

L. I. - P. & S. Monday, August 2, 1948.

(Given by Mr. John Kieran.)

LEAD

(Marshall Stalin has received representatives of
Britain, France and the United States at the Kremlin ^{TO-NIGHT} - to
talk over the Soviet blockade of Berlin, and any other
causes of friction between Russia and the Western Allies.)

U.S. Ambassador Walter Bedell Smith, the French
Ambassador Yves Chataigneau and Frank Roberts, Secretary
of Britain's Foreign Minister Ernest Bevin, entered the
Kremlin at 9 P.M. Moscow Time -- in answer to a sudden
summons. And they stayed two hours. They went alone,
bringing only their interpreters -- no secretaries or
experts. Afterwards, they had nothing to say to newsmen.
Their interview with the Soviet Premier was announced over
the Moscow Radio which said that Soviet Foreign Minister
Molotov was also present.

The meeting, of course, is a direct result of
those three separate conferences with Molotov on Saturday
night, when the representative of each nation asked the

Soviet Foreign Minister for a personal interview with his boss. The idea being that if the representatives of America, France and Britain were to meet the Soviet ruler face to face, they might be able to persuade him to lift the Berlin blockade; or at least get Stalin to agree to a four power conference on the entire German situation. This procedure we are told, gets Molotov out of a diplomatic jam. Also, it flatters Stalin. You know how it is - you ask a man to get his boss to do something, and he says, "I just can't do it," ^{so} ~~and~~ you say, "All right, let me try". And it seems to have worked.

And now what? There's a complete blackout ^{in London} ~~as to~~ what took place. Not a word from the usually talkative London Foreign Office. But, from behind the door, as it were, comes a whisper from Mr. official spokesman, beloved of British journalists. He says that if there is a four power Foreign Ministers' conference it will probably take place within

six weeks, possibly in Paris, just before the United Nations
General Assembly meets in the French capital. ~~Add to this~~
that Washington confirms that the Western powers were pre-
pared to ask Stalin for four power talks; as well as for a
lifting of the blockade, and you can draw your own conclu-
sions. But has Stalin agreed. For that we must wait.

Late word in Washington is that further conferences
with Stalin and Molotov may have been scheduled. That is
the reason for the complete silence, It being customary for
the nations to make no comment during the progress of diplo-
matic conversations.

SPY

Here's the latest on that Red spy sensation in Washington. Former Commerce Department official Nathan Gregory Silvermaster has been ordered to appear before the House Un-American Activities Committee. He'll be there on Wednesday to answer charges made by blond Elizabeth Bentley, that he headed a wartime Russian spy ring within the U.S. Government.

Miss Bentley also charged Silvermaster with being a member of the N.K.V.D. - the dreaded Russian secret police. Silvermaster's answer is a denial. He says that Miss Bentley has been ~~peddling~~ peddling that story for years; and that he'll tell his side of the story at what he calls - "the proper time." Well, there's a time for everything. Last May, when Silvermaster appeared before the Committee, he refused to say whether he was a Communist, ^{or not.} Because, he said, an answer might incriminate him. So that definitely wasn't the time for him. Perhaps Wednesday will be.

Silvermaster, says ~~Chairman~~ temporary Chairman Carl Mundt, will be questioned ~~in open session~~ - just like any other witness. And the thirty odd other government employees named by Miss Bentley as members of the alleged spy ring, will get their chance to testify later on, if they wish.

Mundt said today that the Committee believes it has already enough evidence to warrant criminal action, and that it may ask Attorney General Tom Clark tomorrow to impanel a special grand jury to investigate espionage and Communist activities in the federal government,

~~Mundt made his announcement as~~ At the same time ~~as~~ former Communist leader Louis Budenz was telling the Senate Investigating Committee that several hundred members of the Communist Party are still on the government payroll. Several score of them, he says, held important jobs, which puts them in position to obtain confidential information, and also enables them to influence American policy. ~~Only one man, said he, knows for certain how many Reds have infiltrated into our government.~~

OLYMPICS

Our Olympic team continued its winning way at Wembley Stadium today, with eighty-two thousand spectators watching the rain-soaked competition. Sergeant Mal Whitfield of the U.S. Air Force and Ohio State, won the eight hundred meter final in the Olympic record time of one forty-nine--two

Owen G. Smith, won the pole vault for the United States, with a winning height of fourteen feet, one and a quarter inches.

The five thousand meter final was won by Gaston Reiff of Belgium by inches from Lieutenant Emile Zatopek, the Czechoslovakian army lieutenant who won the ten thousand meter event on the opening day of competition.

Adolfo Consolini of Italy won the discus event at the new Olympic record distance of a hundred and seventy-three feet, two inches.

Fortune Gordien of the University of Minnesota took third place for the United States, *in this event.*

One of the most surprising upsets was the defeat of the University of California's swimming star Ann Curtis in the women's hundred meter free style which was won by Denmark's Greta Anderson. Ann Curtis lost ~~split seconds~~ ^{time} at the fifty meter half way mark when she made a slow turn, ~~as~~ ^{while} the Danish girl whipped ~~and~~ ^{around fast} swept on to a convincing lead. Ann Curtis took her defeat like a good sport. "I swam a good race", she said, "but Greta was just better. I will try again in the four hundred meter, and perhaps I can win then". ^{In this fine spirit did I} ~~take~~ ^{take} The American girl athlete ~~smiling~~ at her first defeat in three years.

POLITICS

Washington had a minor surprise today when the rebellious Southern Democrats in the Senate suddenly moved to adjourn the special session of Congress on Wednesday. The measure for Congress to close up and go home was sponsored ^d by Senator Alan Jackson of South Carolina, but it was defeated fifty-eight to thirteen. Five of the Dixiecrats who are supporting the filibuster refused to back the adjournment measure. Likewise Senator Claude Pepper.

But the Southerners scored a major victory in the Senate when Democrats and Republicans joined to try and break the filibuster against the anti-poll tax bill. They invoked the Senate's cloture measure -- a recognized parliamentary procedure to limit debate.

~~The~~ Senate President Arthur Vandenberg ruled against them: to his "very great embarrassment", he said. The reason - - a point of law. The Senate's cloture rule can be applied only to a debate on a measure; and this filibuster;

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this debate without end, is a debate on a motion to bring up the anti-Poll Tax Bill - not on the bill itself. There's a fine difference. Vandenberg said that the Senate has been operating that way since nineteen seventeen, and he did not want to take the responsibility of making a change.

But the days of the filibuster itself may be numbered. Senator Taft hinted today that the Republicans may do something about the Senate cloture rule, if they retain control of Congress - and if they elect a president in the fall election. Two ifs, on which hang the fate of the future filibustering.

GERMAN CURRENCY

One effect of those U.S. currency reforms in Western Germany, says General Lucius Clay, in his report to Washington today, is a boost in ration levels. Everyone eating more, because farmers are selling their hoarded food stocks in return for good money. And because the Germans are feeding better, they're going to work regularly, which means industrial production up. ~~Now~~ Coal, iron and steel ^{are} almost as high as in Nineteen Thirty-Eight. Which shows the value for industry of a well fed worker.

But in Berlin the Soviets have struck at this minor boom, by freezing all currency accounts in their area. Under the provision of the Western powers' currency reform, seventy-five per cent of all Berliners' wages have to be paid in Soviet in currency - which is what we have been doing. Now, because of the freeze, the small wage earners are all brake,-- no money for food or rent. They can't even go to work. A sudden depression ^{has been caused} ~~has caused~~ by the Soviet action.

But our side is going to do something about it.

Today the Western Allied military governors promised prompt
relief for the seven hundred thousand Berliners. This after
an appeal by Ernst Reuter, the Berlin Socialist Party leader.

He asked America, Britain and France to bring in enough
Western marks to off-set the Russian freeze. And he urged
that we should make no attempt to compromise with the Soviets.

Meanwhile, Berlin workers are staying at home - without food
or carfare.

BERLIN WIVES

The British licensed German news agency reports a mass withdrawal of Soviet wives and children from occupied Berlin, with four hundred houses in the Soviet sector returned to their German owners, within the last two weeks.

What's the cause of it all? The Soviets say that they want their young people to grow up in the Russian way of life. The Russian wives ^{are} to be protected from what a Russian spokesman describes as "estrangement from Soviet ways of life."

The dispatch goes on to say that on their arrival in Soviet territory, the returning families are put through an acclimatization course -- to readjust them to conditions in Russia.

But, we hear, the Soviet wives and children are not leaving Berlin empty handed. Oh no! They're taking with them a lot of personal baggage - freight cars loaded with automobiles, pianos, refrigerators, baby carriages, bicycles, and shoes. Just a few useful souvenirs!

FREE-FOR-ALL

The residents of Mount Olive, Illinois, object to those news dispatches which called yesterday's little excitement on Main Street - a riot. It wasn't a riot, they say in shocked indignation - but just a nice old-fashioned free-for-all.

Mount Olive had been celebrating its annual home-coming, with a three day carnival. All the fun of a fair on Main Street. Everything went along fine until some young fellow from another town got into an argument with a man running a booth. He said he had been cheated.

And what did he do? Why, he slugged the boothman in the eye. At which someone shout^{ed}, "Hey Rube!" As everyone knows, "Hey Rube", is the carnival folks' call to battle. So everybody ~~got~~^{went} to slugging, ~~and~~ wrestling: and throwing tent stakes - with a rock or two. Until the sheriff and his deputies broke up the fight.

The score - eight of the Mount Olive folks in hospital. Nine carnival employees in jail.

"But it wasn't a riot," says Sheriff Schellar, "just

a nice free-for-all. The only thing that spoiled it was somebody getting tough and swinging a chain. That did most of the damage." Now he's looking for the fellow who introduced chain swinging into a respectable free-for-all.

BUFFALO BILL

Out at Long Mountain, Colorado, they're guarding the grave of Buffalo Bill - Colonel William Cody, to you - suh. Legionaires in uniform, on armed patrol round the clock, just in case anybody tries to take the mortal remains of the famous pony express rider out of his tomb on Lookout Mountain.

The American Legion post at Cody, Wyoming, has offered ten thousand dollars to anyone who will bring Buffalo Bill to Cody. With which the Colorado veterans don't agree.

But whoever tries to remove the old hero of the plains, is up against some tough sledding. Ever since the Colonel was ~~buried in the ground~~ buried in Nineteen Seventeen, people have been trying to remove him. So, just as a precaution, the Long Mountain folk poured twenty tons of concrete over the top of the grave. That'll take some moving.

Good night. Thanks for myself. For Lowell Thomas, So long until tomorrow!