

L.J. - P. & S. Monday, August 30, 1948.

BENES

Eduard Benes,

~~Former Czech President Eduard Benes~~

~~and in a serious condition. So it was announced~~

~~from Prague~~ comes word that the Czech

~~patriot may not pull through - the~~  
~~Benes' country home saying that the condition of the~~  
~~man who was associated with the~~  
~~former President's blood circulation has grown worse~~

~~in recent days.~~  
Mazaryk in the creation of modern  
Czechoslovakia after World War I.

The Former Czechoslovakian President ~~Benes~~ ~~sent to~~

~~retired to~~ his country home last February, ~~right after~~ ~~twenty-seventh~~, a few

~~hours after he had administered the oath of loyalty to~~

Red president and his ~~the~~ Moscow-  
~~Czechoslovakia's newly elected Communist dominated~~

hand-picked Communist Cabinet. And he  
~~Cabinet. He~~ has not been seen in Prague since,

~~although he has made two public appearances elsewhere.~~

There are those who  
~~Then he showed no signs of illness, although the Red~~  
~~thinks he is dying of a broken~~  
~~Government said Benes had resigned because of increasing~~  
~~heart.~~  
~~illhealth.~~

Now it seems the once strong man of Czechoslovakia really is sick.

FRANCE (NEW LEAD)

France is still without a government. But according to the United Press, former Premier Schuman *is at work* ~~says he can~~ *forming one* ~~forming Cabinet. He is confident about that.~~ ~~and says that he~~ *and* will announce his ~~choice of~~ ministers tomorrow -- a middle of the road Cabinet. ~~without any~~ *No* De Gaullists, and no Communists.

This afternoon President Auriol warned the former Premier that he must form his Cabinet quickly; waste no time. That every day France ~~was~~ without a government, ~~was~~ an invitation to the Communists, or the De Gaullists, to seize power. So Premier Schuman ~~is~~ *is* ~~speeding~~ *making all possible speed*

Earlier today, the news told of the French Communists trying to force a general election. This by noisy demonstrations, and strikes; with an over-all threat of a general strike if Communists were not included in the new government. Also a section of the French press began clamoring for ~~General~~ DeGaulle to take over -- protect France from the Communists.

MOSCOW (SUBSTITUTE)

After today's meeting at the Kremlin with ~~Soviet Foreign Secretary~~ Molotov the Western Envoys began a series of conferences in Moscow. <sup>That is</sup> British envoy Frank Roberts went to the American Embassy immediately on leaving the Kremlin. <sup>He and our</sup> ~~to see H.S.~~ Ambassador Bedell-Smith, ~~They~~ talked for three hours. ~~During which,~~ ~~says the newswire, secretaries were making hurried~~ ~~trips with messages.~~ Twice, between eight and eleven, the French Ambassador <sup>came and went.</sup> ~~Yves Chataigneaux called and left.~~ At eleven o'clock <sup>Ambassador</sup> ~~Smith and~~ <sup>and Bedell-Smith</sup> Roberts took an hour off. <sup>Then</sup> ~~But~~ at twelve they were joined again by the French envoy. At three A.M. Moscow time they were still taking.

The suggestion is that there is <sup>still</sup> a disagreement somewhere. Perhaps between the Western Envoys themselves. Chataigneaux is said to have taken little part in today's conversations with Molotov, but he is thought to have paid those two hurried visits to the



American Embassy tonight to make himself clear on a certain point. After which he was invited to come again to talk things over

So the big story that newsmen have been waiting for all day -- the announcement of an agreement between the Four Powers on a single Berlin currency and the lifting of the Berlin Blockade did not come off.

In Washington tonight our State Department announced that it received a preliminary report of today's meeting from Ambassador Bedell-Smith and that it was agreed there would be no communique issued today, but there would be further meetings in Moscow.

The only hint that all was not plain sailing in Moscow today was the word that the expected announcement would mention the "eventual lifting" of the Berlin Blockade. That word "eventual" doesn't sound so good.



## INDIA

From far off Kashmir, in northwest India, comes word  
of a battle fought <sup>at</sup> ~~in~~ <sup>Aland battle-way up there,</sup> nineteen thousand feet. ~~That~~ <sup>A</sup> mile  
higher than the top of Pikes Peak or Mount Ranier. Almost as  
high as the summit of <sup>Alaska's</sup> Mt. McKinley. ~~in the Himalayas.~~

A dispatch to the New York Times describes the  
fighting between the troops of India and Pakistan as the  
first operation of modern armies in the lofty Himalayas,  
<sup>mountains</sup> highest in the world.

From the valley floor of the lovely Vale of Kashmir,  
<sup>Dal Lake and The Garden of Shalimar,</sup>  
it takes the troops three weeks to reach the battlefield. The  
fighting is at Ladakh, only two hundred miles from Srinagar,  
capital of Kashmir. But Ladakh is the capital of what is called  
Little Tibet.

The troops have to wade through snow ~~was~~ waist deep.  
Their supplies are borne by longhaired yaks, far up there on  
the Roof of the world, in air so rare that water boils at a  
temperature too low for cooking. So all boiled food must be  
prepared at a lower altitude and carried up to the front.

The fighting can only be carried out by small groups, with no armament heavier than a light machine-gun. It being impossible to get heavy equipment into those snowy mountains where not even a yak can get over some of the lofty passes.

The New York Times tells of a detachment of Kashmiri scouts battling against Indian troops on the slopes of the giant Karakoram range. Both sides have to depend on coolies and pack animals to bring their supplies. And, as there aren't enough coolies to go around, each side uses the same bearers. One day the Indian army gets them, the next day they go to the Kashmir irregulars. And often the mules and yaks head toward the wrong camp, on the wrong day. Whereupon the side which is expecting its supplies, yells at the coolies, and usually the side which can shout the loudest gets the cargo.

An Indian officer says these shouting matches are good fun, with the scores usually even -- both sides getting something to eat.

This war on the roof of the world is one of bluff and subterfuge. On one occasion a small Indian convoy scared the Kashmir troops that were about to waylay them by using the old hat trick. They kept poking a stick above a rock, first with an Indian Army helmet, then with a Sikh turban, then with a local headdress -- to make it look like heavy reinforcements. The Kashmir troops withdrew in alarm.

Meanwhile a United Nations Security Council Commission is trying to negotiate a cease-fire arrangement. But they are having difficulty even reaching the scene of this Himalayan war -- in far Kashmir -- in the Karakorum



In New York today, Whittaker Chambers, the ex-Communist, identified Alexander Stevens as the man who had worked with him in the Communist underground in Washington. Stevens, said Chambers, was then known as "J. Peters."

He evidently is the mystery man the Committee has been looking for.

Previously Stevens had been served with a Committee subpoena at a deportation hearing ordered by the U.S. Immigration Department, where he was also known as "J. Peters." Today he refused to answer ~~the~~ the Committee's questions, claiming constitutional immunity.

7 All he would say was that his real name was Alexander Stevens, not J. Peters. When he was brought face-to-face with Whittaker Chambers, his accuser, he kept silent.

Chambers said he had no doubt that Stevens was the man with whom he had worked closely in the Communist ring in Washington before the war. He said he had talked with Stevens on party work in New York City Automats. Still not a word from the accused.

Two of the Committee members were so angered by this silent defiance, that they say they'll ask the Committee to cite Stevens for contempt of Congress.

After Whittaker Chambers had finished giving his testimony, (the Committee went into close session to hear Adolph Berle, former Assistant Secretary of State. Chambers previously testified about going to Berle in Nineteen Thirty-nine, warning him of Communist activities inside the State Department and the government.)

8 Berle afterwards told reporters the gist of what he told the sub-committee today. That Whittaker Chambers in Nineteen Thirty-nine told him far less than he has told the Committee. (Berle said that at that time Chambers seemed to be a very sincere man, but no action was taken because Chambers didn't want his name to appear in the matter. Berle also said that he checked the record of Alger Hiss, and it was good. Further, that Dean Acheson of the State Department, had known the Hiss family from childhood.) Also, in his opinion, the idea of

Hiss working for the overthrow of the government of the United States was ridiculous.

A newsman then asked the former Assistant Secretary of State whether President Roosevelt knew about the report made by Whittaker Chambers in Nineteen Thirty-nine. To which Berle replied, "The President always kept very close to Intelligence reports."



## TELEVISION

If there ever is another war, we'll all be able to watch it, by television -- actually see battles on the screen, at home. This grim prospect was pictured today by Rear Admiral Ralph Jennings, aboard the aircraft carrier ~~U.S.S.~~ LEYTE.

9  
The Admiral spoke after the Navy televised a mock naval battle. He says he's sure television will play a large part in any future war. That just as radar showed our fighting men where the target was in the last war, from now on television will show what the target is, show it to the Generals back at headquarters - and show it to all of us. War correspondents able to ~~xx~~ cover a war as some reporters covered the recent political conventions in Philadelphia. When it got too hot out at Convention Hall, some of them went to hotel rooms and bars and watched it on the television screen.

Once the problem of extending the television horizon is solved -- it's limited to about a hundred miles now -- sets will be carried on guided missiles or pilotless planes, and will somehow relay pictures back to

staff headquarters, thousands of miles away.

In the Navy's recent televising of a naval battle, mobile transmitters were carried in planes. The pilots transmitted to headquarters, actual pictures of the targets they were bombing. All of which led the Admiral to suggest that ~~in the future~~ we'll all be onlookers next time.

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## HURRICANE

About that hurricane. The word tonight is that it has increased in size and fury. ~~Winx~~ A hundred and forty miles wide -- with winds of a hundred and twenty-five miles an hour. Right now it was less than two hundred miles out in the Atlantic and travelling northwest. It's expected to come in over the North Carolina coast between Wilmington and Cape Hattaras around midnight.



## AIRPLANE FOLLOW HURRICANE

From Mountain City, Wisconsin, the tragic story of a tornado and the airplane. With a toll of thirty-six lives. Eye-witnesses who saw the big new airliner crash into Buffalo Ridge, on the side of the Mississippi, say the plane seemed to come to pieces in mid-air. That it was hit by a tornado almost at the moment the tornado was beginning to form. According to Buffalo County Sheriff Rhyner, it was a small tornado, a freak storm, but powerful enough to wreck an airplane and then go on to a nearby town, where it tore roofs from houses.

## MYSTERY FIRE

Remember those mystery fires at Charlie Wiley's farm in Macomb, Illinois? Wiley's house was burned down after those brown spots appeared on the walls. It all sounded uncanny until someone told about inflammable roach powder in wall paper.

But next the Wiley barns burned down. And the barns had no wall paper! State Fire Marshall John Burgard decided to look for a pyromaniac, a firebug. In a vacant farmhouse, where the Wileys moved after their home burned down, he put a trap; open match boxes left around the house. Sure enough fires began to break out in the new house -- in different places. All of which were quickly extinguished.

The evidence all pointed to Janet McNeill, Charlie Wiley's niece. Finally, Janet confessed. She says she started all the fires by sticking the matches in the walls, and then lighting them. Why? Ah, because she didn't like where she was living. Didn't like living on a farm.

## MYSTERY FIRE - 2

Chicago psychiatrists are now trying to find out what makes a thirteen-year-old girl turn firebug.



## MOTORIST

A seventy-four-year-old London cab driver told the Judge today that the police were persecuting him -- because this was the second time they had arrested him. When the Judge asked him when previously the Bobbies had ever objected to his driving, he replied: "Your Honor, they did this to me in Eighteen Ninety-two." And then it was <sup>in</sup> a car he had made himself -- one with three wheels and one cylinder."

Said the Judge: "What was the charge that time, fifty-six years ago?"

To which the cabbie replied: "Driving without due care. Because I didn't have a man walking in front of me with a red flag." How fast was he going? Six miles an hour.

*And for 11 - Case here's  
Jay Sims.*