

L.T.-OLDS. TUESDAY, MARCH 21, 1961.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Here's a heartening report - for the Free World. Communism is faltering - in what used to be a Communist stronghold. U.P.I. news analyst Phil Newsom points out that Italy was almost dominated by the Communist party after the war. The danger of a Red coup, hanging over Rome - as late as Nineteen Fifty-six. Some experts think the coup would have taken place - except for the Soviet attack on Hungary.

The brutal suppression of the Hungarian Freedom Fighters - shook the Italian Communist party. Causing mass defections. A trend that still continues. The party admits that less than sixty percent of last year's membership - have paid their dues for this year.

So the Free World has one solid plus - to set down in the black-ink side of the Cold War ledger.

Communism is a growing threat - in many places around the world. It's a decreasing threat - in Italy.

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comic playwright - go out on the boards. Playing a star
role in this jazz revue. He was leaving
stage. Well, Brendan the actor strolled on stage and
off - pretty much as the spirit moved him. Answering
- his own questions. He told jokes, sang funny songs - and
lectured the audience about everything from
Shakespeare to Irish whiskey.
The trouble is - that Brendan's audience didn't
stay with him too long. They first became restless
and then started to talk out on him. By the end of
the show - the playwright-turned-actor was performing
to a lot of empty seats.

Is he discouraged? Not at all. Says Brendan
Breen, having a shot of firewater - "I had a lot of fun.

BEHAN

Up in Toronto, theatre-goers have come to the conclusion - that Brendan Behan is funnier off the stage than on. Last night they saw the boisterous Irish playwright - go out on the boards. Playing a star role - in his jazz revue "Impulse."

Well, Brendan-the-actor strolled on-stage and off - pretty much as the spirit moved him. Answering - his own cues. He told jokes, sang funny songs - and lectured the audience about everything from Shakespearian tragedy to Irish whiskey.

The trouble is - that Behan's audience didn't stay with him too long. They first became restive - and then started to walk out on him. By the end of the show - the playwright-turned-actor was performing to a lot of empty seats.

Is he discouraged? Not at all. Says Brendan Behan, downing a shot of firewater - "I had a lot of fun."

BURGLAR

When Harry Null of St. Louis was in the Army - they sent him to the school for military police. There he learned criminology - the techniques of crime. For example, the way burglars "case the joint" - before breaking in. How to ransack a room - without leaving finger prints. The easiest way to open a safe - with nitroglycerine. And so on.

Private Harry Null served his hitch as an M.P. When he returned to civilian life - he decided to keep putting his criminology to work. Result - he's in the pokey, tonight. Accused of - eleven burglaries in St. Louis. Harry Null, who worked both sides of the street - as an expert on crime.

PLANE

Today a big B-52 landed at Edwards Air Force base, California - and the pilot radioed to the tower, "Get Joe out of the cockpit." He was referring to test pilot Joe Walker - in his X-15 underneath the right wing of the B-52.

The big plane - the mother ship. The small one - our spectacular combination of aircraft and rocket ship. Walker was due to have a shot at the speed record - when the X-15 developed a bug in its electrical system. So - ~~they~~ returned to base.

As the B-52 hit the runway - flame and smoke burst from the right wheel. Endangering - the miniature X-15. Hence the warning radio message - to get Joe Walker out. Well, he came through unharmed - and so did his plane. Both, ready for another crack at - the speed record for manned aircraft.

ATOMIC

American Delegate Arthur Dean brought concessions - to Geneva. Dean made this clear - as the talks on a possible atomic test ban resumed. He said we're ready to go, in his words - "more than halfway, during these negotiations. Our only condition - that Soviet Delegate Tsarapkin show that he means to negotiate in good faith. Specifically - that he really wants an inspection system that would prevent cheating by either side.

Our concessions mention such things as - inspection of the nuclear devices we explode. And a reduction of the number of inspection posts - to be set up inside the Soviet Union.

So far there's no indication that the Russians will meet us - halfway. Today, Tsarapkin repeated the old Soviet demands - that in effect would permit a Soviet veto of the whole inspection system.

CUBA

The newly elected head of a Cuban government-in-exile - is no amateur in politics. Jose Miro Cardona was Prime Minister of Cuba - when the Castro regime got underway. He stood by the Dictator as long as he could - and fled into exile only after Castro's Communism disillusioned him. Miro Cardona's new title is - President of the Revolutionary Council. He says he'll ask Washington for recognition - as soon as his government is established on Cuban soil.

ANGOLA

The reports about what is happening inside Angola - are still contradictory. Two different answers to the question - "Who are the terrorists operating along the Congo-Angola border?" The Portuguese authorities repeat - they're berserk soldiery from the Congo. But some refugees who have just arrived in Brazzaville call the terrorists - native Angolese troops who mutined against their Portuguese officers, and now are on the rampage in the jungle.

In any event, officials in Luanda describe the situation - as under control. The terrorists fleeing - before the loyal Angolese army. Their remnants, under constant strafing attack by Portuguese planes. Portuguese settlers - returning to the area. Returning to their homes.

LAOS

Today's White House conference on Laos - was the second in two days. And that indicates how seriously the administration is taking - the Laotian crisis. Especially - the Soviet airlift, which continues to drop supplies to the Communist rebels.

President Kennedy's position is - that we cannot permit a communist takeover in Laos. And must use all the force at our command - to prevent it. Secretary of State Rusk tried to make the point very clear - when he talked with Gromyko at the State Department on Saturday. Secretary Rusk was at the White House today with the other Presidential advisors - for a foreign policy conference at the highest level.

Meanwhile, Laos itself seems less in danger - than jungle rumors had suggested. The loyalist army has gone over to the attack - after stopping the rebel drive on Luang Prabang.

CONGO

From the Congo, some good news for the U.N. - and some bad news, too.

To mention the bad news first - U.N. forces are said to be losing their hold on northern Katanga Province. Losing to the age-old inhabitants of Katanga - the Baluba tribe. Ethiopian troops barely escaped from one village - by fighting their way through Baluba siege lines. The U. N. has lost two more villages - and may be forced to evacuate several others. The reason - is pretty obvious. The U.N. is simply outnumbered by the Balubas. Outnumbered - at least twenty to one.

The good news - concerns the Congo port of Matadi. The government in Leopoldville is allowing U.N. civilians - back into the city. Which means - that ships with supplies for the U.N. command can now be unloaded at Matadi.

U.N.

Our Ambassador to the U.N. today drew a figure of speech - from horticulture. Said Adlai Stevenson - "We must stop pulling up the roots of this plant every five days, to see if it is still growing." Terming this a sure method of killing the plant, Stevenson added "I suspect that is exactly what some people have in mind."

Let's analyze - the Stevensonian figure of speech. The "plant" referred to - is an orderly Congo government established under the auspices of the U.N. "Some people" - are the Soviets. The business of "pulling up the roots" - refers to the Russian attacks on the U.N. and all Congo leaders except those of the Leftist faction.

Adlai Stevenson's rhetoric adds up to a crushing retort - to Gromyko's han-handed attack on the U.N., again today.

EARTHQUAKE

Here's a followup - to a story we had last week. That earthquake on the island of Flores - in the East Indies. The latest word is that casualties of the tremor - have arrived aboard our mercy ship, the "Hope." That's the vessel we've sent to the Far East - with medical aid for the ill and the injured. Providentially, the "Hope" was in East Indian waters - just when the earthquake struck. The injured now aboard the ship describe the damage - as catastrophic. Eighty percent of the city of Endeher - knocked flat. But they add - that most of the people got out of the city at the first jolt. Casualties - light.