

SUB PRISON RIOT L.S. - T. & G. Monday, April 21, 1952.  
(Las Vegas.)

Some of the most fantastic terrifying scenes in the history of crime were witnessed at the Michigan State Prison today. A building, Cell Block Fifteen, held by more than a hundred convicts, of the desperate kind called incorrigible. Armed with knives, cleavers, and other weapons taken from the penitentiary kitchen. Holding out against prison guards and the State police -- armed with machine guns and the latest weapons. But the "desperate incorrigibles" of Cell Block Fifteen hold eleven hostages, eleven guards that they captured in a mad prison outbreak today. They threatened to kill those eleven hostages, unless the prison authorities come to terms with them.

Such is the situation tonight, after a day of fighting in the penitentiary <sup>that is</sup> -- described as the largest in the world. Trouble broke out this morning and at one time the revolting convicts held half of the prison. Reinforcements had to be called, the State troopers, <sup>who</sup> ~~and they~~ were assailed by the mutineers with such frantic violence ~~that~~ they had to

open fire -- one convict killed, and seven wounded. The State Police advancing with ~~several~~ sub-machine guns drove the rebels back from the administration building which they were trying to storm for an escape.

So the riot was put down, except for the one all-important fact -- that the hundred mutineers retreated to Cell Block Fifteen - with hostages, ~~six~~<sup>the</sup> eleven captured guards. Tonight's news dispatch states that they are ~~in~~<sup>under the</sup> command of one particular prisoner who describes himself as a psychopath, Earl Eugene Ward, twenty-seven years old,<sup>of</sup> whom the prison authorities say; "He is an extremely dangerous ~~an~~ in-mate. But we have to depend upon him to negotiate, because the ~~many~~ convicts have made him their spokesman."

So they have been negotiating. Ward -- talking to the prison authorities from a barred window of Cell Block Fifteen. He has also been talking to news reporters, chatting with them. Telling them, in fact, the story of his life. He had no

home, with his parents. When he was twelve he was adopted by people in Philadelphia, <sup>and</sup> says he was always "in trouble"; ~~He~~ served five years in a boys industrial school. <sup>He</sup> ~~and~~ told reporters this afternoon that for one year he was in solitary confinement. He attacked a guard and was sent to a mental hospital -- where he ~~met~~ met a nurse <sup>who</sup> ~~and~~ married him on his release. They had a child and he left her. He went to Miami where he posed as a doctor, using ~~and~~ forged medical papers. <sup>R</sup> He says he became a consulting physician in a Miami hospital. In Miami he married the daughter of a patient he was "treating" for cancer -- a bigamist marriage. He moved on, and posed as a doctor in Buffalo, New York -- where he sold narcotics. He went on to Michigan, where he was convicted of robbery and sent to prison. His prison term was made more severe, when he was one of two convicts who tried to attack Governor Mennen Williams with knives -- when the Governor was visiting the prison.

Such is the story told to the news reportess by the boss of the mutineers in Cell Block Fifteen -- as the parley went on for the lives of the hostages.

Tonight, the grim terrifying story hangs in suspense -- with prison authorities declaring that eleven lives hang on negotiations with Earl Ward, the convict whom they describe as "completely unstalbe." But this leader of the mutineers declares that he and the convicts under his command have saved those eleven guards, from murder at the hands of other convicts. He displays bruises he says he received at the hands of the ones who wanted to kill the hostages.

Tomorrow's news will give us the finale to this weird story.

## FLOODS

The news from the Middle West continues to be -- water. <sup>In</sup> More ways than one. ~~now~~ <sup>Water</sup> ~~Missouri~~ from the sky adds to the menace of the river. Today the crest of the Missouri ~~River~~ flood was at the city of St. Joseph -- where no great damage was done. Most of St. Joseph being -- on high ground. But, further down stream, it looks like an immense disaster for innumerable farms. The rain simply builds up the flood pouring down the river -- and it is only the strongest of dykes and levees that can resist the ~~the~~ stupendous pressure of the water. Today, the Governor of Missouri says he will request the White House to declare the flooded sections of the state -- a disaster area.

Kansas City, where the Missouri flows into the Mississippi, is not worried, we hear. Kansas City has been hard hit by <sup>the deluge</sup> ~~floods~~ in the past, but has had a lot of development in flood control, and the reinforced levees are expected to hold anything the river throws at them.

STEEL

This afternoon the Senate voted a proviso to keep the government from using funds ~~ix~~ to operate the steel industry. The Senate has before it an appropriations bill -- which, actually, puts up money for other purposes entirely. But the Republicans pressed an amendment forbidding the President to use any of these funds for government operation of the steel mills. Which was a direct blow to President Truman -- who, earlier in the day, gave an angry warning against any such measure, <sup>— the measure</sup> ~~which~~.

<sup>that</sup> actually means a Senate vote of disapproval ~~ix~~ of the ~~ix~~ government action <sup>ure or</sup> ~~ix~~ to seize ~~ix~~ steel.

In England -- Sir Stafford Cripps has died; ~~A bulletin just in tells of the passing of~~ the former Chancellor of the Exchequer who played so large a part in the victories of Labor Party Socialism. Sir Stafford Cripps was Mr. Austerity himself, a highly gifted theoretician -- who now succumbs to long illness.

LEAD ATOMIC

The Atomic Energy Commission announces that the bomb to be detonated ~~xxxxx~~ tomorrow will be more powerful than the Hiroshima bomb. More powerful, also, than the ones exploded at Bikini. Only at Eniwetok have there been greater atomic blasts. ~~He~~ ~~stated~~ <sup>So</sup> Chairman Gordon Dean, ~~is~~ of the Atomic Energy Commission, <sup>told us today. He also said</sup> ~~who added~~ that tomorrow's missile will be the most devastating that could be ~~is~~ exploded on this continent -- without endangering cities or other human habitations.

document issued by the Atomic Energy Commission  
proclamation was drawn up by the Atomic Energy Commission  
Callaghan was considering the possibility of a new  
was "Mokusatsu" which is Japanese for "we will  
into English.  
Mokusatsu means something like "we will  
subject while deliberating."  
News Agency translated it as "we will  
"ignore". So the Allies were misled  
mistakenly, that the Japanese government was



## JAPANESE SURRENDER

By a turn of coincidence, a book was published today -- which tells <sup>a</sup> ~~the~~ story of how the atomic bombing of Japan occurred because of a mistake, a mis-translated word. <sup>r</sup> William J. Coughlin, formerly of the United Press, writes a journalistic history of Japan under General MacArthur, how the Supreme Commander handled the Japanese press, <sup>and quotes</sup> ~~the~~ Coughlin tells of a story he got from a top ranking Japanese journalist, <sup>as declaring</sup> ~~who said~~ that, before the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan was ready to surrender. ~~They were~~ willing to accept the surrender demand issued by the Potsdam Conference. ~~the~~ <sup>a</sup> proclamation was drawn up, stating that the Tokyo Cabinet was considering the ultimatum. The word used was "Mokusatsu". Which is difficult to translate into English. Mokusatsu means something like "being silent on a subject while deliberating." ~~But~~ But the Domei News Agency translated ~~it~~ with the English word "ignore". So the Allies were thus informed, mistakenly, that the Japanese government was ignoring

the Potsdam surrender demand. <sup>That was answered</sup> ~~by the U.S. went ahead~~  
~~and dropped~~ <sup>by</sup> the atomic bomb.

According to the story, the atomic era began -- because of a mistranslated word. Right now means -- the desert in black. Driving to Las Vegas, and back and forth from the city to the atomic testing grounds, you see a wonder that few see -- for its only here briefly, once a year. The desert ordinarily so desolate, is now one vast expanse of green, sprinkled with wild flowers. Even the forbidding mountains around us have a tone of green. Of course there is the saguaro cactus, eternal symbol of desolation. But even the cactus blooms. And right now is the time. Brilliant red and yellow flowers. The Sage-brush, too, shows some so dusty dry the rest of the year, is green now. The desert in black is just about the most fugitive beauty that Nature provides - the evanescent green of Spring in the desert.

## ATOMIC

The big atomic show here on the Nevada desert, is a study in contrasts -- ~~with somewhere near~~ <sup>almost</sup> the ultimate in things that are different. First of course, there is Nature, this western desert; - which right now means -- the desert in bloom. Driving to Las Vegas, and back and forth from the city to the atomic testing grounds, you see a wonder that few see -- for its only here briefly, once a year. The desert ordinarily so desolate, ~~is~~ now one vast expanse of green, sprinkled with wild flowers. Even the forbidding mountains around us have a tone of green. Of course there is the ~~xxx~~ cactus, eternal symbol of desolation. But ~~even~~ the cactus blooms! And right now is the time. Brilliant red and yellow flowers. <sup>Even</sup> The Sage-brush, ~~too which looks~~ so dusty dry the rest of the year, *is green now.*

The desert in bloom is just about the most fugitive beauty that Nature provides - the evanescent green of Spring in the desert.

And that's the setting for tomorrow's atomic explosion -- which is to have such elaborate news coverage. The desert in bloom; - and, the miles and miles of bombing range dotted with installations of ultra-modern science and communications. Nature at her best! Man at his -- well, at his most ~~xxx~~ sinister, → if you think of the burst of an atom bomb only in the military sense. All around us the paraphernalia of the military, tanks, cannon, planes, camps of soldiers. All set for atomic war games, including the first <sup>the explosion of an atom-bomb.</sup> paratroop drop following ~~the blast~~. The eternal destructiveness of the human race, <sup>with</sup> ~~this~~ <sup>^</sup> ~~^~~ like the latest page in the long history of conflict -- war <sup>and</sup> ~~defense~~ in the atomic age. And then -- Las Vegas. Odd that <sup>a</sup> center of gambling should now be the capital city for affairs atomic.

Las Vegas advertises itself as the world's largest gambling center, and looks it -- flaming in the night with ~~signs~~ dazzling lures in the eternal

pursuit of the sucker and his money. Right now, the resorts in all their resp<sup>le</sup>ndence are ~~xx~~ swarming with newsmen, reporters, editors, camera crews.

~~But~~ <sup>Here</sup> at one end of a broad avenue of gambling resorts, you ~~now~~ see a military set-up with all the look of electronics. Tall masts with complicated aerials - and a line of twelve army vehicles, radio units of the Signal Corps. Each - equipped with radio teletype machines. These -- for news transmission.

At the scene of the atomic maneuver, reporters will file their copy at similar units of radio teletype; - the Signal Corps, for tomorrow's event, operating as a sort of ultra-modern news service. The stories filed by the ~~xxxx~~ reporters will be received on the teletype machines in this line of Signal Corps trucks on the edge of Las Vegas -- then <sup>quickly</sup> ~~instantly~~ transferred to the regular news wires. <sup>TP</sup> Colonel Robert Heald, in charge of this Signal Corps news operation, tells me ~~his outfit has come up from the war games in Texas -- a convoy of trucks rolling for a thousand miles to do~~

~~the atomic news job here. Ordinarily, he said, his radio teletype units are used for communications between military divisions and headquarters -- as in Korea. He said this very outfit having played a part in the famous Inchon landing that broke the North Korean Reds. They were in on the drive all the way to the Yalu, and then in the retreat when MacArthur pulled back.~~

Colonel Heald told me <sup>at</sup> the retreat was nothing like the wild scramble we thought it was. Also they were in the retreat from the Chosen Reservoir, when the Marines made their memorable <sup>outward</sup> drive, out. One of the trucks was hit by shell fire - those teletype machines knocked into scrap metal. All of which is background for the job scheduled for tomorrow. <sup>R</sup> Top flight editors are here. One, Hugh Baillie, President of the United Press, doing a stint as a reporter for this biggest mainland atomic show. He tells me this is the <sup>most elaborate</sup> biggest peace-time news operation ever, <sup>in</sup> collaboration with U.S. Armed <sup>Forces</sup>

forces.

Tonight, the big question is: The weather. What will it be like tomorrow? ~~Or~~ will there be winds that <sup>would</sup> ~~might~~ carry the radiation over a wide area? The forecast is for clear skies, which will be needed. If the weather is not right, then as a matter of precaution the dropping of the bomb, and the dropping of the paratroopers, and all the press, radio and TV observing will have to be postponed. Tomorrow morning, those of us who are here -- we will be called at dawn. Then we will know. Now Nelson -

At San Antonio, Texas, the Air Force has  
Meanwhile, the news from the Mississippi  
dropped some martial charges against two reserve  
is better -- the flood crest levelling out. LaCrosse,  
officers who refused to fly. They are described as  
Wisconsin was threatened, but today the danger grew  
less, as the flood level dropped a bit -- the crest  
flattening out.

However, Air Force Commander General Hoyt  
Vandenberg warns that the dismissal of charges against  
the two does not mean that the Air Force is "getting  
soft" in handling cases of disobedience to orders.



# FLIERS

At San Antonio, Texas, the Air Force has dropped court martial charges against two <sup>of the</sup> reserve officers who refused to fly. They are described as being in such nervous condition that they were unable to ~~be~~ performing regular assignments.

However, Air Force Commander General Hoyt Vandenberg warns that the dismissal of charges against the two does not mean that the Air Force is "getting soft" in handling cases of disobedience to orders.

Captain Joseph Love of San Bernardino, California shot down two MIG's, his fourth and fifth -- making his 11th jet ace. You are an ace when you have shot down five enemy jets.

## KOREA PLANES

( In Korea, air battles were resumed in high style today -- American Saber Jets downing seven red planes.) Six of these were the usual MIG's. One was "Type-Fifteen," the new type of Russian built jet which the Reds are using more and more in Korea. There were three clashes in the sky. The second -- the big one. Twenty-eight saber jets in a tangle with fifty MIG's and "Type-Fifteen". In this one, Captain Joseph Love of San Bernadino, California shot down two MIG's, his fourth and fifth -- making him our eleventh jet ace. You are an ace when you have shot down five enemy jets.

## PRISON RIOT

( A prison riot in Michigan began to look like a pitched battle today -- when two thousand revolting convicts surged forward, trying to storm the ~~xxx~~ main administration building of the penitentiary.) The prison, at Jackson, Michigan, is the largest in the world, and today's outbreak rates as one of the worst on record. It began early in the day, when three desperados led a sudden uprising, seized four guards, and held them as hostages. Then, ran storming through corridors and gained control of several buildings. One -- a disciplinary building where dangerous mental cases were kept. These were set free. ~~--- together with other convicts in one cell block after another.~~ The rioters captured the kitchen, and the<sup>re</sup> armed themselves with knives, cleavers, and other weapons. Apparently they were not able to get any fire arms, but threatened -- that, if they were fired on by the guards, they'd reply by throwing out the body of a

hostage. <sup>R</sup> The prison is an assemblage of buildings, half of which were soon in the hands of the rioters -- who destroyed everything they could lay hands on and <sup>also</sup> set fires. ~~They~~ ~~the layout was such that the~~

<sup>The</sup> best line of escape -- was through the big Administration Building. So this was their objective. The <sup>defenders</sup> ~~guards~~ ~~at that point~~ were tricked by the fact that the convicts had been able to get hold of uniforms of prison guards. These they put on. So, at first, assailants were mistaken for guards, which <sup>saved</sup> ~~saved~~ them from a quick barrage of tear-gas bombs, ~~and~~ the guards ~~holding the Administration Building~~ were finally compelled to fire. A fusillade rang out -- but they were shooting over the heads of the rioters.

Nevertheless the gunfire deterred them, and the attack on the Administration Building failed. (In the turmoil, ~~however~~, six other guards were seized -- held as hostages.)

Meanwhile, <sup>a call had been</sup> ~~the hard pressed guards had~~

sent out ~~a~~ <sup>all the</sup> ~~only~~ for reinforcements, and ~~the entire~~ state <sup>police in</sup> ~~force~~ <sup>were</sup> of Michigan ~~was~~ converging on the scene.

R They say the outbreak was not so much an attempt to escape as a disturbance of protest -- incited by news of the prison riots in New Jersey. Where, by the way, convict rebels were still holding out at the Rahway prison farm today. ~~Eight guards are~~ hostages in a dormitory -- in a revolt that broke out last Thursday. Today, there was a report that prison guards have received threats by telephone. Rioting criminality seems to be contagious. Anyway, the New Jersey prison troubles are said to have incited the huge outbreak in Michigan today.

# ADD PRISON RIOT

The latest -- the mass of the mutineers, driven back, forced into cell blocks. But not until one convict was killed, seven others wounded. This, in a burst of gunfire when ~~XXXXX~~ enraged rioters assailed state troopers, one of whom was clubbed with a baseball bat. The troopers opened fire, in earnest, and the mutineers ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ retreated. At ~~XXXX~~ <sup>last</sup> reports, more than <sup>one</sup> ~~2~~ hundred, ~~XXXXXX~~, many of them dangerous mental ~~XXXXX~~ cases, were barricaded in cell blocks, ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ ~~XXXXXX~~ and there were holding eleven guards as hostages. The besieged convicts making -- desperate threats.

Former Governor of Florida and present  
Civil Defense Director said to me: "If that  
had been over New York City it could  
have caused five hundred thousand casualties.  
I and my fellow Civil Defense workers  
are working to educate the American people  
so that hundreds of thousands of  
lives will be saved, and the price will be