

L.T. - P&G Monday, February 19, 1951.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

In New York this afternoon a young basketball player let a policeman down the stairs of his home into the basement. There he went to a dusty shoe box, and from it took twenty-eight one hundred dollar bills, and five fifty-dollar bills. He was Ed Warner, star player on the team of City College, New York -- and the three thousand and fifty dollars in the dusty shoe box is said to have been -- bribery money.

This was one of today's developments in the basketball scandal -- a New York sensation. (Newspapers carrying banner headlines about this latest revelation of the fixing ^{of basketball} games!) -- And one paper, THE POST, announced that it will cease publishing betting odds on basketball. Three top-ranking stars of C.C.N.Y. are involved -- Ed. Warner, Ed. Roman and Al. Roth,

members of the team that won the basketball championship last year. The Police have confessions that they threw games for bribes, ranging as high as fifteen hundred dollars per game for each player. A Long Island University player, Connie Schaff, is accused, and a former L.I.U. basketballer, Edward Gard, is named as the go-between for the gamblers. He is being held in protective custody tonight, for safety -- he having cooperated with the Police in exposing the scandal.

District Attorney Hogan states that the breaking of the case resulted from wire-tapping telephone calls, which procured evidence that brought about confessions after long questioning. Two gamblers were arrested, Salvatore Sollazo who is said to have been the mastermind and Robert Sabatini, held as a material witness.

All the college players were suspended by their universities today, and President Harry Wright of C.C.N.Y. hints that the team of his college may no

longer play games in Madison Square Garden. The whole thing is a part of a huge vogue of basketball, centering around the big games in the Garden. Big-money extravaganza, with heavy betting. All leading to a whole series of scandals, bribery and fixed games.

The latest -- the District Attorney, this afternoon, questioned three more basketball stars.

KOREA SPEARS

At Eighth Army Headquarters a remarkable exhibit was presented today - by the Eighth Army Commander himself, Lieutenant-General Matthew Ridgeway. He showed newsmen an article of armament captured from the Chinese Reds - and the reporters gaped. In one hand, General Ridgeway held a spear, a pike six feet long. Which brings to a climax stories of primitive equipment used by the Chinese Communists - in addition to their modern mechanized weapons. Cavalry riding on Mongol ponies, the old-fashioned bugle call signalling a charge, transport on the backs of Bactrian camels of Central Asia. And - the long spear, as in the distant days of the Emperors of the Dragon Throne.

Brandishing the spear, General Ridgeway said: "In the year of our Lord 1951, they attack our troops with these crude spears that were in style five thousand years ago." "It didn't mean," he

remarked, "that the Chinese were necessarily short of arms and ammunition. But," said he, "they certainly would not have put spears in their soldiers hands if they had adequate equipment.

Well, I suppose the General had some respect for that spear. He must know his military history. Time was when the long pikes were an invincible weapon of war - wielded by an invincible war machine - the Macedonian Phalanx, a wedge-shaped formation, like a hedge-hog - of spears. There was not an army that could withstand the weight and impact of the Macedonian Phalanx - with which Alexander the Great conquered the world, as the old historians used to say.

But Alexander is merely a memory of glory. The Macedonian Phalanx a marvel in the pages of history - and it does seem odd to find the ancient spear with us once again, in modern war.

BIG FOUR

(The Ambassadors of the United States, Britain and France today handed a note to Andrei Vishinsky in Moscow. This proposes March Fifth as the date for a meeting of the Big Four deputies in Paris. The deputies, who will draw up a program for a formal meeting of the Big Four Foreign Ministers in April or May.) The United Press Moscow correspondent says the Soviets are likely to accept the invitation.

Today's note calls for discussions on all major European problems, in addition to Germany; - but not Far Eastern problems. This, because Red China will not be represented.

YUGOSLAVIA

Hands off Yugoslavia!¹ That's the warning to be given in the House of Commons this week by Prime Minister Attlee. Attlee will speak for the ~~with~~ United States, France, and countries of the British Commonwealth - "with whom he is in close consultation." Last Thursday, Britain's Labor Minister, ^{Ernest} Bevan, warned the Soviets against attacking Marshal Tito, but his words were lost in the maze of parliamentary debate. So now, Prime Minister Attlee will repeat the message in clear, straightforward terms. The sort of terms the Russians understand.

BRITISH RAILWAYS

In London, the Labor Government faces a new headache tonight. A wildcat strike and slow-down of Britain's nationalized railways. In Manchester, nine freight depots are tied up. In London, Liverpool, Birmingham and Wolverhampton, railway men are today using that familiar go-slow technique - "working to rule" ^{they call it.} Obeying every technical requirement in the books, which ~~bring~~ holds up trains for hours, sometimes days.

Dock workers at major British ports also are restive - dissatisfied with recent pay increases. Another walkout is feared this week.

And in Washington, the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen was today fined seventy-five thousand dollars, on charges of contempt. In federal court, Washington, the Brotherhood pleaded guilty to charges of defying a federal court against recent rail strikes, caused by switchmen reporting "sick."

APES

In the London House of Commons measures are being taken for the benefit of - the Barbary Apes on Gibraltar. Today, in the Commons a Conservative M.P., L.D. Gammans voiced a demand that His Majesty's Ministers increase the allowance for the upkeep of those anthropoids which dwell at the Rock - and are considered guardians, in a way.

It is old tradition that if the Barbary Apes ever leave Gibraltar, the British will lose possession of that mighty fortress. During the Second World War the number of them appeared to be decreasing - and Prime Minister Winston Churchill took measures to provide more food. Provisions were flown across from Africa - the welfare of the Apes a matter of wartime security, defense of Gibraltar. So now the Parliament will be asked to increase the food allowance, which comes to four-and-a-half-cents a day per Ape.

Old legend surrounds these Apes - one

story being that they travel between Gibraltar and Africa by way of a tunnel known only to them. In that way they could leave Gibraltar, if not fed well enough - going back to their old home on the Barbary Coast. And Britain would lose the Rock.

News from Israel tells of a visit of Lieutenant-General Sir Brian Robertson, British Commander in the Middle East. He is in Israel to confer with Jewish leaders on problems of defence, and make a tour of the military establishments of the Jewish State.

He was received with full military ceremony, met by an Honor Guard of Israeli Paratroopers, and ~~is conferring~~ ^{is conferring} with President Chan Weizmann and Premier David Ben-Gurion. It wasn't ^{so} long ago that the Zionists and the British were at bitter feud, but today the British Commander in the Middle East was received with distinguished honors.

Of course, there had to be some disturbance -- there being Communists in Israel. The Red Party put on demonstrations with slogans, shouting: "General Robertson -- get out of our country!" ^{But the} ~~the~~ Communists in Israel are more noisy than numerous -- having polled a mere two percent of the votes in the last election. Moreover, they ~~are mostly~~ ^(are Arabs said to be mostly) ~~are mostly~~ ^{malcontents} among

the Moslems. This I have from a friend recently returned from Palestine, Aaron Baron, a music critic on ~~the~~^a New York Jewish newspaper. He told me that the Communists are only a minor factor in the political conflicts -- the ^{larger} ~~important~~ controversies ^{at present} being between the Orthodox religious and the more secularly-minded people. The question -- shall Israel be ^a religious and theocratic, or a modern political state?

He gave me an interesting sidelight -- ~~the~~^a question of Hebrew as the national language. Of course, there are many accents in speaking Hebrew. The Russian will pronounce it one way, the German another and the oriental Jew still another. So which has been adopted as the correct accent? Oddly -- the ^(Hebrew) ~~accent~~ of the Jews of the Yemen, the way they pronounce the sounds of the ancient language in South ^{western} Arabia. Because, said Aaron Baron, the Yemen accent is the most musical, also the most oriental, more like the oriental origin of Hebrew, itself.

PATRON SAINT

From the Vatican comes proclamation of a Patron Saint -- a patron for telephone and telegraph workers. The selection is appropriate -- the Archangel Gabriel. He is the Archangel with the trumpet -- and, at the end of the world, Gabriel's trumpet will sound the crack of doom. The telephone and telegraph are instruments for sending sounds and words afar -- which might be considered a sort of modern variant of Gabriel's trumpet.

The list of Patron Saints, as it has come down from the past, includes other appropriate ^{selections.} ~~ones~~. For the Boy Scouts -- Saint George, who slew the villainous dragon. For carpenters, Saint Joseph, who was a carpenter.

For comedians -- Saint Vitus. ^{For travellers,} ~~Which reminds me,~~ Saint Christopher. ^{For skiers -- St. Peter or} ~~of some comedians I know, who seem to be doing a Saint~~ ^{is it Saint Olaf, Nelson?} ~~Vitus dance.~~ For you, Nelson, St Valentine?

WRECK

A New Jersey Grand Jury has just handed down ~~with~~ eighty-four indictments for manslaughter - against the Pennsylvania Railroad. One indictment for each of the victims killed, in the disastrous wreck at Woodbridge, week before last.

R.F.C.

Democratic Senator Paul Douglas of Illinois tonight hailed President Truman's action in appointing a single administrator for the R.F.C. as "wise - a very good move."

Only last week, Mr. Truman renominated all five directors of the R.F.C. to new terms. This, despite the naming of three of the directors in a highly critical Senate report. Today he made an abrupt about-face on his previous decision. Will appoint one man to reorganize the ^{most federal} loan corporation.

COPPER

The National Production Authority today clamped more severe restrictions on the use of copper. From April First, no copper may be used in the manufacture of doorknobs, dog tags, letter slots;-- may only be used for essential parts in waffle irons, zippers, deep freezers. At the same time, N.P.A. relaxed the use of copper for water pipes, for homes already under construction.

KOREA

(U.N. forces in Korea today swept forward on the heels of a general Communist withdrawal. In the west, virtually the whole south bank of the Han River is now in Allied hands,) while in the ~~west~~ central mountains ~~line~~, ^{three} ~~two~~ armored groups today drove forward four miles, to iron out a bulge in the line.

In a press conference at ~~Rick~~ Eighth Army headquarters, General Ridgway said the Chinese have been making a definite effort to disengage. "For the past thirty-six hours we've had to reach way out, even to gain contact with the Chinese mass," said the General. In a note of caution, he added that the Chinese have tremendous forces north of the thirty-eight parallel, which could be used to stop any Allied advance to the old border.

ADD KOREA

The latest from Korea. In the mountains north and northeast of Chechon this morning, north Koreans launched a series of counter-attacks against the advancing U N. armies. All these counter-attacks have been driven off, and a see-saw battle is reported in the rugged mountain passes leading north.

KOREA - CLARK

General Mark Clark, on an inspection tour of the front line in Korea, was pleased when he saw American troops in action today. The General, who is responsible for training all fighting men before they get to Korea, said that the Chinese troops are "not one fraction as good as our men. Our men are better fighters and better soldiers, better trained and with better morale. Their tails are higher," was how General Clark put it.