

L.T. P. & G. TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 1948.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

There were sledge-hammer blows in Washington today -- two sledge-hammer blows. So what got hit? President Truman's political future, according to the Washington story. In one instance, the sledge-hammer was Southern -- Dixieland. The other blow fell in New York, and had to do with Palestine.

(Today in Washington, Senator Lister Hill of Alabama came out against the nomination of President Truman on the Democratic ticket)- and that was a reversal of the Senator's previous position. Only two weeks ago, Senator Hill announced himself as a candidate for delegate to the Democratic National Convention - a pro-Truman delegate, pledged to vote for the nomination of the President. Today, he is still running for the post of delegate, but now as an anti-Truman delegate.

In this reversal, (Senator Lister Hill follows the example of his

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colleague, Senator Sparkman - who four days ago declared against the President.) He too had previously been - pro-Truman.

In fact, during the rise of the Southern revolt because of the racial issue, the two Alabama Senators had been preachers of party unity - backing the President. Now both have bolted, ~~adding to the unanimity of the Nineteen Forty Eight Southern rebellion~~ adding <sup>to the</sup> ~~to~~ talk that the President may be dropped as the party candidate.

*- Southern rumors -*

( New rumors are ~~now~~ circulating that the Democratic Convention in Philadelphia may select another nominee: ~~More~~ mention of General Eisenhower. Which sounds curious - after Eisenhower so firmly declined all suggestion of the Republican nomination.) These new mentions of Eisenhower would seem to suggest that the General might perhaps turn out to be like the girl who, when a fond suitor proposes marriage, says - no, and vows she will never wed. Then, when another fond suitor pops the question, she blushes coyly and murmurs a demure acceptance. The picture seems hardly to fit the Commander of D-Day.

In New York, there are threats of ~~a~~ secession, based on the Jewish vote - which is exceedingly critical of the Administration Palestine policy - the reversal of the American stand in favor of partitioning <sup>and a</sup> ~~the~~ Jewish state. The focus of the ~~xx~~ revolt is in Brooklyn, with its large Jewish population.

~~A number of delegates chosen to represent New York State at the Democratic Convention are Jewish, and a number of others are from districts where Zionist feeling is intense. These~~

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Brooklyn district leaders have <sup>ing</sup> already repudiated the ~~Administration decision to abandon the partition plan and the establishment of a Jewish state in Palestine.~~ <sup>Administration</sup> In the ordinary course of events, New York Democracy would support automatically the nomination of President Truman. But now there are signs of an upheaval.

In the face of all this, what's the presidential attitude? Harry Truman is in the race to stay, and does not consider any idea of withdrawing. There was new evidence of this today in a statement by Senator Hatch of New Mexico,



a close friend of the President. He was at the White House,  
and talked about the rising Democratic revolt. Upon emerging,  
he said he had President Truman's word - in the race to stay.  
So that would seem to be that - in spite of the two  
sledge-hammer blows, one in the South because of the racial  
issue, and the other in New York City because of Palestine.



ZIONISTS FOLLOW LEAD

( In Jerusalem today, the Jewish provisional government made a decision.) This provisional government consists of a council named at the time when the United Nations plan for partition seemed to be a settled thing - and the Jewish leaders in Palestine went ahead with preparations for the Jewish state to be set up by the U.N. But now there has been a reversal on ~~the~~ partition. So what about that Zionist provisional government? <sup>H</sup> The leaders had an all-day meeting today in Jerusalem, and voted - to go ahead. They rejected the American proposal for a U.N. trusteeship instead of partition, and decided to proceed according to the original plan - as if there had been no reversal.) The provisional government announces that it will take over when the British lay down their mandate on May Fifteenth. ~~Today~~ They did not proclaim a Jewish state <sup>— not today -- that</sup> ~~which~~ may wait for the deadline date, May Fifteenth.

PALESTINE

~~the news~~ <sup>itself the news</sup> From Palestine today states the position of Irgun Zvai Leumi, the chief secret group of the Jewish underground. That formidable organization will reject any effort for a compromise on the subject of a Jewish state - "reject with violence", says the news dispatch. This

declaration was procured from a top leader of Irgun, ~~Zvai Leumi,~~ <sup>and</sup>

<sup>here's</sup> ~~and~~ the way it was obtained; ~~provides a vivid footnote to~~

~~emphasize the state of affairs, the tense atmosphere in Palestine.~~

A week ago, in the lobby of a hotel at Tel Aviv, United Press Correspondent Menno Duerksen was talking with a companion, and made the remark that he, as an American newspaperman, would like to meet a leader of Irgun. Nearby was a good-looking, well dressed young woman, who now approached and spoke to Duerksen. She had overheard his remark, and told him - "Wait a few days, you will hear from someone." The personable young woman was an agent of Irgun. ~~Zvai Leumi?~~

Duerksen waited, and nothing happened for a week.

During that time, he now understands, he was being watched and investigated - to make sure he was no. spy. Then a message was given to him, a message reading as follows: "You will station yourself in the hotel lobby with a copy of the Palestine Post in your hand. You will be approached by someone who will ask you for a match. You are to ask whether an American match will do."

The U.P. man kept this conspiratorial appointment, took his place at the appointed time in the lobby of the Tel Aviv Hotel, and presently up stepped a fashionably dressed young woman - not the same one as before, ~~with~~ another pulchritudinous emissary of the mysterious Jewish underground. Irgun ~~Zvai Leumi, with its exploits of dare-devil violence,~~ <sup>seems to go in for</sup> ~~seems to go in for~~ secret agents with abundant feminine charms.

The ~~man~~ young woman said to Duerksen, in courteous, well schooled English: "Have you a match?"

"Will an American match do?" he asked.

Whereupon she took him to a taxicab outside, which



drove through dark streets of the Tel Aviv suburbs - after which the girl led him afoot through back alleys to an inconspicuous house and into an apartment there.

He was welcomed by a young man, well dressed, scholarly, something like a junior professor. This was the high ranking leader of the mysterious Irgun Zvai Leumi.

They sat and talked, and the secret interview brought forth the statements that are in the news. The Irgun leader *declared* ~~stated~~ that the Zionist program for a Jewish state cannot be altered. "Present plans for Palestine," said he, "make a truce or compromise impossible. We must continue our battle." He summarized the position of Irgun by stating that any compromise, like the American suggestion of <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ trusteeship, instead of partition of the Jewish state - "will be rejected with violence."

~~The underground leader went on to deny the charge made by the Arabs - the charge that Irgun Zvai Leumi is Communist. He said there might be a few Communists in the~~

## GERMANY

The White House announces an abandonment of the plan to change the administration of the American occupation zone in Germany - change from military rule to civilian. Two months ago, we had the decision that the occupation now run by the Army, would be handed over to the State Department. But now that's out - the military administration will stay on the job -- because of the critical situation, with those recent Soviet moves to disrupt the joint Allied control in Berlin - the Soviets boycotting the four power council.

### BIG THREE

There's a prospect of a meeting of the Big Three - the Foreign Ministers of Great Britain, France and the United States. This is rumored in London and Paris - following the formation of the West European Union, the alliance of Great Britain, France, Holland, Belgium and Luxembourg against any aggression by Soviet Russia. The West European Union wants a guarantee from the United States - maybe an alliance, at least a promise of military supplies, such as we are giving to Greece and Turkey.

That sort of thing would be taken up by Bevin for Britain, Bidault for France, and Marshall for the U.S.A., in a meeting now rumored abroad.

Newsman took the matter to the State Department today. *W*ill there be any such meeting? The official reply says - maybe, yes! The State Department announces that there is no plan for a three power meeting, but the three nations will establish the closest consultation. However, it cannot



be determined at the moment whether or not such consultations will require a three-power meeting. In other and simpler words - maybe yes.

ITALY (retyped)

( Italy has rejected the proposal made by Jugoslavia - the offer to let Trieste go back to Italy, if the Italian city of Gorizia be handed over to Red Jugoslavia. ) The answer has now been given by Italian Foreign Minister Count Sforza. He turned down the notion of trading one Italian city for another - no deal with the Reds.

Following the decision there were violent riots in Trieste and Milan. The police used tear gas bombs to break up the disorders. A United Press messenger attacked by the angry crowd and denounced as "An American slave".

In Naples, more than ten thousand people paraded to acclaim the decision to restore ~~Trieste~~ Trieste to Italy - others shouting against the suggestion, dubbing it as "barter of Italian flesh for Italian flesh."

~~The~~ The crisis in Italy was the subject of a declaration by Governor Dewey of New York. As candidate for the Republican nomination, Tom Dewey criticized the administration for

Italy  
Dewey 2

confusions of foreign policy. He reviewed the international situation, and stated that Soviet Russia has sent money and weapons to the Reds in Italy, in an effort to establish Communist control --- win the election or stage a Red revolt.

Governor Dewey added that the same threat is being made in the north of Europe - pressure brought on Finland, to be followed apparently by a Soviet move in the direction of the Scandinavian peninsula.

Governor Dewey going on record on foreign policy.



## SPECULATION

It is admitted in Washington that speculators got inside information from a leak in the Department of Agriculture - and were able to clean up millions last autumn. This was stated by a Department official to a Congressional Committee today. He said that in September, the Department of Agriculture decided to raise export quotas on fats and oils. That secret decision was immediately followed by speculation, in which certain commodity gamblers made huge profits.

The official told the Committee that an investigation was made, an investigation which disclosed that somebody in the Department of Agriculture had talked about the export quota plan. That was the leak, with the information getting to the speculators. The official added that it is not known who it was that did the talking, who it was that sprung the leak.

## MINERS

President Truman has ~~just~~ intervened in the coal strike - establishing a Board of Inquiry. This follows the ~~XXXX~~ Union rejection of a government formula for settling the soft coal pension walk-out. ~~The suggestion was that the miners go back to work, while the Union negotiated with the Companies.~~

In rejecting the <sup>et</sup> Government proposal, the Union called it - "a grotesque offer." Which sounds a bit like John L. Lewis - the whole message of rejection having echoes of the stately phraseology favored by the Union chieftain famous for his voluminous eyebrows and basso profundo voice - big eyebrows, big voice, big words. The rejection features the solemn old-fashioned verb - dishonored. John L. Lewis, in claiming that the mine operators have broken a promise of pensions, fancies the phrase in his deepest basso profundo - "they have dishonored their contract."

Well, the romance writers of the Nineteenth Century used to <sup>fancy</sup> ~~feature~~ the word "dishonored" in telling of the perils that beset the path of beautiful womanhood - a fate worse than

death. So now we have John L. Lewis reviving that dark dramatic word in the coal mine strike. "They have dishonored their contract" - and, maybe for the contract, that's a fate worse than death.



Night Show  
March 23rd

RESCUE -1

At Woodland, Washington, this evening, the pilot of an Army C-47 transport plane, missing for two days, staggered into the local telephone exchange, supporting an injured companion. Hands frozen, so weak they could scarcely stand.

Major John Harding of Fairfield, California, and his crewman First-class Private John Belmonte of Boston, Mass, had refused to quit. Together, all the time in distress from shock and frost-bite, they travelled fourteen miles from where the plane crashed in the Cascade Range -- to report the accident, and direct help to the survivors marooned in the damaged plane.

Harding and Barnes were immediately taken to Barnes General Hospital at Vancouver, Washington, and placed under anaesthesia - to relieve their pain; while rescue crews were hurrying to the scene of the crash, way up, on the slopes of the Davis Peak, fifty miles northwest of Portland.

RESCUE -2

The arrival of Major Harding and his companion, came after a two day search for the missing plane, that disappeared after the Portland Airport Control tower received a radio word from the pilot that he was coming down from four thousand feet in a storm, and would attempt an instrument landing. After that no news - and today the pilot and crew were about given up for lost.

Three were killed in the crash. Major Harding and Private Belmonte decided to make an attempt to save the lives of the survivors. They set out, crawling and rolling down the snowy mountain. Finally they found a logging camp, where they told the story, and were brought out to Woodland.

ADD RESCUE

Late news is that a Coast Guard search party has reached the plane -- <sup>is six dead</sup> to find ~~six bodies~~ in the wreckage. Only three survivors <sup>made their way out</sup> including the ~~gallant~~ pair who ~~fought their way~~ to Woodland.



## WIDOW

At Bedford, Indiana, today, there was a situation famous in song and story -- mournful song, sad story. They auctioned off the widow's home.

At Bedford, Mrs. Donna Blevins is a young war widow, who makes twenty-five dollars a week in a clothing factory, <sup>and</sup> supports five small children. Her husband was a G.I. who died two years ago of an ailment he incurred while serving in the Army. He left his family a modest home, which he had inherited from his father -- and that home was the one great blessing for the widow and <sup>her</sup> ~~the~~ children. <sup>TP</sup> But there were taxes, which she couldn't pay -- not on twenty-five dollars a week, and supporting the five kids. Delinquent taxes piled up, and the law had to be observed. So today the home was put up at auction. <sup>TP</sup> A crowd of prospective buyers were there, bidding on various pieces of real estate, and among them was <sup>Mrs.</sup> Donna Blevins, worried to death, beset by the fear that she and her children would be evicted. She was a pitiful figure among the prospective buyers.

In her purse she had all her wealth, exactly fifteen dollars.

As the auction of her home began, City Auditor Donald Smith stepped up beside the auctioneer and announced: "This property is occupied by a war widow who is the mother of five children. She has very little income." <sup>R</sup> Whereupon the auctioneer rapped his gavel and went into his routine -- describing the home, a small but comfortable house with half an acre of land.

"What am I bid?" he demanded. To which he added, "I've got to point out that this is a public auction, and anyone can bid -- but it's the home of a young widow and her children. So what am I bid?"

There were no replies. The prospective purchasers of real estate were stricken silent.

Then up came a bid -- fifteen dollars. Mrs. Blevins raised her hand and cried - "I'll bid fifteen dollars." There were no other bids. The auctioneer banged his gavel louder than he had ever banged it before

and barked in a husky voice: "Sold to the lady for fifteen dollars." So, she got her home back. Well, Nelson --