

L.T. P.& G. Tuesday, April 26, 1949,
(Grand Rapids, Mich.)

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY

It looks as if the Berlin Blockade were about to be brought to an end -- finally. The news today flashed a series of bulletins from various quarters here and abroad, all adding up to the same thing -- and, to clinch the matter, this afternoon brought an official declaration from the State Department, okayed by President Truman. It says: "The way appears clear for lifting the Berlin Blockade and a meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers."

The State Department confirms that negotiations have been going on between the U S Ambassador at large Philip Jessup and Soviet Delegate to the United Nations, Jacob Malik -- negotiations often rumored and often denied. In the course of the talks, Malik gave the Soviet view that a meeting of Foreign Ministers should be held. To which Jessup replied by reiterating the Number One American contention. This in the form of a question.

BLOCKADE

He asked: Would the Soviets lift the Blockade to permit a meeting of the Foreign Ministers to be held? To this Malik responded by saying that if the date for the meeting could be set, the Blockade would be raised in advance.

So the State Department today indicates that a meeting of the Foreign Ministers will be held, in advance of which the Soviets will raise the Berlin Blockade.

ADD BLOCKADE

In Congress, Senator Connally of Texas, Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee declared this evening that new Soviet action on the Berlin Blockade will make no difference to Congress and its consideration of the North Atlantic Security Pact.

"We are going ahead with hearings, no matter what the Russians do or do not do" said the gentleman from Texas.

CHINA

Meanwhile, ominous news from the Far East: -
The United States fleet pulled out of Shanghai today --
in haste. The warships left in such a hurry that they
abandoned a plan to evacuate some two thousand Americans
from the city, which is on the verge of being taken by
the Communists.

The reason for the quick withdrawal, a
communist drive threatening to trap the American
squadron. Shanghai is on the Wang Poo River which flows
into the Yangtze and the Reds today opened a thirty mile
drive to force a way to the mouth of the Wang Poo.

This would cut off the escape of the American
warships and tie them up in the Wang Poo, under
communist guns, the same kind of thing that beset and
battered those British warships.

So to avoid that, Admiral Oscar Badger made a
sudden move, taking his vessels down the Yangtze. And
we hear that they are going to pull out fifty miles into
the open ocean.

FOLLOW CHINA

From Shanghai the United Press Vice-President, Frank Bartholomew, says that many Americans of the two thousand still in the beleaguered harbor, watched in quiet dismay today as three great Navy vessels of the United States pulled up anchor and steamed down the Wang Poo toward the sea.

From the Shanghai war front we hear of Nationalist units putting up a violent fight against the Red drive -- the first real resistance reported since the Reds made their great sweep across the Yangtze.

In London tonight Prime Minister Attlee indicated that Britain will do nothing violent about the ^{Red Chinese} attack on the British warships. Attlee said: "There will be no punitive expedition." This in reply to a burning protest by Winston Churchill, leader of the opposition who demanded what he called "power retaliation."

HOOVER

A recommendation from former President Herbert Hoover that there should be no increase in taxation for Social Security, until the "cold war" is over and there is less need for heavy foreign spending to help the free nations of Europe. This is expressed in a letter to Congressman Doughton of North Carolina, Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee -- Ex-President Hoover urging that Congress go slow in appropriating social security money while we have to devote such huge amounts to such matters as the Marshall Plan and the re-armament of the Western democracies.

Meanwhile, the Armed Services Committee of the Senate has drafted legislation to carry out recommendations made by the Hoover Commission for saving a billion dollars a year in the money spent by the armed forces.

ATOM BOMBERS

From London word of the coming of a squadron of American Atomic bombers -- thirty B Twenty-Nines, organized especially for dropping the atom bomb. At least two of the officers are veterans of the obliteration of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

In Washington the explanation is that this "Atom Bomb" group is flying to Britain merely as a matter of routine, assigned in rotation. Moreover, the B Twenty-Nines arriving in Britain are not equipped with the special racks needed for carrying the bomb. But in Air Force quarters the word is that it takes only five-and-a-half hours to install the atom bomb racks -- in Britain.

ITALY

At the United Nations today, Italy made a formal appeal for a voice in the administration of the former Italian Colonies in North Africa, Libya. The Italian delegate stated that the government in Rome has made plans to promote progress and prosperity in the North African Empire which Italy lost in the war. We hear that the western Big Three, Great Britain, France and the United States are considering a scheme for joint administration -- Italy to participate.

LABOR

One of the greatest of congressional battles is on -- the Lower House today voting formally to take up the repeal of the Taft-Hartley Labor Law.

This with the substitution of the old Wagner Act, represents of the most disputed issued in this country -- and now the congressional battle is on.

SULLIVAN

The Navy Secretary stepped out today -- with an angry blast. John L. Sullivan submitted his resignation with an attack on Secretary of Defense, Louis Johnson -- because of the question of the giant aircraft carrier. The Navy laid the keel of the super-carrier and then Johnson ordered the construction work to be stopped -- the Air Force winning out in its argument with the Navy.

This Secretary Sullivan calls "Tragic." He simply could not agree with the scrapping of the carrier, and now resigns with an indignant letter to the Secretary of Defense, intimating that Johnson would not listen to Sullivan's opinion.

And now - pity the man without a country. - He's the most famous person in the world -- more famous for more years of his life than anybody else. George Bernard Shaw -- an Irishman by birth, an Englishman by seventy years of adoption. So, now that Ireland has become an independent republic -- what is he? "A man without a country," he says.

On and off, for many years, George Bernard Shaw has taken the occasion to present his views in that extremely British way -- a letter to the London Times. So now he makes a suggestion for a political innovation. Establish something new, the status of -- guest citizen.

"I am now," Shaw writes to the Times, "a political nobody, subject to nameless penalties if I attend the meetings of the parish council of the village where I have resided and paid taxes for forty years. Of my ninety-three years," he goes on, "seventy have been spent in England. I'm a free man of the city of London; but, I am also an Irishman, honorary freeman of the city

of Dublin, and registered as a citizen of the former Irish Free State.

All of which makes G B S a man without a country, and prompts the suggestion: that a new political class be created, resident aliens who would enjoy the rights and bear the responsibilities of the native peoples. That is -- guest citizen.

FLYERS

Fullerton, California -- Bill Barris and Dick Riedel have landed. They kept their vow to stay in the air for a thousand hours and did a little better -- coming down today after one thousand and eight hours of continuous flight. They took off on March Fifteenth -- and, refueling several times a day, flew for a distance estimated at seventy-six-thousand-six-hundred miles, equal to the three times around the world at the Equator. A lot of distance going no place; and they were so tired when they came to earth again they could hardly move. A huge crowd cheering them.

ROBBERS

Last night I related the story of the two polite robbers, so courteous as to be called -- The Big Gentleman and the Little Gentleman. They made a mistake, and staged a holdup in the Brooklyn apartment of Harry Zack, brokerage clerk -- under the wrong impression that he was a jewelry dealer and had a lot of diamonds, rubies, and emeralds, on hand. They apologized profusely for their error, and bowed themselves out.

So what now? The news today tells how they corrected their mistake. Having been under the false impression that Harry Zack was a jeweler, they went ahead and located the home of the dealer in precious stones for whom they were looking -- Sol Katzman, who handles a line of diamonds, rubies, emeralds. This time they were not so polite. They stuck a gun in the ribs of Katzman's nineteen year old son and tied him up, together with Mrs. Katzman and the maid, and got away with ten thousand dollars worth of jewelry.

MARRIAGE

On this program we have occasion, from time to time, to contemplate the subject of marriage -- along with world wars, communist revolutions, blizzards, floods and earthquakes. I don't want to compare marriage with those other forms of disaster -- sometimes it's worse, so they say. And today, we have a couple of news items to illustrate.

In Birmingham, Alabama, the Judge sentenced Mrs. Beatrice Davis to a fifty dollar fine and sixty days in jail. Mrs. Davis is a bride on her honeymoon. The charge against her -- that she falsely accused her husband in the atrocity murder of a nine year old girl.

The story tells how the newly married couple went on their honeymoon to Birmingham and there hubby stayed out late one night -- a thing not uncommon on honeymoons. The bride waited impatiently, and fell into that old green tormented disorder of mind -- jealousy. When he came home he told her he "had been out with the boys," but the suspicions of jealousy persisted.

Then the bride noted in the news that, on the night when her husband stayed out, a murder had been committed. So she figured that, if she accused him to the police, they would investigate his movements, and she would find out where he had really been, which she proceeded to do.

The Birmingham police were excited -- their first real clue in the criminal mystery. They lost no time in arresting hubby and checking on where he had been and what he had been doing that night. They turned him loose within an hour -- finding that he had really, as he said, been out with the boys.

Today, the Birmingham Judge took a serious view of the ingenious trick of the jealous bride.

His Honor said: "I'm giving you a jail sentence deliberately. Your husband might be magnanimous and pay the fine but he can't serve the sentence." So the bride now spends sixty days of her honeymoon in jail.

Our second bit of matrimonial news comes from

Chicago - where a milk salesman from Pittsburgh was on a vacation with his wife. Last evening they went to a night spot, where things were gay, and the milk salesman from Pittsburgh proceeded to have a few dances -- but not with his wife. He shook a lively foot with several other women, and that started the domestic argument.

It lasted until today, when they made such an uproar in the hotel where they were stopping that the house detective summoned the police. So presently, the cops were pushing into the eighth story room of the quarreling couple.

It would appear, from what followed that wifey was telling hubby that he wouldn't act as he did, if there were any witnesses around. Because, when the police entered, the milk salesman from Pittsburgh, a big six-footer, let out a shout. "Now you've got witnesses," he yelled, "and out the window you go." Whereupon he picked up wifey and was about to heave her out of the eighth story window. But the cops acted fast,

grabbed her and subdued the mild-salesman with night sticks.

In court today the couple stood hand in hand before the judge, and said it was only a slight domestic disagreement, that remarkable matrimonial scene -- out the window you go!

And now, Nelson -- up to the microphone you go!