

L.T. P.&G. MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1948

GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY:

Some surprising news about the American Navy -- from coast of Newfoundland. A U.S. Navy announcement that the submarine is still Master of the Seas. The dispatch tells how eight submarines, equipped with the Snorkel -- that's a German Breathing device -- have, sunk or crippled the U.S. Invasion fleet of a hundred warships, including the Battleship Missouri, that is, theoretically.

The Snorkel enables a sub to stay under water for an indefinite period. The undersea craft used against the mock invasion fleet were of the latest design -- all fitted with Snorkels. Our Navy people call them "Guppies." Vice-Admiral Duncan has been in command of these maneuvers -- the most elaborate held in the North Atlantic since the war. He says these Guppies completely outclasses our most modern anti-submarine devices. They ran rings around our battlewagons, and our fast aircraft carriers, too. And -- our planes couldn't see them either.

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Rear Admiral Fife, who was in command of the submarines, adds that only eight Guppies defended the shore-base against a task force of five hundred airplanes and a hundred ships, manned by thirty-six thousand men. Two hundred Guppies, says Rear Admiral Fife, could sweep the U.S. Merchant Marine from the seas. He adds the ominous word that the Russians have two hundred of the same type of under-sea craft. They captured the base where the Germans developed the Snorkel breathing tube -- the device that gives submarines unlimited deep water security.

U.N.

In Paris today, the United Nations Political Committee passed a resolution that Albania, Bulgaria and Jugoslavia are endangering the peace of the world. This by aiding Greek Guerrillas. The Committee thereupon called on the three Russian Satellites to call a halt to this -- immediately.

Today's U.N. meeting in Paris is described as one of the most disorderly so far. When the resolution was put forward, Russia, Jugoslavia and Poland started a filibuster. They borrowed that good old American Political standby with one Red delegate taking up where the other left off.

But, Chairman Spaack of Belgium, kept hammering away with his gavel. Spaack is considered one of the world's top parliamentarians. Using his knowledge of procedure he stopped the Soviet filibuster by refusing to recess the Committee. With mighty bangs of his gavel, he took the vote on the resolution, paragraph by paragraph -- this in spite of noisy objections.

And finally, after nine and a half hours, the rugged chairman won. The resolution was passed -- and the three Soviet Satellites branded. The U.N. Political Committee says they are endangering the peace of the world.

ATHENS FOLLOW U.N.

Meanwhile in Greece, George Borazanis, the former Cabinet Minister who appealed to the U.N. to help end the Greek Civil War, ran into trouble. He was beaten up during a debate in the Athens Parliament. This because of having asked for U.N. Intervention -- aid for Greece against the Reds.

Other Deputies jumped on him, tore off all his clothes, and threw him naked into the corridor of the Greek parliament. Then they battered him with fists, and boots, until Gendarmes arrived to rescue him.

Borazanis refused to stay at a hospital where he was taken, for fear of being attacked there. So, badly beaten, he was taken home, under guard. He said: "If I were killed, it would benefit Greece by opening the eyes of the people."

TRUMAN

The news wire today paints a picture of President Truman basking in the warm sunshine of Florida - in a bathing suit. Having a real vacation. Mr. Truman is not alone, we are told. At least six of his close personal advisers are with him at Key West.

Vice-President Barkley is expected shortly; also Senator McGrath, Chairman of the Democratic National Committee, and Leslie J. Biffte, the Democratic Senate Policy-maker.

The word is that the President's brain trust will quickly get to work on the problem of what legislation to present to the New Democratic Congress. Also what cabinet changes.

Another visitor expected at Key West is Mon Walgren, retiring Governor of the state of Washington, who was defeated at the polls last Tuesday. Walgren is a personal friend of the President's and today there's a story going around the Nation's capital that Mr. Truman is going to put him in his new cabinet.

Also in Washington today, C I O President Philip

Murray invited Mr. Truman to attend the opening of the C I O Convention at Portland, Oregon, on November ~~Twenty-Second~~. In his invitation, Murray told the President that the C I O experienced a deep satisfaction in Mr. Truman's sweep at the polls, and that the President's program is whole-heartedly endorsed by the C I O. The A F L has already invited Mr. Truman to attend its convention which opens in Cincinnati, a week before the C I O 's.

PARNELL THOMAS

(In Washington today, Congressman Parnell Thomas was indicted by a Federal Grand Jury on charges of fraud and salary kick-back. The Chairman of the House Un-American activities Committee) named as co-defendant with his former secretary, Miss Helen Campbell. The indictment (accused) ~~them~~ of defrauding the government by means of an elaborate check-passing set-up, which enabled Congressman Thomas to pocket all or part of the Federal salaries paid to two persons listed as members of his Congressional Office staff.)

SUBSTITUTE FRANCE

The news from Paris tonight is that General De Gaulle and his party -- they call it the Rally of the French People [^] say they will wreck the present French Government, and put the General back to power.

The success of the De Gaullists in the elections for the French Council of the Republic -- the Upper House -- has further complicated France's already complicated political situation. The De Gaullists now hold thirty-three percent of the seats in the Council. But the Upper Chamber has no power to veto any legislation voted by the Lower House, ~~and that is~~ where the De Gaullist Party is weak.

So De Gaulle intends to force a general election, ^{He believes} ~~so that~~ the French ^{people will} ~~Republic can~~ vote him into power in both Houses. The only way he can do this is ~~by~~ engineering ^{no -} two successive votes of confidence against the Queille [^]

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center-of-the-road government. Both these must come within a period of eighteen months; or both houses of the French Government continue for their full term.

Which ~~may~~ ^{still may} mean that De Gaulle ~~must~~ wait ~~as long as~~ six years before he ~~can~~ get a majority representation in *both* ~~the Upper and Lower House~~ [?] ~~to give him the power he wants.~~ Unless he can swing a vote to change the French Constitution.

SPAIN

From Madrid, word that a train will cross the Spanish Frontier from Lisbon tonight. On board a ten year old boy who may one day be the King of Spain. Prince Juan Carlos, son of Don Juan, the Bourbon pretender to the Spanish throne.

Young Juan Carlos is being brought back to Spain on the express orders of Generalissimo Franco.

The train from Lisbon will stop at a station outside Madrid. There the boy will be taken by car for a personal interview with Franco. After which he will go on to a school, near Madrid, to be educated with other Aristocratic youths. Prepared for duties of Kingship, if Franco decides to restore the Monarchy.

INDIA

(In far off India there was a dramatic scene today, in a courtroom in New Delhi, where Nathuran Vinayak Godse is on trial for his life. Charged with the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi.)

For the last five days, the thirty-five year old Hindu has been reading an eighty page statement. In it (he admits killing the Mahatma; and he also pleads to be executed for his crime.) Much of the statement he read in the sweltering courtroom has been the ramblings of a fanatical zealot. Delivered with such frenzy, that at times the defendant became too exhausted to go on.

Today Godse came to the climax - the twenty-third page of his eighty page statement. He cried: "I did fire the shots at Gandhi -- on the thirtieth of January, on the Prayer Ground at Birla House." (Then he went on: "My shots were fired at a person whose policy and action brought ruin and destruction to hundreds of thousands of Hindus.") As he paused, and the Court waited; the only sounds were from the swishing of the punkas - the fans.

~~of feet among the spectators.~~ Then ~~he read on, telling~~
~~how~~ ~~said that~~ he alone was responsible for the crime - that

no one had conspired with him. And he added: "My life
also came to an end as the shots were fired at Gandhi.

Since then **I** have passed the days in a trance of

meditation; ~~and~~ Whatever I have seen during this time," ~~said~~

the prisoner,

"has given me complete satisfaction."

Then, (after delivering another scathing indictment
of his victim, the young Hindu collapsed and was
carried unconscious from the prisoners dock, the
remainder of his statement unread.

JOHNSON

On this program several months ago, we had a literary announcement - made by John Kieran. He was taking my place, while I was on the Pacific Coast for a week. As one of his headlines of the day, John Kieran told of the arrival in this country of a large consignment of the papers of James Boswell, who wrote the famous life of Dr. Samuel Johnson.

These papers, copious relics of the eighteenth century, came in five steel cases aboard the British liner Queen Mary; ~~and were~~ brought to this country by an old friend of this program - Colonel Ralph Isham of New York.

John Kieran told how the literary treasure had been discovered in an old castle in Scotland - and said there was only a vague idea of what might be in the steel cases. We would be waiting to find out - when they were opened.

Well, they have now been opened, the contents investigated and sorted out. The result, disclosed by Colonel Isham to a gathering of news men, is a

revelation that gets a front page headline in the New York Times today, and more than a full page of discussion and pictures. The Times uses such expressions as these: "A culmination of one of the dramatic rediscoveries in literary history." And says: "Scholars believed the treasures were lost forever, even destroyed." An article by Dr. Herman Liebert of Yale calls these Boswell papers - "an event of the first importance to literary and historic scholarship." In addition to which the Times publishes an editorial on the treasure trove.

With Colonel Isham we have been browsing through these mementos of the past, and there is one bit in particular which strikes a note of dramatic wonder:- Newspapers today, are featuring this angle:-

Among the manuscripts is the original journal from which Boswell wrote his life of Johnson - and ~~xxx~~ that journal is ~~a~~ full of things that he left out of the published book. The manuscript gives the original account of his meeting with the mighty dictionary maker - and the priceless bit is the description that he struck

out.

Literary History is full of the fact that Samuel Johnson was the great conversational^{ist} of his time, received in the Houses of the Great, welcomed by Aristocrats and the headline celebrities of his ~~time~~^{day}. Lion of Society-and-conversation in the elegant eighteenth century.

At the same time, the Association of Boswell and Johnson was perhaps the most famous friendship on record. Yet, here is the impression that Johnson made on Boswell, at their first meeting. This is what he struck out in his "Life of Johnson, toned it down, made it softer, and weaker.

In his original manuscript, now come to light, Boswell wrote: "Mr. Johnson is a man of most dreadful appearance. He is a very big man, is troubled with sore eyes, the palsy, and the King's Evil." The King's Evil in those days was the disease of Scrofula, and unsightly malady which people thought could be cured when touched by the King. After which Boswell goes on to say: "He is very slovenly in his dress, and speaks with a most

uncouth voice." Boswell pays tribute to Johnson's learning, forcefulness of speech and interesting remarks, and then adds: "But his dogmatical roughness of manner is disagreeable."

So that was the beginning of the famous friendship! - Sometimes you can't tell by first impressions. It is well known, of course, that Dr. Johnson was a forbidding figure, but this new discovery is the strongest yet - this picture of the social lion, who was the greatest conversationalist on record.

I suppose in explanation of the mystery we might as well quote one of Johnson's famous remarks, in his gruff uncouth voice. On one occasion, somebody mentioned a mutual friend who had married for a second time. "That, sir," growled Johnson, "is the triumph of hope over experience."