

L.T. P.& G. WEDNESDAY, March 9, 1949

Medford, Ohio
Oregon

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

There was a shouted vote of approval in the House of Representatives today - a loud okay for two bills, one to provide this country with radar defense, another to construct that test range for guide missles. Congress was given ample information to show that our present radar warning system, for giving the alarm against the approach of hostile planes, is hopelessly inadequate. Likewise the question of guided missles was expounded -- the need for a three thousand mile range somewhere in this country, in the desolate mountains of the West. All of which led to the okay tonight of the two bills.

MINIMUM WAGE

A congressional committee voted for a minimum wage of seventy-five cents an hour. This is an administration measure, to which the Republicans tried to attach amendments. The amendments were at first okayed but then the House Labor Committee reversed itself, and decided in favor of the administration bill -- minimum wage of seventy-five cents an hour.

FILIBUSTER

In Washington the administration Democrats are going to make a final desperate attempt to choke off the southern filibuster. That was decided today, Senator Scott Lucas of Illinois announcing that a resolution will be present, calling for cloture - and stop the Dixieland attempt to talk the anti-filibuster business to death.

That ~~it~~ will put ^{it} up to the Vice President Barkley, who will be called upon to rule whether or not the motion for cloture is in order. Past precedent says - no. In the Senate, the ruling of the chair, in the past, has been that debate can be closed, only when it concerns a bill - and not the mere preliminary ⁱⁿ to a bill. The present filibuster is during the preliminary.

The belief ^f is that the Vice President will reverse that older rule - Barkley having been elected on the ticket with President Truman, who is backing the anti-filibuster drive in an effort to enact his program of racial rights.

The southerners, if the Vice President rules against them, will thereupon protest the ruling, and put it to a vote in the Senate. The signs in Washington tonight are that the Republicans will join the southern Democrats, thereby providing a majority - to beat the anti-filibuster ruling.

So it looks as if the anti-filibuster campaign were as good as defeated - this particularly because the southern talkathon threatens to tie up important business on which the Senate must act. Rent control, in particular. The house of representatives, will start action tomorrow for the extension of the rent control law, expect to have a bill passed on Saturday. Leaving it up to the Senate - and it won't do to have senatorial business tied up by the filibuster.

NEWSPAPER STRIKE.

The Portland strike was settled tonight-- agreement between the publishers and the pressmen. Both portland newspapers, the oregon journal and the Oregonian, have been tied up ^{for} nineteen days, leaving thirty without the printed news.

The settlement tonight provides for a wage increase of three-dollars-and-twenty-five cents a week, and a ~~of~~ third week of paid vacation. The terms make no mention of the question of the pressmen going through picket lines, should there be strikes by other newspapers unions. They compromised, apparently, by leaving it out.

The resumption of newspaper/publication in Portland still is uncertain, the newspapers announcing that there will first have to be a settlement of -- "production problems." This is believed to include an agreement with the printers union, the printers having been out of work since the strike began, contend that they were "locked out."

FLOODS

Nebraska, in the valley of the Big Blue River, a major disaster area was declared today. In the town of Beatrice thirty city blocks are flooded.

In the town of Crete one hundred families are in distress.

However, throughout the region of inundation, flooded streams are reported to be falling. This, as cold and snow moved down from the mountains to the Great Plains, small streams freezing and checking the flow into the larger rivers--like the flooding Missouri.

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(END ITEM)

SAN FRANCISCO

San Francisco was asking the question today - is the city going to have another earthquake like Nineteen Six? This follows shocks today - a fairly severe earthquake along a line of two hundred miles, centered at Hollister, about ~~ninety~~ ninety-five miles south of San Francisco. Buildings trembled and swayed, window ~~panes~~ panes broken, dishes tumbling down, cracks appearing in walls. Police, newspapers and radio swamped with telephone calls of alarmed inquiry. In San Francisco thousands of people swarming out of their houses. There was no panic, but San Francisco memories go back inevitably to Nineteen Six, the year of the great earthquake and fire.

The shock today was apparently along what is called - the St. Andreas Fault. This is a ~~long~~ long flaw, a dislocation of underlying rocks, that extends all the way down California, from the Oregon border to Mexico. The St. Andreas Fault was to blame for the disaster of Nineteen Six and for the repeated minor shocks California has from time to time - like the one today.

Some geologists are afraid that there have not been enough of the smaller quakes - ~~which~~ ^{to} make a gradual readjustment of the underlying rocks. Franklin Ulrich, Chief of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey at San Francisco, says that an insufficient number of minor shocks may mean that the St. Andreas Fault is building up stress and strain to be relieved eventually by something more violent.

In San Francisco rock ledges fell crashing on the sides of ~~Telegraph~~ Telegraph Hill, the tall granite up thrust in the heart of the city. And the Golden Gate Bridge and the great San Francisco Bay span shook and swayed in weird fashion. But there was no particular damage.

SALT LAKE

An alarm was given in Salt Lake City today - warning of a possible explosion and disaster in the heart of the city, the area of the far-famed temple and Tabernacle of the Mormon Church. It has been found that a large section has been undermined by a huge accumulation of gasoline. Today the Salt Lake City Fire Department described the situation in these words - a hazard of unlimited proportion.

The first hint came when guests at the Shubrick Hotel complained about the ~~smell~~ smell of gasoline fumes. The Fire Department investigated, and found the vapor came from below the hotel basement. While they were trying to do something about it, the gasoline fumes exploded and a fire inspector was severely ~~in~~ burned.

That led to a quick inquiry, and) it was found that an area of thirty-two blocks was affected - some sort of seepage of gasoline. An immense quantity collecting in the ground. Tall buildings standing on top of one huge fire bomb. The area of hazard extends

southwest of the Mormon Temple and Tabernacle.

How did it all come about? The fire officials believe that there has been a seepage from leaking gasoline storage tanks. The location raises ~~in~~ an interesting ~~xxx~~ supposition - pointing to a creek that once ran through the city. This creek, dating back to the years of Brigham Young, has long since been covered. So maybe it has now become a sort of river of gasoline. The fire experts think that the inflammable fuel, leaking from great storage tanks in the course of years, may have seeped along the bed of the old creek, turning it into a sort of land mine of gasoline. Today they were asking for old city ~~ja~~ maps, showing *the* Salt Lake of times gone by - which depict the course of the one-time stream of water.

The danger is so great that one apartment hotel now known to be standing over a concentration of gasoline, has been ordered to instruct the tenants that if they continue to live there - it will be at their own risk. This in the area of that Mormon block the Temple and Tabernacle.

town of Hayes one seller of liquor jumped the gun,
and handed out some firewater a few hours before the
legal end of the Kansas dry era. The State Attorney
General announced that he will be prosecuted ~~just the~~
~~same~~ under the law now abolished.

TRIAL

In Tokyo the Army avoided a battle today, by ducking an issue that could have brought ^a on most contentious questions into the courts of law. A civilian was put on trial for insulting and striking a Lieutenant-Colonel. The original indictment included a clause worded as follows: "Using insulting language to a superior officer." But is an officer the superior of a civilian?

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There was noisy argument accompanied by plenty of protest from the civilians of the MacArthur regime in Tokyo. The whole thing got too hot for the Army, and today the prosecution dropped the part containing *those* ^{2 words,} "superior officer". So the civilian is put on trial merely for assault and battery and the use of insulting speech.

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He is George Angell of West Medford, ^{— not Medford, Oregon where I am tonight.} Massachusetts; -- ^{Geo. Angell} Himself a civilian of high rank, ~~He~~ is an official at MacArthur's headquarters, with a ^{— not in uniform.} theoretical rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, On a Tokyo street he got into a traffic dispute with uniformed

Lieutenant-Colonel John Jimerson, of Peru, Nebraska.

And the argument ended with the civilian taking a punch or something at the ^{Army} Lieutenant Colonel.

Actually, this mere street corner brawl could have ^{had} far reaching results - if the Army had gone ahead and prosecuted a civilian on a charge of "using insulting language to a superior officer." Plans ~~is~~ were being made to take the case right on up the line to the courts and get a ruling on the broad question - is a military officer the superior of a civilian.

PALESTINE

The recent news from Palestine has featured -- peace. But today it's different. The Arab Kingdom of TransJordan reports an outbreak of battle with Jewish forces. This is said to be far to the south - near the border of Egypt. Israel has made peace with the Egyptians, but the territory of Trans-Jordan extends down that way and includes the important and historic port of Aquaba. That is said to be the goal of the new Jewish advance - striking at the ~~Trans~~Trans-Jordan forces holding Aquaba.

Matters are more complicated, because British troops also are stationed at the ancient port.

KANSAS

Kansas had its first wet day today - wet in the sense of beverages. Dry Kansas, long the symbol of prohibition - the State having been the old-time pioneer in the outlawing of Demon Rum. Nationwide prohibition went out fifteen years ago, but Kansas still remained dry. However, in the November election that ancient citadel of prohibition voted to legalize the sale of alcoholic beverages. And that edict by the voters has now gone into effect, the Governor signing a liquor bill - yesterday - this morning bringing Kansas the dawn of its first wet day.

There were no spectacular evidences of a change because thirsty Kansans all along have been getting their tipple. Same old story of bootleg. Now, under the new legality, things went on as usual -- only in the open. In homes tonight, where they are accustomed to hoist one, they merely do it without pulling down the window shades.

However, there's one final arrest and prosecution under the old Kansas prohibition law. At the

MEDFORD

My travels today took me through the heart of western Oregon from Salem to Medford. The fame of Medford has been increased ~~in~~ considerably in recent years because this is the home of Book of the Month - I mean the Fruit of the Month Club. ^R Some fifteen or sixteen years ago two brothers here in Medford, Harry Holmes and Dave Holmes, launched an advertising campaign that attracted wide attention. They went to New York to get some expert help, ~~on~~ ~~this~~ and ~~they~~ got it in style from one of my neighbors who years ago preceded me as President of the famous Advertising Club of New York - Governor's Dewey's golf companion, G. Lynn Sumner. Out of that finally grew the Fruit of the Month Club that focused more and more attention on this gorgeous ~~in~~ fruit country of south western Oregon. Harry Holmes has just been telling me the story.

We had hoped to ^{drop in at} ~~get to the~~ Crater Lake ~~region~~ this morning. But, there are times when the snows are too deep for that. [#] This ~~was~~ also is the land

of the tall pine, monarchs of the forest that were cut down far too freely during the war. But it is encouraging to hear that an Oregon conservation campaign is on now, an attempt to do everything possible to make up for the ruthless cutting of wartime.

Tomorrow, on south we go into Northern California - to Mt. Shasta, and Mt. Lassen.

WIFE

In London Mrs. James Leslie was a badly puzzled wife. The mailman brought some photographs -- pictures of her husband's wedding. Which might have seemed like a fond memento, except that the bride in the photographs was not Mrs. Leslie.

Today the husband was sentenced to six months in jail - as a bigamist. The sad story is that, neglecting the fact that he was already married, he had a wedding with a former member of the Women's Auxiliary of the Royal Air Force. Pictures were made of the ceremony, the usual wedding portraits. ^{and} The photographer was instructed to send these to ^{the newly married} Mrs. Leslie. But he sent them to the wrong Mrs. Leslie - throwing her into utter ~~surprise~~ surprise, and the husband into jail.

MILLIONAIRES

Here's about what would seem to be a vanishing type of American - the ultra-rich magnifico with an income of a million dollars, or more. During the previous boom, in the Nineteen Twenties, the number of them rose to five-hundred^{and} thirteen - in Nineteen Twenty-Nine. The peak of the boom showed an all-time high for million-dollar-a-year-men. During the depression, the figures sank as low ^{— only} as twenty ^{of them}.

Well, we have been going through another boom, and you might expect the Nineteen Twenty-Nine figure for super millionaires to be repeated. But not at all. Today brings figures for Nineteen Forty-Six, a pinnacle year of the big prosperity after the Second World War. ^{These} ~~They~~ show - Ninety-four - with an income of a million or more - ninety-four as compared with the five-hundred^{and} thirteen in Nineteen Twenty-Nine. The list is topped by six each of whom got five million in income during the year.

^{- here's the catch -}
But ¹ these figures are - before taxes. After taxes the story ^{is} ~~was~~ something else again. The ninety-

four with a million or more a year paid income taxes for a total of more than one hundred ten million dollars. Meaning that the average for each was a good deal more than a million paid to the government.

Well, that might possibly give some hint of why the million-dollar-a-year-men are far fewer this boom time than during the last boom.

What's the use of making a million a year when you have to pay nearly all of it in taxes? You might as well devote some of that time to reading good books, fishing near here on the famous Rogue River, or meditating on the philosophy of life, with fewer ulcers - especially as the taxes take so much of the million a year, nearly all of it.

The same figures, issued by the Treasury Department in Washington, show that half of the people reporting for taxes had incomes of less than two thousand dollars a year. So maybe it is just as well not to have so many million-dollar a year men. That is if the money could go to those lower brackets, and boost the figures

there -- not be squandered on increasing our national
beaurocracy.

HORSE

The Washington state legislature at Olympia, today rejected a proposal to include dog racing in a bill to permit horseracing. This, after argument pointing out that a dog is not a horse. The opinion of a former governor was cited, attacking previous measures that said a mule was a horse. He pointed out that there was a law declaring that a goat was a milk cow and added: "At a future session of the legislature a bill will declare that a hippopotomus is a humming bird."

That was the argument that tossed the dogs out of the horse race bill.

And now, Ken, can we get an argument out of you?