

L.T. P. & G. WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 7, 1949
(Given by Clifton Fadiman)

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

The British-American Conference in Washington began this afternoon with addresses and preliminary statements. The longest was made by Chancellor of the Exchequer Sir Stafford Cripps. He outlined the crisis facing the British economy, and said his country was not looking for any gift or loan from the United States.

He's asking only for trade concessions and arrangements that will enable the British to earn more of the dollars they need so badly. He promises that Britain, in turn, is prepared to take drastic steps to increase her industrial efficiency.

As for Canada, Dominion Finance Minister Douglas C. Abbot, gave warning that the fruits of the North Atlantic Security Pact may be lost unless a way is found to work out better economic cooperation among its members. American Secretary of the Treasury Snyder promised that our own country will do all it can to help solve the British problem -- and will not meddle in

British internal affairs. That is -- will not meddle with British socialism.

Sir Stafford Cripps and Foreign Secretary Bevin were given a cordial greeting in Washington as they came to tell the tale of their financial deficits and to ask for assistance. Noting the big turn-out for him, Bevin said: "I never thought that a man with an overdraft would get such a wonderful welcome."

Later, a news photographer asked Bevin to move over closer to Secretary of the Treasury Snyder. Bevin obeyed with alacrity, remarking: "I'm going to keep very close to him for the next few days."

YUGOSLAVIA

Soviet Russia takes a new line against Yugoslavia - and it sounds as if it might be dangerous. The Moscow Radio tonight broadcasts a charge that the regime of Marshal Tito, the puppet who rebelled, has been attacking the Albanians. It has been noted all along that, if Soviet Russia did decide to take action against Yugoslavia, one likely excuse might be - Albania, the faithful satellite, loyal to Stalin. Well, Tito and the Albanian Government are feuding, and ~~perilous~~ ^{TINDER BOX} incidents might occur. Which gives sharp point to the Soviet broadcast tonight, charging Yugoslav border violations against Albania.

GERMANY

Today witnessed - the Birth of a Nation. But this time it's not a moving picture - for the new nation is Western Germany, born of the disasters of war, and the downfall of the Hitler tyranny. The state of Western Germany begins its infant life under adverse conditions. It's a country divided by the quarrel of East and West. Nevertheless, today began in formal fashion the "Federal Republic of Germany." Meaning, Western Germany.

The Parliament assembled, the first free Parliament that Germany has known since back in Nineteen Thirty-three, when Hitler crushed the Weimar Republic. The two Houses, upper and lower, were inaugurated with ceremony in the old city of Bonn. That sounds auspicious, in a way, because Bonn is the birthplace of the composer Beethoven - and it was from Beethoven's Fifth Symphony that the free nations took the four notes of their victory theme during the Second World War.

SENATE

The political battle in New York is clarified by the announcement that John Foster Dulles will run for the Senate. He stated today that he will accept the Republican nomination, which he is virtually certain to get. So that makes it Dulles versus Lehman, and puts the contest on a high level. John Foster Dulles has had much experience as a delegate representing U.S. in world affairs. Herbert H. Lehman, four times Governor of New York, is likewise well acquainted with international matters.

Saying that he'd accept, John Foster Dulles outlined his major campaign issue today in these words: "In every nation there is a growing tendency to exalt the state and to treat the individual as unimportant." So he will campaign against what he calls - "a growing tendency toward statism."

In foreign policy, there will be only one point

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of difference in the positions of the two rival candidates.

Dulles will attack the Administration for not giving aid to China.

FOLLOW SENATE

Well, maybe the Chinese need aid, but some of them seem to know how to help themselves -- at least according to Senator Tom Conally of Texas. In the Senate today, he charged that Generalissimo Chiang Kia-shek had "absconded" with a hundred and thirty-eight million dollars in gold from the Treasury of Nationalist China.

CHINA

As For CHINA ITSELF,

From the city of Chungking, ~~in China~~, comes news of a stately ceremony. With the sweep of the Reds, there's been little occasion for the ritual and antique politeness of the flowery kingdom of old. But in Chungking all that has been revived, to give ^{FORMAL} ~~stately~~ welcome to a dignitary known as -- Lu-Han. Never heard of him? Neither had I. But Lu-Han is identified as the Governor of the Province of Yunan -- and perhaps that makes it a little clearer.

What is Yunan? Yunan is the key strategic province of South China. It has withdrawn from the Nationalist regime, and seems about to fall under the sway of the Reds. The question actually hangs in the balance, with Governor Lu-Han now engaging in ceremonious palaver at Chungking, the inland capital of the Nationalists. He is negotiating with Chiang Kai-shek, the Generalissimo who retired in defeat but has recently come back into prominence. Moreover, a dispatch from Canton

states that the Nationalist premier, Yen Hsi-shan has taken a plane to Chungking -- to join in the talks. They hope to persuade Lu-Han to stay neutral, and not join the Reds -- a last-ditch attempt to keep Yunan from swinging immediately to the Communists.

I don't know how clear any of this is, but maybe it has a bit more meaning when we note that Yunan borders on Burma, and that Burma is now going through a Red insurrection. And just next door is Tibet -- where Communist agents have been infiltrating into the realm of lamas, yaks and monasteries. Tibet -- the Roof of the World -- from which Red air power could look down on all of southern Asia.

So there's new emphasis on the Tibetan capital of Lhasa, as Lowell Thomas and his expedition slowly make their way to that Forbidden City. Yes, Lhasa looms more and more as a hot spot in the world crisis -- the

strangest of all hot spots. Our travelers have been in many a wild and wondrous place. We can join them briefly tonight, with another report from the expedition - Lowell Thomas, Junior, giving us a recorded broadcast. He tells how, on the road to Lhasa, they came upon the source of one of the great and fabulous rivers of the ~~world~~ EARTH.

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END

(L.T. Jr.'s closing line: I'm sure they won't sleep as well as we. Good night.)

And that's the recorded broadcast from Lowell Thomas, Junior, made in the Himalayan Heights, where the Brahmaputra River begins -- that mighty and mysterious stream flowing down to the Bay of Bengal. Seems like being in another world. But back we come to our own world and the American scene -- with Nelson Case and Ivory.

As Lowell Thomas says, So Long Until Tomorrow.