

BRITAIN - NEW LEAD *L.J.-R.G. Monday, June 27, 1949.*

A London report says Great Britain is facing a crisis -- economic and political. The situation so serious that the finance ministers of the countries of the British Commonwealth are being called to London to discuss the low state of Britain's gold and dollar reserves.

And political experts are hinting at a political crisis, with ^a~~the~~ general election -- perhaps in September.

On the London stock exchange today, government stocks fell -- to the lowest level since September, Nineteen Forty. That was when England was faced with a German invasion. *The lead needle and* ~~And other stocks following~~ Throckmorton Street^s experiencing a day of panic selling, with heavy losses all around.

One cause of the slump is said to be that Great Britain's dollar earnings have fallen off, practically to nothing. And no one buying British goods in Europe either. Everyone waiting for a devaluation of the Pound. With some countries, Belgium in

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particular, holding a large amount of pounds -- wanting to use them to buy dollars. Which the British sternly forbid.

BRITAIN

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One cause of the slump is said to be that Great Britain's dollar earnings have fallen off - because buyers abroad are waiting for a devaluation of the pound. No one buying British goods at the moment.

This morning, American Aid Ambassador Averell Harriman had a long talk with Sir Stafford Cripps, the British Chancellor of the Exchequer, on the currency question. ~~And~~ Harriman is said to have told Cripps that if the British do not free the pound, the United States may refuse Europe any more dollars -- after this year. Washington feels, so we are told, that a free pound would stimulate trade in Europe and the whole world.

But the British insist their way is best. Cripps saying that if pounds could be bought, in exchange

for dollars, then Britain would have to export gold, as she did before the war, and he claims she just cannot do that.

London newspapers today are saying that Britain now faces, what they call, "An economic Dunkirk," -- with the possibility of a nationwide panic. As the British public hears from its newspapers that the United States does not like the London Labor Government's currency control.

GERMANY

In Berlin tomorrow, the Western commanders are meeting with the Soviets to work out a live-and-let-live agreement for administering divided Germany, as ordered by the Big Four Foreign Ministers at the Paris conference. The meeting, a kind of preliminary. You might describe it as -- shadow-boxing, with the deputy military commanders opening the proceedings.

The Berlin railway strike is scheduled to end tomorrow. And the hope is that there will be freight service between the city and our occupation zones. Then military trains will start to roll, and later passenger service.

But, we are taking no chances. The Berlin Airlift is to continue, and keep going at full swing -- until the trains are rolling on full schedule.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

In Prague today, the Czechoslovakian Communist government made an open attack on the Roman Catholic Church -- banning all pastoral letters by Catholic prelates. And also prohibited ^{ing} church officials from meeting anywhere without permission of the government.

Yesterday, at morning services in most Catholic churches in Czechoslovakia, the priests read what may be the last pastoral letter of Archbishop Beran. ^{— now Cardinal —} In which ^{Cardinal Beran} ~~the Archbishop~~ told of secret police being in control of his palace -- and how he was virtually a prisoner.

Meanwhile, Czech congregations are wondering what has happened to a prominent priest, who supported the Gottwald Regime -- Father Josef Fiala. Father Fiala founded the Czechoslovakian Catholic Charity Organization. --called, the Charita. And he also founded the government's so-called Catholic Action Body. And handed the funds of Charita over to the Communists.

Now Father Fiala has disappeared. In Prague,

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it is believed, that he has fled the country, leaving his Communist bosses, because of the threat of excommunication by the Vatican, which termed him and his followers -- renegades.

BELGIUM

From Belgium, the news that King Leopold ~~the~~
^{now} ~~this~~ has small hope of ever returning to the throne. ~~in~~
~~Brussels~~. In yesterday's elections, the social Christian
party, that wants to return the King to the throne,
failed to get a working majority. ~~Perhaps~~ Losing many
^{we hear,} votes, because the Belgian people don't want Leopold
back. *I wonder?*

The ex-king is accused of having been too
friendly with the Germans during the war -- of selling
out ~~his~~ country to the Nazis. Then, his second marriage
wasn't approved by his subjects. They loved his first
wife, Princess Astrid of Sweden. She was killed in an
automobile accident, while the King was driving.

Also campaigning against the King was his
mother, Queen Elizabeth. She ^{is reported} ~~says~~ to have leanings to
the left. So Leopold, who inherited the millions made
by his great grandfather, Leopold the Second, by ~~the~~
exploitation of the Congo, is likely to remain in exile.
And if Belgium does have another King, the chances are
he will be ~~Prince Baudouin~~, Leopold's eighteen year old
son.

CANADA

A general election in Canada today -- marked by violence. Eight million people voting to determine whether the liberal regime of Premier Louis St. Laurent is to remain in power. Tonight word from Montreal reports a savage attack on organizers working for progressive candidates. In St. Denis the Liberal party headquarters was invaded, and papers destroyed.

The contest is between liberals and ~~the~~ progressives. The Liberals headed by Premier St. Laurent campaigning on their post war record of increased social security and reduction of taxes. The progressives attacking the present government's trade policy -- and the Marshall Plan.

Late word: The Liberal party of Premier St. Laurent leading in the East.

ATOMIC

Should the use of atomic weapons be outlawed in war, like poison gas? A resolution was introduced into the Senate today by Senator Ralph Flanders. ~~as~~ *The senator* Vermont ~~He~~ wants to forbid our Armed Forces to use any atomic weapons, if there ever should be a war. Not to use them - unless an aggressor nation used them first.

If we could outlaw the atomic bomb, says Senator Flanders, the whole world would be reassured, and be much happier.

The Green Mountain Senator
~~But the Senator from Vermont~~ recognizes that some other nation might make an attack on us with nuclear weapons. So, in his resolution he allows for the President of the United States to order the use of atomic bombs - without even waiting for a declaration of war, if we should be attacked.

The head of interpol in this country is

J. Edgar Hoover.

SMUGGLING

An American, thought to belong to an international dope smuggling ring, has been arrested in Rome.

The international police are protesting that the dope smuggler, whose name is said to be Vincent Tupic, should have been allowed to come to New York, with his suitcase load of cocaine. They say, then he could have been trailed, to his customers.

Who are these international police? Since the war, we have been collaborating with the governments of Europe - using top sleuths from various countries to catch counterfeiters and dope smugglers. This is known as Interpol, an organization with special powers, to cut through red tape; follow criminals from one country to the other without formality.

COUNTERFEITING

In Washington, the U. S. Secret Service raided a counterfeiting ring operating next door to the headquarters of the World Bank. Four men and a woman arrested, with a hundred and fifty thousand dollars' in bogus money. One of the largest counterfeiting rings in years.

The arrest was brought about by a quick witted theatre cashier in Cleveland, Ohio. She recognized a phoney twenty given her by a theatre patron and called the police. Result, today the arrest of the five in Washington -- with bales of twenty dollar bills.

HISS

Under cross-examination, in New York Federal Court today, Alger Hiss told how in Nineteen Forty Six, former Secretary of State James Burnes, warned him that he was about to be accused in Congress -- of being a Communist. And, said Hiss, he immediately called F.B.I. Director J. Edgar Hoover, to say that he wanted the F.B.I. to investigate him. But, he said, on the witness stand today, the F.B.I. investigation struck him as being "Perfunctory." He being merely asked if he knew various people. And giving the F.B.I. lists of the sundry organizations to which he had belonged.

TAFT - HARTLEY

In Washington tonight Senator Taft appealed to the Senate to write Taft-Hartley anti-strike injunctions into the administration's new labor bill. As the only way to protect the nation against crippling strikes. The Ohio Senator pointed out that President Truman frequently has used anti-strike injunctions. Senator Taft said this shows that the President considers them the most effective weapon against strikes. Added Senator Taft, "it will be futile and ridiculous to eliminate them."

NEW YORK POLITICS

In this next item, the philosophy would seem to be - you don't have to go to China to find a Chinese puzzle. If you want one really intricate, all you have to do is take a look at New York City politics. Day after day the complications have been increasing in perplexity, and now they reach a climax of the intricate.

I've been talking big town politics with a wise and sagacious friend, Judge Charles E. Murphy of the New York State Supreme Court. And he points out how it all resulted from one big surprise. With an election for mayor coming up this fall, everything seemed obvious and simple-- a foregone conclusion that Mayor O'Dwyer could be ^{re} elected, easily.

But Mayor O'Dwyer, [^] *suddenly,* for reasons of health, bowed out of the race. Surprise! [^] Immediately the name of District Attorney Frank ~~W~~ Hogan appeared - a powerful *The man who succeeded Thos. E. Dewey as D. A.,* candidate. ~~But maybe too powerful. You can't tell which~~ *The word is that both parties would like to* ~~side might~~ [^] nominate Hogan. He might be the Democratic candidate. Or he might run on a Republican-fusion

ticket. All a bit ambiguous. ~~So this time, for mayor,~~
~~He~~ might be on either; But, not on both;-- so I am told.

The political signs are that Hogan, on a Republican-fusion ticket backed by the New York Liberal Party, would be a powerful candidate. The Liberals are riding high just now, having come to life ~~with a bang~~ a few weeks ago -- when they elected Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr. to Congress~~man~~.

There is ^{real} magic in that legend of FDR; and it put the Liberal Party in a great spot. Right now, straw votes in New York newspapers, ^{actually} show FDR Jr. ~~is~~ running in front for mayor -- according to the pollsters. So, ^{there's} ~~that's possibly~~ another ^{possible} ~~factor in the~~ complication. ^{Ferdinand} High on the list of names is that of ~~--~~ Pecora.

A judge now, his fame goes back to the early days of the New Deal -- when he rose to national prominence in the banking investigation, the famous cross-examination of J. H. Morgan, when that mighty financier was on the Congressional witness stand. But that renown of long ago points to the fact that Judge Pecora is Sixty-Seven

years old. He might feel the burden of the office of mayor of New York to be too great.

Whereupon we come to the news ^{from the} ~~weekend~~ ^{New York} the latest entry into the scramble of politics -- Borough President John Cashmore of Brooklyn. He is the favorite son of the home of the Dodgers, and is backed by a series of eloquent figures.

In 1940 ^{Cashmore even} ~~he~~ ran ahead of the late President Roosevelt, polling Thirty-Four Thousand more Brooklyn votes than FDR got. In the next election for mayor ^{N.Y.} the Democrats lost Brooklyn by Sixty-Nine Thousand. But John Cashmore, running for Borough President, was elected by Sixty Five Thousand. Three years ago, he swept Brooklyn with the giant figures of Three Hundred and Sixty Thousand. ~~That was~~ Thirty-Five Thousand more than Mayor O'Dwyer got.

All of which is interesting in our Dutchess County neighborhood -- though that's far from Brooklyn. ^{Dutchess County's present} ~~our~~ chief political ornament is Governor Dewey -- who has just returned home from his trip of

observation in Europe. But the Brooklyn borough president has a farm ^{almost next door.} ~~just across the line~~ in Putnam County. So now we'll be watching him.

At the same time, young Franklin D. Roosevelt, a resident of New York City, is attached ancestrally to the Hyde Park end of Dutchess County, the old Roosevelt home. So in our neighborhood we have a triple play -- three leading lights of politics. They are so different^t and varied that its almost as much of a Chinese puzzle as the New York City race for mayor.

SHOT FLYERS

The State Department today announces that three American flyers were shot down and killed in last weeks unsuccessful invasion of the Dominican Republic. No word, however, as to who the airmen were working for. Only that a Dominican Government report says they fired on Dominican troops from a Catalina Flying Boat. And were killed when their plane landed.

RADAR

Our domestic airlines are soon to benefit from two ~~radar~~ safety devices, developed by the Air Force during the Berlin Airlift. ^{One, a} television map of the country over which the plane is flying - shown in detail on a radar screen. The pilot always able to see what is underneath - an exact picture.

^{The other} ~~was~~ an improved radar ^{outfit that} ~~which~~ eliminates all stationary objects within a hundred miles - showing the pilot only what is moving. So there can be no chance of a ground object being mistaken for a plane in the air. With these two devices, the television picture of the ground, and the radar view of what's moving in the air within a circle of a diameter ^{of a} ~~one~~ Hundred Miles, the chances of ^{a plane} ~~an airplane~~ getting lost, or of a collision, are practically eliminated. Thanks to the Berlin Airlift.

OLD-AGE

Sam Taylor of Isleworth, England, is Eighty² years old -- and proud of it. Particularly because he is growing new hair and cutting new teeth. All of which baffles the doctors, who say that Sam is quite a healthy oldster; but, why ~~there~~^{these} new teeth and the fresh crop of hair?

~~But~~ Sam knows a thing or two. He claims to have a elixir of life -- a youth brew. Elderberries and red clover blossoms, boiled with dandelion roots and the juice of three lemons. Stew for three hours, skim it, and drink it. That's what Sam does; and, the doctors say ^{he actually} ~~that he really~~ looks as if he's growing younger. Maybe Sam is the successful Ponce de Leon -- the man who at last has found the Fountain of Youth!

JUNKMAN

A dowager and a junkman are exchanging accusations in swank Newport -- Rhode Island. The dowager - Mrs. Peyton Van Renssalaer, the junkman -- Tim Sullivan. Known as Timmy the Junkman.

Mrs. Van Renssalaer went to court today to get an injunction to make Tim Sullivan and his wife clean up their property. She says the pile of old stoves, radios, store dummies, ice boxes and what not, in the Sullivan's yard is a disgusting mess. It annoys her, also it ~~sm~~ smells. The ~~is~~ junkpile, by the way is right across the road from the Van Renssalaer residence.

The Sullivans say junk is junk, and it's their living. Mrs. Van Renssalaer told the Judge today that she had even offered Tim a free trip to Florida if he'd clean up his junk pile. Also, she had offered ~~him~~ to paint and beautify Timmy's house and clean up his junk yard at her own expense. To which Timmy still said "nothing doing. It's my junk".

Today Timmy and his wife were in court - all spruced up. He in a new suit, she with a new hat -- to hear the leader of Newport Society tell her story of ~~how~~ how their junk was spoiling her social connections. Everybody coming to her house forced to pass that junk pile. Oh the sight of it and the smell of it! ~~How~~ So offended were her visitors said Mrs. Van Rennsalaer, that she couldn't even rent her property. Who would want to live next to that Sullivan junk yard?

WEATHER

And now about the heat wave. No relief in sight.

Washington, of course is broiling. But, President Truman, they say, thrives on it. As a Missourian it reminds him of home. Says White House Press Secretary Charlie Ross, when a real Missourian gets into an air conditioned building he throws open the doors and windows and puts the air conditioning system out of commission. Air conditioning. He's ~~again~~ agin it!

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Over in England they are having a heat wave. So hot in London today that even in the House of Lords, the Peers took off their wigs - those perspiring Peers.

Nelson, how are you standing the heat? Under a tree somewhere in a hammock, I hope!