

The General Assembly of the United Nations went into session today - in an atmosphere of pessimism. There was little of that bright glow of hope in the former skating rink of the one-time World's Fair, which is now the meeting place of the U.N. The General Assembly has been called into special session to consider the problem of Palestine, and as the delegates gathered, they were greeted by another Jewish declaration that the Zionists of Palestine, demanding nothing short of partition and a Jewish state, are ready, in the words of the ~~Jewish~~ statement - "to fight anybody."

The General Assembly is meeting to consider the plan for trusteeship to take the place of partition and a Jewish state. So you see what strong reasons there are for ^a lack of optimism.

PALESTINE

(From Palestine the word is - Armageddon. It's a great symbolical word, Biblical, for the culminating clash. But there's nothing symbolical about it today - Jewish and Arab armies locked in battle, on the plain of Jezreel, and that's Armageddon.) The struggle rages around a Zionist village turned into a stronghold, Mishmar Haemek, besieged by Arabs - artillery, tanks, warplanes in action. (The forces engaged are on no scale of World War Two, but they seem to be larger than anything that Palestine has known in the Jewish-Arab conflict.) And, to complete the impression of regular war - both sides *are* claim^{ing} victory in this latter day battle of Armageddon.

(The latest tells of trained Arab troops ^{entering} ~~that are~~ Palestine from Trans-Jordan - as announced by an Arab military spokesman. ^{Abdullah's} ~~The~~ kingdom ~~of Trans-Jordan~~ has a well trained army, and now we hear that five thousand soldiers have crossed the River Jordan with modern equipment, including heavy artillery - reinforcements for the Arabs. At the same time, the Jewish militia, Hagannah, is reported to be rushing armored cars with

a thousand troops and artillery, to the scene where Jewish and Arab forces are locked in a ^(desperate) ~~desperate~~ battle.)

Well, memory goes back to Bible lessons of childhood - when we were given Bible stories of how Gideon beat ^{the} Midianites on the plain of Jezreel, and how Saul and Jonathan fell in battle against the Philistines on the battlefield of Armageddon. And, ^{the} apocalyptic vision of the ^{assembly} ~~gathering~~ of the hosts, as foretold in Revelations, where it says:

"And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew ^{tongue,} ~~tongue~~ - Armageddon."

In the news these days we have enough of the grim and sinister, and it is hardly ingratiating to pile on some more. But here's a dispatch from so important a source that it needs to be passed along, ominous though it be - about the Soviets and the atomic bomb.

One of the great pioneers in atomic science is the Danish physicist, Nils Bohr^h - whose discoveries into the minute realm of the atom played a great part in the advent of the bomb. So this comes from an associate of Nils Bohr in Copenhagen. Atomic Scientist Gunnar Knoes summarizes with the phrase - "the outlook is terrible." ^R"Russia," says he, "does not have the bomb today, because until now she has been unable to produce enough heavy water. But on January First, Nineteen Fifty-Three," he adds, "Russia will have the bomb too."

The one pleasant thought ^{it} in [^]all ~~that~~, is that we still have nearly five years of grace - according to the Danish physicist, who goes on in the following ominous tone: "After Nineteen Fifty-Three," says he, "the United States cannot be

sure that they will not be blown up by Russian atomic bombs,
and I am sure that the United States will not let Pearl Harbor

he adds.
be repeated." Let's hope ~~not~~ *he's right about that*
that we won't.

He says the atomic weapon ~~that is~~ now being made is
sixty times more powerful than the Hiroshima bomb - and cites
all this as an argument to show that world control of atomic
weapons must be established.

LOWELL THOMAS - 1

NIGHT SHOW
April 16, 1948.

SUBSTITUTE LEAD ITALY. In the history of elections, betting odds are a favorite feature --and often a ^{(soundly} ~~XXXXXXXX~~ significant sign. ^{Tonight} ~~So now~~ we have the betting odds from Italy, on the eve of the weekend ~~of national~~ voting. (In Rome tonight the bookmakers are offering five-to-one ~~XXXX~~ against a Communist victory) -- five-to-one that the combined Red Coalition of Communists and Leftwing Socialists will not get more votes than the Christian Democratic ^{Party.} ~~Party~~ ~~the chief of the moderate and Rightwing factions.~~

^{money} ^{bet?}
TP Those being the odds, how much ^{is} being ~~XXXX~~ Very little, if any. The Communists~~XX~~ and their friends are not backing up their opinion with money. ^{As} for betting on the Christian Democrats, there is next to nothing of that either -- because the bookmakers won't accept the wagers. One tonight is quoted as saying "There is no percentage in betting against the Christian Democrats at any odds." ^{We} have been hearing a lot of solemn prognostication and ^{portentous political analysis.} ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Well, the betting odds are neither solemn nor portentous, but

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they are likely to mean just as much, if not more.

All of which follows the latest move by the western allies -- another appeal to Soviet Russia to permit Italy to get back the great harbor of Trieste. The plea was made this afternoon in a combined note handed to Moscow by Great Britain, France and the United States -- ~~which~~ ^{which} looks like a finishing touch in the effort by the western powers to check the Communist campaign in Italy. -- ~~xxx~~ A finishing touch also, in the discomfort of the Italian Communists.

Today in Rome, (the government of Premier De Gaspari mobilized three ~~xxxxxxx~~ hundred and thirty-five thousand soldiers and police to keep order over this election weekend. The whole Italian peninsula sizzling in the excitement of just about the most tense and spectacular political campaign on record.) So let's take a couple of minutes and switch over to Italy, and hear what's going on there.

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SUBSTITUTE LEAD ITALY--3

In Rome tonight is Hugh Baillie, President of the United Press. The head of one of our greatest American news agencies is covering the Italian election. I've asked him to cut in on this program, and give us an eye-witness picture of the electioneering Eternal City, on the eve of this historic political event. So now, ^{—by trans—} speaking from Rome, the President of the United Press, Hugh Baillie.

(TALK)

HUGH BAILLIE: Thank you, Lowell.

I'm very glad to be here in Rome tonight, and to come in with this story. The excitement here is terrific, the air is electric and everybody seems to be having a good time. It is somewhat reminiscent of a college town on the night before the big game.

Driving in from the airport a few hours ago, we encountered parades of all kinds; parades of men on bicycles, displaying the names of their candidates' parades on foot, waving banners; street-cars with a dozen red banners, red banners with the hammer and sickle waving from the windows. We had to push our way slowly and carefully through several mass meetings in the streets. The crowds were greatly stimulated but good natured. There was some yelling into our car and we had the feeling that trouble could start quite easily, but there has not been any yet. Loud-speakers are blaring campaign oratory, ~~■~~ competing with canned music from a rival meeting a block away. The crowds were myriad and

enthusiastic, cheering, laughing and gesticulating. They tell me that several thousand speeches are being made tonight all over Italy. De Gaspari speaks in Naples' Togliatti in Rome. All demonstrations must stop at midnight tonight. Starting at Saturday at midnight, no liquor will be sold for the next forty-eight hours.

They start counting the votes Monday night. Probably no decisive results will be known for a couple of days after that.

Just as we arrived here, I noticed a column of troops marching rather solemnly and seriously along the streets. A few minutes later a small plane buzzed the center of Rome several times, with an election banner streaming from its tail. Planes shower election leaflets upon the city. The walls are plastered with posters. The spirit of Garibaldi is claimed by the Communists. They display his picture and say he would have been a Communist if he were here tonight. His daughter is against the Communists and has made many speeches.

This is a serious election, but I must say there is a strong carnival spirit.

This is Hugh Baillie in Rome. I now return you to Lowell Thomas.

MR. THOMAS: Thanks Hugh Baillie for that illuminating picture

you give of
again Italy, faced with historic destiny, takes ²⁹ it in something of the spirit of a carnival.

~~Traveller John Fay dropped in on me a moment ago. Just back from Italy. He told of the sharp contrast in slogans on the walls all over Italy - excitement everywhere - much good will toward America in the air.~~

VIENNA. (The Soviets have turned down Anglo-American protests at Vienna -- protests against the new highway controls imposed by the Reds. At Vienna air traffic depends on the flying field eight miles outside of the city, which is in the Soviet zone. The new highway controls ~~a~~ block the way ~~away~~ to and from the airfield, and thereby threaten to cut off the air communications of the western allies in the Austrian capital -- these were at a virtual standstill today.)

(At the same time the Russians opened a new kind of propaganda war in Berlin by spreading reports that American women and children were being evacuated from the German capitol. This is denied by American Military authorities who say that it sounds like ^{more} ~~another twist~~ of Soviet pressure to get the western allies out.)

WHALE

For our last couple of stories tonight, let's head south, to the bleak wastes and waters of the Antarctic - and, in the first of the two, let's meet the giant blue whale. I might say - folks, meet Mobey Dick. But that wouldn't do, because Mobey Dick was a white whale - and we mustn't get our cetaceans mixed. ~~Don't let's get our whales confused - because a confused whale would really be something, or even more. A~~

^a dispatch from Tokyo tells of Japanese whalers in the Antarctic catching a three-hundred-and-twenty-thousand, eight-hundred-and-twelve pound blue whale, the largest ever.

~~This is a culmination of news we had some while back, when it was announced that the MacArthur regime of Japan was permitting the Japanese to resume their whaling industry. Some nations protested this, but Japanese hunting ships headed south - with American representatives aboard. So today's account is confirmed by the American observers.~~

You might wonder, how did they ever manage to get ^{that} whale on a scale? They didn't. In processing, they cut the

giant up, weighed the pieces, and added the figures - and the total came to more than a hundred-and-sixty tons, which is a lot of whale. ~~Never before has there been a report of a blue whale that big.~~ The heart of the giant cetacean alone weighed nine hundred pounds, the liver two-thousand-three-hundred-and-fifty-two pounds. The monster was eighty-nine feet long, about a city block. The blubber yielded a-hundred-and-thirty-three barrels of oil, and they processed ninety-five-thousand,- two-hundred-and-fifty-six pounds of whale meat - a lot of steaks and chops ^{for} ~~in~~ Japan. A leviathan of ^{the} ~~a~~ South Polar waters - the biggest blue whale!

RONNIE EXPEDITION FOLLOW WHALE

And, Tonight marks the ceremonial climax of ^{an Antarctic} the story. ^{telling of} the news has been ~~relating~~ the return of the Finn Ronnie

Expedition. ~~from the Antarctic~~ Fifteen months ago, the steamship Port of Beaumont, arrived at the South Polar shore, and the labors of exploration were begun by Commander Finn Ronnie, the Finnish-American investigator, of what's what in the frigid zone.

Now, the news has been telling us how the expedition has returned with new valuable knowledge about the realm of the South Pole. ~~The determination~~ that Antarctica is one continent and not two or more, as had been previously surmised. Also, that the Andes of South America continue in the extreme south, the vast range finally flattening out seven hundred and twenty miles from the ~~South~~ Pole. The Andes are a continuation of North American mountains like the Rockies, which gives you a picture of one vast chain of peaks from the extreme north to the extreme south, from away up in Alaska down to the vicinity of the South Pole. ~~Well, that~~ all that is being done

celebrated

us with a fine ceremony tonight, the American Geographical Society extending a welcome home to Finn Ronne and his fellow adventurers from the Antarctic.

There is one of those fellow adventurers with whom I am particularly keen to talk - for theological reasons. No, not geology *ical*, not paleontology *ical* - but theology *ical*. He is Harries Peterson of Belmont, Massachusetts, who claims to be the expedition's number one - "death cheater." Some while ago, we had word from the Finn Ronne Expedition ~~down there in~~ *cheated death when he fell* Antarctica, telling how Peterson ~~had fallen~~ down a crevasse, a chasm a-hundred-and-ten feet deep. Now the details are given of how he lay wedged at the bottom, face down, unable to move, frozen in, for eleven hours, until finally they were able to get to the bottom of the crevasse, and rescue him. On his return, Peterson tells how, during those frightful hours at the bottom of the ~~xxxxxxx~~ chasm in the ice - he got religion. That's the theological angle of exploration.

So tonight I want to talk to Harries Peterson and

ask him - what happens when you get religion at the bottom
of an ice crevasse? Do you think of all you've done?

Do you go through mental and emotional experiences, something
deeply psychological if not psychiatric? Or do you just pray
to the Lord to save you?

~~Now Nelson - a few words from you.~~

And now Nelson will you pray, sing,
or speak ~~a~~ your piece about something
that's 99.44% pure.

ITALY

L.J. - P. & G. Friday, April 16, 1948. (taken from early bc.)

(The news wire has just flashed a dispatch - give Trieste back to Italy! Great Britain, France and the United States have sent a joint note to Moscow, requesting Soviet Russia to reconsider its former refusal. Let's return the great seaport of the Italians - say London, Paris and Washington to Moscow.) The Soviets, having said "No" in the past, are likely to repeat that negative monosyllable - to the increasing discomfort of the Italian Communists in the election. Today's ^{move by the} Western powers ~~move~~ looks like the finishing touch in the effort to check the Communist campaign in Italy.

Today, in Rome, the government of Premier de Gasperi mobilized three hundred and thirty-five thousand soldiers and police to keep order over this election weekend. The whole Italian peninsula sizzling in the excitement of just about the most tense and spectacular political campaign on record. So let's take a couple of minutes and switch over to Italy, and hear what's going on there.

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(TALK)

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~~something of the spirit of a carnival.~~

POLITICS

Senator Taft is in Ohio tonight - an indication of how our own election campaign is steaming up in this presidential Nineteen Forty-Eight. The Ohio Senator had scheduled a speaking trip to Vermont, but he cancelled that - and flew back to Ohio today. This - because of the Stassen menace. After running so far behind ^{the man from Minnesota} ~~Stassen~~ in the Nebraska primary, Senator Taft faces a battle ^{without Stassen in Taft's} ~~in his~~ own bailiwick - Ohio. ~~(The belief has been that he would have easy sailing, as the Ohio favorite son - but Stassen has invaded Ohio. He's running against the Senator in the primary election on May Fourth - and the Stassen menace is such that Taft has gone home to bolster the political fences, make speeches and meet the voters - Stassen having shown such magic in the old American art of taking the stump.)~~

FLOOD

The crest of the Ohio River flood is approaching Cincinnati - a crest sixty-five feet high, which is thirteen feet over the flood level. Tonight a thousand soldiers and volunteers ~~across the stream~~ are battling to put up levees to change the wild muddy surge of the Ohio ~~River~~. Ten thousand families are expected to be homeless by the time the crest reaches Cincinnati - tomorrow.