

C.I.-P. & S. Tuesday, May 18, 1948.

SUBSTITUTE LEAD PALESTINE.

(Late news tonight tells of the disastrous explosion of an Arab air bomb at Tel-Aviv -- forty-one persons killed and sixty injured when a ~~crowded bus terminal~~ <sup>bus terminal and a crowded bus</sup> ~~terminal~~ <sup>was</sup> ~~was hit~~ <sup>hit</sup> during an air raid. This ~~is~~ <sup>was</sup> a culmination of sporadic sky attacks launched by Egyptian planes ever since the state of Israel came into being on Friday night)

Another late story tells us that (troops of the Arab Legion have entered the old walled city of Jerusalem and are taking part in the Moslem attack on the Jewish quarter.) This might indicate a beginning of the end of a dramatic military situation at Jerusalem -- a three-fold seige.

In the ancient section of the old walled City, the Arabs are in control and are beseiging the Jewish quarter, held by the soldiers of Haganah. Bitter fighting is going on, with a cannonade of mortar shells that threatens to destroy venerable structures of ancient sanctity, places like the Church of the Holy Sepulchre of the Christians, the Wailing Wall of the Jews, the Mosque of Omar of the

*which is said to occupy*  
Moslems, ~~is to stand on~~ the site of the Temple of Solomon

International representatives are trying desperately  
for an armistice, *and an end of* ~~especially~~ the cannonade of bursting shells  
from mortars; -- but, without success thus far. Legended  
holy places -- threatened with devastation, as the Arabs  
besiege the Jewish quarter of the ancient walled city.

Outside the walls of the old city, lies modern Jerusalem; and that's controlled by the soldiers of Israel. So the Arab besiegers are, themselves, besieged - as they hold the circuit of the walls.)

Today, Haganah threatened to blow open the age-old ramparts of Jerusalem, in an effort to get in and relieve the siege of the Jewish quarter. <sup>It</sup> But, at the same time, the outer city is being surrounded. Today the Arab Legion of King Abdullah of Trans-Jordania captured Bethlehem, where the Saviour was born. Bethlehem is a mere seven miles <sup>south</sup> east of Jerusalem. And the Arabs report the seizure of ~~many~~ other points, which indicates that a third siege line is being formed - a triple beleaguement of Jerusalem. The ARabs claim junicantly that they will soon capture the entire Holy City, and from Tel AViv the Jewish word is that the position of the Israeli forces in Jerusalem is - "precarious."

~~Today forces of Irgun Zvai Leumi, which is now incorporated into Haganah, the army of Israeli, seized an~~

Arab stronghold on the vital highway from Jerusalem to Tel Aviv. The Moslem fortress fell after violent fighting, but at last reports that lifeline highway for the Jews was still closed.

~~Acre~~ Acre fell today, the ancient fortress on the coast just north of Haifa, <sup>That</sup> ~~Acre, like Jaffa, was not included within the boundaries assigned to the Jewish state by the United Nations planned partition - but, like Jaffa, Acre is now in the possession of the forces of Israeli.)~~ That legended stronghold of the sea was under siege for days, and capitulated, not only to strokes of war, but also to the terror of epidemic. The Arabs in Acre were ravaged by typhoid, the Arab defenders dying of the plague. So today three or four thousand, that were left, hoisted the white flag - and Haganah troops marched through gates of the massive walls, and entered <sup>a</sup> ~~the~~ city reaking with pestilence.

Such is Acre today, with its legends of the Crusades.

Also - legends of Napoleon. In the Third Crusade, Acre was

an all-important point of conflict - when Richard the Lion Hearted of England fought with Saladin, the greatest of the Saracens. Saladin besieged and took Acre from the Crusaders, after which <sup>Coeur de Lion</sup> Richard the Lion Hearted stormed the fortress on the sea. The walled city was long defended by the knights of the West, as the Crusades lingered on.

Then the centuries rolled down the path of time - seven cent<sup>u</sup>ries - and we find Napoleon besieging Acre.

In his fabulous Egyptian campaign, the Corsican genius of war marched through the Suez and up into Palestine - striving to conquer the East, trying to break the power of England <sup>in</sup> the Orient. He dreamed even of reaching India. But Napoleon was stopped at Acre, where a British garrison held the walls. Napoleon's Eastern dreams were shattered at Acre - and he went on to other glory.

So now the latest page of history, today's page.

Acre, like a fortified pest house of typhoid, falling to the forces of Israeli.

## SOVIETS

Today's reply to the latest Moscow manoeuvre is a downright - No. Washington is no little mystified about the meanings of Stalin's new pronouncement - directed at Henry Wallace, ~~But~~ there is no uncertainty in the declaration made by the State Department today.

~~It all stems out of that original Soviet move in interpreting an American <sup>diplomatic</sup> communication as an invitation to an American-Soviet peace parley to end the Cold War. Soviet Foreign Minister Molotov attached that meaning to statements given to him by American Ambassador Bedell Smith - Molotov saying the Soviets would accept the American offer. Washington responded that no invitation to a two-power parley had been intended, and that the dangerous international questions now at issue would have to be settled by all countries concerned - and not in a two-way discussion between the United States and the Soviets. The decisions would have to be made by the proper international agencies, the United Nations, and the various control councils.~~

~~This Washington rejection was followed by Henry Wallace jumping in.~~ <sup>IF</sup> Campaigning on his third party ticket, Wallace published an "open letter" addressed to Stalin. ~~Wallace announcing his "open Letter" at a third party political rally in New York.~~ He told Stalin that an American-Soviet peace parley should be held, and suggested a series of subjects on which agreements should be made. To this the Soviet Premier now responds - Yes. Stalin replies that the proposals in the Wallace "open letter" are okay. ~~So the picture would seem to be something like this: Molotov, having accepted a supposed American invitation to a peace parley, and Washington saying there was no invitation - Stalin now accepts the Henry Wallace invitation to an American-Soviet peace parley. This seems to be a lot of~~

~~pages~~  
accepting.

The Washington rejection <sup>is positive -</sup> ~~this time is even stronger~~

~~than before~~ - the State Department issuing a declaration that there can be no two-way deal between the United States

and Soviet Russia in settling the Cold War. The State Department notes that the hope for an agreement, which Stalin expresses, is encouraging - but points out that if Moscow really wants to ease the tension between East and West, all that Moscow has to do is make specific proposals in the international agencies, which all along have been tied up by Soviet obstruction - the United Nations and the various control councils. ~~The statement points in particular to the~~

~~atomic bomb. In the Henry Wallace letter, the abolition of~~  
atomic warfare was given a prominent place - with Stalin now saying okay. But the Atomic Energy Commission of the United Nations, after having held over two hundred meetings, has been completely deadlocked by Soviet obstruction - Moscow blocking plans to outlaw the bomb by <sup>any</sup> establishing <sup>ment of</sup> effective international control of atomic energy. This failure, because of the Soviet attitude, was announced in official and formal style only yesterday. So, if Stalin means what he says, all he ~~has to do, is to say the word at the United Nations, and~~



~~bring about an atomic agreement.)~~

~~(Today, in Congress, there was prompt two-party support, Democratic and Republican, for the State Department rejection of Stalin's reply to the Henry Wallace invitation. Democratic Senator Brian McMahon of Connecticut told the legislators that if Stalin was sincere, he could show it by action in the business of the atom, the outlawing of the bomb. That is what the Connecticut Senator called "the acid test".)~~

Well, Moscow has now issued two declarations in favor of an American-Soviet <sup>negotiations;</sup> ~~agreement~~ <sup>—</sup> Molotov followed by Stalin. ~~which~~. Which causes many to wonder-- maybe Soviet Russia <sup>does</sup> wants to take it easy, soft pedal the aggressive <sup>Red</sup> policy, — consolidate what Russia has grabbed, and end the Cold War. But the surprising thing is the form of these Moscow manoeuvres. First - the publication of diplomatic correspondence, which Molotov interpreted as an invitation to a two-power parley - with Washington denying the invitation. <sup>That</sup> ~~It~~ was all decidedly unorthodox - and now comes Stalin accepting an invitation to an American-Soviet

peace parley by a third party candidate in the presidential  
election. <sup>issued</sup> R I don't suppose that Stalin thinks that Henry  
Wallace is going to be elected president. <sup>And</sup> I wonder if he  
thinks that saying okay to Henry will go well with the Truman  
administration - Henry having been fired as Secretary of  
Commerce because he was meddling in foreign policy. Fooling  
around with other people's elections is usually not so good -  
although we played our part in the recent Italian election,  
with the result that everybody knows. Of course, if the  
Stalin okay for the Henry Wallace "open letter" should bring  
about the election of Henry as president - that would be a  
triumph.

~~But you figure it out.~~ It's too deep for me.

ATOMIC

There are new hints about the secret atomic tests at Eniwetok Atol in the Far Pacific. ~~Here~~ Today at <sup>arrived</sup> Honolulu Lieutenant-General John E Hull, who commanded Task Force Seven, <sup>^</sup> a group consisting of Army, Navy and Airforce units. He indicated that the Eniwetok tests consisted of three atomic explosions. These, he declared, were completely successful. <sup>he emphasized,</sup> "It can be said", ~~he said,~~ "that the bombs worked". <sup>#</sup> Other than that General Hull and his aides ~~preserved the deep silence, that is being entertained.~~ They would not say whether the bombs had <sup>exploded</sup> been above water or below water, or whether any other atomic weapons <sup>had been</sup> ~~were~~ tried out. So all we know, after this new information, is that ~~the bombs were tried out~~ <sup>there</sup> ~~and there,~~ were three <sup>atom bomb</sup> blasts.

A stately ceremony was enacted in London today, when the United States Ambassador pinned the American Medal of Merit on Sir Alexander Fleming, who is world famous <sup>in</sup> ~~for~~ the discovery of penicillin. That miracle drug is the wonder of the age, and the honors bestowed were richly earned - only our Ambassador got a bit tangled up in the ceremony, and pulled what is crudely known as a boner.

Three medals were presented, in fact, the two other dignitaries decorated being Sir Howard Florey, who also contributed to the discovery of penicillin, and Sir Edward Herbert, who distinguished himself as a British wartime censor. I don't know what censorship has to do with penicillin, but that's the way it was - when American Ambassador Lewis Douglas got things twisted.

At the U.S. Embassy in London, he went from one to the other of the three honored guests, and presented the medal with the following pronouncement: "It is a very great pleasure and distinction for me to be able to pin on your left

lapel the Medal of Merit, <sup>so</sup> "proclaimed the Ambassador.

Whereupon, in each case, he pinned the medal on the right lapel. The first time he got left and right mixed up, it was amusing. The second time it was really funny. The third time, it was a scream. I don't know what the three dignitaries thought, especially the two doctors being honored in the discovery of penicillin. I suppose they had visions of a surgeon getting mixed up, and cutting off the right leg instead of the left leg, or giving the wrong patient a heavy dose of penicillin.

Later on, when the mistake was pointed out to Ambassador Douglas, he said: "I just got muddled up!" <sup>He did.</sup> ~~between~~  
<sup>He didn't know left from</sup> ~~the left and~~ right." Which maybe was because of the political confusion in Europe - but you <sup>would</sup> expect an ~~American~~ American Ambassador to London to know the difference between Left and Right.

## WAR CRIMINALS

The Secretary of the Army has halted the execution of seventeen German war criminals, condemned to death over in Germany for participating in the massacre of unarmed American prisoners in the Battle of the Bulge. Earlier in the day the Supreme Court of the United States refused to intervene but Secretary Royall now takes last-minute action -- because of the charge, made by the American attorney of the war criminals, that they were tricked and tortured into confessing their guilt. Secretary Royall calls these charges -- "serious allegations". And so, to give time to investigate them, he halts the executions.

## LABOR

The news tonight indicates the deadlock in the negotiations between John L Lewis and the coal mine operators -- ~~the~~ <sup>that</sup> negotiations were begun only today. A new soft coal contract is to be drafted, and the conference was assembled -- when Lewis threatened to take a walk if the southern operators were admitted into the ~~negotiations~~ <sup>discussions</sup>. This is followed by a late story, which quotes the President of the southern coal producers as defying the union chief. "We are in the conference to stay," he declares. ~~Now~~ it remains to be seen whether or not John L Lewis carries out his threat to take a walk.

NIGHT SHOW  
May 18, 1948.

GOLD

They had an attack of the gold fever at Carson City, Nevada, <sup>today</sup> when workers in an excavation spotted a glint of yellow metal in the dirt they were digging. Oldtime prospectors <sup>recognized</sup> ~~spotted~~ the glitter of pay dirt, and sacks of earth from the excavation were hurried to the Assay Office. There the fondest of hopes appeared to be realized -- the Assay Office giving an estimated <sup>of</sup> ~~of~~ sixty-six dollars and fifty cents of gold and twenty-seven dollars of silver to the ton.

So Carson City was about to have a gold rush, ~~and~~ <sup>where</sup> then somebody remembered the place, <sup>where</sup> they were digging was the site of the oldtime Federal Mint, which for <sup>forty</sup> ~~xxxix~~ years was the Assay Office -- during the great days of gold mining. During the long years particles of gold dust had spilled over the floor and filtered down through the cracks <sup>to</sup> ~~of~~ the ground. So the earth there had actually been salted, and the appearances of a gold bonanza were nothing more than a sprinkling left over from the days of Eldorado.



## PIGEONS

A fiasco <sup>is</sup> ~~was~~ reported in <sup>an</sup> ~~a great~~ international pigeon race. American homing pigeons were to have raced from Havana to Lakeland, Florida. The pigeons were taken by plane to the Cuban capitol -- their owners at Lakeland all set to welcome them home, when they flew in. ~~In all the legend of homing pigeons, how faithfully and wondrously the birds fly back across long distances.~~

However, the Florida pigeon fanciers at Lakeland

are still waiting -- and the <sup>news</sup> ~~news~~ from Havana tells why.

<sup>When</sup> The birds were released <sup>they</sup> ~~at~~ Havana, and started out in magnificent style winging north in a sweeping formation.

Then, when they reached the north coast -- the formation

wheeled around and flew back to Havana. ~~The birds~~

~~apparently liked Cuba and have lost all desire for home~~

~~sweet home. They could not be induced to start out again~~

~~and~~ So today the great ~~homing~~ pigeon race was <sup>declared a</sup> ~~an entire~~

washout. I suppose the <sup>homing</sup> ~~Florida~~ pigeons took a look at

Havana and said -- home was never like this.

## PEACHES

At this point I am joining the ranks of austere moralists who denounce the use of make-up and rouge. Things can go too far, and I don't think it's right to beautify a peach. Of course, it's exactly the peaches <sup>who do</sup> ~~that~~ go in for make-up and rouge - or is it old-fashioned to call a beauty a peach ~~are no~~?

However, this news comes from the New York State Department of Agriculture, and they don't grow lovely girls on trees - not in New York State, anyway. We are told of an agricultural racket, whereby the peach that grows on the tree is given an artificial complexion - a green peach rouged with pink powder to make it look ripe. You know how unappetizing a green peach can be - ~~enough~~ enough to give you a stomach ache just to look at it. <sup>However,</sup> ~~But~~ when you give it the make-up, that peach will have that ripe, rosy complexion which is ordinarily produced by summer sunshine in the orchard. But, when you bite into it, ~~it is as~~ <sup>it is</sup> sour as ever.

The New York State Department of Agriculture is

taking action against the beauticians in the fruit business -  
because it is only too evident that the use of rouge and  
make-up certainly will make a green peach look like a ripe  
peach. *Is that so, Nelson?*

Early May 1948 & Co.

~~A dramatic military situation exists at Jerusalem - a three-fold siege. Arabs are attacking a surrounded force of Israeli, as the people of the new state of Israel are being called. These Arabs are besieged in turn by troops of Israeli - which are, themselves, being surrounded by Arabs.~~

<sup>TP</sup> ~~The Arabs are in control of inner Jerusalem, the ancient walled city, and there are besieging the Jewish quarter,~~ held by soldiers of Haganah. Bitter fighting is going on, with a cannonade of mortar shells that threatens to destroy venerable structures of ancient sanctity, places like the Church of the Holy Sepulchre of the Christians, the Wailing Wall of the Jews, the Mosque of Omar of the Moslems, said to stand on the site of the Temple of Solomon. <sup>Legended holy</sup> places - threatened with devastation, as the Arabs besiege the Jewish quarter of the ancient walled city.

International representatives are trying desperately for an armistice, especially the cannonade of ~~many~~ bursting shells from mortars; - but, without success thus far.

COMMUNISTS

The Communist Control Bill is raising a storm of oratory in ~~the~~ Congress. The vote in the House of ~~Representatives~~ Representatives was delayed this afternoon by the long noise of speech-making -- but the bill, which would impose such severe restrictions on the Communist ~~Party~~ <sup>Party,</sup>, seems sure to pass tomorrow.

## LABOR

In the world of labor, John L. Lewis was his truculent self today, refusing to participate in a conference of coal mine owners, if the Southern mine companies were included. A new soft coal contract is due to be negotiated, and conferences were begun today - with Lewis threatening to take a walk, if the Southern operators were admitted into the negotiations.

At the same time, Lewis incurred another set-back at the hands of his old antagonist - Judge Goldsborough. In Washington, the Judge refused to cancel the injunction he issued a month ago to put an end to the coal strike. The government, itself, asked His Honor to toss out the injunction - on the ground that the strike was over. But the Judge said No - although he did accede to another government suggestion - and called off penalties for civil contempt of court. (At the time of the strike, he convicted Lewis and the Union of both criminal and civil contempt. He imposed large fines on the criminal charge, but delayed penalties on the civil charge - penalties that were set aside today.-----) 14

IN the Railraod labor dispute, the Companies and the Unions reopened negotiations today - seeking for a settlement that would end the strike-threat and enable the Government to return the railroads to private ownership. From the conference room at Washington, the word is that there are no signs of a quick agreement.

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The President today took action against a possible telephone strike - the White House invoking emergency powers under the Taft-Hartley Law and appointing a Fact-Finding Board to head off a walkout of long distance telephone operators.

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And there's a threat of an auto strike against General Motors - the C.I.O. Union today filing a ten-day strike notice.

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There is no good news <sup>either</sup> in the atomic labor trouble - a presidential Fact Finding Board reporting to the White House that no progress has been made in negotiations to stop a strike that threatens at the Oak Ridge, Tennessee, atomic Plant next month.

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~~An~~ optimistic note in the labor picture was sounded at Chicago today, where federal mediators were busy trying to settle the nationwide meat packing strike. They report - high hope for an early agreement.