

L.T. Spencer - H.D. Friday, December 27, 1946.  
LABOR/

The news these days features a new <sup>labor</sup> theme constantly repeated, a day after day topic never known before -- "portal - to - portal." Ever since the supreme court decision upheld the portal - to - portal pay, each day brings new cases of unions entering suits against companies for pay they claim is due to workers for the time it took to pass back and forth from doors of plants to places where jobs were actually done.

Today, the <sup>CIO</sup> entered a claim against the Jones and Laughlin steel Corporation for more than thirty-seven-million dollars -- portal - to - portal pay for nineteen thousand employees. And seventy thousand former workers of a Bethlehem Steel Company shipyard entered suit for fifty million. Another case is that of auto workers demanding four million.

At Cincinnati, a union official today used the expression "the granddaddy of all portal pay suits". A suit is being entered against the Wright Aeronautics Corporation for what

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→ the union official called -- "millions and millions."

Thirty thousand workers were employed at the <sup>Wright</sup> Lockland plant

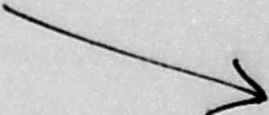
during the war. This aircraft factory was one of the

biggest, and the union official speaks of what he calls

"the great amount of time required to get to and from

the job." Great spaces were needed for war plane building,

and now -- "the granddaddy of all portal pay suits,"



TP The word from Washington is that the new Congress is likely to do something to limit the liability of industry in that portal - to - portal dilemma. The members of Congress, both Republican<sup>2</sup> and Democrat<sup>2</sup> are debating ways of checking the flood of union lawsuits ~~that~~ are now approaching the billion dollar mark and which may soar to a total of six billions, according to some spokesmen for labor. TP Industry has given warning that many firms will be forced into bankruptcy, if the unions win their huge demands for the back pay to cover the time between door and working place.

TP Tonight's Washington dispatch says that what bothers Congress the most is the fact that the epidemic of portal - to - portal suits threaten<sup>2</sup> to cause the government the loss of a lot of money. Companies that are mulcted by the union lawsuits will be entitled to ~~deduct~~ deduct considerable parts of the portal-to-portal payments from their income tax, - and the <sup>Uncle Sam's</sup> treasury will be out of pocket *plenty*.

PLANE/

The final chapter of another airline tragedy. A western airlines transport plane which disappeared Christmas eve. with twelve persons aboard, has been found, crumpled, on the towering slopes of Mount Laguna near San Diego, California, -- the crew of three and all the passengers dead. ~~in the wreck~~

The plane had been on a flight from El Centro, California, when it disappeared Tuesday night. The storm which swept over Southern California last week delayed the search and grounded private and coast guard planes seeking the wreckage from the air.

UNITED NATIONS.

The atomic business went on today without benefit of Gromyko. Last Friday, that gloomy faced paladin of the Soviets refused to vote or take any part in the action on the American program for outlawing the atomic bomb.

4 Today Gromyko didn't even show up. Instead, he sent a professor, a Russian scientist, -- and he didn't vote. <sup>TP</sup> The

~~Prof.~~ refused to take any part in ~~the~~ proceedings that provided a series of okays for various parts of the American proposal. <sup>TP</sup> The main question, ~~is~~ that old one -- veto, whether or not a big power like the Soviets shall have the right to veto penalties decreed against a nation that may be violating its promise not to make atomic bombs. <sup>TP</sup> Canada today argued that the question of a veto on penalties was academic -- since, if a nation were found making illegal atomic bombs, that would mean war. The fact is, the Canadian attitude, together with that of the British, seems to be based on a desire not to make things too tough for the Soviets -- <sup>with</sup> Gromyko holding out for delay and the right to veto.

## LAKE SUCCESS

Another meeting of the United Nations atomic energy commission was held at Lake Success, Long Island, today, and, for a change it was the Americans who got tough.

White-haired Bernard Baruch, Chairman of the American Delegation to the commission told his colleagues today just ~~xx~~ what the United States wanted and what we would accept. He told them in no uncertain terms, stentorian tones and table-~~thumbing~~ thumbing oratory.

/Said Baruch: "The United States will not give up its atomic bomb secret until and unless a treaty is drawn up providing for automatic punishment of countries which break the atomic accord."

This treaty, if Baruch has his way, will provide specifically that punishment of violators should not be blocked by a Security Council veto--which is what the Russians have been asking.

Baruch, making our case plain, says: I do not see why

a nation which intends to keep the treaty wants a veto. Only the nations which may intend to violate the treaty would need the protection of the veto."

Then, at today's meeting, Baruch went on to say that he could not and would not ask the United States Senate to surrender the potent weapon of the atomic bomb until he could be sure that Malefactors, those nations not living up to the spirit and the letter of their promises, would be punished.

Today's debate became bitter, with France, Great Britain Canada, and several smaller nations joining in - all indicating they would go along with the United States in any matter of a showdown vote.

*In the* Meantime, the Russians avoided joining in the debate and appeared to be carrying out the current Soviet policy of refusing to discuss atomic matters because Russia says she wants more time to study the Baruch plan.

At one time, Professor Alexandrov, the Russian expert on atomic energy, left the meeting, <sup>and</sup> spent the next hour talking with Chief Soviet Delegate Gromyko by telephone. <sup>R</sup> And the word from Lake Success is that Gromyko in turn <sup>then</sup> spent an hour talking to Moscow, by telephone. Making clear what we had suspected--that the decision on whether there can be any international accord on atomic bombs and atomic energy will be made by those ~~cold and~~ calculating men <sup>at</sup> the Kremlin.

DAIREN.

There is something mighty peculiar about that affair of Dairen. Not so surprising that the Soviets should take a highhand with an american warship -- the oddity is in the conflict of statements on our side. When the incident occurred, it was definitely stated by American newsmen aboard the warship, that an ultimatum had been given by Soviet army authorities, who stated that if the American vessel did not get out right away -- they would not be responsible for the consequences.

That was followed yesterday by a denial from our own State Department in Washington, a state department spokesman stating there had been no ultimatum, no threat -- that the Soviets had permitted the American warship to stay in Dairen for forty-eight hours, which was all according to Soviet rights. In other words, the state department verdict was in favor of the Soviets.

DAIREN - 2

18

That now draws a blast from the American side out in China -- ~~we have~~ a Shanghai dispatch by William Newton of the Scripps - Howard newspapers. Writing for the combined world press ~~the~~<sup>he</sup><sub>^</sub> states that American navy men and other Americans who were aboard the warship chased out of Dairen are astounded by the declaration of the State Department spokesman.

William Newton declares that he was present when Commander Yates of the American vessel reported to Admiral Cooke, Commander of the seventh fleet in Far Eastern waters. Newton says he heard commander Yates tell Admiral Cooke that the Soviet officials had given him an ultimatum, telling him to get his ship out in twenty minutes -- or the Soviet officials would not be responsible for the consequences.

Moreover, Correspondent Newton declares that Admiral Cooke cabled ~~to~~ the Navy Department that the account of the episode as published in the American newspapers was "factually correct."

The most pertinent testimony of all is that attributed to Ensign Koons of Plainfield, New Jersey, who acted as interpreter when the Soviet people gave their order to Commander Yates. William Newton says that Ensign Koons has told him that the Soviets made their position emphatically clear, and that the following is a correct translation:--  
"If you do not leave within twenty minutes, we will not be responsible for the consequences."

*TP to all*  
~~to all~~ of which a new detail is added, Newton stating that, when the Soviet ultimatum was delivered, armed Russian troops made an appearance. During the two-day stay in port of the American warship, no Soviet soldiers had been seen near the dock. So their sudden appearance along with the ultimatum, was vividly significant. "They crowded around the entrance of the dock at which the American ship was ~~there~~,

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DAIREN. -4

based," cables Newton. "And while they committed no overt acts, the inference of their sudden appearance was obvious to everyone on board."

TP

Today's story from the Far East is an emphatic and

~~point~~ <sup>-by-</sup> point denial of the state department declaration clearing the Soviets. <sup>Leaving us to</sup> ~~and one can only~~ wonder -- what's

it all about? TP In connection with the curious contradiction, there is a renewal of talk that there is in our State Department a pro-Soviet group which consistently supports the Red Russian view-- the way fellow travelers never fail to take the Soviet side.

## SOVIET

18

In Soviet Russia, they don't do things in a small way, not with half measures. That is - in some cases, at least. So here's a bit of news from Moscow that certainly does sound like the land of stalin. In a Moscow court room today, a chauffeur named Filimonkov was tried for hit - and run driving, while drunk. He ran into some people waiting for a bus, and killed two. He was found guilty and sentenced to death before a firing squad.

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Moscow penalty for hit and run driving - the firing squad.

DAVIS CUP.

0  
Out in Australia, that American sweep in tennis went on with a decisive rush today -- the American team winning its third match, and that clinches the cup.

Playing doubles today, Jack Kramer and Ted Schroeder won in straight sets from the Australian veterans,

Jack Bromwich and Adrian Quist. The Australians never had a chance, just as they haven't had a chance any time in this Davis Cup play of nineteen forty six.

The fact is that the racquet wielders from Down Under are veterans who were at their peak ~~in the match~~ before the war, while the Americans have one of the most brilliant of newcomers -- Ted. Schroeder, who played like wildfire on the Australian courts.

There are still two matches to be played, but they are mere formalities so far as the Davis Cup is concerned. That trophy was won today -- by the American victory in the doubles.

~~AP New York NY Dec 27 1946 340pm~~~~Lewell Thomas~~~~Lake Placid NY~~

GHANDI/

News from India tells how Gandhi got a christmas present. A yuletide package was sent to the Mahatma, the mystic and ancient man ~~who~~ India <sup>revers</sup> as a saint. The gift was from an organization composed of American, British and Indian christians; - and there may have been some slight confusion. Because, when Gandhi, in his monastic retreat at Srirampur, opened that yuletide package - - the christmas gift included <sup>---</sup> a deck of cards, some packs of cigarettes and a comb.

The comb was as unexpected as the cards and ~~cigarrettes~~, because Gandhi is completely bald. You can't imagine him trying to comb anything on his head. - But then neither can you imagine him smoking a cigarette and <sup>playing</sup> ~~smoking~~ a hand of ~~and poker~~ gin rummy.

It would seem that the association of British, American

GHANDI.

and Indian christians got their christmas presents

mixed, and sent Ghandi a gift package intended for an

American GI, <sup>TP</sup> Have a light, Mahatma! and deal me, ~~well~~, ~~lll~~

~~see in the time~~ just keep one card. Deal  
me three aces.

LONDON

London had a wild gun battle today, a running fight with shooting in the streets, crowds joining in the chase, pandemonium. This was the more remarkable because of London's reputation for law and order. The bobbies don't carry guns, not normally, and the typical British robber works unarmed. In this case, there was a brawl in a night club last night, and an airman from Jamaica was shot and killed. Today, the suspected killer was found -- and started shooting. Where upon the chase in the streets was on, the gunman finally cornered on a roof -- where he was arrested after he had used up all his ammunition. *A gun battle in the streets of London.*

ADVERTISEMENT

The British go in for personal advertisements, and some of these are odd indeed. Today, in the London Times, appeared the following ad:

✓ "Brilliant speaker wants a first class cause."

TP Well, there are a lot of causes in this world, and most of them are looking for <sup>protagonists.</sup> ~~protagonists~~. So you might expect an advertisement to read: "First class cause wants brilliant speaker!" But, it's the other way around in England. I suppose that <sup>ad</sup> ~~ad~~ will get a lot of replies, and the speaker will find a cause. - Though it might all turn out this way: - "second class cause gets dull speaker."

## GARTERS.

In a Denver department store today, a young lady went to a counter where garters were sold, and showed the sales girl two. They were garters of fancy silk with expensive trimmings. On one was embroidered the word "yes" On the other, the word was "NO."

The good looking girl explained that the garters were a Christmas gift from one of her 'boy friends, who wanted

her to make a choice between -- yes and no. So he said to the girl-friend, just tell the sales girl "I want ~~make~~ an exchange made." So,

She said she wanted to exchange the one with "YES", and

get two with "NO." That was her answer to the boy friend.

That's too much for me. I don't understand that story at all. But you ~~know~~ <sup>believe</sup> are a man of the world, ~~maybe~~ <sup>probably</sup> you do.

## LAKE PLACID

Just a word about this realm of snow. I have come North to Lake Placid, on an annual pilgrimage that I have been making ever since the first winter olympics were staged here in Nineteen thirty two. And this is one of the great weeks of the season in the North American winter-time sports world. For this is college week. At least ten intercollegiate ski teams are gathered for the events scheduled to take place during the next few days. Also, many colleges and prep school hockey teams. Bob-sled racers are here too, dare devil chaps who come roaring down the Mt. Von Hovenberg Olympic run, for a ~~xxx~~ mile and a half between those narrow walls of ice.

In my next broadcast from up here I'll take a moment or two out from the news of the world to give you the results of some of the contests.

And now, from the Lake Placid Club, another quick look at the outside world.

## EXPLOSION/

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At Sault Saint Marie, in Canada, they had a weird and spectacular accident today. In that Canadian town there's a big steel plant, where molten metal is turned out.

And from the furnaces come tons of slag, the worthless left-over.-- *And that* slag emerges white hot.

*It* Today, a dump car, loaded with the incandescent stuff, was rolling along, out of the plant, hauling the slag to the place for dumping it. They've been having blizzards <sup>a</sup> in Canada, and the car was passing between snowbanks, when it ran off the track -- and turned over. And the tons of white hot slag were dumped into the snow.

*It* The result was explosive. As the incandescent chunks hit the snow for a sudden chilling, they burst with violent detonations. Fragments were hurled like a barrage. Steel plugs went flying in a destructive shower. It sounded like an artillery bombardment, and the effects were much the same. Nobody was injured, because dump car turned over in the direction of a building ~~into~~ <sup>and</sup> the explosions, when the white hot slag hit the snow, <sup>and</sup> ~~sprayed~~ <sup>sprayed</sup> the wall with projectiles. *of the building*  
*But the wall was ripped to pieces.*  
*with the blast heard for miles.*

It looks as if Senator Bilbo will be allowed to take his place in the Senate -- only to be challenged afterwards.

That is said to be the Republican plan, based on the fact that Bilbo begins with "B"

Senators who were chosen in the last election are seated in alphabetical order, and Bilbo comes right at the top of the list. So, if he were challenged right away, that would be before the Republican majority had a chance to get in.

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When the roll call of newly elected Senators begins on January third, the Democrats will have a majority, and the Reppublicans don't want that majority to be in power when the case of Bilbo is considered. When the full list of new Senators has been seated, the Reppublicans will lead fifty one to forty <sup>five</sup> ~~four~~. Hence the Republican idea of letting Bilbo enter without opposition-- ~~then~~ challenge him later on.

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