

L.I. - P. & S. Tuesday, Oct. 14, 1947.
Washington, D.C.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

I'm in Washington tonight, broadcasting from the Auditorium of the National Geographic Society -- surrounded by the latest maps of the world, ~~the~~ and pictures and objects brought back from the ends of the earth. ~~and~~ Before me an audience of geographers, explorers, world travellers, diplomats, soldiers, and men of science.

~~Surely an appropriate setting for a news broadcast, because today, our foreign correspondents keep us in almost hourly ~~the~~ contact with a large part of the planet. Geographic societies like this one have given invaluable help to all of us who ~~will~~ deal with the news. Every day I refer to maps that have been supplied to me by the Geographic Society.~~

But before I ^{say more about} ~~explain~~ why I happen to be here, let's take a look at the news that has been coming in:

PLANE

Tonight, out on the stormybeaten North Atlantic, a thriller of nerve-wracking suspense is being enacted - deadly peril in the mishap of an airliner that flew with the largest number of passengers ever to attempt the crossing of the Atlantic in an airplane. ^R A large old-fashioned flying boat is down, on the ocean, in a tempest, and they're trying to transfer the record number of passengers to a coast guard vessel.

The airliner took off from Ireland, bound for New York. The passengers, mostly British, immigrating to New homes, numbered sixty-two. There was a crew of seven - which gave a ^{total} ~~sum~~ of sixty-nine persons aboard. Never before had an airliner set out to carry so large a cargo of human lives across the ocean.

The trouble was because of weather - the crowded airliner running into violent headwinds, which slowed the speed so much that, eight hundred miles ^{out from} ~~east of~~ New Foundland, the gasoline supply was running out. It was impossible to go on. So the flying boat, with its record breaking number of passengers, was forced down on the ocean.

In the storm, heavy seas were running. Three miles away was a coast guard boat, a stationary weather ship - the only hope. The pilot started to taxi to the weather ship, a mighty long three miles for a big old flying boat in high running waves. But he made it, and that night have seemed to be the happy ending - but it wasn't. ~~the~~

Sheet 2 PLANE

The storm was now blowing so wildly, that it looked as if it would be impossible to transfer the sixty-nine passengers and crew from the plane to the coast guard vessel - not with waves running twenty-five to thirty-five feet high.

Peril deepened by the minute. The flying boat, having taxied the three mile trip through battering waves, was leaking now - a flying boat having no kind of staunch steel hull for riding out an oceanic storm. The water was rising on the big roomy cabin, where all those passengers were, threatening to drown them like rats in a trap. You can imagine the terror, the suspense.

In this predicament of desperation, the coast guardsmen aboard the weather ship went into action - risking their lives to get people out of the flying boat. It was impossible to bring the plane anything like alongside - the plane would have been dashed to pieces against the sides of the weather ship. So the coast guardsmen had to resort to small boats and life rafts, going out in these, with towering seas threatening to swamp them.

I cant tell the story better than by quoting a couple of bulletins from the weather ship, terse, intensely dramatic. One reads: "Darkness Approaching; plane leaking. Passengers mostly prostrated by sea sickness. Winds at gale force. Rough seas. Three persons removed unharmed with small life raft."

ADD PLANE (replace early adds)

3

Then the rescue became a thrilling drama of hope and menace, the heroic coastguard men fighting a battle against the growing storm and the increasing darkness. All the while, news by radio reporting the progress. In one message, the pilot of the flying boat stated that all sixty-nine persons were being transferred and that his ship was breaking up. Then a late bulletin, an official coastguard message -- thirty-four people transferred. The storm rising. Later, a voice broadcast from the coastguard cutter "Bibb" -- the voice of Captain Paul Cronk. This at eight p.m. Eastern Standard time: -- Darkness falling, forty-four people taken off the flying boat. Among the people saved, eleven children, two babies, eighteen men, and one woman still aboard. Another report told of ~~volunteer crews of~~ coastguards ^{men} rowing through lashing seas to the ~~great~~ flying boat, ^{the} "Bermuda Sky Queen" she is called, ~~gradually being battered to uselessness by the waves.~~

Then ^{the} ~~message over the air~~. Two rescue boats so badly damaged that they have to be abandoned, but the rescue workers proceeding, with brave men tugging at the cars, their boats being tossed like corks on the angry waves.

The ^{next} message, "three more trips will suffice to bring off all the passengers." Three more trips. And then a bulletin, a dramatic summing up, gales and darkness force heroic coastguard men to postpone until

Sheet 2 ADD PLANE (replace early adds)

dawn evacuation of the remaining people still aboard the flying boat.

4
Then the voice of Captain Cronk explaining that he and the flying boat's Captain Charles Martin of Miami had agreed to delay further rescue attempts because of the great danger of trying to reach the plane in darkness and because the cutter might roll against the flying boat and sink it.

And so tonight there are eighteen men and one woman in mid Atlantic, riding the storm in the crippled flying boat, waiting for the dawn and the final attempts at rescue, while two continents pray for their safety.

~~Note: Add on Lewis coming.~~

BULLET IN ADD PLANE

A radio message from the coastguard cutter -- "Radio communication with the plane is out. He is somewhat worse for wear. We are trying to communicate with him by blinker. If the worst happens, the people on board the plane will have to go overboard with their life jackets on and we will pick them up."

#

The subject of the verbal duel was the American proposal that the general assembly of the United Nations create an all-year-round committee, which they're calling a "little assembly." Its purpose would be to take up matters mentioned in the Security Committee. Things are often decided in the Security Committee -- by the Soviet vote. Today Malles brought forward the American suggestion, and Mallesky went in showing attack.

He denounced the proposal for a "little assembly" called it -- notorious. He said it was -- a joke. He accused the United States government of trying to get off an American dictatorship in the United Nations. All this was in the familiar sarcasm Mallesky uses, and he didn't fail to make it personal. Speaking of the American demand, Mallesky yelled: "It's the work of reactionary circles -- something which Mr. Malles should be quite familiar with."

UN

5
1
2

There was a verbal duel at the UN today, the duelists with words being Vishinsky and Dulles. Oddly assorted contestants -- Soviet Vishinsky, the savage prosecutor shouting for death at the Soviet purge trial, and John Foster Dulles, outstanding Republican spokesman on foreign affairs, and a foremost member of the Federal Council of Churches. Vishinsky, in his previous anti-American diatribes, has issued personal blasts against Dulles, accusing him of being one of those American warmongers. The oratorical styles of the two protagonists are completely dissimilar -- as was shown vividly today.

The subject of the verbal duel was the American proposal that the general Assembly of the United Nations create an all-year-round committee, which they're calling a "little assembly." Its purpose would be to take up matters deadlocked in the Security Committee. Things are often deadlocked in the Security Committee -- by the Soviet veto. Today Dulles brought forward the American suggestion, and Vishinsky arose in shouting attack.

6
1
4

He denounced the proposal for a "little assembly" called it -- notorious. He said it was -- "a farce." He accused the United States Government of trying to set up an American dictatorship in the United Nations. All this was in the familiar screaming Vishinsky vein, and he didn't fail to make it personal. Speaking of the American demand, Vishinsky yelled: "It's the work of reactionary circles -- something which Mr. Dulles should be quite familiar with."

So Dulles is not only a war-monger, but also a reactionary.

What retort did he make to the Soviet flaming fury? Well, John Foster Dulles is no ball of fire as an orator -- and his reply to Vishinsky consisted of quiet legalistic arguments in favor of the little Assembly idea, nothing personal, merely a calm appeal to reason.

##

The parties of the Left were combined in a single group, left wing socialists and the communists. They did slightly better than the Christian Democrats of moderate premier de Gasperi, the Catholic party.

However while the communists and their socialist friends were combined, the Christian Democrats were only one anti-communist party. There were half a dozen others. The Communist-Socialist coalition got one-third of the votes, the Christian Democrats one-third, and other anti-Communist parties one-third. It was significant still is the fact that the radical group didn't do quite as well as it did in the last election, less than a year ago. On the other hand, the Christian Democrats of premier De Gasperi virtually doubled their previous vote, gaining a hundred thousand ballots.

In Rome tonight, the communists and socialists, having slightly topped the Christian Democratic party all by itself, are claiming a victory. But Premier de Gasperi's

ITALY

Today brings the final count for yesterday's election in Rome, a battle of ballots in the Eternal City. Well, Rome has ^{had} many an exciting political contest, going back to the days when Caesar, Pompey and Cicero were elected consuls. The mere municipal affair of today, choosing members of the city council, has less historical grandeur, but it is much to the point in the news--because of the burning question of communism in Italy. The Reds always make their best showings in large cities--so how did they fare in the Italian capital and Metropolis?

The parties of the Left were combined in a single group, left wing socialists and the communists. They did slightly better than the Christian democrats of moderate premier de Gasperi, the Catholic party.

However while the communists and their socialist friends were combined, the Christian Democrats were only one anti-communist party. There were half a dozen others. The Communist-Socialist coalition got one-third of the votes, the Christian democrats one-third, and other anti-Communist parties one-third. ¹⁸ More significant still is the fact that the reddish group didn't do quite as well as it did in the last election, less than a year ago. On the other hand, the Christian Democrats of premier De Gasperi virtually doubled their previous vote, gaining a hundred thousand ballots.

In Rome tonight, the Communists and Socialists, having slightly topped the Christian Democratic party all by itself, are claiming a victory. But Premier De Gasperi's

moderate group will run things in Rome--and the city election is taken as an excellent omen for the anti-communists in the next national election.

†

...vice president, the A. F. of L. convention has suggested this measure to get around the provision of the Taft-Hartley Act which requires union officers to sign non-Communist affidavits. John L. Lewis' refusal to sign these affidavits is keeping nearly three hundred thousand federal workers from getting use of the services of the National Labor Relations Board. To avoid a deadlock on this important issue the executive council of the A. F. of L. proposed an amendment which would enable the federal unions to fulfill the requirements of the Taft-Hartley Act even though Lewis refused to sign the non-Communist affidavits. This amendment, however, deprived Lewis and Lewis' union officials of the title of vice president -- the A. F. of L. method of compromise. John L. Lewis however doesn't like the amendment. This afternoon he addressed the general assembly of the A. F. of L. delegates for over an hour, speaking and singing, pointing the speaker's routine. He called his fellow executive committee members "fat and mainly stupid" and refused to serve any longer on the A. F. of L. council. If the amendment is passed of course, he said he was following a matter of principle. "I will not be a candidate for election to this executive board," he stated. And then John L. thundered a demand, "I want our leaders to be the first to put their tails between their legs and run like devils before this vote is taken."

JOHN L. LEWIS

7

In San Francisco tonight, John L. Lewis threatened to walk out of the A F of L Executive Council, if the A F of L convention acts to strip John L. of the title of vice president. The A F of L convention has suggested this measure to get round the provision of the Taft-Hartley Act which requires union officers to sign those non-Communist affidavits. ~~John L.~~^{JP} Lewis' refusal to sign these affidavits is keeping nearly three hundred thousand federal workers from making use of the services of the National Labor Relations Board. To avoid a deadlock on this important issue the executive council of the A F of L proposed an amendment which would enable the federal unions to fulfill the requirements of the Taft-Hartley Act even though Lewis refuses to sign the non-Communist affidavits. This amendment, however, deprived Lewis and twelve other union officials of the title of vice president -- the A F of L's method of compromise. ^{JP} John L. Lewis however doesn't like the amendment. This afternoon he addressed the San Francisco audience of A F of L delegates for over an hour, sneering and rasping, pounding the speaker's rostrum. He called his fellow executive council members "fat and saintly asses" and refused to serve any longer on the A F of L council. If the amendment is passed of course. ^{JP} He said he was following a matter of principle. "I will not be a candidate for election to this debased board," he roared. And then John L. thundered a question, "are our leaders to be the first to put their tails between their legs and run like cravens before this act?" he asked.

8

sheet 2 JOHN L. LEWIS

Adding by continuing to tell the A F of L executive committee that if they took action on the amendment to meet with the terms of the Taft-Hartley Act, they would live to regret it. He described the amendment as smacking of Communist technique -- the technique of lying to escape responsibility. "If you want to run, all right," Lewis bellowed at the startled delegates. "But the organization I represent is not going to run with you."

Dan Tobin, the President of the A F of L Teamsters' Union opposed John L. Lewis' stand. Said Dan Tobin: "There is a certain legal procedure to change that law, and it is not revolution that will change it. The thing to do is to stay here and right the wrong and not pull out every time someone disagrees." Sober words in reply to Lewis' flaming accusations.

9
~~But the A F of L delegates were not calmed by the calm pronouncement of Dan Tobin.~~ A report from San Francisco tonight says that the convention is split into two factions, a frenzied debate in process. This debate heading into a night session when a vote will be taken on the proposal to compromise on the issue of the non-Communist affidavits. Excited delegates waiting to vote on this all-important issue, and John L. Lewis waiting to quit the A F of L Executive Council.

#

ADD JOHN L. LEWIS

And finally the vote was taken. The A F of L Executive Committee voting to amend its constitution to eliminate thirteen vice presidents -- voting to change the title of vice president to that of executive board member -- this to circumvent the non-Communist affidavit of the Taft-Hartley Act. It was a heavy slap at Lewis, a major defeat for the miners' leader.

Immediately after the vote, reporters flocked around Lewis asking him if he would carry out his threat of quitting. He stood up and said, with a dramatic flourish, "I made my statement up there on the platform." Then without another word, he stomped out of the convention hall surrounded by his grim-looking delegation of miners. John L. Lewis quitting the A F of L convention after being defeated by a majority vote.

##

10

EASTMAN CONTEST

To return to Washington for a moment. I am broadcasting from the auditorium of the National Geographic Society, because I was invited to act as a judge in a nation-wide newspaper contest, held this year for the first time since the war. Some seventy-six of the larger newspapers from coast to coast have been having their readers -- all Summer - send in snapshots they have taken. The whole thing is sponsored by the Eastman Kodak people of Rochester. The best of all the pictures, sent to all the newspapers, were brought here to Washington, and hung in Explorers Hall of the National Geographic Building; and today several of us did the final judging: Yousuf Karsch, the distinguished photographer, and myself. Some ten thousand dollars in prizes goes to the winner. In a day or so you probably will be seeing reproductions of the picture ~~of~~ that won the grand prize.

Among the eminent people sitting here with me tonight are Dr. Alexander Wetmore, head of the Smithsonian, General Oscar Solbert, of Eastman; and Gilbert H. Grosvenor, founder and head of the National Geographic

Society.

Every Time I think of Mr. Grosvenor I think of a rather wild airplane journey I made across a section of Central Asia. Hundreds of miles from nowhere, on the border between Tiber and inner-most China, we almost flew into a mountain, and when I studied my map to see what it might be lo and behold the name of that mountain turned out to be Gilbert K. Grosvenor.

MOUNTAIN

In broadcasting from the auditorium adjoining Explorers Hall here at the National Geographic Society it's appropriate to have one item of exploration in the news.

From the world of exploration, we have news of a record-breaking mountain. So on what continent does this tallest peak rear its towering summit into the sky? It doesn't. The record-breaking peak rears its towering summit in the water. That is, they've discovered the highest undersea mountain in the North Pacific, a submarine Alp that rises from the bottom of the ocean to a height of eleven thousand, five hundred feet. Hitherto, the loftiest in the North Pacific has been a mountain in the depths of the Gulf of Alaska.

The discovery was made by ship surveying the bottom of the sea far to the west of Seattle. Eight hundred miles from the American coast, their soundings showed a sudden dramatic rise, a steep slope shooting up -- an immense peak rising from the floor of the ocean.

A new achievement of exploration is always thrilling but in this case you may ask -- so what? So a lot of

things the answer would seem to be. The discovery of the tallest undersea peak in the North Pacific is rated as having all sorts of practical meanings. Seismologists, who study earth-quakes, point out that a year and a half ago a cataclysm that happened to a submarine mountain caused a disastrous tidal wave that swept to the Aleutians on one hand and Hawaii on the other. So a new under-water peak enters with plenty of significance into the calculations of the seismologists.

In the science of navigation, they point to the fact that new devices use under-water summits for guidance -- calling them sea marks, in contradistinction to land marks.

Sheet 2 Under Sea Mountain

In England trouble has arisen over the approaching
marriage of Princess Elizabeth - ^a *Fathom-ster* -
With a gadget called ^a Fathometer, ^a ships on the high seas
can find their way from one marine mountain to another,
from sea mark to sea mark--"just as navigators in the past
have used capes and lighthouses as landmarks," said one
navigation expert today.

Fishermen are interested too--because any place where
the floor of the ocean rises to within three hundred fathoms
of the surface-- that's fishing grounds. So the top of the
newly found mountain may provide a new source of bottom
fish, like halibut. Hence the fishing industries of ^{the} Pacific
North West are keenly interested in the discovery announced
today--thinking it may open ^r Halibut beds in the mid-pacific.

is now... and now they argue with a good deal of
logic that it's particularly ridiculous in the case of
Princess Elizabeth--she scheduled to be queen some day,
but her husband, Lieutenant Philip Mountbatten, will not
be king. He'll be known as Prince Consort--actually a
subject of the queen. So how can the queen have her
subject?

In which one might add that, in these days of constitutional
monarchy, the queen actually appoints the ministers of the
government--at top of which Elizabeth will take the marriage
vow to obey her husband also. It would be like a lot of
obedience for one woman, especially with the reputation
that would have for not obeying at all. Any married woman
will tell you that--except Helena,

56

PRINCESS

In England trouble has arisen over the approaching marriage of Princess Elizabeth. Complaint comes from feminists, who are led by Miss Marian Reeves, vice-chairman of the Suffragette fellowship. They still seem to have Suffragettes in England--although Suffrage^{now} is a long-time commonplace. So what are they complaining about? The feminist outcry is because of just one word -- obey.

57
The royal wedding will follow the traditional forms of the church of England, the wedding service according to the venerable book of common prayer, date--sixteen sixty-two. That calls for the archbishop of Canterbury to prescribe the vow to the bride in the age-old way--"love, honor and obey."

57 1/2
The feminists of England are much opposed to that word "obey" in any event; and now they argue with a good deal of logic that it's particularly ridiculous in the case of Princess Elizabeth--she scheduled to be queen some day, and but her husband, Lieutenant Philip Mountbatten, will not be king. He'll be known as Prince Consort--actually a subject of the queen. So how can the queen obey her subject?

To which one might add that, in these days of constitutional monarchy, the queen actually obeys the ministers of the government--on top of which Elizabeth will take the marriage vow to obey her husband also. It sounds like a lot of obedience for one woman, especially with the reputation that women have for not obeying at all. Any married man will tell you that--right, Melson,