

CONFERENCE

L.J. - P. & G. Friday, June 10, 1949.

In Paris, Vishinsky making a huge proposal, suggesting a program so large and comprehensive that it was received today - as a joke. At the Big Four conference, the Soviet Foreign Minister suggested a German peace treaty, definite and final, within three months. He called upon the Big Four to get together and prepare drafts of a German settlement ~~at~~ within that space of time - although, after several years of wrangling, they have hardly been able to agree on a single item. ^{IF} The peace treaty, so quickly made - ^{would} include an agreement that the Big Four powers would get ^A their troops out of Germany within a year. Which was another tall order - the Western powers having made clear their opinion that a withdrawal of their military forces would only leave all of Germany at the mercy of the Red police army, which the Soviets have created in their zone.

The Western response to this was to take it as a sort of Red whimsey, a quaint kind of Russian humor. Secretary of State Acheson retorted with sarcastic levity.

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"We're here," he quipped, "to tackle basic problems, not to engage in a sort of diplomatic minuet. To quote a Hollywood celebrity - include me out," said Acheson.

BERLIN STRIKE

The Soviets appear to be withdrawing from their railroad headquarters in Berlin. This, as a result of the angry outbreaks of the Western sector German strikers.

Today, ten Russian officers and twelve German police of the Soviet-controlled railroad went to the headquarters, passing through a line of German workers. One of the Red policemen lagged behind, and the strikers grabbed him and beat him up - until the Western Zone police intervened.

The Red party, upon entering railroad headquarters, started taking office equipment from the building, carrying it away in automobiles - while Western police held back a mob of wrathful strikers. The Russians hauled down the Hammer-and-Sickle Red flag from the top of the building - graphic sign of a Soviet evacuation of the headquarters they had been occupying in the Western sector.

The latest - the strike pickets have left -- after forcing out the Reds.

ATOMIC

In Washington - testimony by a former employee at the atom bomb plant, Los Alamos, New Mexico, who stated that he had been recruited into the Communist Party during the war, by a scientist engaged in atomic work. The witness, Robert R. Davis, told the Committee on Un-American Activities that in wartime he was a technician at the radiation laboratory of the University of California, Berkeley - that headquarters of atomic research. There, he was approached by a scientist likewise employed at the radiation laboratory, Giovanni Rossi Lemnitz - who invited him to a Communist meeting, where Davis bought a Communist membership card for fifty cents. He and his wife attended several other Red sessions - "out of curiosity", he said today.

Davis gave a curious bit of description. ~~He~~ He said ~~that most of~~ the women at the Communist meetings were, in his words - "mostly girls with thick glasses and empty faces, that looked mostly like psychology students." Now speak up, all you girl psycholog^yist students!

After a while, Davis was transferred to Los Alamos, the atomic center in the New Mexican desert, where the first bomb was detonated. Later on, he was dismissed - on the ground of suspicious associations.

The Committee today likewise questioned Lomanitz - now a teacher of physics ^{in Amer. U.} at ~~Princeton~~. He was asked - "Are you a Communist?" And ^{he} refused to answer that sixty-four dollar question - Constitutional grounds, as usual. But he said that he did not believe membership in the Communist Party, in itself, a test of loyalty.

COPLON

From Judy Coplon's purse, F.B.I. notes, indicating that suspicions were directed against two employees of the War Department, man and wife, suspected of giving secret military information to Soviet espionage. Also - a report about a mystery woman named Irina Efimovna Aleksander, who flitted ~~first~~ mysteriously around Washington during the war. An anonymous letter named her ^{as} a Soviet agent in Jugoslavia and Austria, before coming to the United States, ^{and} she said she had caused her first husband, a Russian officer, to be executed. A sinister mystery woman.

She was ~~said to be very~~ ^{described as} friendly with a woman named Vera Sandemirsky Dunham, who frequently entertained U.S. Army officers in her home at Arlington, Virginia. There, a neighbor became suspicious, and notified the F.B.I. - saying that Vera Sandemirsky Dunham and her husband ^{played host to} ~~entertained~~ as many as six or seven Army officers at a time, all of whom arrived carrying brief cases. About once a month, the meetings were attended by, what the neighbor called - "an unknown civilian

appearing to be a foreigner." To which he added: "When this individual appeared, great secrecy was maintained at the house, all curtains drawn."

This ~~taxing~~ sort of thing, people reporting to the F.B.I., is an example of what they^{are} drawing out of Judy Coplen's purse, like a modern Pandora's Box.

MOSCOW SHIRTS

In Moscow, the mystery of the silk shirts was unraveled today - just as the shirts usually unraveled. Costing the equivalent of twenty-four dollars apiece, they were put out by the "Red Banner Knitted Apparel and Stocking Factory," made of artificial silk. Then came a scandal, with numerous customers complaining that the collars of the twenty-four dollar shirts came apart after a couple of days.

So what was the reason? Were the shirts defective? Not at all, said the manager of the Red Banner Knitted Apparel and Stocking Factory, and he gave the explanation. "Artificial silk," said he, "cannot resist the friction caused by unshaven beards." The comrade^s failed to get a shave, and the stubble wore out the collars of the silk shirts.

All this appeared in a Soviet newspaper today, which printed an article on the scandal of the shirts. The ^{writer} ~~letter~~ analyzed the explanation of the scrubby beards, and asked with biting sarcasm - "Why was it that the cuffs came off too?" Well, you don't grow whiskers on your wrists - which leaves the mystery of the shirts a deeper puzzle than ever.

SOLDIER- FOLLOW IMPERSONATOR

In Germany, a G.I. who deserted was given a year in jail. He tried to settle the Cold War - although that adventure into international affairs was complicated by a bit of romance.

TP Private Arthur Short first got into the news as an American soldier put in jail by the Reds behind the Iron Curtain, Red Czechoslovakia. Then he was released from the totalitarian dungeon, and returned to freedom; - but not exactly. The U.S. Army put him on trial for desert^{ion} and he told the court-martial that his original motive was - a girl friend. However, the romantic angle was thereupon superseded by the larger international phase. TP Private Short, having deserted for love, sneaked into Red Czechoslovakia, to settle the Cold War. Just how he proposed to accomplish that miracle, is none too clear, the misbehaving G.I. merely explaining that he wanted to make 2 private contacts behind the Iron Curtain and promote a spirit of friendship between East and West.

He was promptly picked up by the Red police in Czechoslovakia, and thrown into jail for crossing the border

IMPERSONATOR

In England, a United States Military Court passed sentence today on - Donna Delbert, the female fire-eater. In other words, Private Delbert Hill, who deserted from the American Air Force, and made a hit in England - as the beautiful lady who swallowed blazing flame. The runaway G.I. claims that in his feminine fire-eating success, he even met the Queen, Her Majesty in person.

Today, he was given a sentence of two years in the military hoosgow - although he might possibly have been sentenced to death for desertion in time of war. Today in court, the one-time lady fire-eater, swallowed that sentence with equanimity - although, clad in G.I. uniform, he said he missed his corset and falsies. He got so used to them, that a belt and army shirt did not feel quite natural.

illegally. He stayed in a totalitarian dungeon for six months -
and now he gets a year in the liberal democratic hoosgow.

ART

We Americans are supposed to be, at times, moralistic and prudish about art - but you wouldn't think anything like that would happen in Italy, the land of Renaissance art. But today in Rome, the police banned a poster, calling it - immoral. The poster displays a reproduction of one of the most famous works of the Renaissance - "the Birth of Venus", masterpiece of the great Botticelli. The Goddess of Love, it is true, ~~wasn't~~ wears no clothes at all - but then classic art never does show Venus wearing a dress.

To make matters worse, the poster is an advertisement of a celebration in Florence, ~~from~~ the Five Hundredth Anniversary of the Birth of Lorenzo the Magnificent. *And* That is ^{now} banned in Rome, on moral grounds. - *And* is Florence angry, that city of art - which counters it with ^a demand _^ that the Italian Parliament investigate this action by the police in the prim, sedate Eternal City.

TUCKER

A Chicago trial brings to a courtroom crisis a flamboyant vision of automobiles - the Tucker Torpedo, which was advertised in spectacular style, as the wonder car of the post-war era, the automobile of the future.

Today Preston Tucker, who dreamed a dream of revolutionizing automobiles, faced a federal grand jury, together with seven top officials of the Tucker Corporation. They are charged with using the mails to defraud, and with violating the regulations of the S.E.C.

The indictment charges that twenty-eight million dollars was spent in little more than a year, and they only turned out a few hand-built models of the Tucker Torpedo. ~~The allegation is~~ that huge amounts of money were obtained by the over-optimistic advertising, intimating that the automobile-of-tomorrow was on the verge of mass production. This representation was made in letters - hence the charge of using the mails to defraud. The claim is that money was obtained by the sale of franchises to dealers, although the

S.E.C. gave warning that this was against regulations.

Moreover, the charge is that the Tucker Torpedo, with a rear engine, was lacking in engineering features promised by the publicity.

In court today, Preston Tucker denied what he called, "any criminal guilt" - and demanded a congressional investigation of accusations he himself is making - declaring that he is a victim of conspiracy by competitors, together with political influences.

A dream of ultra-modern automobiles - with an awakening before a federal grand jury.

MANVILLE

In the world of labor today, an attack made by a Union was vigorously repelled. This, in the case of the bitter strike at a Canadian plant of a big asbestos company. A Union publication called "Pennsylvania Labor News", issued a blast of scathing criticism.

The retort comes from a wife defending her husband, always a noble spectacle - although you may wonder how matrimony would figure in the strike. Be not perplexed - because the Company in question is the Johns-Manville Corporation famous in asbestos. And who hasn't heard of Tommy Manville, equally famous in matrimony? The heir to the Manville asbestos fortune has made numerous headlines with his weddings and divorces - and no end of news of the big money his conubial adventures have cost him. Entering holy wedlock eight times! - that most expensive romance!

So the "Pennsylvania Labor News" ~~has~~ made scathing remarks about that - commenting on the Johns-Manville strike in Canada. The charge was that Tommy Manville spent, in the words

of the Union paper - "millions for divorces, but not one cent
for ^(raising) ~~raise~~ wages."

So to the defense rushes Mrs. Georgina Manville -
Mrs. Manville Number Eight. In a letter to the "Pennsylvania
Labor News", she denies that her husband ever paid a million
dollars to his many brides. Moreover, she says he had nothing
to do with the strike - he having sold out his controlling
interest in the Johns-Manville Corporation twenty-three years
ago. So that would seem to be that - no millions for divorces,
and nothing to do with the question of wage raises.

But Mrs. Manville Number Eight ~~xxx~~ continues with a
further complaint. "When such misleading ~~statements~~
statements appear in the press," says she, "a flood of fan
mail arrives from matrimonially inclined females." Which,
of course, is perfectly understandable - who wouldn't get
feminine fan mail if advertised 'as handing out millions to
brides. So the eighth Mrs. Manville makes a demand on the
Union papers. "I should appreciate it," she writes, "if you

could state that Tommy and I are happily married, and the fortune-hinting young ladies must look elsewhere." ~~and so, girls, if you happen to be a fortune-hunting Niece, you must look elsewhere.~~

Such is the headline from the world of labor and matrimony - the two do go together sometimes.

PICKPOCKET

People who think we may have a slump in this country might well take a look South - at Argentina. Today, at B.A., there was a complaint about hard times - and a pathetic wail it was. A pickpocket - telling of the lean days that have befallen his ancient, if not honored, profession. Arrested, he told the police that last Sunday he worked at a big football game, where the pickings from the pockets should have been rich and fat. Well, he did get plenty of wallets - he stole ten. But the total of cash in those ten wallets came to a mere thirty pesos, about six bucks.

The indignant rogue made a threat - saying that the Argentinian pickpockets might be compelled to form a union, and strike for more money in wallets.

How does that strike you, Nelson?