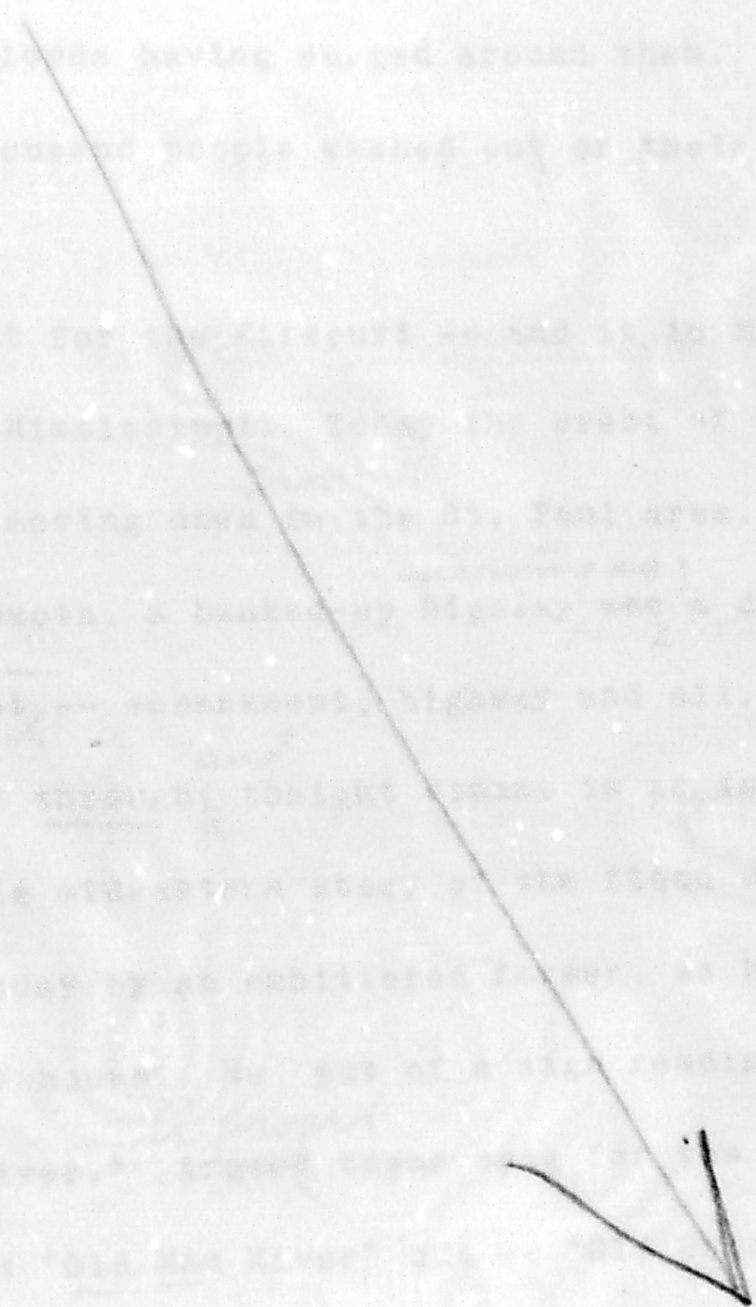


GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY: The disaster of the flood is measured by the high level of the conference tomorrow, near Omaha. The devastation of the deluge so great that President Truman will fly to meet the governors of seven states -- Iowa, Nebraska, Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and Illinois. Their purpose -- to agree on an emergency collaboration between the federal government and the states in the flood area.

Meanwhile, the government has sent Lt. Gen. Lewis Pick, who flew from Washington today, to take command of the battle against the waters. General Pick, - of Ledo-Barma Road fame - arriving at Omaha, describes the inundation in these words -- "the greatest flood the white man has ever seen come down the Upper Missouri Basin."

Perhaps in pre-Columbian days there may have been a greater deluge seen by the Indians. But nothing like it, since then.

The word is that Omaha, Nebraska and Council Bluffs, Iowa, two cities just across the river from each other, will be spared a major disaster. It is believed the



dikes will hold -- although the crest coming down the Missouri River, will be thirty-one and a half feet high, when it hits tomorrow. All along the rampaging stream towns have been turned into islands. Towns on high ground, the floods having surged around them. Sixty-five thousand people washed out of their homes -- refugees.)

That for the Missouri -- and it is much the same for the Mississippi. Today the crest of the Mississippi was moving down ^{from} the St. Paul area. At Winona, Minnesota, a banked-up highway ^{sewing as)} was a dike and ~~gave way~~ ^{that has burst} -- embankment, highway and all. The deluge poured ^{and} through; tonight Winona is an island.

This midwestern story of the flood was well summarized today by an embittered farmer, as he abandoned his house. He put of a sign reading -- "Old Devil River." ^{A proper} ~~A good~~ theme song for the news tonight, not "Old Man River," but -- "Old Demon, Satan, Devil R₁ver."

POLITICS

Here is the latest from New Jersey. Taft running a surprisingly strong race against Eisenhower. From the time the polls closed and the count began, the Ohio Senator was neck and neck with the General. Bu now about one-third of the election districts are in.

Eisenhower Seventy thousand

Taft Fifty-Eight thousand.

This may change radically before morning; but it might well represent the trend in New Jersey. The Taft people expected only a small fraction of the votes. Anything resembling fifty percent would have been considered a major victory - by them. Taft at the moment is running somewhat behind fifty-percent.

Being on a trip west, I have been inquiring about matters political. In fact I've just left the dynamic Governor of Utah - Bracken Lee.

The impression I get is that there is less excitement here in Utah than in most of the states. Utah has no primary elections - only state conventions held by the two major parties.

On the Republican side, the State Convention promises not much of a duel between Taft and Eisenhower -- the Republican organization being mostly for Taft. In fact, the battle seems to be shaping up along another line. The Taft people, it seems, will demand - a pledged delegation. That is, delegates bound to support a candidate at the Chicago Convention, until he releases them. Which candidate would be Senator Taft. This is opposed by backers of General Ike, who want an unpledged delegation, which might switch from one candidate to another.

~~which might switch from one candidate to another,~~
~~as the delegates may prefer.~~

The strategy of ~~pledged or unpledged delegates~~ is explained to me by United Press Bureau Manager, Murray Moller, ^{as} being based on -- the alphabet. Utah comes way down the line, one of the last of the States to cast its ballot, ⁱⁿ ~~on~~ a roll call. So, therefore, if a stampede were to develop up toward the front of the alphabet, ~~the~~ the Utah delegation might be swept along -- unless it were pledged. The inference ~~behind~~ ~~all this~~ is that any stampede would likely be for General Ike -- and the Taft people want the steady strength, pledged.

On the Democratic side, (the retirement of President Truman leaves the nomination game wide open. At the Democratic State Convention, there will be no candidate of outstanding strength.

Curiously, ^{out here} there is mention of -- Harriman. Ambassador Averil Harriman, so prominent in the

diplomatic affairs of the Truman Administration, has announced that he is receptive. He is a New Yorker, and you think of him as a possible favorite of New York Democrats. But they say he might win support in western states like Utah -- because of the fame of the name of Harriman. ^{For} This is Union Pacific country, ^{of in} ~~xxxx~~ which Harriman, the railroad builder, is a legend. ^{Even} So now, his son has a name better known than those of the other candidates on the Democratic side.

While scouting around Salt Lake City today, I picked up a statement much to the point in this election year. * William J. Grede, President of the National Association of Manufacturers, is a visitor here -- and, ^{that I listened to at noon,} in an address, [^] he said: "If we do not mind that part of our business which is government, then government will be controlling our business entirely and dictatorially, which applies to every voter."

STEEL

A dispatch just in from Washington states that Federal mediators have abandoned -- negotiations in the steel dispute. With the federal government in control of the steel plants, efforts have been going on to bring about a settlement between the companies and the union. No progress made -- so now the mediators call the negotiations off, and refer the matter to President Truman. Meanwhile, the steel industry continues in operation -- under government seizure.

FAR EAST

(The Japanese peace treaty was signed today by President Truman.) This brings Japan another step along the path leading back to membership in the family of nations. At the same time ^{Mr. Truman} ~~he~~ signed defense pacts with Japan, Australia, ~~and~~ New Zealand, and the Philippines.

The report tonight is that our present Ambassador to Belgium, Robert D. Murphy will be named as our first Ambassador to Tokyo.

United Press correspondent Robert Vermillion ~~wires~~ wires from Tokyo that the Korean truce talks are moving quietly toward a show-down. He adds that the R_eds are turning off their propaganda campaign in which they have been shouting that the United States was ~~is~~ guilty of germ warfare. Now they are playing ~~that down.~~ ^{down all that germ nonsense.}

ATOMIC

(Today's atomic explosion is described as
the most dazzling to date -- on the Nevada Desert.)
Next week there is to be ^{a well advertised} ~~an identical~~ show -- with
press and radio invited to attend ^a ~~the~~ bomb explosion.
The one today was under conditions of the usual
secrecy, and we are merely told that the ~~identical~~
atomic weapon was dropped from a high-flying plane.
Observers, ~~from~~ miles away, outside the military
reservation, said the ^{fire ball} ~~flash~~ was the most brilliant
thus far.

PLANE

The U. S. Air Force has put into the sky -- its new Super Strato-Fortress, ~~This is~~ an eight-jet bomber, built at Seattle, -- ~~the wide B-52~~. Ground tests were satisfactory, today the strato-fortress took off from Boeing Field, made a great circle over Seattle, headed for Larson Air Force Base, near Moses Lake, Washington -- for further testing.

Secrecy continues, but observers today noted a giant plane with V-shaped wings -- which in the sky trailed eight streamers of smoke. The trail of jet is familiar -- one per plane^e -- but the strato-fortress flew^{ied} with eight trails of jet.

KOREA-BOXING

The Eighth Army is holding a boxing tournament at Seoul -- and, today Private Edward Bonner of Chicago lost, and won! ~~He lost by a knockout -- and won a thousand dollars.~~

Bonner is a middleweight, and I suppose he is pretty good -- but he was out-classed by the G. I. boxer he met in the ring today. He took a beating, absorbing left hooks and right swings. ^The army referee stopped it -- for a technical knockout.

In the dressing room, Private Bonner got back into his uniform -- and returned to the ring to watch other bouts. Nursing his bruises, he was just a beaten boxer -- when the referee, between bouts, made an announcement. A publishing firm in Illinois ^{was} ~~was~~ holding a contest among GI's, ~~In Korea,~~ offering prizes for the best letters on the subject: "Why I am Fighting Communism in Korea." ^{The} ~~Another~~ winner ^{is} ~~is~~ being announced, ^{and} the referee called out -- "First prize of one thousand dollars goes to Private Edward Bonner of Chicago."

The beaten boxer was taken up into the ring, cheered
^{to} with the echo -- and was handed a check for a thousand
bucks. The loser! -- but also the winner!

PARIS

Today, Paris ^{had} ~~was astonished~~ and you might think the boulevards would be blaming the Americans. ~~They had~~ a wild and woolly holdup, with a gun battle -- which Europeans would call "American style."

Three bandits robbed an armored truck, -- sounds like Brinks of Boston. At a bank the armored car picked up sacks of gold -- to be delivered to money changers. The crooks, in an automobile, forced the truck to a curb, covered guards with a sub-machine gun, ^{and} snatched away five sacks of gold -- worth seventy-four thousand dollars.

This happened on one of the most prominent of Parisian boulevards. Hundreds of passersby gaped at what they saw -- the sub-machine gun, the seizure of the gold. A little more than one hundred yards away was a police station -- and a gendarme opened fire, ^{for} in an exchange of shots with the robbers. A fusillade on the boulevard -- with other gendarmes joining ⁱⁿ a wild chase, as the bandit car went speeding away with ^{the} loot.

loot.

But, tonight, Parisians are not saying --
~~that the inspiration was American~~ ^{holdup} ~~style.~~ No, they ~~say~~
say -- British. For weeks a British motion picture
has been playing to packed houses in Paris, a thriller
called -- "Golden ⁱⁿ Bars." It pictures a holdup staged
by the "Lavender Hill Mob." A Cinema robbery, almost
identical with the real-life holdup ~~perpetrated~~ today.

GAMBLING

A Senate Sub-Committee issues a blistering report on gambling conditions in the neighborhood of Keesler Air Force Base. Which means, Bèloxiè, Mississippi. The statement is that airmen have been fleeced by gamblers at the rate of hundreds of thousands of dollars a month. ~~They say the wholesale reeking of air force personnel~~ ^{which} has led to all sorts of evils at the air force base -- thefts committed, checks forged, by victims driven to desperation by their gambling losses. There is even mention of -- uniforms pawned. Military version of losing your shirt -- going home in a barrel. Same old story of gambling. even -- including suicide ^{s. Two of them at} ~~two of which at~~ the air force base are attributed to gambling losses.

(The Senate Sub-Committee blames the local authorities, and cites what it calls "manifest desire of the municipal government of Bèloxiè to share in the plunder." The whole thing called -- "graft by a municipality." The Commandant at Keesler Air Force

Base is also blamed -- for not keeping his twenty-five thousand men away from the gambling haunts.)

~~In stating the magnitude of the evil, the~~

^{The} sub-committee gives the following figures for gambling games in or near Beloxie: Twelve hundred ^{- and} fifty-seven slot machines, those one-armed bandits; -- ten roulette wheels, thirty-one dice tables, fifty-five poker tables, seventy-two black-jack tables, not counting various other games. Sounds as if the gamblers had come swarming to clean out the cash at the Air Force Base.

BASEBALL

Here at Salt Lake City, the opening of the Major League Baseball Season seems a long distance away -- and all we have is a couple of predictions passed along by the United Press. Which news agency took a poll of one-hundred sixty-seven baseball writers in ^MMajor League cities. (One of the best predictions is, usually, that the prophecies of the baseball experts will be -- wrong.)

But, anyway, here are the prognostications.

Neither of last year's pennant winners will repeat, the soothsayers declare. They pick neither the Yankees nor the Giants -- based on the fact that both teams have lost important players.)

In the American League -- the Cleveland

Indians are favored, with their ace-high pitching staff.

They won their opener.

In the National League -- the Brooklyn Dodgers. *Of any*

rate the Dodgers won their opener today

TR Here in the West, there is a focus of lively

interest on San Francisco. The Pacific Coast League

began its own season several weeks ago. But the first

series of games between San Francisco and San Diego begins today. The San Diego Padres -- managed by Lefty O'Doul, sounds like a paradox -- O'Doul having been almost another name for the San Francisco Seals.

He managed the team for seventeen years -- but, at the end of last season, was fired. Which roused the wrath of San Francisco fans. So a stormy set of games is expected -- with San Francisco cheers for Lefty O'Doul appearing as the enemy.

Well, the fact is that Lefty had a tough season with San Francisco last year -- and I recall one of the gloomiest faces I ever saw ^{w. One of the} ~~a bartender,~~ ^{Funston} at the Saint Francis, who kept saying -- "The Seals will have to win today." He was betting on the law of averages, but kept on losing -- that famous law never seeming to catch up. As I recall, the Seals began the season by losing thirteen straight games.

But, in spite of all, Lefty O'Doul retained a lot of loyalty in San Francisco -- and allegiance is divided at the Golden Gate. *Now Nelson - play ball!*