

LEAD

P.J. - P. & G.

Tuesday, August 3, 1948

Good Evening everybody! -- From Chicago tonight. I've dropped off here on my way back from a few days in a primeval forest -- among those towering Redwoods of California, the oldest living things on this planet -- trees that were old when Leif the Lucky discovered America. Bohemian Grove, on the Russian River, is a real place for a rest -- or at any rate a change -- and to get a new perspective on life, and on the day's news too.

Before I talk about the news -- a salute to my all-wise friend John Kieran -- the man who has all the information on nearly everything. I hear he did a grand job in my absence. Thanks John -- and may you live to be half as old as the Redwoods of California!

Now something about what has been going on in my absence -- in these days of one crisis after another.

CONGRESS

Tonight brings us an official statement of what Congress is going to do about an anti-inflation bill. Representative leaders issue a statement that an act will be passed clamping controls on credit -- installment buying and bank loans. All the rest of the program presented by President Truman will be ignored -- including laws to restore rationing, price-fixing and wage restrictions.

TRUMAN FOLLOW BERLIN

President Truman's conferences on the international crisis were held this afternoon -- after the President had luncheon at the White House. The story of what went before is a tribute alike to the Truman habit of early rising and to the speed of modern airplane travel.

The presidential morning began at Independence, Missouri, where Harry Truman, as a Missouri voter, cast his ballot. It was primary election day, with forty eight Democrats running for nomination to eighteen offices -- not counting the Republicans. In the President's own congressional district, the Fourth, five Democrats were in a free-for-all for the congressional nomination, while four Republicans battled it out on their side.

Harry Truman was the fifth voter to cast a ballot at Independence, arriving at the polls at Six Thirty-Two A.M. There a ceremony was enacted, a standard bit of ritual at Independence, the local version of the kind of comedy that usually attends a President casting

a vote.

Mrs. Emma Flowers, a Republican election official, looked up at Neighbor Harry Truman, and asked: "I wonder which ballot you want, Democrat or Republican?"

The President laughed and said: "I wonder!"

Later on Mrs. Flowers explained: "That's what we always ask him and that's what he always replies." And then she did what they always do -- handing the voter from the White House a Democratic ballot, which today was too feet long. I hope the President marked it right -- with all those complications of forty-eight Democrats seeking nomination for eighteen offices.

ESPIONAGE

The Red spy disclosures rose to new sensation today. The star witness appearing before the committee on un-American activities, was Whittaker Chambers, who is now a senior editor of Time and Life, one of the most important magazine publishing firms in this country.

(Whittaker Chambers, a former Communist member of the Red underground, told the committee how in Nineteen Thirty-Nine he sought to warn the White House, the late President Franklin D. Roosevelt, of the way Communist conspirators were infiltrating into the government - Reds holding high federal offices.) Chambers, himself, already having turned against Communism, his experiences with Reds having convinced him that the Soviets represented a dark menace to human freedom

He told today how, in his attempt to inform President Roosevelt, he got word from White House Secretary Marvin McIntyre - word through a third party.

The Presidential secretary, through this intermediary, advised him to tell his story to Adolph Berle, who was then Assistant Secretary of State. So

Chambers had a talk with Berle, and gave him the data about Reds high in the government -- including the State Department.

(What happened? Nothing.) Chambers today stated that he did regard Adolph Berle as an anti-Communist and a very intelligent man -- but that the disclosures made to Berle produced no results. The Reds whom he named merely stayed on. Such was the negative effect of the disclosure arranged by that Third Party.

But who was the third party? That is the interesting question. He was Issaac Don Levine, veteran journalist and now editor of the magazine "Plain Talk."

Today, when the story broke, Isaac Don Levine telephoned me and reminded me of some interesting things. He recalled the fact that in the days shortly before the war, we had had on this program a General Krivitsky, one-time chief of Soviet intelligence in western Europe, who had turned against Communism, and who had written an expose in a sensational book. He was later found shot to death under mysterious circumstances, Isaac

Don Levine had collaborated in the writing of the Krivitsky's book, and it was he who brought the Soviet ex-spy chief to me -- for appearance on this program.

All this is now to be the next line of congressional inquiry -- why was it that nothing happened, after Chambers disclosed to the Assistant Secretary of State the fact of Reds in high government office? The committee is going to call Adolph Berle to testify.

(Whittaker Chambers today named a new series of names of communists who were high in the government, ^{including} - Alger Hiss, a high ranking official of the State Department, who helped in the founding of the United Nations, who accompanied President Franklin D. Roosevelt to the Yalta Conference, and who is now head of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.) Also Donald Hiss, a brother of Alger -- he too held an important post in the State Department and Nathan Witt, executive Secretary of the National Labor Relations Board during the New Deal, whom Chambers called the first big time leader in the Communist Underground Operations in the

federal government.

Chambers likewise confirmed charges made by Elizabeth Bentley, who has told how she, as an agent of Red espionage, procured secret information from government departments. Elizabeth Bentley has named former Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Harry D. White and today Chambers declared that White was one of the group of government Communists.

All these persons named offer vigorous denials and are likely to testify before the committee.

Tomorrow the first witness will be Nathan Gregory Silvermaster, formerly of the Department of Commerce. Russian born, he is described by Elizabeth Bentley as having been a member of the Soviet secret police. Next will come Victor Perlo, formerly of the Treasury Department, and Air Forces -- also accused of Soviet espionage.

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A new possible dispute between Congress and the White House may develop out of the case of William W. Remington, the Commerce Department official named by

Elizabeth Bentley. Today the committee demanded the employment recorder of Remington, but was told that permission would have to be gotten from the White House. Hitherto, President Truman has refused to give Congress loyalty files, and now that question comes once again. Remington was given a confidential post, after he had already been accused of Communist espionage.

OLYMPICS

In London today the U.S. scored five notable victories in the Olympic games. Our athletes winning five of the seven gold medals awarded on this, the fourth day of the games. which brings our total of "golds" to fourteen.

The American four-man team set up a new world record for the eight-hundred meter relay swim - eight minutes and forty-six seconds. Another Olympic record went to Wilbur Thompson of the University of Southern California, Wilbur putting the shot fifty four feet, two inches. Sprinter Mel Patton claimed the two hundred meter dash, as we expected. Then, Vicki Draves of San Francisco won the women's spring board diving championship. The fifth gold medal of the day was claimed by Arthur E. Cook of Washington, D. C. -- for small bore rifle shooting.

The U.S. basketball team had a narrow squeak in their preliminary match with Argentina. After being well behind, however, they managed to win by fifty-nine to fifty-seven. The match was a minor tragedy for Bob

Kurland, the team's crack scorer. Bob is seven feet tall. Coach Omar sensed that his tremendous height was making our team unpopular with the other competitors. So he kept Bob on the sideline, a gesture of sportsmanship -- or shall we call it tact.

CRISIS

From Moscow the word is that a new development is expected within the next twenty-four to thirty-six hours. The Moscow dispatch attributes this to be well informed Soviet sources -- after last night's conference that the Western ambassadors had with Stalin.

It is believed this next step will be another round table talk, with the envoys of the United States, Great Britain and France negotiating again with Stalin, or perhaps Molotov -- or both.

This word from Moscow is all we have; because in Washington, London and Paris, there's a complete blank - secrecy. We hear that our government, seeking to keep everything concealed, made some pointed remarks to the British government -- reminding the British how secrets have a way of leaking out in London. But they were not leaking out today, secrecy preserved in London as -- elsewhere.

So we don't know what transpired last night between the western envoys and Stalin. There is no indication of what was said, what proposals were made,

what was agreed upon -- if anything, we hear only that there are signs of a guarded optimism.

One sign, exceedingly indirect, is noted in a message from the Red government of Poland, which makes a protest to Great Britain on the subject of the regime set up in Germany by the Western Allies. The note from Warsaw states the following: The Polish Government believes that the concerted action of the four great powers is the guarantee of peace.* Which might be taken as a hint.

Beyond this intimation we can only say that there is intense diplomatic activity in the four capitals involved, Washington, London, Paris and Moscow. Today filled with big-time conferences at top levels -- President Truman and his advisers, for example, engaged in the study of official reports of what passed between the western ambassadors and Stalin last night.

STYLES

This, as we all know, is an era of change. Einstein revolutionizing mathematics, atomic theories, transforming the science of physics, and -- alterations even taking place in what the poets used to call - the form divine. I'm not much an expert on that kind of divinity. It takes a Frenchman to be inspired on the subject of those curves and contours. So let's go over to Paris, and see what the news there has to say.

Its about -- hips -- which ladies are known to have. The dispatch from Paris notes, that of recent times, the styles have been such that hips seemed about to disappear. But now all that has changed. The new look brought hips back into fashion, and the ultra new look is making them bigger and better. That is the lesson to be learned from the new fashions now being placed on exhibition in Paris. From the way the dispatch reads, you might say -- hip, as in hippopotamus.

However, as I remarked, the proper one to expatiate on these delicate matters is a

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Frenchman. So let us to appeal to one of the principal Parisian dress designers, Marcel Rochas. Kate Masee, Chicago's number one authority on things Parisian tells me that's pronounced Ro Kah. Say Marcel -- "women used to be ashamed of hips, but al! I drape and glorify their natural shape." And that Madame, ah, that is something -- glorifying the hips.

To which I can only say -- Hip Hip Hurray.

And now Nelson, pray, what do you say?