

L.J. - P. + G. Thursday, May 19, 1949.

EISLER

Gerhart Eisler may win out in his flight from this country, after all.

The London Parliament was told today that Great Britain won't extradite Communist Eisler -- if the British Government decides that Eisler is a bona fide political refugee. Chuter Ede, British Home Secretary, whose department deals with such matters, said today that he cannot rule on Eisler's status until he has received a formal request for extradition from the United States. This request, he said, will contain the full charges against Eisler.

And he went on to say, "if the case has a political character, it will be my duty to see that further proceedings do not take place."

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Meanwhile, in Washington today, a revised bench warrant for Eisler's extradition was issued in Federal District Court. Last Tuesday's order said the Communist had been found guilty of perjury. Today the

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writ requests that Eisler be brought back to the United States because he has been convicted of making false statements in his application to leave the country.

## FOUR POWER

From Paris, word that French, British and U.S. diplomats have had their talks, and are ready for the Big Four conference on Monday. They have had seven sessions; not a word on what transpired.

Tonight, in Washington, Secretary of State Dean Acheson said that he is going into the talks with an openmind; that he will neglect "no real opportunity for agreement." But he added that he sees the lifting of the Berlin Blockade as not even the beginning of the solution to the problem of Germany's future. Also, that the United States is not going to barter away its successes in rebuilding Western Germany -- not for a few promises which might be illusions.

## COMMUNIST

The Senate Appropriations Sub-Committee was told today that all future applicants for government fellowships in atomic science will be required to sign non-Communist affidavits. No more Red students to be educated at government expense. As for that fellowship at the University of North Carolina, granted by the National Research Council to Hans Freistadt, it may be cancelled; Freistadt having stated that he is a Communist.

At a Committee hearing today in Washington, Atomic Energy Commission Chairman David Lilienthal admitted that the National Research Council realizes a mistake was made in granting that science fellowship to the Communist student. And he added that Dr. Bronk-Chairman of the Council -- has agreed that all future applicants for fellowships must avow that they are not Communists.

The Sub-Committee Chairman, Senator O'Mahoney of Wyoming, then demanded that the Atomic Energy Com. refuse funds for the fellowships, unless the National



Research Council screens out the Communists. Also, he said, the Atomic Energy Commission must block the free education of Communist students -- do so voluntarily, and willingly, or it would be done by the federal Government through Loyalty Tests.

BERLIN

(The march of events in Berlin is leading the Western Allies to expect that the Russians will continue their harrassing tactics, and probably announce new restrictions.)

A news dispatch reveals that there has been ~~a lot of~~ <sup>some</sup> mind-changing on the part of the Soviet Authorities <sup>in Berlin.</sup> This morning General Vassily Chũikov went on the air -- Radio Berlin -- to explain that the Helmstedt super four-lane highway could only be used by Allied military trucks. All German vehicles to use the side roads. But shortly afterwards the Russians allowed the German trucks to proceed.

And, Soviet soldiers started seizing any German trucks using the great Hamburg highway to the North. All without explanation.

When Brigadier General Frank Howley in command of American troops, and the British commander, tried to get in touch with the Russian transportation chief, Soviet clerks replied that he was not available.

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So, it looks as though the four-power conference in Paris will start with a dispute -- ~~and~~ the transportation situation in Berlin <sup>again</sup> ~~is~~ in a snarl.  
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## STRIKE

In Detroit Federal Conciliator Arthur Viat, announces that he will sit in at tomorrow's meeting -- between the representatives of the Ford Company and the United Automobile Workers. To try and settle that two week <sup>old</sup> strike at the Ford plant -- at the request of Henry Ford, Third. The Ford Company representatives say that United Automobile Workers' Union President, Walter Reuther, is stalling negotiations -- waiting until the Federal mediation service takes a hand. Which <sup>now</sup> it will do tomorrow.



## LABOR

In Washington tonight the Executive Board of the CIO ordered its leftwing members to resign -- or face being thrown out at the Cleveland Convention in October. The vote twenty-nine to six, ~~to~~ demand<sup>TM</sup> the resignation of all board members unwilling to enforce the constitution of the CIO. To which President Philip Murray added, that the six board members who voted against the resolution will probably be dropped -- if they don't resign. "It is a Communist situation," said Murray. "It must be met and dealt with." <sup>TP</sup> The CIO legislating against Communist infiltration.

## AWARDS

Ninety-seven U. S. Army officers will have to wait a considerable time for a hundred-and-five decorations and two testimonial watches awarded them by twenty-one foreign countries. This because a House Armed Services Sub-committee today put a certain bill in cold storage.

Chairman Vinson criticized the Army for submitting the measure at this time. "We're busy," he said, "so what's the rush?" He suggested that if the Army Department hasn't anything better to do, it might be a good idea <sup>to</sup> ~~at~~ send some of them out on maneuvers.

Some in Washington are getting a chuckle out of the shelving of the medal bill, because included is the much discussed one from Argentina, to Major General Harry Vaughan, President Truman's military aide. ~~When~~ When Columnist Pearson criticized the award, the President spoke up and said that General Vaughan had a perfect right to receive the Peron decoration. That was the now famous

sob story -- sob, spelled S O B, Sorry Old Boy, or however you interpret it.

And so it might seem as if the House Armed Services Sub-Committee is saying to President Truman -- Sorry Old Boy -- but Congressional permission for General Vaughan to wear his Argentine medal will have to wait.

(But I doubt that they were thinking about the Vaughan medal in that Washington heat today.)

## GROSVENOR

In Washington <sup>tonite some</sup> ~~four or~~ five thousand

distinguished people, <sup>—</sup> statesmen, soldiers, explorers,  
educators, journalists, and others, <sup>— were</sup> ~~are paying~~ honor  
~~tonight to~~ a man who has been <sup>the</sup> an editor <sup>of the same way</sup> for fifty years.

At Constitution Hall, the National Geographic Society  
is presenting the first Grosvenor Medal to none other  
than <sup>Mr.</sup> ~~the Gilbert~~ Grosvenor. *The new Mr. G.*

The story of Gilbert Grosvenor and the  
National Geographic Society and Magazine is one of the  
fine stories of our time. When Alexander Graham Bell,  
inventor of the telephone, hired twenty-three year  
old Gilbert Grosvenor -- a teacher in a boys' school --  
to take over the Magazine of which he is still the  
head, ~~today~~ that magazine had about nine hundred  
subscribers, and was about to expire. Young Gilbert  
Grosvenor must have given it a magic injection. Today



you will find it wherever you go, in every part of the world -- read, I believe, by more than six million people each month. That's fabulous. But, it isn't all. Under the direction of Dr. Grosvenor a hundred million copies of large maps, covering most of this planet, have been brought out in color, and distributed throughout the world. More than two million dollars has been turned over to <sup>help</sup> expeditions.

I am sure it's quite safe to say that Gilbert H. Grosvenor for whom islands, mountains, glaciers, lakes, fish, and even a Chinese drug have been named, has done more to popularize geography and the general knowledge of this planet and its inhabitants than anyone who ever lived.

Some years ago when I was ~~fixing~~ flying in Central Asia, way up on the border between Tibet and China, in one of the remote parts of this planet,

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off to the left I saw an inspiring mountain. I checked my map and lo and behold I found that the name of it was Mt. Grosvenor. I was astounded. But, when I reflect on the record of this man <sup>over</sup> ~~during~~ the past fifty years, I'm not surprised at all that even a mountain in Central Asia bears his name.

## PRISONERS

Governor Paul Dever of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has written to Governor Ernest Gibson of Vermont -- about the case of Newspaper Reporter Ralph Fugatt of Springfield, Mass. He, and another ex-G.I., Bernard Smith, of Connecticut, are faced with the dismal prospect of spending the rest of their lives in jail -- because they are short of a few thousand dollars.

The men are being held under a Vermont law, passed in the early Eighteen Hundreds. Under this law, a man is committed to prison for failure to pay his debt. And there he must stay until he has paid it -- every cent. ~~That's~~ <sup>a</sup> law similar to the one in Victorian England - against which Charles Dickens, campaigned so angrily in his novels, Dickens's own father was always in and out of <sup>the</sup> debtor's prison. Because of Dickens's campaigning, the law was removed from the statute books of England over a century ago. The debtor's prisons ~~are~~ <sup>long ago.</sup> ~~now closed over there - forever.~~

But the go-to-prison or pay law still stands in

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Vermont. <sup>TP</sup> So the two men, who were committed to jail some months ago because they could not pay damages in automobile accident cases, <sup>and</sup> are still in prison at Rutland. ~~And~~ there they must stay -- unless they can succeed in declaring themselves paupers; or <sup>unless</sup> someone can spring them with a writ of habeas corpus.

In his letter, the Massachusetts Governor asks the Governor of Vermont to do everything possible to free the Springfield, Mass., G.I. But up in Rutland, the Vermont jurists are saying that the imprisonment of the two men is constitutional. ~~And~~ that it's a jury verdict, which cannot be set aside - except by the ruling of a Vermont judge.



## "MR. ROBERTS"

An unexpected death shocked Broadway. Thomas Heggen, the twenty-nine year old Iowa ex-Navy Man who wrote the best seller "Mr. Roberts" and co-authored the Broadway play of the same name, found dead in his apartment. Apparently drowned in his bathtub. No sign of foul play, say the police. But there is one unusual feature of the case - a razor blade at the bottom of the tub.

The successful playwright's<sup>1</sup> friend<sup>2</sup> tell of his suffering from insomnia; but they say his spirits were good. And that Heggen, whose take from the play and the book, "Mr. Roberts" was about five thousand dollars a week, was excited about leaving for Europe shortly -- to work on another play. Also that the veteran of Okinawa and other Pacific hot spots, may have taken sleeping tablets before getting into the bath - and ~~there~~ gone to sleep *there*.

## PETAINE

In Paris today, an auctioneer put on sale a collection of lead soldiers. A few miniature statuettes - some leaden men-of-war and a few dolls in uniform.

"Gentlemen," he asked the five hundred people present, "what am I bid?"

Suddenly, from the back of the room, there came a bid that was a protest. The bid -- One Billion Francs! The man who made it, an aging bearded soldier, his voice husky with emotion, as he cried: "I make this bid, because you are selling the honor of France. They are the toy soldiers of Marshal Henri Petain."

And then, out to the front, there stepped another old man. He, tall and stiff and straight. General Serigny, Petain's Chief-of-Staff during the Battle of Verdun. The man whom history records as having written the words, "They shall not pass!" at the instruction of Marshal Petain.

Petaine, as we know, once a national hero of France, is living out his days in exile, on a lonely

Mediterranean island. The lead soldiers and the miniature battleships were those that he used at military school, and later to plan his campaigns. When the aged General heard of the auction, he went, hoping to buy the models. But that other old man who first bid a Billion Francs -- he a lowly lieutenant in Petain's division-- had forestalled his wartime General.

And so none of the other people in the room dared make a bid. Hand in hand the retired lieutenant and the General walked up to the auctioneer's rostrum. There they mounted a table, and standing to attention with tears streaming down their faces, they began to sing the Marseillaise. The audience joining in. And when the singing was over, there was no auctioneer. He had gone, leaving the two old men with the little lead soldiers, -- and their memories.

And now, Nelson Case --