

HUNGARY

P.T. - P. & G. Friday, Sept. 16, 1949.

GOOD EVENING. EVERYBODY!

(Given by Clifton Fadiman.)

Red Hungary had its big confession today - as the trial of Laszlo Rajk began. Until a few months ago, Rajk was the Number Two Communist of Hungary, the Foreign Minister in the government of the Soviet puppet. Now he's on trial for his life, charged with what has become the darkest crime behind the Iron Curtain, the charge of Titoism.

His confession today is described as the most elaborate since the great purge trials in Moscow, when Stalin wiped out his enemies. For five hours today, the one-time Number Two Hungarian Communist poured out a flood of self-accusation.

Laszlo Rajk said that years ago, when he began his political career, he had been in association with Trotskyites in France.

This dark past, he said, was used against him when, after the Second World War, he rose high in the

Hungarian Communist regime. He declared that American agents knew his secret, and threatened to expose his former career as a Trotskyite plotting against Stalin. In that fashion, his aid was enlisted, and he conspired with emissaries of Red Marshal Tito. Also, with what he called "the American spy organization," and with - the American Minister to Hungary, Selden Chapin. The plot, he said, was aided by Cardinal Mindszenty, the primate of Hungary, who has been sentenced to life imprisonment by the Reds.

The former Communist Foreign Minister further stated that he had orders from the Tito people to kill the heads of the Hungarian party - headed by the Red Premier Rakosi. He quoted Tito's Foreign Minister as saying - "These men were dangerous in Tito's eyes, and they must be liquidated at all costs."

In Washington, there is a prompt reply from former American Minister Selden Chapin, named so prominently in

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the confession. He denies that he ever plotted with Laszlo Rajk. He speaks of Soviet methods of forcing confessions, and adds that the real crime of the former Number Two Communist of Hungary was to hold out for the interests of his own country and oppose complete Soviet domination.

## POLISH REFUGEES

The Government of Sweden has an international puzzle on its hands tonight -- in the case of five Polish refugees who, riding in an airliner, forced the pilot to leave Poland and land in Sweden.

The plane, with a crowd of passengers aboard, took off from the Baltic port of Gdynia -- bound for Lodz -- in central Poland. Soon after the take-off five of the passengers arose -- pistols in hand. One of them covered the other passengers, threatening to shoot anyone who might object. Four of them went forward, and held up the crew at pistol point -- ordering the pilot to change course, fly across the Baltic Sea, and land in Sweden. With the gun at his head, the pilot obeyed, heading for an airport near Stockholm. There the five refugees asked the Swedish authorities to grant them political asylum -- which left the Swedes in a quandary.

Today a Swedish spokesman said: "The Polish government may ask us to order the refugees to leave Sweden, so they can prosecute them. It certainly is a delicate question -- a complicated case."

## AMERICA

Here's news, folks, that'll astonish you -- news about your own country. It is a discovery made by Soviet journalist Ilya Ehrenbourg, when he was visiting us. Writing for the journal of the Cominform, official publication of the Red International, Ehrenbourg gives the lowdown on an American institution called the Jealousy office. Ever hear of the Jealousy office? Neither did I, but here's what it is. If a man wants to make a woman jealous, he goes (quote) to a Jealousy office, which for fifty dollars, can provide him with a pretty woman (unquote). He hires her to play the part of a rival and thereby arouses the jealousy of the lady whose feelings are to be affected. The Soviet journalist -- who began as a fiction writer -- says that this is an illustration of the fact that all American life is mechanized -- even the tender emotions. So there you are, folks, better check up on the Jealousy office in your town.

## AIR FORCE ECONOMY

In the Air Force a lot of "desk pilots" are going to do their flying in a swivel chair. Not so many planes are available for Air Force officers with desk jobs, who take plane rides to put in flying time. You know, they get extra flying pay for doing at least a hundred hours in the air per year.

The economy drive is on in the armed services, in an effort to save a total of one billion dollars a year. One way of doing this is to make Air Force officers get along with fewer planes at their ~~own~~ disposal. They do a lot of flying on official assignments, and this is to <sup>be</sup> reduced -- with special attention, as I say, given to the use of planes by the "desk pilots."

More wear and tear on their pants, of course, but a little saving for Mr. Taxpayer.

## SENATE

The Senate has rejected a White House nomination.

Today the Upper House turned down President Truman's appointment of Carl Ilgenfritz, as head of the Munitions Board. The reason ~~a question that~~ has to do with the much discussed matter of highly paid industrial executives and the difficulty of getting them into government service. The Senate voted down the nomination of Ilgenfritz, because he refused to give up his private salary, while on the government job.

He's a Vice-President of U.S. Steel, and gets seventy thousand dollars a year. The post of head of the Munitions Board pays fourteen thousand a year. Ilgenfritz explained that, if he dropped off the payroll of the Steel Company, he would not only take a heavy loss in income, but <sup>also</sup> would forfeit his pension rights - which are based on continuous employment. He offered to give up the fourteen thousand a year, and work for the government for nothing, and on this basis the President nominated him. But the Senate felt that it would be setting a dangerous precedent to confirm a high government

official - who, while holding office, would still be the employee of a private business concern. The Senators expressed the highest regard for the abilities of Ilgenfritz, and said they -"hated to do it," -- but they voted him down, forty to twenty-eight.



## LABOR

It looks like a big meeting, Monday, to make peace in the world of steel. Federal Mediator Cyrus Ching issued a call today, asking the companies and the Union to gather for negotiations in their dispute.

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In the coal dispute, John L Lewis today announced that payments from the Welfare Fund were being discontinued. That is, miners who've been drawing pensions and other benefits will get no more of these -- for the time being, at least. The payments have been running around ten million dollars a month, and the Welfare Fund now contains only fourteen million dollars.

Company spokesmen have been saying that the fund is bankrupt, while Lewis points out that the income has been cut sharply, because some of the companies have stopped paying their contributions. That's the argument.

The suspension of benefit payments to miners is likely to put the coal diggers in the mood to strike - although Lewis has not openly threatened a walkout.

Actually, the miners have <sup>2</sup>not been working for a couple of days. They've been on a three-day week, ending Wednesday, and it's a question whether they <sup>1</sup>will go back to

the coal pits on Monday. They might just stay out - and, in fact, some of the mines report that the men have announced that they're on strike.

## ADD LABOR

The suspension of benefit payments was voted today at a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Welfare Fund. Trustees are John L. Lewis himself, representing the Union, Ezra Van Horne, spokesman for the Mine Owners, Senator Styles Bridges, of New Hampshire, representing the public. They took a vote on the question of their own salaries. Each trustee gets thirty-five thousand dollars a year. What was the verdict? Well, the decision is that the salaries of Ezra Van Horne and Senator Bridges shall be stopped. They voted to forego their own pay. The word is that John L. Lewis never has accepted the salary to which he was entitled as a trustee of the Welfare Fund.

WINNER

At Enid, Oklahoma, Jim Tatum was at a horse race.

Not surprising, since Jim had a thoroughbred ~~runner~~<sup>runner</sup> in the race.

He was sitting with a friend, while the crowd let out its usual roar at the finish. The friend looked at Jim Tatum in surprise, and shouted: "Wake up, Jim, your horse won!" And gave him a shake.

When the doctor arrived, he said - "Heart failure."

The name of Jim's horse was - "Done Gone." He won the race, but Jim Tatum was - Done Gone.

## LIE

Looking over the news wire today, I reflected that running this program is kind of a cinch. The idea is to broadcast the facts, and that's so easy, it's hardly worth doing - according to Otis Hulett of Burlington, Wisconsin. He says telling the truth is a measly thing, which takes no skill whatever. Brother Hulett's the President of the Burlington Liars Club, a celebrated organization of prevaricators.

Today he described how difficult it is to tell a good lie, a real big whopper. "Everybody," says he, "spends half his life trying to get away from the truth - but most people never succeed. Their attempts to tell lies are so clumsy that they'd be better off telling the truth."

The Burlington Club, by the way, was founded, quite properly, on a lie. Otis Hulett is a newspaperman, and back in Nineteen Twenty-nine he and another reporter were hard up for a story. So they faked one. They sent their papers a phoney yarn, telling how a local ship

captain, who sailed the Great Lakes, had been named the champion liar of Burlington. The next year they were asked to file a story about a new champion - and that started the association of tall story tellers, which today has an international membership of a hundred thousand. They are now getting ready for their next whopper competition, and hope it will produce a few masterpieces of mendacity.

Like the one about the Georgian who reported that it was so warm one day down in Savannah that his shadow was overcome by the heat. Whereupon a gentleman from Kansas retorted by pointing out that his native state is so tough that the tornados write ahead for permission to enter Kansas.

Yes, it's a cinch to be here at the microphone, stating the facts, telling the truth - like that news dispatch we had the other night about the mysterious stranger who cured a case of long-distance hiccups by lighting two black candles and draping a wet noodle over the head of the patient. This obviously truthful story



attracted the attention of Mrs. Clifford Meredith of Shinnston, West Virginia, who seems, for some strange reason, to be a trifle skeptical about that noodle cure. She wires: "I have a better remedy for hiccups than the one you gave. Mix a tablespoon of granulated sugar and juice of half a lemon, and eat it, and it will cure them immediately."

Sounds a lot simpler than black candles and wet noodles. Don't you - Hic - think so, Nelson?

As Lowell Thomas says, So Long Until Monday!

CHARLES COLLINGWOOD substituted, from Washington,  
on the following dates, preparing his own scripts:-

MONDAY, September 19, 1949

TUESDAY, September 20, 1949

WEDNESDAY, Sept. 21, 1949

THURSDAY, Sept. 22, 1949