturday

in Birmingham, Alabama. ^{Gov.} WRight is inviting all who believe in

states rights. ~~to attend.~~

CONVENTION

After last night's excitement, I'm left with an acute awareness of something that plenty of people have been remarking -- the futility and hollowness of much of our political convention system. This came to mind particularly last night, during the demonstration ^{(Last night,} after President Truman was placed in nomination -- the yelling pandemonium, the stampede of parading, the waving of a forest of banners.) One newspaper describes it as an all-time record-breaker -- the ~~ix~~ noisiest and the longest hullabaloo in the history of American conventions.

It lasted for forty minutes, and you couldn't help thinking how a couple of weeks ago, about half of the cheering, parading delegates were shouting another tune = in the dump-Truman movement. ^{And there} ~~was~~ the dump-Truman delegations were staging a record-breaking performance of what seemed to be wild enthusiasm for Truman.

(The other snake-dancing demonstration was for

Russell -- and that expressed the burning anger of the South. The very sound of the ~~demonstration~~ demonstration, the high-pitched key, had a note of historical reminiscence. It is curious how the South still cheers with that old shrill tone -- the rebel yell of Civil War days.)

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That rebel yell told of a peculiar bitterness. The Solid South regards the Democratic Party as its own. One delegate for South Carolina pointed out that his state has consistently given ^(every Democratic) ~~the Democratic~~ ticket the greatest percentage of votes of any state. So what treatment were the Southerners now getting from their party? The platform of the enemy, the Republicans, was moderate on the racial rights issue, giving the South a mere push -- while their own party was trampling them underfoot.

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(The day of surprises ended with a final surprise, the presidential speech of acceptance. (Around the Convention, everybody supposed that President Truman, in his address, would seek to appease the bitterness of the

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Southern revolt.) "Pour oil on troubled waters" was a phrase commonly used. He seemed the right one to do it. Everybody is familiar with that Harry Truman good humor, tolerance and kindness -- so evident at the White House nowadays. So he could surely be expected to bring his charm and amiability to bear on the southern revolt -- oil on troubled waters. ^π But not at all.

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(He virtually ignored the revolt, and gave the South no mention.) Instead, there was another kind of surprise -- the vigor, the fire, the effectiveness of the presidential oratory. The Harry Truman style of eloquence seems to be acquiring new strength and skill. Last night (he lashed at the Republican Congress with telling phrases, and biting sarcasm.)

There was a surprise in the boldness of the plan to call Congress back into session before the election, and confront the G.O.P. legislators with their own presidential platform. Defy them -- to carry out the promises of the platform.) Of course, some jokster might point out that the Republican platform was adopted

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in nominating candidates for President and Vice-President, and not in nominating Congress. A humorist might inquire -- how can you ask Dewey and Warren to carry out the promises of their platform before they ~~are~~^{are} elected? But the whole thing is likely to end more in wrath than in comedy.

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The contrast between the Republican Convention and the Democratic was profound. The G.O.P. event was like a skilfully constructed stage play -- suspense from the very start and building up, sustaining interest all the time and closing on a reasonable climax. The Democratic Convention was like the creation of some crude and disorderly genius, who misconstrues his play, and makes it drag along tediously until the last act. ~~Then~~ Then suddenly he produces a climax of stunning violence - almost blowing up the theatre. It was not only hysterical, it was historical.

PERSHING

(General John J Pershing to be buried with full military honors, on Monday, in Arlington National Cemetery. As he always wished.)

On Sunday the body of the General-of-the-Armies will lie in state in the Rotunda of the national capital, to allow the public to pay its respects to the military man of whom it has been said: - "he never made a mistake either in strategy or in tactics".

In fact, General Pershing lived long enough to see the results of the Allies rejecting his advice in Nineteen Eighteen, ^{when he} ~~He was opposed to granting Germany an armistice. He called for unconditional surrender from Germany, and he~~ wanted his troops to march right into Berlin. Otherwise, said he, there would be another war in twenty or so years. And how right he was in his prophesy.

~~The veteran soldier who went to West Point from his native Missouri, never lost touch with current affairs after he was retired in Nineteen Twenty-Four on account of his age.~~

As a tribute to his greatness, Congress kept him in active service, and he continued to serve his country with advice. In NineteenThirty-Nine, when Hitler marched into Poland, Pershing publicly urged us to get ready! In Nineteen Forty-Six he called on Uncle Sam to enforce diplomacy with strength. And he criticized our wholesale disarmament after World War Two, warning that preparedness for war is a guardian of peace, as he worded it:- "particularly in the age of the atomic bomb and guided missiles, into which we are entering".

General Pershing lived long enough to see America building the most effective peace-time army in her history.

CIRCUS

A drama of the circus, one of those unrehearsed thrills that happen under the Big Top. In Aurora, Illinois, Ruth Nelson, a trapeze artist, faltered as she was doing her act way up there sixty feet in the air. Watching at the ringside was her husband Paul, the seal-trainer. ~~Wx~~ When he saw his wife hesitate and begin to topple, Paul dashed into the ring, his arms outstretched -- the audience of some seven thousand looking on, spellbound.

But Paul-the-seal-trainer was in time. As his wife plummeted from the trapeze, he caught her in his arms -- broke her fall. Ten minutes later, with his own nose broken, and in plaster, Husband Paul put his seals through their act. He had saved his ~~wifx~~ wife, the circus trapeze artist -- and the show went on.

PICTURES

Here's a story about art -- modern, abstract art, as it is called.

You know how it is. You paint a picture of a swimming pool that looks like an orange; or of a Havana stogie that can be mistaken for the Leaning Tower of Pisa riding a purple horse; and everybody cries -- wonderful! The work of a genius!

Well, in Frankfurt, Germany, today, Paul Fontaine, a young American artist, gave an exhibition of his abstract paintings. Paul was too nervous to attend the opening, so he stayed at ~~his~~ home biting his ~~nails~~ finger nails. However, when he read the critics' rave notices over his works, he hurried to the exhibition hall to receive the plaudits in person. And, he was mobbed, everybody telling him what a great painter he was. But no one could understand why Surrealist Paul Fontaine looked unhappy. And why was he suddenly smitten with melancholia? When he gazed at his pictures, he was dumbfounded. For they were all hung upside down!