

REORGANIZATION L.J. - P.S. Monday, Feb. 7, 1949. Trushee,  
Cal.

Tonight in Washington the House of Representatives voted by ~~xxx~~ an overwhelming majority to give President Truman the broadest kind of power to reorganize the Federal administration. There were vigorous Republican attempts to write in restrictions. Though the ~~xxx~~ measure to give the authority to the Democratic President emanates from the Board headed by Herbert ~~xxxx~~ Hoover, former Republican President. <sup>R</sup> Congress, in fact, acted after a warning from Ex-President Hoover - a warning against attempts to restrict the streamlining <sup>ing</sup> of the Federal set up. The final vote was three hundred and fifty-six to eight.

## GIANNINI

In Washington today there was a dramatic scene between bankers. One was Marriner Eccles, member of the Federal Reserve Board. The other - that giant of West Coast Banking, A P Giannini. The Federal Reserve Board is considering charges that the Giannini interests run a monopoly of banking in the Western states - the famous bank-of-America. Eccles has disqualified himself ~~from~~ from sitting on the Board, because it is he who had been bringing charges against the Giannini's. Today he testified that he has no personal feeling against the Giannini firm, and said his own relations with the West Coast banker ~~are~~ are - cordial.

As if to illustrate, Eccles walked over to Giannini and held out his hand. The seventy-nine year old banker, rugged, cragged Genoese, shook Eccles hand, frowned and growled: "You are trying to put the Bank of America out of business -- and you can't do it".

Not precisely what you would call -- cordial.

## NORWAY

The focus of international interests is on the Scandinavian Kingdom of Norway. That rugged land of the sea-roving Vikings of old and of hardy mariners and fishermen today, becomes a center of conflict in the cold war between East and West. Norway now makes the decision of whether or not to join the West and enter the North Atlantic alliance. This means a defiance of Soviet Russia. Last week, Moscow made an attempt to keep Norway out of the Security Pact the Western Countries are forming - and this weekend, the Soviets gave the Norwegian Government another warning. Moscow offering - a non-aggression treaty, as an inducement.

Tonight the Norwegian Foreign Minister is in Washington - having arrived yesterday. He has come to negotiate with the United States Government. ~~Talks~~ will begin with Secretary of State Acheson -- first meeting scheduled for today. Later the Norwegian Foreign Minister is likely to go into conference with the envoys of all of the seven countries that

~~are formulating the North Atlantic Security Pact.~~

Today Foreign Minister Halvard Lange stated his ~~purpose~~ purpose in the following words: "I have come to the United States to find out what security there will be for Norway if we enter the North Atlantic Pact. I also wish to find out, he added, what obligations Norway will be committed to in this Pact." That means, first of all, that Norway wants to know how much military equipment she can expect from the big western powers, the United States in particular. Secondly - whether the Security Pact ~~and~~ would require that the western powers will be granted military bases on Norwegian soil in peace time. The word is that Norway will not concede this. Also - that the Western powers do not demand it. Officials in Washington declare that little thought is being given to any questions to peacetime bases in Norway.

As the conferences in Washington begin, the probabilities appear to be that, in defiance of Soviet Russia, Norway will join the North Atlantic Security Pact.

FOLLOW - NORWAY

The latest from Washington, a thirty minute talk between Secretary of State Acheson and Norway's Foreign Minister Halvard Lange. The conversations were -- preliminary. <sup>Said</sup> The Norwegian Foreign Minister, ~~states:~~ ~~XXXXXX~~ "We hope to turn to specific problems this week".

## HUNGARY

The government of Red Hungary has rejected the British protest against the way the Communists are conducting the trial of Cardinal Mindszenty. London complains <sup>he</sup> ~~the~~ cause official British observers have been excluded from the court room - contrary to the Hungarian peace treaty.

Hungary was on the losing side in the war, and signed the terms laid down by the ~~victorious~~ <sup>victorious</sup> ~~allied~~ allied powers. The western countries insisted on guarantees of liberty, personal and religious - and Soviet Russia agreed. It was exactly the same in the case of other lands behind the Iron curtain - like Poland. The Soviets promising freedom - but those countries are turned into satellite ~~and~~ dictatorships.

In Hungary, right now, the broke<sup>d</sup> pledge is illustrated dramatically by the trial of Cardinal Mindszenty. Both Great Britain and the United States have claimed the right, under the treaty of having observers present - invoking that clause of the treaty which promises religious liberty.

~~So now~~ The Hungarian Reds ~~reply. They~~ reject the British protest, and answer with an accusation of their own - charging the British with trying to give what the Reds call "assistance to Fascist enemies of Hungarian democracy". Which of course, applies as well ~~as~~ to the United States.

In ~~the~~ Budapest, meanwhile, the Cardinal and his fellow defendants, <sup>are</sup> ~~awaiting~~ in prison, under the heaviest kind of guard - their sentence to be pronounced tomorrow. What it will be nobody can guess, although the Red prosecutor made <sup>a</sup> ferocious demand for -- death. Through the free countries of the world the strongest indignation is being expressed. over the weekend, the Roman Catholics of the United States united in prayer for Cardinal Mindszenty, Primate of Hungary.

FOLLOW HUNGARY

The latest - a statement by British Foreign Secretary Bevin. He refers to the violent Red campaign against the Cardinal, and calls it - "repugnant". Bevin says that Britain views the whole case with what he calls "grave concern".



## KRAVCHENKO

In a Paris Court room today testimony was given against Victor Kravchenko the ~~fnx~~ fugitive Russian official who fled from the Soviets and wrote the book - "I chose Freedom". Kravchenko is suing a Paris newspaper for libel and - and in a way, the old story about Soviet Russia is on trial. The witnesses against him were brought from Russia, one, his former wife. She today declared that Kravchenko was, in her words - "an ignorant Don Juan".

Another witness, from Russia was a former friend of the author of "I Chose Freedom". He stated that Kravchenko always dressed beyond his means and liked to boast about his love affairs.

Which makes one wonder - what has that to do with the book exposing slavery in the land of Stalin? Sounds more like a divorce case - than politics.

## BLIZZARD

The break of luck on this western trip has tossed me once again into a focus of the biggest story the West has known for years - the blizzard, the terror of the weather. Adventure began when I ran into that night-mare of automobile travel in Iowa and Nebraska -- and now all over again, I am at the scene of a climax of the terror of winter. A skiing jaunt took me to Donner Pass, the loftiest highway level in the Sierras - and this, as it turns out, is a key point in the new headlines of blizzard. This is where it began, the birthplace of the blizzard.

The news is telling me how the tempest of wind and snow swept through the mountains and is blasting onto the Great Plains, creating new peril and havoc. This evil outbreak of weather came in from the Pacific, a storm that moved across the Central Valley of California, and up into the lofty Sierras. The towering mountains here rise abruptly from a low plain. The Valley of the Sacramento River is at sea level, and in eighty-five miles the land rides steeply

to nearly eight thousand feet - the altitude at Donner Pass. Still higher in the mountains around the Sugar Bowl, where we have been snowed in over the weekend.

When the weather blowing from the Pacific and across the valley, swept up into the high Sierras, the rain and wind turned into a wild fantasy of snow and storm, the fury of the blizzard; gales up to ninety miles an hour, blasting through the mountains, with stupendous drifts of snow. And this I can tell you is no fable.

DONNER

There are five of us who have been snowed in up here. We have six in our party, but one insisted on staying amid the palm trees at Sacramento. The rest of us had intended to leave the Sierras over the weekend. But, when that Friday storm hit these mountains we decided to wait until the weather cleared. That was Friday - and we thought we had never seen a blizzard worse than that one. But on Sunday, when we thought the Friday storm was due to end, down swept another, with more snow than I've ever seen fall at one time, followed by winds of gale velocity, up to eighty-five miles an hour where some of us were climbing near the summit of Mt. Disney. And the same wind and snow at Donner Pass, where so many people were marooned in the storm.

Around one hundred and forty inches of snow -- nearly twelve feet! How's that?

Although officials of the Division of Highways and Highway Patrolmen were warning people to stay off

the roads, and the highway over Donner was closed longer than ever before in its history, large numbers of people already were in the Donner Pass country, and they were trapped.

Merle Jennings, Divisional Superintendent of the Southern Pacific here in the Sierras, ran a special train from Reno to Sacramento just to pick up marooned people. He drove that train through with giant rotor plows. He has been using five of these huge rotors during this storm, and five more that are called "flangers" that have immense wings extending fourteen or fifteen feet out from the cowcatcher, on either side.

Mr. Jennings, in the Friday night storm when you came up from Sacramento to direct storm operations here in the Sierras, I understand it took you three hours, behind a huge rotor, to go from Emigrant Gap to Donner Summit?

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M. JENNINGS: That's right, Mr. Thomas. It took us

three hours to make the twenty miles from Emigrant Gap to Norden -- Donner Summit. That's the longest it has ever taken a train to make that journey. And that'll give you an idea of what a storm this has been. There has been nothing like it in all my forty years of railroading in these mountains.

L.T.: Mr. Jennings and his men have been fighting the storm for three days and nights, without sleep. When they brought the special train through from Reno to pick up stranded people, Mr. Jennings was out on the platform at each station, giving the people a hand, treating them almost as though they were his children.

All the inns through the mountains on this main highway have been jammed with refugees. As I drove over Donner Pass today, only a little while ago, it was quite a sight, the hundreds of automobiles completely buried in the snow - only the shapes indicating there were any cars there. The Southern Pacific rotor plows hurling great geysers of snow into

the canyon below, and the rotor plows of the State Highway Department shooting more geysers over the highway.

At the Sugar Bowl, California's Number One ski center, we all knew we at least could get out to the highway, because the Sugar Bowl has three weasels, machines with tremendous caterpillar tracks, specially designed for traveling in deep snow, surplus Army material. But the drifts were so high this morning that one weasel took two hours to go a mile and a half.

And Lake Tahoe, which is just around the corner -- according to Walt Barrett, Editor of the Truckee Sierra Sun, is still completely cut off from the outside world.

To show how important this storm is, the Executive Vice-President of the South Pacific, D. J. Russell, has just come in the door of my railway station radio studio here at Truckee. He's accompanied by Chicago Engineer Mayo. And they tell me the latest word

is that another storm of equal intensity is scheduled for tomorrow. And like Division Superintendent Merl Jennings they have left their San Francisco offices to do anything they can to see that the transcontinental trains get through.



## FOLLOW BLIZZARD

The latest news is that all this unusual weather sweeping out of the Sierras and across the Rockies, has brought another heavy blow to the stricken West. Once again myriads of livestock are threatened with destruction. Thousands of miles of roads broken open by bulldozers during the past week have been closed again by towering drifts.

The Governor of Idaho has declared a state of emergency, calling on the National Guard and the Federal Government to join in breaking the new road blockades. In Wyoming - much of the state is virtually paralyzed - the new great snows blocking roads that the Army bulldozers cleared last week. The city of Casper, and the town of Lusk are isolated. Rawlins marooned, with five passenger trains and a freight stalled there. From Utah comes a statement by a Federal Government expert that the state's four million livestock industry might be wiped out.

In Washington, President Truman this afternoon authorized the Department of the Interior

to throw unlimited funds into relief for the western areas hit by the new blizzard.

BET

In a Los Angeles newspaper yesterday, an advertisement appeared - job wanted. It read as follows: "Lost election bet. Must spend six months as a chauffeur - bodyguard. College graduate - engineer. The guy with whom I made the bet will pick the job. Most interesting offer gets me."

That excited ~~curiosity~~<sup>curiosity</sup> - indicating as it did, one of the goofiest election bets on record. Who is the loser, compelled to work for six months as chauffeur - bodyguard? The newsman started investigating, and ~~has~~<sup>s</sup> discovered the winner. He turns out to be a prominent citizen of St. Louis, Fred Liesel, son of the wealthy operator of a fuel and ice company. The loser, he says, is a San Francisco manufacturer, whose name he won't give.

Kiesel tells the following story: "In St. Louis they got into an argument about that November election -- and it must be stated that the winner was not one of the few lucky ones who bet on President Truman. The question was - who would be elected Governor of

Missouri? Instead of putting up some cash or betting ~~xxxxxxx~~ a hat they agreed that the winner should have the right to put the loser to work on some job or other. Just how they arrived at that particular kind of a wager is a mystery - but you know how those election bets are. Today Diesel said that, if he had lost, he would have been required to work for a year without pay at the San Francisco factory run by the loser. But, ~~he~~ having won, he requires that the San Francisco manufacturer work for six months as a ~~chauffeur~~ chauffeur-body guard for somebody - at Los Angeles. Maybe the Los Angeles part of it makes it tougher for a San Franciscan.

Hence the strange advertisement in the Los Angeles paper yesterday.

## VALENTINO

The news tells how five wealthy women of San Francisco have put up One Hundred Thousand Dollars to restore a shrine. Sounds like an echo out of a vanished past, but the sanctuary is dedicated to Rudolph Valentino, the movie sheik of yester-year

They have bought the Falcon's lair, the Valentino Hilltop Mansion in Hollywood. There the sheik of the Nineteen Twenties built himself a palace. After his death, it was bought by a Brazilian coffee planter, a distant relative of Valentino, who spent One Hundred and Seventy thousand dollars in creating a Valentino Shrine. A few years later, the whole thing was sold out - the Valentino art ~~and~~ collection and personal effects ~~are~~ auctioned off for Thirty-five thousand dollars.

The house passed into the possession of a woman, who bought it three years ago. Last year, on what would have been the fifty-third birthday of Rodolph ~~and~~ Valentino, there was a giant spiritualistic

seance in the place. Thirty-five mediums gathered to summon the ghost of the sheik. Newspaper reporters who covered the seance, said they could see nothing. But the mediums insisted that the spook of Valentino had appeared - hidden, I suppose, from the vulgar gaze of the newsmen.

So now the shrine is being restored by five women of San Francisco. Their identity is not revealed. They are merely described as - wealthy matrons. Matrons, that is, whose girlhood memory goes back to the lure and the romance of the sheik of the movies.

And this should be an appropriate moment to hear a voice from a present day Hollywood sheik - meaning you, Ken Niles.