

L.T. P.& G. WEDNESDAY, AUG. 24, 1949
(Gene Tunney)

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Word from Washington tells of a former employee of the United Nations who did a job of Communist propaganda in this country. His name is Walter Tysz, who a couple of years ago, was a messenger clerk for the Polish delegation to the U.N. Today he was questioned before a Senate Committee investigating charges that U.N. employees have been acting as Communist agents -- and he admitted that he has been on the job of showing motion pictures of Red propaganda to audiences of Polish Americans. His activities have been in five eastern states.

TRUMAN

President Truman tonight gave his Okay to the ousting of the Dixiecrats. He put the seal of his approval on the action of the Democratic National Committee in expelling the Southern rebels who bolted the party in the election last November. At the same time, the President applauded the name of William Boyle of Kansas City as the new Democratic National chairman.

A sensation broke in Washington today, when the secret was revealed about a document charging corruption in the affair of the B-36. This document, circulated anonymously, has been of number one importance in attacks on the super-bomber -- with charges weaving around the fact that Secretary of Defense Johnson was once a director of Consolidated Vultee, which makes the B-36. Also- that Johnson raised millions for the Truman election last fall. The statement was made that Johnson got large sums from Floyd Odlum, who controls Consolidated Vultee. The meaning of the innuendo was obvious, and yesterday, Secretary Johnson was bitter in denying that his connections with Consolidated Vultee or Truman campaign funds had anything to do with Air Force purchases of the B-36.

There has been much wonder about the anonymous document. The present investigation in Washington was incited by Congressman Van Zandt of Pennsylvania, and he was a Navy captain during the war. This was to the point, because the question of the B-36 is tied in with the controversy between the Navy and the Air Force over

policies of the strategy of the air. But Congressman Van Zandt stated that the charges in question had been made in that anonymous document - of which he had received a copy.

So who is the author of the mysterious paper? Today, he appeared before the Investigating Committee and admitted the fact - that he had written the attack on the B-36 program, the anonymous document mailed to member of Congress. He is Cedric Worth, Special Assistant to the Under-Secretary of the Navy, Dan Kimball. He's a veteran newspaperman, who was a naval officer in both World Wars. He told the Committee that he had acted on his own, without any admiral or navy official having any part in it. He denied receiving any money, and explained that his motive was to assail what he considered a mistaken policy-the strategic bombing program of the Air Force.

Worth added that some of his information was derived from Glenn Martin, the manufacturer of bombers, who is a competitor of Consolidated Vultee, makers of the B-36.

So that's the secret of the anonymous document, so explosive in the controversy over the B-36. It's all so serious that, at the committee hearing today, there was mention of possible criminal prosecution against the Special Assistant to the Under-Secretary of the Navy. The latest is that Cedric Worth has been immediately suspended from duty. Top Navy officials express complete surprise at the admission he made today.

I hope I have related this headline news factually and without bias. I myself am a Navy man, a Marine in the First World War, a Navy commander in the Second - and I don't want it to be thought that I might be partisan in telling the story.

DEFENSE

The defense forces are cutting expenses.

Secretary Louis Johnson today ordered the Army, Navy and Air Force to dismiss a hundred and thirty-five thousand civilian employees and cancel out a hundred and twelve thousand reserve officers. The purpose is economy, made necessary by the cuts Congress has made in funds for the armed forces. Today's order is part of an economy drive to save five hundred million dollars a year.

TREATY

President Truman today proclaimed the North Atlantic Security Pact, declaring the treaty to be in force. He called upon the twelve nations allied against Red aggression to rally in the cause of liberty and peace.

FINLAND

In Finland, the nationwide labor organization has expelled four Communist unions - and they're among the largest in Finland. This comes about after the failure of the Red attempt to stage a general strike. The Communist unions went out, but others refused to join what the Finnish Government called, "a revolutionary scheme." The Federation of Trade Unions thereupon ordered the Communist unions to call off the strike. They refused, and today were expelled.

That splits the labor movement in Finland. There are three hundred thousand organized workers, and of these the Communist unions control eighty thousand - dock workers, lumbermen, and building workers chiefly. Labor in Finland is now divided into two groups - a non-Communist majority, and a Red minority.

LT.

But now the question - why should a retired boxer be giving a news broadcast? The reason I am substituting for Lowell Thomas tonight is - that it gives me a chance to preach my favorite gospel. Lowell is on a journey to Tibet, the Forbidden City of Lhasa - and I know mighty little about either. But there's one thing that's famous - it's the toughest kind of travel on the road to Lhasa.

The only transport in Tibet is by Mongol pony or that plodding beast, the yak. The mountains are the highest in the world, the plateau of Tibet having an average altitude of fifteen thousand feet. To make a trip as rough and rugged as that requires mighty good condition - especially when you're past fifty. And that leads me to my favorite gospel - the importance of physical fitness.

On the present trip to Lhasa, Lowell Thomas Junior is along, and he's in his middle twenties - the right age for rough going. But Lowell Senior on the trail in the Himalayas - that takes physical fitness.

I've known Lowell for quite a few years now. We first met at those softball games he used to have - Lowell Thomas and his Nine Old Men. More recently, we've met on trips for skiing - and he's a much better skier than I am. Some of his friends laugh at his addiction to skiing - and you certainly can be a fanatic at that sport. But it has kept him in condition, and the physical fitness is what you need - when you make a trip to Lhasa.

To illustrate all this we have a first hand account from that expedition in far off Asia. When he started out, Lowell Senior sent a cable to Lowell Junior, who was in Persia, telling him to hurry to India and make preparations. So now Lowell Thomas Junior, in a recorded broadcast, tells what happened.

CHINA

In Canton, China, the U.S. Consulate closed down today.

Chinese Red armies are ^{moving toward} ~~only a hundred and sixty-five miles~~
~~from~~ the Nationalist capital, and the State Department wanted
to avoid incidents like those at Mukden, Nanking, Shanghai.
At Mukden, the American Consul was held a prisoner for months.
At Canton the Consulate was terrorized. At Shanghai an
American diplomatic official was beaten brutally by the Red
police.

The American Consulate at Canton is the oldest in
China, set up sixty-three years ago - now closing down as the
Communists advance.

END

That's the report from Lowell Thomas Junior tonight, as the expedition to Lhasa gets going. I, myself, am on my way to another exhibition of physical fitness - the Ray Robinson-Steve Beloise boxing bout. I'm interested especially because Steve Beloise served with me in the physical fitness program that I directed for the Navy in the Second World War. He came in right away as a boxing instructor, and stayed on for five years. He and I were together in the South Pacific.

Tomorrow night on this program the substitute for Lowell Thomas will be Fulton Oursler, author of that fabulous best seller, "The Greatest Story Ever Told."

And, meanwhile, here's Nelson Case.