

NEBRASKA

C.J. - P. & G. Wednesday, April 14, 1948. (Columbus, Ohio.)

I suppose tonight ^{many of you} ~~most folks~~ are indulging ~~in~~ in the fascinating game of trying to guess the meaning of (the figures from Nebraska. (with ~~many~~ nearly all of the vote in, the latest count is -- Stassen nearly seventy six thousand, Dewey more than sixty two thousand, Taft more than twenty thousand. The others, MacArthur, Warren, Martin -- away back nowhere. In other words, Stassen won, Dewey putting up a strong fight, Taft running a poor Third.)

In your guessing game, it won't take much mental acrobatics to figure that (Harold Stassen is now in the list of leading contenders for the Republican ~~nomination~~ nomination -- after his victories in two mid-western farm states, first Wisconsin, and now Nebraska.) But what about ~~Mr~~ Dewey? He was a ~~bad~~ third in Wisconsin, but in Nebraska -- running strongly. He carried Omaha, the largest city in the state, while Stassen ran ahead in ~~Lincoln~~ Lincoln, Nebraska's city Number two.

from ~~my~~ political headquarters of the New York Governor, the word is that - Dewey is going right ahead with his campaign, very much in the race, ~~since~~ ~~he~~ still has more delegates than anybody else. In one sense, although Stassen ran ahead of him, Tom Dewey may be stronger, after the Nebraska result. Because Senator Taft is considered his chief rival, and Taft ran so far behind, with ~~only a third of Dewey's vote, but that 's all for~~ your guessing game.

LEWIS

The trial of John L. Lewis today may not have been dramatic, but the proceedings were brief. The government presented evidence against the shaggy leader of the Miners to show him guilty of contempt in not obeying a court order to call off the coal strike. Whereupon the government rested its case -- and the defense rested its case. That is, John L. Lewis did not take the stand, nor did he call any witnesses in his own defense. It is now up to Federal Judge Goldsborough to hand down a decision.-- ~~after neither fireworks today for entertainment, nor length for dullness.~~

SUBSTITUTE HUGHES

The Howard Hughes uproar is in the news again -- though this time it is a hurling of charges across the continent instead of the face to face in Washington.

Today a final report was issued by the Senate Committee which, months ago, held an inquiry into war contracts of millionaire contractor Howard Hughes. Remember the fireworks? The Committee finding today is that Howard Hughes squandered public money in his wartime aircraft enterprises, these being described as "failures". The committee report has a few things to say likewise about the dealings ~~between~~ between the millionaire plane builder and general Bennett Meyers, the wartime aircraft procurement officer, who has been ~~convicted~~ convicted of subornation of perjury. The Hughes-Meyers negotiation called - "obviously corrupt".

From the other side of the continent,
Los Angeles, comes Howard Hughes' reply. Concentrating
on his old antagonist Senator Brewster of Maine,
Howard Hughes hurls the epithet "a sensational piece
of skullduggery".

COLOMBIA

This afternoon, the Pan American Conference reconvened. That's the answer of the Congress-of-the Americas to the outbreak ^{of rioting, looting and burning} the Communists fomented, apparently in the hope of breaking up the Conference. The capitol building having been badly smashed up by the insurrection, the delegates, together with our own Secretary of State Marshall, gathered in the hall of a private school -- the Assembly of the Americas resuming its deliberations, *in a school.*

Colombia has not yet severed diplomatic relations with Soviet Russia. A break was announced three times by the government radio on Monday, but this was premature -- to say the least. Today's word from Bogota is that the government has not yet made its decision.

In the Central American Republic of Costa Rica, an emissary of the Chief of the Revolution there went into conference today with President Picado. The revolutionary emissary was brought to the capital, San Jose, by the American Ambassador, Nathaniel P. Davis, who has taken an active part in the negotiations for a settlement. ^{TR}(The trouble broke out when the Costa Rican congress, supported by the Communists, cancelled a presidential election result -- the conservative candidate having won out.) Advancing against the capital city the Insurgents have been so successful that today, when American Ambassador Davis escorted their emissary, it took only a twenty minute automobile drive to get from rebel headquarters to the presidential palace.

SUBSTITITE ITALY PRECEDE TELEPHONE ROME

The latest from Italy pictures American and British diplomats as being of the opinion that Soviet Russia has given up hope in the Italian election this weekend.

They go on to state the belief moreover, that the Communists, defeated in the election, will make no attempt to seize power illegally. Moscow supposed to have given up the game in Italy. One diplomat is quoted as saying "it looks as if Russia realized that any Communist insurrection in Italy now, with the temper of the American people what it is, ~~will~~ will lead to very serious complications -- probably war".

TELEPHONE ROME

The news interest of the world is focusing on Italy -- for the weekend election. Newspapers and radio news are featuring important stories, interviews with top personalities and ~~praxi~~ profound analysis. Which made me feel that I'd better fall in line, and get something straight from Italy, an interview with somebody -- in this competition of the imposing and the impressive. So I put in a telephone call to Rome, and on the wire I got -- a taxi driver, a waiter and a newsboy.

I didn't happen to have such a large acquaintance with the man on the street in the Eternal City -- so I began by calling the publisher of New York's Italian language newspaper, Il Progresso. That is, Gene Pope. I asked him -- did he know any taxi drivers, waiters or newsboys in Rome? Gene Pope replied that his New York paper has a Rome office, and that he would have a news correspondent over there arrange the interviews -- by telephone.

So it was that presently, with the aid of

an interpreter, I was talking to Carlo Marini, a Roman taxi driver, to whom I said -- tell me something about the election.

To which he replied in voluble Italian: "I'm tired of politics. All this week I hear people in my cab talking politics. Then when I get back to my stand, the other taxi drivers talk politics. Nearly all of them are Communists, and Communists always talk a lot."

After telling me how tired he was of talking politics, Carlo kept right on talking. What about? Politics. I asked him -- what do the Communist cab drivers have to say?

Carlo replied: "they promise me a new taxi. But, how can I get one, if America doesn't send over the goods, so that Italy can make new taxis? ~~I don't even think the Russians have new taxis?~~ I don't even think the Russians have new taxis today" said Carlo, and he added this neat detail: "one or two of my Red friends have new taxis. They say they got them through the Communists."

But they can't fool me. I know they got their new taxis in the black market."

Carlo Marini told me that he has a sister in California, and she wrote to him to vote against ~~the~~ the Reds. "But", he went on, "my brother is a Communist. I think he reflected, "that it is better to have a family with different ideas. Then, whoever wins, we are safe."

Yes, a taxi driver in Rome seems to have *much* the ^{*same*} philosophy that we attribute to American taxi drivers over here.

After which, continuing the interviews by trans-Atlantic cable, I talked to Mario, a waiter in a tavern. He gave me a slant ^{*of*} the Communist argument, as it flourishes among the waiters -- a slant that will be exceedingly interesting to Americans.

He said: "The Communist^s admit that Italy needs aid from America, but they say that America will continue to help, even if Italy goes Communist."

Because Americans can't stand to see people starve."
Which would seem to indicate that even Italian
Communists have a mighty good opinion of your Uncle
Sam.

As for Mario himself, his philosophy of the
Marshall plan is as follows: "I'm a waiter in this
tavern" said he, "but some day I hope to own my own
place. I know I'll need some good friend to advance
me the money to start one. Same thing with this
Marshall Plan in Italy" said he.

The newsboy who came to the ~~xxx~~ trans-Atlantic
telephone was really a young fellow who runs a news
stand, Primo Farina. He emphasized the theme of
talk, talk, talk -- everybody in Italy talking politics.
"People" he said, "come to my news stand, waving hands
and talking politics. They buy a paper, glance at the
headlines, stuff the paper in their pocket, and
continue down the street -- waving hands and talking
politics."

Primo said that his assistant at the news stand is a Communist, but they've agreed not to talk politics -- let the customers do ^{that.} ~~it.~~ "But" Primo went on, "every time I leave him in charge of the news stand, what do I see when I come back? The Communist paper on top, covering up the newspaper of the Christian Democrats." Twice, Primo went on, "I complained to him about this. But, he answers that by complaining, I'm breaking the agreement not to talk politics. All I can do is to remove the Communist paper, and put the Christian Democrat paper on top, so that's the way it goes", he concluded -- "one paper on top, then the other paper on top." Election time at a Roman news stand.

Which rounds up the contribution that I am able to make to all the world-shaking reports about the Italian election.

SUBSTITUTE ENGLAND

The old land of England ended a long tradition today -- and a grim one. The House of Commons tonight voted to abolish the death penalty for murder -- this for a trial period of five years. So no longer will we say, as we so ~~in~~ often have said -- that ⁱⁿ England, murders hang.

Capital punishment is not abolished completely. It will still be the penalty for three crimes; -- high treason, piracy with violence, and sabotage of the royal dock yards. This dramatic solicitude for the royal dock yards has a fine old English flavor, founded on maritime tradition, which held the dock yards of the King's Navee to be especially sacred. But murder now will be punished by life imprisonment.

In England of the Thirteenth Century hanging was the penalty for the most common misdeeds, except petty larceny, and mayhem, like slicing off

somebody's ear. As late as the ~~X~~ Nineteenth Century, there were two hundred offenses punishable by hanging.

Which recalls a sardonic joke made by the Nineteenth Century German wit and poet, Heine. "The Arab" he quipped, "has a hundred names for his horse. The German has a hundred names for getting drunk. The Frenchman has a hundred names for making love -- and the Englishman has a hundred names for hanging". But, now there will be no more hanging for murder in England.

CHINA

At Nanking, in China, a newspaper office was wrecked today -- because the Chinese editors made a slip in propriety. You know how much propriety counts in the land of Confucius. A mob smashed up the newspaper Ta Chung -- a mob of Nanking taxi drivers. Their dignity had been injured -- the newspaper, Ta Chung, had caused them to lose face.

It appears that in an article the taxi men were called "motor car drivers". Which in Chinese is -- Chi Chih Fu. What they want to be called is -- Shi Chi, which means -- Controller of the Engine. To be called mere drivers lowered their social status, with a loss of face.

So now, Nelson, if you take a taxi this evening, don't address the man at the wheel as -- driver; ~~You must~~ address him as - Controller of the Engine. In order not to offend his propriety you must say -- Controller of the Engine, please convey me to Grand Central Station.

Or if you want to be more classically

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Chinese, just walk up to a tough New York taxi driver
and call him Shi Chi. *And then - duck. - Nelson.*