

**SUB LEAD AUTO WORKERS**

*E.T. - P. & S. Wed., Dec. 21, 1949*

Tonight the Federal Government stepped into the investigation of the attempted bombing of the headquarters of the auto workers union in Detroit. The Attorney-General has ordered the F B I into the case -- after the union offered a total of two hundred and forty-five thousand dollars as a reward for the solution of a whole series of terrorist acts.

~~On April Nineteen forty eight etc~~

## LEAD -- AUTO WORKERS

Rewards are up tonight for a total of two hundred and forty-five thousand dollars - that much offered by the auto workers union for the solution of a mystery that climaxed today <sup>with</sup> ~~was~~ an attempt to blow up union headquarters in Detroit. A bomb was planted, thirty-nine sticks of dynamite in a box wrapped gayly as a Christmas package. The only thing that prevented a devastating explosion was the fact that fuses failed ~~to burn~~.

In April of Nineteen Forty Eight, union president Walter Reuther was badly injured by a shotgun blast -- and a big reward was put up for the capture of his assailants. In May of this year, <sup>When</sup> his brother Victor Reuther, a union official, was injured by shotgun fire -- the reward was increased to a total of two-hundred-and-twenty thousand dollars. So now today's attempt to blow up union headquarters brings another increase, another twenty-five thousand dollars. ~~added~~ boosting the total to two-hundred-and-

forty-five thousand. That much offered for the arrest of the terrorists.

The mystery is weird, and takes us to a newspaper office. At the Detroit Times, reporter Jack Pickering was called to the telephone and a voice spoke in a strange whisper. "There's dynamite in the auto workers building," said the voice.

The reporter hurried to union headquarters and gave the alarm, which started a frantic search -- but no dynamite was found. Then, a couple of hours later, ~~the~~<sup>a</sup> building employee spied a Christmas package in an arway. A gay package, wrapped in ~~cheap~~<sup>cheap</sup>-striped Christmas paper, and tied with a blue ribbon. They investigated, and inside found dynamite.

There were two fuses, both of which had been lighted. One had burned to within an inch of the dynamite -- the other to within one-eighth of an inch. But both fuses had sputtered out, the damp weather helping.

Walter and Victor Reuthes immediately said

that the bomb attempt must have been made by the same gang that tried to kill them with shotgun fire. The sticks of dynamite were carefully and expertly packed, which led the police to suspect coal miners, they being adept with dynamite. But this <sup>is</sup> ridiculed by the union -- although it is admitted that the Reuther brothers were at one time involved in a union battle with a faction of miners. Neither of the brothers was at headquarters at the time the bomb was supposed to go off -- only a few people on a cleaning job being there.

Today Walter Reuther said: "This campaign of terror is being waged by anti-labor, un-American elements." Which points to one line of suspicion all along. The Reuther brothers are anti-Communists, who have waged bitter fights against Red elements in the union.



## STALIN

The news dispatches from Soviet Russia, telling of the celebration of the seventieth birthday of ~~Stalin~~, remind one of a thing that has often been said - that Soviet Communism tends more and more to take on the aspect of a ~~king~~ of religion. Economic theory, a political empire - it has angles of dogma and worship, like a fanatical cult. A number of years ago, the noted British philosopher Bertram Russell, said - this is an era of economic religions. Well, it's common enough for believers to turn a leader, or a despot, into a divinity. So let's take a look at Soviet Russia tonight - on Stalin's birthday.

Moscow, as the snow falls, is decorated in spectacular style, and in the night sky above the city shines a giant bust of Stalin - a sort of ~~base~~ arrangement, with the face of the Soviet dictator illuminated by brilliant beams from a battery of searchlights. Pilgrims throng from the vast areas of ~~the~~ Soviets and satellites - from Bulgaria, from Central Asia, from the tribes of the Arctic. And many must

## STALIN....2

look up at Stalin in the sky, as if at an apparition.

Moscow reports that statues of Stalin have been placed on thirty-eight of the tallest mountain peaks of Central Asia, including one nearly twenty thousand feet high - special teams of mountain climbers having been sent to pay this lofty homage.

The newspapers of the Communist world have been going into ecstasies - virtual worship. Pravda, the official newspaper of the Russian Communist Party, describes the birth of Stalin in these words: "The great date in the history of mankind." One might almost suspect the Soviets might have a notion of changing their calendar, dating it from the birth of Stalin.

Still more vivid is a statement in Pravda, saying that today the thoughts of the Russian people were being transported to the birthplace of Stalin, in Georgia, the Caucasus. There lies what the Soviet newspaper calls - "The sacred dust of a little modest Georgian woman, the mother who seventy years ago, gave

**STALIN....3**

the world the one who has become the greatest of mankind." Which does have a sound most reminiscent of religion. Well, Stalin's birthday, December 21, happens to fall at the same time of the year as the feast which all the Christian world celebrates. And the celebration today, so much like a deification of Stalin, could have the appearance of Communist competition with Christmas.

in all countries except Russia. It evokes national feeling as a national holiday.

The specialists have only jeers for the Red propaganda line about peace - pointing out that in Europe they denounce war, while the Far Eastern Bureau of the communists, meeting in Peking, has called for civil war throughout Asia.

## SOCIALISTS FOLLOW STALIN

There's one place where the Stalin birthday got a celebration in reverse - Bronx cheers. That was at an international Socialist conference in London - an organization formed to succeed the old-time Socialist internationale, which was disrupted by the Communists. Tonight the assembled Socialists passed a resolution as follows: "The Cominform is openly fomenting war throughout one-half of the world - and, in all countries except Russia, it treats national feeling as a criminal heresy."

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# ISRAEL

Israel stands pat on Jerusalem as its capital -- rejecting a remonstrance from the United Nations. The trusteeship council, named by the U N to administer Jerusalem as an international city, asked Israel to ~~stop~~ discontinue the transfer of government offices in Jerusalem -- which transfer has been going on busily for days. But a spokesman for the Jewish states today declared: "operation Jerusalem will continue in full swing."

American diplomatic officials at Havana are keeping mighty quiet about the whole business, but it is admitted that Gregorio Vinogradov, in the words of an American spokesman: "has gone into the city" in addition, the Cuban police accuse him of being a stock-piper in the notorious business of smuggling drugs into the United States.

## CUBA

In Havana today the Cuban government began the prosecution of Gregorio Simonovitch - who is charged with being a complicated sort of rogue. Born in Russia, he is said to have played a double game in the smuggling of aliens into the United States. First -- contracting to get the aliens in, and charging as much ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ } as three thousand dollars. Then, he'd report them to the U.S. immigration officials and collect a fix fee for each one he thus denounced.

American diplomatic officials at Havana are keeping mighty quiet about the whole business, but it is admitted that Gregorio Simonovitch, in the words of an American spokesman; "has done jobs for us." In addition, the Cuban police accuse him of being a stool-pigeon in the nefarious business of smuggling drugs into the United States.

DEWEY

A bulletin just in pictures Governor Dewey of New York as giving what sounds like a definite and final -- no. In a letter to his friend and former Oregon campaign manager, John C. Higgins of Portland -- Governor Dewey says : "Nothing could arise now or in the near future that would lead me to be the nominee of our party in Nineteen Fifty-two." Which sounds positive enough.

## BANDITS

At Ionia, Michigan, Robert Bartosh and James Cooper said today: "We're still hungry." The moment they were taken to the local jail, they said: - "when do we eat?" They <sup>are</sup> the two young robbers known as - the "hungry bandits."

They started burglarizing restaurants at night, breaking in at night, stealing the cash <sup>and</sup> - and having a big feed in each place. They were captured; - but, as we heard ~~the~~ night before last they made an escape; and <sup>then</sup> the manhunt was on. They led the Michigan police a merry chase - although their trail was plainly marked, no lack of clues. They broke into restaurants and grocery stores - stealing food. Still the hungry bandits.

But last night they met their Waterloo. The police figured - they'd have to steal an automobile to continue their escape. So the warning was passed out to garages in that area - and one garage is run by four brothers. The ~~four~~ <sup>in age</sup> brothers range <sup>in age</sup> from nineteen to twenty-nine, and three of them are former

**BANDITS...2**

servicemen - wartime G.I.'s. So they arranged a reception committee -- all four waiting in their garage during the night. That's what the two hungry bandits walked into, and today they were back in the Ionia jail - still hungry.

At Oswego, Kansas, a farmer named Harold White went to the First National Bank today to negotiate a loan. He needed a few hundred dollars, and hoped the First National would let him have the money - on a promissory note. But the bank refused, turned him down flat.

The reason farmer White needed the money was because of his fourteen year old boy, who a month ago was hurt accidentally by the blast of a shotgun - a fatal injury, it seemed. The doctors declared that Billy White had about one chance in a thousand to live.

Since then Billy has had two major operations, and has five more to go. Today his mother said: "Prayer saved him. I know that's what did it. Special prayer services, she goes on "were conducted in the Baptist and Lutheran churches in Oswego, the Christian church at Faulkner, and in the Catholic Church at Parsons".

But the costs of medical care and hospital treatment, have come high - and that's why farmer White went to the First National Bank at Oswego to

negotiate a loan. But - nothing doing. He wanted to sign a promissory note, but the bank wouldn't take his note. Instead, the banker handed him a check for seven-hundred-and-seventy-three dollars - money raised by the neighbors without farmer White knowing anything about it. The neighbors chipped in, and arranged with the First National to refuse a loan, and hand over the gift instead.

Because of the toil and worry, trying to save their son - the White family had to neglect their farm. But the neighbors pitched in, and sowed fifteen hundred acres of wheat for them - shucked fifteen acres of corn and put three hundred bushels in the crib. They fed the livestock, and kept the whole farm spic and span. The good-neighbor policy, as practiced this Christmas time, in that Kansas community.

## SUB WEATHER

Tonight this nation is divided into two very different sections -- divided by a contrast of weather. In the eastern one-third of the United States, it is warm and muggy -- the weather like spring. But in the other two-thirds of the country -- cold, snow and sleet in the middlewest, blizzards in the mountain states, and freezing temperatures threatening the citrus crops of California.



## WATER

New York's water shortage may not have produced a cure for the crisis, but it has brought a deluge of letters telling the big town what to do about it. There are handsome offers from people who present proposals for ending the shortage. From rainmakers largely, <sup>^</sup> with magical schemes.

One calls himself a - "scientician", while another offers an "electro static vapor discharger," which will fill the city reservoirs at the small cost of five thousand dollars. Still another rainmaker, who lives in Michigan, sent a whole scale of prices. For a small shower, he charges ten-dollars-and-forty-nine cents. <sup>For a</sup> ~~For a~~ rip snorting thunderstorm - fifty dollars. To which he adds that he has a special rate for blizzards this year - one hundred dollars per snowstorm.

Well, that sounds cheap enough, and you'd think the city would jump at the offer, but his letter goes on to say that it was he who started the great blizzards of last year in the west - and his system is

**WATER....2**

so good that, once having started the blizzards, he had a lot of trouble stopping them. Which nearly wrecked the west. So the city fathers of the big town are afraid that, in curing the water shortage, the Michigan magician might bury the metropolis in snow right up to the top of the Empire State Building—.

14

*How would you like that, Nelson?*