

L.T. P.& G. FRIDAY, MAY 13, 1949

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

The State Department says the British have the legal right to go aboard the Red Polish liner BATORY and remove Gerhard Eisler -- the stowaway fugitive. Tonight officials in Washington declare that, when the vessel enters Southampton Harbor, it becomes subject to British law, and they can grab the alleged Soviet agent convicted in the United States of contempt of Congress and passport violation.

The ship will have to make port at Southampton. Because the BATORY must adhere to schedule, or lose transocean shipping rights -- as a member of the North Atlantic Conference Board.

This follows a radio message this afternoon from C.B.S. correspondent Richard Yaffe, who is aboard the vessel. His dispatch reads: "I asked the Captain just a few minutes ago what he intends to do with Eisler, and he replied, "I will land him in

Gdynia." That's the Polish harbor near Danzig.

Yaffe asked another question, "What if the United States requests the delivery of Eisler at Southampton?"

"The United States authorities," replied the Captain, "must take that up with the Polish diplomatic service." And he added that, so far as he was concerned, Eisler was, in the Captain's words, "a common stowaway."

BLOCKADE

General Clay says the Soviets have carried out the lifting of the blockade in highly satisfactory style.

Reporting to the State Department in Washington, he describes the Russian removal of restrictions in these words - "wholesale and in good spirit."

~~Today in Berlin the retiring American Military ~~Commander~~ Governor held his final news conference, and said: "There is good faith on both sides." To this he added: "There are always technicalities to be resolved, but nothing of a serious nature has arisen."~~

At the same time, however, the official Soviet newspaper in Berlin charges the Western powers with what it calls - "torpedoing" the blockade agreement. The Red paper makes this ^{accusation} ~~charge~~ on the ground that the Allies are failing to resume economic arrangements made before the blockade. This applies to Soviet orders for iron, steel and coal - the catch being that the agreements expired at the beginning of the year, while the blockade was on. The Western powers deny any violation, but admit it's a dispute to be settled.

CHINA

The Chinese Reds are reported to have captured Hankow, the great industrial city of central China. They just walked in, Hankow undefended.

At the same time, a Red drive broke through the outer defenses of Shanghai, and at last reports cannon fire could be heard in the city. The official explanation of the sound today was that Nationalist forces were - "testing their guns." Maybe so - but the people of Shanghai believe it's the roar of Communist guns.

BRITAIN

More swing to the Right in Britain, today's count in yesterday's election showing a huge gain for the party of Winston Churchill. The election was in four hundred and twenty boroughs of England and Wales, a contest for forty-seven hundred seats. The Conservative Party scores a gain of six hundred and forty - with ~~the~~^a loss of twenty-seven.

The Labor Party gains eighty, with a loss of five-hundred-and-ninety-eight. Labor strongholds, one after another, went Conservative in the borough elections, and the Communists didn't win a single seat - they lost two.

This huge swing to the Conservatives follows the lead of the London County Council elections last month - when the Churchill people overthrew Labor control in what was considered a startling upset.

NAVY SECRETARY

This afternoon, a Omaha lawyer and banker, Francis R. Matthews, stated that he was in accord with what he called - "the very obvious desire of the American people for the unification of the armed forces." Which is important, because Lawyer ~~and~~ Banker Matthews was today appointed Secretary of the Navy. He says that President Truman, in naming him, has charged him with the job of seeing that the Navy cooperates with the other divisions of the armed forces in ^{the} achieving of unification.

MILITARY PAY

A Congressional Committee has okayed a bill to raise the pay of everybody in the armed forces - except the lowest Private. The Generals get the biggest raise. The Committee points out that since Nineteen Eight, the pay of private soldiers has been raised four hundred per cent. For generals - only ten per cent. The new increase would begin with the upper grades of G.I. Then on up the line - with major generals increased from seven-hundred-and-thirty-three dollars a month to about a thousand a month.

At the same time, the bill provides for a sharp reduction of disability pensions to retired officers - they will really have to show disability.

ATOMIC

A member of the Atomic Energy Commission states that it will be ten or fifteen years before electric power can be developed from atomic energy -- in an economic and practical way. But he adds that the experimental power plant which the General Electric is to build will probably be the forerunner of the everyday use for atomic power. This from Atomic Energy Commissioner Sumner Pike, who added that we are having a hard time finding the uranium in this country, ~~but~~ he said: "The outlook is not very good."

SUBSTITUTE FORD

The Auto Union tonight submitted a secret proposal for settling the Ford strike, and Union President Walter Reuther says the company promises to give its answer tomorrow afternoon. This news follows a government threat to take over the Ford plant -- Federal mediator Cyrus Ching declaring that the River Rouge Auto factory might be seized unless the company and the Union make better progress in the negotiation of a settlement.

LABOR

President Truman administers a verbal spanking to the White House leaders in Congress headed by Sam Rayburn, Speaker of the House. They are chastised for their efforts to frame a labor law compromise, in trying for the repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act. The President says: "They never had any considerable ^{tion} whatever from me."

The blunt language was used in a White House letter to Railroad Union President Whitney, who wrote protesting against the compromise in the Taft-Hartley repeal. The Truman view on ~~compromise~~ a middle-of-the-road measure is expressed in these words: "It is better to go down fighting for what is right than to compromise your principles."

~~To which the President adds that he is confident that his original bill, a hundred per cent anti-Taft-Hartley, will be passed.~~

This letter was made public today as the Democratic leaders in Congress, headed by Speaker Rayburn, were trying to rig up another compromise, which might persuade Southern Democrats to vote for repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act.

Tonight, the expression on their faces should be interesting, as they scan two documents - their latest compromise and the President's letter.

The latest from Washington, Congressman Lesinski, who is Chairman of the House Labor Committee and number one Democratic leader, has something to say: "Legislation," he declares, "is up to the House members and not up to the President."

TUNNEL

The City of New York is deeply interested in what the engineers declare tonight - saying that the structure of the great Holland Tunnel was not damaged - not impaired by the havoc of explosion and fire today. The blast and the blaze knocked off great chunks of masonry inside the tube, but the steel ~~structure~~ ^{shell} under the Hudson River is okay.

~~It was a terrifying fantasy of devastation - and it seems a miracle that no lives were lost, not even any grave injury to anybody.~~ In the West-East segment of the tunnel, the jam-packed traffic was moving - traffic which ^{flows} ~~runs~~ through a hundred and six thousand motor vehicles a day. ~~About~~ ^R About five hundred feet from the New Jersey entrance, a big truck caught fire - and it carried a cargo of explosive and poisonous chemical, carbon disulphide. This blew up with a blast of noxious fumes and raging flame, and immediately the blaze went roaring down the line of vehicles behind - several trucks catching fire, one after another. The

motor vehicles in front, of course, were able to go rolling on.

But the ones to the rear were blocked, and were quickly turned

into a line of roaring flame. ^{Sixty trucks and cars of fire,} People jumped out, dashing to

escape the fumes. ^{Many} ~~Forty-four~~ were overcome, but most of them

gasping and choking, were able to make the five hundred feet

to the Jersey entrance and fresh air. Rescue parties were

driven back. Even firemen and doctors in gas masks were

unable to battle their way through the fumes, the poison gas

^{smoke} seeping in through the masks.

The inferno inside the tunnel, with blazing heat,

burned out communication cables - knocking out telephone and

telegraph, the news wires, and the lines of the four big

^{a major tie-up,} broadcasting networks. The big radio systems were thrown off

the air for a while - until they were able to reroute

broadcasts through other channels.

It was hours before the fire fighters were able to

get through and put out the flames - with streams of water

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that hissed into ^{steam}~~streams~~ as they splashed against red hot walls. But engineers are saying that the structure of the Holland Tunnel is intact.

ADD TUNNEL

As if all that were not enough, there was an explosion near Verdi, Nevada today, which further disrupted transcontinental communication. Excavators touched off a blast that cut a telephone cable system and put six hundred circuits out of commission. This, a couple of hours after the breaking of communication lines by the tunnel explosion on the other side of the continent.

PRICE

Los Angeles reports a truce in the drugstore price war -- two drugstores getting into a battle and slashing prices in a way to delight the neighborhood. It all started when a new drugstore gave a grand opening, cutting prices to celebrate. The other drugstore retaliated by cutting its own prices -- and that started the ball rolling. ~~It~~ It has been going on for sixteen days, until they got a bottle of one hundred aspirin tablets down to one cent. An ice cream soda -- one cent, to the jubilation of the neighborhood kids. Breakfast - one cent. ~~In addition, they gave prizes of razor blades and other items at the door to lure in the customers.~~ Well, I suppose they could ^{not} get a price much lower than one cent, and so ^{today} there was a truce -- both sides having hit rock bottom.

WARSHIP

The oldest warship in the world is to be scrapped. ^{It's} about a hundred and fifty years old. The British Navy still has in service the IMPLACABLE - a windjammer man-o-war, left over from the day of sails. The Implacable is a veteran of the Battle of Trafalgar, ^{having} - fought on the other side, a seventy-four gun ship of the line, in the French fleet. ^R When Lord Nelson won his famous victory, the French vessel surrendered - and, as a prize of war, was taken ⁱⁿ to the British Navy as the Implacable.

Recently, there was a project to embed the famous craft of old in concrete, as a tourist attraction. But today the London Town Council broke off negotiations - and the man-o-war that fought against Nelson at Trafalgar will be junked. Nowadays we say that an obsolete naval craft is good only for scrap iron. In this case - scrap wood.

WELLINGTON FOLLOW WARSHIP

From Lord Nelson to the Duke of Wellington.

London reports a recommendation made by the Seventh Duke of Wellington, direct descendant of the victor of Waterloo, the conqueror of Napoleon. He contends that England gives too much space of land to the playing fields of schools - which could apply especially to those famous public schools of England, like Eton, ~~it that~~ ^{They} devote a considerable acreage to ~~the grounds for~~ ^{to} sports - cricket, especially. The Seventh Duke of Wellington recommends that a lot of acres, which are now school playing fields, be turned into farms for growing food.

I wonder what his ancestor, the original Wellington, would have said to that. After his defeat of Napoleon, the Iron Duke paid his tribute to the sports of the youth of England, by saying that - "the Battle of Waterloo was won on the playing fields of Eaton."

ROYALTY

The nephew of the British King and Queen, who is eleventh in succession to the British throne, is going to marry a young woman pianist, a native of Vienna. He is the twenty-six year old Earl of Harewood, whose mother is the Princess Royal, Queen Mary's only daughter.

Recently, the news told how the Earl of Harewood had taken a job as opera critic on a London Left Wing newspaper, which sounds curious for the nephew of the King, who is eleventh in succession to the throne. But it indicates a taste for music, and we hear the young couple met last Spring at a music festival.

Today the pianist, Marion ^{Stein,}~~Stine,~~ announced that they would be married some time this year. The London word is that last week the Earl presented his intended to his grandmother, Queen Mary, and asked for formal consent to the marriage. The eighty-two year old Queen Mother gave her approval, we are told. So royalty will ^{marry} a musical Commoner.

MARRIAGE

From New England, a report of the marriage of a truck driver - who is also the grandson and heir of a Massachusetts multimillionaire. He is twenty-one year old Frederick Dumaine Third, a namesake of a financier who last year made business headlines by capturing the control of the New Haven Railroad. The grandson of the railroad magnate does ~~two~~ two things simultaneously - gets married and becomes a truck driver. To which the cynic may respond - isn't the truck driving part of it bad enough?

The story is that young Frederick Dumaine^{Third} was in a private school at Rindge, New Hampshire, a school dedicated to the instruction of exceptionally gifted students. Employed there was a practical nurse and dietician, Mrs. Millicent Livingstone, thirty-three years old, and divorced. Romance blossomed between the exceptionally gifted student and the practical nurse - though not apparently with the enthusiastic approval of the wealthy Dumaine family. ^T At the school, they say, they knew nothing about it, until Frederick Dumaine^{III} and

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Mrs. Livingstone went over to the neighboring town of Greenville, and took out a marriage license. The Greenville town clerk states that in obtaining the license, the grandson of the multimillionaire ~~railroad~~ financier, listed his occupation as - truck driver. Whereupon he proceeded to make that item really true. Immediately after the marriage, he got a job as a driver of a truck.

I suppose the story book ending would be - and ~~he~~ ^{they} ~~drove~~ ^{away in} a truck ^{to live} happily forever afterward.

NURSE FOLLOW ROMANCE

Here's about a practical nurse who shot a traveling salesman and broke a beer bottle over his head. It happened in Minneapolis - the practical nurse saying that the traveling salesman attacked her. Tonight, after the bullet and beer bottle, he needs a practical nurse - but not the same one.

What do you think of that, Nelson?