

L.T. - Delco - Thursday, July 14, 1955

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Latest from Moscow: - Premier Bulganin, at Geneva, will be accompanied by Kruschef, and Marshal, Zukov, so President Eisenhower will meet, again, his old companions in arms.

The news is now telling all about - heads of state of the Big Four, leaving for Geneva. The most interesting departure - that of Bulganin. The Soviet Premier - producing a novel headline.

Today, the 14th of July, is a French national holiday - Bastille Day. So they had a celebration in the French Embassy in Moscow. Attended by Soviet bigwigs. They sure go to western parties, nowadays.

Premier Bulganin was there, and stated - he's leaving for Geneva, on Saturday. But, before he goes, - he'll hold a news conference. He'll meet reporters, including the newsmen from the West - for a question-

and-answer discussion.

In Moscow, they say it's the first news conference held by a Soviet Premier, since the Communists assumed power in Russia, thirty-eight years ago. The "new look" gets newer and newer all the time!

President Eisenhower, accompanied by the First Lady, will have his son Major John Eisenhower along, as his aide.

MOROCCO

In Morocco, a terrorist outrage. A bomb hurled into a cafe at Casa Blanca - where a celebration was on, for Bastille Day. Seven Europeans killed - twenty-five injured.

CONGRESS

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This concerns a proviso tacked onto the Defense Appropriation bill - a 32 billion dollar measure. Should the President have the authority to close military-operated plants, if these compete with private industry? Congress voted -- to give itself a veto power over any such presidential action.

President Eisenhower signed the measure -- but under protest. He said that Congress had "no right" to give itself any such veto power. And added -- that he will not be bound by the proviso, which he considers invalid.

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Sikes of Florida, saying -- "It's unbelievable that he places himself above the law. This is not a military government. We're not under martial law."

So now the White House answers by getting an official ruling of the Department of Justice. Attorney General Brownell giving the legal opinion -- that Congress had attempted "usurpation".

REPORTER

Before the Senate Internal Security Commission today -- a newspaper argument developed. About a press dispatch - filed in Korea, during the Korean war.

At a previous hearing, Charles Grutzner of the New York Times testified -- that he was a Communist from 1937 to 1940. Then -- had turned against the Red Party. He was quieried about a dispatch he had sent from Korea -- telling of the first combat action of F-86 jet fighter planes. He said -- he filed the story to the Times, advising his newspaper to get clearance from the military authorities, and printed the news about the F-86.

Today, one witness was Ansel Talbert, of the New York Herald-Tribune. Military and aviation editor -- of that newspaper. He stated that, in Korea, was utterly astounded -- when Grutzner sent the dispatch about the new jet fighters. Which, he testified, broke an agreement with the Air Force. General Stratemeyer, our Air

Force commander in Korea, -- having instructed reporters out there to hold up the story.

Today Talbert stated that Grutzner filed the dispatch by commercial wireless - in plain English. Although he had been warned, -- that the Reds were, almost certainly, monitoring broadcasts, listening in.

"Sending the story by commercial radio," Talbert insisted, "was equivalent to broadcasting over Seoul wireless."

He said an Air Force general called it "the greatest security breach of the war."

On the other hand, there is a defense of Grutzner by United Press correspondent Glen Stackhouse.

The Senate Internal Security Commission is investigating Communists on Newspapers, and other testimony was given today -- by Ira Henry Freeman, a reporter on the New York Times for 27 years; who stated -

that he was a member of the Communist Party for about a year, beginning in 1938. Freeman testified that he joined the Communists, 17 years ago, because he thought it might help the American Newspaper Guild to unionize the employees of the New York Times. He quit -- because he thought the Reds were hampering, instead of helping, the Newspaper Guild.

PERESS_CASE.

In Washington, today, the Peress case - came to an end. The Senate Investigating Subcommittee - closed out the affair of the former Army major, who refused to answer questions about Communism. We will all ~~remember~~ remember how Senator McCarthy of Wisconsin kept hammering away with the question: Who promoted Peress? So now the Subcommittee answers that in the following formidable words:

"Individual errors in judgment," says the report. "Lack of proper coordination. Ineffective administrative procedures. Inconsistent approach of existing regulations. And excessive delays."

That, says the Committee, is how the Army gave a promotion to the dentist - denounced by McCarthy as a Fifth Amendment Communist. Scathing criticism - hurled at the Army.

SAILOR.

In a San Francisco courtroom, the following story was told by a young Norwegian sailor.

In the spring of the year, Truls Halvorsen, 17 years old, was a member of the crew of the Norwegian freighter "fernhill", which put in at the port of Hong Kong. In that far eastern harbor, a Chinese tailor came aboard -- to sell suits of clothes to the Norwegian seamen. Halvorsen would have liked- a new suit. But he had to tell the Chinese tailor - he didn't have enough money. Whereupon the tailor made a proposition.

In court, Halvorsen stated: "He asked me if I wanted to make some easy money, - smuggling drugs into the United States. And -- I didn't say no," So relates the young Norwegian sailor.

The Chinese promised him \$1200. if he would follow instructions. Whereupon he took him to four

Hong Kong drug smugglers who game him five pounds of heroin, packed in small packages -- and told him how to smuggle it off the ship, at San Francisco; where - he was to contact a Chinese named Frank Lew. Agent for the drug smugglers at the San Francisco end.

So that was that. All arranged -- and the freighter "Fernhill" put out to sea. With stops at various ports on the voyage across the Pacific.

As they steamed on, day after day, Halvorsen began to get worried. He had the secret consignment of heroin -- but he also had a conscience, which bothered him, increasingly. He felt -- he had to confide his misgivings to somebody. But to whom? The answer - is the interesting part of it.

Halvorsen had lived, a while, in Brookly, and had attended a local Scandanavian chruch. So now he wrote a letter to the pastor - the Reverend Leif Aagard. Telling him the whole story - and how badly he felt,

as a drug smuggler. One sentence in the letter read:

"I curse myself - for having wanted to take part in such dirty things."

The letter went by airmail, and soon was received by the Reverend Leif Aagard, in Brookly. Who read it and, immediately, sent a wireless to Halvorsen, aboard the ship telling him - to go to the Captain; inform him of the drug smuggling, and hand over the consignment of heroin.

The young sailor obeyed - and the Captain, in due time, transmitted the information to the United States Customs Authorities in San Francisco.

Halvorsen was a witness today at the trial of Frank Lew - telling the story of how conscience and a minister of the Gospel in Brooklyn broke up a three million dollar drug smuggling scheme.

TAXI DRIVER

Here's something, I resolved long ago; that I'd never, never say:-- "I was talking to a taxi driver today, and he said this or that or the next thing."

Quoting the taxi cab driver has been done so often that its a chestnut. But, here I am about to break that old resolution.

This morning, arriving at San Francisco, I found myself in the middle of a taxicab situation. A score of drivers -- all shouting for customers. The reason - a sort of taxicab war that never seems to end in San Francisco.

Independents - versus the Yello cabs. The latter - having the right of way at some places. The independents handicapped -- but putting up a lusty battle, ~~by~~ going after the customers direct - grabbing them, - if possible

Well, I was grabbed, and found myself in an independent cab - driven by a distinguished looking

personality. You might have taken him for a Hollywood actor. The chap who has the dashing he-man roles.

He told me, promptly, that he was a fellow-worker - in the vineyard of radio. A voice on the air - driving a cab - because his last show had run into difficulties.

I asked him - what kind of program?

"Astrology," he replied. He had been on the air - reading the future from the stars, describing the conjunctions of the planets, and producing horoscopes. But where are you allowed to do that?

Yes, in Mexico, Tia Juana, just across the border. Intended, of course -- for audiences in California. Mexican radio being - not so persnickety - about such matters as astrology and fortune telling.

The taxi driver said -- he'd made a good thing out of it. Money - rolling in. The gimmick was - that he sold horoscopes. People in California, Arizona,

New Mexico and Texas, would write in - to have their destiny read in the stars. Horoscopes -- at so much per copy. I asked -- why did he give it up?

He replied - the "mordita".

Meaning in Spanish:-

"The bite!

Nice word - "mordita". Connected with our English word - "mordant" - which means - biting. "Mordita", a "bite".

Mexican officials put on the "mordita", the bite, They had to be paid off. Which was okay - so long as the "mordita" was not excessive.

But you know how things are - the bite is likely to get bigger and bigger. The "mordita" - finally eating up all his profits from the astrological radio program.

Whereupon - it was time to quit.

And that's how the handsome Yankee - from Mexico

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gave up radio south of the border and became a taxicab driver in San Francisco.

But then - anything is likely to happen in San Francisco - and usually does, - doesn't it Ken Ackerman? You ought to know.