

GERMANY


L.I.-P. & G. Friday, May 26, 1950.

In Berlin, the Western Allies struck a propaganda blow - on the eve of that much heralded rally of Communist youth in the Soviet Sector. Today the British armored cars rolled into Potsdammer Platz, the Times Square of Berlin - as part of Allied preparations to resist any Red attempt to invade the western part of the city. There's a tense feeling of crisis, and this was the situation for the newest western move - a proposal for free elections to unify all Germany.

The high commissioners of the United States, Great Britain and France, sent notes to the Soviet commander, declaring that all Germany should be unified, one nation, one government. This to be accomplished by a ~~free~~ free election. The German people to go to the poles in the way of a liberal democracy, and make their own selection of a single government to preside all over Germany.

Which is likely to get exactly nowhere with the Soviets - but it should make favorable conversation

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among the Germans, during the rally of half a million
Communist youth⁺_h over the weekend. 

ADD GERMANY

The latest, a dispatch from Berlin telling of western Germans hurling a bombardment of stones against Communists. The violence has been expected from the Reds but this is the other way round.

ROMANIA

The United States today did a thing ~~it has~~ ^{~~familiar~~}
~~never done before - though it's the kind of action~~
familiar in Iron Curtain countries. Over there, under
Communist dictatorship, it's common enough for foreign
diplomats not to be allowed to travel around the
country. So now Red Romania is informed that its
diplomats in the United States will have to stay within
thirty-five miles of Washington - which is in
retaliation against the way our own people are being
g treated by the Romanian Reds.

The State Department adds that, the way
things are going, we're likely to break diplomatic
relations altogether with Romania - also with Red
Czechoslovakia.

AMERASIA

An explanation of the famous Amerasia case was given tonight by the government prosecutor who presented the charge against the six defendants,

There has been no end of discussion of the way people involved were allowed to get off easily - although a huge lot of State Department documents had been turned over to a left-wing magazine. Some of the defendants were cleared, others merely ignored, while two were permitted to pay fines.

The government prosecutor at the time, Nineteen forty-five, was Robert M. Hatchcock of Buffalo, New York who now has given an explanation of the whole thing to a Congressional committee. He says that the Amerasia case was not pressed more sternly because the evidence was obtained "illegally by the F.B.I." That is -- the F B I raided the Amerasia office without the proper search warrants.

The F B I seems to have been rather eager to ~~xxx~~ investigate what looked like a sensational case of wartime espionage.

As a result, therefore, the evidence would not have been okayed by the courts -- and the case could not be prosecuted with the proper severity. That is, the explanation tonight - a claim that technicalities of the law played so decisive a part in what looked like a flagrant affair of red ~~xxx~~ espionage.

COMMUNIST

At Grafton, North Dakota, the postmaster today disposed of a letter addressed to -- the chief of the Communist Party of the town. It came from Germany a couple of weeks ago - and ever since, postmaster C. W. McIntyre has been trying to deliver it. The result is a message he sent today, returning the letter to the sender in Germany.

"Dear sir" writes the postmaster. "your letter addressed to the chief of the Communist Party, Grafton, North Dakota, is returned herewith. We had a little ring rot in the potatoes, the snow is up to our belts, the water is up to our necks -- and, come next spring, we expect a mild infestation of grasshoppers. But, thank heaven," the postmaster concludes, "we have been unable to find a Communist."

North Dakota -- not Washington.

LABOR

Here's the result in one of the most important labor union elections ever held. It was -- the new electrical workers organization formed by the C.I.O., versus the United Electrical Workers, tossed out of the C.I.O. on grounds of Communism. The two have been battling it out in elections at various plants, culminating with General Electric. In that giant concern, one-hundred-thousand union workers took part in the balloting -- the count of which is in today.

The C.I.O. union wins out, by a majority of forty-seven thousand to thirty-six thousand -- over the organization denounced as Communist. The vote was by units -- groups of employees at General Electric plants. The C.I.O. union won forty-nine units, while the left wing group came out ahead in forty. Eight units preferred no union at all.

All in all, it's an outstanding defeat for the independent United Electrical Workers - ousted from the C.I.O. on grounds of Communism.

The strike at the Oak Ridge Atomic Plant

continues -- most of the workers continuing the walkout, in spite of efforts by the union to get them back on the construction job at two big uranium plants.

Tonight the Oak Ridge strike spread further when fifteen more construction workers quit the job.

CONNECTICUT

In Connecticut, a legislative walkout.

Today the Republican majority was missing from the state legislature, the G.O.P. members taking a stroll, walking out on the Democratic Governor. The meaning is vivid, when we note that the Connecticut legislature has a-hundred-and-ninety Republicans to eighty-two Democrats.

Called into special session by Democratic Governor Chester Bowles, the legislature was asked to put through a program of reorganization. But the Republicans charged it was all a trick to put the G.O.P. in a hole; - so, they walked out.

Today the Democratic minority went ahead with the reorganization program, but that could only be a sort of mythical, fictitious affair - with the overwhelming majority out on strike.

ACCIDENT

In the news of the Chicago horror last night, the latest is - the arrest of the conductor of the street car that collided with the gasoline truck. He was taken into custody because, having got out safely, he left the scene of the accident without reporting to the police - against regulations.

The conductor states that the frightful death list of thirty-three, in the holocaust of fire, was because the passengers jammed the doors - so ~~that~~ they could ^{not} be opened. He says he tried to open the doors, tried to get the passengers away from him - but the panic was too great. He, himself, got out, with others, through a **broken** window.

CHURCH

The new president of the Northern Baptists, now called the National Baptist Church, is President Truman's pastor. That could be stated today, before the election was held. There was no opposition to the Reverend Edward H. Preden, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Washington. He's a former missionary to China, who of late has had the church attended by the President and his family.

The Baptists, meeting in Boston, were addressed by Methodist Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam - who called for cooperation between Protestants and Catholics, in a united front against Communism.

Another bit of church news tells of a severe rebuke pronounced against the Episcopal bishop of New Hampshire. The charge is that Bishop Charles F. Hall took part in the ordination of a clergyman, along with the Reverend John Hendrickson of the Presbyterian Church and the Reverend Whitney S. K. Yeaple of the Congregationalists. For this consecration of a

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clergyman, in collaboration with ministers of other denominations, Bishop Hall of New Hampshire is blamed for, what is called - "A grievous scandal." Accused of -- a flagrant breach of church doctrine and discipline.

This emanates from a national organization within the Episcopal Church, which likewise protests against the acts of other clergymen in participating with other denominations in communion service.

QUEEN MARY

Britain today celebrated the eighty-third birthday of Queen Mother Mary. Flags fluttered and guns boomed in salute. But the dowager queen, herself, took it all in the course of regular routine. She followed her regular habit of beginning the morning by reading the newspapers and going through her mail - a huge lot of it today, birthday congratulations. She had luncheon with the King and Queen at Buckingham Palace - and tomorrow will attend the derby. The Queen Mother is set in her ways, old-fashioned ways - and going to that most famous of horse races is one of them.

Today there was a protest of Presbyterians in Scotland, complaining about the way the royal family patronizes sports events, like the running *of the* thoroughbreds. But- the eighty-three year old Queen Mother will be at the derby.

GOLF

The British amateur and golf championships will have an all-American finish tomorrow. Today the semi-finals wound up with two Americans winning. Frank Stranahan, the spark plug millionaire of Toledo, Ohio, played prodigious golf all through the tournament, and today scored an easy victory over Cyril Tolley, the English veteran. Dick Chapman of Pinehurst, North Carolina, won his game too, defeating a fellow American, Jim McHale of Philadelphia.

So the new English amateur champion will be either Stranahan or Chapman of the U.S.A. Tomorrow will tell the tale.

BASEBALL

In the world of baseball, Dick Wakefield is going to report to the Oakland Acorns, after all. (Last night, the temperamental outfielder declared he would never play in a minor league - and said he would appeal to baseball Commissioner Happy Chandler, against the decision of the New York Yankees, selling him to the team on the Pacific Coast. The Yankees declared that none of the teams in the national league were interested in Wakefield -- and he questioned that.)

Today he telephoned to ^{the} baseball Commissioner- who told him that the sale to Oakland was legal. The Happy Chandler argument must have been persuasive, if not powerful - because the rebellious outfielder announced promptly that he would submit, and go to Oakland.

RAT

Today the ^{great} City of Melbourne, in Australia, was thrown into turmoil -- by a rat. The entire electric power system was cut off -- lights out, suburban trains at a stand-still -- when a rat caused a short circuit in a central power station. The smoke in the plant was so dense, workers had to wear gas masks to get things going again. They found the rat electrocuted -- in the tie-up that stopped hundreds of trains and kept thousands of people from getting to work.

CRANE

More News from the animal kingdom. The first whooping crane ever born in captivity. In Texas, at the Arkansas wildlife refuge, they waited for days -- while a hen of that long legged family sat on an egg.

The whooping crane is the tallest bird native to the North American Continent, and the species is nearly extinct. There are only thirty-seven known to be alive. If the egg hatches successfully - there would be thirty-eight. Which would be big news in the world of zoology -- and the headline broke today.

Or, rather, the egg broke -- and out came a little whooping crane, a wide-eyed staggering critter. Short legs now, but they'll grow to be like flagpoles. Tallest American bird, and the rarest.

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And now for one American who never gets the bird -- meaning you, Nelson.