

**LEAD**

L.I. - P. + S. *Friday, Sept. 10, 1948.*

Republican candidate Governor Dewey was in conference with Republican Senator Vandenberg today -- and that may sound like political news of the election campaign. But it isn't. Governor Dewey summoned Vandenberg, as the Republican Congressional leader in foreign ~~and~~ policy, together with John Foster Dulles, to discuss the new turn for the worse of the international crisis. This -- following the shooting in Berlin yesterday, when a hail of bullets from the Soviet ~~and~~ zone was fired into an anti-Communist demonstration in the British zone.

Today in London, the British cabinet had an emergency meeting, and now the latest -- the Dewey-Vandenberg-Dulles discussion in New York. They were conferring on the Republican attitude, as this new climax of international crisis rises amid the ~~and~~ turmoil of our own election. The President, who is also a candidate, ~~for President~~ is in command of our foreign policy. But the Republican view is also ~~and~~ important - obviously. So what comes out of the

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Dewey conference?

Senator Vandenberg <sup>gives us this tonight</sup> ~~states the fact~~ in the following important words: "We serve notice on the world, ~~he announces~~ that America is united to protect American rights everywhere. It is of the greatest importance," he ~~goes~~ <sup>goes</sup> on, "that other nations, which do not understand our political system, should not be misled by our political campaign at home."

¶ In other words, the two contending political parties in the heat of an election battle, are united in the face of other nations - "regardless of political differences at home," <sup>sen.</sup> says Vandenberg <sup>speaking</sup> for Gov. Dewey and top figures of the Republican party.

## BERLIN

A train passed through the Berlin blockade today -- and that's a puzzle which the Saxian Western Allies over there are trying to figure out. It was a Russian train, which rolled west from the Soviet zone and passed on through. <sup>¶</sup> The curious point is this:— All along the Soviets have based the ~~us~~ food blockade on the pretext that the rail lines were out of order -- west of Berlin -- the tracks running through Soviet territory. That has been their ~~an~~ excuse for stopping all western traffic out of Berlin for months. Yet suddenly today, a Soviet train went speeding through the British zone, and along those tracks to the West. <sup>¶</sup> In that way, the Russians said in effect -- that the tracks were okay. Talking in practical terms of a railroad train, that's the implication.. So, does it mean that the Russians are now ready to raise the blockade, having ~~an~~ given such graphic evidence that the railroad tracks ~~were~~ <sup>are</sup> in such good shape? In Berlin, officials of the Western powers are trying to figure that out tonight.

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The French Assembly tonight gave a vote of confidence to new Premier Queille. This as a pitched battle was fought outside the Chamber of Deputies. Communists in a clash with armed Republican guards. ~~xxxxnight~~ So amid scenes of turmoil France has solved its political riddle -- which for the moment at least.

The new Premier, in trying to form a middle of the road government, told the legislators that he would have to have a majority, — immediately — to save France from chaos. He got his ~~major~~ majority, after bitter rangling inside the Chamber while rioting went on outside.

## INDIA SUBSTITUTE

In Paris tonight representatives of the princely State of Hyderabad appealed to the United Nations to act in their country's ~~an~~ dispute with the Dominion of India. This following an announcement by Indian Prime Minister Nehru that he is sending Indian troops into Hyderabad -- even if it means war.

Earlier today we heard that his exalted Excellency the Nizam of Hyderabad had requested President Truman to arrange a truce. The <sup>President</sup> ~~Nizam~~ of the United States asked to negotiate for a settlement out there in the land of weird customs and fantastic Gods. A quarrel between the Nizam of Hyderabad reported to be the richest man in the world, and the young Dominion of ancient India.

President Truman said he could not offer mediation - not unless ~~his good officers are~~ requested by the Dominion of India as well as by the Nizam;-- so Hyderabad appeals to the United Nations.

## LEAD SUPERSONIC

The man who has flown faster than any other human being, Captain Charles Yeager, is sitting beside me tonight. He's the one you've been hearing so much about lately, since the Air Force finally released the word that man at last had broken through what is called "the supersonic wall" -- faster than sound. I've told about him, so has every other news man on the air. And the press has been full of it. Tonight I have asked him to join me, because I just happened to meet him, and I found that he was free for a few days, waiting to pick up another mystery rocket ship like the Bell X One in which he outstripped sound.

Today an Air Force Public Relations officer, at Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio, phoned me that Captain Yeager had just taken off to fly from Dayton to New York, to join me. A few minutes later the phone rang again and it was the operations officer at Stewart Field, West Point saying that Captain Yeager had arrived. He had flown one third of the way

across the continent at thirty-five thousand feet, on instruments all the way. <sup>↑</sup> Before I get the Captain to answer a question or two I'd like to go back to the summer of Nineteen Forty-five -- flying across the Pacific. I was with General Arnold; and <sup>we</sup> we winged our way from Asia to America, the then Chief of the Air Forces told me ~~of~~ some of the things that he thought were going to happen in the realm of aviation before many years passed. Most important of all -- to fly faster than sound. General Arnold explained to me that in the air there is a barrier, a virtual wall, when you reach the limit of the speed of sound -- the ~~supersonic~~ wall. Airmen wondered whether a plane would fly to bits because of the mysterious waves when you reach that ~~supersonic~~ wall.

You may remember that a young airman, DeHavilland, tried to <sup>reach</sup> ~~cross~~ the supersonic ~~realm~~, <sup>beyond the wall.</sup> Only small bits of his plane were found. <sup>Nothing of him.</sup>

At any rate, the first man to make it and live was Captain Yeager who is here with me.

The Captain is twenty-five years old. He entered the Air Force seven years ago as a private. As a pilot he flew P-51s in Europe -- sixty-three missions, thirteen German planes shot down. ~~He got~~ Five Messerschmitts 109s on one mission, and four Focke-Wolf 190s on another. So he ended the war with plenty of honors. But apparently not enough. For since then, he has achieved one of the milestones in the history of aviation, the piercing of the supersonic wall -- *thru into the supersonic,* in a rocket plane. Even now it's a hush hush story. But, Captain Yeager, I understand you broke several other records at the same time. What was the fastest that man had flown previously?

CAPT. Y.: Six hundred and fifty miles an hour, in a Douglas Skystreak. That was Major Carl of the U.S. Marines in August Nineteen Forty-Seven.

L.T. You exceeded that, I know. But how much faster did you go?



CAPT. Y.: Much faster.

L. T.: That's one of the secrets for the present. And then, you flew higher than any man had ever flown. What was the previous altitude record?

CAPT. Y.: Fifty-nine thousand, four hundred and ninety eight feet. A British pilot made that in a plane called a Vampire Jet, six months ago.

L. T.: And you exceeded that terrific altitude -- by how much?

CAPT. Y.: Much higher.

L. T.: We've read how you told about being nearer the sun, so much so that it seemed only a few feet away, of how in the rarified air the color of the world changed, until all around you there was nothing but purple, and with the stars shining brightly right in mid-day. But, Captain you haven't told what your own reaction was, what happened to you, and your plane, when you broke through the supersonic wall.

CAPT. Y.: And the reason that I haven't told is that it is still a secret. But, I can say this: Aviation engineers now know it will soon be possible for man to fly at speeds of ~~2~~ thousand miles an hour or perhaps ~~2~~ thousand miles an hour -- in the fairly near future.

L. T. That would mean flying around the world in ~~twenty~~<sup>12</sup> four hours or less.

*Medical insert here.*

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## SUPERSONIC

The news this evening brings us another strange twist in the realm of ultra-modern science and world affairs. We've become accustomed to hear about the weird effects of radio-active energies in connection with the atomic bomb, radiation that's deadly, on the one hand, and beneficial-medicine on the other. So now the same thing comes along in the case of ~~jet-flying~~ human beings travelling at supersonic speeds, faster than sound.

~~That is the more interesting for this program tonight, because here in the studio beside me is the first man to fly as fast as the waves of sound-Captain Charles Yaeger who, in an Army jet plane, reached the realm of supersonic speed. So let's have the news story, and then ask Captain Yaeger about it.~~

This comes from a meeting of the American Congress of physical medicine in Washington, where a report was read today by Dr. ~~Julia~~ Herrick of Rochester, Minnesota, <sup>a</sup>~~associate~~ Professor of experimental medicine at the Mayo foundation, ~~she~~ who

spoke of supersonic irradiation. Meaning, that the pilot who flies faster than sound is in a realm of waves faster than sound irradiation.

The scientists <sup>seem to</sup> have been ~~xxxx~~ experimenting with these and have found medical angles, the use of supersonic irradiation in the diagnosis and treatment of disease. ~~One type of melody is mentioned, tumors reminding us how atomic materials are being used in the treatment of cancer.~~

The investigation indicates that airmen dealing with speed faster-than-sound have shown unusual symptoms. The associate professor of experimental medicine at the ~~Mxxx~~ Mayo Foundation states: "The medical profession will be confronted with patients suffering from supersonic irradiation." The report goes on to say that, if the faster-than-sound waves are in sufficient quantity, of sufficient energy, they may turn into what may be actually a death ray. This, in addition to the benign possibilities - supersonic irradiation as a valuable element in medicine.

So now let's ask Captain Yaeger about this.

What did he feel in that realm of supersonic irradiation? Or is that a part of the military secret too, Capt?

ADD SUPERSONIC

CAPT. Y.: Yes, it is a secret. But what you tell me about the report made by the Mayo scientist does excite my curiosity. I wonder where they get all this business about supersonic irradiation? I'd like to talk to them and find out if they really know what they are saying and where they got their information.

LoI.: At any rate, since the days of the Wright Brothers there have been a number of milestones in the history of aviation. But, I believe you, Captain Yeager have passed the most thrilling one of all, the first man to fly faster than sound, the first man to enter that new world beyond the supersonic wall.

## FOLLOW CAPTAIN YAEGER

Here's a coincidence. Late this afternoon, after I had arranged for Captain Yaeger to be on this program, along came a news story from London, giving a British pilot's experience at the speed of sound. He is Test Pilot John Derry, formerly of the R. A. F. who flew a British Jet, DeHavilland, and hit a sonic speed of more than seven hundred miles an hour.

He tells how, at high velocity, he went into a steep dive. "At that second," he relates, "I knew I had broken the barrier of sound.

Captain Yaeger and his air force colleagues supplied the British with information that made today's London announcement possible. British Engineers have been over here working with our experts for a year or more.

MELTON

Captain Yeager is going to play ball tomorrow with the Nine Old Men. The members of my team are getting so aged that I figured we needed some new blood. And who could be better than the young man who has travelled faster than anyone else on earth?

Our opponents are to be some of the members of the Veteran Motor Car Club of America, led by Opera Star James Melton. Jimmy now has his own Museum of ancient automobiles, on the outskirts of Norwalk, Connecticut, just off the Merritt Parkway.

MELTON

And tomorrow, Lowell, we are going to give Captain Yeager another thrill. Instead of going faster than sound, he's going to drive one of our ancient cars at the slowest speed man can travel in a power driven conveyance. There will be a parade, and Captain Yeager, the fastest human will be at the wheel, tearing along at two miles an hour.

L.T. Jimmy, you'll have to build a ball park just outside your museum ~~aka~~ so we can play our games there.



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MELTON: I'll do that right away when I go back  
to Norwalk.

And now back to T-Simma.

## LEAD CRISIS

~~The latest in the crisis is a new Soviet attempt~~  
*Meanwhile what from Berlin?*  
~~to pressure the aerial food line. Today, the~~

(Russian Military Authorities <sup>these today</sup> ~~in Berlin~~ made demands for  
complicated information about <sup>our</sup> planes flying in the  
air lift.

*Demanding*  
~~The Soviets require~~ most elaborate ~~facts and~~  
data about every one of one hundred transports landing  
and taking off at the Tempelhof Airdrome.) They  
presented a questionnaire to be filled in about each one,  
calling for what an American Air Force officer described  
as "An impossible fund of useless information."

(So what's the answer? A turn-down. (American  
Headquarters has rejected what is obviously a Soviet  
attempt to snarl the air lift in a hopeless maze of  
Red tape -- another nuisance move, apparently.)

Meanwhile, the Red Air Force was running sky ~~as~~  
manoeuvres over Berlin today -- and in the Corridors  
through which the food planes fly.

## CRISIS

The state of the crisis tonight is reflected by news from London -- which features physical maladies. The British Cabinet held a secret meeting today, to deliberate on the ominous events in Berlin. Prime Minister Attlee presided, leaving a hospital bed to do so. He is suffering from ~~various ailments~~ <sup>a stomach ailment</sup> and from exzema of the feet -- both of which are maladies that are likely to keep one from traveling around. But the Prime Minister was there for the Cabinet meeting, a reflection of how grave the British consider the crisis.

Today a spokesman for the foreign office gave out a statement concerning those events of yesterday -- the fusillade fired from the Soviet zone into an Anti-Communist demonstration of the British zone, following the tearing down of a Soviet flag. The British regard this as part of the chain of events which began with the storming of <sup>the</sup> Berlin City Hall <sup>by</sup> German Reds. He indicated the belief that the hail of gunfire from the Soviet zone came, ~~not~~ from Soviet soldiers, but from Communist German Police - this in spite of ~~the~~ →

*eye-witness* accounts that Red soldiers were shooting.

( We hear that British Foreign Secretary Bevin takes the view that, after the Red gunfire in Berlin yesterday, the Western Allies have now three alternatives. One - to call off the negotiations with Soviet Russia. Another - to go ahead with the negotiations as if nothing had happened. A third alternative would be a middle course of continuing the talks in Moscow, but requiring the Soviets to give satisfaction for this latest incident of Red violence. )