

ELECTION

C.I. - P. & G. Monday, Nov. 7, 1949.

Tonight the voters nationwide are ready to troupeto the polls tomorrow for an off-year election that features political battles from one coast to the other. The American people will elect two governors, a senator, two congressmen, dozens of mayors, and scores of lesser officials. They will also settle hundreds of issues, ranging from daylight saving time in California to poll taxes in Texas.

The focus of interest is on New York - a battle for mayor of the metropolis, and the election of a New York senator. In the city, ~~the~~ Mayor O'Dwyer appears to be favored over Republican and Liberal Candidate Newbold Morris, and the Left Winger Vito Marcantonio.

time, by
The Senate race between Senator John Foster Dulles, ~~and~~ *called by his friends the No. 1 non-partisan statesman hailed as one of N.Y.'s great governors* EX-Governor Herbert Lehman, is regarded widely as a possible test of national sentiment - since Dulles has come out flatly against the Truman administration in domestic issues, while Lehman is a Truman supporter all along the line.

The battle between the Left Wing Electrical Union and the rival union established by the C.I.O. is ~~on~~ on in the courts. Today in Philadelphia, Federal Judge Guy Bard granted a temporary injunction to the Left Wingers - preventing the new C.I.O. group from using the name - International Union of Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers. The Judge explained that the injunction has nothing to do with the merits of the ~~case~~ case, but merely gives a space of two days for the Left Wing appeal to be heard.

In Massachusetts, the two contending unions are in a fight for the possession of two-hundred-and-fifty-thousand dollars in union funds at the city of Lynn, assets of the General Electric local. Today a truce was agreed upon, whereby both factions agreed to let the money alone, while the dispute is being thrashed out in court.

COMMUNISTS

The congressional quiz ^{into} ~~in~~ the doings of the Reds produced one of its most interesting witnesses today - Mrs. Louise Bransten Berman. She's an heiress to a fortune, who has been mentioned as a financial backer of Communism. Which brings to a focus the whole question of wealthy Reds, the surprising number of people in the millionaire class who donate funds to Communism.

Before the Committee on Un-American Activities today, Louise Bransten Berman was asked a variety of questions, and gave mostly one reply - refusing to answer on constitutional grounds. That was her response to the sixty-four dollar question - Are you a Communist? ^{(Also - when} ~~she~~ ^{was} asked about her acquaintance with big-time Reds, like Gerbardt Eisler, the alleged Soviet agent who skipped bail and sneaked out of the country.

Her refusal to reply was a little more elaborate when she was asked - How much money had she given to Communist organizations? She said the question was - "shocking."

Whereupon the query was made more precise - had she contributed fifty thousand dollars to the Communist Party in Nineteen Forty-Six? No answer; constitutional grounds.


This sort of thing went all the way down the line of some fifty questions, and in one case her refusal was upheld by the Committee Chairman, Congressman Wood of Georgia. The lady was asked - How old are you? I don't know what the Constitution would have to say about that question. The news dispatch describes the witness in these words - "well groomed and fortyish looking." But you can't prove it by her! She would not give her age, and was upheld by the gentleman from Georgia, with proper Southern chivalry.

BIG THREE

This evening at Washington, an airliner took off into the night sky with Secretary of State Acheson aboard - on his way to the Big Three Conference in Paris. President Truman was there to see him off and wish him the best of luck in his negotiations with British Foreign Secretary Bevin and French Foreign Minister Schuman.

MOSCOW

In M^oscow, they had the usual annual parade on the anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution back in Nineteen Seventeen. A monster ~~affair~~ spectacle in Red Square - with an aerial ~~show~~ display overhead, the roaring of bombers and the flashing of jet planes, all commanded by Lieutenant General Vasili Stalin, son of the Red Dictator. But S^talin himself was not there - at least he is not mentioned in the news dispatch, which lists the other big-shots of the Politburo. In times past there would be all sorts of ~~rumors about ill health, if~~ ~~the time is past for all those~~ rumors about ill health, if Stalin failed to appear at a big demonstration like the one today. Such reports are a bit shopworn by now, and so the dispatches today ~~in~~ indulge in little speculation about Stalin's health.



POLAND

There's only one conclusion to draw from the news of the appointment of the new commander of the Polish Army - Soviet Marshal Rokossovsky. During the war, Rokossovsky was one of Stalin's victorious generals, and now he becomes Defense Minister of Poland. The inevitable inference was drawn in Washington today by former Polish Prime Minister Mikolajczyk, now in exile. He said the appointment means that the Red government at Warsaw has surrendered the control of its army to Soviet Russia.

RUSSIAN FLEET

Over in Germany, word comes through ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~
~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ of the torpedoing of a German freighter by
a Soviet submarine in the Baltic Sea. It happened during
maneuvers held by the Red fleet, during which, apparently,
live ammunition was used in target practice. The war games
of the Red Navy were shrouded in the deepest of secrecy,
but they would seem to have been highly realistic - judging
from the story of torpedo explosion.

The German freighter, with a crew of fifteen, put
out from the Soviet zone port of Rostock, bound with a cargo
of sugar for Reval, in Esthonia. Having to navigate through
the area of Red fleet maneuvers, special precautions were
taken for ^{(safety.} ~~the safety of the vessel.~~ Two Soviet officers were
aboard, assigned to guide the ship through the war games.
During the voyage, Soviet warships were sighted, a large force
of them, and there was heavy gunfire on the sea. The two
Soviet officers aboard did their job of piloting, but
something went wrong - and the ship was torpedoed by a Red

submarine and sank.

Eleven men of the crew perished, and so did the two Russian officers. There were four survivors, German sailors, who were rescued - and arrested. That's the story we have today, which adds that one of the survivors, held prisoner, managed to escape, and reach the Western sector of Berlin - where he told the story today.

MOVIES

Later news today gives added facts about the collapse of the great British motion picture venture - the effort by Film Producer J. Arthur Rank to develop a British empire of ~~motion pictures~~ ^{movies} that might compete with Hollywood. Today he announced - failure. His hundred-and-eighty-million-dollar film project lost nine million last year, and owes the banks nearly forty-five million. J. Arthur Rank, a fabulously wealthy mill owner, states that he can't take the gaff any longer, and his huge movie project will have to close down - unless the Labor Government reduces the burden of taxes that weigh down the British film world.

Rank blames the failure on a forty per cent tax imposed on tickets at the motion picture theatre box offices. But, even if that tax is diminished, his motion picture empire will still be able to operate on only a small scale - a township, instead of an empire.

London comment this afternoon points to another reason for the collapse - the failure to develop British

stars of worldwide appeal. The Rank organization ran a lot of "talent hunts" and "charm schools", in an attempt to find stars to compete with Hollywood's mass production of the ~~mass~~ merchandise called "glamor." Thousands of Pounds Sterling were spent on stars that never glittered. So the starless empire ends in red ink, instead of gold.

WEATHER

Now let's talk about the weather -- and have a prophesy for Nineteen Fifty. The government Weather Bureau gives us predictions, ~~But these are~~ only for a few days in advance, which is nothing at all. ~~our~~ ^{The} prognostication ~~is~~ ^{we have here is for} ~~for months ahead,~~ a whole year ahead. ^R In other words, the Nineteen Fifty edition of the Old Farmer's Almanac is out.

Today we have a disclosure of how that one-hundred-and-fifty-eight year old publication first established its reputation as a weather prophet. Long years ago, they were in the busy rush of getting out a new edition -- when a printer went to the editor and said: "Boss, what shall we put down for July Thirteenth?" The prognostication for that day had been left out of the copy. The editor, up to his ears in work, replied impatiently -- and thoughtlessly: "Put in anything, anything." The printer may have been slightly annoyed -- and he did what he was told. For July Thirteenth he inserted the prediction -- "Rain, hail and snow."

Well, the miracle happened. In one New England town, that July thirteenth, it actually did snow -- and the reputation of the Old Farmers Almanac as a weather prophet was made.

However, they are more scientific these days.

The editor says, ^{that} to forecast the weather for the winter, he sends a boy out to measure the fur on local animals, and the length of the fur tells the story. Which this year

produces the prophesy that we are going to have a ~~wet~~ winter, ^{with heavy precipitation — also} with plenty of cold in November and December, ~~and~~

~~lots of snow and rain~~ if you don't believe it, just

look in the Old Farmers Almanac — or go out yourself and catch a wild animal and measure his pelt.

RAILROAD

In the Far West they are lamenting the end of -- the Hetch-Hetchy Railroad. That line of much local fame is being ripped up -- tracks and ties, locomotives and cars on their way to the junk heap. The Hetch-Hetchy Railroad, built long years ago, was a world champion -- for steep grades and hairpin turns, with hardly a mile of straight travel.

It was built to connect San Francisco with the water supply of that city, high in the Sierras, which made it a railroad of fantasy in the mountains. The grades were so steep and the curves were so intricate that all was beauty -- and danger. They tell of the time that a string of eight cars of lumber broke loose, and went down the slope like a juggernaut out to break all speed records -- finally hitting a hairpin curve, and plunging down the canyon into the river hundreds of feet below. But now the Hetch-Hetchy Railroad has ~~been~~ become

RAILROAD - 2

a thing of the past, and fans of railroading will miss the schedule of stations and stops -- Hog Ranch, Rattlesnake and Moccasin, and two other stations were --

Six-Bit Gulch, and Second Hanging. It doesn't say where they ~~mk~~ held the first hanging. But anyway, good bye

Hetch-Hetchy ^{and hello Nelson.} ~~of the days of the Ketchy Ketchy~~

POETRY

11/7

A battle of poetry is on between Britain and America -- as if they ~~didn't have~~ ^{we were not} enough battles in prose.

It all comes about because our own American writer of satirical verse, Ogden Nash, composed an ode called -- "ENGLAND EXPECTS," in which he poked a lot of fun and ended with the following two lines:

"Anyhow, I think the English people are very sweet -

And we might as well get used to them because

when they slip and fall they always land

on their own or somebody else's feet."

Over in London they don't like this, and a retort is made by a poetess, Virginia Graham, who writes for the Evening Standard. She produces a ballad about Americans, which begins:

"Every American who has a leaning toward culture

Has to come flying across the Atlantic like

a predatory vulture."

Well, I never heard of a vulture making
seeking culture. But, anyway, it has rhyme, if not
reason.