

BLOCKADE

C.I. - P. & G. Friday, May 6, 1949.

The American forces in Germany are taking the end of the Berlin blockade in stride. At the scheduled hour, the stroke of midnight on Wednesday night, railroad trains of the Western Powers will go rolling to the border of the Soviet Zone, just as they did before the blockade began. Picking up where things left off nearly a year ago.

This was stated today by retiring American Commander, General Lucius Clay, who said that no word had been received from the Russians in Germany about the lifting of the blockade. ^{But he added that} ~~but~~ he doesn't think any local negotiations are necessary. "We will just present our trains for clearance, on the agreed date, just as we always did," ^{said Gen. Clay.} ~~says he.~~



ADD BLOCKADE

British officials; however, disagree - and think there will have to be some local negotiation. "Technical contact," they call it - of which there have been no signs thus far.

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What will the Russians do to retaliate? Well, today Assistant Secretary of State George Allen stated that for one thing the Reds themselves are using sixty transmitters to blot out western programs. "But" added Allen, "if we make them spread over the whole frequency field the jamming will be we think out, we'll be sure to get through."

RADIO

At a quarter past ten tomorrow morning, Eastern Standard Time, sixty-one radio transmitters will attempt a simultaneous wireless invasion of Soviet Russia.

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G.I.

The United States today made an official apology to Soviet Russia - an apology for the deeds of Private Edward Toughey of New York. The nineteen year old G. I., the six-foot, two hundred pound husky, who invaded the Imperial Hotel in Vienna and with a chair, chased Soviet officers around the lobby, knocking out seven, including two Red Colonels. Even in the Cold War, that was too much - Private Toughey staging a one-man hot war.

The Soviets have been strangely patient about the whole thing, no wild propaganda blasts against Toughey. Maybe they didn't want to advertise the picture of the G. I. chasing the seven Red Officers with a chair. At any rate today, the American apology was accepted - which ends the matter.

Except for one thing - what to do with Toughey? Ordinarily, a common soldier who knocks down seven officers, including two Colonels, of no matter what nationality, or what Army -- well, he'd get about twenty years, at Leavenworth. But, there are a lot

of folks in this country who feel that a medal should be pinned on the chest of the chair swinging G. I. I suppose they'll have to have a court-martial, and give Private Toughey **Some Kind** of punishment. It should be one of the most interesting military trials in the history of the **Laws of War.**

CHINA

In Shanghai, a grim scene - four times repeated. In front of a Temple in the heart of the city, a Communist leader executed, while a great crowd milled round. The same thing in three other sections of the city.

The Nationalist Commander of the Shanghai Garrison, said he had to do this to check the Communist underground in Shanghai. Then he told of a Red scheme to stage a reign of terror. Also of the terrorists hiding in a temple.

The Nationalists tonight are announcing the repulse of a Communist attempt to land troops near Woosung - near the mouth of the Yangtze, to cut Shanghai's only outlet to the sea.

INDONESIA

Agreement in Indonesia! Today, at a conference arranged by the United Nations, representatives of the Dutch Government and the Indonesian Republic, concluded a cease-fire arrangement. This provides that the exiled Republican authorities will return to their capital at Jogjakarta; - and, there will be a full dress peace conference at the Hague, capital of the Netherlands, to discuss plans for formation of a - United States of Indonesia, but with the Dutch East Indies to remain under Queen Juliana.

ISRAEL

At the U. N., a recommendation by seven countries that Israel be accepted immediately in the United Nations. One of the recommending countries - the United States. This follows two days of questioning, Major Aubrey Eban giving the answers in the name of the new Jewish State. Acceptable answers - according to the seven countries that now recommend the entrance of Israel as the fifty-ninth member of the United Nations.

series of... they said.

The... of the... Catholic Churches in the... collections for the benefit of the strikers.

In the... were as... but so far no violence - also no sign of a...

STRIKES

In Canada, the siege of the Town of Asbestos ended today. A force of a hundred and fifty police, with shotguns and tear gas bombs, broke through barricades surrounding the Quebec town.

A strike is on at the world's biggest production center of Asbestos; violent rioting yesterday - and four thousand strikers throwing up a series of barriers. To keep out strike-breakers, they said.

The walkout at Asbestos has the support of the local clergy. Today the Archbishop ordered all Catholic Churches in the Diocese to take up collections for the benefit of the strikers.

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In the Ford walkout, crowds of strikers were on hand today at the River Rouge plant. But so far no violence - also no sign of a settlement.

STRIKE

In the Ford walkout Mayor Orville Hubbard of Dearborn issued an invitation to United Automobile Workers President Walter P. Reuther, Henry Ford II and Governor Mennen Williams to meet him on Thursday to discuss the strike. Mayor Hubbard says he will name what he terms a supreme civic effort to get the Ford workers back to the River Rouge plant.

NEVADA

Here's a news item with a vivid reminder of that recent long trip I made through the west. It recalls the many occasions I had to note one general theme of controversy - gambling. In Idaho, an attempt to put through a bill to legalize roulette, craps, blackjack, tied up the State Legislature for days in a filibuster. When we left Spokane, loud speakers were blaring in the streets with music and speeches, the hottest kind of election campaign - on the subject of legalized slot machines. At Portland, the press club was bordering on despair - because a new woman mayor had just outlawed the one-armed bandits, and the press club paid its rent with slot machines. In California, a huge gambling scandal - with Governor Warren's crime commission making devastating revelations of the racket and the mob.

But the citadel of public gambling was wide open Nevada - where the gossip told of the eastern underworld running things in that section of the Golden West. So this bit of news today is from Nevada - and concerns a theme that might, at first

glance, appear to have nothing to do with roulette, craps or blackjack. The theme of - daylight saving.

The focus of interest is on Reno, the far-famed capital of divorce and gambling. There, a battle is on, with the gambling element opposed to the adoption of daylight time.

Because gambling does its best business after dark - the more hours of brightness the regular day has, the less money is bet at the tables. Reno gambling interests are entirely candid about it. Today a spokesman for the casinos put it in these words: "We want all the people we can playing the tables. That hour of difference means they can go swimming, riding or fishing- and they'd stay out of the casinos longer".

Nothing hypocritical about that - anything to discourage swimming, riding and fishing, so there can be bigger and better gambling!

METROPOLITAN

Today's news brings an interesting sequel to the crime sensation of a couple of weeks ago - the metropolitan opera murder. The tenor, John Garris, was found shot to death in Atlanta, and yesterday the Georgia police were pursuing the trail in Los Angeles - where the Met has been playing. Today's word is that an Atlanta detective is going to stick with the opera company throughout its tour - the traditional man-hunter doggedly following the trail of murder.

~~Police Lieutenant M. M. Coppersger, Chief of the Atlanta Homicide Bureau, states: "I'll keep following them and questioning people, in hopes of getting something definite."~~

~~So there you have the picture - the detective and the opera company, the sleuth among the tenors and sopranos, seeking answers and seeking clues, while haunting performances of Carmen and Aida. He has heard a lot of singing, the way squealing crooks do it, but this is a different kind.~~

Whether or not he solves the murder of the Metropolitan,

the Georgia detective should learn a good deal about ^{opera.} ~~about~~ [^]

FIRE

In Hollywood tonight Inspector Ed Hatcher of the Sheriff's arson squad says there is little likelihood that last night's Hollywood Park fire was caused by arson. His view is - accident.

Inspector Hatcher attaches little importance to those earlier reports that two youths had been seen fleeing the track during the fire. No competent witness saw the lads. Hollywood Fire Department investigators seem sure tonight that fresh paint was responsible for the hurricane of flame that swept the racetrack grandstand and clubhouse. Paint fresh, and glistening with the highly inflammable linseed oil.

The cost of the forty minute blaze is put as high as twelve million dollars. Built at a cost of five million. All the horses escaped.

LARCENY

We all know that women understand about clothes - and in New York the wife of a boss took a look at the stylish suit the young woman cashier was wearing. The men around didn't notice, but a woman's eye for clothes noted - expensive, too expensive for the salary the young woman cashier was getting. So that resulted in the discovery of an ingenious fraud, the cashier and the Assistant Sales Manager gypping the concern out of ~~Ninety~~-one thousand dollars. A liquor firm, and it involved a clever scheme of pyramiding whiskey sales and pocketing thousands of dollars. The whiskey pyramid was going fine until the boss's wife noticed - expensive clothes.

HANGING

And now that story I didn't have time to tell that night from Holbrook, Arizona. That was the night I broadcast from the Painted Desert -- from the Navajo-Apache Country. I was working that day at the Court House, in the County Seat of Navajo County. The C B S microphone was on the Judge's bench and the court room full of county officials, the Mayor, Deputy Sheriffs, ranchers, an Indian Chief and the hospitable people of Holbrook.

Just before I went on the air, Lafe Hatch, Clerk of the court told me the story of the hanging that had taken place just outside that window. He also proudly showed me the documents, some of which are framed on the court room wall, particularly the invitation to the hanging that was sent out by the man who was the Sheriff of Navajo County, Frank Wattron. Since then Lafe Hatch has sent me further details, including a description of the Arizona Sheriff, whose hanging invitation did not please the then President of the United States, William McKinley.

Francis Joseph Wattron, described as Sheriff, scholar and gentleman -- tall, dark, handsome, deep set eyes, black mustache, profane, hater of sham and dishonesty, walked with a swagger, strummed the banjo, and was ~~fixed~~ famed throughout the ^{South} /West because of what he could do with a six-shooter.

For the hanging that took place outside the window of the court room from which I was broadcasting, he had issued invitations that read:

"You are hereby cordially invited to attend the hanging of one George Smiley, murderer.

"His soul will be swung into eternity on December Eighth. Eighteen Ninety-nine, at two o'clock P M sharp.

"Latest ~~ixxxx~~ improved methods in the art of scientific strangulation will be employed and everything possible will be done to make the ^{success.}
~~the~~ proceedings cheerful and the execution a ~~xxxx~~

Signed F. J. Wattron, Sheriff of Navajo County".

Well, a copy of that invitation ~~xxx~~ somehow got to the White House in Washington. And President McKinley wrote a caustic letter to the Governor of the then Territory of Arizona. He disapproved of the levity. So the Governor rebuked the Sheriff and issued a "stay of execution".

What did the Sheriff do then? He just sent out a second invitation. A sarcastic one this time. It read:

"With feelings of profound sorrow and regret, I hereby invite you to attend and witness the private, decent and humane execution of a human being, namely George Smiley - crime, murder.

"You are expected to deport yourself in a respectful manner. Conduct, on anyone's part, bordering on ~~ribaldry~~ ribaldry and tending to mar the solemnity of the occasion will not be tolerated".

A story from the Arizona Painted Desert, of the days when men were men! Nelson!