

L.T. - P&G. XMAS EVE. Monday, December 24, 1951.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

I played hookey from my work this evening. I have just come from a Candle Light Service. And, as a result I may get the news a bit confused. But, I hope you won't mind. First let's have a real Xmas Eve item - Christmas is being celebrated at Bethlehem - but with a difference this year. Same throng of Pilgrims - traversing the old hallowed way from Jerusalem to Bethlehem, for those same age-old ceremonies at the Church of the Nativity. As last year they pass across that same borderline between Israel and the Arab state of Jordan, still technically at war. All of which means a few formalities - the same as during the past several years. The difference this year is - the weather.

Tonight it is bitterly cold in the Holy Land - unusually so for those Judian Hills that look out over the Arabian Desert. The news from Jerusalem calls it - the worst Christmas weather in years! For ten days the sky has been overcast, with Christmas Eve raw and bleak. Then, as the day wore on, the sun broke through the clouds above The Mount of Olives, as if trying to do its part to celebrate the Nativity.

The dispatch says that helped a little, but still the day was raw and cold. Which, however, did not discourage the parade of thousands of Pilgrims, who tonight made their way along that ancient road from Jerusalem to Bethlehem. Modern descendants of those Pilgrims of long ago - are those travelers wending their way to Bethlehem tonight. In fact by now they are gathered in that lower room where I too have stood, at the spot where tradition tells us the Saviour was born in the Manger. Often travel to the Holy places in Palestine has been beset by perils of

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war. In the Middle Ages there was the fanatical  
rage of strife between Christendom and Islam. But  
tonight in the Holy Land there seems to be Peace - at  
any rate it isn't armed conflict as it has been so  
often, along that road to the birthplace of The  
Prince of Peace.

**KEFAUVER**

(Sen. Kefauver for President!

The latest ~~is that the~~ <sup>Tennessee</sup> boom is building up, and ~~it~~

~~may~~ have possibilities - if President Truman decides not to run again.) Today, Senator Humphrey of Minnesota came out in favor of the Tennessean who hit the jackpot of television in that famous crime investigation.

Humphrey calls for the ~~his~~ nomination of Kefauver - if President Truman does not seek re-election.

The Minnesota Senator is a leader in the extreme New Deal faction of the Democratic party, while Kefauver is regarded as a middle of the road legislator. He's from a border state, Tennessee. So, he might be acceptable to the Southerners. Well, if he should turn out to be okay with both Humphrey and the Dixiecrats - he certainly would be in the middle of the road!

The Senator is ~~xxx~~ of an old-time Tennessee family. The name Kefauver is Welsh, ~~Understand~~ <sup>I am told, I don't</sup> ~~He~~ speaks Welsh myself. Thomas in my case, is I believe an American name. Well,



Today, Philip Murray, President of the C. I. O.  
**Sen. Kefauver is not discouraging the boom; but he says he won't decide until he finds out whether or not President Truman intends to run. If Harry steps aside then Senator Kefauver has a head start on other Democratic possibilities.**

No later news is from Independence, Missouri, where President Truman is spending Christmas in his home town. He states that he will revert to every law on the statute books to keep the steel mills operating. He was asked if he would invoke the Taft-Hartley Act, and replied -- "Yes, that and anything else that might be needed."

The hope is that the executive Board of the U. M. W. will agree to delay the strike -- and take the dispute before the Wage Stabilization Board.

## SUB END STEEL STRIKE

Today, Philip Murray, President of the C I O and head of the steel workers union, called a meeting of his union executive board - for Thursday. This followed an appeal from President Truman, asking both union and companies to do everything to avert a strike scheduled for New Years Day. The President reminded them of their responsibility in the face of national danger - if they permit steel production to be stopped for even twenty-four hours.

Later news is from Independence, Missouri, where President Truman is spending Christmas in his home town. He states that he will resort to every law on the statute books to keep the steel mills operating. He was asked if he would invoke the Taft-Hartley Act, and replied -- "yes, that and anything else that might be needed."

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jurisdiction of the ~~AMT~~ special Convention.

So now Murray calls a meeting of the Executive Board, which summoned the convention. The hope is that the Board will rescind its decision, and permit Murray to delay the strike - and take the wage dispute before the wage stabilization board.

Tonight, Government officials in Washington seem optimistic that the Union Committee, meeting on Thursday, will allow the whole thing to go to the stabilization board - for a recommendation on the demand for a wage increase of eighteen-and-a-half cents an hour for the steel workers.

## **MINER**

A terrifying experience was told today - as nothing. At West Frankfurt, Illinois, they found one lone coal miner alive, after the explosion in the black pit - which took a hundred and nineteen lives. Cecil Sanders, forty-four years old, was brought out - after having been trapped for fifty-eight hours.

You'd think they must have been - hours of nightmare horror. But Sanders, who came out of it in good shape, had little to tell - about the mine explosion and what followed. "I just went to sleep", he said, "and woke up a little while before they found me." Unconscious, in oblivion - all the time.



## AIRMEN

The United States today sent a note to Red Hungary, asking for - clarification. This, in the case of the four American airmen, who were tried by a Communist court and fined thirty thousand dollars each - or three months in a Red prison.

Well, it would all seem fairly clear - blackmail. It sounds like a gangster shakedown to collect one-hundred-and-twenty-thousand dollars from the U.S. government - the Reds taking advantage of the fact that an American plane got lost and was forced down in Hungarian territory.

Will we pay it? That's the 2<sup>nd</sup> question under debate in Washington. Congressman Armstrong of Missouri says that the payment of the fine is - unthinkable. But Senators Kefauver of Tennessee and Johnson of Colorado think -it should be paid. "We

should pay the tribute and call it tribute," says the Colorado Senator. Senator Hickenlooper of Iowa puts it in these words: "We don't like to be subjected to international banditry, but the men were kidnapped for ransom and we've got to get them loose."

In other words, we don't like the bare faced shakedown. But, neither would we like to see four American Air Force flyers serving sentences in a Communist Prison.

But, beyond this all was deadlock. The Communists refused a demand that representatives of the Red Cross be permitted to visit prisoners-of-war. They said this was "unnecessary," declaring that the captives are being given good care.

## KOREA-TRUCE

They say it's an un-Merry Christmas at Pan Mun Jom. In the tents there, the truce teams are holding another session, and the atmosphere is grim.

(Today, the Communists made a concession - proposing that prisoners of war be permitted to write letters to their families. In token of which they presented to the American delegation a letter from General Dean, to his wife.) The Americans immediately accepted the proposal - which would permit American families to hear by letter from soldiers in Red prison camps. They took the letter for Mrs. Dean, <sup>and</sup> forwarded it ~~along~~ to her - (word from the Congressional Medal of Honor Commander of the twentyfourth Division, who was captured early in the war.)

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The U N truce team accused the Communists of forcing south Korean prisoners into the Red Korean Army - arguing that this accounted for the huge discrepancy between the number of south Koreans missing and the Communist figure for South Korean prisoners.

(On one point after another, no progress was made, and it was obvious that there would not be any armistice agreement by the date of the deadline, December twenty-seventh. It is not clear whether or not there will be any extension of the period allotted for ~~xx~~ truce talks. If not, the armistice negotiations would not necessarily be broken off - the thirty day period having applied to the location of an armistice line, when and if a truce is concluded.)

The tone in which the meetings are ~~being~~ being held, on Christmas, is illustrated by a scene at one of the meetings today. No, there was no angry shouting, no exchange of wrathful words -- but that made it only the more ominous. Today's news dispatch states: "At one point the embittered delegates sat in complete



silence for eight minutes, glaring at each other."

~~It~~ **An un-Merry Christmas at Pan Mun Jom!**

All quiet along the battle line today, but

things were disturbed at the Red port of Hungnam, on

the Korean eastcoast. Disturbed - and how. By naval

air bombing, the planes from the carriers Valley Forge

and Antitam blasting enemy harbor facilities.

In a way, it was an anniversary commemoration - today

being exactly one year since the Hungnam evacuation.

Our forces used that seaport in getting away, after

the sudden intervention by the Chinese Reds, and the

quick U N retreat that followed.

**ARMY:**

In Washington, a Congressional Committee investigating Military Procurement has been uncovering some remarkable things. The Army puts out printed material to set forth requirements for such items as - heavy artillery, tanks, rockets, . But why bother about minor items like those?

The Committee finds a-five-and-a-half page document in fine print, giving the specifications for the purchase of - ping pong balls. Also, four pages on the subject of - Clippers for Dogs' Toenails. Sounds like a strange way to win a war.

The document on ping pong balls goes into complex detail about how these should be made of - cellulose nitrate plastic. The clippers for dogs' toenails must be, in the words of the four page document - "properly adjusted, smoothly finished, and free from blemishes." Nope, no blemishes.

You wonder if they have any time left for the heavy artillery, tanks, rockets!

## NOTE

Here's another variant of the old story of a note placed in a bottle and dropped at sea. Edgar Allan Poe wrote a famous thriller. "Manuscript found in a bottle; and for it Poe won a literary prize. The yarn today, appropriately, has a Christmas angle.

Several months ago, in September, Arthur Iles of Rockville Center, Long Island, was on a cruise off the coast of New Brunswick. That of course is the Canadian Province often called "Land of Christmas Trees." So he wrote a note, in a humorous vein, suggesting that someone in Nova Scotia send him an evergreen for Yuletide. This he put in a bottle. Then he dropped it overboard and thought no more of it- until recently, when to his house, came a huge crate. In it, a nine foot tree - and a letter, signed "Jim Saunders." The letter -- a minor classic in the literary style of the North.

Jim Saunders writes: "I'm not much of penning, but it's with pleasure I take me pen in hand to write to you about your bottle. I was out coddling ~~Wednesday~~ <sup>Wednesday</sup> a week



and found your bottle fouled in me net." Then goes on Jim. "I'll find you a pretty good tree for you and the younguns." But, Jim adds: "You might have left a feller a taste in the bottle agin the chill wind these days."

The trouble is - he signed the letter without any address. So, there at Rockville Center, is Arthur Iles wishing he knew some way to send a bottle to ~~him~~ Jim Saunders in Canada, a bottle with a little something in it.

At one end, the bride's house, the Preacher and his party started shoveling. At the other end, the bridegroom and his pals did the same. They shoveled a lane for a quarter of a mile - and, when the two parties met, the wedding was duly solemnized.

Snow, beautiful snow - and only the shovels for wedding bells. Ring the Xmas Bells, Nelson - and Merry Xmas To all.

## MARRIAGE:

At Holland, Michigan, a young couple got married today, and the wedding song should have been "snow beautiful snow." But - in a minor key, with the banging of shovels for wedding bells.

At the house of the bride, the Preacher and party guests were assembled for the ceremony and reception. But a blizzard was on, and the house of the bridegroom, a quarter of a mile away, was snowbound. He couldn't get through the towering drifts, and it looked as if the wedding might have to be postponed - but not at all.

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