

L.T. - SUNOCO. TUESDAY, JUNE 4, 1946

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Word this afternoon looked hopeful in the Maritime labor dispute -- signs that a strike may be averted. The unions showed indications of going easy and moderating their demands. The President of the Marine Firemen says that his union will submit wage-hour proposals to the Pacific Coast Ship Owners Association tomorrow. And in New York, Joseph Curran, boss of the National Maritime Union, intimates he may concede something on the subject of a forty-hour week.

With these indications of a softening process, the Maritime Union Chiefs are still bitter in their denunciation of the President and the Navy - the President's threat that the Navy will break the strike and the Navy today lining up men to sail the American Merchant Fleet if the strike should come on June 15.

And here's a paris bulletin, which may inspire you to ask how come we get news about an American labor disput from foreign places? The answer is of course, that the maritime unions have threatened foreign strikes against American ships, if the Navy should run them. They've appealed to the World Federation of Trade Unions. And today in Paris, the Secretary General of that outfit said -- "Yes, unions of other countries will support an American Maritime strike."

He declared: "All the unions of all countries belonging to the world federation will be directly mixed up in this worker conflict."

The countries that will be thus mixed up in this American strike are Britain, France, Soviet Russia, and lesser nations -- in an international drive against the U.S. Navy, if the strike should happen.

BEVIN

In the British House of Commons today a statement was made that will tally with apprehensions that are in the minds of many of us. Foreign Minister Ernest Bevin declared ^{today} that Soviet Russia believes that its only safety lies in world Communism. Bevin described this Moscow belief in the following words -- "The idea that the Security of Russia can only be maintained when every country in the world adopts the Soviet system." And the Foreign Minister added this Moscow conviction is what he called, "a great handicap to Russia and a great obstacle to peace." The Bevin declaration was made in the course of a parliamentary debate on foreign affairs, which opened today. Bevin reviewed the world situation and his tone was pessimistic. He made it clear that Great Britain and the United States are in complete accord -- which, of course, only emphasized the split between the Western Democracies and Soviet Russia. He spoke of that ominous thing which his predecessor Winston Churchill baptised "The Iron Curtain." Bevin repeated that Soviet

Soviet Russia had put every obstacle it could in the way of British representatives who have tried to investigate conditions in the Balkans, the dim lands behind the Iron Curtain.

The Foreign Secretary spoke strongly on the subject of Trieste -- the Soviet demand that the great Italian port should be turned over to the Yugoslav government of Communist Marshal Tito. Bevin stated that the city is overwhelmingly Italian and added: "I cannot bring myself to hand Trieste over to Jugoslavia."

But these details of controversy were less ominous than the general ideas, as put forward by the Foreign Secretary of the Labor government. He dwelt upon the ideological cleavage between the Liberalism of the West and the totalitarianism of the Soviets. He noted, for example, the claims the Moscow Dictatorship makes about its own Democracy. Bevin stated: "There is, I think, unfortunately running through all the speeches of our Soviet friends, the idea that they alone represent the workers., that they alone are democratic. Their concept

of certain other governments" he went on, "is that they are either Fascist or Crypto-Fascist, or something of that kind."

Then followed the statement about the Moscow belief that Soviet Russia can be safe only if all the world goes Communist.

Well, if that's the Soviet doctrine, things would certainly seem to be in a bad way. But then, such a belief might well be in accord with Marxian dogma. The Marx-Lenin system is based on the class conflict, and the dictatorship of the proletariat as embodied in the Dictatorship of the Communist party in Soviet Russia. And according to the Marx-Lenin theory, can the Soviets feel safe, with the greater part of the world non-Communist?

RELIEF

It was stated in Washington today that Soviet Russia tried to use food as a political weapon in the French elections -- while, at the same time the Soviets were getting American food relief, as charity.

The charge was made by Senator Wherry of Nebraska at a Congressional hearing on the subject of food shipments by UNRRA. And State Department food adviser James A. Stillwell, admitted -- yes, the Soviets sent grain to France in advance of the French elections. And, at the same time, the Soviets received from UNRRA shipments of food relief in the form of fats, oils, and sugar.

All of which combined further with the fact that Stalin rejected President Truman's appeal asking the Soviets to join in the battle against world starvation.

ITALY

The latest from Italy leaves the fate of the Monarchy still in doubt. The most recent count of votes to come in on the wire shows a narrow majority about five to four against the ancient House of Savoy -- but the tally is incomplete. The latest figures are: Against the Monarchy, five million three hundred and sixty-ninetthousand ballots. For the Monarchy -- four million. That gives a numerical majority of more than a million and a quarter for a republic -- which would seem to be clear enough, except for those other factors.

The figures for Northern Italy are nearly complete -- and that's the part of the country most opposed to the retention of the King, most in favor of a Republic. From southern Italy only about half of the votes are in, and the way the ballots are running down that way is illustrated by the figures from Naples. With the count incomplete, Naples has given the Monarchy a majority of nearly eight to one. For the King, four hundred and forty-six thousand. For a Republic fifty-seven thousand.

That an example of how the count is running in Southern Italy, with half of the vote still to come. So, it's possible that the south will overcome the margin in the north -- the margin of more than a million and a quarter now registered against keeping Humbert the Second on the throne he so recently ascended.

However, we hear that the Big socialist newspaper Avanti, which has sources of information, is so sure about the outcome that tonight the paper was preparing an extra proclaiming the end of the Monarchy and the beginning of the Republic of Italy.

From Monarchist quarters the word is that, if the vote goes against him, King Humbert the Second will immediately go into exile, having been King for a mere few weeks.

The reason we are so long in hearing the decision on the question of the Monarchy is that in counting the votes over in Italy they first concentrate on the other phase of the weekend election. That is the decision concerning the political parties. Maybe the vote counters

were most interested in how their own parties made out - and let the King wait.

The results along that line continue the earlier trend: A clear-cut victory for the Christian Democrats, with the Communists running third.

The latest figures are: Christian Democrats: Five million eight hundred and fifty-five thousand. Socialists: Three million six hundred and ninety-seven thousand. Communists: Three million four hundred and three thousand.

Lesser conservative parties, nine hundred and forty-four thousand.

In other words, the Christian Democrats are almost equal to the combined Socialist and Communist vote.

And the Christian Democrats plus other conservative parties have a margin over the socialist plus communists.

In Rome, they're saying that the results show a decided response to the plea made by the Pope calling upon the people of Italy to vote against the Communists. And it means that the present Italian Premier Gaspari will

undoubtedly become the first President of Italy.

The election returns from Italy are, of course, in line with the result of the French election - with its victory for the popular Republican party, Christian and moderate.

POSTAGE STAMP

Word from London is that the British government is not getting excited about the new quarrel with Argentina over a postage stamp. It all concerns the old argument about the Falkland Islands, which belak and rocky bits of land, down toward Cape Horn are a South Ailantic outpost OF THE British empire. Argentina has always claimed the Falklands, and now the dispute is agitated again -- because of that postage stamp. London has issued a series of new stamps, with the Falkland Islands in the design. This Argentina, with its new President Peron, takes as a reassertion of British sovereignty. London doesn't see any prospect of war over the matter -- but if any Britisher mails a letter to Argentina with a Falkland Island stamp, the postage will have to be paid all over again when it arrives at its destination. Because the Argentine government announces that the stamp will not be recognized.

CRIME

After all that war of the air, it was inevitable I suppose, that some former flyer gone wrong should think of aviation as an aid to crime. And so we have the aerial getaway -- the use of a plane in an escape from prison.

Vernon Simpson was a wartime flyer -- who last year, was dishonorably discharged, from the Army Air Forces for conduct unbecoming an officer. Whereupon he continued on a career of civilian misdoing, and was arrested for the theft of a trailer -- in Missouri. Sentenced to prison for three years, he promptly escaped from the jail at Wichita Falls. They caught up with him in a stolen car he was driving, but Simpson got away - with the cops shotting at him. The manhunt now was hot and heavy, the Police combing the countryside, the alarm flashing far and wide.

In this desperate situation, the former Army flyer, remembered his wartime days in the air. The sky was that same wide open highway. So he stole another

automobile, and went speeding to the nearest airport - figuring that he might steal a plane.

At the airport, at Columbia, Missouri, he walked coolly out onto the flying field and immediately spotted an Army training plane. That was a break -- he knew all about Army training planes. Hadn't he learned to fly in one? The next think you know, he was in the cockpit, starting the motor and taxiing down the runway. An airport mechanic realized the plane was being stolen, and came running. He grabbed one wing -- but the army flyer jail breaker gave her the gun. The plane picked up speed, and the mechanic had to turn loose -- or he'd have been carried up into the sky, hanging onto the wing.

The plane took off, rising from the runway, climbing fast into the sky, for the aerial getaway. Prison escape! The way the fugitive had learned in the Air Forces for sky battle against the Nazi or Jap. He was so exhilarated about it that he buzzed the Jefferson

City Court House, roaring down and skimming the rooftops -- tactics he had learned for dive-bombing and strafing the Nazi and the Jap.

Then he flew south, the sky an open road for a clear getaway. He went winging all the way down to Arkansas, with nothing to stop him -- and there he picked a nice landing place, an Arkansas Rice-field. Where he left the plane and walked away free and safe -- far from the manhunt up in Missouri.

The only trouble for Vernon Simpson was that he had to go on with a life of crime -- he was made that way. And once again his old career in the Air Forces lured him -- this time in a different way. He drifted to St. Louis to Scott Field. There he said he was a former G.I., suffering from combat fatigue and homeless. They let him sleep at the service club, and eat at the mess, until Simpson happened to notice a lot of valuable watches at the post exchange -- sixty-five hundred dollars worth.

The watches disappeared -- also the supposed to be ex-G.I. Which brings the story to an end -- Simpson picked

CRIME - 4

up by the Police.

At first he tried to hide his part in the jail-break and aerial getaway. But now he has come through with the truth -- the former Army pilot who applied his Air Force flying experience to a career of crime.

And now Hugh, what from you?