

ALASKA

C.T. Sumner & P. & G. Wed., Oct. 9, 1946.

Alaska has voted ⁷ by a large majority to become a state of the Union -- the forty-ninth or fiftieth state, [—] Hawaii also wanting to come into the [^] fold. A lot of districts are still to be heard from up there in the North -- the Alaskan wilderness being what it is, especially with winter coming on. It'll be days before a number of isolated communities report their ballots -- from Candle, the Koyukuk, ~~and~~ ^{and up the Porcupine.} the Kuskokwin. But their votes won't make any difference. Alaska votes to join the Union!

Which leaves it up to Congress. The legislators in Washington have the final decision; and they may not be in any hurry about it. Hawaii, some while ago, voted heavily in favor of becoming a state, and that still remains to be acted upon.

NEW LEAD MEAT

The meat situation is receiving top-level consideration in Washington tonight for the third time in a week. It's not only meat, of course, it's politics as well -- the meat shortage, ^{being} politically explosive.

This evening, Robert Hannigan, Chairman of the National Democratic Committee, and other top ranking Administration officials met at the White House amid reports that at least two Cabinet members have already split with President Truman over his handling of the meat situation.

Up until ~~very~~ recently, the President has shrugged off the meat crisis, at least publicly, claiming ~~that~~ there's no such thing as a meat famine, -- ~~it's~~ only a meat shortage. Evidently, his aides have finally persuaded the President that "famine" or ~~xxxxxxx~~ "shortage", call it what you will, there is still no meat -- a bad situation with elections a month away.

NEW LEAD MEAT - 2

Unusual political significance is attached to Democratic Chairman ^{Bob} Hannigan's attendance at the White House conference. ~~today. It is~~ The first time, ^{we} ~~are told, that he has~~ ^{are told, that he has} been there to talk about meat. White House Press Secretary Charles ^{is} Ross told reporters later that Hannigan attended to give "his impressions" gathered during a recent ^{trip to the} ~~political tour to the~~ West Coast.

~~No doubt about it, meat, or rather the absence of it, is a political bombshell, Democratic officials worrying over the shortage, Republicans blaming it on Administration bungling.~~ But White House Secretary Ross says that today's conference ~~is~~ was not of an "emergency nature," and ^{that} the President took no part in it.

It's already known that ^{Pres.} ~~the~~ Truman and ^{Bob} Hannigan are at odds over the situation, the President ~~being~~ ^{saying} ~~convinced that~~ the shortage is only temporary, and Hannigan, the Politician, saying that, temporary or not, it shouldn't happen in an election year, ~~not even to~~

MEAT

One of the top stalwarts of the New Deal is back-paddling on the subject of the meat crisis.

Senator Pepper of Florida, darling of the Left Wingers, has hitherto been a fiery champion of the O.P.A. - but now he comes out with an opinion that maybe we might as well abolish that price-fixing agency altogether. ~~The~~

~~Pepper declaration is expressed in cautious words - the~~

~~Senator saying that ^{maybe we should} ~~it might be as well to~~ repeal all kinds of price control and take a chance on inflation.~~

~~Maybe~~ ~~the O.P.A. ^{is} ~~may be~~ running the same sad course as prohibition.~~ He puts it in these words: "Price

control is getting like prohibition in its last days,

So, if public opinion is not going to support price control and Congress is not going to support it - we might just as well not try to have it."

Washington believes ~~that~~ the Pepper statement is

^{to be} in the nature of a trial balloon. ^{The Senator} ~~is~~ taking a cautious

step out of the O.P.A. line-up -- to see what public reaction will be. In any case, today's pronouncement by the Florida ^{Sen} Senator emphasizes what appears to be an increasing split in the Democratic Party because of the meat famine.

Two other Southern senators came out against the O.P.A. controls today, Maybank and Johnston, both of South Carolina.

They had a conference with President Truman today, after which they stated that the people of the South are up in arms against the meat famine, and were in favor of chucking out ~~the~~ O.P.A. price controls. ^{TP} In addition to which, we hear that two members of the Cabinet have split with President Truman on the subject of the meat famine and the political explosion that it threatens. These two are said to have proposed that the O.P.A. ceilings be removed from meat for an indefinite period - so that

~~cattlemen and farmers will start livestock moving to market. (This suggestion of an indefinite moratorium on O.P.A. is said to have been offered to the President as a substitute for the proposal made by Democratic leader, Congressman McCormack of Massachusetts, who wants to put the quietus on O.P.A. for sixty days. That is - until a few weeks after the November elections.)~~

All of which follows a report by the Department of Justice on the alleged conspiracy of the packing interests to hold meat off the market until the O.P.A. is killed. This accusation has been made loudly and repeatedly in the present election campaign - so the F.B.I. has made an investigation. ~~What conspiracy has been discovered?~~ ~~xxxxxxxreportxxxxxxxinvestigation~~
And now The F.B.I. reports that its investigation discloses no evidence of a plot - no collusion by meat packers or cattlemen to create a shortage. The livestock

producers, declares the Federal Bureau of Investigation, are simply acting from normal economic motives. They are keeping their cattle on the ranches for economic reasons -- to get better prices than the O.P.A. ceilings.

DIET

Well, the meat shortage isn't affecting President Truman. He's on a diet and thriving on it, according to the latest issue of NEWSWEEK MAGAZINE.

But the same diet is being applied to ~~him~~ Presidential aides and the result ~~is~~ is great gastronomic anguish, *for they are* ~~Incidentally, the present group of Presidential aides could aptly be called "the beef trust"~~ men who look with delight on fried chicken, ~~apple dumplings~~, sizzling steaks, and lemon meringue pie, ~~two or three times a day.~~

But the President is on a diet consisting of such dishes as jellied ~~meatballs~~ ^{Madrilene}, boiled tongue, spinach, ^{and} stewed rhubarb. And that's hardly a meal for Economic Stabilizer Steelman, two hundred and thirty pounds, Presidential Adviser George Allen, two hundred and eight pounds, and Major-General Harry Vaughan, who weighs two twenty.

The President's aides are
~~The final blow came last week when boiled tongue~~
indeed in anguish.

STABILIZATION BOARD

President Truman's Wage Stabilization Board ^{tonight} is without the services ~~tonight~~ ^{of} its industry members. They've resigned in a body. And in resigning they sent a letter to the White House saying that wage controls are no longer feasible; and ^{they ask} ~~asking~~ the President to ^{abolish them} ~~abolish them~~.

This puts the whole wage stabilization issue squarely up to the President?-- shall the Wage Stabilization Board be abolished or shall its functions be transferred to the White House?

Colman Barrett and Earl Cannon, the resigning members, ^{of} the stabilization board feel that inasmuch as Mr. Truman and Stabilization Director Steelman can and ^{do} ~~he~~ over-rule their decisions in any case, the President should take full responsibility for the success or failure of the Administration's Hold-the-Line Wage Program.

Actually, these two Board members tried to quit their jobs last July. At that time, the President

STABILIZATION BOARD - 2

persuaded them not to do so saying that "effective administration of wage stabilization is still a matter of basic importance to the domestic economy."

But since then, Mr. Truman has given Steelman permission to over-rule the judgment of both public and industry members of the Stabilization Board, as ~~for instance~~ in the settlement of the A.F. of L. maritime strike. There Steelman granted wage increases of up to ten dollars a month more than the Board would approve. And that was all the industry members could take. Tonight, they quit.

RAILROAD

The vast network of rails belonging to the Southern Pacific may soon be tied up by a strike. The Company and its conductors are at odds -- at odds, *we hear,* on three-thousand-seven-hundred disputed issues.

George McLennan, General Chairman of the Order of Railroad Conductors, announces that his organization has voted almost unanimously to strike in seven states unless the issues are resolved satisfactorily -- and *apparently* that ^{calls} for three-thousand-seven-hundred satisfactory solutions.

The states involved are California, Oregon, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, Texas, and New Mexico.

So far
~~Up to this time,~~ no strike ~~date~~ ^{DATE} has been set, action being deferred until a Federal mediator examines the facts and makes his report.

RIOT

The disturbances in Rome today were reminiscent of the savage mob scenes of the French Revolution. Some of the most fearful pages in history record how ~~Parisian~~ *maddened* ~~Parisian~~ crowds in Paris stormed into the royal palace, destroying and raging to a ferocious climax - the Massacre of the Swiss Guards. Today, in the city on the Tiber, that same sort of *māniacal* fury was repeated.

A mob of thirty thousand ~~unemployed mostly~~ surged through the streets to the Viminial Palace, seat of the government of the new Republic of Italy. ~~The leading~~ element in the disorders were fifteen thousand road workers, engaged by a government decision. They were employees of private contractors who had no work for them, and the government was putting up money to keep them on the payroll - a sort of semi-private W.P.A. Then a notice was posted, saying that their pay was being stopped. The latest today is a government explanation that the

contractors had misunderstood an order sent to them, an order taking the road workers off the payroll in only a partial and tentative sense. The contractors thought it was outright dismissal, and now the road workers, with thousands of other unemployed, were marching on the Viminal Palace.

The police on duty, the carabinieri, tried to hold them in check, but they stormed ^{ahead} ~~into the palace~~ Ministers of the government ~~there~~ tried to quiet the disturbance by addressing the mob from the balcony. They were the Socialist Vice-Premier Nenni, the Communist leader Togliatti, and Under-Secretary of the Interior Corsi. Nenni started to make a speech on the balcony, but was greeted with a shower of stones - and the three officials were driven inside.

Whereupon the mob surged forward, and burst its way into the Viminal Palace. The enraged rioters stormed their

way from room to room, hunting ~~him~~ for the Italian Premier, de Gaspari. He, as it happened, was not in the palace. The mob smashed everything in sight, devastating three floors of the ~~palace~~ ^{Viminal}. Some of them forced their way into the office of Socialist Vice Premier Nenni, and there he confronted them. He reproved them for violence, explained matters, and promised government action in behalf of the road workers. The members of the mob to whom he talked were pacified, and they tried to convey quieting word to the huge mob outside - where most of the thirty thousand were milling around, ~~but they~~ couldn't make themselves heard, couldn't get across the ~~quieting~~ ^{reassuring} information.

Socialist Vice Premier Nenni, supposing that things would quiet down, now went out to confront the rioters. When the mob saw him, there was an angry surge toward him - and that brought about a sudden climax

of violence.

The carabinieri on guard had meanwhile been reinforced by mounted police - and when these saw the mob lunging toward the Vice Premier, they launched a charge through the crowd to rescue him, riding their way through the frenzied multitude. The rioters assailed them savagely, and pulled some off their horses and seized their guns. One ^{Captain A} carabinieri was killed with a railroad spike. When the police on foot saw this, they ~~took action~~ ~~and~~ opened fire with submachine guns. Men fell. One rioter raised a hand grenade, was about to pull the pin and throw it, when a blast of machine gun fire cut off his arm.

The mob tried to fight back, but the carabinieri pressed forward, driving them at the muzzles of guns. And finally ~~xxxxxxing~~ the raging crowd, so like the Parisian mob in the French Revolution, was forced away from the Viminal Palace.

Accounts of the casualties vary widely. ^{Probably} ~~A government~~

~~scores killed & hundreds wounded~~
~~communique says one killed, the captain of police who~~

~~was murdered by the mob. But other reports place the~~

~~number of lives lost at fifteen, with scores wounded.~~
^{much much higher}

KENNA

a changed city tonight, for
 Chicago is ~~saddened tonight by the death of~~
~~Michael "Hinky Dink" Kenna~~ *is no more.*
 Boss of Chicago's First
 Ward for more than fifty years and master of Chicago's
 rough and tumble ward politics. *Michael Hinky Dink Kenna*
 passed on at
 the ~~old~~ *old* age of eighty-eight.

Starting as a newsboy shortly after the
 Civil War, ~~the~~ "Hinky Dink", as he was known, became
 one of the most powerful political bosses of his day.

I knew him 30 odd years ago
~~Kenna knew every trick in the political~~
 when Ben Hecht, Floyd Gibbons, ^{and} Carl
~~Woods~~ *Hinky Dink* attributed most of his success to the
 huge schooner of beer he served in his South Clark
 Street Saloon. He plugged it as "the biggest beer
 in the world for a nickel", and it brought him votes
 and power. *In the days of Hinky*
~~Most of all, it brought his friends.~~
Dink + Bathhouse John.
~~Chicago will miss him.~~

*Smalltown and more of that colorful
 group-when
 we were all
 Chicago
 reporters,
 working
 for Dink
 Finnegan.*

NEW LEAD METEORS

Fiery projectiles, in clear view, are hurtling over the Earth tonight from the Rocky Mountains^S to the West Coast -- projectiles that are truly out of this world.

~~They are meteors,~~ ^Meteors flashing through the atmosphere in the wake of the Giacobini-Zinner Comet. ^{For} ~~and~~ the Earth, at this moment, is passing through the tail of that Comet. ~~giving us a fireworks display that a~~
~~hundred Fourth of July's couldn't provide.~~

A short while ago, astronomers in Denver, ~~Colorado,~~ reported three meteors per minute roaring through the northwestern sky.

~~The total must be way up by now.~~ Back in October of 1933 when the Giacobini-Zinner Comet last trespassed on the Earth's ionosphere, astronomers on the West Coast counted up to three-hundred-and-fifty meteors per minute. Then they lost count when they came too fast.

A stately ceremony was enacted in London today, though the principal character failed to show up - like Hamlet without the Dane. ~~The Borough of St. Pancras conferred civic honor, but this was in absentia in the absence of the celebrity to whom the civic honors were granted.~~

St. Pancras is one of London's oldest boroughs. It is ^{even} listed in the Domesday Book of William the Conqueror, and has all sorts of tradition - including that of bestowing the Freedom of the Borough upon leading lights and public benefactors.

Recently St. Pancras remembered ~~something that went back fifty years. The venerable borough recalled that~~ ~~back~~ at the turn of the last century there was a young Irishman with a red beard who engaged vigorously in a movement^s to improve social conditions ⁱⁿ ~~at~~ St. Pancras. _A

His name was George Bernard Shaw - which didn't mean much

to the people in the borough at the time. Shaw, fifty years ago, was only at the threshold of his fame. ~~He was forty then - having to wait until middle life before success came to him.~~ In those days, he was in the Fabian Socialist stage of his career, a civic reformer striving to improve conditions in St. Pancras.

Well, amid the celebrations of Shaw's ninetieth birthday this year, St. Pancras remembered the red bearded Irishman of fifty years ago and decided to ~~confer~~ honor ~~upon him~~ the Freedom of the Borough. ~~The ceremony was scheduled for today but Shaw failed to make an appearance.~~

Yesterday, he suffered an accident and ~~bruised~~ bruised his leg. What kind of accident? George Bernard Shaw fell out of his chair. So today, kept indoors by the doctor, he sent a message to the borough fathers ~~of St. Pancras~~ as they gathered for the ceremony. The

message read: "When one is as very old as I am, the unpleasantest thing seems to be - that your legs give in before your head does."

Those words of wisdom ^{were} ~~are~~ accepted with due reverence. ^{and} _{in} The traditional ritual was enacted just the same. The freedom of the Borough of St. Pancras was conferred on George Bernard Shaw in absentia - somebody else, somebody younger, taking his place, by proxy. Amid the stately formalities, the echoes seem to murmur - "your legs give way before your head does."

~~And now Hugh for Sun Oil
to tell us how to keep our cars from
giving away.~~

1/4 And what thoughts does
that bring to your mind, Nelson?