

L.T. P. & G. MONDAY, JANUARY 24, 1949.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

I am in Omaha tonight. And this happens to be the meeting place of a Republican National Committee -- which went into session today. The first important point under discussion, is the chairmanship now held by Huger Scott, who presided over the committee during the period of Governor Dewey's campaign. Some think he should step out. But Huger Scott today stated: I have no intention of resigning from a position to which I was elected.

Republican leadership is, of course, dealing chiefly with problems raised by the defeat in November. They have before them what they call: "thousands of grass roots suggestions." And these they are scanning in the hope of finding grass roots with which to build up the party for next time. Here in Omaha, heart of the corn belt, I'll bet they are giving plenty of attention to that farm vote, with due consideration for that grass root called - parity.

JAPAN

Returns from the <sup>Japanese</sup> ~~Japanese~~ election kept coming in today, with increasing evidence of an overwhelming triumph for the Conservatives of Premier Yoshida, called the Democratic liberal party. Also, a surprise showing made by the Communists. The Reds have won thirty seats in the Japanese diet and they had only four in the previous Parliament. And, there is plenty of talk in Tokyo about the progress made by the Reds -- largely under the influence of the Communist victory in the China Civil War. Actually, the gains were made in the extreme left and the extreme right -- at the expense of the middle parties.

But the Conservatives of Premier Yoshida have won two hundred and sixty-four seats. Next come the Democrats with ~~one~~ sixty-nine seats. The conservatives, in other words, have a ~~large~~ majority over all the rest of the parties combined, and will be able to administer Japan on their own. Hitherto, Yoshida has had to ~~depend on a coalition~~ <sup>— an</sup> depend on a coalition, <sup>an</sup> alliance with other parties.

~~By now~~ But now his party is supreme.

Which is an outstanding triumph for General Douglas MacArthur who supports Yoshida. ~~Today the Supreme Commander stated his gratification in the following words: "Peoples~~

CHINA

In China the Nationalist capital at Nanking the people today thought the Communists were storming the city -- as the sound of thundering explosions rang out. But it was a blast at a Chinese Army ~~an~~ munitions factory and storage ~~plant~~ place -- just outside of Nanking. The place erupted for four hours, vast amounts of munitions blowing up with a thunder of giant reverberations. Rumor is that hundreds were killed. But the Nationalist government reports that no lives were lost. Sabotage suspected, dirty work by the Reds - whose troops are only fifteen miles from Nanking. There they have halted to consolidate and reorganize -- in the face of no opposition.

## PALESTINE

Nearly everything in the news tonight has an election angle. Even Palestine. The report from Tel Aviv; no Armistice agreement until after the election in Israel beginning tomorrow. The word is that the Tel Aviv government has sent instructions to that effect to the Jewish delegates at the Armistice conference of Rhodes -- telling them not to sign anything until after election today. The reason is, we hear, that if concessions are made to Egypt it might be a political handicap to the party of Premier Ben Gurion, the moderate Socialists. If points were yielded they might lose votes. So, don't sign, until after election -- sounds like the old way of politics, the world over.

Meanwhile, a delay in the evacuation of Egyptian troops from Faluja where four thousand have been under siege for weeks. Israel agreed to let them out. The evacuation was scheduled to begin today - but has been suddenly postponed on Jewish orders. No reason is given, but this too may be connected with the Israel election.

Later news -- France has recognized Israel.

This action by the Paris government was taken today.

Late word from London is that Great Britain is expected to follow suit -- and grant recognition to Israel probably within the next forty-eight hours.

## PIANIST

In New York tonight, at Carnegie Hall, a piano recital was to have been held -- but was cancelled at the last minute. And the pianist is on his way out of the country, by agreement with the immigration authorities. He is Walter Gieseking, a world-famous master of the keyboard. A German, <sup>he</sup> ~~who~~ was given credentials to come to this country for a concert tour, ~~he~~ and his first recital, ~~was~~ scheduled for tonight, was a sell-out.

But Jewish organizations picked <sup>at</sup> Carnegie Hall, because of Gieseking's connection with the Nazis. In Washington, Congressman Klein raised a protest in the legislative halls. So tonight Carnegie Hall had to refund money to the <sup>packed house</sup> ~~sell-out~~ audience, and Walter Gieseking agreed with the immigration authorities -- that he would immediately go back to Germany.

The world famous pianist declared that his connection with the Nazis had been ~~compulsory~~ compulsory and he argued -- that art, music, has nothing to do with race, religion, or politics. Seems like we've heard that before.

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

TRIP

I'm in Omaha tonight, after something of an adventure. For the past several days I've been driving far and wide across the roads of these western plains -- from Chicago to Oscaloosa, Iowa, through town after town, all the way to Lincoln, and as far as Hastings. Then back to Omaha.

The weather being what it <sup>is</sup> out here in the West, with the condition of the highways -- it <sup>has</sup> ~~was~~ <sup>been</sup> quite a trip, -- <sup>so far.</sup> ~~an~~ ~~adventure in fact.~~

The reason for it all goes back to a memorable night a little less than three months ago -- that night of surprise and suspense, <sup>night.</sup> ~~election.~~ Plenty of us will remember those long hours of unexpected uncertainty -- followed by that amazing triumph of President Truman.

I was in the thick of it, at CBS headquarters, New York <sup>-- with the other news men</sup> ~~-- we news commentators having been~~ mobilized for election night broadcasting. ~~Well,~~ Everybody who knows how <sup>wrong</sup> ~~long~~ the prognostications were -- with many a commentator left out on a long limb. Just the other day, at the inauguration, President Truman had some fun taking a fling at stars of radio news, who, at all hours that night, kept insisting that Governor

Dewey would win. Though Truman had a majority of the votes, the Dewey trend would still come along and reverse the figures.

There we were looking at those surprising figures; on the big board at CBS election headquarters-- changing returns from every state marked down. And early that night there was one particular set of numbers that kept hitting me in the eye, the returns from Iowa. President Truman in the lead. The figures growing larger; that angle never changing -- the Democrats ahead in Iowa.

Now, that wasn't according to the script at all. According to the predictions in the polls, the Republicans should have been out in front nearly everywhere -- especially in Iowa, of all places. Iowa, traditionally the great Republican stronghold of the Middlewest.

But everybody kept saying: just wait till the farm vote pours in. Surely that would bring the Dewey trend, which everybody expected. But Iowa was the heart of the corn belt farm vote and nothing else.

I noticed likewise that other agricultural states of the Middle West, while showing <sup>a</sup> Dewey majority, were not ~~g~~ giving the New York Governor the huge swing of middlewestern farm votes that he would need to win. Nebraska ~~for example,~~

with a slight Republican margin, instead of a huge whopping two ~~to~~ to one or something like that. *I watched this with double interest because I had lived in both Iowa and Nebraska.*

About eleven o'clock it was my time to go on the air.

~~As~~ commentators were being rotated, each taking a turn,

~~I'd been at the microphone a couple of times before,~~ and now

~~it was~~ <sup>came up!</sup> my turn again.

There was only one thing I could think of to talk about. The strange fact of Iowa. <sup>So,</sup> I said that Dewey, apparently, was losing out with the farm vote. <sup>That</sup> ~~The~~ agricultural states of the middlewest were suppose<sup>d</sup> to be the Number One <sup>G.O.P.</sup> ~~strong~~ stronghold. <sup>d</sup> But, there was Iowa -- Truman ahead. Actually Governor Dewey was ~~g~~ doing all right in the big industrial states, where he was supposed to be weak with ~~the~~ labor votes. He carried New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania. But, he was failing where he was supposed to be the strongest, in the corn belt.

Which to me was the most surprising thing of all in that stunning political surprise. So at eleven o'clock on election night, all I could say was that the farmers were producing the completely unexpected in the great astonishment.

For days after I kept thinking - there we newsmen were sitting in New York never guessing what was going on in the rural areas, though so many of us came from small town or farm. I'd better get out in the middle west and circulate around in the farming sections. Which I've been doing for four days now. Handicapped somewhat by thousands of square miles of glare ice out here. The only place I've failed to reach so far has been Haskell Institute, in Kansas, where I had planned to take part in the dedication of an important Indian War Memorial. Ice and a car spinning off a road kept me from Haskell.

This, of course, has been the year of tough weather in the western states. The news telling of

record breaking cold and blizzards. On Friday when I got to Oscaloosa I was warned against trying to drive on west, highways tied up in western Iowa, and in Nebraska, with the worst ice conditions in history. Just to illustrate the weather angle let's look at today's news. The weather is the big news in this part of America. In Omaha, the prediction -- ten below tonight. In other parts of the state 5, 10, and 15 degrees lower still. Highways so glazed with ice that you can skate from Iowa to Nebraska, to Kansas and Colorado. Yes, sir, youngsters on skates are sliding around on highways meant for autos. And cars are warned to stay off them. The Air Force engaged in a huge operation "hay lift" -- to save myriads of cattle threatened with starvation on the snow and ice covered western plains, and in the mountains. Huge C-82 cargo planes taking off at ten minute intervals dropping tons of hay cakes, concentrated cattle food in pellets, scattering this over thousands of frozen square miles -- Operation "hay lift."

In Congress today three bills were introduced to provide emergency government aid to save snow-bound western livestock. In the Senate, "O'Mahoney of Wyoming calling for federal forces to clear the blocked roads. Senator O'Mahoney described the blizzards and the cold wave in these words: "The most difficult experience in the Rocky Mountain area within the memory of living man." The latest: President Truman has authorized a \$100,000 in Federal Relief funds for the stricken west.

So, no wonder I was warned in Oscaloosa, Iowa, not to start for my date with my Haskell Indian friends, and then on to Wahco, or anywhere else in Nebraska.

But I'm a skier and like all skiers I normally pay little attention to weather warnings. Real ski addicts are accustomed to heading for the mountains in the worst months of the year, under any conditions. So, six of us set out in a couple of cars. And for days now I've been on the road in a fantasy of ice, snow, and wind. Creeping along at twenty miles an hour, in a world unending ice, as far as the eye could see across the

prairies. When you could see at all through storm. The howling wind from the north so strong it was constantly blowing the car sidewise. Through snow whipped by the wind in blinding flurries.

A fine time to be scouting around through Iowa and Nebraska -- seeking illumination of that farm vote mystery, those figures on the board at CBS election night! Not a farmer in sight. Cattle and hogs? Some. All covered with a glaze of ice!

But, I have contrived to pick up a point or two of illumination.

For example, here in Omaha, the Bureau Manager for the United Press, told me about a New York newspaperman who was on one of the campaign trains, through Nebraska. At one stop he wrote a peach of a story, with lots of local color. He told of standing on the rear platform of the campaign train and off in the distance a lone prospector trudged along. This was in central Nebraska where there never was a mining prospector. The nearest one might have been a gold seeker out where the Colorado

mountains begin, four or five hundred miles away. Which is an example of how little some New York newsmen knew about the West. The U.P. Bureau Manager told me that he himself had filed a pre-election report indicating that President Truman would run exceedingly well in the Corn Belt. I asked him how he figured it. He said he had been on the Stassen train, when the former Minnesota Governor had campaigned for the nomination here in Nebraska. He said that Stassen had made a great impression on the farmers. He talked foreign policy, advocated farm benefits and emphasized parity. Gaylord Godwin says he saw the hit that Stassen made with the farmers. Then he noticed -- that President Truman, campaigning in the Middle West, talked the same line as Stassen. So the newsman figured that, if it made a hit for Stassen, it would also make a hit for Truman. All of which summarizes the talks I have been having out here, seeking an explanation of those election figures that astonished us so much on the CBS board in November: Truman ahead in Iowa!

Meanwhile, as I broadcast from here at K.F.A.B. in Omaha tonite, the thermometer is dropping outside -- at Ewing, Nebraska, because of this incredible winter they haven't had a mail since the 18th of November.

And now from snowy Nebraska, to Ken Niles, in Hollywood -- where it never snows, does it, Ken?