

L.T. -P&G. TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1948.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Soviet Russia has returned a mild answer to the Small Nation suggestion that the big powers should get together for another attempt to settle the Berlin crisis. The Moscow reply repeats the proposal of a four power conference on Germany, and makes a significant reference to what it calls - "the importance of personal contact." Which, of course, sounds like another echo of Red propaganda - playing up the idea of a Truman-Stalin conference. However, the Russian attitude is not changed - today's response giving no sign of any intention of lifting the blockade as a prelude to an all-around discussion of the problem of Germany.

The Western Powers are rejecting the proposal made by the small nations. Sticking to their position that they will not go into conference with Soviet Russia while the Berlin blockade is on. They will not deal under any such threat - no coercion.

This decision was backed up today with the full weight of the President of the United States. At Key West, President Truman stated that he is giving all support to Secretary Marshall, in refusing any four power conference, until the Berlin blockade is lifted, the coercion taken off.

He repeated, moreover, that he has no intention of having any meeting with Stalin. He said that if the Soviet Premier should come to Washington for diplomatic talks - okay. But the President will not go off on another of those big-time palavers with Stalin -- nor will there be any mission to Moscow. So said President Truman today.

## SOVIETS

A ~~late~~ dispatch from Berlin tells of Soviet preparations for huge army maneuvers in eastern Germany. According to informed sources at Allied headquarters, the Red command is preparing to put three hundred thousand Russian soldiers through winter war games. These will be the first military maneuvers the Soviets have staged in the conquered country of Germany. Hitherto they've had their war exercises inside of Russia.

## CHINA

(Both sides in China claim big victories. The nationalists say the Red offensive has been smashed,) the Communists retreating all along the Suchow front in what is called - "great disorder."

(These Chinese government victories, as in the past, don't seem to impress the officials of foreign countries in such convincing fashion.) Because they, today, speeded up their program of evacuating their citizens from central China, under the Communist threat.

## GREECE

Greece ~~today~~ has a government again. After days of confusion, an agreement has been reached among the political leaders, whereby resigned Premier Sophoulis becomes head of the government all over again. He has formed another Cabinet -- ending the political crisis, for the time being at least.

## IRELAND

(The news tonight confirms the decision of Ireland to withdraw entirely from all connection with Great Britain. Ireland is virtually independent; but, hitherto has kept a vague shadowy sort of tie with the British Commonwealth. But now even that is to end )- after a final decision tonight in Paris. <sup>#</sup> [At the United Nations, high-ranking representatives of Ireland, Britain and Canada had a discussion -- with Britain and Canada trying to persuade Ireland to cancel the decision and retain some sort of link with Britain and the Dominions. It was no use. <sup>As</sup> The Irish delegates emerged, <sup>They</sup> passed around among the newsmen copies of the Bill to be introduced into the Dublin Parliament this week -- making Ireland <sup>independent</sup> ~~independent~~ in an ultimate, formal sense.

## CHURCH WOMEN

At Milwaukee, the United Council of Church Women are in session - twenty-five hundred women representing eighty-four Protestant denominations. Today they were addressed by Dr. G. Bromley Oxnam, Methodist Bishop of New York, who gave warning against any policy of opposing Communism by supporting reactionary, tyrannical regimes in other countries. He mentioned, specifically - Franco. Bishop Oxnam spoke of what he called, "the limited strategic value of Spain," and said - that this limited strategic advantage must not persuade us to compromise our liberal, democratic position - by dealing with Franco.

12

ELIZABETH BENTLEY

The news today brings the details of drama in the story that (Elizabeth Bentley has become a Catholic.) We are told the circumstances of the conversion of (the one-time Communist agent, who gave sensational evidence at congressional investigations a few months ago.) It happened on November Fifth, and is disclosed only now.

(The story is that during those congressional hearings, Elizabeth Bentley had a talk with Louis Budenz, former editor of the Communist Daily Worker, who revolted against the doctrines of Marx, Lenin and Stalin, and entered the Catholic Church several years ago.) She had known Budenz well during their days of Communism - and now they both were witnesses, telling congressional committees about Red schemes to penetrate the federal government. According to the story in the New York World Telegram today, Elizabeth Bentley told Budenz that she had been thinking of Catholicism ever since her violent reaction against the

Communist Party, which had turned her into a bitter anti-Red. This religious discussion went on while she was in the headlines with the startling charges against former high government officials, whom she denounced as Communists.

( Budenz advised her to go to Monsignor Fulton Sheen, famous for various prominent conversions, Heywood Broun, Clare Luce, Senator Wagner and Budenz himself. )  
And so it was that the confessed former spy for Soviet Russia took religious instruction.)

It has been noted that former Communists, who turn against the Red doctrine, often show a sympathy for Roman Catholicism. Some little while ago, I asked a friend about this - a former prominent functionary of the Communist Party, who revolted against it, and is now an eager devotee of the American freedoms. He told me - yes, the Communist who rebels against the totalitarian creed is likely to be attracted to Catholic ideas. He said the reason was - universality. He explained that one of the attractions of Communism for the intellectuals is

its international aspect - a world cult, a global doctrine. To which he added that the Roman Church was likewise international -- the only other creed of world scope - hence attractive to those turning against Communism.

President Truman speaks out on the subject of the Hoover Commission. The other day, we had occasion to note speculation about the effect of the Democratic election victory on the work of that Commission, headed by the Republican ex-President, which has been making a study of the ~~reorganization~~ reorganization of the federal government. Herbert Hoover, himself, came out with a statement about that project for a reform of the federal set-up. He said - it had nothing to do with politics. So what now from President Truman?

( At Key West, the Little White House, the President had his first news conference since the recent election. He stated that the recommendations made by the Hoover Commission would be brought promptly before the new Congress. )

He made public a letter he has sent to former President Hoover, a letter in which he hopes that the report by the Commission will be, what the President calls - "a milestone in the development of a sound and economical structure for the executive branch of the federal government."

8

So it looks as if, through the Hoover Commission,  
we'll have a job of streamlining in Washington.

## STRIKE

Things looked optimistic tonight for a settlement of the west coast maritime strike, which has lasted for seventy-six days. Optimistic -- to the extent that a major obstacle was removed today, when the companies and the union reached a tentative agreement for retaining the hiring halls. ~~That has been~~ A number one bone of contention all along -- the hiring halls.

## AUTOMOBILES

From Washington - a warning that government controls may be slapped on automobile sales. This because of what is called - "the greed and avarice of a few dealers." The warning emanates from Republican Congressman Kingsland Macy of New York, Chairman of a committee investigating the practice of making the purchaser pay more than the list price of the car - salesmen demanding bonuses and tips.

~~Testimony in Washington today gave a rather fantastic picture of what is supposed to be regular business. Of course, everybody knows about under-the-counter sales - having to pay extra to get an automobile. Today all that appeared in the form of testimony.~~

*Today* a Washington grocer told how he had to tip a salesman four hundred dollars for the privilege of buying a new car. Was he angry about that? Not at all. He said he thought he was - lucky. And explained - that other salesmen wanted seven or eight hundred dollars above the list price.

The Committee called salesmen to the witness stand, and they admitted that they took tips of hundreds of dollars. This they justified as a regular practice, and one declared that it was okay - because some customers, after paying the salesman a fat bonus, took the car around the corner and resold it for still more - a good profit.

The Committee estimates that automobile dealers, who indulged in these "questionable" trade practices, took the public for four hundred and fifty million dollars during the first seven months of this year. - ~~tips, bonuses, trade ins, the sale of unwanted accessories, all sorts of ways of getting more than the list price of the car. The Committee view is that all this is legal, though an unfair way of doing business - and about the only way of putting the law on the "questionable" practices, is through the income tax. That is, inquiry into these dealings might bring to light income tax violations.~~

But the whole automobile industry may have to suffer,

## STORM

The storm news in the Pacific Northwest pictures a stricken cargo vessel drifting before the wild gale -- in danger of going aground near Point Brown on the coast of Washington. A crew of twenty aboard -- and in peril. The tempest, with seventy-mile-an-hour winds, sank two sea-going tugs, ~~and there were~~ <sup>T</sup>wo sailors missing -- ten saved. A wild time at sea, as the worst storm of the season batters the coast of the Pacific Northwest.

## COUNTESS

At Virginia City, Nevada, the "Countess" is in jail tonight -- a stately and ornate mystery woman whose real identity is not known. She has been going around as the "Countess" -- plus a long jaw-breaking Russian name-Pzzawitzky or something like that. Some think she belongs to a prominent Eastern family -- Eastern New Jersey. Not Eastern Europe. Anyway, her lawyer claims that she is being held, in his words "as a hostage for a gambling debt."

As for the "hostage" part of it, the story is that the "Countess" took to gambling in a big way. Which culminated in a three-day-three-night poker game in a Virginia City salon -- saloon, I mean. The stakes were high, pots running over a thousand dollars.

The "Countess" lost twenty-two hundred dollars. But she had a backer, a generous gentleman, who proceeded to write a check for her losses. Which seemed to be Okay for the lady, except that the check bounced -- and the generous gentleman was arrested, put in jail.

COUNTESS - 2

Whereupon the "Countess", with plenty of loyalty, wrote a check of her own<sup>—</sup> and this got him out. But, her check also bounced -- and she was put in the same cell that he had occupied.

Plenty of trouble; and for a climax -- the charge that the "Countess" is being held "as a hostage for a gambling debt."

## THIEF

The news tells of an ancient mariner of Japan, who is also a venerable thief. He stole a boat and went navigating - <sup>a patriarchal,</sup> ~~a venerable~~ seafaring crook. <sup>TP</sup> He's a native of ~~Osaka~~ <sup>Osaka</sup> whom they call - the Honorable Haden. "Honorable", I suppose, because of his age, his many years. Seventy-one years old. He swiped a motor boat at Osaka, and navigated all by himself to a port southwest of Kobe - a difficult voyage of eighty miles. There he sold the boat, and pocketed the money.

Presently, he was arrested - and were the police astonished! They found that the aged boat thief was both deaf and blind. He couldn't hear and he couldn't see, but he sure could navigate - that thieving ancient ~~man~~ mariner.

## BABY

I am getting tired of all the stories about Princess Elizabeth's new baby, but from Athens comes news of - the American flag flying upside down. It created something of a sensation today in the classic city, when the strange sight was noted on the flagstaff above the American Military Mission.

Most embarrassing, and our Military Mission gave instant orders to right the Stars and Stripes. Then they added the painful explanation that the flag was raised this morning by a soldier who, in the words of an official - "had celebrated the birth of Princess Elizabeth's baby a little too enthusiastically." Wetting the baby's knob as the British call it.

Well, it's an old American Army tradition - any excuse for a high old time. But listen, fellows - baby or no baby, let's have Old Glory right side up.

And now here's Nelson who always - well almost always - is right side up.