

The Stalin funeral produced a disturbance in West Berlin today - when a crowd burned a flag of mourning. The Reds clamped on a blockade of four and a half hours, stopping all traffic between Eastern and Western sectors of the city, in honor of the Stalin obsequies in Moscow. West Berliners were irked - and the crowd attacked the headquarters of Communist newspapers, where they burned the flag of mourning.

STALIN

At Stalin's funeral the most important event was -- the oratory. ^{All of which} ~~That~~ is, important for any sort of guess, ^{as to} what the new regime may mean for the world. The funeral oration was given by ^{Georgie} Malenkov who succeeds his master as Premier. Of course, he eulogized Stalin to the skies - hailing him along with Marx, ^Engles and Lenin as an inspired apostle of Communism. But then Malenkov went on to foreign policy. And indicated Stalin's policy would be followed - that recently proclaimed policy, which Malenkov himself announced at the Moscow Congress of the Communist Party some weeks ago. Today, he repeated the contention that the Communist world could live at peace with the West, indicating that a Third World War was not inevitable.

But, in that funeral oration today, there was a moodier aspect - which must have occurred to old-time Communists in Moscow, who remembered back nearly thirty years. At Lenin's funeral in Nineteen twenty-four, it was Stalin who delivered the oration.

which was a surprise -- and highly significant. You would have thought that the funeral oration for Lenin would have been delivered by the Number One Bolshevik at the time - and that was not Stalin. It was Trotsky. He had been Lenin's partner in the days when the Bolshevik leadership had been called -- Lenin and Trotsky. So Trotsky might have been expected to preside over Lenin's funeral - but no. He always claimed he was tricked - tricked by Stalin.

At the time when Lenin died, Trotsky was at a resort in ^{the} far-off Caucasus. For his health. - But he could have got back to Moscow in time for the funeral, in time to preside with an eloquent oration.

And
/ Trotsky was a master of eloquence. He put in a telephone call to Moscow, and got Stalin on the wire -- and Stalin told him, falsely, that the funeral ~~would~~ would be held before Trotsky could possibly return. So that's how Trotsky was tricked out of his great opportunity to assert himself as the Number One Bolshevik - tricked by Stalin, who seized the

opportunity for himself. Such, at least, was the story that Leon Trotsky always told.

The Moscow funeral rites today were a contrast of silence and noise. Ever since the death of Stalin was announced. Immense throngs had passed by the bier on which he lay in ~~the~~ State. Dense lines of people stretching for miles through Moscow streets.

Today, top leaders of the Soviet union, headed by Malenkov, were pallbearers - as the mortal remains of Stalin were carried to Red Square, to be placed beside Lenin in that tomb which is a sort of Holy shrine for Communist worship. Red Square - thronged with dignitaries, delegations of Red leaders from everywhere behind the Iron Curtain. And, the Diplomatic Corps of the West.

As the body of the dictator was carried into the Masoleum, there was a tremendous thunder of guns. Massed bands blared the Soviet anthem. Then - dead silence. For five minutes, there was ~~it~~ neither sound nor movement. Traffic stopped everywhere. All

work, all activity, came to a halt. Then, after the five minutes, there was new pandemonium -- whistles and sirens shrieking, at all factories, on trains, on ships. Three minutes of that, an ear-splitting farewell to Stalin.

So those are the final honors paid by the world of Communism - to the despot worshipped as a veritable ~~God~~ God. It's almost inconceivable to people of the West - the way fulsome honors were lavished, grossly, shamelessly, on ~~was~~ the all-powerful Master of Communism who had exterminated his enemies.

Here's a strange example of that Stalin worship. Something that I read recently.



SOVIET LITERATURE

I've had occasion, previously, to mention - what is referred to as "The Third Program" on B.B.C. That is, the highly intellectual series of lectures and concerts put on by the British Broadcasting Corporation. For example, one is on "Post-war Soviet Literature."

The British critic, Ernest Simmons, tells of a play produced in Moscow recently, called - "Candidate of the Party". A Soviet smash hit. The final scene - bringing down the house.

In that climax, the hero and heroine are seen on a terrace - and its a beautiful night. "The couple" writes the British critic, "sip their wine - and talk to the soft strains of a waltz, in a situation that is romantic, and in an atmosphere that is vibrant with love."

The eager heroine asks the leading question: "Tell me, do you ever have a sacred day dream", do you know what I mean? Something fantastic, something

unattainable, something that you do not wish to forget?"

The hero answers: "I do. I would like to talk with Comrade Stalin."

That brought down the house in Moscow. It would bring it down - in a roar of laughter almost anywhere. But in Moscow wild ~~at~~ applause.

CHINA

Chinese Nationalists have made their first raid against the Reds on the Mainland - since President Eisenhower issued his order, giving the Nationalists complete liberty of action. A Naval raid against the port of Swatow, ⁱⁿ South China, Nationalist gunboats shooting up Communist vessels, capturing one.

They brought back prisoners, who give the information - that two U.S. naval airmen are prisoners of the Communists. Two of eleven - reported missing after a patrol bomber was shot down off the China coast, January Eighteenth. There is no word about the other nine.

One prisoner declares that the two American fliers, picked up by the Reds were taken to Swatow - where they were compelled to march in an anti-American parade. They are now said to be at Canton.

The raid was based on the island of Quemoy, which is a scene of constant hostilities. Quemoy, held by the nationalists, is so near the mainland that artillery duels can be fought - between the island

and the Red port of Amoy.

INVESTIGATION

Congressman Velde of Illinois says - there will be an investigation of Communism in the churches of the nation. As Chairman of the Committee on Un-American activities, the Congressman explains that the churches, themselves, will not be subject to inquiry. Only individual clergymen - who, says Velde, appear to concern themselves more with politics than with religion. He notes that some clergymen have attacked the current investigation of Red influences in American colleges. But adds - that they will not be investigated merely in retaliation. He points out that there has long been talk of Communist penetration of churches.

RESOLUTION

Senator Taft says the Republican leaders are now reconsidering President Eisenhower's resolution ~~is~~ condemning the Soviets for treaty violation. The declaration got all snarled up, when Republicans, who wanted to make it stronger, tacked on an amendment - saying that the U.S. does not necessarily recognize the validity of war-time agreements with Soviet Russia, the Yalta Pact, for example. Congressional Democrats took that as ~~xxxxx~~ a slap at the late President Franklin D. Roosevelt and at ex-President Truman. They were all for the original Eisenhower resolution, but against the amendment; so now Senator Taft says the G O P leaders are considering what he calls -A"completely different approach". He doesn't say what - but, obviously, it is an attempt to avoid a battle in the Senate.

SUPREME COURT

The Supreme Court handed down a ruling today - on the subject of "feather bedding". That is, the union practice of making employers hire workers, whether they need them or not. Two cases were up before the court, with employers charging that the "feather bedding" to which they were subject, was contrary to the Taft-Hartley Law. But the high tribunal ruled against them. Holding - that the Taft-Hartley Law applies to cases where no work is performed by the "feather bedders".

In one instance, a theatre at Akron, Ohio, protested because it had to employ more musicians than it needed. In the other, newspapers complained about "bogus" type. That is, printers kept on the job, setting a lot of useless type, just to keep working. The Supreme Court decision - by a vote of ^{to} ~~sixty~~-three holds that such "feather bedding" is not illegal.

FIRE

Wilmington, North Carolina had a huge fire today, when flames, whipped by a high wind, swept raging along the waterfront. Six great warehouses destroyed, others damaged. *For a time* ~~At last reports~~, three firemen were missing - after explosions of chemicals, shattered buildings, and hurled ~~in~~ debris far and wide. *Later they reappeared - having fought their way out.*

A million dollar disaster at Wilmington, and it would have been worse - except for ^a sudden change of wind. Firemen were ready to blow up a whole area of buildings in the path of ^{the} tempest of ~~the~~ flames - when suddenly, the direction of the gale changed, and blew the fire off into another direction, where little damage was to be done.

SPORTS

I'm in California tonight, and find a buzz of interest in sports at Los Angeles. Racing fans are talking about -- Eddie Arcaro. Who, over the weekend, performed an exploit never achieved before. The champion of riders captured Number Four of the Big Four, when he rode "Intent" for a win in the one hundred thousand dollar San Juan Capistrano Handicap. There were four One Hundred Thousand Dollar races at the Santa Anita Track, and Arcaro won all four -- for a grand slam. Whereupon the sportswriters voted him the honors -- as Number One jockey at Santa Anita this year.

Baseball fans at Los Angeles are wondering how the Angels managed to lose an exhibition game with the St. Louis Browns. They hit the Brownie pitchers ~~at~~ all over the place, including the legendary Satchel Paige. They got six hits off that grandpappy of pitchers in the first three innings, and lashed out another half a dozen hits, thereafter. But were about

able to score only one run. Losing - five to one! How do you manage to leave so many men on bases? The fans are asking the Angels!

The number one interest in baseball out here in the land of golden sunshine is -- a team from Japan. The Tokyo Giants won the championship, over there across the Pacific -- and Los Angeles knows the reason why. The Japanese Giants, consisting of little men from Nippon beat the Hollywood stars -- two to nothing. Pitcher Fuji Moto was invincible. The Stars got a few hits off him -- but, couldn't score.

However, the thing that struck the imagination of the baseball fans was the way the Tokyo team won the game. They went eight-and-two thirds innings without a hit. It looked like a no-hit game for the Hollywood pitchers. Then the speedy Japanese broke loose right at the tail end of the ninth. One got on base, through an error. Then second baseman Shigeru Chiba hit a double. After which outfielder Kazuo

Higasa slammed another two-bagger -- and that was the game.

All of which recalls the old story of how, long ago, the Japanese took to baseball. Even in all of the bitterness of war, they still played the American national game. We recall how during the first bombing of Tokyo, General Jimmy Doolittle's airmen spotted a Japanese baseball game going on, as they flew in to bomb the enemy capital. The Japanese were playing ball then, and they still are -- as the Hollywood Stars now can testify. And now our Ivory Star.

ROME

There were disturbances in Rome today - when crowds of young Fascists staged a protest against a bombing at the ~~xxxxx~~ disputed seaport of Trieste. Yesterday, there was an explosion at the headquarters of the Fascist Party at Trieste, at which several were injured. The mobs in Rome shouted Fascist slogans today, and stoned the offices of a Communist newspaper. Which led to fights between the Reds and the fascists.

In other parts of the Eternal City, just for variety, Communist unions staged a brief strike, in honor of the funeral of Stalin.