

(TELEPHONE)

Fred Allen for L.I. - Sunoco. Wednesday, April 9, 1947.
Hugh Libart - - - P. & B.

GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY

The ~~long lines~~ telephone strike is going to get a lot worse before it gets better, according to the latest news from Washington.

The Southwestern Bell Telephone Company has broken off negotiations with its striking workers. Union officials say that this company's action will prolong the strike days and ^{possibly} ~~maybe~~ weeks.

Earlier today there were indications that the telephone walkout ~~will~~ would soon be over-- contradictory reports from both sides, but both sides moving toward an agreement. Evidently, however, the action of the Southwestern Telephone Company has forestalled any possibility of an immediate settlement.

Management and labor representatives met in Washington today at Secretary of Labor Schwollenbach's behest. For some reason, yet ungiven, the men representing Southwestern Bell struck, themselves, ~~Despite~~ Schwollenbach's pleas. They refused to negotiate further and walked out.

Nationwide, the picture is this. Federal conciliators insist that an agreement is near and the strike is almost over. Union and Company representatives see no cause for optimism.

COAL

We're in for another soft coal strike on July First, and that one promises to be the most serious that has ever been called. On June Thirtieth, the Government's operation of the mines comes to an end. So there'll be no possibility of settling that one by the methods used in the walkouts that took place since the President seized the mines. That July affair will be strictly a fight between the Union and the operators, unless Congress in the meantime passes a law giving the Government fresh authority to intervene.

Lewis's present safety strike is about fifty-five percent effective. One thousand, four hundred and seventy-six mines are in operation, producing a million tons, which is about forty-five percent of normal.

GREECE

Undoubtedly the United States is heading once more for a world war, said a member of the United States Senate today. ^{He} ~~That~~ was Senator Harlan Bushfield of South Dakota, opening the fight on the President's program for giving four hundred millions to Greece and Turkey. He complained that this program was going over the head of the United Nations, and would weaken that world organization. What's more, it will put Uncle Sam in a position inviting every country in the world to come to Washington with a tin cup. Bushfield objected also that it was a revolutionary departure in foreign policy, unlike anything Uncle Sam has ever undertaken. He charged the President with trying to check Communism abroad, while he allowed it to flourish like a Green Bay tree here in the U.S.A.

Nevertheless, the odds appear to be on the Senate's passing the bill. Texas Tom Connally said

POLITICS

The antagonism between the Republican tycoons, Taft and Vandenberg, broke out again today. Vandenberg won one fight, and Taft the other. The Michigan Senator wanted to rush through that four hundred million Greco-Turkish bill, wanted an immediate vote on the amendments. That gave Taft his opening. He objected vigorously, objected that Vandenberg was trying to strangle debate and deny a hearing to people who did not like the program. To clinch matters, he pointed out that there was no quorum and protested against any attempt to use the steamroller. Vandenberg made a sour face, and gave up. But he added that he would expect the Senators to get down to work tomorrow and keep at it until the bill is passed.

But Taft had to swallow a defeat in the matter of David E. Lilienthal. The Senators confirmed his nomination as Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission,

and gave him pretty sweeping powers. Taft fought to the end, but, to paraphrase one of Ethel Merman's popular songs, "you can't defeat a bill without votes."

U. N.

(John Bull won a point in the Security Council of United Nations today. By a vote of eight to nothing, the delegates voted to lay the British charges against ~~Communist~~ Albania before the International Court. Russia and Poland refused to vote. So the International Court will have to decide whether Britain is entitled to reparations from Albania because of those mines in the Corfu Channel which damaged two British warships and killed forty-four British sailors.)

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The Disarmament Commission of the United Nations started action on disarmament. A committee of five nations, was established to draw up a plan to make this dream practical. The Committee will consist of the Big Five nations, much against the will of Uncle Sam's delegation, who wanted all eleven members of the Disarmament Commission to serve on that sub-committee. But the smaller powers protested that only the Big Five

can really plan a practical way to abolish armies,
navys and weapons of death.

COMMIES

The Committee on Un-American Activities of the House today voted to cite the person who calls himself Eugene Dennis, for contempt of Congress. Dennis, General Secretary of the American Communist Party, refused to show up when subpoenaed. The Congressmen also wanted the Department of Justice to investigate and find out whether this man and a couple of others cannot be indicted for conspiracy to commit contempt. If they are convicted of that, they can be sent to prison for two years and fined ten thousand dollars each. Plain contempt is only a misdemeanor. 6

The Communist's lawyer appeared in his stead, and offered a plea which sounds ironic. This person who proposes to wipe out all our laws, ~~and destroy our~~ ~~government~~, is now appealing to the law. He claimed that, among other things, ~~that~~ the House of Representatives had usurped police authority without any basis in law,

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and - now this is particularly good - it nullified
civil liberties, the civil liberties which would be
the first thing that the Communists would destroy if
they had a chance.

RENTS

Here's news to pin up on your windshield when you start on your vacation. Beginning tomorrow, tourist homes can charge as much as they like, or rather as much as they can get. O.P.A. has lifted the ceilings, it has also relaxed its rules affecting hotels and motor courts, and decontrolled transient rates in many small hotels.

WALLACE

(Over in London, Henry A. Wallace is having quite a time ~~for himself~~. He made two speeches today, one over the radio, the other at a press conference. He told the British it was useless to fight Communism, that by fighting it the Communists only became stronger. And the agitation against the Soviets and the Commies elsewhere will get us nothing but war.

The way to defeat Communism, he said, is by a psychology based on potential abundance in the future. By that he meant the development of atomic energy for industrial purposes. The scientists and engineers who know about it have told us it will take years to bring this about, but Henry brushed the experts aside.

He told the Britons that all their economic troubles would vanish if they used atomic power with the courage and determination the Atlee government

has shown in so many domestic issues. He would also like to see Tennessee Valley Authorities for all the rivers of the world, the Jordan, the Tigris and the Euphrates, the Nile and the Danube, the Seine and the Rhone.

He drew a picture of Russia and the United States, as two Titan wrestlers feeling each other ^{OUT} before grappling, ~~And growling like two big dogs and snuffing.~~

Western Europe, he added, is caught between two giants.

He told the British that the reason the New Deal did not accomplish more is that the Roosevelt government did not spend enough. If they had had more courage, they could have brought about a prosperity which would have averted the second World War. The next war, he added, will cost a trillion dollars.

CONFERENCE


(So far as the Soviets are concerned, the border between Germany and Poland stands where it is today. Secretary George Marshall asked the Foreign Ministers at Moscow today, to set up a commission to study the question of revising that frontier. But Molotov would have none of it.) The Potsdam Agreement holds, as the Russians understand it. Marshall retorted that the Soviets were giving it a false interpretation. Molotov ~~said he~~ spoke in complete contradiction of the meaning of the English language as understood by President Truman and himself. But ~~he repeated~~, the Soviets consider the Polish frontier question settled, no matter what the British and the French say in support of Uncle Sam, ~~or Uncle Sam's ambassador~~.

British Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin got into the argument. He declared that Molotov was going back on promises made by Stalin himself at Potsdam.

And he was unkind enough to quote Stalin's own words from the official minutes of the Potsdam Conference, the words which read: "No final boundary will be settled in advance of the peace conference." There, said Bevin, are the Generalissimo's own words. Is the Soviet delegation going ~~to go~~ back on them?

Bevin went on to say that the trouble was that the Treaty of Versailles made the mistake of placing the Polish frontier too far east at the expense of Russia. But now, he added, it is being put too far west.

At a meeting of the deputies of the Big Four Ministers in Moscow, our Robert Murphy threw some sarcastic words at Comrade Andrei Vishinsky. In the course of a dispute over methods of procedure in



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drafting the German peace treaty, Vishinsky was boosting the Albanians, talking about how much they had done in the war against the Axis. Murphy came back with the sour comment that many states of Latin-America ^{had} made more important contributions to the war against Japan ^{THAN} ~~the~~ some countries which came into that war rather late.

He did not mention any names, but Vishinsky seemed to know what was meant, and ^{replied} ~~said~~ they weren't talking about Japan, that was a separate question.

DUROCHER

There was big sport news made today --
made by Baseball Commissioner Happy Chandler, whom
more than one sports lover has been calling the
"Do-Nothing Commissioner."

They can call him that no longer ^(TODAY) Happy Chandler
~~they~~ suspended Leo Durocher, Manager of the Brooklyn
Dodgers, for one year.) It's about the biggest news
to come out of the Baseball Commissioner's office
since Judge Landis moved in on the Black Sox scandal
in Nineteen Nineteen.

Durocher was suspended for "conduct detrimental
to baseball." ^{(WELL,} That can mean a lot of things.
Specifically, (he was suspended for his charge against
Larry McPhail, President of the New York Yankees,
his charge that McPhail was consorting with known
gamblers. ^{that Baseball Commissioner} **A COMPLAINT HARRY CHANDLER**
FINDS UNWARRANTED)

Charlie Dressen a Yankee coach, has also been suspended -- he for thirty days. Dressen presumably is being punished for having challenged some of Durocher's remarks made while the Yanks and Dodgers were playing exhibition baseball in Venezuela and Cuba. Finally, fines of Two Thousand dollars were slapped on the Yankee and the Brooklyn organizations -- fines, incidentally, which both clubs can easily afford.

But there is a serious aspect ~~to~~ to the story. Baseball has long been regarded as the national sport. Baseball players, like Ty Cobb and Babe Ruth, have become national heroes, and baseball teams, The Cubs, The Yanks, and the Giants, have become national institutions. How Long can professional baseball hold its well-earned place in American life if the conduct of its very top men call for reprimands, fines, and suspensions?

What do ~~it~~ you think about it, Nelson Case?

SO LONG UNTIL NEXT TIME.

There are indications tonight that the telephone strike may soon be over. There are contradictory reports from both sides, in fact from three sides in Washington. But the drastic action by Governor Driscoll of New Jersey appears to have had a discouraging effect upon the unions. He signed a bill which had been rushed through the Legislature, a bill which would render the unions and their individual members liable to heavy fines if they remained out. Last night two New Jersey unions went back to work, and there is reason to expect the operators will return tomorrow.

Elsewhere throughout the country the New Jersey action appears to have dampened the ardor of the strikers. The local in Albany and Troy, New York, for instance, showed signs today of wanting to go back to work.

DUROCHER

When Baseball Commissioner Happy Chandler suspended Lippy Leo Durocher, he certainly made nobody in Brooklyn happy. (I don't believe even Lowell Thomas would have been able to ~~avoid~~ ^{RESIST} that one). Yes, Leo the ^{BASE} Lip, is out of ball for one year, and the only happy man in New York's five boroughs ^{TONIGHT} is Larry MacPhail of the Yankees, who made the complaint that caused Happy ~~Chandler~~ Chandler to act.

But that wasn't all that Happy did. He slapped a five hundred dollar fine on Harold Parrot, road secretary for the Dodgers. It is he who writes Lippy Leo's column in the Brooklyn Eagle. Happy says he fined Parrot for writing derogatory remarks about other people in baseball. It was in that column that Parrot, under Durocher's name, accused MacPhail of having shared a box at Havana with known gamblers.

Happy also fined the Yankee and Dodger Clubs,

fined them two thousand dollars apiece, because the officials of the clubs had engaged in public controversy detrimental to baseball. And he explained that he had suspended Durocher because he did not consider that Leo measured up to the standards expected or required of managers.

Happy Chandler himself has been under pretty withering bombardment from baseball writers. The sum and substance of their attack seems to have been that Happy was a figurehead commissioner, whom the club owners treated scornfully, a commissioner lacking in the force and authority of the late Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis. All of which makes Happy's latest action a whale of a surprise. The question is, what will the Bums do without Leo? The Dodger President, cagey Branch Rickey, was not available, but his assistant said that the club was filled with surprise bewilderment. And why not stupefaction? and amazement. Also astonishment, astoundment and