

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Word late today in the coal mine disaster at Centralia, Illinois is the ultimate in pathos and pity. Rescue crews deep in the black pits drawing near to the place where more than a hundred coal miners were trapped by the explosion yesterday.

"We are making good progress," they report. "We should reach the men in four hours, with luck!

All of which might sound hopeful if we didn't know that little belief is left that any of the entombed men are alive. For the miles of black tunnels below the ground are full of deadly carbon monoxide gas -- and, after twenty-four hours, it's considered unlikely that any of the trapped miners could have survived the horror of the suffocating gas.

Yet the rescue crews fight ~~on~~ on, with desperate courage -- veteran miners who wear oxygen masks and risk their own lives as they toil forward through tunnels

filled with carbon monoxide. With stubborn bravery, they fight their way to the place where their comrades are -- comrades whom they do not believe to be alive.

The latest from Cantralia continues the darkness of tragedy -- bodies are being brought out of the mine. It had been announced that any living survivors would be taken out first. So tonight the appearance of bodies would indicate that there are no living survivors.

## TELEPHONE STRIKE

The telephone union offers to maintain emergency telephone service, if a strike is staged on April Seventh. The union representing three hundred and twenty five thousand employees declared that the country will not be left without emergency telephone communication. The union will provide that -- if there's a strike.



## CONFERENCE

For a change the Moscow conference today developed a disagreement between the United States - Great Britain. London Foreign Secretary Bevin spoke out in blunt opposition to the suggestion made yesterday, by American Secretary of State Marshall. Last night we heard how General Marshall had proposed that the new government of conquered Germany should not be made to sign the peace treaty now being discussed at Moscow.

Soviet Foreign Minister Molotov promptly disagreed with this, and today he was joined by Bevin. The British Foreign Secretary argued that it would be necessary for the new German government to sign the treaty in order to make the peace-pact effective -- "the only way to place the responsibility," said Bevin.

So what did General Marshall say to that? He replied in a conciliatory way that, after all, the question of the German signing of the peace treaty was not urgent and should not be allowed to interfere with the discussion of more important matters.



## COMMUNISTS

The general ~~secretary~~ of the American communist party issued an angry defiance to Congress today -- taking a congressional subpoena and throwing it on the floor. <sup>R</sup>Eugene Dennis -- if that's his name -- was scheduled to make a formal appearance before the Committee on Unamerican Activities, and state the case of the Communist Party -- giving his Marxian reasons why Congress should not outlaw the party of American Reds. <sup>R</sup>But Eugene Dennis -- or whatever his name may be -- ran promptly into what appeared to be a most embarrassing question. His name, that is. The committee had indications that ~~he~~ <sup>had not</sup> started out in life as Eugene Dennis, -- had originally been called something else; -- so, he was asked -- what was his real name? He objected to that query, arguing that it was irrevelent.

<sup>R</sup>Shakespeare asked - What's in a name? Well, there can be a good deal, it would seem, so far as the Red comrades are concerned. They are accustomed

to using aliases. This for the purpose, at times, of procuring false passports -- which is a serious offense -- passport fraud.

The committee then decided to compel the General Secretary of the American Communist party to answer about his real name. A subpoena was promptly issued and handed to him. He responded with defiance -- throwing the subpoena on the floor. So now we have still another important Communist leader in trouble with Congress -- faced with proceedings to make him talk.

## SECOND FOLLOW COMMUNISTS

The latest is testimony by J. Edgar Hoover on the subject of Communism in the Hollywood film world. He states that motion picture Reds <sup>have</sup> ~~been~~ <sup>been</sup> successful in keeping anti-Communist expressions out of film features -- and, at the same time slipping in pro-communist material. The head of the F B I added that the motion picture "Mission to Moscow" by our former Ambassador <sup>E.</sup> to Moscow Joseph <sup>^</sup> Davies was pro-communist propaganda - what J. Edgar Hoover called ~~express~~ "a prostitution of historical facts."

After that, California State Senator Tenney, head of the California Committee on Un-American activities testified that Charlie Chaplin is a communist sympathizer, ~~he~~ as is John Garfield, said he. To which he added that both Frederick March and Crooner Frank Sinatra belong to the Communist front organization.



## ATOMIC - LETTER

At the University of California there's a young atomic scientist, Dr. Luis Alvarez, who has in his possession a letter -- a missive that he prizes above all things. The story was disclosed today, and ranks as one of the most dramatic episodes in the giant epic of the atomic bombing of Japan.

**T**he letter in question was a message ~~to~~ dropped along with the bomb that fell ~~upon~~ Nagasaki. It was addressed to a Japanese Physicist and made an appeal to him.

In times before the war, Dr. R. Sagane, of Japan, did work in atomic science at the University of California -- the radiation laboratory there.

And, a friendship grew up between him and the young physicist with the Spanish name of Alvarez. ✓

Later on, Dr. Sagane became Professor of Physics at the Imperial University of Tokyo while Dr.

Alvarez, when war came, was one of the scientists

~~who were~~ <sup>here</sup> engaged in the development of the atomic bomb.

Thus it was that when the decision came, to hit Nagasaki, Dr. Alvarez decided to send an appeal, along with the bomb, to his friend Dr. Sagane -- hoping that Sagane's influence, as an eminent Japanese scientist, might be of some help. In the letter he asked Sagane to do what he could to persuade Japan to surrender, -- instead of compelling the United States to use the atomic bomb ~~and~~ <sup>in</sup> still further assaults ~~xx~~ of horror and devastation.

Dr. Alvarez made three copies of the letter, each of which was attached to one of the radio devices that were dropped by parachute to give signals telling of the atomic explosion. Two of these radio devices, with copies of the letter, disappeared, and have never been found. Presumably they dropped into the sea. But the third ~~/~~ drifted down by parachute, into the ruins of Nagasaki, and was picked up by the Japanese. The letter was turned over to intelligence officers of the Japanese Navy and these passed it along to officials in Tokyo. Dr. Sagane was informed

of this, but was not given the letter until some time later. However, it is to be noted that Japan made its offer to surrender on the day after the Nagasaki bombing, the day after the finding of the letter. And, it is possible that the appeal made by the University of California scientist may have had some effect on the Japanese government.

Recently, Dr. Wilson Compton, President of Washington State College, was in Japan, and saw Dr. Sagane, who gave him the letter. Dr. Compton, upon returning to the United States, has now returned the letter to Dr. Alvarez -- who treasures it as his most precious possession. And why not? The appeal from one atomic scientist to another that went along with the Nagasaki atomic bomb.



## RECORD

The news today tells of the setting of a new record, which would seem to be in the "so what" classification. A man walked on his hands longer than any has ever walked before -- though why that should be important, I don't know. At San Diego California, Don Doxtad, a gymnast from Nebraska, walked on his hands back and forth across a four hundred ~~foot~~ foot lawn. He kept that up for twenty minutes, travelled half a mile, got back on his feet -- and claimed the world's championship for hand-walking. I don't know what else he'll get out of it, except maybe ~~unions~~ blisters on his hands.

## TRUCK DRIVERS

This next bit of news calls for a high degree of politeness, because it is about those ~~courteous~~ ~~cautious~~ gentlemen -- the truck drivers. A lot of people who drive automobiles on highways think of the truck driver as a burly-surly curmudgeon rolling along <sup>(in a</sup> ~~xxxxxxx~~ speeding murderous ~~xx~~ juggernaut -- dominating the highway with a rude lack of all good manners. But that's all wrong -- as we are told in a story from Hollywood.

Movie producer Roy Del Ruth is making a film featuring the commercial truck driver. He wanted to get it correct and so he called in an advisory committee of truck drivers to check and see that all was accurate. The first thing the ~~xxxxxx~~ committee did today was to issue a pronunciamento that the usual picture presented of the truck driver is all wrong. <sup>R</sup> Here's the verdict: "A truck driver," declares the committee "is never a road hog". His truck is just big. Commercial drivers are really more ~~xxxxxxx~~ courteous and observant of the other

fellow's rights on the highway." According to the truck drivers, it is the ordinary motorist who is rude and ill-mannered, who hogs the road and snorts and scowls in an impolite way, constantly lacerating the courteous feelings of those exquisite gentlemen, the truck drivers.

When the matter was thoroughly explained to the Hollywood producer, he saw the light, and issued the following statement: "The treatment of truck drivers in pictures had been practically scandalous" says he. "They are not crude illiterate bruisers!"

So, there we have a new concept of the truck driver -- the modern Lord Chesterfield of ~~the~~ the byways of the land.

And I too can testify that this is so. In driving across the continent my wife and I found that truck drivers were far more careful, cautious and courteous than ordinary motorists.



## PLANE

As dusk descended on Fort Worth, Texas, today a giant bombing plane came gliding down for a landing. On the airfield, a crowd of several thousand people waited with bated breath, fearing the worst, afraid they were about to witness the destruction of the greatest bomber in the world and the loss of brave airmen who were aboard.

The plane was a new B-36, two-hundred-and-seventy-eight-thousand pounds in weight, with a tail as tall as a four story building, a plane capable of delivering a cargo of atomic bombs to any point on this earth.

This afternoon a situation of tense drama had, begun with a message from the sky giant on a test flight. The pilot radioed that the air goliath, in taking off, had cracked a strut of its landing gear -- and air officials believed it would be impossible to land the two-hundred-and-seventy-eight thousand pound plane safely -- with a cracked strut in the landing gear.

Aboard were fourteen airmen, and these were ordered out by parachute, one after another. Twelve

bailed out, and floated safely down -- leaving two aboard.

At the controls, B. A. Erickson, chief pilot for the Vultee Company, was sticking it out. And with him Flight Director G.S. Green, who also elected to stay -- and take his dance with the plane.

Then, <sup>with</sup> the two lone airmen aboard, the colossus of the sky went winging around in great circles -- Pilot Erickson waiting for the best moment to attempt a landing -- the calm air at sundown.

So dusk was descending on Fort Worth when the greatest bomber in the world headed down. The landing was perfect -- so perfect that the damaged landing gear held up. The cracked strut itself, stood the strain-- and out climbed the two airmen as calmly as landing in an ordinary routine.

And now Nelson, the coast is clear. Let's see you make a three-point landing. The controls are yours. Back to you, Nelson -- over!

## FOLLOW COMMUNISTS

The committee proceedings today climaxed with testimony given by J. Edgar Hoover, head of the F.B.I. He stated that the communist party in the United States "was," in his words: "a Fifth column if there ever was one!"

It may sound startling, but J. Edgar Hoover quoted a top leader of the Communist Party as stating the following: "A war by the United States against the USSR," said this Red big shot, "would be an unjust war. If it should come," he added, the Communist Party of the United States would be with Russia -- and make no mistake about that!"



## ATOMIC

There seems to be some criticism ~~in~~ about reports of what has happened in the case of Japanese who were submitted to atomic radiation in the atom bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. There have been rumors of distorted heredity, of malformed children born as a result of the atomic radiation.

All this brings a preemptory denial from Tokyo today. ~~Previously statements from General MacArthur's headquarters had told of peculiar effects to the heredity of plants in the area of the atomic bombings - plant reproduction changed in freakish way. But~~ Nothing odd has been noted in the heredity of human beings ~~in~~ according to the medical officers of the American occupation forces. They say there is nothing to the ~~starry~~ stories of radiation effects on human heredity.

However, from Washington, we have statements made by members of the atomic bomb casualty commission -- a group of scientists who have been studying the effects of the atomic bombing on the

people of Hiroshima and Nagaskai. They take a cautious view. They say it may take many years to determine the question of possible herediatriy effects in the case of Japanese who are subjected to the radiation of the bombs.

Such evidence, they explain, comes from Japanese mid-wives who give reports on defective births -- still-born. And they add that abnormalities of heredity causing mal-formations, are likely to result in still-born infants.

The scientists are puzzled by one thing, in particular -- the fact that the death rate among atom bomb victims was higher among men than among women -- ~~and~~ males more than females appeared to be affected by the atomic radiation.

## NEW ZEALAND

In New Zealand ~~the~~ emergency aid is being rushed to a section of the northeast coast <sup>of the North island</sup> devastated ~~by~~ by a huge tidal wave -- a ~~new~~ wall of water sixty feet high, which swept in from the sea and washed out homes and farms. Twenty bridges broken down by the inland rush of the tidal wave, <sup>^</sup> roads destroyed, havoc far and wide. <sup>W</sup> But no lives ~~were~~ lost. People along the shore were warned by a roar from out at sea, the thunder of the giant wall of water.

The cause of the tidal wave?-- <sup>a</sup> submarine earthquake. Far out to sea, off the New Zealand coast, the ~~new~~ floor of the ocean was disrupted, and the immense depths of the sea were thrown into turmoil -- an earthquake that hurled <sup>a</sup> ~~the~~ tidal wave upon sixty miles of New Zealand coast.