

L.T. - SUNOCO. THURSDAY, JUNE 17, 1937.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

( The strike <sup>war</sup> has become a national emergency and today the President ordered the government to intervene on the grounds that the battle of steel is no longer a mere matter for the states to handle.) From the White House comes the command form a federal mediation board to investigate and try to bring about peace.

They say that until this morning President Roosevelt hoped that the steel strike would be settled through the offices of local authorities. He didn't think Washington would have to take a hand. But this morning to the White House came a message from Governor Davey of Ohio. That state is a critical battleground between the C.I.O. and the steel independents. Governor Davey told the President that all of his own efforts to mediate had failed; that the trike problem was beyond his own powers, beyond the ability of the state to handle. So he asked -- for federal intervention. "Let the national government step in."

That message, and other strike developments, caused the President to change his mind. He ordered Secretary of Labor Perkins to appoint a three-man mediation board. This, Miss Perkins immediately proceeded to do. The names are now announced -- Charles P. Taft, the Cincinnati publisher, who is a brother of the late President Taft, Lloyd K. Garrison, dean of the University of Wisconsin Law School, and Edward McGrady, Assistant Secretary of Labor, government number-one trouble shooter.

This three-man mediation committee is proceeding at once to Canton, Ohio. There it will plunge into a study of the strike situation, and with the pressure of Washington will try to persuade the C.I.O. and the companies to negotiate for peace.

This seems a good time to ask -- what's the steel strike all about? What's the bitterly drawn issue that has caused so much savage violence? In all the turbulent wrangling about oral contract and written contract, I have found a good

deal of mystery.

Today, I started inquiring, talked to people who should know, business men, newspaper men, various important people who are well informed about affairs. I was surprised to find how many of them said they didn't really know, didn't clearly understand what it was all about.

We've been hearing that the independent steel companies are willing to enter into an oral agreement with the C.I.O., verbal spoken words. But John Lewis and his C.I.O. want it in writing, in documentary form, signed and sealed. Well, what's the tremendous difference between oral and written? The companies have been saying that a written agreement would lead to a closed shop and a check-off. Check-off meaning -- that the company would take union dues out of the wages of their employees and turn the money over to the union. But if a written agreement would do that, why wouldn't oral agreement do the same thing?

The understanding that I got today goes something like this:

An oral agreement <sup>is</sup> something general, and deals with the main points in a broad sense. When you start to write down that same agreement, and get the lawyers in -- all sorts of details, side issues and precise contingencies crop up. The mere fact of writing, drafting a document -- pushes the transaction a long step further. Talking to <sup>K.C.</sup> ~~Cassidy~~ Hogate, Editor of the Wall Street Journal -- he made the observation of how often two business men agree on a deal and have a verbal understanding, and everything is okay. Then when they sit down to reduce the deal to writing, with lawyers on the job, differences and contradictions develop, and the whole deal blows up.

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— *editors of the Commentator at lunch*  
Other sources that I consulted made the point that the independent steel companies, though not wanting to deal with the union at all, are willing <sup>to have</sup> ~~for~~ a verbal understanding -- as a concession to public opinion. But they won't go still further-- not to the written, documentary stage.

The companies make this ~~an~~ ~~argument~~ argument -- why should they commit themselves on paper, when there's no way of making the C. I. O. live up to its agreement <sup>s!</sup> They point to the

automobile industry, where they've been having strikes, in spite of all the writing and signing.

So, as I see it the difference between written and oral is this -- that a drawn up, signed contract is a step further than a mere verbal understanding; nevertheless, it seems a fine point for all this clashing warfare -- violence and slugging, shooting and gassing, destruction and death.

Remarked the Wall Street Journal editor:- "You might say of the steel companies -- that they're willing to agree orally, why not put it in writing? Is the difference worth all this industrial battle? And you might say to John Lewis and the C.I.O. -- if the companies are willing to deal with you verbally, why not take it? Why insist on all the penmanship? Is the difference worth all that industrial violence?

These are questions for the public to ask as labor war rages in this land of ours.

## PALESTINE

I'm not very good at picture puzzles, so one of the most significant and important bits of news today leaves me rather in a maze. It's an intricate puzzle to solve. Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Gaza and Jaffa, Beersheba, the River Jordan, the Dead Sea and Jericho. Those well remembered names in a combination worthy of a picture puzzle.

51  
For a couple of weeks there have been sententious rumors about Palestine. Everybody knows of the bitter strife that has raged between the Arabs and the Zionists. What could be the solution? The rumors have been suggesting an idea quite obvious - division, partition. Give the Arabs part of Palestine, and the Jews part, ~~trying to satisfy both~~. Today brings us a more precise picture of the scheme - a picture puzzle.

We have the news from the LONDON DAILY HERALD, newspaper of the British Labor Party. The DAILY HERALD tells of a special government commission which has been studying the Palestine dilemma and is making a report to the London Cabinet. This report recommends a plan to divide the Holy Land, divide it along these lines.

The Jewish Zionists to be given: the territory from the border of Syria southward along the coast to Gaza, the land on his side of the Jordan and the Dead Sea, Galilee, Syria and most of Judaea, the Plains of Sharon and Esdralon. I can understand why the southermost point is Gaza, because that's where the desert begins, the desert waste that's part of the forbidding wilderness of Sinai. And the desert as of old, is Arab.

The Arab state would consist of land beyond the Jordan, extending southward from the sea of Galilee, which is on the border of Syria. Thus it would include Gilead, where there either was balm or there wasn't - and Moab of the Moabites. On the south it would embrace territory west of the river - as far as Beersheba home of Abraham and Lot. That's Arab country, too. Around Beersheba I've seen the grazing land of the Arab shepherds - not cultivated fields. Nearby is Hebron -- the tomb of Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebecca, Jacob and Rachel. Now Hebron is strictly and one hundred per cent - Mohammedan.

This leaves me wondering about Jericho, where Joshua made the walls fall down. The division as described leaves it doubtful whether Jericho would be in the Jewish or Arab section. This is interesting, because that ancient city of herod has recently become quite an industrial place, with shops and factories, also a winter resort.

Palestine thus divided, the two parts would be put under very different kind of jurisdiction. The Jewish section, as the Zionist homeland, would be given the status of a British dominion - like Canada or Australia. The Arab Palestinian state would have self government under the sovereignty of the Amir of Transjordanic, beyond the Jordan.

In all of this, I've made no mention of Jerusalem, not only to the Jews but also Mohammedans, and likewise to Christians. The scheme is to make the Holy City an international zone, under a British mandate.

What about nearby Bethlehem, so sacred to Christians? Bethlehem would be included in the Jerusalem international zone. Moreover, the port of Haifa would be under British

control, but the Jewish Zionists would have special rights there. There would be an international corridor from Jerusalem to the harbor of Haifa -- also a corridor from Haifa to the Arab state. Likewise, the Arabs would have special rights at the port of Jaffa.

Now you see what I meant by - picture puzzle. I wonder whether it will please either Jews or Arabs.

SPAIN

54

A German Admiral spoke today and his words are ~~worthwhile~~ worth carefully scrutiny. Admiral Räder, Chief of the German Navy made a declaration at today's funeral of the German sailors who were killed when Left Wing Spanish aircraft bombed the pocket battleship DEUTCHLAND. The statement of the German admiral admits for the first time that the anti-aircraft guns of the battleship did fire on the Socialist planes. This is what the Valencian government has claimed all along, saying that the anti-aircraft guns fired first and the planes retaliated with bombs. What does the Admiral's statement today indicate along that line? Did the war vessel shoot first? He said the Germans had ~~been~~ warned The Valencia people that they would open fire on any plane that showed hostile intentions. He declared that the German<sup>s</sup> did not know at first whether the planes belonged to Franco or the Left Wingers. He does not make it clear and outright whether the shooting began before the bombing. But there's an implication that the Germans opened fire when they perceived that the planes were making hostile maneuvers. Admiral Rader's words today leave the question in a fine point of doubt -- who did what first?

Meanwhile, there is some more ship bombing. Left Wing Spanish aircraft aimed high explosives at an Italian vessel.

This time they missed. The explosives just spouted in the sea.

55  
Franco's men are pressing slowly and relentlessly toward the capture of Bilbao. There was a rumor that a Basque counter-attack cut off, ~~and surrounded~~ a large force of the besiegers -- two thousand Italians said to be surrounded. There's no confirmation of this, and other accounts tell how the insurgents are pushing into the suburbs, clearing out the environs of the city, surrounding it, ringing it in a grip of fire. The defenders are fighting bitterly, in ~~the~~ last desperation -- they are said to be in a desperate plight, food supplies cut off -- the city blockaded.

RUSSIA

56

I <sup>can</sup> imagine the bitter sardonic smile on Leon Trotsky's face as he cable ~~his~~ <sup>his</sup> message ~~to~~ to the Central Executive Committee of the Communist Party in Moscow. From his Mexican retreat Trotsky calls upon the Soviets to overthrow Stalin. He tells them that the Red Dictator's policy is leading Russia to hopeless ruin. Yes, there must have been a bitter mirthless smile on Trotsky's face as he sent that cable -- sent it as news comes of the suicide of the Soviet Chief of White Russia, one of the great men of the Bolshevik Party, -- denounced as guilty in the treason plots for which so many have been shot. Hundreds of others arrested, more executions in prospect -- as Stalin stages increasing terror against his enemies.

NATCHEZ

Today, deep in the old southland, the latest act of a strange melancholy drama was being played. A tattered old man, bearded and eccentric, a woman equally old and eccentric - refused to leave their home. And what a home - a place once so grand and now so tattered and shoddy, that they called it "Goat Castle." There's a mortgage on "Goat Castle," but the two eccentrics refuse to be evicted. They could pay, if they would sell a few things in their fantastic home - but they won't sell. They were offered another home, ample and comfortable - but they won't leave the old one. Behind it all, is a moody story of the grandeur and decadence of a great family, <sup>its</sup> decline and fall.

57

For many a year, Natchez, Mississippi, has been a place of annual pilgrimage. When the gardens of Natchez burst into full glory, throngs of visitors come. The women and girls dress up in the crinolines of the old south. And many stately mansions of ante-bellum days open their doors and give a glimpse into the beauty of the south of slavery time. But there was one that never gave welcome to the visitor, never smiled the greeting of southern hospitality. - One mansion of Natchez ~~remained~~ remained

unknown, forgotten, deep in the woods.

In it lived Dick Dana, a descendant of the great New York publisher, Charles Richard Dana. <sup>There also</sup> ~~with him~~ lived Miss Octavia Dockery, daughter of an American Ambassador to Belgium. They languished in <sup>mouldered</sup> ~~declining~~ splendor, in rags, the old mansion falling about their ears. They were odd, virtually hermits, seldom seen. Several years ago, they suddenly came to notice - in a startling way. A rich neighbor, Miss Jane Merrill, was murdered. And Dana and Miss Dockery were accused of the crime. After a while, they were cleared - the guilt ~~was~~ <sup>fastened on</sup> <sup>to</sup> a negro killed by the police.

58

So the two eccentrics returned to their mansion. But now, the spotlight of publicity <sup>was on them. The curious went to look at the place --</sup> and its incredible decadence was revealed. The wide lawns were engulfed in briars and weeds, The porches had rotted and fallen in. Doors hung askew. ~~and~~ Stairways ~~and~~ rococo ~~and~~ woodwork spilled on the floor. Chickens roosted in the bedrooms. A herd of goats clambored amid the ruins inside the stately house. The place became a nine day wonder. "Goat Castle," the people called it.

58 1/2  
As a nightmare of southern decadence, a promoter made an arrangement ~~that~~ with the occupants - whereby visitors were admitted on the payment of Twenty-Five cents, the familiar southern two-bits. Visitors were entertained by the gray bearded, disheveled Dick Dana, who sat at an old time ~~chipped~~ grand piano and tickled a tune for them.

59  
But now a mortgage has descended upon the two hermits. Eight thousand dollars is due. In the house are antiques, silver plate and rare documents, estimated as being worth fifteen thousand <sup>at least</sup> ~~dollars~~. But they won't sell. The holder of the mortgage tells of a Milwaukee millionaire who wants to buy the place. He offers to provide the two with a comfortable cottage and support them for the rest of their lives. But they won't leave - won't depart from the tumbled down mansion of their great families, ~~"Goat Castle"~~ <sup>There they are tonight -</sup>

59 1/4  
defiant in "Goat Castle." And e-b-u-t-m.