

CONFERENCE

L.I. - P. & G. Wednesday, May 25, 1949.

Secretary of State Acheson issued an invitation today -- and you can guess whether the invitation will be accepted. At the Four Power Conference in Paris he stated that the United States has poured one billion, one-hundred-and-fifty million dollars into Western Germany to promote economic recovery. "But," he asked, "what has been done in the Soviet zone? We have not been told anything, although we have repeatedly requested such information." So he asked the Soviets to let the world see what goes on in Eastern Germany. In other words, an invitation to raise the Iron Curtain.

FOLLOW CONFERENCE

Vishinsky replying, was exceedingly mild, not at all the red fire-eater of old. He asked almost ~~pit~~ plaintively, why not make one more attempt to re-establish the Allied control of Germany.

BERLIN

Berlin - a new railway blockade by the Soviets. That's what it amounts to - the Reds withdrawing crews from key railway switches. The Berlin strikers kept on running trains between the city and the western zones of occupation, and today *38 trains* ~~twenty-two~~ bound for Berlin were held up. Because how can you run a railroad without switches?

The Soviet action is in retaliation for the way the western authorities made the Red police and strikebreakers clear out of the strike bound elevated stations in the western sector. Today, the Communists made a half-hearted attempt to return to one station, but were blocked by picket lines of strikers, and gave it up.

CHINA

Shanghai -- occupied almost completely by the Communists. Only a couple of bridges to the north still held by the Nationalist forces -- bridges by which the fleeing defenders fled to the north. On the Whangpoo River -- a fleet of boats waiting to take them out.

In contrast to expectations of savage rioting when the city fell, Shanghai today was utterly quiet. Most of the people staying indoors -- the city looked almost deserted. Only some Fifteen Thousand Red soldiers captured the vast metropolis on the China coast. -- They walked in. Today they ^{were} loitered in the streets.

A news dispatch from Shanghai this afternoon says the whole thing looks as if it had been pre-arranged. No resistance to the Reds -- and they in turn making no apparent attempt to intercept the withdrawal of the defenders.

BUNCH

Dr. Ralph Bunch has been invited to become Assistant Secretary of State -- and has rejected the offer. Today the negro statesman called at the White House, and when he emerged he told of the offer made by President Truman. ~~But~~ He said he wants to stay with the United Nations -- and, in addition, ^{that he} cannot afford a post in the State Department. As U.N. mediator he gets Fourteen Thousand Dollars a year, tax free. As Assistant Secretary of State the figure would be -- Ten Thousand a year, ^{less} ~~minus~~ taxes.

I suppose this is the first time a negro has been offered so high a post in the State Department, Assistant Secretary. Dr. Bunch says he's highly honored, but -- refuses.

The battle of the B-36 rose to a new climax today - with the demand for a Congressional investigation into the air force purchase of those much debated super-bombers. Congressman Van Zandt of Pennsylvania raised the question of what the news dispatch calls - "Political considerations."

Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson was formerly connected with the Consolidated Vultee Company, which manufactures the B-36. Van Zandt said today that Johnson was a director and the Washington counsel for that concern, until three days after his nomination ~~as~~ Secretary of Defense. The Pennsylvania Congressman asserts, moreover, that Consolidated Vultee is controlled by Floyd Odlum, whom he describes as - "A heavy contributor to the Democratic campaign."

~~He tells of a lot of air force contracts that were cancelled in favor of Consolidated Vultee and the B-36, and says he has asked ~~Secretary of the~~~~
~~Air Force~~ ^{Sec.} Stuart Symington about this - getting no

reply. Van Zandt declares that only a year ago the air force was ready to abandon the B-36, on the ground that it was an unsatisfactory bomber.

As against this blast, it is pointed out that the Congressman is a combat veteran of both World Wars - but, navy. Right now he is a Captain in the naval reserve. So the innuendo is that he is not any too impartial in the big battle between the navy and the air force. The air force calling the B-36 - "Invulnerable." The navy saying - "Sitting Duck."

The argument so violent - that a Senate Committee has ^{ordered} ~~directed~~ a series of tests, a sham battle between the B-36 and a navy jet fighter, which the navy claims will shoot down the super-fortress. Invulnerable - or sitting duck?

REUTHER

There are plenty of things in this world nowadays to make us all stop and think - and view with alarm. I don't want to add to the list any more than I can help, but here are a couple of pictures to excite a startled wonder.

One, a conference, the most important in this country right now - the conference to settle the Ford strike. At a table are the representatives of the company and the union, the latter headed by the president of the auto workers - and he has one arm immobilized in a steel brace.

Last year, union President Walter Reuther was shot down in his home by a blast of shotgun fire, narrowly escaping with his life, one shoulder injured so badly that the arm is still out of commission. The would-be assassin - unknown, never caught, no clue.

That picture of the conference in the Ford Motor Company strike is, in itself, a thing to make one stop and think. Walter Reuther, one of the top union leaders of the country, the victim of a shotgun

~~attempt to kill him, and all a mystery.~~

So what have we now? His brother, Victor Reuther, also a high union official - in a hospital tonight, after a shotgun attempt to kill him. The two murderous assaults are so similar - that they are startling. Walter Reuther, shot down a year ago in his kitchen where he was with his wife - a lone gunman blasting through a window. Victor Reuther was with his wife in the living room of his home - and was shot down last night by a would-be assassin, who blasted with a shotgun through the window. He was hit in the face, seriously injured, ~~losing~~ ^{losing} ~~the~~ the sight of one eye.

The two brothers have been partners in the cause of labor, rising together in the auto workers union - Walter, the elder, becoming president, while Victor, five years younger, is the educational director of the union. Some years ago, both of them went to Europe, and both were bitterly disillusioned with what they saw of Communism in action. They had

a good look at the Soviet way with labor. I, myself, have heard Walter Reuther tell how on that trip he worked as a factory hand in one of Stalin's big plants. So he knows about the Soviet system. It is, therefore, not surprising to know that the two brothers proceeded to fight against the Communists in the auto workers union, and Walter's rise to the presidency of the union was accompanied by an ousting of the Reds.


Today, the police of Detroit are as mystified by the shooting of Victor Reuther last night as they still are by the almost identical shotgun attempt against Walter Reuther last year. The gunman opened fire with a twelve gauge shotgun, which he dropped. He used gloves, no fingerprints. He got away in an old automobile with peculiar tail lights - the only clue.

The Reuther brothers, themselves, declare that they can suggest no explanation of the attempts to kill them. Walter Reuther thinks it might be the

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doing of some diehard employers embittered against
a union leader, or he says it may have been the
Communists.

The latest is a union request for the F.B.I.
to investigate. The Michigan State Council of the
C.I.O. today states: "We feel strongly that these
attacks have national, and perhaps international,
implications." Hence the demand that the Federal
Government put the F.B.I. into the case of the
murder attempts against the two brothers, so high in
union labor.



FOLLOW REUTHER

The President of the C.I.O. Council,
George Edwards, does ^{not} leave us in any doubt of
what he meant by - "International implications."
He says that means - Communists. And his demand for
F.B.I. intervention is supported by Governor
Williams of Michigan.

BRIDGES

In San Francisco - an indictment of Harry Bridges on charges of perjury and conspiracy, fraud committed when he took out citizenship papers. The Australian born boss of the longshoremen's union on the West Coast, has long been charged with being a Communist - but, when he ~~was~~ became a citizen, he denied membership in a ^{so} Communist party - so now he is to be tried for perjury.

COMET

Here's a cosmic headline - the first visitor of the year from outer space, the first comet to be sighted in Nineteen Forty-Nine. No doubt you will all be eager to take a look at this latest wanderer from sidereal space. So here's the way to do it, the exact details:-

First, you go to the Southern Hemisphere. The new comet was discovered at Johannesburg, South Africa, and is visible only below the equator. Secondly, you take along a powerful telescope, a real big one - because the comet is not visible to the naked eye. Third - be sure to provide yourself with elaborate equipment for astronomical photography. The celestial visitor cannot be seen directly even through the largest of telescopes, and can only be detected by photography - on a photographic plate. Lastly - take a magnifying glass along. Because that heavenly body is so faint and tiny that you can spot it on a photographic plate only by using a magnifying glass.

So there you are, folks - let's all start out for a look at the first comet of Nineteen Forty-Nine.

Princess Elizabeth and her husband, Prince Philip. On the arrangements were being made, North Island, which refused to join the independent Irish Republic, is preparing to stage a demonstration of loyalty to Britain.

Today, near Belfast, the British commandant of a royal air force station, held a rehearsal of the review his troops will stage for Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip. Everything went off in military style, until the climax - when the commandant turned to salute the flag, the Union Jack of Great Britain. He saluted all right, and then his face turned a scarlet red - and the salute came to a sudden end. Because, at the top of the flag pole was flying the flag of the Irish Republic - the flag of the harp and Bismarck cross.

Today an investigation was being held - who

IRELAND

There were stately doings today in Belfast, ~~southern~~ Ireland. That Ulster haunt of the Orangeman is to have a visit of the heir to the British Crown - Princess Elizabeth and her husband, Prince Philip. So ~~the~~ arrangements were being made; North Ireland, which refuses to join the Independent Irish Republic, is preparing to stage a demonstration of loyalty to Britain.

Today, near Belfast, the Ulster commandant of a royal air force station, held a rehearsal of the review his troops will stage for Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip. Everything went off in snappy style, until the climax - when the commandant turned to salute the flag, the Union Jack of Great Britain. He saluted all right, and then his face turned a scarlet red - and the salute came to a sudden end. Because, at the top of the flag pole was flying the flag of the Irish Republic - the flag of the harp and Hibernian green.

Today an investigation was being held - who

IRELAND...

hoisted the Irish Flag, instead of the Union Jack?

The word from Belfast is that the inquiry is likely to be difficult - because so many members of the royal air force in Ulster are natives of South Ireland.

Well, it's lucky that it happened only in rehearsal, and not when the Princess was there in royal state. Seeing the Ulster commandant turn and salute the flag meaning Shamrocks and ~~the-wearing-of-~~ the-green might have caused her to fall down laughing.

HAT

Five years ago at Greenville, Mississippi, a hat cleaner, Chris Mariolos, donated a hat to Greek war relief, today a man walked in and asked Chris to clean a hat - that same one. It arrived back in this country on the head of a displaced person from Europe - and eventually found its way back to Chris for cleaning.

MIDGET

In Montreal today, a midget in a spectacular battle, held off two carloads of police. He was three feet tall - but, in a sensational fracas, he held all those cops at bay, most of them six-footers.

He is Philippe Nichol, a performer in a Lilliputian show, "midgets Palace." What role does he play? Well, he's a knife thrower, a midget who tosses the sharp and flashing blades with an expert aim.

Today the three-footer went on a rampage. He was finally cornered, but when the cops came to get him, there he was with his knives; - and they were man-size knives! You can sympathize with the platoon of cops, each of them twice as big as the Lilliputian. ~~But~~ who wants to charge through a shower of knives, hurled by a circus expert?

The enraged midget was finally subdued by a cop with a broom - which sounds appropriate. Actually that brave policeman used the broom to parry the flying knives. Not so bad, catching the flashing blades on the business end of a broom. Then he

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picked up the midget, and carried him off to jail -
ending the battle of the three-footer and the six-
footers.

ROBBER

In the town of Hull in the Canadian Province of Quebec, a young bandit held up a restaurant proprietor today, Miss Blanche Gendron. He took thirty-eight dollars, and then locked her up - to be sure that she could not give any alarm while he made his getaway. Within minutes, the robber was captured by the police - hurrying to the scene. He had locked the lady in a telephone booth.

RITA

The latest in the news of sumptuous magnificence that will attend the marriage of Rita Hayworth to Aly Khan. The news from the French Riviera piles wonder upon marvel in telling of the splendor of the wedding on Friday, when the beautiful movie actress will be united ~~in~~ to the son of the Aga Khan - Mohammedan ritual. ~~And~~ Two hundred gallons of toilet water will be poured into the princely swimming pool on the wedding day. I wonder why they need all that perfume - two hundred gallons?

What's your guess - Nelson?