

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

(The meeting of the foreign ministers of the Big Four got off to -- not such an auspicious start today, Molotov immediately saying no. Secretary of State Marshall, backed by Great Britain and France, suggested that the conference should first take up a peace treaty with Austria -- do that, and then go on to a German peace treaty. Molotov immediately refused, with a charge of "American imperialism." Yep, we're out to conquer the world.)

FOREIGN AID

In the Senate, the emergency aid bill to help France, Italy and Austria, rolled along swiftly today with what the Washington ^dDispatch calls - "snowballing support." Democrats and Republicans alike arose in the Senate and urged the necessity of the five hundred and ninety seven million dollar bill to support freedom against Communism. In one address after another, it was argued that this economic assistance must be given promptly - or Soviet Communism will sweep western Europe.

Not one voice has been ~~xxx~~ raised against the emergency bill. On the contrary, such complaints as were made were protests against tendencies to appease the Soviets. For example, there were indignant remarks about the fact that American goods such as machinery, are still being shipped to ~~Soviet~~ Soviet Russia.

~~All of which was countered today by a
x statement from the Department of Commerce, which declared
that American exports to the Soviets are now eighty per
cent below the level of last January, and will be cut even~~

further. But officials of the Department of Commerce warned against any move to stop exports to the Soviets entirely - because we need certain critical materials which they ship to us, like chrome and magnanese. ~~all~~. Moreover to stop American-Russian trade altogether would be a dangerous move - in view of the tension already existing between the two countries. Embargoes have a way of leading to war.

In the House of Representatives, meanwhile the foreign affairs committee okayed the emergency bill, but cut the money by ninety million dollars. Which was largely offset by a surprise move to give sixty million to Nationalist China - to stop Communism in the Far east.

FRANCE

Menacing news from France -- a general transportation strike ordered by Communist unions.

Tomorrow all fuel and food supplies will be stopped - in a country now confronted by hunger and the chill of winter.

The new cabinet headed by Premier Schuman announces a ~~general~~ general increase of wages in an effort to check the labor trouble -- and has taken vigorous action against a postal strike. The postal workers, who walked out were threatened with the loss of their jobs. The result was prompt, the postal workers voting to return to work.

But against that comes a general transportation strike -- the Communist apparently pressing for a showdown.

PALESTINE

In the United Nations today, the plan for a Jewish state in Palestine failed to get an okay. This was in the Palestine Committee, on which all the United Nations are represented. There was a majority, but a two-thirds vote was ~~xx~~ required, and the result was twenty-five to thirteen -- one vote short. The key to the whole thing is the fact that seventeen countries ~~ab~~stained and two were absent. All along it has been recognized that the matter of ~~xxxxxx~~ delegations refusing to vote might imperil a two-thirds majority.

~~The partition plan is sponsored by both the United States and Soviet Russia and these two countries today, of course, voted yes. Great Britain, France, China abstained.~~

Today's failure to get a two thirds majority in the committee is not final. The showdown will be ~~xxxx~~ tomorrow in the general assembly - the expectation is that some countries that ~~ab~~stained today will vote tomorrow and provide the necessary two-thirds. That seems likely enough, since if the partition program

fails tomorrow - it would leave Palestine with no kind
of settlement at all. ~~This in the face of the British~~
~~determination to get out and threats of war expressed by~~
~~both Jews and Arabs.~~

SIAM

As if this nation were not in enough controversies already, here's one with Siam. Today the Premier at Bangkok accused the United States Navy of aiding the escape of the leader of the opposition in Siam - and also in the getaway of the killer of King Ananda Mahidol. ^R More than a year ago, a weird mystery broke into the headlines - the assassin of the King of Siam. This monarch of the kingdom of the white elephant was found shot to ~~his~~ death in the Royal Palace at Bangkok ^{amid} ~~and~~ circumstances of oriental palace intrigue and murder.

The assassin of the King is said to have been a former Siamese Naval Officer, who recently has been charged with the crime. He is also an aide to the leader of the opposition and they escaped ~~together~~ together. This leader of the opposition was a top man in the war time resistance movement against the Japs. The present government, which recently seized power in a coup d'etat, is run by a strong man, who collaborated with the Japs during the war, their puppet premier.

All of which makes a fine steaming stew of Siamese politics, and now the United States Navy enters the picture. The charge is that the opposition leader and the assassin of the King of Siam was seen aboard an American picket boat, which conveyed them to a Chinese vessel ~~xxxx~~ for an escape to Singapore. The picket boat in question is commanded by Lieutenant Albert Gardes, a U.S.N. ^{who} ~~and he~~ flatly denies the whole story.

Today he stated that he did have a Siamese officer aboard as a guest, but this officer later returned to shore - nothing to do with the opposition leader ^{of} the assassin of the King. ~~However~~, the land of the white elephant is buzzing with the charge made by the ~~present~~ present Premier - a charge of interference in the devious political affairs of Siam.

SOLDIER OF FORTUNE

From India, tonight, by way of London -- the story of an American soldier of fortune, leading Moslem troops against the Hindu defenders of Kashmir. A legendary ^{(figure} ~~figure~~ in troubled India, ~~a~~ one Russell Haight, a former American infantry [^]sergeant who got tired of the insurance business in Denver, Colorado, and decided to become a soldier of fortune. The London report says that Haight led his men into action in cowboy ~~me~~ boots, a ten gallon hat, blue jeans and a G. I. field-jacket.

Mrs. Haight, who hasn't heard from her husband for a long time, says she isn't at all surprised, hearing of her man's exploits in distant India. "If there is trouble in the world" she says, "Russ'll be in there -- right in the middle of it. He couldn't stay away from war too long."

"When he went away," she goes on, "I knew it was the old call -- the call to war and I didn't try to stop him."

But the news indicates that Haight hasn't

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done so well, seeing that the Hindustan troops are in ~~complete~~ complete control of the situation in Kashmir. But like a good soldier of fortune, this American G I with his cowboy boots and ten gallon hat probably knows how to retreat, and get ready for the next show.

COMMUNISTS

(American Motion Pictures have made an official decision - not to employ Communists. Individual companies had already made up their mind to that effect, and today the whole industry joined in a formal pledge.)

In New York, the top movie executives had a meeting, after which Eric Johnson, President of the Association of Motion Picture Producers issued a statement. - They will not knowingly employ a Communist or anyone else who advocates the overthrow of the United States Government by force or unconstitutional means.

All of this of course follows the sensational investigation by the ^{Congressional} committee, ~~on un-American activities of the House of Representatives~~, during which ten prominent Hollywood screen writers and directors refused to answer the question of whether or not they were Communists. They are now charged with contempt of Congress.

Today's pledge binds the motion picture producers to discharge any of those ten screen writers whom they may now be employing. "And," declares Eric

Johnston, "we will not reemploy any of the ten until such time as he is acquitted or has purged himself of contempt and declare under oath that he is not a Communist."

The motion picture producers at the same time ask for Federal legislation to enable them to deal with the threat of Communism in Hollywood.

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Today, in Washington Congressman Gordon McDonough of California introduced a bill to make the "activity practice" of communism in the United States a treasonable act. A bill to outlaw communism.

CROPS

Here's a turn of good news in the all important question of ~~the crops on the farms~~ - the grain production of this ^{is} nation during the coming year.

Recently, the news has been bad, telling of a severe drought in our Mid-Western bread basket - threatening a drastic reduction ~~of our crop~~ of winter wheat. But today comes a change, ~~that~~ the first optimistic report in weeks.

The weather bureau states that recent rains ~~that~~ throughout the Southwest have ended the long drought in the winter wheat belt, ending the menace of the dry spell. In fact, the report today ~~is~~ refers to the winter wheat belt in the following words - "The former drought area," putting it all in the past tense. As a result of which, the critically needed wheat crop is described as being - "much improved."

MEYERS

(Things are moving fast in the case of General Bennett Meyers, who is involved in so much sensation and scandal. The Congressional hearings ending Saturday, the Department of Justice placed the charges before a Grand Jury today - beginning the prosecution.) A parade of witnesses will appear, reproducing to a large extent the gaudy dramatics of the Senate hearings.

The charges presented today were twofold, perjury and subornation to perjury which could ~~draw~~ draw a sentence of ten years in prison and fines of ten thousand dollars. In addition to which, Meyers faces further charges of tax evasion, war fraud, conspiracy to fraud, and bribery. The whole array of accusations might bring a total of thirty nine years in prison - a life sentence for a man of his age.

In addition to the federal charges, the Air Forces are making preparations to court-martial the General. Moreover, New York State authorities today began an investigation to decide whether Meyers was guilty also of local New York State income tax evasions. All

of which ~~certainly~~ sounds like the proverbial tons of bricks falling on the high ranking officer whose decorated career in war time Air Force procurement topped ^{ed} in the abysmal downfall of a Senate ~~in~~ inquiry and a blaze of fantastic scandal.

CHICAGO STRIKE

In Chicago, the six daily papers today met the situation created by their printers going on strike, by producing photo-engraved editions of almost normal size. The newspapers rolling off the presses about as usual. The other A F of L craft unions not observing the picket lines of the typographical union.

Union spokesmen say the question of wages is not involved in the dispute. The union refusing to renew contracts because it objects to the provisions of the Taft-Hartley Law, particularly the banning of the close shop.

Latest news on this Chicago printers strike is that General Counsel Robert Denham of the National Labor Relations Board is deliberating whether to seek an injunction against the union under the Taft-Hartley Law.

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Meanwhile, there is a threat of a nationwide telegraph strike. Three A F of L unions

representing employees of Western Union, making plans for a walk out, perhaps within two weeks for higher wages.

SHIPWRECK

Off the coast of Alaska, a U.S. Army freighter, the Clarksdale Victory, with a crew of fifty-one, went aground today, on a reef, the ship broken in two. Only the fore part visible.

An American merchant vessel, S.S. ~~Denali~~ Denali, was first on the scene -- trying to take off the shipwrecked crew, with storm raging and tremendous seas breaking over the reef and the freighter.

The latest from Ketchikan:

The Clarksdale Victory has broken up. So says Lieutenant Commander O. D. Weed, of the Coast Guard, from Annette Island, who flew over in a Grumman amphibian. He reported to Seattle tonight, by radio that three men clinging to the forepeak appear to be the only survivors. Two Coast Guard cutters are on their way to try and rescue them.

HANNEGAN

Today two news dispatches emanated, one from the realm of government in Washington, the other from the world of baseball. ~~It might seem the height of illogic and irrelevance to tie together announcements made by the White House and by ball playing headquarters at St. Louis -- but they're one and the same story.~~

President Truman has accepted the resignation of Postmaster General Bob Hannegan; and, the St. Louis Cardinals have been sold to a syndicate headed by Bob Hannegan. So, that's the play - from government to baseball.

The St. Louis transaction is described as the largest in the history of the national game. The owner of the Cardinals, Sam Breadon, announces the sale -- without naming the price. However, the word is that the figure comes to three-and-half million dollars for the St. Louis Club ^{plus control of the Card Farm System,} ~~and interests in~~ a whole string of minor league teams. ^R Never before has a baseball club been sold for that much cash.

Well, Bob Hannegan, St. Louis Irishman, has always been inclined to both of those things - politics

and baseball. His headline exploit in affairs of government was the masterminding of the fourth term nomination in Nineteen Forty Four - especially his ingenuity in the matter of second place on the fourth term ticket. He is credited with having maneuvered the nomination of his fellow citizen from Missouri for the Vice Presidency - Harry Truman.

As a result of which we today have -
President Truman. *otherwise we would have had
Pres. Hen. Wallace - probably.*

~~(The story relates that Bob Hannegan had in his pocket the famous letter from President Roosevelt, giving F.D.R.'s okay to either Truman or Supreme Court Justice Douglas. Hannegan made the letter public - after the Truman boom for second place was well under way to success. So we are told, and further - that Hannegan ran the gamut of political technique in blocking Vice President Henry Wallace from getting a renomination.~~

^{that}
~~If that hadn't happened, this nation would now have
President Henry Wallace.)~~

These were mighty ~~feat~~ feats of political

arms, and Bob Hannegan now takes his gifts and talents to the business of trying to win pennants. ¶ The masterminding of the fourth term was a prodigy, but the St. Louis Cards have had their prodigies too - shades of the old gas house gang and Dizzy Dean and *Branch Risky*.

Just the other day I heard about ^{the} time when in the first game of a double header, old Diz with his playing pitched a one-hitter. Then in the second game, his brother Paul ~~was~~ pitched a no-hitter. Whereupon the two brothers from the Ozarks had an argument. Old Diz went to Paul and protested, saying - "If you'd a tol me you was gonna pitch a no-hitter, I'd a bore down and three ^{up} that ball hard!" The Presidential events of the fourth term, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Henry Wallace and Harry Truman were of historial import, but there was majesty also in the gas house gang and Old Diz and *Brother Risky*.

As if this weren't enough Americana, we also have a Horatio Alger story in this same bit of news. President Truman today named a successor to Bob Hannegan as Postmaster General. He's Jesse M. Donaldson -

ever heard of him? Well, its a long and ~~xxxxxxxx~~ venerable tradition in this republic that the office of the Postmaster General is a political plum, which is given to a big time party leader - a major politician who is usually the Chairman of the National Committee of the faction in the White House. But you'll search in vain on the list of Democratic Party bi-shots, in vain ~~fr~~ for the name of Jesse M. Donaldson. He's actually a post office man - surprise. (~~For the first time in history, the office of Postmaster General goes to an official in the postal service - who began as a mail man in fact.~~)

At Shelbyville, Illinois, Jesse

Donaldson's father was a postmaster, and Jesse had his first job as an eleven dollar a week part-time ^{Post Office} clerk, ~~in the Shelbyville Post Office.~~ Five years later he graduated to the rank of a rull fledged letter carrier, delivering the mails from door to door.

After which, step by step, Jesse ~~was~~ rose in the ranks, until he became first-assistent-Postmaster

General in Washington. That seemed to be the top for a former mailman, and nobody was more surprised today than sixty-two year old Jesse, to find himself raised to the rank of full Postmaster General, and a member of the President's cabinet.

That's a new kind of Horatio Alger story. The traditional version has been from ward ^{healer} ~~ward~~ to Postmaster General. Now - from letter carrier to Postmaster General.

And now Nelson, will you carry the mail?