

DRAFT

L.J. - Sunoco and P. & G. Monday, March 31, 1947
(Hollywood)

(At midnight tonight this nation will bid
farewell to the Draft -- goodbye to selective service.)
That act which sent more than ten million Americans
into world war Two, expires at the stroke of twelve,
Eastern Standard Time. Congress failed to renew it;
so the end of selective service is automatic. Meaning
-- that you can tear up your draft cards, fellows, if
you want to. Or you can frame that draft card, or give
it to baby to chew on. ~~xxxx~~^{TP} Selective service --
goodbye!

Of course, it might come back again --
if enough young fellows don't enlist to fill the
needs of the Army, Navy and Air Force. If they
don't, the alternative ~~is~~ will be compulsory military
training -- another kind of draft.

BRITISH CONSCRIPTION FOLLOW DRAFT

While our selective service is lapsing, Britain is re-establishing the draft. This was made certain today when Winston Churchill threw the ~~full~~ full support of the conservative party behind a bill introduced by the labor government -- a bill to draft eighteen year olds, and give them military training. [¶] Prime Minister Attlee is said to have informed the labor M P 's that Britain must have peace-time conscription to keep the faith, with ~~Britain~~ ^{Britain's} international friends - which would seem to include the U.S.A. [¶] A considerable fraction of labor M P's are against this renewal of conscription -- but with the support of Churchill and the conservatives it is sure to carry.

SUBSTITUTE SPAIN

The announcement by Franco in Spain is both definite and indefinite -- his intention to ~~xxx~~ restore the Monarchy. It is both immediate, and vaguely in the future -- the Spanish dictator announcing that Spain will have a King again.

According to the statement made by the official government radio at Madrid, General Francisco Franco declares that he *will* immediately present to the ~~xxxxx~~ Spanish parliament a bill to reestablish the crown. Of course, when a Dictator suggests a measure to the legislators, it is as good as adopted. However, the word tonight from Spain is that Franco in his bill to restore the monarchy will not name any definite date for that event. Spain, by law, will become a kingdom again -- but just when will ~~be~~ not be stated. In other words, the restoration of the monarchy will be left ~~to~~ to the indefinite future.

If this late interpretation from Spain be sound, it would appear as if Franco might be making some sort of tactical move to *bolster* ~~xxxxxx~~

his own power. Still, a formal and legal restoration of the monarchy might be of considerable moment, might give some intimation of an end to the Franco dictatorship which is such a sore spot in the post war world.

PALESTINE

~~One of the most fantastic of battles was~~
~~fought today in Palestine, the port of Haifa.~~ ^{TP More.} ~~Illegal~~
~~Jewish immigrants got into a wild melee with British~~
~~troops, and the background for the savage fracas was~~
~~a glare of immense fires, and towering masses of smoke.~~
~~It was an oil fire, the great oil area of Haifa,~~
~~shooting up in violence.~~

(The story begins with the seizure of a
 refugee ship, aboard which were crowded sixteen hundred
 Zionists. ~~At first, it was the usual thing -- British~~
~~naval craft drawing alongside, the vessel and sending~~
~~British sailors aboard. There wasn't too much~~
~~disturbance at this point, and the illegal~~ ^{The} ~~immigrants~~
~~were taken to shore -- to be transferred to Haifa~~
~~for) deportation to the island of ~~Cyprus~~ Cyprus.)~~

But back of all this routine of deportation,
 the Zionist underground was planning in secrecy.
 The Stern Gang, most violent of the terrorists in
 Palestine, was ^(concocting a) ~~melodrama~~ ^{melodrama} of the most
 spectacular sort. (Just as the first boat loads of
)

illegal immigrants came to dock, members of the Stern Gang sneaked up to the wire barricade, that surrounds the oil area, at Haifa, ~~this is~~ a terminus of the great pipe line from the Mesopotamian oil fields. ~~It's~~ a petroleum depot of lines of towering oil tanks.

The Stern Gang members crept near to the wire fence, and (over it they hurled explosive charges -- right into the installations of oil. There was a crash of ~~xx~~ explosions, and the raging of flames.) The blast of the bombs touched off an enormous conflagration, as great oil tanks caught fire -- one after another.

(When the illegal immigrants being herded from the boats to the dock,) saw the outbreak of the blaze, they had little difficulty in understanding what had happened -- the Jewish underground striking in their behalf. Then, as the flames rose high, (they assailed their guards -- and a wild battle raged between the refugees, and British troops.) Such ~~xx~~ was the melo-dramatic ^{battle} scene ~~with~~ in the glare of the giant oil fire.

The latest from Palestine states that British authorities are considering a plan to make the Jewish community in Palestine pay for the damages, impose a levy on the Jewish settlements. The damage was huge, an oil fire at a cost of four million pounds -- sixteen million dollars.

CONFERENCE

Today at the Moscow conference brought the sharpest exchange of angry words thus far -- an exchange between Secretary of State Marshall, and Soviet Foreign Minister Molotov. With the Big Four Conference ~~XXXXXXXX~~ having its eighteenth ~~XXX~~ season, and no great amount of progress thus far,

TP General Marshall stated that, unless there can be a sincere and honest agreement, there had better be no agreement at all. TP He was led to this bitter conclusion by new bickerings, on the subject of the reparations defeated Germany is to pay -- the ~~fixxx~~ vast sum of Ten Billion dollars worth demanded by Soviet Russia.

TP (The American and British view was restated that the Soviet demands for reparations, including also the French demands, would simply ~~mean~~ ^{mean} the starvation of the German people. That is, unless ^{the} Americans and British continue to pour supplies into Germany for relief, -- virtually putting us in the position of paying the reparations. TP Soviet Foreign Minister Molotov stuck stubbornly to his contention, and that

(evoked the angry Marshall remark -- better to have no agreement than an insincere and dishonest agreement.)

R General Marshall gave this declaration a scathing point when he expressed his thought in the terms of the ~~Rx~~ Potsdam agreement -- better nothing at all than something which will be violated like that Potsdam agreement. ^R That brought an equally wrathful retort from Molotov. He not being able to forget the repeated charges that Soviet ~~is~~ Russia has violated time and again, the pledges made at ~~Potsdam~~. His tone was hostile and resentful, as he made his reply -- stating that the Soviets had ~~not~~ never violated the Potsdam agreement and would continue to abide by it.

As a result of today's angry verbal clash the Big Four, tomorrow, will hold what is called -- a restricted session. That is, the big shots will get together ~~in~~ behind closed doors and try some confidential bargaining. According to peace conference

traditions, a restricted session is an occasion
for making deals and doing some horse trading.

FOREIGN POLICY

The drastic advice that we've been getting from various notables on the subject of Soviet Russia was continued today by Congressman Crawford of Michigan. He told the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives that this country must force Soviet Russia to disarm -- compel the Soviets to yield to a genuine and effective plan for out-lawing the atomic bomb. We must do this, ^{said he,} -- even if it means war.

Congressman Crawford gave his theory of American Foreign Policy in the following picturesque words: "We should tell our spokesmen to stick their chins under those of Stalin, Molotov and Vishinsky. We should tell them to shove their stomachs right up against these gentlemen". ^{TP} In that ~~an~~ posture, ~~we~~ ^{which might} ~~should~~ indeed be called bellicose; -- our spokesmen should inform the Soviet people that unless they agree to atomic disarmament, we'll plaster them with atomic bombs. ^{TP} The Congressman admitted that this might mean war. But he indicated that we better face war now instead of waiting for the worst to come later on.

CYCLATRON

Here in Los Angeles, I am still full of a weekend impression ^{I got} at San Francisco, or rather -- Berkeley. We had a cyclatron party, a most atomic sort of gathering. It was at the home of an old friend, Rex Barton -- who during the war was in the administration of atom bomb projects on the Pacific Coast, and who is ~~now~~ now similarly connected with the radiation laboratory of the University of California, a citadel of the ~~wizardry~~ wizardry of the atom. The guests were a galaxy of luminaries of atomic science, young men mostly, ^{with} ~~the~~ heads full of ultra-modern mathematics and the ~~science~~ ^{poetry} of experimentation. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ I noted one thing right away -- these atomic scientists know how to pick good looking wives. Not a bad science in itself. ^R We adjoured over to the cyclatron, that fabulous atom smashing machine created by Dr. Ernest ~~Lawrence~~ Lawrence, Nobel Prize winner. I asked one of the other scientists -- who ^{were} ~~was~~ the top ranking figures in this present day

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atomic magic which produced the bomb. He replied:--
the Italian, Fermi - who ~~devised~~ ^{devised} that famous chain
reaction, the explosion itself. And -- our own
American, Ernest Lawrence, ^{of Berkeley,} And you never met a more
genial, smilingly modest giant of science than ^{Lawrence,} ~~the~~
^{the} creator of the atom smashing cyclotron.

We went to a circular domed building,
under strict military security, where massive barriers
of concrete were shields against deadly atomic
radiation. Inside, the cyclotron, ^{something like}
a great round tank with complicated gadgets, including
the most intricate control board I ever saw.

I was prepared to be mystified -- nothing
but. Yet, the surprise was -- the simplicity, so
easy to understand. The way the cyclotron worked,
how it split the atom. These atomic scientists were
plain and lucid, as they explained. A gas, like
hydrogen or helium, was sent round and round with
terrific speed. The gas, electrified, was accelerated
by magnets, which gave it a velocity of eighty

thousand miles a second, forty-three percent of the speed of light. A piece of metal, say iron or tungsten -- or maybe a non-metal like carbon -- was introduced -- and was hit by the particles of the gas at the terrific speed. Particles were driven into the metal, and atoms were smashed by the impact. The result was that, when the piece of metal was taken out, it looked the same but it was radio active. // In another building we saw something new just being developed -- the linear accelerator. A large long tube, like a tunnel, -- the principle being to impell gasses at enormous velocity in a straight line -- instead of in a circle. The idea is to get the



the gas particles moving at a velocity approaching the speed of light -- greater impact to smash atoms.

This linear accelerator is being built by Dr. Luis Alvarez, the atomic bomb scientist who wrote the dramatic letter we heard about the other night. That is, the letter dropped by parachute along with the bomb which hit Nagasaki, a message addressed to the Japanese physicist, Dr. Segane -- imploring him to do something to persuade the Japanese government to surrender, before Japan was completely atomized. Dr. Alvarez showed me the letter itself, he having got it back --- after ~~which~~ it had accompanied ~~the~~ the Nagasaki bomb.

Inevitably, the talk got around to the likelihood of the Soviets developing atomic weapons, and ^I ~~we~~ put the question to Dr. Robert Serber. He, they told me, was the mathematical prodigy of the atomic group, who delves into the mathematical mysteries of the atom. I framed the ~~the~~ question in this fashion:- Asking him -- how well did he think

atomic physicists could work in Soviet Russia, a society without freedom? How well could such profound research be done under a government that denies the very ~~principle~~ principle of freedom of thought? ^P He replied that he thought scientists could do their best ~~xxx~~ only in an air of freedom, only in a land with liberty of thinking. ^P But he added, factually -- that the development of an atomic bomb by Soviet Russia was not ^{now} a matter of science and ~~xxx~~ research at all. It was simply a problem of engineering. ~~For~~ ^{For} ~~all~~ ^{all} the theory of the atomic bomb, said he, is well known. So it ~~was~~ ^{is} merely a matter of constructing plants and equipment with an enormous lot of money and work, an engineering job.

We have, of course, heard that opinion before. But it sounded exceptionally impressive -- there in the citadel of the cyclatron. *And he added that the Russians may be making atomic bombs in five years or so.*

PULLMAN

The Supreme Court has ~~xx~~ okayed the sale of the Pullman operating business to the railroads. This is in line with dissolving the Pullman Company monopoly, which dissolution has been ordered. The question was who should be allowed to take over Pullman operations. Forty-six railroads proposed to do it jointly. And now that's okay.

~~What was the Supreme Court majority today?~~

~~Nothing at all,~~ It was a tie vote, four to four, Justice Jackson not voting. The tie was decisive ~~however,~~ because the railroad acquisition ~~is~~ of Pullman operation had been upheld by a ~~xxxx~~ lower court, which verdict it would have taken a Supreme Court majority to over-turn. So ~~now~~ the ~~xx~~ railroads ~~xxxx~~ will run the Pullman cars.

COUNT

In Hollywood a seventy-eight year old Count charges that his wife married him for his title. Count Rudolf Stefenelli who is suing for an annulment of marriage, declared that the lady expressed all sorts of sentimental devotion, but really all she wanted was to decorate herself with the title of Countess.

Well, it's an old story, a girl marrying an aged nobleman for the purpose of being called -- Dutchess, Marchioness, Baroness, or Countess. And maybe it's that same thing all over again in the case of the seventy-eight year old Count Stefenelli.

But how old is the bride? Oh. She too is seventy-eight.

I'm out in your country tonight, Nelson, appear - at the civ - and in Pasad tonight - taking the people of Pas-ar.

COAL

The coal miners of the nation were at work today, ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ ^{few if any} jumping the gun in the six day strike that has been ordered by John L. Lewis, ~~a~~ work stoppage to mourn the tragic deaths of ~~the~~ ^{the} one-hundred-and-eleven miners in ~~a~~ ^{the} coal pit explosion at Centralia, Illinois. ^{TR} The loss of coal production will begin tomorrow; but it won't be as severe as many think. Coal mine operators point out that this strike demonstration of mourning occurs in Holy Week, when coal production normally is only about fifty percent. ^{TR The} U. S. Steel Corporation says it may have to shut down eight blast furnaces at Pittsburgh because of shortage of coal, ~~which is anticipated.~~ But the general report is that ~~industry~~ ^{industry} ~~XXXXXX~~ will not be so seriously effected by the six day work stoppage. ^{TR} It is a striking fact that John L. Lewis should call this walk-out so soon after his defeat in the Supreme Court, which sustained the outlawing of his previous strike. However, one wonders ~~XXXXXXXX~~ how much opposition there will

be to the work stoppage ■■ that Lewis has declared
in mourning for those tragic miners who lost their
lives.

(Senator Vandenberg, meanwhile, proposed that American aid to Greece and Turkey should be subject to cancellation by the United Nations. He said we should agree to have such measures to stop Red aggression any time the U N should ask for it by ~~xxx~~ majority vote. The Vandenberg proposal is of course still another measure designed to square the new Truman policy with the principle of supporting the world organization.)

SPAIN

There's late news tonight from Spain -- Franco is going to restore the monarchy. This ~~news~~ comes from the Madrid radio, which states that the Spanish dictator announces that he is about to present to the Spanish parliament a bill to put a King back on the ancient throne of ~~Spain~~ Spain. It isn't clear what ~~position~~ position Franco, himself, will expect to hold in a restored monarchy, -- but the Madrid news that the Dictator is acting to reestablish the crown is ~~in~~ of the utmost moment -- the Franco dictatorship being such a sore spot in the post war world.