

L.T. P.& G. WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 1949

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

A coal strike ordered - half a million miners, both soft coal and anthracite, will walk out for a week next Monday. The strike was called today by John L. Lewis - as a move to strengthen his hand in bargaining for new contracts. He claims too much coal has been mined, which weakens the union position. So - take a week off.

FOLLOW COAL

The response from the coal operators is a threat to call off the negotiations with the union, and in Congress there are statements that the walkout for a week will probably kill the attempts to repeal the Taft-Hartley Law.

always want to see a look at the nose of the farmer, formidable union chief. Not so much to look at, that weather-beaten residence, and the Chamber of Commerce was expressed. So they wrote a letter to Lewis, and asked him to paint his house.

Today a crew of painters showed up, with buckets and brushes and went to work.

FOLLOW COAL

But John L. Lewis made one surrender today.

He has a house at Alexandria, Virginia, across the Potomac from Washington - a gaunt frame house that hadn't seen a coat of paint for fifteen years.

Alexandria has a lot of civic pride, and tourists always want to take a look at the home of the famous, formidable union chief. Not so much to look at, that weather-beaten residence, and the Chamber of Commerce was embarrassed. So they wrote a letter to Lewis, and asked him to paint his house.

Today a crew of painters showed up, with buckets and brushes and went to work.

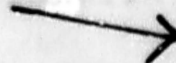
COPLON

In Washington - a motion picture sensation from Judy Coplon's purse. At the trial of the former employee of the Department of Justice, evidence was made public - naming a whole string of Hollywood big-timers as members of the Communist Party or as fellow travelers. In the list of alleged party members are actors Frederic March, Edward G. Robinson, Paul Robeson, Dorothy Parker, and a number of Hollywood writers who, at the Congressional hearing last year, refused to answer the Sixty-Four dollar question.

Now let's get clear about the basis for all this. The notes presented today were reports which the F.B.I. had procured from informants, people giving tips to the Bureau. Today, for example, there was mention of informants known by number "Four Hundred and Two. Another listed as - T-Six. They told the F.B.I. about Hollywood people being Communists - all based on their statements. In other words, the F.B.I. was getting a line on all sorts of people, [^]Hollywood in this case - and their story is that Judy Coplon was

transmitting this information to Soviet espionage.

The F.B.I. protested violently against putting those Hollywood notes in evidence today, but the trial judge insisted - in this continuing drama of Judy Cöplon's purse.



Gregory Peck, John Garfield, and leader Artie Shaw
and so on and so on. They are accused of Red
leanings and of having attacked that California
committee. Replies and reports are coming in from
the people around the flag committee and attacking
the committee all over again.

FOLLOW COPLON

All this is accompanied by a blast from the California committee on Un-American Activities which names a long series of Hollywood notables as being within what it calls - the Stalinist orbit. These names include Charles Chaplin, Orson Welles, Gregory Peck, John Garfield, Bandleader Artie Shaw -- and so on and so on. They are accused of Red leanings and of having attacked that California committee. Replies and retorts are coming in from the people named -- denying communism and attacking the committee all over again.

HISS

At the trial of Alger Hiss, Whittaker Chambers today testified that, when he was doing Red spy work, he had five sources from which he procured secret government documents. One, of course, the former State Department official now on trial for perjury. ^{The} ~~the~~ mother, Henry Julian Wadleigh, also formerly of the State Department. And, three others - not named.

The court proceedings, which have been dark and portentous in tone, changed to a smile this afternoon, the light touch being the famous - pumpkin papers. On the witness stand was a Congressional investigator who took the microfilms out of the pumpkin on Chambers' Maryland Farm. Defense Counsel Lloyd Stryker, who for days has been submitting Chambers to a merciless cross-examination, brightened a bit, and asked the investigator - how ripe was the pumpkin? How did it smell? But he put it in more stately terms. "What was the pumpkin's condition?" He asked. "What was - shall I say - its olefactory

condition?" "It was," replied the investigator, "A green pumpkin."

The courtroom broke into laughter. But, by the way, how does an over-ripe pumpkin smell?

CONFERENCE

The conference in Paris got around to the Berlin blockade today - returning to the business that led to the conference, itself. That illustrates the deadlock on other subjects.

There was more stalemate today in proposals for a resumption of Four Power Control in Berlin, Vishinsky continuing to insist on a complete Soviet veto on all things done by a unified city administration

No hope along that line, so American Secretary of State Acheson went back to the blockade, demanding that the Soviets fulfill their promises. They did raise the barriers against land transportation, ^{but} the lifting of the blockade ^{has} ~~has~~ not ^{been} complete. ~~There are~~ ^A number of angles left to be decided by the local commanders in the German capital. They have been meeting, but ~~have been~~ getting nowhere, and today matters in Berlin were like those in Paris - deadlocked.

Hence the demand by Secretary of State Acheson - that the Berlin commanders be ordered to work out a settlement within Five days.

Vishinsky agreed on one point - that he would answer the demand tomorrow.



SUBSTITUTE FOLLOW CONFERENCE

The deadlock in Berlin today was followed by an outbreak in which two hundred German railway strikers went storming into the Soviet-controlled railroad headquarters -- in the American zone. They were unarmed, but intimidated the German Communist guards ~~xxx~~ in the building, and seized their weapons, after which the strikers went ~~storming~~^{on} through the offices looking for Soviet railroad officials who *have* refuse^{neither} to recognize the union ~~and~~ negotiate for a settlement of the walk-out. They banged on doors, shouting for the railroad officials -- to come out.

From the Russian zone of Berlin, Soviet officers came racing in an automobile, and ordered the strikers to get out! -- ~~But~~ it did no good. The disturbance ended only when American Commander General Howley intervened, and ^{when} ~~they~~ western-sector-German police ^{appeared on} the scene. When they arrived the angry strikers withdrew from the building.

URANIUM

At Frankfurt, Germany, an American Military Court today handed down a decision of large importance - a ruling that uranium is not a war material. This, in the case of nine Germans put on trial for trying to sell some of the radioactive ~~material~~^{erial,} as we heard the other night - a small cube of pure uranium, which came originally from a laboratory where Nazi scientists had been trying to make an atomic bomb. The defendants were charged with violating a law forbidding the sale of war materials - and are now set free.

The view of the court is that pure metallic uranium, as in the case of the small cube, requires a lot of secret processing, according to hidden formula. So much - that it does not come under the heading of war material.

The ^{is} cube of radio-active metal is mostly ordinary uranium, U-238, with a small fraction of the stuff of the bomb, U-235. ~~It's the mysterious business of isotopes, materials that are the same.~~

chemically, the same element, but have different atomic weights. Normal uranium has an atomic weight of Two Thirty-Eight. The isotope for the bomb - Two Thirty-Five. The two occur together, and the great secret of the bomb is - how to extract the small percentage of Two Thirty-Five isotope from the large mass of Two Thirty-Eight. Which is the important point in today's military court decision - that uranium itself, is not a material of war.

All of which is so important that perhaps we ought to take a look at the history of uranium. That metal was discovered by a German chemist around the beginning of the Nineteenth Century. He got it out of pitchblend, a mineral from the mines of Bohemia. Recognizing it as a new element, he called it - uranium. This, in honor of the Planet Uranus, which had been discovered recently by astronomer Herschel.

There was no idea, at the time, that uranium was radioactive - radioactivity being unknown. But an industrial use was found - uranium employed in

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coloring cermaics, pottery. In our own country Apache and Navajo Indians used it in their war paint.

Then, around the beginning of the Twentieth Century, the French chemist Becquerel discovered that uranium was radioactive. He found that the metal would fog a photographic plate. So it must be giving off some kind of radiation. And that was the first discovery of radioactivity. After which the Curies found radium - and this age of atomic science was ushered in. Later, the discovery of the uranium isotope; U-235; followed by the atomic bomb.

Today at Frankfurt, the military court stated that, if uranium is to be considered a war material, there must be a new law to bring it under that heading. The best would seem to be that we'll have - a new law.

ANTARCTIC

In London, the British Broadcasting Company has put on a special program for a listening audience numbering exactly eleven - and they ^{are} beaming it a long way, down toward the South Pole.

Eleven Britons marooned on Graham Land, which is just off the Antarctic Continent. They went there on scientific work, and were to have been taken out in March - which is the beginning of winter in the southern hemisphere. But the long Antarctic winter closed in too soon, and the relief ship was blocked by ice. So the eleven were marooned, castaways on Graham Land during the long months of fearful Antarctic frost. They have food and shelter, however, and now the B.B.C. is providing them with entertainment - a special broadcast that includes news from their families.

A story similar to the one a few years ago about Commander Finn Ronne and his fellow Americans in Palmer Land - their relief ship unable to reach them. But they managed to get out in a small plane.

BRIDGE

In the Pacific Northwest they say the Tacoma Narrows Bridge is - jinxed. Which would certainly seem to be the case, when the news tells of the great steel structure - on fire, a burning bridge.

In Nineteen Forty, the Tacoma Bridge provided one of the strangest of all sights - when, in a high wind, the mighty span began to wave like a ribbon, some strange vibration setting in and causing the bridge to go into a twisting convulsion, and a final collapse.

Last January, they started to rebuild the Tacoma Bridge, putting up tall massive towers and heavy steel girders. You may remember that earthquake in the Pacific Northwest a few months ago. The Tacoma bridge was the principal victim, the earth-shock dislodging ponderous girders from a tower and sending them for a crash down onto a barge.

Today it was - fire. At the foot of the east tower, a bargeload of oil drums exploded - and the

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blast was such that a stream of flame went roaring up the elevator shaft, the blaze shooting up all the way. That set the bridge on fire - the span across the Narrows having been coated recently with water-proof material. Inflammable stuff.

So flames went sweeping along the structure, all the way across to the west tower, on top of which was a wooden shack used by engineers. The burning of the bridge ended with that shack flaming like a lofty torch.

THIEF

In Tokyo today, a robber confessed the theft of a lot of clothing and a Hundred Dollars in cash. He broke into police headquarters. Because, as he said today - police headquarters is the easiest place to rob.

POLE-SITTER

In Cleveland, the pole-sitter is still at the top of the flag pole - still vowing he'll stay there until the Cleveland Indians land in first place. He's up there - because of a legal technicality.

It all began nine days ago, when Charley Lupica, a drug store owner, was irked by jeers and jokes the way the Indians were tossing ball games - the pennant winners of last year, away back in the race. So Charley said that he would sit on a flag pole until the Cleveland team was in front. On top of his drug store he has a forty foot pole with a platform at the top - and he has been there ever since.

Yesterday, the police ordered Charley to come down, basing their command on an old city ordinance. But, instead of descending, Charley shouted for a lawyer. The attorney looked up that city ordinance - a regulation forbidding anybody to camp on a vacant lot. Whereupon the lawyer dug into his bag of legal tricks, and pointed out that a city lot could not be forty feet above the ground, and

therefore Charley is not camping out. So the police gave up, and the drug-store-owner-baseball-fan still stays up there.

But for how long? Well, Cleveland won from the Washington Senators last night, but the Indians are still in sixth place, eight and a half games behind the New York Yankees. But don't worry, Charley, next season the Indians may be out in front.

Wisconsin reports the case of a water tower sitter - at the state prison where a rebellious convict climbed the tall steel structure, and sat on top of a water tank, for a sit-down strike. But he didn't last so long. The warden merely said: "You can stay up there as long as you want to." With nobody, of course, passing up anything to eat, nothing to thrive on but the water in the tank - if he could get at that. So today the water-tower sitter came down.

In Indiana, a prisoner escaping - like a greased pig. So say the prison authorities, at Fort Wayne - telling how a convict, working in his cell, manufactured a saw, and then cut an opening in the door of his cell, an opening only seven inches wide. But he covered his body with soap, a slick lather - and was able to slip through the small opening. "Like a greased pig," say the jailors.

PRINCESS

From Buckingham Palace - the word that Princess Margaret is likely to visit the United States within a year. This is said to derive from sources close to the Royal Family, and follows repeated reports that the Princess wants to make a trip to the U.S.A. Queen Elizabeth in favor, and King George giving his permission.

Buckingham Palace is said to be impressed by the hit the young princess made on her recent trip to Italy and France - a popular ambassadress for Britain.

When and if Princess Margaret arrives, there will be all sorts of ceremonies and goings-on. Long ago, the British noted, rather to their surprise, that the American Republic threw out kings, but loves royalty, Nelson.