

Early Apr. 15/48 ec.
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The latest from Rome, ~~is~~ an announcement that hardly seems necessary. Premier de Gasperi declares that no Communists will be taken into the Cabinet; ~~at Rome~~ - as, why would there be, after those election figures.

(All day the figures have been rolling in, and telling the same story - the Communist Front beaten by two-to-one. The Christian Democratic Party, led by Premier de Gasperi, has almost an absolute majority over all other parties combined - the Christian Democratic share of the vote being about forty-eight per cent. The Independent Socialist Party, which broke away from the Communist Front, came in third, with seven per cent. A whole list of other parties got smaller fractions. Adding them all up, we find that the total of all the anti-Communist parties ~~amounts~~^{comes} to seventy per cent. (The Communist Front consists of an alliance of Moscow Reds with the regular Italian Socialist Party, and together they polled - thirty per cent.)

It isn't clear how much of this figure is Communist,

and how much - Socialist. But the Red defeat ~~today~~ seems likely enough to break up the alliance, split the front, and leave the Communists on their own. Signs of a split were evident immediately today in Rome, the newspapers of the Communists and those of their allies being not at all in harmony about the election result - the Communists and Socialists taking each a different line. The propaganda twist of the Communists was that the election was a victory for them, while the big Socialist daily, "Avanti", came plain out, calling the election a triumph for Premier de Gasperi - which it is. ^{TP} The Communist twist went so far as an announcement of a victory parade in Milan, to celebrate Red success in the election. I ² should like to hear the laughter of the Italians on the sidelines, as that parade goes by - only it won't, ^{apparently.}

The Government at Rome today forbade the demonstration, this tying in with rumors that the Communists might try to start a revolt, ^{One source has been that they might begin} ~~beginning~~ an insurrection with a claim of ^{an} election day victory.

There were reports today of threatening Red sedition,

rumors of Communist ~~partisans~~ partisans gathering in the area

south of industrial Milan. But all that is vague, and there seems

little reason to anticipate a Communist revolt, as ~~the~~ an

immediate follow-up to the election day defeat of the Reds.

INCREASED FARE

Here (in New York, Mayor O'Dwyer announces that the famous five-cent ~~fare~~ fare will end on July First.) No more rides from Flushing to Yonkers -- two hours by subway -- for a nickel! *Coney Island to White Plains Rd, Pelham, for a dime.*

Mayor O'Dwyer says (the fare on subway and elevator ^{ed} lines will be raised to ten cents,) and the charge on city-operated buses and trolleys to seven cents. Elementary school children to get free rides. High school children? ~~That~~ They'll be the only ones to go on paying the traditional five cent fare. Sounds complicated.

For years ~~is~~ a hot political issue in New York. At last a bold mayor has outdone ^{Babylon's} Daniel-in-the Lion's Den, ^{on} ~~is~~ the five-cent fare in the city known as Baghdad -on-the-Subway.

LEWIS

It 's none too clear what 's going to happen in the coal mines - following the penalties imposed today on John L. Lewis and the Union. Yesterday Judge Goldsborough, having found Lewis and the Union guilty of contempt of court, intimated that he might sentence the grim and frowning labor leader to a term in prison. That had immediate reverberations in the coal pits, where miners stayed away from their jobs, and it looked ^{today} as if there might be a new big coal strike all over again, if the punishment decreed by the Court turned out to be - jail.

However, ~~today~~, the federal government, as prosecutor, recommended that the penalty be limited to fines - leaving prison terms out of the matter. To which Judge Goldsborough responded with a judicial - okay. He accepted the suggestion by the government, even to the exact amount of the fines recommended - twenty thousand dollars against Lewis, and one million, four hundred thousand, against the Union. Which is the second time Judge Goldsborough ^{has} decreed huge

financial indemnities against the Union and its boss for contempt of court.

The big fines had also a prompt reverberation in the coal pits. Having threatened a strike if John L. Lewis were sentenced to jail, the miners now talked about the same thing - in retaliation for the fines. So, today ends with a ^{150,000} considerable *off the job - and reports of the possibility of a* walkout spreading to the proportions of a major strike. This the Union is trying to avert, local leaders urging the miners to return to their jobs. The Union argument to this effect is cogent - the miners informed that the financial penalties will be taken to the Supreme Court, and the issue ~~will be~~ decided there. This will take time, some six months - and the coal miners can hardly stay on strike that long - until the Supreme Court speaks the final word.

~~The last time - the high tribunal cut the fine imposed on the Union from three million, five hundred thousand dollars to seven hundred thousand. So the coal miners might as well wait to see what the Supreme Court does with this newest punishment in terms of cash - so argues the Union.~~

ADD LATIN-AMERICA

The latest, Costa Rica has a new President in the person of a seventy-four year old civil engineer - Santos Leon Herrera. He became acting-president of the Central American Republic, ^{as} ~~after~~ President Picado started on his way into exile.

REUTHER

L.J. - P. & G. Wednesday, April 21, 1948.

In the shooting of Walter Reuther, the Detroit police believe that three men may have been involved. ~~Witnesses tell of a red sedan, which drove up to the Reuther home, the would-be assassin got out, and blasted with a shot gun through a window, gravely wounding the President of the Auto Workers Union. The witnesses got no clear view of the gunman, and say they saw him only.~~ ^R But, the police have taken footprints, and these appear to indicate that there was a look-out, who spotted Walther Reuther in his kitchen - where his wife was giving him a bite to eat shortly before ten o'clock last night.

^R The look-out would seem to be logical, somebody keeping a watch and spotting Reuther in the kitchen. Which would explain the swift action of the would-be assassin, going to the window and shooting. In addition, the police think there was a driver waiting in the car - because of the speed of the get-away, the gunman jumping in, and off went the red sedan.

(This afternoon it was announced that Reuther was out of danger,) but he may lose the use of his right arm. (His life

was saved by the fact that he was standing sidewise to the window and his arm took the brunt of the shot gun blast.)

~~He sustained some chest wounds, but these are not serious.~~

~~At first the doctors thought they would have to amputate the~~

~~arm - it was that ^{badly} mangled. But today, when they~~

~~operated, they said - No, Walter Reuther will retain his right~~

~~arm, but he may never regain the full use of it. The doctors~~

~~explain that this depends on how badly the shotgun slugs~~

~~damaged the radial nerve, of the arm.~~

One of the biggest of manhunts is on, with large rewards offered for the capture of the shot gun assailant. The Auto Union today put up a hundred thousand dollars; the Detroit City Council voted ten thousand. Smaller sums put up by Reuther's own local union and by the C.I.O. Council of Wayne County. And the Michigan Communist Party today contributed five hundred dollars for the apprehension of the would-be murderer.

Which is the more interesting, because there was

immediate suspicion that the Reds may have had something to do with the attempted assassination - Walter Reuther being a foremost labor union anti-Communist, who in a bitter union fight last year, expelled the Communists from positions of control in the Auto Workers organization. The general belief is that the crime was the doing of labor union enemies of Walter Reuther, and the manhunt is delving into the complicated feuds and embittered politics that are found so often in labor union affairs.)

Among the first to send flowers to the Union leader's bedside today was Henry Ford the second, President of the Ford Motor Company.

~~H.T.~~
SUBSTITUTE LEAD COAL STRIKE. (In the coal strike, the picture tonight is one of miners going back to work)-- on the night shift. For example, the Western Pennsylvania Coal Operators Association describes the back-to-work movement as --"pretty general". They expect that by tomorrow production will be up to seventy-five percent.

(This follows another Anti-strike injunction issued by Judge Goldsborough -- who decreed that, if the Soft Coal walk-out continued it might mean another case of contempt of court, and more penalties, more fines.) This -- after ~~Judge Goldsborough's~~ ^{his} decision yesterday, imposing a twenty thousand dollar fine ~~against~~ ^{on} John L Lewis and a one million four hundred thousand dollar fine against the Union. # Last night we heard how Lewis had made a personal plea to the miners, urging them to go back to their jobs -- pending an appeal to the Supreme Court. Today, the miners, about a quarter of a million of them were still out;-- the explanation being that the Lewis appeal did not reach them in time to get them back to the coal pits this morning.

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~~But~~ Now they're returning to their jobs.

But all this is complicated by another headline today -- the coal mine-owners going to court and asking Judge Goldsborough to throw out the pension settlement. It was the question of pensions that caused the strike in the first place, after which there was an arbitration which produced a settlement -- or seemed to. But now that arbitration settlement is up in the air, with the coal companies going to court and saying -- the arbitration wasn't done in the right way, it wasn't according to Hoyle.

^{This}
~~Which~~ is the more interesting, because the coal-pension-settlement was achieved as something of a master stroke by Republican leader, Speaker of the House, Congressman Joe Martin of Massachusetts. In this he was ably seconded by that other prominent Republican, Senator Styles Bridges of New Hampshire. We don't know the politics of the coal industry, but presumably the Companies are not exactly Democratic New Deal, ^{to the} ~~on the~~ left of center, in that good old F.D. R. way. ^{Hardly.}

B.T. no
SUBSTITUTE LEAD COAL STRIKE - 3

But now the Companies appeal to ^{the} court against the arbitration, and ask to have it thrown out. Because the New Hampshire Senator, himself, drafted the pension program, in favor of which he and Lewis thereupon voted. The Company contention is that therefore the arbitration was invalid. ^{the} Moreover, they claim that if any cash pensions are paid John L Lewis and Senator Bridges should be held responsible -- the Union Chief and the Senator made liable for any such payments. If that idea should prevail, pensions paid to miners, ^{the} which might come to a great deal of money, ^{the} could be collected from Lewis and the gentleman from New Hampshire. The prospect would seem painful to both, -- especially the lawmaker from that State of traditional Yankee thrift.

In case you're dizzy with all the complexities, — dizzy as I am ^{over it —} here's a final twister. If Judge Goldsborough grants the Company plea and calls off the payment of pensions under the arbitration -- why then the miners are likely to go on strike all over again. The possibilities ^{dilemma} are emphatic — striking

PALESTINE

(A new plan for Palestine - the American delegation to the U.N. presenting still another proposal. This time - a truce commission to go to the Holy Land, and try to bring about an armistice between the Jews and the Arabs.) The truce commission might, perhaps, be backed up by a small military force - according to the American suggestion to the United Nations today.

The Jewish Agency promptly says:- okay, if the Arabs agree. The Zionists will accept an armistice and stop fighting, if the Arabs will stop. On the Arab side, they say - sure, they'll accept a truce, if the partition plan is dropped, with its proposal for a Jewish state in Palestine. But the Jewish Agency today repeated in the most formal fashion its determination to establish a Jewish state. So once again, as often in the Palestine dilemma, the prospect seems to be - nothing, nil.

But they certainly could use an armistice in the Holy Land, where there ^{was} ~~is~~ a new outbreak of battle in Haifa -
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between Jews and British. Today the British forces were in ^{rapid} ~~record~~ process of evacuation, getting out of Haifa. They said they were leaving the city to whoever might take over - Jews or Arabs. The answer was given by Haganah, the Jewish militia promptly moving in. That was inevitable, because the Jewish population is in a considerable majority at Haifa - and, ^{any} ~~in any~~ way, a large portion of the Arab inhabitants have already moved out - ~~in~~ fear of a battle for the city. Which battle is still expected - the word being that today's occupation by Haganah will be followed by Arab assaults, beginning tonight.

But the battle today was between Jews and British, and came about when Jewish snipers opened fire on the evacuating British forces. ~~These plan to hold, for a while at least, a fortress on Mt. Carmel and the highway leading down to the harbor. That highway was the scene of Jewish sniping today, as the British moved along. A heavy gun-battle followed, with British tanks and cannon blazing away at buildings from which the snipers were shooting.~~

NIGHT SHOW
April 21, 1948.

SUBSTITUTE ITALY. That far-famed Italian election would have to end with something funny -- ~~that~~ ^{such} being the nature of the human race, especially the Italian section of it. The episode reported on the news wire tonight was part of a general tendency for the Communists to ~~show~~ ^{shout} -- "fraud". ^RIn one place and another the Reds have been staging demonstrations along the propaganda line that the victory of the Anti-Communists was -- a fake. This the Reds tried at the town of Via Dana where they ~~tried~~ ^{resorted to} strategy that went way back into Italian history. ^HArmed with sub-machine guns, two Communists held up the night-watchman at the local bell tower ~~of the town~~. Every Italian community has a bell tower, the equivalent of ~~the~~ church steeple of more northern countries ~~and~~. By long tradition, the bells in the tower are rung to sound any alarm that may be needed to rouse the people. ^{There is a} ~~It was a~~ famous ~~case~~ ^{tale of} for the late Middle Ages, when the French Army marched into Florence, and the French King Charles

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the Eighth made a demand on the chief of the Florentine Republic. They got into an argument. The French King threatened: "I will sound my trumpets". To which the Florentine responded: "And we will ring our bells".

So that is the stately historical background for the story of the two Communists who seized the bell tower of the northern Italian town and proceeded to ring the alarm -- according to the custom of the days of old. Their purpose was to assemble the people, and harangue them with the Communist accusation -- that the election was a fake. What thereupon happened was a sad story -- for the two Reds. The people of the town were angry at being awakened in the middle of the night. They came swarming, seized the two Communists, and gave them one awful beating -- until the police arrived, ^{The gendarmes} and rescued ~~the~~ the Reds, and arrested them.

This was part of the general story of sporadic Red disturbances in Italy today -- nothing really serious,

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and observers in Rome do not expect any attempt at Red insurrection.

The final official election returns are in, ^{and} these ₁ show that the Christian Democratic Party of Premier de Gasperi has won an absolute majority in the Chamber of Deputies. In the popular vote, the Christian Democrats took nearly forty-nine percent -- slightly less than an absolute majority. But, according to the way deputies are elected, under a system of proportional representation, the Christian-Democrats get more than fifty-three percent of the members of the national legislature. (The Communist Front takes a fraction more than thirty-one percent of the seats. All of which measures the magnitude of the triumph of Premier de Gasperi. His Party, all by itself, in control of the Italian Legislature, with a majority above the total for all the other many parties.)

CANCER

(A new marvel in the field of radioactivity - an artificial substitute for radium.) The information comes from David Lilienthal, Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, reporting to President Truman. He says (the new wonder substance can take the place of radium in the treatment of cancer. It will do exactly what radium does, no less, no more. The point of the matter is that radium is fabulously rare and expensive, while the new substitute can be turned out in mass quantities, almost as cheap as dirt.

It is the metal, Cobalt, which is common and inexpensive - Cobalt made radioactive.) That is, they put a piece of it into the great atomic furnace at Oak Ridge, Tennessee - and, in a brief time, out it comes, giving off the same kind of radiation as radium. The Cobalt can be of any shape, rods, tubes, needles - such as may be convenient for cancer treatment. Its radioactivity lasts for five years, while that of radium is unending.

But radium is priced at twenty-five thousand dollars a gram -- about a thirtieth of an ounce, ^{- \$750,000 an ounce!} While radioactive Cobalt is so cheap they're thinking of giving it away.

WOMEN

At the old town of Plymouth, in England, a court verdict was handed down today, which may entitle the judge to be hailed as - another Solomon come to judgment. Or, it may not. But then Solomon, in all his wisdom, never had quite as difficult a case as afflicted Mr. Justice Scobell Armstróng.

To court came Mrs. Winifred Wilkie and Mrs. M. P. Tope, an argument between landlady and tenant - and what an argument it was! Mr. Justice Scobell Armstrong endeavored to ascertain the rights and wrongs of the dispute - but he never had a chance. Because for eighty long minutes Mrs. Winifred Wilkie and Mrs. M. P. Tope talked incessantly and at the same time. They talked simultaneously, at each other, at the judge, and at everybody in general - for an hour-and-twenty minutes. ^π In the end, the bedeviled magistrate finally thundered out his verdict: "For one month", he roared, "both of you will pretend to be deaf and dumb. When you see each other, not one word must be spoken. Write

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everything - no conversation at all."

Which, as I remarked, may or may not have been equal to the wisdom of Solomon - but then Solomon of old had never to deal with two ladies as talkative.

And now Nelson, in your own
quiet way - -

COAL STRIKE

Early Apr. 21/48. L.C.

The complications of the coal strike were complicated further today, by two more headline events. One - Judge Goldsborough issued another anti-strike injunction. So, if the soft coal walkout continues, it may mean another case of contempt of court. Which certainly would make the contempt intricate, ^{and} involved, ^{and} almost paradoxical. Striking - in fact.

^ It all began with the strike, which caused Judge Goldsborough to find John L. Lewis and the Union guilty of contempt, with penalties imposed yesterday - ^a twenty thousand dollar fine against Lewis, and a million, four hundred thousand against the Union. Whereupon the coal miners went on another walkout in protest against that - striking against the punishment for a strike.

Last night we heard how John L. Lewis had made a personal appeal to the miners, urging them to go back to their jobs - pending an appeal to the Supreme Court. But today the miners, about a quarter of a million of them, were still out. The explanation we have is that the personal appeal made by

John L. Lewis did not reach them in time to get them back to the coal pits this morning. So the strike went on today, -

~~and nobody seems to know how far the miners are going to heed~~

~~the appeal from John L. Lewis.~~ ^{Whereupon} So now comes Judge Goldsborough

^{issued} ~~with~~ a new injunction, ordering an end to the strike, ^{with} - ~~new~~

possibilities of penalties for contempt, new fines to be

imposed, perhaps. ^{However, the latest tonight} ~~What would happen if it should turn out~~

^{tells of coal miners heeding the} ~~that John L. Lewis is unable to persuade the miners to call off~~

^{Lewis plea - streaming back to the} ~~the strike? All of which is too complicated for me.~~
^{mines - - the night shift,}

But it is more complicated than that - because here's

that second headliner for today. The coal mine owners have

gone to court, asking the judge to throw out the pension

settlement that resulted ^{from} ~~in~~ the first walkout. And the court

to which they make their plea is that same - Judge Goldsborough.

^{IP} ~~The coal miners went on strike in the first place when~~

~~John L. Lewis informed them that the coal companies have~~

~~refused to come to terms in the matter of old age pensions for~~

^{IP} ~~miners.~~ ^{The first} ~~The~~ dispute brought about an arbitration, which

produced a settlement - or seemed to. But now that arbitration settlement is up in the air, with the coal companies going to court and saying - the arbitration wasn't done in the right way, not according to Hoyle. ~~this is~~

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is the more interesting, because the coal pension settlement was achieved as something of a master stroke by Republican leader, Speaker of the House, Congressman Joe Martin of Massachusetts. In this he was ably seconded by that other prominent Republican, Senator Styles Bridges of New Hampshire. We don't know the politics of the coal industry, but presumably the Companies are not exactly Democratic New Deal, *hardly* ~~little~~ left of center, in that good old F.D.R. way.

In any case, Republican Speaker of the House Joe Martin, decided to do something about the coal strike, ~~and~~ *he* ~~some dramatic and secret contacting~~ got hold of Union Chief John L. Lewis and Company representative Ezra van Horn. He proposed ~~an~~ arbitration, and both Lewis and van Horn agreed, the idea being to have a decision made by a three-man board,

consisting of Lewis, van Horn, and a third neutral member.

That third neutral member ^{being} was Republican Senator Bridges,

who ~~was~~ ^{was} drafted a compromise proposal - ~~whereby~~ whereby a

a pension of a hundred dollars a month, ~~would be granted, to all coal miners over sixty-two, who had served for twenty years, and who retired after May Twenty-Eighth, Nineteen Forty-Six, two years ago.~~ That motion was carried, Lewis and Bridges voting for it, van Horn against.

So that would seem to be that - or at least it did at the time. But now the Companies appeal ^{to} ~~to~~ court against the arbitration, and ask to have it thrown out. Their argument is that Senator Bridges, as neutral member of the Arbitration Board, should merely have cast his vote for a settlement proposed either by Lewis or the Companies/

^{Instead} ~~In other words~~, the New Hampshire Senator, himself, drafted the pension program, in favor of which he and Lewis thereupon voted .. The Company contention is that the Senator had no right to draw up any plan, or do any negotiating, and

and therefore the arbitration was invalid. ~~So today they asked Judge Goldsborough to stop the payment of pensions to coal miners under the arbitration. They want the Union Welfare Fund to pay no pension money until the matter has been thrashed out through the courts.~~ Moreover, they claim that if any cash is paid out, John L. Lewis and Senator Bridges should be held responsible - the Union Chief and the Senator ^{personally} made liable for any such payments. If that idea should prevail, ^{the} pensions paid to miners, which might come to a great deal of money, could be collected from Lewis and the gentlemen from New Hampshire.- ~~That~~ prospect would seem painful to both, especially the lawmaker from that State of traditional Yankee thrift.

In case you're dizzy with all the complexities, dizzy as I am, here's a final twister:-If Judge Goldsborough grants the Company plea and ~~it~~ calls off the payment of pensions under the arbitration - why then the miners are likely to go on strike all over again, ~~they being on strike~~

~~already, and the outlook would be perplexing indeed.~~

So you see -
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The possibilities of the dilemma are emphatic - striking.

ITALY

(In Italy, the Christian-Democratic Party of Premier de Gasperi has won an absolute majority in the Italian Chamber of Deputies. In the popular vote, the Christian-Democrats took nearly forty-nine per cent, according to the final official figures - slightly less than an absolute majority, ^A But, according to the way deputies are elected, under a system of proportional representation, the Christian-Democrats get more than fifty-three per cent of the members of the national legislature. The Communist Front takes a fraction more than thirty-one per cent of the seats, ~~in the Chamber of Deputies~~. All of which measures the magnitude of the triumph of Premier de Gasperi. His party, all by itself, in control of the ~~ing~~ Italian Legislature, with a majority above the total for all the other many parties.

There were sporadic outbreaks of violence in various parts of Italy today, chiefly because of Communist demonstrations - the Reds protesting that the election was a

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fraud, the triumph of the anti-Communists a fake. But nothing serious developed, and observers in Rome do not expect any attempt at a Red insurrection.

However the latest tells of new Red attacks on Government ammunition supplies.

L.J. - P. + G. Wednesday, April 21, 1948.

WARREN. All across the country political ears were listening tonight to Governor Warren of California, who made his first nation-wide campaign speech. He said the Democratic administration was what he called "old and wearing out". (Governor Warren, declaring himself as a candidate for the presidency, took a middle of the road stand, declaring that this country wants no part of what he called "radicals or counterfeit Liberals on the one hand nor blind reactionaries on the other".)

MARSHALL PLAN

An Ambassador-at-Large for the Marshall Plan - appointed today by President Truman. Secretary of Commerce Harriman has been named to be all-around liaison man of the multi-billion dollar program for aiding the free countries of the West against Communism. Averell Harriman says he is sorry to leave the Cabinet, but he's glad to become Ambassador-at-Large for the Marshall Plan, because of what he calls "its transcendent importance."