

LEAD

L.I. - P.M. Tuesday, July 20, 1948.

(Tonight in New York the Communist Party was having a meeting of top leaders -- at party headquarters. Thirty-five West Twelfth Street. There was an interruption. Agents of the F B I walked in. And singled out half a ~~an~~ dozen of the Red big shots. They are under arrest tonight on ~~the~~ charges of conspiring with ~~the~~ Soviet Russia against the United States.)

This follows action this afternoon by the Federal Grand Jury which for a year has been investigating Red espionage and other Communist activity. Indictments were handed down, and this afternoon we did ^{not} know what the names were. But these names tonight are vividly evident with the announcement of tonight's arrests. The prisoners, who have just been arraigned before a federal judge are -- six:- William Z. Foster, National Chairman of the Communist Party; Eugene Dennis, General Secretary of the Communist Party; Jack Stachel, ^{member} ~~member~~ of the national board of the Reds; Henry Winston, organizational secretary; John Williamson, member of the National Board; And Benjamin Davis, negro member of the New York

CRISIS FOLLOW LEAD

As for the gravity of the Berlin crisis, a United Press dispatch tonight uses the following phraseology. It states that American policy is, in the words of the dispatch "designed to place full responsibility on Russia, if war breaks out". After which, the story from Washington goes on to say:

"The Berlin situation is regarded by responsible American officials as very grave, and has inherent war dangers if the Soviet Union wants hostilities.2

The statement is made that Russia probably does not want to start a war, but Moscow may be prepared to take greater risks of war. The all-powerful polit-bureau at the Kremlin, headed by Stalin, may find it necessary to achieve some headline success to maintain their prestige -- in the face of many indications that all is not going so well behind the iron curtain.

The U.P. dispatch tells us that official circles in Washington retain a reasonable hope ^{that} war

will not come. This is phrased in an exceedingly interesting way. "At the same time," says the dispatch, "it can be stated authoritatively that the dispute is not regarded as hopeless by the administration *or by* ~~of~~ the Republican Party."

The mention of the Republican ~~party~~ party is the significant point. We americans are in the middle of a hot political campaign, as we are so often are. But the unity of our foreign policy is expressed in telling fashion by a Washington dispatch which gives us the joint opinion of the Administration and the Republican Party.

BERLIN

Late word from Washington indicates that there may be a tie between the homecoming of our Berlin Commander, General Lucius Clay, and the special session of Congress, which President Truman has called.

General Clay is flying from Berlin to Washington, together with Robert Murphy, his political adviser. The General merely states that he will confer with Army Secretary Royall and Chief of Staff General Omar Bradley. - ~~He~~ plans to fly back to Berlin on Sunday. He was asked today - would he see President Truman? In soldier fashion, he replied that he would see whomever the ~~under~~ under-Secretary and the Chief of Staff told him to see. The word in Washington is that General Clay's homecoming to confer on the Berlin crisis was decided upon yesterday - in the course of the top level talks held at the State Department and the White House.

The Berlin dilemma was tangled further today, when the Soviets offered to feed the people of western Berlin - whom their hunger blockade has threatened with

starvation. Allied officials believe the new Soviet move is a bluff. The Russian offer, for one thing, makes the condition that Germans in the Allied section of Berlin must buy Soviet supplies with Soviet-sponsored money that looks like a propaganda blow at the currency backed by the United States, Great Britain and France - the western issue of marks. There's a battle of money between the Soviet and the Western marks - and obviously, if the people of ^{western}~~western~~ Berlin can buy food only with Soviet marks, that would make the western marks worthless.

Which gives the impression that the Russian offer is a sharp trick of propaganda.

In addition to which, the American officials don't believe the Soviets could deliver the goods. They offer to send in to Berlin more than one hundred thousand tons of foodstuffs. But it is ~~pointed~~ pointed out that the Russians are having trouble feeding ~~the~~ their own section of Berlin. And, ~~moreover~~ moreover, they have not been able to deliver previous consignments of food, which they guaranteed to do.

But it all tangles things up still further - as General Clay flies to Washington for conferences. And - as the word comes on the wire that the Presidential call for a special session of Congress may have ~~XXXXX~~ something to do with the -Berlin crisis.

The Washington indication is that ~~XXXXX~~ President Truman may ask the national legislature to appropriate more funds to bring the army up to full strength. Also - to provide money for the ~~X~~ cost of the air operation that is by-passing the Soviet land blockade. That business of feeding ~~XXXXXX~~ western Berlin by air has already cost this country a-million-and-a-half dollars. And the figures may hit a total of more than one hundred thousand dollars a day - if the great air lif~~e~~ goes on as planned.

~~Ex~~ So the Special ~~X~~ session of Congress, ~~XXXX~~ which assembles on Monday, may have an international aspect, a Berlin angle - as well as the ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ domestic slant, with emphasis on home problems and election year politics.

FOLLOW BERLIN

On the political side of the special session dispute, we have a blast from the camp of Governor ~~Mr~~ Dewey. This comes, not from the Republican candidate himself, but from his campaign manager, Herbert Brownell, ^{who} ~~he~~ declares that the Presidential call was strictly a political trick, and describes the special session as a "rump" session. ~~That terminology is in accordance with the rump descriptions of the convention of Southern Democrats at Birmingham, called "A rump convention."~~

~~Herbert~~ Brownell refused to speculate on what the Republican Congress will do by way of legislation - saying merely that, in the matter of passing bills, they will place the best interests of the country above partisanship. But he did say bluntly that the GOP majority at the special session will not try to enact the Republican platform. That was what President Truman called for in his acceptance address at Philadelphia - demanding that the Republican Congress put the election platform into effect, translate it into

laws - before the election. Well a platform is something on which you elect a Presidential candidate - putting it into effect before the election might seem to be like pulling the platform out from under the candidate. You promise to do something if he is elected, and then you carry out the promises in advance - & so where does that leave the candidate?

It's all a bit paradoxical, and today the Dewey campaign manager declares: "The Republican platform calls for the enactment of a program by the Republican Congress under the leadership of a Republican President. Obviously," he explained, "this cannot be done at a rump session of Congress, ~~xxx~~ called at a political convention for political purposes, in the heat of a political campaign."

UNRAFT

The President has called for draft registration to begin on August Thirtieth, and continued through September Eighteenth. Men of different ages will register on different days - beginning with the twenty-five year olds, and on down the line to the eighteen year olds. Thirteen million registration cards are being printed.

the best of the U.S. are entitled to send over clerks, interpreters, agents and advisers - and Red under-cover agents may be included among those. Moreover, foreign press, radio and film representatives come to report the U.S. - and subversives get in last way. This country is not a police state, so said a spokesman of the State Department today - in giving an elaborate picture of the U.S. as a gateway for dangerous Communist agents.

In the past, responsibility for Communist propaganda was placed on the shoulders of individuals today - especially

SUBVERSIVE

The State Department has informed Congress that subversive foreign agents have entered this country through the United Nations. The State Department say - "an alarming number." It is explained that the U.M. is not at fault in this. The trouble is that the regulations covering the U.M. are such that Communist Agents are able to take advantage of it. For example, the Reds of the U.M. are entitled to send over clerks, translators, experts and advisers - and Red under-cover agents may be included among these. Moreover, foreign press, radio and film representatives come to report the U.M. - and subversives get in that way. ^R what to do about it? The answer is difficult - because this country is not a police state. So said a spokesman of the State Department today - in giving an alarming picture of the U.M. as a gateway for dangerous Communist Agents.

~~In New York, meanwhile, a federal grand jury handed down a series of indictments today - a special~~

CONGRESS

There was some indication today that the Republicans in Congress may take President Truman at his word - about racial rights. This was intimated by Senator Wherry of Nebraska, acting Republican leader, who pointed out that, of all the points on which the President bawled out ~~the~~ Congress, the only one ready for Congressional action is - racial rights.

Before Congress adjourned, the Senate had three bills ready to be voted on, bills for an anti-lynching law, an anti-poll tax law, and a law for fair employment practices - all of which are ^aanathema to the Southerners. These bills were delayed by the adjournment ~~of~~ of Congress - so the logical thing might seem to be to go right ahead and take ~~the~~ them up when the special Congress meets, as called by President Truman. But then, (that would throw the whole thing into a violent southern filibuster - the more effective because most of the Democrats in Congress are ~~many~~ Southerners.)

The word from Washington is that President Truman will appear personally before a joint

session, to present a special message. This to ~~feature~~
feature a demand for price control laws. The immediate
thing would be restrictions on meat prices - with other
controls, such as rationing, to be placed at the disposal
of the President. There is, of course, much ~~Republican~~
~~opposition to a repetition of the price controls which~~
~~were taken off after the big black market hullabaloo, in~~
~~Nineteen forty six.)~~

FRANCE

The President of France is seeking to form another moderate, middle-of-the-road ministry to take the place of the one voted down yesterday. President Auriol's major effort is to avoid a showdown between the Communists and the followers of General De Gaulle.

The Reds are demanding that their leader, Thorez, be made Premier. De Gaulle is demanding that he be given the job of running the country. In the present National Assembly, De Gaulle would have no chance of getting a majority, but, if the moderates fail to form a Cabinet, a general election might be called, - in which De Gaulle would have a chance to show his political strength.

BRIDE

At Miami today, in the sheriff's office, they submitted a young woman to a lie detector test. She was a bride, newly married - and the questions they asked had all to do with one topic.

"Have you been unfaithful to your husband?"

"no," she replied - and the needle of the lie detector made a recording.

"Have you had a love affair in the past few weeks?"

"No," she replied - the needle making another recording.

And so the questions went - all along the same line of illicit romance.

Not that the young bride was accused of anything - not that she was required to answer. She, herself, insisted on that lie detector test.

She appeared at the Sheriff's office yesterday, a pretty twenty-four year old brunette, weeping and telling of the jealousy of her husband.

suspicious, imagining things, he accused her of going around with other men. Their marriage was in danger of breaking up, and she was desperately seeking some way to convince him of her innocence. So she thought of the lie detector test. She asked the sheriff to submit her to that scientific device for spotting truth or falsehood - to get evidence she could show to her husband.

I suppose it was the first time that a lie detector was ever used as a means of quieting marital jealousy. But it ~~is~~ happened today, and the young wife left the sheriff's office with a document in an envelope. The official report of the lie detector - and it showed that, according to the scientific gadget, she was ~~innocent~~ ^{innocent} of any infidelity. She was on her way home to

show that to her jealous husband. - And let's hope that *thought as he reads the document, let's hope* he has a proper belief in science, if not in women.

UNFAITHFUL

Here's another example of that famous British quality of - under-statement. In a London courtroom today, Mrs. Vera Jarvis was granted a divorce from her husband. The Judge handed down a decision that the husband was, in the words of his Honor - "undoubtedly unfaithful."

huh!

Undoubtedly; last Friday the lady's husband was found guilty of bigamy for the fifth time.

SOVIET BULL

There's a new scandal in Soviet Russia, the party line violated again. Today in Moscow, a denunciation was hurled in these words - "cheap capitalistic sensationalism." The charge is made in a magazine called - "Soviet Shorts." All having to do with proletarian athletics.

It happened in Soviet Central Asia, the ancient land of Tartary, in legended city of Kokand, in the province of Uzbekistan. There, among the Tartars, they have a local wrestler named Madji Murat - an athlete of mighty muscles. Madji Murat is so strong, you'd think they might have entered him as a wrestler in the ~~Michigan~~ Olympic games. But the Soviets are not in the Olympics - so another inspiration was had by the Chairman of ~~the~~ the local physical culture committee, Comrade Mussainov. He got the idea of matching Madji Murat with a bull - the Tartar strong man grappling with a bull in a wrestling match.

Comrade Mussainov proceeded to do a bang-up job of promotion. He plastered the city of Kokand,

legended metropolis of the Tartars of old, with signs and posters in gaudy colors, Reading: "One day only; great sport performance; Tartar's strongest wrestler in a fight with a bull; six rubles."

Sounds familiar, sounds like Barnum. But in Moscow it sounded too much like Barnum. So today the magazine called "Soviet Sports" printed a thundering denunciation, as follows; "We do not know," says the article, "what holds this wrestler used to throw the bull." That, by the way, is the exact ~~translation~~ translation from Moscow - about throwing the bull. After which the article goes on to excoriate what it calls, "the cheap sensational, nerve-tingling methods ~~which~~ which are inherent in the habits of foreign businessmen."

That article leaves one with a profound sense of disappointment, because it fails to ^{say} ~~say~~ - who won the wrestling bout? The Tartar strong ~~man~~ man, Hadji Murat - or, the bull? In Far Kobsand.

And now, here's our Ivory man.

DIARY

At Stafford Springs, Connecticut, they ~~are~~^{are}
celebrating a red-letter day in the life of a - Diary.
It seems to be the champion diary of them all - in
point of time, number of years, number of volumes.

At the same time, they are celebrating the
brithday of Washington D. Graves.- He's a hundred and
one years old. He began the diary when he was⁵ nineteen,
back in Eighteen Sixty-Six, and has kept it
faithfully ever since - for eighty-two years,
eighty-two volumes. Which certainly would seem to make it
a champion diary.

The first entry, written the year after the
end of the Civil war, gives the following historical
note: "Looks like rain." The rest of the diary goes on
to feature two-and-a-half years of old time sailing
before the mast, voyages aboard a windjammer rounding
Cape Horn. As for today, July 20, 1948, I don't quite
know what the entry is. But, gazing out of the window,
it well could be; "looks like rain." & here's

someone who looks like
Nelson Case.