

P.M. Wednesday, Feb. 9, 1949.

The government has ordered an investigation of the grain market in Chicago, to find out - why the frantic behavior of prices. A nose dive yesterday, wild gyrations today. An inquiry will be made into trading in futures -- which has so much to do with falling prices.

Secretary of Agriculture Brennan told a Congressional Committee ^{today} that there seems to be no real reason for the price collapse ~~xxx~~ yesterday and the fireworks of ~~the~~ figures today. The government is buying grain, purchasing three million bushels yesterday - ^{-- with} ~~and still has~~ forty million bushels more to procure. These purchases are necessary to fill American commitments abroad, the promise to send food stuffs to Europe. - ^{And all that} ~~and~~ should support the price of grain.

AUSTRIA

The renewal of Big Four negotiations for an Austrian peace treaty have⁵ run into an immediate snag. The Western Powers entered the conference with clear indication that they would offer nothing new - their stand to be the same as during the Austrian Treaty-talks which collapsed last May. They expected Soviet Russia to change attitude, ~~and~~ do some ~~xxxxxx~~ compromising. There seemed to be a good likelihood of this because the previous negotiations broke down over claims made by Yugoslavia - that Balkan Country demanding a slice of Austrian Territory and a lot of Austrian money. Soviet Russia supporting the Soviet Satellite.

Since that time, however, the satellite is not so much a puppet any more - Red Marshall Tito's revolt against Moscow having occurred in the meantime. So the supposition was that Soviet Russia would ~~be~~ no longer support the claims of the rebellious Tito.

Today, however, the Soviets went into the four-
power conference, with an immediate demand that the
Jugoslav^R claims be considered. Tito may be a
disobedient satellite, but the Moscow delegation
begins by pressing the Yugoslav desire for Austrian
territory and cash.

PATTERSON

In Washington the headline Patterson will-suit has been settled, compromised. This - after all sorts of legal ructions, stormy ~~■~~ court proceedings and strange events, including talk of mysterious deaths.

The late Cissy Patterson, of the newspaper ~~■~~ clan of Patterson - McCormick, was the peppery woman publisher of the Washington Times-Herald.

Upon her death her will left that newspaper to the seven top Editors. Her daughter contested the will on the grounds that Cissy Patterson had been of unsound mind and subjected to - "undue influence". The legal battle involved large issues - the Cissy Patterson estate being valued at Sixteen Million five hundred thousand dollars.

The settlement out of court, provides that she shall get ~~■~~ various properties - and four hundred thousand dollars in cash. Most of the money will be paid by the seven top editors, who inherit ^{the} Washington Times-Herald.

SELECTIVE SERVICE

At Golden, Colorado, Mr. and Mrs. Robert McKune was still dizzy over a selective service questionnaire that arrived for their son "Butch." It seemed as if Butch was going to be drafted, the odd part being - that he is eight months old. A little young - even if the Army does need soldiers.

The local draft board is red in the face, and apologizes. Yes, universal military training would be too universal if they start drafting 'em at age eight months.

JET BOMBER

Another tremendous jet bomber flight. This time from the Pacific Coast, to Maryland in four-hours-and-twenty-minutes. A stupendous flying wind -- no tail -- all wing.

STRATO SCRAPER

The biggest building in the world was proposed in San Francisco today, ~~and~~ an architect presenting plans for a - strato-scraper. ^RThe city on the Golden Gate is crowded for room, and architect Angus McSweeney offers blue prints for a structure that would tower one mile high! - four-hundred-and-forty ~~in~~ stories! It would cover sixteen city blocks. The building would contain one hundred and sixty two million square feet of floor space, room for ten thousand offices, one thousand stores, one hundred thousand apartments, fifty schools, fifty theaters, twenty churches- and garage space for eighty thousand automobiles, which would be owned by four hundred thousand persons living in the one hundred thousand apartments. ^R So, what is to be ^(said) ~~said~~ of the strato-scraper plan for the biggest building in the world. [?]

The most apt remark that I can think of is to quote Mayor Elmer Robinson when he received the plans today. He said: "no comment".

BASEBALL

A federal court handed down a decision today, which might bring about a sort of revolution in professional baseball.

This comes about in the case of Danny Guardella, outfielder of the New York Giants, who jumped to the Mexican League - at the time when the Mexicans were raiding the Big League teams. All the players that jumped were expelled from professional baseball in this country -- as was Danny Guardella.

Returning, he tried to get back in the Big Leagues - no go. So he sued for Three Hundred Thousand Dollars, sued the New York Giants and the Major and Minor Leagues. A lower court dismissed the case, but now the Federal Circuit court reverses that, and attacks the "reserve clause."

That clause is in a baseball player's contract

and provides that he shall be the property of the team with which he signs. He belongs to that team even after the contract expires - held in reserve. Thus the contract is a life-long affair for the player; but, the ball club can dismiss him at the end of the contract - though the player is still held by the reserve clause. Being the property of the team, he cannot seek baseball employment elsewhere - though his contract can be sold to some other team.

This has long been under attack, on the ground that it binds the player ~~as~~ permanently, while it does not bind the ball club, ~~permanently. However,~~ ~~the reserve clause had not been brought up before~~ ~~the courts since Nineteen Fifteen, when it was upheld~~ ~~by the Supreme Court.~~ Professional baseball has not been eager to give that ~~reserve~~ clause an all-out legal test. But now the case of Danny Guardella brings it up, and Federal Judge Jerome Frank says that the reserve clause, in his words: "Results in something resembling peonage of the ^{American} baseball player". ~~Some~~

^{TP} ~~Some~~ while ago I talked about this matter of the reserve clause with Branch Rickey, head of the Brooklyn ~~Brooklyn~~ Dodgers, and he pointed out the difficulties in formulating a baseball contract. He said that, if ball players were allowed to bargain freely with the various teams it would mean that the richer teams, able to ~~pay~~ pay the most money, would get all the best players. The richest of the teams would be the sure pennant winner - so where would the competition be? Baseball is a competitive sport. ^{TP} Branch Rickey said the reserve clause seemed necessary to keep it competitive. He admitted that the present contract might be shaky in a legal sense, and declared that ~~baseball~~ baseball would welcome somebody who would draw up a fair and completely legal contract with players - which, at the same time, would retain the competitive element in baseball.

→ All of which is the background for today's decision. ^{TP} If the reserve clause is finally knocked out, it might revolutionize professional baseball.

BALL PLAYER

Pacific Coast baseball circles are taking note of an event in professional football ^{-- the} Green Bay Packers acquiring All-American quarterback Stan Heath. The baseball interest lies in the fact that Stan is a son of Mickey Heath, an old time first baseman ~~with a long career in the~~ ^{in the Pacific} Coast League -- also in the majors. So they are saying that if the boy shows one half the intestinal fortitude of his father, he will be an iron man hero of the professional football.

When Stan's Dad,
There was the time ^{when} Mickey set a league record by getting twelve hits in twelve times up - and all the while his right arm had a string of carbuncles that had to be operated on, right down to the bone. But the liveliest instance is related by Oscar Vitt, who once managed the Cleveland cry-babies in the majors and has had a long career on the coast. He tells how the Hollywood team was having practice before the game.

"I was batting out grounders to the infield", relates Oscar Vitt, "and Mickey Heath was on first base. I hit a grounder down to Mickey and he scooped it up and threw it to the short stop. But, just as he did, somebody threw in a ball from the outfield and it cracked Mickey right on the head. It was thrown so ~~far~~ hard that he was stunned and went staggering around."

The short stop did ^{not} see what had happened, and a few seconds later he fired the ball back to first base, where the dazed Mickey was wobbling around. This time the ball konked him on the side of the face, and he went staggering around some more. "It was," says Oscar Vitt, "so funny to see Mickey getting cracked first on one side, and then on the other, that I was doubled up with laughter". Which was the final blow - when Mickey saw his manager howling with mirth, he walked off the field. He was going to quit then and ~~xxxx~~ there. "But" relates the old time manager, "I talked him out of it, and he

came back into the game and drove in the winning run" - despite the fact that he had a knob, the ~~at~~ size of an egg, on the back of his head, and his cheek was swelling up like a cantelope."

Yes, if the son had ^S the intestinal fortitude of the father, he should be a tough customer in a rough game of professional football.

~~but now Ken something about something not so rough - from you.~~

MITCHUM

In Hollywood today Robert Mitchum was impassive as the Judge pronounced sentence. The he-man movie idol had a stony face as Judge Clement Nye ~~sentenced~~ ^{sentenced} him to jail for sixty days, with two years on ~~probation~~ ^{probation}. But it must have been a ~~xxx~~ severe shock for Mitchum, because he appears to have thought that the court would let him off easy - with a lecture and a fine - and no term in ~~ail~~ jail.

Before the Judge, today, ~~his~~ lawyer, Jerry Giesler, turned on all his court ~~rom~~ ^{room} eloquence, in an emotional appeal. Mitchum admitted the charge, ~~against him,~~ ⁹ smoking ~~his~~ marihuana, and the lawyer asked for leniency. Mitchum was so sure ~~that~~ he would win leniency that he was all set to leave for Mexico to complete a picture - on which he started working after his arrest. He had already bought the plane-tickets to fly.

But the Judge told the actor: "I want to make it clear that I am treating you as I would any other defendant." Whereupon he ~~xxx~~ pronounced the sentence,

sixty days in jail - the same for the blonde starlet Lila Leeds, ~~was~~ seized by the police along with Mitchum in the marihuana arrests. So now the movie idol becomes the first Hollywood star to serve ~~in~~ a jail term for a serious charge at the height of his career. ^D The latest reports are that R K O studios are trying frantically to find some way of delaying the jail sentence so that Mitchum can finish the ~~his~~ motion picture he is making, complete it - before he serves the sixty days.

COLORADO

In Washington, Congressman Patman of Texas, finds that his bright idea is getting a bigger reception than he ever expected. The Congressman proposed that what this country needs is another national capitol, something to take the place of Washington in a pinch - and in the Summer. The pinch might be in case of war, when it might be well to have a national capitol at a safer place -- farther inland. As for the summer! Anything to get away from the sweltering weather that makes Washington a national Turkish bath.

Congressman Patman, in suggesting a second inland capitol, mentioned Colorado. You can guess the result. He is being swamped with offers from Colorado towns. The Chambers of Commerce are on the job. Pueblo comes forward and speaks of its - "invigorating tropical sunshine and cool mountain breezes." Salida, which -- near the Continental Divide -- calls itself "the heart of the Rockies," claims to be an ideal site for defense - with two fine trout streams thrown in -- for the Congressmen. Denver and Colorado Springs, of course.

But I'd suggest Cripple Creek or Victor - with the nation's capitol perched right at Inspiration Point, facing one of the sublime views of this earth.

That awe-inspiring sweep of scores of fourteen thousand foot peaks. The buildings are all ready there, to be turned into the summer-time inland capitol of the United States.

Aspen and Steamboat Springs would be ideal. Or how about Durango or Ouray? They are two of the most remote and picturesque towns in this country.

→ Come to think about it, how about Truckee here in the high Sierras - in the beautiful Lake Tahoe country? In spite of the big storm - the two record storms - we've gone through I hate to leave. But with a final salute to station agent Earl Stice who gave me his office for a studio and Big Al Pfaendler the cop, and all the others who've done so much for us, here we go - on our way down from the Sierras.