

U.N.

L.I. - Success and P.G. Thurs., Sept. 25, 1947.

At Lake Success today, Uncle Sam's delegation opened a fight in the General Assembly which may well decide the fate of the United Nations. (Herschel Johnson, speaking for Uncle Sam, made a plea to the U.N., asking that the world organization issue an order to the Soviet satellite countries to quit meddling in Greece.) He named names and cited facts, making the specific charge that Yugoslavia, Bulgaria and Albania *have been* acting deliberately to menace the independence of the *Greeks.* ~~Hellenes.~~ If the United Nations fails to act, the consequences, *he said,* will not only endanger the Greeks, but may even bring about the collapse of the entire fabric of the U.N.

Our U.N. Delegate
~~Johnson~~

was bringing to the floor of the Assembly an appeal which had failed in the Security Council because of the Soviet veto. What our *representatives* ~~people~~ have been trying to obtain is a United Nations commission to go to Greece and observe for itself the activities in the Balkans. ~~This would be a~~ permanent commission, *with* ~~which would have the~~ power to call a special session of the full General Assembly to deal with the problem.

Delegate Johnson made the point that it is a clearly established principle in international law that if one nation ^{arms and} ~~remains in~~ helps rebellious forces in another country, that is a hostile and aggressive act. That's the strongest accusation brought yet in this entire Balkan dispute.

There has been some talk that representatives from Albania and Bulgaria should be allowed to take part in this debate. Uncle Sam's delegation replied yes, ~~that will be fine,~~ provided Albania and Bulgaria consent to accept the recommendations of the General Assembly. That is, peaceful recommendations. ~~As we might expect,~~ ^{But,} the Soviets and the Soviet stooge nations loudly spurned that. ~~idea~~ ^{So} the decision ^{was} ~~was~~ to postpone ~~any~~ further discussion until the United Nations can ascertain whether Albania and Bulgaria will accept those conditions, which they probably will not.

JUGOSLAVS

~~These~~ ² three American soldiers kidnapped by ^{the} Jugoslavs,
~~at~~ ^{at} the Trieste, ~~are~~ are still prisoners. Major General Airey,
the British commander of the Anglo-American zone in Trieste,
has sent two demands to the Yugoslav commanding officer to
return that American Lieutenant and two privates. ⁷⁷ The Jugoslavs
just thumb their noses at the British and Americans.

Today the State Department is sending a formal diplomatic
note to Belgrade, demanding the immediate release of our
countrymen.

PERSIA

A country in Central Asia needs a loan to strengthen its government against the Soviet menace. The government of Iran is planning a seven-year public works program to cost five hundred million dollars. Of that sum the Persians -- or rather the Iranians -- say they can raise half within their own borders.

But -- and maybe here's where we come in -- they'll need two-hundred-and-fifty-million dollars for equipment, engineers and skilled technologists, from other countries.

The ~~ix~~ Kremlin, by the way, has been bringing pressure to bear on Teheran, to hurry up the signing of an agreement that would give the Soviets control of the oilfields in the Iranian Province of Azerbaijan.

RUSSIA

(A storm of abuse broke out in Moscow today against Uncle Sam. American correspondents report that the rubber-stamp writers on the Soviet papers never abused Hitler and his Nazis more virulently than they are now denouncing us.) The Russian Literary Gazette compares President Truman to Adolf Hitler, and declares that General Marshall is no better than a Japanese war lord, drafted into a Cabinet job.

The Russian Literary Gazette then goes on to say that a new source of international reaction has cropped up since the smashing of the Nazis. That source, the United States; its headquarters, Wall Street. The same old hackneyed line, Wall Street. The Russian paper -- presumably speaking for the Kremlin, goes on to say that the agents of international reaction all over the world today are American generals and diplomats.

President Truman, says Moscow, wants to rule the world, and General Marshall is described as "this belligerent old man," who is trying to wreck the United Nations and prepare a new criminal world war.

And they go on to say that Congressmen over here who suggest the possibility of war ^{between} ~~between~~ us and Russia should be put into jails and isolated from other people as mad dogs.

Izvestia, the voice of Moscow, publishes a cartoon of an enormously fat old Uncle Sam, labels him "Wall Street," and shows him reaching a huge claw around the world. Behind Uncle Sam, egging him on, is a figure with an atomic bomb in its hands. The figure is ~~xxx~~ labelled "war incendiary."

Another Russian writer -- and they all speak ~~of~~ for the Kremlin -- calls General Marshall a Shylock of Wall Street. The same writer applies the stigma of "war incendiaries" to the Commander-in-Chief of the American Legion, and likewise to Governor Dewey of New York.

Both Pravda and Izvestia held forth in like manner today. The Russian press lashing out savagely at Uncle Sam.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1946.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Tonight the topic that overshadows everything else is the worldwide issue of food. It concerns almost literally every man, woman and child on the face of the globe. Over here many people have been exercised principally by the prodigious cost of things to eat. But as a matter of fact, the scope of the subject is ~~both~~ infinitely deeper and infinitely wider than that. For it is no exaggeration to say that the future of the civilized world depends upon the people of western Europe having enough to eat this coming winter. Communism is knocking at the door of the sixteen western European countries, Red totalitarian Communism. And everybody agrees that there's no stronger ally of ~~the~~ Red tyranny than hunger.

As President Truman's Committee on Food reported to him, the world shortage of food is even worse than it was a

year ago. ^{And many nations} ~~We are not the only country who~~ have suffered from destructive weather conditions. Grain harvests in France, Italy and, other European countries, ~~are~~ way down. ^{And} we all know what has happened in our own middlewest. The Food Committee reports that western Europe will need fifteen per cent more than we ^{'ll} ~~shall~~ be able to supply them, ^{— including} four and a half million tons of grain alone. Most of the damage, ^{to crops,} both here and abroad, has been in the last two months. As the Committee says, "There can be no dispute about the vital necessity of our sending every possible pound of food to the countries who need it most."

That of itself is difficult enough, but piled upon that we have the tremendous problem of maintaining our own economy and keeping prices from spiraling out of sight.

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This was the day on which President Truman was to give out his long expected statement on the subject. ^{Which he did. And} The most important item in it is his announcement that he has appointed a "Citizens" Food Committee, headed by Charles Luckman of

American

Cambridge, Massachusetts, head of the soap firm of Lever ~~Brother~~

Brothers. There are fifteen people on the Committee altogether,

all of them out of the top drawer in industry, labor, and

civic activities. There is, for instance, Mrs. J.L. Blair-Buck

of Richmond, Virginia, President of the General Federation of

Women's Clubs; Mrs. Anna Lord Strauss, ~~President~~ of Washington,

President of the League of Women Voters; ~~there is~~ Herbert H.

Lehman, twice Governor of New York, ^{and} ex-Director of Unrra;

Presidents

~~There are~~ Green and Murray, ~~Presidents~~ of the A.F. of L. and

the C.I.O. ^{TP} *The film world* ~~show business~~ is represented by Spyros Skouras,

President of Twentieth Century-Fox. ^{also} The three heads of the

major farm organizations of the country are on the Committee;--

the Master of the National Grange, and the Presidents of the

Farmers Union and the American Farm Bureau Federation. ~~Over~~ -

~~is~~ the President of the National Association of Food Chains,

which is a vital factor in this crisis. ^{TP} ~~and~~ The Negro population of

America is represented by the Executive Secretary of the

National Urban League. There is also Chester Davis, President

of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, who for a few stormy months was War Food Administrator under President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Some ^{have} ~~people~~ wondered why ^{Pres.} ~~Mr.~~ Truman went outside his own

Cabinet and political advisers for this Committee. The answer

is that the situation is on the same level as a war crisis. ^{du}

^{fact} ~~for~~ that's what it really is, [—] a war against hunger on the one

side and inflation on the other. Consequently, ^a ~~XXX~~ non-partisan

Committee representative of every interest in the country is

needed to cope with the problems and enlist the support of ^{all} the

^{people of this land.} ~~entire population of the U.S.A.~~

Some ~~people have~~ asked why should the entire burden

of feeding western Europe fall upon us? The answer is, it

won't. All nations will have to pitch in and help. It is

calculated that Argentina ^{can} ~~could~~ provide one and a third million

tons of grains, Australia six hundred thousand tons; Burma

has rice to spare, Cuba has sugar, and the Philippine Republic

has a substantial surplus of fats and oils.

The President announced today that he is asking this Committee to meet as soon as ever it can. He has also called a meeting of the congressional leaders of both parties, for Monday, at the White House, for a preliminary discussion of a new law, in case it becomes necessary.

Today, at his press conference, the President hinted that he might ask for two meatless days a week; all in order to conserve grain. He also made it emphatic that our only hope for putting the program through, not merely this emergency program but the long range Marshall Plan, our one hope of fighting Communism in Europe, would be the cooperation of the entire country, meaning everybody. He said he was sure we would all comply, once we realize how extremely serious the situation is.

Newsmen asked him what about a special session of Congress? On that he said he hasn't yet made up his mind. His chief Cabinet officers, the Secretary of State, have said that a special session is necessary.

LUCKMAN

In Cambridge, Massachusetts, tonight, Charles Luckman -- the newly appointed Chairman of the Citizens' Food Committee -- a man from Missouri, incidentally -- said that the one-hundred-forty-million people of the United States are his real Committee.

"It doesn't do much good to win a war against totalitarianism if you're going to lose against starvation," said he, adding that he believes in voluntary efforts by Americans to solve the food problem - voluntary efforts rather than force.

CHICAGO

Meanwhile, in Chicago, Mrs. R.M. Kiefer, of the National Retail Grocers Association, boldly says that one-fourth of all the food produced in these United States is wasted. Enough to feed thirty-million people. And who wastes this colossal amount of food? Why the house-wives, says Mrs. Kiefer. The American household wastage of food is so great, she continues, that two hours of every farmer's working day goes into the garbage. The equivalent to the crops on twenty-five acres of every one-hundred acre farm, thrown away.

She insists that some eight-hundred-million dollars worth of fruit and vegetables are wasted, every year.

GARBAGE

Well, Mr. Kiefer's remarks got quick confirmation, today -- from, garbage man. In Indianapolis, Paul Hutzler, who operates a service, says that these days his trucks are picking up more garbage than ever before. This is how he put it -- "When you can find whole hams, big hunks of bacon, loaves of bread untouched, in the garbage pail, you know it's time for action."

Hutzler gave reporters a whole list of things he finds on his daily rounds. One day, recently, one of his trucks brought in twenty-two chickens -- all ready to cook. Mountains of food wasted, he says. And who do you think are the worst offenders? Why newly married couples,

But there's one consolation in all this: these smoked hams and chickens that go into the garbage all this waste is fed to hogs, and so, it gets back to the table again. But -- as this Hoosier sagely remarks, you have to pay for it twice. Food for thought from a collector of waste food.

GHOST

~~The Japanese in Tokyo for the past week have been in~~
~~terror of a ghost. Spectral visitants are nothing new in the~~
~~Japanese credo. As a matter of fact, this was Ghost Week in~~
Japan, ^OBon Week, as they call it. A period set ~~assi~~ aside for
uneasy spooks to visit the land of the Rising Sun. During this
week, as a rule, the Japs ~~can~~ take their ghosts as a matter of
course. But this time they were really afraid.

In the heart of the Mikado's capital, is a big department
store called Mitsukoshi, ~~the busiest in the country.~~ Its
windows are not lit up at night as ours are. Mitsukoshi is
dark, and through the streets surrounding it footpads lie in
wait for a chance to rob. So ~~the~~ Japanese passing ~~by~~ there at
night are nervous anyway. ^{And} their fears were trebled during
the last few days when they heard strange groans like organ-
sounds coming from inside the huge black ~~unknown~~ building.
Such Japanese as are familiar with Occidental music, recognized
the magnificent strains of the Toccata and Fugue in D.Minor, by
Bach, also that familiar hymn, "The Old Rugged Cross."

But even the miscially inclined were nervous, because, after all it was 0'Bon Week. Among all the ghosts that have haunted them, they had never heard of one that played the organ.

The mustery was solved today. The organ player was a sturdy six-foot young man from Atlanta, Georgia, a clerk in the War Tribunal. He had obtained permission from the store to play its new electrical organ. His name, Donald J. Baynes, formerly a construction foreman in Georgia; who just plays wherever he can, because he loves the organ.

SKIRTS

The fight against long skirts was taken by the British Government. Largely on economic grounds, arguing that the longer dust-collecting skirts would require too much cloth. Sir Stafford Cripps, President of the Board of Trade, said British women ought to stop being disfigured by whimsical fashion designers in Paris. Said Sir Stafford Cripps: "The shorter the skirt, the better," adding of course there should be some limits introduced by other considerations." So spoke Sir Stafford Cripps. And what do you say, Nelson.

At any rate, the head of the British Guild of Designers announced today that dressmakers in the United Kingdom are going to bash Paris over the head on this skirt length business. He announced a state of war, the war of the hemline. He said further that British designers have a secret weapon, whose range will reach as far as the fashion salons of Paris, and New York too. Wonder what it could be? Maybe you can guess --

The anti-Communists in Italy fought back at the Reds today. For three weeks, Communists have been trying to wreck the de Gasperi government. Today came an answer; an attack on Communist headquarters in Milan, by a group of men, and one woman, who threw bombs and fired pistols. No Communist was killed or even injured, but one explosion blew a gaping hole in the entrance to the building.

RAZOR BLADES

Well, it looks as if the Grand Canyon of Colorado had a narrow shave this week -- a narrow escape from being filled up with used razor blades. Not so long ago, the Phoenix Chamber of Commerce felt it had an answer to the problem of what the American male should do with his used razor blades. "Send them to us," said the Chamber of Commerce, "and we'll dump them into the Grand Canyon of Colorado."

It seems the American male made a splendid response -- an avalanch of razor blades descending on Phoenix, Arizona. The ~~man~~^{MAIL} man bowed down with packages of used blades. The Chamber of Commerce submerged by shipments from all over the country.

And then, the officials of Grand Canyon Park shook their heads. "No razor blades in our Canyon," they said.

So now, the Phoenix Chamber of Commerce has a problem of its own. What to do with old razor blades that keep coming in by the thousands with every mail. If anyone has a suggestion, send it along, without any used razor blades.