

L.T. DELCO. MONDAY, APRIL 30, 1956

(Given by Chas. Collingwood)

GOOD EVENING:

The sudden death of Senator Alben Barkley has brought a flood of tributes from all over the world. Few men in the hard game of politics were more beloved by all factions. He died on the platform, making a speech, as he had made so many in his long years of public service.

Senator Barkley -- only a few years ago we would have called him Vice-President Barkley -- the Veep -- was making the keynote speech to the mock Democratic Convention held by the students at Washington and Lee University. He had just disavowed any ambition to run for the presidency. He noted that he was only the Junior Senator from Kentucky. "I am willing to be a junior," he said ... I am glad to sit on the back row. For I would rather be a servant in the House of the Lord than to sit in the seats of the mighty." .. Then he stepped back, fell,

carrying the microphone with him... and died. Governor Stanley of Virginia, who was in the audience, took the lovely Mrs. Barkley up to the stage, but the Veep did not regain consciousness.

President Eisenhower said he was shocked at the news. "The nation is the poorer by this tragic event," he said. Governor Harriman of New York said: "The loss of his kindly nature ~~nature~~ and wise counsel will be sorely felt by our country." Former President Truman said: "he was one of the finest men I ever knew." Many more tributes have been expressed in the few hours since Alben Barkley's passing.

Like most correspondents who had covered Washington, this reporter had known Alben Barkley well. Politicians are a genial breed, but the unfailing courtesy, thoughtfulness, and goodwill of the gentleman from Paducah are things which reporters do not always find in politics or anywhere else.

PALESTINE

Israel bitterly accuses Egypt of breaking the armistice along the Gaza Strip. Charging - two incidents.

One - the savage murder of an Israeli settler, who was trying to save his crops from Arab raiders. He was dragged across the border into Egyptian territory, and was killed under circumstances of atrocity.

In the other incident, a military vehicle struck a land mine - planted by Egyptians in Israeli territory. One soldier killed, two others wounded.

Such are the angry charges made by the Israeli government, as the U.N Secretary General flew to Jerusalem, today, for conferences with Premier Ben-Gurion and Foreign Minister Sharett.

KHRUSHCHEV - BULGANIN

Bulganin and Khrushchev returned home to Moscow, today - and got a tremendous welcome. Talking about their trip to Britain, Khrushchev's most pointed remarks concerned the United States. Pledging - to do "everything possible" to bring the United States and Soviet Russia closer together.

He made favorable reference to President Eisenhower's recent speech to the American Society of Newspaper Editors. And added: "The Soviet government is in favor of establishing good relations with the U.S.A., and we shall do everything in that direction." ~~XXXX~~

Khrushchev's remarks today were interpreted as a hint - that the two travelers would like to make a trip to Washington.

RUSSIA - RIOTS

Vienna has a report of rioting in Soviet slave labor camps - as a result of the campaign to downgrade Stalin. The account is given by an Austrian, recently released from Soviet imprisonment. Of course, rumors are plentiful - but this report is given *with a good deal of* ~~in precise~~ detail.

It states that, at three Siberian slave camps, the disturbances began when the prisoners learned of the new anti-Stalin line in Moscow. Numbers of them were victims of the Stalin terror - which had sent them to the camps in the Siberian Arctic. So they now demanded - their own liberation. If Stalin was a monster, why shouldn't his victims be set free? The account goes on to say that Moscow put down the rioting with merciless rigor - two hundred of the prisoners killed by military forces, which quelled the disturbance.

In one camp, violence began when a political prisoner pressed the demand on the camp commander - insisting that all the inmates who had been jailed by Stalin must be released. In the ~~XXXXXXXX~~ altercation, the commander shot and killed the prisoner.

Whereupon rioting broke out, and the prisoners killed the camp commander. They disarmed the guards, and seized control.

The next day, military units of the Soviet Secret Police were rushed to the scene, and suppressed the revolt with machinegun fire.

POLAND

The United States made a demand on Red Poland today. Saying - stop trying to force Polish sailors, and other Polish refugees - to return to their Communist homeland. In a strongly worded note handed to the Polish Ambassador, the State Department said Poland was guilty of what it called - the "objectionable practice of unsolicited personal visits." Visits to Polish refugees over here - threatening reprisals against their families back home.

This follows a denunciation by Congressman Walter of Pennsylvania, who stated that Communist agents had coerced three Polish sailors into returning to Poland last October. ~~Other refugees have been subject to similar pressure.~~

(The complaint against Poland is in line with a similar protest - in the case of the five Russian sailors, who took refuge in this country, then changed their minds. Under coercion - it is charged.)

AIR POWER

In Washington, ^a comparison of American and Russian strength - in terms of long range bombers. And the comparison is not reassuring.

General Curtis Lemay, our Strategic Air Commander, told a Congressional Sub-Committee: "We believe we have the capability of winning any war the Soviets might start." To which he added a big - but.

We are ahead at present, but in two to four years - the Soviets will have more globe-girdling hydrogen bombers than we will have. (The Russian rate of bomber production is such - that they'll forge ahead of us. So the Strategic Air Commander recommends - an increase in our program of building B-52 bombers.)

General Lemay's testimony, ~~RECORDS~~ accords with complaints by the Democrats - that American air power is not being developed rapidly enough. (The administration recently ordered B-52 production to be stepped up. But, say the Democrats - not stepped up enough.)

FARM BILL

The House Agriculture Committee has devised a new catch-all Farm Bill. Which includes - the "soil bank" urged by President Eisenhower.

The new bill includes various features that were in the old measure, which ^{the} President ~~has~~ vetoed. But - those not/~~one~~ that brought about the veto, like high rigid price supports. Non-controversial angles are included.

The soil bank part of it is according to presidential recommendation - except for one thing. President Eisenhower wants a clause under which farmers could get some payment in advance - for joining the soil-bank scheme. This pre-payment feature is left out of the bill, okayed by the Committee today. The Democrats object - saying it's a Republican vote getting scheme. The President and the Congressional Republican leaders contend - it is necessary to give the hard pressed farmers a bit of cash this year.

All of which promises a lively fight on the floor of Congress, probably tomorrow - when the Republicans will try to put the "advance payment" proviso into the plan for a "soil bank."

SUPREME COURT

The Supreme Court issued an order, today, concerning a decision made by the Subversive Activities Control Board. Which, in Nineteen Fifty-Two, ruled that the American Communist Party is a subversive organization controlled by Soviet Russia.

The Communist Party took an appeal, charging that some of the anti-Communist evidence ~~given~~ was given by, what it called, "professional perjurers."

So now the Supreme Court orders the Board to make sure that its finding was based on "untainted evidence." Which could be done - by holding new hearings. Or merely by removing from the record, the evidence alleged to be "tainted."

NARCOTICS

A Senate Sub-Committee, today, recommended the death penalty for peddlers of narcotics. The capital sentence - for criminals who sell dope to children. The same, or a life sentence in prison - for sellers or smugglers of heroin, convicted for the third time.

The Sub-Committee proposes severer penalties for drug peddlers all along the line.

CUBA

In Cuba, today, Army forces were mopping up the remnants of an insurrection. The scene - the city of Matanzas. Where, over the weekend, civilians launched a revolt. Fifteen persons ~~xxxx~~ killed - before the outbreak was crushed.

Former President Carlos Prío Socarras was arrested, but was released on personal orders from President Batista, today. They say he was taken into custody for "his own personal safety."

In Boston, today, Congressman Thomas J. Lane pleaded guilty on a charge of income tax evasion - and was sentenced to four months in prison, with a ten thousand dollar fine.

The Massachusetts Democrat was indicted for evading the payment of thirty-eight thousand dollars in federal taxes, from Nineteen Forty-nine to Nineteen Fifty-one. He pleaded innocent - then, in court today, changed the plea twice. First - no contest. Then - guilty. He said that, if he stood trial, it would bring embarrassment to numerous clients of his law firm. And protested - that he had never deliberately defrauded the government.

POLITICS

The Democratic National Chairman hurled a blast of criticism, today - and what Republican was the target? No Republican at all - but a Democrat, one of the prominent figures in the Democratic Party. Chairman Paul Butler, accusing Governor Frank Lausche of failure to support the Party in the current political campaign.

Governor Lausche aroused Butler's ire, in the first place, by praising President Eisenhower's veto of the Democratic Farm Bill. On top of which, Lausche is not helping the Party drive to raise campaign funds. Butler says - the Governor broke appointments with fund raisers, and ^{adds that} ~~says~~ Ohio is ninety thousand dollars short of contributing its quota.

Contemplating the situation in Governor Lausche's Ohio, the Democratic National Chairman makes a prediction that may cause a shock. The forecast - that, in the presidential election, the Republicans will carry Ohio.

He puts it in these words: "Frankly, unless the Democratic organization shows a tremendous improvement in Ohio - I think Eisenhower will win the state."

NEPAL

We expected a report, this evening, from Lowell Thomas - who is on his way to the coronation of the King of Nepal, at Katmandu. Lowell is attending the ceremony as a personal representative of President Eisenhower, and will give us the news from that remote land in the Himalayas. We'll have reports from him on this program - but, somehow, there's a mix-up, which keeps him from coming in tonight.

It's quite a journey to that royal city of Katmandu, where His Majesty, King Mahendra Bir Bikram Shah Deva, is ^{to be} ~~being~~ crowned. Here's an example of the kind of thing that Lowell is up ~~against~~ ^{against} - as reported by A.T. Steele of the New York Herald Tribune.

He says he has found it almost impossible to get accommodations on the Indian Airline, which is making flights to Katmandu. Notables from everywhere - flocking to the exotic ceremonies in the secluded kingdom. And transportation ~~problems~~ problems are made the more difficult, because the Nepalese have a prejudice against travel on any Saturday. They consider ~~it~~ it - unlucky.

Furthermore, Katmandu is over-crowded with visitors - all accommodations booked weeks ahead.

The Herald Tribune correspondent writes: "The Nepalese Ambassador at New Delhi informed me, politely but firmly, that he would grant no visa - until I presented proof that I would have a bed and a room to sleep in. This," A.T.Steele goes on, "I finally obtained in the shape of a telegram from an American in Katmandu."

I don't suppose that Lowell, as a representative of President Eisenhower, will find it impossible to get a bed and room to sleep in - but it illustrates the state of affairs at the royal Nepalese coronation.

MARCIANO

There has been no end of comment about the retirement of Rocky Marciano as heavyweight champion. Following the example of Gene Tunney - who retired undefeated. But Tunney did more than set an example. He contributed advice and good counsel - Gene talking like a Dutch uncle.

I have this from Ed Allen of the United Press , who tells me how - a year or so ago, he and Gene had dinner together at an Italian restaurant, Vesuvio. They were expected, and Patsy, the proprietor, said:

"Rocky Marciano was in here a little while ago, and I told him Gene Tunney would be here later. Rocky had to leave for a television appearance. But he said he'd be back. He said - he'd like to meet the champ." That sounded like Rocky - always modest.

Gene and Ed were finishing their dinner, when Rocky appeared, and a long conversation ensued. Ed

Allen says - "You should have heard it!" Gene - doing the talking.

He said: "Rocky, get yourself another fight or two, and then - quit. Get enough money in the bank to take care of your family, then retire - before you slow down and some young punk beats your brains out."

Tunney went on to tell about his own case - how he was at his peak. But he knew if he stayed around long enough, he'd end by taking a beating. So he retired while the retiring was good, and he urged Rocky to do the same.

Marciano, the heavyweight champion, listened - as if to an oracle. And promised - he'd take the advice to heart. Ed Allen says - he doesn't know whether it made any difference. But the fact is that Rocky has now followed, not only Gene Tunney's example, but also his advice.