

L.T. P. & G. TUESDAY, JULY 5, 1949

(Sustaining)

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

I hope you heard one of my distinguished CBS colleagues broadcasting for me last night, from Washington. Charles Collingwood is one of the top radio news men, who is usually introduced as the CBS White House Correspondent.

As I've done, sometimes, in other years, it looks as though I'll be moving around a little this summer; and when I do, thanks to Charles Collingwood, you will be hearing one of the abler men in this field.

As for our Ivory expert, Nelson Case, with his story, Nelson will be back in a few weeks. I'll have something more to tell you about Nelson Case, after we take a look at the news.

WEATHER - EUROPE

Over in Portugal, the city of Fuzeta, hundreds of people ran through the streets today with bluish flames shooting from their bodies. They were in a panic, as who wouldn't be - streaking blue fire.

Europe has been having a heat wave, the descriptions of which belittle our own warm spell - even that freak storm in New York yesterday afternoon, which capsized hundreds of pleasure boats. Across the Atlantic the burning heat and drought was accompanied today by violent electrical storms - especially in Portugal. Meteorologists over there explain that the sweep of cyclonic winds left a sort of weather vacuum in southern Portugal, loaded with static electricity -- everything crackling with sparks.

The climax - at Fuzeta, that weird sight of people streaking blue flames. This, we are told, was a spectacular form of what sailors of old called - "St. Elmo's fire". Harmless - but it scared those Portuguese out of their wits, when they found themselves to be like batteries emitting blue electricity.

We are having our own hot weather troubles, especially the record-breaking death list over the July fourth holiday. But at least we do not run around looking as if we were being electrocuted.

FACT

We Americans, down through our history, are accustomed to an event that occurs every so often - an historic debate in the Senate of the United States. It was much the same, among the people of ancient Rome, with memorable debates in the Roman Senate - like Cicero versus Cataline. Or in the British Parliament, William Pitt or Edmund Burke, right down to Winston Churchill.

A bit of history is appropriate today - as here in our ~~own country~~, On the day following the anniversary of American Independence, the Senate of the United States began its debate on the North Atlantic Security Pact.

The note of world historic importance was immediately sounded. Senator Tom Connally of Texas, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, led off, and said: "The North Atlantic Treaty is a flaming sign to any ^gaggressor, to any nation that contemplates armed attack on a peaceful and law-abiding nation: - do not enter the North Atlantic area!" Yes, "A flaming sign", and you can also call it - Article Five.

So, as the debate begins, let's take a look at that Fifth Provision, which is the gist of it all. Article Five reads as follows: "The parties agree that an armed attack against one or more of them, in Europe or North America, shall be considered an attack against them all. And, consequently, they agree that, if such attack occurs, each of them...will assist the party or parties so attacked by taking...such action as it deems necessary, including the use of armed force." Note the phrase:- "Such action as it deems necessary." That is meant to be in accord with our American Constitution, which provides that Congress shall have the power to make war. ^{That is} We are not committed to go to war automatically.

Such is the "Flaming" sign of which Senator Connally spoke today; after which he went on to the further proposal of - American arms for the free nations of Europe. He said that the treaty and the armament proposal were not, what he called, "Siamese Twins." That is, they are not so closely tied together

that, if we adopt the first, we have to adopt also the second. But, speaking with all the urgency that his voice could command, he called upon the Senate to ratify the treaty, and said that he hoped there would be a similar approval of the program of - arms for the free nations.

This beginning of the North Atlantic debate might provide an occasion for a guessing game. Of all the previous debates in the Senate - which was the greatest? But that's no guess at all. Any high school pupil, fresh from American History, will answer - the Webster-Hayne debate. A hundred and nineteen years ago, Eighteen Thirty. And it's interesting to note the contrast.

The North Atlantic Security Treaty comes up before the Senate in mid-summer. The Webster-Hayne debate was - mid-winter, January. Today, the question at hand is of world importance - the cold war between East and West. Back in Eighteen Thirty, the immediate issue before the Senate was, in itself, trivial - a resolution concerning Western lands in our country. The debate was dominated by the greatest orator in American history, the senator from New Hampshire, Daniel Webster. It's unlikely that our present debate will bring forth such eloquence, the Senate nowadays being short of Daniel Websters.

Webster took the small matter of Western lands as an excuse for bringing up the whole great question of -

the Union. He worked up an argument with the South on the issue of states' rights -- an oratorical duel with the brilliant senator from South Carolina, Robert Y. Hayne. Daniel Webster steered the Western land business around to a defense of the Union, and climaxed with oratorical fireworks that have been repeated in Fourth of July orations ever since. I wonder how many times orators on Independence Day have shouted Webster's final thundering phrase - "Liberty and union, now and forever, one and inseparable!"

In those days it was liberty and union in this country. Now - the problem is liberty and union on a world-wide scale. But I doubt that the orators in the debate that began today will get off any phrases and slogans to match those of Daniel Webster, a hundred and nineteen years ago.

SECOND ADD PACT

But there is one striking element of similarity and sameness:-- the place. By a twist of chance, the North Atlantic debate is being held in the same old room where Daniel Webster held forth. The Senate has not convened there for a long, long time, but right now the regular Senate Chamber is being repaired. So the ~~senators~~ ^{statesmen} have moved temporarily to that place of the past.

Venerable and stately proceedings amid shadows of history and tradition, [!] but, things began with a laugh today.-- Vice President Barkley speaking, and he is always good for a turn of humor. In a small semicircular room, the Vice President announced: "The chair would like to suggest....." But he was interrupted. There were shouts of -- louder! Barkley was imperturbable. He started all over again and said: "The chair would like to suggest that the accoustics here are excellent."

There are complaints about the accoustics of that old legislative hall. But, gentlemen of the Senate Daniel Webster was able to make himself heard -- and how!

SENATE

In the middle of the North Atlantic doings, the Senate took time out to make a display of gallantry, courtesy to a lady. This was in the nomination of Mrs. Mesta, famous as the number one party-giver in Washington, the ace hostess - whom President Truman ~~has~~ appointed ^{to be U.S.} ~~United States~~ Minister to Luxembourg.

All was politeness, the courtesy due to a lady, there being only one dissenting voice - that of Senator Donnell of Missouri. He challenged the qualifications of Mrs. Mesta, the number one party-giver. Whereupon Senator Connally of Texas, spoke up with Southern chivalry and said that the gentleman from Missouri seemed to think that the job of minister to Luxembourg required, what Connally called - "Somebody with britches on." He pointed out, furthermore, that Luxembourg is ruled, in the words of the Texan - "By a grand dutchess, a female, a woman if you please."

Senator Murray of Montana chimed in, ^{that} remarking the Senate should examine the qualifications of some of those who are wearing pants in the foreign

service.

Poor Donnell roared back that he wasn't objecting to Mrs. Mesta on the grounds of sex. He merely wanted to know how much she contributed to the Democratic Party. To which Senator McGrath of Rhode Island, chairman of the Democratic Committee, said - yes Mrs. Mesta was a heavy campaign contributor. Donnell then reviewed Mrs. Mesta's social career in Washington, brilliant and successful. To which he added: "But that does ^{not} qualify her as a diplomat."

The unanswerable retort was made by Senator Long of Louisiana. "She is an outstanding hostess", said he. "Does not that require ability?"

Well, the Senate should know. Most of the lawmakers have attended Mrs. Mesta's famous parties. So the vote was overwhelming, confirming the nomination of the champion hostess, and saying - the party was swell.

CURRENCY

In Washington, President Truman has received a recommendation from his top advisers on international finance. They tell him that some of the nations of Europe should "revalue" their currencies. Really meaning - "devalue." And the reference is chiefly to - Great Britain. In other words, devalue the pound. This, to ease the financial troubles of Europe.

At the same time, Secretary of the Treasury Snyder had a conference today with the French finance minister, ~~Marcel Petre~~ and that same advice was echoed - the pound sterling should be devalued. The ^{French} finance minister is said to have told our Secretary of the Treasury that it will be necessary to increase Marshall Plan Aid, if the economic crisis in Europe is to be overcome. But, especially, he insisted that some countries of Europe must cut the value of their currencies - Britain in particular.

Thus we find the United States and Franch in apparent agreement on this point of international finance - demanding a change in British money policy.

But, will the London Government do it? Today the Wall Street Journal states that the British have already notified the Truman Administration in a secret message, and the answer is - no! We hear likewise that Sir Stafford Cripps, Chancellor of the Exchequer, has threatened to resign, if he is ordered to cut the value of sterling.

All of which is involved in complex technicalities of finance, but the general aspect is this:- If money exchange were free, the value of the pound would sink in terms of dollars. You'd get fewer dollars for the pound, if you could trade in an open market. But the British keep up the face value of their money by stopping the exchange of pounds for dollars - blocking their currency. That is, they won't allow sterling to flow out of ~~the~~ British control, where it could be traded for dollars, and *thus* find its own level.

This causes them to do business with other countries on a barter basis. Instead of paying for

foreign goods with British money, they seek to pay with British merchandise - ^{which} ~~and this~~ keeps the pound from going out, where it would be traded for dollars at a lower figure than the British will allow. ^R At the same time, these barter transactions block the freedom of world trade. For example, the much talked of British deal with Argentina, whereby they agree to trade goods with each other - freezing out American goods.

The American view is that there should be more freedom of world trade - let commerce flow unimpeded between the nations. If the British would devalue the pound, it would help. ~~The British would no longer have to forbid the export of the pound. They could go into normal commercial transactions.~~

But what can we do about it? There are suggestions that we might threaten to cut off Marshall Plan aid to Britain; - but, the fear is that, if Britain were cut off from the Marshall Plan, it would lead to financial collapse of Europe. Which we do not want, -- ^{That} ~~we~~ would not help our own economy.

CHINA

Chiang Kai-Shek speaks out -- giving his first news interview since the beginning of the Red sweep in China. On the Island of Formosa, he talked to two reporters. One -- Clyde Farnsworth, staff writer for Scripps-Howard.

He told them that he would lead the struggle of Nationalist China against the Communists, and ~~Chiang Kai-Shek~~ asked for America to help -- unless this country wants to see a third world war beginning in Asia. The former generalissimo argued that, if Communism is not checked in China, it will spread over the whole of the world's greatest continent.

LOCUSTS

In the West, the locusts are moving, the vast myriads of insects eating their way through Nevada. They ^{are} pushing northward; and fear has been expressed that they would break from arid Nevada into the rich lands of Oregon and California. ~~But~~ ^Tonight the word is otherwise - that the billions of locusts will begin to lay their eggs in the next few days, after which they will die. So the climax of the plague should be over in two or three **weeks**.

The job at hand is to map the area in which the eggs are laid, so that these can be destroyed - ~~as to~~ ^{as to} ~~and~~ ^{and} avert another locust plague next year. Today cruising jeeps were surveying the egg-laying beds, which are in the dry regions of northern Nevada.

KILLING

A strange affair of shooting along Chesapeake Bay - and it might be called - the airplane murder. A plane swooped down and landed near some crab fishermen along the Maryland shore. A man got out, went over to one of the fishermen, talked with him, and shot him down. Then - boarded the plane, which took off, vanishing into distance and mystery.

Nobody seems to know the reason. The only surmise is that it may have something to do with an old feud between the crab fishermen of Maryland and those of neighboring Virginia. They have long had a dispute over the jurisdiction, the limits of the waters to which they are permitted to fish. So that quarrel might account for the killer landed by plane and then flying off.

HOLIDAY

Every holiday weekend is followed by a cheerless figure, and tonight the number is - Eight Hundred and Five. Which is the highest holiday death-list on record. Today the National Safety Council called it - "A disgrace to a civilized nation", with especial odium heaped on reckless driving, violation of traffic rules, and poor sportsmanship on the highway. The list of casualties is headed by traffic accidents:- Three Hundred and Twenty-One.

The figures, of course, reflect the sweltering heat wave that broiled so much of the country, Ten Million People getting out of suffocating cities, swarming to seashores and lakes. Second on the list - drownings;-Two Hundred and Seventy-Seven.

That figure was increased unduly by the sudden great storm that hit the New York area, squalls up to seventy miles an hour - sudden disaster to boats on a day when record-breaking numbers of people were out boating and sailing. Thirty-three lives lost in New York and Connecticut waters; and it's a surprise that

the figure is not greater.

A check-up today ^{by} the the Coast Guard indicates that in lower New York Bay alone, a thousand boats were in trouble during the big blow. The peril was the greater because the windstorm was so sudden, so unexpected, that no warnings could be given in advance.

At Larchmont, New York, a boat race was on, thirty-seven craft in a speed competition, when the gale hit. All thirty-seven capsized in the Seventy Mile wind, the water lashing with waves that ran seven feet high - and forty yachts, with spectators, were overturned. Four Hundred people in a multiple shipwreck - all saved. Off Kinds Point, as many as forth boats capsized.

It was the greatest disaster to small boats on record, and twenty were still missing - when the latest Coast Guard report came in this afternoon. It is expected that most are on their way to safety. All day long, missing craft kept coming in, after having been disabled, out all night - twenty making a belated

HOLIDAY.....3

appearance this morning.

Meanwhile, the heat wave continues, and most areas are promised little relief - although the weatherman says over-heated New York City will cool off tonight.

TOKYO ROSE

There was fast action today in the San Francisco trial of Tokyo Rose - the jury seated at a fast clip. The prosecution used only six of its twenty-one challenges, and the defense only eight of twenty-one.

We have been accustomed to dragging out of trials - especially in those involving Communism. But the speed in this treason case was such that the afternoon ended with a lively dispute -- the case in full swing.

The argument came with an attempt by the defense to put into the record the claim that Tokyo Rose can not ~~properly~~ ^(properly) be tried by the United States - the Japanese-American who, born in Los Angeles, gave war-time broadcasts of Japanese propaganda. She since has married a portuguese citizen, and is Mrs. D'Aquino. Hence the contention that she is now a Portuguese national, and immune from prosecution.

JAPANESE STUDENTS

Word comes of how they celebrated the Fourth of July at Sengokuhara, in Japan. More and More the Japanese are taking to American ways, and the people of Sengokuhara decided to celebrate the glorious Fourth. They gave the high school pupils a day off - for the first Japanese commemoration of American Independence.

~~So~~ what did the high school pupils do to celebrate? Well, Sengokuhara is a mountain-summer-resort, with a large golf course frequented by Americans in the occupation forces. ^{And} They were in the market for caddies, ready to pay. You can guess the rest. The high school pupils tramped over to the golf course, and hailed the Fourth of July by caddying. ~~from the tee off to the eighteenth hole.~~ Which, after all, ^{no doubt} did get them acquainted with ^{some} American ways. Of course, they might have listened to a recitation of the Declaration of Independence - in Japanese! But maybe those beknighted orientals found golf more entertaining.
at Sengokuhara!

BOETTIGER

At Phoenix, Arizona, a divorce case involving the famed name of -- Roosevelt. Mrs. Anna Roosevelt Boettiger, daughter of F.D.R. - sued by her husband. The charge - mental cruelty.

Which terminates a famous White House romance.

The daughter of the late President had made a previous marriage -- to Curtis Dall, by whom she had two children. A Divorce in Nineteen Thirty-three, the first year of the New Deal, and she married John Boettiger, a newspaper man, Washington correspondent for the Chicago Tribune.

Thereafter, the two had a career in journalism. John Boettiger became publisher of the Seattle Post Intelligencer. Then he and his wife went to the southwest, and launched the Arizona Times. Last year when the paper was sold, ~~and~~ Mrs. Anna Roosevelt Boettiger turned to Radio.

Now the divorce suit, the husband ~~xxx~~ charging that his wife humiliated him, causing him anguish that, in the words of the complaint - "impaired his mental and physical health".

NELSON CASE - ENDING

A few minutes ago I mentioned that Nelson Case will be off the air for a few weeks. I wish all of his radio friends were going to be visiting the town of West Newbury, Massachusetts, this summer. Our versatile friend, Nelson, has signed up for a season of summer stock, as leading man. If he is as good at acting as he is at announcing - and I'm sure he is -- the summer theatre at West Newbury ought to be sold out all season.

And now, a salute to Charles Collingwood, to our Ivory friends, and to Actor Nelson Case, and
So long until tomorrow!