

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Residents of Texas City have had another scare -- another threat of explosion, with a Coast Guard cutter the hero of it all. The Coast Guard boat, braving the threat of another blast, ran alongside a warehouse containing a thousand tons of ammonium nitrate -- the same that caused the first great explosion.

This afternoon, from that evacuated waterfront section of Texas City, came the tell tale warning -- orange-brown smoke pouring from the warehouse.

Word was broadcast to evacuate and isolate the area threatened. But the Coast Guard boat moved in anyway -- and sent columns of water over the ammonium nitrate, and put out the fire.

MERGER

Today produced the first opposition voiced by a high military officer against the Army-Navy-unification plan. General A. A. Vandegrift, Commander of the Marine Corps, before a Congressional Committee, spoke in criticism. His objections are based on the contention that the Marines might be reduced to what he called - "Military impotence".

The General intimated that the unification plan does not provide one necessary thing, a clear cut pattern of the function of the Marine Corps in the new set-up. He outlined the duties the Marines regularly ~~perform~~ perform -- all the way from guarding Naval stations to the development of amphibious warfare.

And he declared that, in any kind of unification plan, Congress should legislate specifically on the subject of the Leathernecks and state the position and function of the Marine Corps.

WALLACE

Henry Wallace, in Paris tonight again charged that "strong forces are attempting to divide the world and weaken the United States." This in a question-and-answer interview, translated into French.

Political observers in Paris noted a coolness on the part of French conservatives who made it clear that they want nothing to do with Henry during his four-day stay.

When he landed today, his reception committee was composed almost entirely of Communist leaders who are reported to hold the hope that Wallace will lead a counter-attack against the political resurgence of General de Gaulle. In a recent speech in London, Wallace having linked DeGaulle with the rise of what he termed "reactionary elements in American foreign policy".

COMMUNISTS

There was almost unanimous action in Congress today against two top ranking American Communists. In the House of Representatives they were cited for contempt of Congress - Eugene Dennis, General Secretary of the American Communist Party. And Leon Josephson, alleged to be a key figure of an international ring dealing in phoney passports. Both refused to answer questions asked by a Congressional Committee - and today were cited for contempt.

The vote was unanimous against Communist General-Secretary Eugene Dennis. The only legislator to vote "no" being Marcantonio of New York. In the citation against Josephson, accused of Red passport frauds, there were two dissenting votes -- Marcantonio all over again, and Democratic Congressman Adam Powell of New York.

~~Meanwhile, still another big-shot Communist was answering charges in a Washington court. Gerhart Eisler, whom a Congressional Committee described as "The Commissar of Communism in the United States." He~~

FOREIGN POLICY

The bill to back the Truman policy for stopping Communism was passed by the Senate today. The majority was nearly three to one. The vote -- sixty-seven to twenty-three.

On the question of aiding Greece and Turkey against Red aggression, thirty-five Republicans voted yes, and so did thirty-two Democrats -- while sixteen Republicans and seven Democrats voted against the Truman policy. The opposition would seem to consist of old-time conservative isolationists on one hand, and extreme new-deal-advocates-of-friendship-with-the-Soviets on the other. - A peculiar combination.

Democrats opposing the program for checking Communism in the Near East were led today by Senators ~~WIKK~~ Claude Pepper of Florida and ~~■~~ Glenn Taylor of Idaho, who spoke final words of vehement criticism. There was mention of war with the Soviets. Idaho's Senator Taylor declared bitterly: "I charge that those who are in control have given up hope that we can get along with Russia peacefully, and have embarked on a

course leading to a showdown war with Russia." After which the Senate voted nearly three to one to pass the bill.

The measure now goes to the lower house, where it will be considered next week. The promise is that there will be fast work by the Congressmen, with every attempt to put a final okay on the Truman policy by the end of the week.

CONFERENCE

Word from the Moscow Conference is confused. The foreign ministers of the Big Four held two secret meetings today on the question of a peace treaty with Austria, and then announced that tomorrow they would take up points of dispute in the peace treaty with Germany.

Newsmen in the Soviet capital have obvious difficulty in trying to interpret this - the foreign ministers leaving the Austrian question and going back to the German problem.

One supposition is that they are hopelessly deadlocked about Austria. Another is that they are so near an agreement on that issue, that they ^{are}~~are~~ going to give a bit of attention once again to the disputes about Germany - disputes that appear to be hopelessly deadlocked.

In other words, we don't know what the sudden switch from Austria may mean - optimistic or pessimistic. There is only one thing certain - the Foreign Ministers are hurrying up in preparation for a speedy end of the Moscow conference.

PALESTINE

The blow struck today by the Jewish underground in Palestine was terrifying evidence of the relentless determination of Irgun Zvai Leumi and the Stern Gang to avenge their members, whom the British authorities hanged. It is the more startling, as (the news follows last night's bulletin about the two condemned Zionist prisoners who cheated the hangman by blowing themselves up in their cells with explosive that had been smuggled in.)

Today, a trainload of British soldiers and civilians was running near the Jewish town of Rehoboth, in the Orange Grove ~~where Jewish Extremists~~ country - near Richon le Zion. A plot had been laid to blow up the train, a plan of action carried out with deadly skill and precision. A powerful charge of high explosive had been set in the tracks, and from this an electric cable led to a nearby Orange Grove where Jewish Extremists lay in ambush. But first, apparently to make sure the train was stopped as it approached, a band of men dashed out from hiding, and opened fire with small arms - halting the train. Then with passenger

coaches directly over the explosive, the charge was detonated. (Three coaches were blown to pieces, the blast ripping up through the bottom of the cars. Five others were heavily damaged. At least ten persons were killed, six British soldiers, two adult civilians, and a three-year-old child.)

From the Orange Grove, dogs picked up a trail to the town of Rehoboth, ~~to~~^{to} a community of Yemenites. ^{And the} word has been that the ~~Xixxi~~ Zionists from the Yemen, in South^{eastern} Arabia, are among the most fanatical. ~~All~~^{All} the people in the town ~~were~~^{being} held for investigations.

The British police ~~believe~~^{say} that the blowing up of the train was done by a mixed band of members of the Irgun Zvai Leumi and The Stern Gang, both of which ~~have~~ joined in publishing the menacing threat ~~that~~ that they ~~will~~^{intend to} take ten British lives for everyone of their members executed by the British.

YUGOSLAVS

There was a daring release of prisoners in Italy today - Yugoslav prisoners, anti-Communists, Chetniks. They were being taken by train, and we don't know what their destination was - maybe Yugoslavia. Maybe the Chetniks were to be delivered to their mortal enemies, the Communists.

The drama of the spectacular rescue ties in with that whole evil tragedy of the Chetniks and their leader, General Mikhailovich. The news has told us amply how they were the first heroes of the Yg Yugoslav resistance to the Nazis. ^{until} the Reds, backed by Soviet Russia, got control. ^{At which time} Great Britain and our own country abandoned the Chetniks and Mikhailovic^h to the mercy of the Communists, ^{to} the mercy of Tito, the Soviet Puppet. The Chetniks were hunted down, and Tito had ^{Gen.} Mikhailovich executed by a firing squad.

Some of the Chetniks escaped, some got away to Italy - and right now Tito is demanding them back. This is one of the Communist exactions faced by disarmed

Italy right now, and one of the questions of the day is this - will Italy be compelled to hand over numbers of Chetniks to Tito and his Reds?

The surprising part of today's rescue is the fact that the Chetniks in a railroad train were set free by another trainload of other Yugoslavs - ~~xxxx~~ displaced persons, civilians who refuse to go home and live under Communism. These, being taken from South Italy by railroad, got word somehow that the Chetnik train was scheduled to pass them, and they planned a bold rescue. The ~~Yugoslav~~ Yugoslav D.P.'s overpowered the guards on their own train, and seized control. ^{Then} when the Chetnik train appeared, they stopped it, and took the prisoners into their own railroad coaches. Whereupon they continued their trip.

This happened near Naples. - And, when ~~that~~ train reached Rome, only one Chetnik remained. The rest had escaped, ~~had been~~ ^{all} turned loose by their fellow Yugoslavs along the route.

TELEPHONE

Word from Washington is that the federal government has given up its attempt to arbitrate the telephone strike, and is reverting to the hope of ~~making~~ collective bargaining. That is, the hope of a settlement between the companies and the union all by themselves.

Right now, officials of the Department of Labor are in touch with company and union officials, sounding them out on the idea of their getting into direct negotiations again, ~~making~~ collective bargaining.

The latest on the telephone strike - a statement by a government spokesman that only an offer of a wage increase by the company to the strikers can bring to an early end the sixteen day strike.

RADIO FOLLOW LABOR

And now word from San Francisco that the telephone strike may spread into and affect radio as well. The network radio technicians unions in San Francisco have agreed to consider the question of support of the national telephone strike.

And, the San Francisco inter-union radio council has voted the contact similar councils in New York, Chicago, and Los Angeles.

This action opens the possibility of network radio programs being shut off, because networks operate largely on lines leased from the telephone company. The San Francisco radio council union is composed of five unions whose members are employed by all the national radio networks.

~~As for the coal mines.~~ Secretary of the

Interior Krug stated today that the government is going to hand the mines back to the owners on schedule

-- even if this causes the danger of a strike. The

legal date for the handing back is June ~~Thirtieth~~;

^{Sec.} and Krug states: "We're not going to ask for extention of authority to operate the mines". ~~R~~ The government

is pressing for contract negotiations between the

owners and John L. Lewis. The union and a number of

private mine operators have accepted the ^{(invitation} ~~invitation~~

-- negotiations for a contract to start in Washington

on April ~~Twenty-Ninth~~.

G. B. W.

Word from Washington is that the federal government has given up its attempt to arbitrate the telephone strike, and is reverting to the hope of collective bargaining. That is, the hope of a settlement between the companies and the union all by themselves. ^R Right now, officials of the Department of Labor are in touch with company and union officials, sounding them out on the idea of their getting into ~~direct~~ direct negotiations again, collective bargaining. ^R Reports from the automobile front, General Motors, have a note of optimism - with news that the auto workers union has receded from its original wage demand. Union President Walter Reuther has been pressing claims for a pay increase of ~~twenty-three~~ twenty-three-and-a-half-cents an hour. But ^w ~~no~~ he is said to be willing to settle for something near the ~~ix~~ fifteen cent an hour increase offered by General Motors. That rate of increase ^{at present is} ~~is not~~ recognized more or less as the pattern ⁿ for pay _^ boosts.

PRICES

Here's a sign, ^{a portent -- we hope:-} ~~no hope~~ of things to

~~over~~ residents of Newburyport, Massachusetts,

are on a buying spree and retailers in the city have

voluntarily slashed their prices ten percent. ^{So far as I} ~~can~~

^{know this is}

the first planned anti-inflation drive since the war.

Newburyport is going all out in response

to President Truman's appeal for price reductions,

and word is that about ninety-seven percent of the

city's retailers are cooperating. Signs in store

windows read:- "Okay Mr. President, ^{we are} ~~going~~ cooperating ⁱⁿ

leading the nation in lower prices, ⁱⁿ ~~and~~ fighting

inflation".

~~And here's a tip to businessmen all~~
^{What's more,}
~~over the country.~~ ^{from} Newburyport merchants report that

business has increased ^{from} six to ten percent since the

price reduction went into effect. Tuesday, ordinarily

^{is} ~~the~~ city's slowest shopping day. ^{But} ~~but~~ some stores

had to hire extra clerks today to take care of the

increased trade.

CRASH

An airline had a tragedy today -- a disaster that wiped out eight key officials of the company, the Delta airline. They were on a survey flight, technical experts like Vice President in charge of operations, traffic manager, chief of flight superintendents, airport construction supervisor. Flying in a converted army transport, a C-47, they were about to land at Columbus^S, Georgia -- in perfect weather.

The disaster was because of another former army plane converted to civilian use, a one-time trainer flown by a civilian pilot. The reason for what happened is obscure, but what did happen is only too clear.

A witness on the flying field at Columbus, Georgia states: "Suddenly, a small ship came down from above, and struck the tail section of the Delta plane". ^{Whereupon} the airliner exploded into scattered bits of flaming wreckage - all lives lost. The small trainer that ran into the big transport also crashed, killing its pilot.

Thus, in a freak disaster during a technical survey flight, the airline lost what another official calls - "some of the most valuable key personnel of our company".

FIRECHACKERS

In Richland, Washington, it's no more firecrackers for the kiddies, no more sky rockets, no cannon crackers or pinwheels for the coming Fourth of July. Richland policy have banned fireworks as of today. They figure it's better to be safe than sorry.

Richland, you see, is right next door to one of the nation's largest atom bomb plants.

And next to me is my atomic colleague Nelson Case.

SPRING

C.I. - Sunoco and P+B. Tuesday, April 22, 1947.

The weather has been bright and sunny today, which isn't the only sign of springtime in New York - the circus is playing at Madison Square Garden, and the San Carlo Opera is opening its annual season here at Rockefeller Center. The circus this year ~~had~~ has more changes in it than I can ever recall, including some dizzy acts on the high trapeze; while Grand Opera, features the usual high notes - which also can be dizzy. The difference being that one of Impresario Gallo's sopranos can slip on a high note without breaking her neck. While ----

Well, at the circus last night I was left as breathless as an aging tenor ~~in~~ watching one new act, -- the man riding the bicycle upside down at the towering top of the tent, while in his teeth he held a trapeze on which his wife ~~was~~ did acrobatics -- and no net ^{below.} ~~at~~ _^ myself, find it difficult enough to stand on my head and ride a bicycle right side up - to say ~~nothing~~ of riding an upside down bicycle, head down in midair holding my wife by my teeth. My wife was with

me last night and she wouldn't even look at this new act from Paris that had the crowd at Madison Square Garden in a mass cold sweat.

Hugh, how would you ~~wi~~ like to ride a bike, upside down, eighty feet in the air, holding your beautiful bride in your teeth?

TEXAS CITY

Texas City took its new peril with calm today-- another threat of a devastating explosion. Smoke was seen billowing out of the wreckage of a warehouse near the waterfront, and it was known that in that warehouse had been stored quantities of ammonium nitrate. The same sort of explosive fertilising material that blew up in that French vessel, causing the disaster in the first place. Word was broadcast to evacuate and isolate the area threatened by a ~~px~~ repetition of the blast that had brought the original havoc to Texas City.

The instructions were carried out coolly and calmly -- Texas City having learned, during its days of ordeal and disaster, how to face explosions and fire. Hundreds of workers digging in the wreckage simply moved off methodically and continued their work amid wreckage in a safer area.

It isn't clear how long the Chetnik fugitives can remain at large in Italy, but they may undoubtedly will be aided by Italian Anti-Communists - in which case it may take a long time before they are founded up, -- probably never.