

FORD

C. J. P. H. Tuesday, May 10, 1949.

Today's news tell how Henry Ford Second received a letter. Written yesterday, it was from Walter Reuther, President of the Auto Workers Union. Right now, the great River Rouge plant of the Ford Motor Company is tied up by ^{that} a strike.

More than sixty-three thousand Union men ~~are~~ out - in addition to which eleven assembly plants ~~will~~ ^{had} have to close down, idling twelve thousand other workers. So a letter from Walter Reuther to Henry Ford ^{would have} ~~had~~ a hint of headline.

What did it say? The head of the Auto Workers Unions suggested to the motor magnate that a peace conference be held to end the strike. ~~E~~ Ford's response was immediate - yes.

So that letter is the background for the talks that began today between the Union and the Company. But there was one suggestion of Reuther that Henry Ford rejected. The Auto Union President said he thought it would be a good thing for Ford, himself, to take personal charge of the Company negotiation. But Ford refused to ^{assume} ~~take~~ such personal authority. He preferred to proceed in the normal way, and

have the Company represented by the Vice-President for Labor Relations.

This is the first meeting for negotiation, since the huge strike began last Thursday. The point at issue is the union charge that there was a production speed-up, endangering the health and safety of the workers. The Ford people deny that there was any speed-up at all.

Today's meeting adjourned without any decision -- but negotiations to be resumed tomorrow. "The meeting today," says Union president Walter Reuther, "was primarily ^{of} an exploratory nature." To which he adds; "We are preparing to sit as many hours as necessary to promote a sane and sensible solution."

The meeting today was picketed by some forty strikers, which led Reuther to declare that a Communist element of the union was trying to break up the negotiations. When the news of the picketing was received at the meeting, the head of the River Rouge

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Local, who was participating at the conference, stormed out and ordered the pickets away -- whereupon they dispersed.

JERSEY CITY

An Eastern political bulletin of national importance -- the Frank Hague machine beaten in Jersey City. Tonight, after a hot election today, Mayor Frank Hague Eggers conceded -- admitting his defeat for a re-election as mayor by John B Kenny, number one opponent of the Frank Hague Democratic organization.

Ever since 1917 Jersey City has been ruled by the machine under the command of the seventy-three year old party boss, Frank Hague -- who for years has been a political party in the nation. Frank Hague turned over the office of mayor to his nephew, Frank Hague Eggers -- and the defeat in the election today overthrows one of the most powerful political machines in this country.

GERMANY

The provisional capital of the new government of Western Germany will be the old city of -- Bonn. This was decided tonight by the German Constituent Assembly, acting under the decision made by the United States, Great Britain and France. Bonn dates back to the Roman Empire and was one of the first Roman fortresses on the Rhine. In modern times it is celebrated as the site of a splendid university and the birthplace of ^{The composer} Beethoven.

BLOCKADE

The latest news from Berlin. The Western powers ~~in Berlin~~ gave their order today; - raise the counter-blockade. Thursday morning, at one minute past twelve. This followed, in proper sequence, the Russian command given yesterday, Soviet action at that same hour and minute, for the raising of the blockade ^{that} ~~which~~ began the whole thing.

So all seems to be set on both sides - with earlier news today telling of some Russian blockade-lifting in advance. This, in the form of electricity. The regular plants for supplying the Western sectors of Berlin with electric light and power are in the Soviet zone, and were shut down during the blockade. The Western authorities could provide only a meagre amount for the population - electricity rationed - only four hours a day. But this morning, suddenly, the Soviets turned on the current - radios began to blare and Berlin housewives rushed to do cooking on their electric stoves.

The resumption of power from the Soviet plants was

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only for two hours - it was a test. There will be another similar test tomorrow, ~~as~~ preparation for turning on the electricity in full and for good. At that deadline, one minute past twelve, Thursday morning.

CHINA

China reports the anticipated assault on Shanghai - three Communist armies, numbering a total of two hundred thousand, launching an attack on positions held by the Nationalists. It's a twofold offensive, which at one point is driving within thirty miles of the great harbor on the China Sea. Today the Shanghai military authorities told the people to prepare for a long siege - intimating that the city would make a desperate defense.

At the same time, the Reds appear about to take possession of the great industrial city of Hankow, the number one river port on the Yangtze. The Nationalist commander is reported to be withdrawing, as Red columns, on the march, threaten to isolate five hundred thousand Nationalist troops in Hankow.

PRINCESS

The much debated visit of Princess Margaret Rose to the Vatican, occurred today, when the eighteen year old daughter of the British King and Queen was received by Pope Pius the Twelfth. Her father is the head of the Church of England, which split with the ~~Church of Rome~~ ^{Papacy} some four hundred years ago, ^{So quite naturally} and there were angry complaints by Protestants in England - at the idea of the British Princess calling on the Roman Pontiff. In deference to these protests, today's visit was not called officially - an audience. Just a visit.

Princess Margaret conformed to the etiquette of the Vatican, wearing the costume prescribed for women who are received by the Pontiff. She wore a black dress, with long sleeves and a high neck, a black velvet coat, and black shoes.

The Princess curtsied to the seventy-three year old head of the Roman Catholic Church, and called him - Your Holiness." He addressed her as - "Your Highness." They sat and spoke for eighteen minutes. Language -- English, although the Princess speaks excellent Italian.

It was the first visit to the Vatican by a member of the British royal family since Nineteen Twenty-Seven, when the Prince of Wales, now the Duke of Windsor, was received by Pius the Eleventh. And on this occasion today a rare honor was conferred on the Princess of Britain. After the visit to the Pontiff, she was taken to the great Basilica of St. Peter's - and there, when she reached the main altar, all the lights in the vast Cathedral were turned on suddenly - a thing that is usually reserved for occasions of high ceremony.

In the Sistine Chapel, Princess Margaret gazed in startled wonder - as, for the first time, she saw the great Michaelangelo painting of The Last Judgment.

Among the other wonders that were shown to her particularly - the tomb of Pope Adrian the Fourth, the only English Pope, Nicholas Brakespeare, nearly eight hundred years ago. Also - the tombs of the royal Stuarts, exiles who long claimed the British crown. They are entombed in St. Peters.

FOLLOW PRINCESS

The latest news from England reports new protests, following the visit to ~~the~~ Vatican City. A spokesman for a Protestant group describes the chat that Princess Margaret had with the Pope in these very serious words: "a direct violation of the Bill of Rights, Britain's basic act of constitution."

This goes back to the revolution of sixteen-eighty-eight, when England dethroned the royal house of Stuart, and Parliament decreed that British kings hereafter must be Protestants. A spokesman declares that the visit today violated what he called -- "that point in the Bill which lays down that no member of Britain's royal family must hold communion with the Holy See or Church of Rome."

A serious view to take of the fact that the daughter of the king and queen had a talk with Pius Twelfth today.

AUSTRALIA

From Australia the word - a Prime Minister quarantined. It was disclosed today that the head of the Australian Government is under suspicion - as a possible carrier of smallpox.

This follows ^{the} a return of Prime Minister Chifley from a British Commonwealth Conference in London. He returned last week, together with his official staff, traveling by air - and, when the plane landed, it was found that the steward aboard the airliner had smallpox. The steward, it appears, had been in Karachi, India - and may have contracted the contagious malady there. ^R He made a long trip in the same cabin with the Prime Minister and his staff - which may have made them carriers of smallpox. Modern health precautions against an epidemic are severe and rigorous - and so Prime Minister Chifley of Australia and his entire staff were placed under quarantine. They will remain under observation, until it is definitely ascertained that they are free of smallpox.

These are days of international plans and projects, and it is always a pleasure to have another one come along - another global idea. Today I heard about a new one, and so I invited the apostle of this latest inspiration for world improvement, to tell us about it on this program tonight. He is George McManus, who for so many years has been Bringing Up Father. George McManus, creator of the immortal Jiggs and Maggie, whose uproarious domestic life is portrayed in the comic strip that has had the longest continuous run - the dean of comic strips.

George has a new idea in the field of international relations, and now I'm going to ask him -- George, tell us about it.

(George states the notion of bringing the Blarney Stone to America.)

L.T.: That sounds like the real McCoy. But what would the purpose be?

(George states that millions of Americans would want to kiss the stone, and prove the quality of blarney in this country. Along the ideas of interchange of global information, this would be a great event

in the realm of international blarney. George might reflect on international blarney.)

L.T.: You kissed the Blarney Stone, George - what is it like?

(George gives a brief description.)

L.T.: But would the Irish of Ireland like the idea of sending the Blarney Stone over here?

(George tells of the financial aspects, what the Irish would get out of it - possibly not neglecting the thought that we might have to send an expeditionary force to Ireland to get it.)

L.T.: But do you really think, George, that kissing the Blarney Stone gives one all that eloquence?

(George might possibly point to himself as an example of what kissing the Blarney Stone accomplishes, and might refer to some others - like Jim Farley. He could ~~just~~ conclude by relating some Irish whopper as an example of how the Blarney Stone works.)

L.T.: So that's the George McManus international project - and I hope it works. In any case, it might provide an idea for Bringing Up Father. Jiggs tells Maggie that he is going to bring the Blarney Stone to America, and Maggie hits him over the head with a rolling pin.

But I think we've had enough of the international, so now let's be - inter-planetary. There's news from the outer circle of the solar system - Neptune has another moon. This comes from the University of Texas, where Astronomer Dr. G.P. Kuiper was making a photographic study of the outermost planet, and found a tiny speck of light near Neptune, which appears to be a moon.

This discovery was made ten days ago, and since then has been studied at the astronomical observatory of Harvard - astronomer Dr. Harlow Shapely making the announcement today. He says the tiny speck near Neptune has, in his words, "nearly the same motion as the planet." In other words, it behaves as if it were revolving around Neptune - and, at the same time, following Neptune around the sun. "The chances are pretty strong," says Dr. Shapely, "that it will turn out to be another moon." The world of astronomy right now, tonight for example, is working to establish ^{this} ~~the fact~~ as definite - another moon for Neptune.

Hitherto, that most distant of planets was known to have one single satellite, which was discovered a hundred years ago. But now it appears that Neptune may have two moons, instead of one.

Geo:- Here's an item from
your own Calif! -

SAN FRANCISCO

Today an ex-paratrooper made a spectacular five-hundred foot parachute jump from the San Francisco Bay Bridge and thereby defied the police for a second time in a month. Previously, twenty-two year old Robert Niles, a former soldier of the sky, ^{had} jumped from the Golden Gate Bridge -- although the police had forbidden him. Today he did not make his leap from the deck of the bridge, which is two hundred ^{and fifty} feet above the water. Instead, he climbed to a suspension cable tower, five hundred feet above the bay. He made it okay, picked out of the water by a small boat that was waiting for him.

GEHRIG

The depth of pathos was reached in Washington today, when a small, quiet voiced woman gave testimony before a Congressional Committee - brief testimony, a mere three or four minutes. But she struck a note of pity, such as all the skill of a great actress might strive in vain to attain.

The Committee was considering a bill to set up an institute for medical study of the malady called Multiple Sclerosis, a kind of creeping paralysis. A co-author of the bill is Senator Tobey of New Hampshire and, today he too gave testimony. His voice rose with emotion as he urged approval of the bill. Senator Tobey's daughter is a victim of Multiple Sclerosis and has been helpless in a hospital for two years.

Senator Tobey spoke, not only as a legislator, but also as a father. That was human drama - yet it was pale beside the three or four minutes of quiet talk by the small, diffident woman.

She was Mrs. Lou Gehrig, widow of the great

hitter of baseball, who was a power-house partner of Babe Ruth in the days of the tremendous ^{might} power of the New York Yankees. Lou Gehrig was of such ^{brave} ~~powerful~~ physique and rugged endurance that he was called - the Iron Man." He rolled up a record of playing more consecutive games than any other ballplayer in the American League. But, as baseball tragedy tells, Lou Gehrig fell a victim to Multiple Sclerosis, the creeping paralysis.

Today his widow said that Lou was at the peak of physical condition, when the malady struck him, and she told the mournful story in these simple words: "At first," said she, "he simply couldn't play baseball with the skill which won him a place in the Cooperstown Hall of Fame. Then he couldn't play well enough to stay in the Yankee line-up. Finally," she went on, "he couldn't play baseball at all."

She told how he then took a job as a Parole Commissioner in New York, but it wasn't long until he couldn't do that either.

By now, women spectators in the committee room were crying, and handkerchiefs were dabbing at eyes everywhere, as Mrs. Lou Gehrig concluded: "As the disease progressed, he couldn't dress himself, he couldn't feed himself, he couldn't walk." She dressed him, she fed him, and tried to cheer him.

There has been much drama in those Congressional committee rooms at the National Capitol in Washington, and today the depth of pathos was reached.

LONDON

In London, the announcement of a substitute for meat.

It's made from molasses, and contains all the ingredients of beef steak or pork chops. This new synthetic food, devised by scientists during the Second World War, is called - Torula.

It's a powder, soon to go on sale in Britain.

The only trouble is, it doesn't taste at all like steak or chops. It tastes like - Torula.

Mom! Pass the molasses!

Nelson - have some Torula?