

L.T. - DELCO. THURSDAY, AUG. 22, 1957.
(Be given by W. Cronkite - L.T. in
New Guinea)

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

The State Department has changed its mind - about American reporters going to Red China. Today, in Washington, the decision was announced - twenty-four newsmen to be given passports, which will permit them to be stationed in China. "On an experimental basis", says the State Department. The two dozen reporters - to cover the China news for trial periods of six months, or longer.

Hitherto, our government had put a ban on all American travel to Red China. Charging - that the Chinese Reds did not "follow the practices of civilized governments." But now the State Department explains - there are new factors. What these may be - is not elucidated. But there was plenty of pressure in and out of Congress - against the ban, keeping news reporters out of the realm of the Chinese Reds.

Today's reversal of policy, says the State

Department, does not apply to people in general. The ban still holds for people other than the twenty-four newsmen.

France exports - and diminishing the export of goods that France buys abroad. Which, says Finance Minister Javal, has reversed the former excess of imports over exports.

Under the devaluation, the Franc is pegged at four hundred and fifty to the dollar for foreign business men, and also tourists. While kept at the old rate - of three hundred and fifty to the dollar for Frenchmen. Which double standard enables foreigners to buy French goods more cheaply. While Frenchmen have to pay as much as ever - for foreign goods.

FRANCE

The French Finance Minister says the partial devaluation of the Franc has been a success. Increasing French exports - and diminishing the amount of goods that France buys abroad. Which, says Finance Minister Gaillard, has reversed the former excess of imports over exports.

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(Note for Mr. Cronkite: I think this might be used. I don't know if it's wise to ignore the Confidential note completely.)

Length of tonight's tape is 1:31

CONFIDENTIAL

In Hollywood, the Confidential Magazine libel trial now brings Clark Gable's first wife - to the defense of the movie actor. She's seventy-two years old - having been Clark Gable's drama coach, when he was beginning his motion picture career. She denies the magazine story that she was in bad financial circumstances - and that her former husband cared nothing about it. The former Mrs. Clark Gable says she doesn't believe that Gable told stories about their marriage to a Hollywood party girl. "He wouldn't do a thing like that to me," says she.

There's also a denial of a story the magazine published about Mae West. Saying - that she had a liking for prizefighters. That is called - "ridiculous". The gossip about Mae West and the pugilists is attributed to the late prizefighter, Chalky Wright.

(Note for Mr. Cronkhite: I think this might be used. I don't know if it's wise to ignore the Confidential mess completely.

Length of tonight's tape is 3:11)

RACKETS

In the Senate investigation of Labor racketeering, there was a reference, today - to the recent acquittal of James Hoffa on a bribery-conspiracy charge. The so-called "crown prince" of the Teamsters Union - found not guilty on a charge of having tried to plant a spy on the staff of the Senate Investigating Committee.

Today, Hoffa was asked about a hotel bill - for the one time heavyweight champion, Joe Louis. The Union - said to have paid the bill.

This was at the time when Joe Louis made an appearance at the Hoffa trial. Taking his place in the courtroom - presumably, as a friend of the defendant. The point being - that the jury of twelve included eight Negroes.

Committee Chairman Senator McClellan of Arkansas declared - he had a report that Joe Louis was paid twenty-five hundred dollars for sitting in the courtroom for two hours.

RACKETS

Hoffa replied - that he had no knowledge of any such payment.

There was more playing of recordings today - wire tap recordings of telephone calls between the Teamsters Union official and alleged New York Racketeer Johnny Dio. The Committee charging - that these recordings were evidence that Hoffa wanted to get Dio into the Teamsters Union.

But Hoffa stuck to his explanation - that he was interested in Dio's union local, not in the alleged racketeer, personally.

SYRIA

It looks as if there'll be a Russian visit of state - to Syria. Today, the Acting Defense Minister in the new Leftist regime, declared - that Soviet leaders have been invited.

Cairo reports that Marshal Zhukov will visit Syria soon, and Party Boss Khrushchev may go with him.

GIRL

This morning, at Providence, Rhode Island, a boy had breakfast. Then, went to a window to shake out crumbs from a tablecloth. Looking down, he gaped at what he saw. An arm - thrust up through a narrow space between a building and a low garage. A small arm - tiny.

So that was how they found three year old Eileen Fahey - who disappeared, yesterday. A frantic search all night - for the little girl. But, in vain - until the boy saw the small arm this morning.

The three year old, while chasing a kitten, had squeezed into the narrow space, and was wedged in such a way - they couldn't get her out. She was crying and whimpering - and they had to get a wrecking crew to cut a way through the concrete wall of the garage.

Finally they rescued Eileen - who, tonight, was none the worse, after being trapped for twenty one hours.

POLAND

News from Poland, and it is news - when the Communist government decides in favor of strikers. But then, Red Poland is having - some degree of liberalism.

Last week the news told of a street car strike in the city of Lodz. With Red police - breaking the strike.

A government commission made an investigation. Now announcing - that many complaints of the strikers were "justified". They find the management of the street car system - "burdened with bureaucrats."

A Red regime - denouncing its own Communist kind of management.

JAPAN

In Japan - two prominent business men arrested as Communist conspirators. One - the President of a paper company. The other - the company auditor.

Today's dispatch from Tokyo tells of police raids in a number of cities - to break up a Communist fund-raising game, which victimized Japanese business firms. The Reds - engaging in financial manipulation.

For example, the Sankyo Paper Company was in trouble, short of money. So the Communists brought into the firm, and installed a Red named Harano, as president. Another Communist, Edogawa - as auditor. The two - running the business, and swindling the stockholders. By disappropriating funds - channeling the money into the treasury of the Communist Party.

SCIENCE

In Moscow, a scientific meeting is on. Called - the "Origins of Life" Conference. Discussing the mystery - of how life began.

Today, the conference received a cablegram from India, reading as follows: "Life under laboratory conditions created. Initial success. Further experiments on hand."

Which certainly would sound like a monumental discovery - Indian biologists creating life in the laboratory. However, the scientists at the conference - are skeptical.

TEAMSTERS

Frank Brewster, Teamster Union leader on the West Coast, was given a jail sentence, today. One year - and a thousand dollar fine. Brewster, convicted of contempt of Congress.

He appeared before a Senate Sub-Committee, and challenged its authority to investigate Labor. Later, before a special committee, he answered questions.

Today's penalty, imposed by a federal judge in Washington, concerns - Brewster's defiance of the Sub-Committee.

COSTELLO

A grand jury, today, returned an indictment - in the shooting of Frank Costello. The attempted murder of the alleged boss of rackets - said to have been the doing of a paid gambler, Vincent Gigante. Called - "Chin" - a nickname derived from his early days as a prizefighter.

For weeks the police hunted in vain for "Chin" - believing him to be the hulking fat man, whose bullet cut a crease in the scalp of Frank Costello. Then, on Monday, "Chin" walked into a police station, and surrendered.

Today, a New York Grand Jury heard evidence from five witnesses. One - Costello, himself. The proceedings were secret, and we don't know the testimony he gave. Another witness - Philip Kennedy, head of a model agency, who was with Costello the night of the shooting. A detective testified - as did two other persons. None of the evidence - made public. But the word is that one, and maybe two, of the witnesses, identified the "Chin"

as the gunman who blazed away at the alleged racketeering boss.

INTRODUCTION TO L.T.

The Lowell Thomas adventures in New Guinea

continue, this evening - with a report from Lowell, who tells of affairs along a jungle river.

SEPIK RIVER

L.T.: - Will the vast island of New Guinea ever have a problem to solve like the Mau Mau trouble in Kenya? Some of the old timers think it's likely. The skipper of our Flotilla flagship, "Spook" Snook is one of these. He has been telling me about what he calls the Cargo Cult.

Says Spook: "All of these Stone Age people believe in a spirit world and life after death. For years they have seen the white man come with ships large and small, laden with cargoes of mysterious things which they cannot explain in any way except that they are made by magic - objects made of glass, of china, of metal, plastics and so on. They believe the Spirits have made these and sent them for delivery to them, and that the White Man is really a demon, who is preventing them from having these things. Therefore there will come a day when every White Man will have to be massacred."

"Spook" says some of the members of this cult have

have been arrested but that they have never caught up with the ringleaders.

Before he started buying up boats with which to trade in coastal waters and up the rivers, "Spook" was one of that small tough group of White Men who roamed the New Guinea mountains and jungles, taking pure gold from her rivers. Also - for a time, he was a recruiter. That is, with his own column of tribesmen he would go into hidden valleys and talk the young men, most of whom had never seen a White Man, into signing up for three years work in the gold fields.

"Spook" says he knows the tribesman who is the head of the Cargo Cult, and will help the Government patrols capture him - if serious trouble ever breaks out.

In our first few days on the Sepik River, we were welcomed at a number of villages, Tambanam, Timbunke, Mindabit and Kamandabit. But, at one of the largest, Kanganaman, where we had hoped to spend some time, the

people were sullen and unfriendly. After we had pulled out from the bank, on our way up stream again, "Spook" Snook said that the villagers at Kanganaman belonged to the Cargo Cult.

Our particular reason for wanting to visit Kanganaman was that it has one of the largest community houses on the Sepik River, a sort of town hall, called a tambaran.

This tribal council house is about 200 feet long and as high as one of our 3 or 4 stories buildings. It rests on massive posts, with the floor of the Tambaran 6 or 7 ft. off the ground. The tradition has always been that in building a tambaran, when the first hole for a post is dug, some person, alive, preferably an enemy, would be put in ^{the} hole, and then the great pole dropped on him. Inside, in the great hall, are columns handsomely carved with Phallic symbols, birds and grotesque figures.

Around the room ceremonial stools. High overhead hung weird masks - and human skulls. So far we haven't been in one, but at each village we have been met by natives, wearing loin cloths, the front, centre, portion of which is made of a flying fox's skin, only worn by a man who has taken a head.

On the Sepik River, Australia, Europe, America and all of our so-called civilized parts of the earth seem as though they are on some far off distant planet. For these people are living just as their ancestors lived thousands, perhaps tens of thousands of years ago. Why haven't they developed a higher civilization? More about that later on. So long.
