

L.T. - SUNOCO. FRIDAY. OCT. 26. 1945.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

I am broadcasting from Easton, Pennsylvania tonight, from a banquet table. The occasion, the inauguration of a new President of one of the great colleges of America, named after the Marquis d'Lafayette. Lafayette himself presented his own sword to Lafayette College. The new President installed here today is one of the ablest educators in the country - already with a top reputation, as President of Washington and Jefferson. Generals, admirals - I'll refer to one of them later - some of the nation's business leaders, like Thomas J. Watson, who is sitting beside me, and four or five hundred presidents and representatives of other colleges and universities, are here; sitting around us at this banquet table. One of them, President Bob Johnson of

Temple, has asked me to say that his city, Philadelphia, hopes to become the permanent home of the United Nations secretariate, council and assembly. Bob Johnson used to be the second baseman on my ball team, the Nine Old Men, so for him, and for Sunoco sponsors I'll put in a boost for Philadelphia. The decision is going to be made soon on whether Philadelphia will get it, or San Francisco, or Hyde Park, or some other place. Why not Easton, President Hutchison? As I mentioned night before last, the United Nations is looking for a general secretary, and perhaps you could handle that assignment as well as be the new President of Lafayette.

And now the news of the world, as it has been coming in to me over a special wire here at Easton.

Labor

The latest about Labor is the prospect of a strike vote in the world of steel. CIO President ~~Philip~~ Murray announced late this afternoon that the steel workers unions will request a strike vote, in accordance with the provisions of the Smith-Connally act. The vote will be taken among seven hundred thousand workers in the steel, aluminum, ^{and} iron ~~and~~ ore industries to back a demand for a wage increase of two dollars a day.

The strike vote in the automobile plants of Chrysler has resulted in a twenty to one majority - - ^{the} a majority favoring a strike. So now the Chrysler employees join with the workers of General Motors in authorizing the automobile union to call the men out -- ^{to} enforcing a wage raise, a thirty percent boost.

Negotiations between General Motors and the Union were renewed today - - with the Union demanding quick action.

Bevin

In the London House of Commons today, the Foreign Secretary of the Labor Government painted a sombre picture of prospects in Europe. And Ernest Bevin placed a large share of the blame for evil conditions on Soviet Russia.

The Foreign Secretary foresees approaching disaster on the continent, a disaster of famine. "Hunger and privation," said he, "may bring further human loss to Europe more devastating than guns - or even the atomic bomb."

He indicates that Russia is to blame, because of the regional system imposed by the Soviets. Areas occupied by the Soviets are cut off from other sections. So the inland waterway system of Europe is blocked - and that waterway system is necessary for the transport of food.

Moreover, the layout in Europe is such that the manufacturing parts of the west depend on the countries of eastern Europe for food - like Poland, Hungary, Eastern Germany. Those eastern areas are in Soviet control, and the surplus food supplies they produce are cut off. That leaves it up to Great Britain and the United States to feed the people in the sectors they occupy.

Bevin pointed out that Congress in Washington has before it proposals to allot one billion, eight hundred million dollars for food to be distributed by UNRRA . He said that if this huge fund is not provided, UNRRA will break down - with utter disaster for Europe.

that Stalin is ill.

There have been insistent reports about the health of the Soviet Premier. It has been said that Stalin showed signs of physical failure at the Potsdam Conference of the Big Three, and it is noticed that he has been absent from Moscow for weeks. Reports of his ill health, while common in the outside world, have not been published in Russia - not a word said.

The Moscow censor, however, has permitted some references to the rumors to be made in word sent out of Russia, and today's Herald from the Soviet capital states that Stalin is in good health at a vacation resort on the Black Sea, where he spent some time ago.

Stalin

a dispatch from Moscow states that Stalin is expected to review a Red army parade in Moscow on November seventh, anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution. This is attributed to what are called "reliable sources," and ~~it is~~ obviously intended to counteract rumors that Stalin is ill.

There have been insistent reports about the health of the Soviet Generalissimo - not so good. It had been said that Stalin showed signs of physical failure at the Potsdam Conference of the Big Three, and it is noticed that he has been absent from Moscow for weeks. Reports of his ill health, while current in the outside world, have not been published in Russia - not a word said.

The Moscow Censor, however, has permitted some reference to the rumors to be made in word sent out of Russia, and today's dispatch from the Soviet capital states that Stalin is in good health at a vacation resort on the Black Sea, where he went some time ago.

Finland

Finland announces that the Soviets have hiked the amount of the war indemnity that Finland is required to pay Russia, a boost to the tune of sixteen and a half million dollars.

The northern republic, as a result of taking part in the losing war of the Nazis, agreed to pay a fifty million dollar indemnity to the Soviets. And now Moscow has hiked the figure to sixty-six million, five hundred thousand dollars.

This was stated in Stockholm by a Finnish representative who is on his way to the United States ^{to try and} ~~to~~ ^{another} ~~to~~ arrange a loan for Finland.

Well, in the days before the war, Finland was famous for paying her debts, the only nation who has always put the money on the line. That would seem to make the credit of Finland okay - although it looks as if money lent to the Finns would go to the Soviets.

Japan

The surprising feature in the news from Japan is the mention of two and a half million dollars worth of radium . This comes along with word of other American seizures of treasure stolen by the Japs. Macarthur's troops, for example, took over hidden gold and silver boullion to the amount of five and a half million dollars. That is the usual sort of thing - but radium is exceptional , surprising.

We are told that the radium belonged to ozechslovakia.

So how did the Japs get hold of it The story ^{is} this: - Way back in Nineteen Thirty, Japan needed radium, for hospital use, and got a supply of it from ozechoslovakia - on loan; apparently a charitable proposition. When the Nazis seized ozechslovakia, they confiscated the ozechslov_ak radium in Japan. They told Tokyo that now it was theirs.

And ^{the} Japs agreed to this - the radium seized today being found in the vaults of the German Consulate at Osaka.

Meanwhile, General Macarthur has issued another order to the Tokyo government - decreeing the immediate confiscation of all weapons possessed by Japanese civilians. The order includes firearms, explosives, knives, swords. The only weapons the Japs will be permitted to retain are guns and knives used by hunters, also artobjects and museum pieces.

Indo-china

Fighting is still going on in Indo-China, with Annamite Nationalists in battle against the French authorities. From Saigon we hear of a heavy assault against British Indian troops, who are cooperating with the French. The Annamites assailed the British column with such strength that reinforcements had to be brought up - Indian troops blasting against the insurgents with mortars.

At another place, an advancing French armored division, using American Lend-Lease equipment, was stopped by roadblocks, and heavy fighting ensued before the barricades could be forced.

These are merely typical of a whole series of clashes reported at various places in Indo-China.

British Storm

The south coast of Britain is having what seems like a repetition of the war, like the blitz and bombing all over again. Thundering detonations along the shore, roaring blasts of high explosive.

It's all because of the storm, the isle of Britain enduring one of the most violent tempests in its history. The news has been telling us how the wild gale and heavy seas have been breaking loose floating mines, these drifting on to the shore, some of them exploding.

And
That was at its climax today - the fourth day of the storm.

In the sector of Brighton and Folkestone, explosions have created widespread damage, houses hit and windows shattered. A wide belt along the coast ~~is~~ strewn with broken glass and other debris.

And explosions are booming out of the Channel, indicating that mines, not swept ashore, were blowing up, battered and detonated by the raging sea.

Scores of ships off the coast are trying to ride out the gale - with forty gathered off Deal in the Straits of Dover. In the crowd of ships, there are some that drag their anchors and go drifting down against the others.

The United States hospital ship John H Meany,

British Storm -2

a ten thousand tonner, had a narrow escape when it dragged its anchor for a mile down a line of ships tossing in the storm. The hospital ship succeeded in getting a secure anchorage, but then a new blast of weather sent it drifting again - narrowly escaping a collision with a Norwegian tanker.

However, the great storm seems to be coming to an end. The rain and the heavy overcast of clouds are breaking, although the wind is as wild as ever, ^{- even in London.} ~~Today's dispatch from Britain states "The sun is shining on London, but fierce gusts of wind are making difficult"~~

GENERAL GROVES

The man who played the central role in the development of the atomic bomb, that is, he had the overall job of directing the whole thing for the Army, is sitting beside me - Major General Groves. I often wondered what kind of special training, or special mind, a man must have in order to handle the biggest industrial and scientific job of the whole war, the creation of the atomic bomb that played an overwhelming part in bringing the war to an abrupt end. Now ~~that~~ I have at least a partial explanation. General Groves of atomic bomb fame is the man who built the Pentagon, the biggest and most baffling building in the world.

After building the Pentagon, General Groves, reaching out for new worlds to conquer, built the atomic bomb. And there are some who say they wish he would combine his two masterpieces -- that is, drop an atomic bomb on the Pentagon - but not on its inmates. The

General has been telling us about atomic power, much of which he has said before. He thinks we definitely are entering a new age, the age of atomic power, but that it will be many years before it will become a factor in industry.

Here is one striking statement General Groves made today: "We are now confronted," said he, "with the possibility that even a small third rate power could reduce a mighty industrial nation to helplessness with a relatively small number of atomic bombs."

But he has faith that atomic power will be developed, henceforth, not for human destruction, but for human welfare.

As to whether we should give the secrets of the atomic bomb to other nations on that question General Groves is not willing to be quoted.

Palestine

London tells us that Prime Minister Attlee is going to inform the House of Commons within the next few days that he has reached an agreement with President Truman on a policy concerning Palestine. President Truman, as we know, has strongly urged the British to modify their White Paper, which severely restricts the entrance of Jews into Palestine, and to permit a greater immigration.

At the same time, we hear that Ibn Saud, the Arabian king, has informed an American representative that he is prepared to retaliate against American support of Zionism. Ibn Saud is reported to have stated that he will cancel American oil concessions in Arabia, if the American President continues, what Ibn Saud calls - "his anti-Arab stand." And at Cairo, Arab leaders predicted that Ibn Saud might go so far as to break diplomatic relations with the United States.

In London, meanwhile, the influential magazine Economist, states that, while President Truman has asked the British government to admit more immigrants into Palestine, he has refused to risk the possibility that American troops might be involved in trouble with the Arabs.

Ley

Here's a striking late story!—

Earlier in the day the news stated that, in committing suicide, Robert Ley, the one-time Nazi Labor chief, had left a political testament. This, we were told, was an amazing document - and now we have it, brought by the late news this evening.

Before he hanged himself in his cell, Robert Ley wrote what he called a message to the German People. And in this he talked of that arch vice of the Nazis - anti-Semitism.

"Only a few weeks ago," he wrote, "I would not have dared to touch the subject of anti-Semitism. Today it is entirely clear to me. I am possessed by this idea."

The idea he expressed as follows:

"We have forsaken God, and therefore we are forsaken by God. Anti-Semitism distorted our outlook, and we made great errors. We Nazis, the one time Hitler big shot went on, "must have the courage to rid ourselves of anti-Semitism. We must tell our youth it was a mistake."

Whereupon Ley went on to outline a program for ending anti-Semitism in Germany. This - to include the formation of a joint board of Jews and anti-Semites who would be, in Ley's words "honestly

prepared to find conditions under which Jews and Germans could live together."

It is perhaps a significant thing for psychology that so notorious a Nazi as Hitler's labor chief should have experienced an intense revulsion against a cardinal crime of Nazism. So much so that, before killing himself, he devoted his thoughts to ways of cleansing Germany of the anti-Semitism that he and his ilk had done so much to foster.

And s-l-u-Monday