

L.T. P.& G. TUESDAY, March 22, 1949.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

The House of Representatives has passed the bill for a seventy group Air Force. The vote - three-hundred-and-ninety-five to three. Which was a mighty small minority in opposition, consisting of Congressmen Marcantonio and Emanuel Celler of New York and Marshall of Minnesota.

All along Marcantonio has taken the lead in fighting against the huge amount of sky power the Air Force wants. Last week, he blocked the passage of the bill on a technicality, and today he tried to do it all over again. But it was no go this time, and the measure for a seventy group Air Force went through with a rush.

This - with a full okay from the Army.

Yesterday Army Secretary Royall and Chief of Staff General Omar Bradley gave the endorsement of the ground forces. They added that Congress should, likewise, authorize an army of eight-hundred-and-thirty-seven thousand men to go along with the seventy groups of

war planes in the air. ^{and} They are having their way
about that - Congress today voting for an army of
that size!

All of which might seem to settle the question
of American air strength - since the Senate is
entirely likely to put its own okay on the seventy
group bill. Nor is President Truman opposed -
the only trouble being that the Truman budget for
the next fiscal year provides funds for an Air force
of only forty eight groups, instead of seventy.
So extra money will have to be put up - an old story.

ATOMIC

It is official now that the great new atomic energy plant will be near Pocatello, Idaho. *This had*

~~this had~~ been reported previously, was made definite by an announcement in Washington late today, the Atomic Energy Commission saying - "Pocatello it is."

The development of Peace Time atomic power to center there.

ADND ATOMIC

The new giant plane will be located on a sight of four hundred thousand acres and will compare in magnitude with ~~xx~~ the great plutonium production center at Hanford. At Pocatello they will construct and test atomic power plants including atomic engines ~~xx~~ for ships of the Navy.

TRUMAN

President Truman will not make an address at Cambridge, Massachusetts the day after Winston Churchill delivers a speech there. The plan was for the President to have appeared at a meeting held by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology on the first of April. Britain's wartime Prime Minister is visiting this country, arriving in New York next Wednesday. And he is to make an address to which the President's own speech would have been sort of a companion piece.

The Truman-Churchill combination has made headlines in the past - as when the President sponsored and introduced Churchill on the occasion of one of the most important bits of Churchillian oratory. That was when the wartime Prime Minister, speaking at Fulton, Missouri, sounded a rallying call against Soviet tyranny, and put the spotlight on that now familiar expression - The Iron Curtain. So, we were to have had the Truman-Churchill combination again.

Today, however, the White House announced the

Another rebuff is given to the talk of the
cancellation of the Truman address at Cambridge -
also of another speech the President was to have made
at Boston college. The reason - pressure of business.
The statement from the White House declares that the
presidential duties, both in world affairs and in his
dealings with Congress, have piled up in such fashion
that he will not be able to go up to Mass^{achusetts,} However,
he will see plenty of Winston Churchill - the war time
Prime Minister^{is} to be a Truman guest in Washington.

RENT

Another rebuff is given to the White House - the Senate tonight voted against the Truman proposals on the subject of rent control. The President has demanded a stronger federal authority in the matter of rents, but now the Senate votes to place the matter largely in the hands of local authority. The decision tonight was to let the town and city governments abolish rent controls in their areas, if the Governors of the State approves.

STRIKE

The Wabash railroad strike has ended, temporarily at least. ~~A~~ A dispatch from St. Louis, this afternoon announced that the striking employees of the Wabash had been ordered to return to work immediately pending further negotiations.

STRIKE

The Senate tonight took a slap at John L. Lewis, by confirming the nomination of Dr. James Boyd of Colorado, as Director of the Bureau of Mines. Lewis is so much opposed to Dr. Boyd that he called the present work stoppage of the coal mines, as a protest. But the Senate today acted with ~~an~~ a unanimous vote, fifty to one hundred and eleven, defying John L. Lewis.

In Pittsburgh mine union leaders were saying that the coal diggers would return to work on schedule next Monday, the end of the two week walkout called by Lewis.

BERLIN

The Soviets are protesting against the Berlin blockade. Sounds odd, because its all their own doing. But the Western powers have imposed a counter blockade, tit for tat, not allowing goods to go from the Western zones into the Soviet area. This is not nearly so severe as that Soviet blockade, which prevents food and fuel from reaching the two and a half million Germans in the Western sector of Berlin. But still the Reds are feeling that counter blockade. Complaints would seem to be impudent, but they are complaining.

The squawk concerns a batch of electrical equipment. The Red Lieutenant General, who is the Soviet military government at Berlin, explains that the Russians, some while ago, ordered a shipment of electrodes from a German factory in the Western zone. To enable the factory to fill the order, the Soviets provided a lot of platinum - sending this to the German factory. Well, the electrodes are now ready, but they cannot be shipped into the Soviet area - because of that Western counter blockade. So the Reds are simply out

that much platinum.

The American reply is simple and to the point, saying that the whole blockade business is the doing of the Soviets.

K OCH

In Germany the army is moving to reopen the case of the notorious Isle Koch, ^(one time sweetheart) ~~widow~~ of the Nazi Commander of the horror camp of Buchenwald. She was sentenced to life imprisonment for crimes against victims of Buchenwald, but then her sentence was reduced to four years - making her ^{eligible} ~~eligible~~ to be released this year. This decree by the military authorities has been bitterly assailed - the leniency shown to the woman who ~~was~~ said to have made lampshades out of human skin. Investigation is ^{reported} ~~said~~ to have shown that, in the case of the more atrocious ^{charges} against Isle Koch, the evidence was legally insufficient.

But, anyway, in the face of the out cry, ^{is being made} ~~is~~ a new attempt to punish the belle of Buckenwald. This was announced in Berlin today by American Commander General Lucius Clay. He stated that Isle Koch could not be tried again by the United States Military Commission, but perhaps she can be

brought before a Germany civilian court - charged
 with crimes against German inmates of the concentrati
 camps. General Clay says he ^{has} asked the German
 authorities in Bavaria to examine the evidence
 produced before the American Military Commission, ^{and}
 see if this does not warrant action under German law.

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FARM WOMEN

In Europe there's a group of American farm women, who have been touring through various countries in this post war period ^{-to} see how ~~the~~ European farm people are getting along. Today we have a report on their observation - in the story written for the United Press by Mrs. Lawrence Ring of Bancroft, Neb.

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farmhouses have been having a wonderful time, touring Europe, and have encountered only one disappointment. They found it was snowing - in Rome. Which is a thing ^{to} ~~that~~ can surprise Americans who go to sunny Italy, supposedly the land of eternal brightness and warmth. But we can sympathize with those ladies of the American farm, Mrs. Ring saying: " It was snowing when we left Nebraska, and it was snowing when we got to Rome."

The United Nations tonight conferred an important appointment on Admiral Chester Nimitz- ~~war-time~~ ^{war-time} ~~war-time~~ commander of the American Pacific fleet. Admiral Nimitz becomes the administrator of a plebisite in Kashmir. That fabulous land of Himalayan beauty is torn by a dispute over whether to join the dominion of India or the Mohammedan realm of Pakistan. An election is to be held under the auspices of the United Nations, and now Admiral Nimitz will take charge to see that there is a fair vote. The people of Kashmir are four-fifths Moslem, which would seem to indicate the way the vote will go.

GANGSTERS

I'm in Los Angeles tonight, and find the news featuring a gangster story. Reminding us that the metropolis of Southern California, with Hollywood, capitol of movie-land - has become a center of racketeering by criminal mobs. The underworlds of New York and Chicago have invaded this land of sunshine.

Today a Los Angeles Police Commissioner suspended two top ranking detectives, a captain and a sergeant, on charges connected with the arrest of seven armed henchmen of Micky Cohen, reputed to be a boss racketeer. The seven alleged gangsters were picked up by the police, charged with beating up the owner of a radio shop, slugging him into insensibility.

The story is that when the Micky Cohen gangsters were taken to a police station, by two traffic officers, the high ranking detectives intervened and warned the patrolmen: "This case is too big. Forget it." Then they were further told: "This case is

bigg^{er} than you or I . Tear up your notes, and don't tell anyone."

Where^{upon} the seven henchmen of racketeer Micky Cohen were released, and the record of their arrest ~~was~~ suppressed.

The supposition is, of course, that these mysterious doings were because of the influence that Micky Cohen exerts. - And today the Los Angeles Police Commissioner suspended the two detectives who intervened, and ordered a thorough investigation.

The case is the more mysterious because of the offense that began the whole episode - the beating up of the proprietor of the radio shop. It was supposed at first that the ass^ult[^] was the doing of cranks. There ha^d~~ve~~ been new^s stories that the radio man had taken over the four thousand dollar home of ~~the~~^a widow, in process of settling a debt of eighty-one dollars. After this publicity, he received threatening letters. Hence the early belief that the ~~clueing being up the the the stories, indignant~~

slugging had to do with those news stories, indignant
cranks beating up the radio proprietor. But now it
turns out to be the doing of henchmen of Micky Cohen -
high pro-bah of racketeering!
~~followed by the mysterious suppression of the arrests.~~

the name of Barker. The slain husband was Lloyd (Red)
Barker, the last surviving son of Al Barker, one of the
most formidable crime criminals in the annals of robbery
and murder.

It was back in the 1930's when Al Barker made
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BARKER

In Denver today Mrs. Jean Barker was ordered to a hospital for a mental examination, after pleading that she was insane when she killed her husband - with a shot gun blast. The dramatic point of this lies in the name - Barker. The slain husband was Lloyd (Red) Barker, the last surviving son of Ma Barker, one of the most formidable women criminals in the annals of robbery and murder.

It was back in the 1930's when Ma Barker made headlines of daring and violence - the mother of outlaw sons. That grandmotherly woman, herself, was the real leader of the Barker-Karpis mob. They were terrorists of the Dillinger days, when J. Edgar Hoover's FBI was making its first great reputation - by hunting down Dillinger. But second only to that, among the exploits of the FBI was the exirpation of the Barker-Karpis mob. Ma Barker, herself, together with one of her criminal sons, died in a seige of a cottage in Florida - the elderly woman shooting ti out to the death. All of

her outlaw sons perished by violence, except Red.

The most obvious reason why he survived was the fact that he was in prison for a mail robbery when the gang headed by his mother was wiped out.

But now Red Barker has gone the way of the rest of his clan - dying by violence. They say that, after serving his prison term he went straight. Yet the destiny of his family dogged him. The thirty-seven year old wife says she was afraid he would kill her and the four children, claims she was out of her mind when she blazed away with the shot gun, and felled the last of the sons of Ma Barker.

VALENTINO

More about that fabulous Valentino castle here in Hollywood, about which there have been many reports lately. The one time residence of the shiek of the old silent pictures was bought by what they call - the San Francisco group. It was supposed to be dedicated as a shrine to the memory of the great lover of the early movies. But that appears to have fallen through, and now we hear of something else, those two words that are so familiar - world peace.

The San Francisco group, which calls itself a philosophical organization, announces that the Valentino castle will be offered as a prize for a contribution to the peace of the world. The group has a "plan to unite the religious forces of all nations into a spiritual front against war and Communism." Those are the words used to describe it, and as a prize for the best idea to promote the notion, they'll offer Rudolph Valentino's one time love nest. From the Shiek of the movies to world peace.

Sounds a little like Hollywood, doesn't it, Ken? Or am I being rude to a hometown boy?