

L.T. P. & G. THURSDAY, MAY 12, 1949

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Consolidation, caution and determination.

These three words would seem to exemplify the policy of the Western Allies in Europe tonight, as the raising of the Berlin Blockade is just twenty-four hours old.

In Frankfort, Germany, the military commanders of the American, British and French Occupation Forces announce their approval of the constitution for Western Germany drawn up by the Assembly at Bonn. No changes suggested. The Allied Chiefs even congratulated the Germans who framed the Constitution. Hailing it as expressing German devotion to democratic ideals.

This Frankfurt announcement is interpreted in Paris and London as a sign of Allied determination to carry on with a democratic Western Government for Germany -- until a peace treaty has been signed. Or at least, until Russia demonstrates that she is sincere in wanting to cooperate in creating a free Germany.

LEAD - 3

In the debate preceding the voting on the Atlantic Pact, British Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin told the House of Commons that the Berlin Blockade would have led to war if the Atlantic Pact had not been signed. With which Winston Churchill agreed. But he urged caution -- warning against premature rejoicing over Soviet words and gestures. Churchill saying that in his opinion incalculable factors leave the future shrouded in obscurity.

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And while the British Parliament was voting to ratify the Pact, the Russians staged a mighty demonstration in the Soviet section of Berlin. Forty thousand people marching in a great Communist parade. With banners carrying ^{the} slogans "Down With The Atlantic Pact." And the Soviet-controlled newspapers printing articles demanding that the Big Four Foreign Ministers write a peace treaty for Germany immediately and take out their armies.

BLOCKADE

With the Airlift it is business as usual. All day, the Allied planes roared into Berlin, the big transport ships carrying over nine thousand tons of supplies to the city, the fourth biggest daily load since the Airlift started. The Blockade officially over, trains and trucks rolling into the city. But the Airlift carrying on. This because the Western Allies are determined to build up a stockpile of two hundred thousand tons of food - just in case.

A Berlin news dispatch tells of Allied authorities and the Berliners watching the Russians suspiciously. Everyone prepared for a surprise move. A later dispatch tells of the Russians blocking the shipment of goods out of Berlin -- to the west.

As for General Clay, he is the hero of the Airlift to the German population. The man who fed them when starvation threatened. All day today wherever he went he was greeted with thunderous cheers. His

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reception at the Berlin City Assembly so warm that it brought tears. Although the affair was to celebrate the ending of the Blockade, General Clay reminded the Germans that they still have to fight for their freedom -- freedom from oppression, as he put it. And, he said, they must be determined to win.

SERVICES

A bill was approved by the Senate Armed Services Committee today - to give Defense Secretary Louis Johnson full authority to unify the armed services. The measure stating that the Defense Secretary shall exercise authority, direction and control over the Army, Navy and the Air Force.

This in order
So that Defense Secretary Johnson can do a real job ~~on ending~~ *— — end*
the bickering between the armed services; these disagreements among the Navy, the Army and the Air Force over the exact part each should play in the national defense set-up.

This Senate bill also provides for a civilian controller, ~~to be~~ in charge of the military purse strings; the hope being that our unified armed services can be *much more* operated efficiently under the new set-up - at a saving of one and a half billion dollars a year. This by using a new accounting system, recommended by former President Hoover's Committee.

CHINA

Nationalist China may soon be without its Acting President. A news dispatch from Hong Kong tells of a Canton conference between Acting President Li Tsung-Jen and his military leaders. To decide whether he carries on - or quits now.

The trouble seems to be a difference of opinion between Acting President Li and the Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek. Li wants full economic, military and political control. But apparently the Generalissimo is still the power in Nationalist China.

And so today, with Canton in a state of confusion, with Communist forces hourly threatening Shanghai, the Chinese leaders are arguing - who is the boss? A dangerous split at ^a ~~this~~ critical moment in Chinese history.

ISRAEL

There was a new banner in the flag circle of the United Nations at Lake Success today. The blue and white flag of Israel embellished with the Star of David. To signalize Israel's membership in the United Nations.

The flags of the nations at Lake Success are flown in alphabetical order, and so the flag of Israel was placed between those of Iraq and Lebanon. ^{Arab} ~~The~~ states which bitterly opposed Israel's application for membership.

And in the Political Committee session today, Israeli Foreign Minister, Moshe Sheratt, sat in alphabetical position between the delegates of Iraq and Lebanon. They who walked so angrily from the General Assembly last night, in protest against Israel's membership. But all the representatives of the six Arab states were ~~sitting peacefully~~ in the Assembly today. While outside the blue and white flag of Israel [^] was displayed with the other forty-nine.

EISLER

Scotland Yard detectives are waiting at Southampton to seize the ^{alleged super spy,} Communist Gerhart Eisler, ~~he is~~ due there tomorrow on the Polish liner ^{Batory - on which} ~~Odessa~~, where he stowed away in New York.

Eisler making an attempt to flee the United States, where he is free on twenty-three thousand five hundred dollars bail. This pending his appeal from two jail sentences, One for conviction of contempt of Congress; the other for giving false statements about his Communist connections when he first entered America. Also, he's awaiting deportation proceedings here.

The Scotland Yard detectives are acting on a request from our Justice Department - under an extradition treaty between the United States and Great Britain. Eisler, we are told, will be sent back immediately: ^{adds} ~~and says~~ a Justice Department official - he'll go right into jail.

^{Communist}
The discovery that Gerhart Eisler was aboard the Polish luxury liner came as a dramatic surprise, following ~~on~~ what to the ship's captain was a routine discovery of a

stowaway. Only this stowaway turned out to be different from the average. He had bought a first class ticket to Poland - his passage paid for. Something unusual for a stowaway.

Further, he identified himself -- gave his correct name. The ship's captain notified the U. S. Immigration Department in New York, as part of the routine when a stowaway is discovered. Naturally, the name of Gerhart Eisler ~~was~~ intrigued the immigration authorities. ~~But Gerhart~~ Eisler was supposed to be in New York; living with his wife in a Greenwich Village apartment - free on that twenty-three-thousand-five-hundred dollars bail. Could it be he?

A radio message to the captain of the liner -- ask the stowaway's ~~place, and~~ date of birth *and so on,*

~~That And there it was - the stowaway's birth~~

All of which
~~details~~ coinciding exactly with those of the German born

Communist. And neither he nor his wife ~~available~~ at their apartment. ^R Identification positive - ^{say} ~~said~~ the immigration

authorities. And so the Scotland Yard detectives are

waiting at Southampton to arrest the Communist leader who

jumped bail and stowed away; ^{at the same time} ~~and then surprisingly enough~~

revealed ^{ing} his name and birth date without hesitation, - ~~and~~

~~his first class ticket to Poland.~~

SCIENTIST

An accusation against the Atomic Energy Commission was made three times in Washington today. Before the joint Senate-House Atomic Energy Committee; on the floor of the Senate; and in the pages of the Congressional Record. The accusation that the Atomic Energy Commission awarded a sixteen hundred dollar fellowship for advanced atomic study -- to a young professed Communist. ^{with} ~~and~~ no check taken on his loyalty.

Republican Congressman Sterling Cole of New York identified the student in the Congressional Record as Hans Freistadt. He is a native of Austria, and he is now doing post-graduate work in physics at the University of North Carolina. Young Freistadt won the award under ^{the plan} ~~that scheme~~ of the Atomic Energy Commission for a Fellowship program. This Fellowship program designed to give the United States a pool of young scientists, trained in atomic and related sciences. The candidates were picked by the National Research Council.

In the joint Atomic Energy Commission today, Dr. Henry Smythe, the Princeton University physicist whom Mr. Truman this week appointed to the Atomic Energy Commission, was questioned over the matter. ~~And what did Dr. Smythe say?~~

~~He~~ takes the view that it is better to let loyalty investigations wait until a student ^{applies for} ~~wants~~ a restricted job.

Then, that's the time, said he, to investigate him. And he added, when a youth is a college senior, he may think Communism is wonderful. ^{Then, as he put it,} ~~But, he went on,~~ a year or two later, when he gets some sense, a young man may change his mind.

The distinguished Princeton scientist ^{thereby} ~~sanctified~~ expressing ~~his~~ confidence in the sanity of modern youth.

To which Senator Bourke Hickenlooper replied that he was opposed to educating Communists with public funds. And he called for all applicants for atomic scholarships to be investigated by the F.B.I. before they start their studies at the expense of Uncle Sam.

TAXES

Mr. Truman is standing firm on his demands for a tax hike of four billion dollars. The President told reporters today that his position is unchanged. The budget was cut to the bone, he said. The national debt should be reduced, and it will take more taxes to do that. But, Democratic tax leaders continue to emphasize that they will not even consider a tax increase - at least not for a while. ^{TP} Senate Finance Committee Chairman ^{Senator} ~~Walter~~ George ^{believes} ~~said recently~~ that ~~he felt~~ a tax increase now might plunge the country into what he called "a disastrous depression." ^{TP} ~~and~~ Today Democratic Chairman ~~Robert~~ Doughton of the House Ways and Means Committee repeated what he had said yesterday, after a talk with the President, ⁺ ~~that he~~ ^{too} hopes a tax ^{hike} ~~rise~~ can be avoided.

BOY

Here's just another story which goes to prove that tomorrow, Friday the Thirteenth, isn't any more unlucky than ^{— maybe —} any other day [^] -- if any day is unlucky, which I doubt.

At Newfane, New York, twelve year old William Kross slid down out of his father's hay mow. And then what happened? Plenty. A veritable tale of woe for the unlucky father and a few hundred other people.

In the boy's pocket was a box of matches. They caught fire as he slid down. ~~Then~~ his jacket caught fire. Then the hay. Then a seven thousand dollar barn silo went up ^{and} ~~into~~ ~~the~~ ~~air~~. Nearby was a telephone cable. That burned as well. ^{the lines for} Putting some three hundred and ninety subscribers ~~lines~~ out of service.

^{all} ~~And~~ this happened on Thursday, May Twelfth, ^{tomorrow} not on Friday, the Thirteenth.

SKI

Russia is apparently coming out from behind the Iron Curtain - that is, in sport. Today in Oslo, Russia applied for and was admitted to full membership of the International Ski Federation. The Soviet application, with that of seven other nations, accepted without a single dissenting vote. Which means that an all Red ski team probably will take part in the Nineteen Fifty-Two winter games. It also probably means the Ruskies have been practicing their Christies and jump turns like mad these past few winters. They'll be in there to win, and no mistake. It ought to put a lot of extra zing into the downhill race which is the all-out wildest event in the ski world.

The Soviets also ask that Russian be made one of the official languages of the International Ski Federation. Voting on that will be held over until a later session. But, the news wire tells of the Soviet ski delegates to the meeting, welcomed officially in Russian.

And now Nelson, a few words from you - not in Russian.