

L.T. P. & G. WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12, 1949

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

President Truman made an unexpected trip by plane this afternoon - flying to Pinehurst, North Carolina, to see retiring Secretary of State George Marshall. The President took off at about one fifteen PM, completely to the surprise of the White House newsmen. Ordinarily they are informed of presidential journeys. Only once before has there been a Truman air trip without warning - one Mother's Day -- when he made an unannounced flight to Independence, Missouri, to see his own Mother.

So you can imagine the astonishment of the Washington correspondents today. Taken unaware, they were perhaps a bit annoyed - and there was a sharp bit of dialogue with White House Press Official Eben Ayres. Asked about the sudden Truman trip to visit Marshall, he gave this answer: "The President wanted to see him once more while he (Marshall) is still Secretary of State."

The White House reporters asked him - was there any reason why they were not informed in advance?

To which Ayres replied: "Is there any reason why they should be?"

The reporters pressed the query - did it all mean that the President did not want the news <sup>men</sup> to cover the trip? Was there any reason why the President should visit retiring Secretary Marshall - without news coverage?

"The President of the United States," replied Ayres, "should not have to do anything he does not want to do."

That was followed by quick word that the ~~presidential~~ ~~plane~~ had landed at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, taking an automobile to Pinehurst. There the retiring Secretary was astonished - as much surprised to see him as the newsmen had been by the unexpected flight. <sup>It</sup> We are told that all this has nothing to do with the state of General Marshall's health. <sup>A</sup> After the surgical operation performed on him several weeks ago - he is slowly and steadily getting better. So we have no inkling of an explanation of the short visit - and short it is, the President due back in Washington for dinner tonight.

## WESTERN UNION

I have here a protest and a complaint, with a demand for an apology -- with which I hasten to comply, for old-times sake. The remonstrance comes from Western Union, from Publicity Director George Oslin, who starts off with a reference back to what he calls - "the Blizzard of Telegrams." Which sure does touch the chords of memory.

It all goes back to the early days of this program - when, one night, I broadcast the news from the headquarters of Western Union, New York - the busy hurly-burly of the mighty telegraph system in swift operation. And Western Union had an idea, announcing to the radio audience that anybody who wanted to send me a telegraph about the show, could send it - free.

The result was phenomenal. Telegrams were delivered to me in bales. The total number - more than two hundred and sixty-six thousand. Which certainly established a record. More telegrams were sent to me in one day than to anybody else before or since, more than any other human being has got in a lifetime. Meaning,

that never before had so many people had a chance to send a wire - free.

It was a phenomenon, and it was exhilarating. But now the sad part of it. What happened to those two hundred and sixty-six thousand telegrams? Well, I kept them. I read a number, until my eyes got tired - and had the idea that some day, when I had some spare time, I would go through the bales of them.

I shipped them up to Pawling, and had them stored in the attic of a house ~~which was~~ used as an office of "Guidepost", a <sup>s</sup> ~~small~~ <sup>semi</sup> ~~religious~~ <sup>- inspirational</sup> magazine published by my brother-in-law, Raymond Thornburg, <sup>& Dr. N. P.</sup> There they remained, until the winter before last, when a fire broke out, and burned up the place - including those two-hundred-and-sixty-six thousand telegrams. They went up in smoke - so now I will never be able to read those more than a quarter of a million messages.

That's the story of the Blizzard of Telegrams, to which Western Union refers, and call my attention to a story we had on the air the other night - the record-

breaking jet plane flight from Chicago to New York, in one hour and twenty-one minutes. The news account said the jet planes went so fast, they beat a telegram. When they took off from Chicago, a wire was sent to the timer in New York, and before he got it the jets had landed.

However, Western Union now informs me that the telegram was not filed in Chicago until thirty-three minutes after the planes left, and was delivered to the timer's office in New York thirty-five minutes later. But he had to go to the place of landing - and, by the time he got there, the jets had arrived.

To which Publicity Director George Oslin adds:  
"Since telegraph signals travel a hundred and eighty-two thousand miles per second, even jet planes will have to go much faster to match telegraph speed."

Faster, indeed! *a*nd here's an apology - in memory of those two-hundred-and-sixty-six thousand telegrams that burned up in the fire.

TIME

Nelson, I hope we can get this program through on time, on the dot - although the Soviets are saying that we people of the West are all wrong, even in the matter of time.

The Moscow Radio today stated that the Russian measurement of time is accurate to the fraction of six one-thousandths of a second. Which is the most correct in the world. In Britain,

*say the Soviets,*

the time is off by eight one-thousandths of a second. In

Washington, nine; France, seventeen. Which might seem like

the Soviet way of saying that we of the West don't even

know what time it is.

Let's fool ~~them~~<sup>!</sup>, Nelson, and be off the air within six one-thousandths of a second of the exact instant.

SALARY

While Congress is considering the matter of giving the President a raise in salary, the town of Norwalk, Connecticut, is doing the same in the case of its own Mayor. Today the City Council took up the matter of hiking the pay of Mayor Irving Freese. The arguments for the measure are powerful. It is pointed out that the Mayor, with a fifty dollars a week salary, gets forty-eight cents less than the garbage-collector.

Of course, some sour-minded cynic might remark - that it's not so easy to get a garbage-collector. To which, however, a more lofty soul might reply - that even a Mayor must eat.

## FILIBUSTER FOLLOW SALARY

The Senate Rules Committee made a decision today on the disputatious question of - filibuster. They voted to hold public hearings - with Senators only as witnesses.

The purpose is, of course, to change the Senate rules, and make it impossible for a minority to talk a bill to death - delay it indefinitely by a filibuster. ~~It will have to adopt new regulations to shut off debate, and stop the long distance oratory.~~

All of which points to the racial rights issue and the Southerners - who more than once have conducted a successful filibuster against a bill that would infringe what they consider States Rights. They're all set to do it again - to check the Truman Civil Rights program/

So now all of this will go to a hearing in the Rules Committee, with only Senators to be heard as witnesses. If they had a lot of other people giving testimony, that would take time. But - suppose that all the Southern Senators should insist on being heard as witnesses against the



anti-filibuster change. Suppose they should all have their say at long length, taking their time.

Well, there was a caucus of Dixieland lawmakers today in the office of Senator Byrd of Virginia - planning their strategy. Seventeen Senators attended - and suppose that all seventeen should demand an appearance, with no end of testimony from each. That could be a filibuster - in the Rules Committee itself!

## ACHESON

A news despatch tells of a recommendation made tonight in the appointment of Dean Acheson as Secretary of State. The message is from former Assistant Secretary of State Adolf Berle -- in a telegram to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, which begins ~~hearings~~ on the Acheson appointment tomorrow.

Berle recommends a prompt Okay -- although he testified recently that Acheson had been in favor of a pro-Soviet policy. That was during the war, when Acheson was a State Department official. Berle said that he <sup>himself</sup> had opposed the friendly attitude toward the Soviets, and <sup>had</sup> clashed with Acheson -- and lost out.

But he says that, since then, Acheson has changed his mind about Moscow, as so many others have. Events following the war showed him what the Reds were up to, and he <sup>went</sup> ~~changed~~ over to a firm policy. So Berle now recommends that the appointment of the new Secretary of State be ratified promptly -- which, indeed, is what the Senate is likely to do, according to all signs.

## SUBSTITUTE PALESTINE

From the Security Council of the U.N. the word is tonight that the Jewish delegation has new orders from Tel Aviv -- bidding them to press for a decision in Israel's complaint against Great Britain. The delegation was told to insist on an emergency meeting of the Security Council to consider the Jewish contention that Great Britain has assumed a menacing attitude in Palestine. One report is that Israel is worried by the fear that the British may be planning "direct action" against the Jewish forces in the Negeb.

This follows a decision by the Security Council earlier today to lay aside the Israeli charges against the British government. The Council voted a delay -- so as to give the negotiations a chance, ~~and~~ the armistice talks <sup>between</sup> Israel-Egypt which now have begun on the Island of Rhodes.

London today came forward with a rebuke for the United States. Noting that the resolutions of the Security Council have been ignored, a London spokesman

SUBSTITUTE PALESTINE - 2

stated: "The British Government has noted with regret an apparent reluctance of the United States to arraign itself squarely behind these resolutions".

Tel Aviv reports what is taken to be a good omen. The government of Israel today announced that it is demobilizing soldiers -- a selected class of skilled packers of citrus fruits. They are needed for work in the Palestine fruit canning industry -- and, at the same time we hear that other classes of Jewish soldiers are soon to be sent home. This is taken as a sign that the Tel Aviv government believes the war in Palestine is about over -- a settlement at hand.

## POTENTATE

In London, they are selling - a racing stable, one of the finest and most expensive in England. Which comes under the heading, not only of English sports, but also princely affairs out in India. They are selling the Warren Racing Stables at Newmarket and these belong to the Gaekwar of Baroda.

A few months ago, the Gaekwar was in the headlines - with what was called a million dollar spree. This big-money-fling was said to have occurred during a trip that potentate made to Britain and the United States. Well, it seemed hard to figure how a spree could cost a million, even when staged by the Gaekwar of Baroda, one of those fabulous princes of India, who is reckoned to be the third richest man in the world. But today's news makes the matter clearer, the kind of entertainment so expensive.

In England, the Gaekwar plunged into horse-racing in a big way, determined to win the Derby. He bought the Warren Place Stables for fifty-six thousand pounds, two hundred and twenty-four thousand dollars - and invested in

some of the most expensive thoroughbreds. He bought My Babu, which was a favorite in the Nineteen Forty-Eight Derby, but failed to win. He paid a record breaking price for Sayajirao, a yearling that won the St. Leger Stakes. The figure was twenty-eight thousand guineas, more than a hundred and seventeen thousand dollars - the most ever paid for a race-horse in England. Out to win the Derby - that was what cost the big money in the million dollar spree.

But the Gaekwar, forced by the Parliament of Barodo, has been compelled to abandon his great ambition. So in London today, his racing stable at Newmarket was put up for sale, together with a whole string of thoroughbreds.

Well, I suppose the Gaekwar was just trying to follow in the footsteps of the Aga Khan, who has triumphed in the Derby more than once. Which reflection takes us along to Rita Hayworth - and her romance with the son of the Aga Khan, Prince Ali. Today the two motored from Switzerland into France, and are believed to be on their way to the Riviera - where the Aga Khan has a villa. One report is that they're on their way to face that potentate

himself, - who may not be so happy about the headlines they've been stirring up, with savage comment in the English newspapers.

So there may be an interesting scene, the Hollywood star and her Prince having it out with that head of a religious sect in India who gets his weight in gold every year, and whose followers drink his bath water. Sounds like a scene that Rita Hayworth might play in a movie.

himself, - who may not be so happy about the headlines they've been stirring up, with savage comment in the English newspapers.

So there may be an interesting scene, the Hollywood star and her Prince having it out with that head of a religious sect in India who gets his weight in gold every year, and whose followers drink his bath water. Sounds like a scene that Rita Hayworth might play in a movie.