

L.T. P. & G. MONDAY, AUGUST 29, 1949
(Given by Roy Chapman Andrews)

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

There were headline proceedings in London today - two meetings of the British Cabinet held with all the surroundings of great importance. Members of the Attle Government were summoned to break their vacations, and attend. Every one was there, and crowds gathered at Number Ten Downing Street to see the Minister enter. The scene of public interest is described as reminiscent of wartime - when such fateful decisions were made at the historic residence of the prime minister.

So what was the big issue today? They met to decide on a program to present in Washington at conferences beginning September Seventh.

This will include suggestions that Britain will cut expenses and adopt an even greater degree of austerity. They will delay further social benefits, tho' leaving in force those already enacted.

In return, the British will ask for a lowering of American tariffs, an increase of American investments

in the British Colonies. We hear that Britain will not ask a loan at Washington. They do want more Marshall Plan money, but they will argue that at Marshall Plan headquarters in Paris.

As for devaluing the pound sterling, Cripps will not suggest that. But they say he will consider it, if enough concessions are made to Great Britain.

On this side of the ocean, President Truman declared today that British money problems will be discussed with what he called "Friendliness and helpfulness." Because, said he, "World prosperity is necessary to world peace."

EUROPE

The European Assembly is showing signs of ambition -- the gathering at Strasbourg, in France, which some suppose may be the beginning of a United States of ~~Europe~~ Europe. The Assembly today prepared to set itself up as a permanent Parliament for the West European countries -- to hold regular meetings twice a year, have a staff of permanent officials and acquire wider powers to discuss and recommend solutions to European problems.

The Assembly is drawing up a code of human rights, and today its legal committee okayed a series of fundamental freedoms -- on the order of the bill of Rights of the American Constitution.

CHINA

In China, the Communists are driving on Canton - a news dispatch stating that two Red columns have broken into the Province of Kwantung, of which Canton is the capital. At the same time, Communist guerrillas have gone into action all over southern China - threatening the rear of the Nationalist defenses.

PALESTINE

A late story tells of demands the Arab countries are making on the State of Israel. Negotiations, under the guidance of the U.N., are going on in Switzerland, and today the Moslem nations called on Israel to give up territory not awarded to Israel in the original U.N. partition plan. That is, areas conquered by the Jewish forces after the original partition went into effect.

The Arabs demand this in return for resettling Mohammedan refugees who left Jewish territory - and whom Israel refuses to repatriate.

end

BOLIVIA

They are having a revolution in Bolivia -- late news from South America stating that government bombers today blasted an air field of the rebels. We are told that the insurgents captured four airlines -- and were using these for an Air Force. But now, the rebel sky-power is tied up by the bombing of the base. Earlier in the day the Bolivian government announced the crushing of the revolt of tin miners up in the Andes. What is happening down there in the mountainous republic seems to be a bit confused, and about all we can say is - another South American revolution.

End

FIVE PERCENTERS

And now, step forward, ladies and gentlemen, and enter the office of the number one Five Percenter - and gaze at the photographs on the wall. We are able to do this, because Senator Margaret Chase Smith wanted to know about her own picture displayed in the office of James V. Hunt, who is being investigated as an alleged "influence salesman" in Washington.

Today, the newsmen were allowed into the office of ^{James V.} Hunt, and there they saw an array of photographs of prominent people of the government - headed by President Truman. There were several pictures of the President, including one taken at the Potsdam Conference, together with British Prime Minister Attlee and Soviet Premier Stalin. On a table, most prominent of all, was a framed portrait of the President, with the inscription: "Best wishes to Lieutenant Colonel James V. Hunt - Harry S. Truman."

Other photographs are those of thirty-one senators and former senators, and thirty-five present and past members of the House of Representatives. Among them

are two members of the Senate Committee, now investigating charges concerning Five Percenters - autographed photographs of Senator McCarthy of Wisconsin and Senator Margaret Chase Smith of Maine. She wants to know how she got there.

The allegation is that Hunt used the picture gallery to impress clients with his influence in government circles. Some of the photographs are of a kind that might be got by mail upon request, while others indicate a close, friendly association.

ADD FIVE PERCENTERS

Later news - the Senate investigators have handed to the Department of Justice their records on John Maragon, the Greek-American who is so close a friend of General Vaughan. They suggest possible charges of perjury and income tax evasion.

COHEN

Los Angeles has a mixup in the case of the racketeer Happy Meltzer, a henchman of the mob leader Mickey Cohen. New Jersey wants Meltzer in connection with the murder of a Jersey City gangster named Yanowski. Two detectives are in Los Angeles to take Meltzer back, but he says he will fight extradition. Now the Los Angeles District Attorney says he, too, is opposed, because Meltzer is awaiting trial, along with Mickey Cohen, for beating up a Los Angeles radio dealer.

Happy Meltzer jeers at the idea that he killed Yanowski in New Jersey. "Me kill him?" he exclaimed today. "Why, we were buddies." To which he added that he, and the murdered gangster, had planned to organize a jewelry clerk's union, and run it in connection with a gambling racket. Which gives a hint of some of the angles played by the underworld.

TIBET

On various occasions in the past, I've substituted on this program, but never with quite the sense of pleasant duty as tonight - pinch-hitting for Lowell Thomas while he is away on an expedition to Tibet. He is on a trip to the sacred city of Lhasa, and I think I have a better than average understanding of what that means - being myself an old hand at adventure in Central Asia, with some experience on the wild borders of the fantastic, forbidden country.

I was in the wilderness of the Chinese Province of Yunan, collecting for the American Museum of Natural History - hunting for rare animals, all the way from jungle mice to Himalayan sheep and the wild yak. The eastern ranges of the Himalayas run into Yunan, and we made our way high into the mountains - where Tibet begins. It was remote savage country, but there we found a white man. Missionary? Explorer? No, a Frenchman in the perfume business - and I might remark that the Tibetans could use perfume, as Lowell Thomas may tell you in some of his broadcasts from Lhasa.

But that wasn't it at all. The Frenchman was out for musk deer - for the perfume industry of France. The buck of that Himalayan variety of deer has a small sack of musk, which smells all right when made into perfume. The Frenchman, a little fellow wiry and tough, was an adventurous dealer who paid native hunters to bring in musk deer, and he took out loads of the perfume essence for shipment to France.

I crossed over the border into Tibet - although that was strictly taboo. But it was the wildest frontier you ever saw, with few people about. I encountered some Tibetans. The nearest monastery was two hundred miles away - and, if the monks had found out that I had crossed their forbidden border, they would have sent soldiers to throw me out. I didn't go in far, and didn't stay long, just long enough to get some idea of that fabulous country of Tibet. I noticed the practice of polyandry - each woman having several husbands.

I was at an altitude of twelve thousand feet, and right ahead was a mountain that rose, sheer, for

eight thousand feet more. Tibet abounds in mountains from five to six miles high - towering ranges that rise on the verge of immense rugged plains, of an average altitude of fifteen thousand feet. One sensation comes over you, a feeling of immensity and your own smallness. You are vividly aware that you are on the roof of the world, and it gives you a sense of your own unimportance. You feel tiny and belittled. Everything is on such a huge scale, the mountains running several times as high as the mountains of our own country. The summits are so vast, and you feel so small - as if you were in the presence of infinity.

On this program tomorrow we will have a broadcast report from the expedition telling of adventure with an Himalayan avalanche.

GLASSES

Over in London, attention was attracted today by a blast on the subject of - girls who wear glasses. They have every reason to be encouraged - according to Angela Best, who relates her experience with young ladies who are spectacled.

Angela's report is in contradiction to the famous rhyme by Dorothy Parker, who wrote:

"Men seldom make passes,
at girls who wear glasses."

To which poet Ogden Nash asserted with a couplet of his own.

He wrote:

"The girl who is spectacled
seldom gets her necktackled."

But that, according to Angela Best, is all wrong. She tells of a date with her boy friend, Bob, who brought a friend of his along, and asked Angela to bring another girl. "I was," writes Angela, "in such mortal terror of losing Bob's tottering affection, that I decided to take a girl who couldn't possibly entice him away. So I chose dear, homely Maisy, who wears thick

horn-rimmed specs. "But," says Angela, "Maisy turned out to be a snake in the grass. Bob saw her as something different, someone deep and interesting. The glasses were a great help. The big advantage was that he couldn't be sure of the expression in her eyes." Bob said to Maisy: "I wonder what you look like without your glasses. What goes on behind those lenses?"

You can guess the rest. Maisy got Bob, and Angela, in chagrin, began to study the question of young ladies who wear cheaters. Giving the result of her investigation, she summarizes the male reaction as follows: "Men think "she's not a flirt. She can't be; she wears glasses. They think she must be a nice girl; intelligent, too. Obviously, she can read. Serious minded also; not vain. She might even be pathetically grateful, if I make a pass at her."

So that's the headline from London tonight: "Men often make passes at girls who wear glasses." Do you, Nelson?

JUGOSLAVIA

There's a word in diplomatic circles about the meeting of Soviets and Satellites at Sofia, Red Bulgaria, over the week-end. An official communique states merely that the Communist conference made some plans - "Took the necessary decisions," says the announcement. From London we hear that the meeting was called because of Soviet worry about Red Marshall Tito of Jugoslavia - the satellite who rebelled.

Moscow is said to have been warned that, unless Tito is crushed promptly, there may be serious repercussions in the world behind the Iron Curtain.

There have been suppositions that Moscow might take aggressive action against Jugoslavia, but the report is that the delegates at Sofia contented themselves with plans for economic measures.

HURRICANE

The tail end of the hurricane swept through New England today, after taking a swipe at New York City in the early hours this morning - lashing the metropolis with violent winds. Then on to Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine - with heavy rains and a gale up to fifty miles an hour. The weather bureau says that, in its havoc down in Florida, the tropical storm caused sixty million dollars' worth of damage.