

L.T. P.& G. TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 1949.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

The strangest story in a long time comes out of Utah -- strange missiles, meteors or fire balls, flaming and streaking through the sky. Not one of the flying saucer tales was anything like this. Hundreds of people reporting the mysterious gleaming objects -- people all the way through the heavily populated section of Utah, from Salt Lake City, to the Idaho border, a line of a hundred miles.

They describe the strange visitors as flying westward, things with a bright glow, trails of smoke, accompanied by explosions.

Not only are there hundreds of witnesses, but a testimony as impressive in quality as in quantity. This afternoon a Salt Lake City newspaper was talking with its reporter at Logan, about ninety miles to the North. Across the wire the reporter said to the editor: "They are still coming over. Wait, and I'll count this batch for you. There one.....two.....three,"

the reporter counted deliberately. There were six in that batch, and the newsman at Logan described them to the editor in these words: "They are big black patches at first. Then they grow larger until they appear to be a small thunderhead cloud."

The reporter at Logan is Cliff Neilson, and his story is so strange that his editors take pains to tell us that he is in their words "a sober, intelligent and keenly observant newsman." Neilson said he heard no explosions, but many others say they did - and tell how the strange things were glowing and gleaming in the sky.

ADD FIREBALLS

The latest is this -- the best qualified authorities believe that the celestial display was caused by a meteor or a group of meteors. The astronomers explain that such phenomena have been known before -- a large meteor, or a series of small meteors shooting through the atmosphere, and perhaps, either disintegrating or striking the ground. This theory was borne out by the fact today that the ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ sheriffs of several Utah counties went looking for the remnants of ~~the~~ a meteor along the soft sands of the great Salt Lake. They have found nothing.-- But the chief control man at the Salt Lake City Airport tower states definitely that it was a meteor he saw blazing in the sky.

Of course, there are the familiar rumors -- as against the solid evidence in Utah. In Hollywood, seven hundred miles from salt Lake City, ^{people} ~~telephoned~~ ^{to} newspapers saying ~~that~~ they had seen black streaks in the sky at about the same time those strange "things" were seen in Utah.

The assembly of the U N is meeting today for another session. At Lake Success, New York, the delegates of the nations of the world assemble to deliberate on a series of problems -- and there seems to be no doubt what the most important of these will be. The noisiest anyhow.

Today the word from Moscow was that the Soviets will introduce a resolution condemning the North Atlantic Security Pact. Moscow has protested to the nations that signed the Treaty yesterday, sending diplomatic notes to them, one after another - each charging that the North Atlantic Alliance is a violation of the charter of the U N.

FOLLOW U N

As a sort of rebuttal in advance, a statement is made by Hector McNeill, British Minister of State and a delegate to the United Nations. Controverting the expected Soviet argument, he stated that the western countries were compelled to form the North Atlantic Security Pact, as ~~an~~ a regional guarantee -- because of the failure ~~it failed~~ to assure their safety through the security of the United Nations. Because the Soviet had blocked and vetoed world agreements, the West has been compelled to form an alliance.

IRAN

From Iran we have a denial of a pitched battle between Soviet and Iranian troops. This was reported, and had an ominous sound.

There was a skirmish last Saturday, between frontier guards - Soviet patrols pushing across the Iranian border. It was a third clash of that sort in the last threemonths, all three occurring at about the same place -- in the Province of Azerbaijan.

But -- no pitched battle or anything like a major ~~xon~~ conflict. The denial is issued by the Chief of Staff of the Iranian Army.

BULGARIA

The truth is out -- in Bulgaria. The Red government ~~ix~~ there announces the ousting of the Communist Vice Premier, Kostov. The reason -- he failed to obey Moscow abjectly enough. ^{TP} We've had previous reports of this from Yugoslavia, stories that Bulgarian Vice Premier Kostov had been placed under arrest, all a part of a violent purge of the Bulgarian Communist party. Prominent Communists ^{taken} ~~from~~ into custody by the ~~Bulgarian~~ Secret Police. The latest figure -- three hundred, that many Red leaders arrested in a feud among the Bulgarian ^{Communists.} ~~Communists.~~

But this came from Yugoslavia, the former ~~Soviet~~ satellite which rebelled against Moscow. So the information was taken with some reserve, Yugoslavia being in open feud with Bulgaria, the faithful ~~xxx~~ satellite. Moreover, there were strong Bulgarian denials, with Red circles declaring angrily that the whole story was a Yugoslavian invention and malicious fake.

But now, the ousting of the Vice Premier is confirmed by the Red ^{Sofia} ~~Bulgarian~~ government itself - announced in the official newspaper of the Bulgarian Communist party. Kostov tossed out, not only as Vice Premier, but also as a member of the Bulgarian politburo. He was the Number Two Communist in the country, second

only to the Moscow henchman Dimitrov -- but he balked at the servile obedience that Moscow demands. The official statement names his crime in these words: "an insincere and unfriendly policy regarding the Soviet Union -- and nationalist deviation." That latter offense:--

"nationalistic deviation" means -- preferring the interest of your own country, instead of playing the game of the Soviets. More trouble behind the Iron Curtain.

In England they are saying that the mishap to American Ambassador Douglas was -- an accident in a million. ^{Which} ~~It~~ would seem to be an apt description of an expert fly-casting fisherman hooking his own left eye.

American Ambassador Lewis Douglas is an enthusiastic angler; and England has trout streams of ancient renown. Some of these are in Hampshire and there the American Ambassador was the guest of the Houghton Fishing Club, famous in the annals of angling. He was casting a fly, whipping it into the stream, when there was a sudden violent gust of wind. -- ~~blowing in his face.~~ The breeze caught the fly and the hook and lashed them back, striking Douglas in the face, the hook piercing deeply into his left eye-ball.

They rushed him to a hospital in the city nearest at hand, Southampton, and a specialist was flown by plane from London -- he performing the delicate operation of extracting the hook from the eye.

The latest word -- the doctors can't tell yet whether Ambassador Douglas will lose the sight of the injured eye.

His wife, who is with him, reports that he is - taking it all with good humored philosophy. "Very cheerful" says she.

BANKER

The F B I is keeping secret the details of the story of the New York banker who fled with nearly nine hundred thousand dollars - but some curious angles are devulged. He is Richard Henderson Crow, forty years old, who was assistant cashier at a branch of the National City Bank of New York -- one of the greatest of financial institutions. For days, the news has been telling how Crow, a fugitive, was mailing money, thousands of dollars, to members of his family and creditors to whom he owed money.

In a Daytona, Florida apartment they found nearly fifty-five thousand dollars of the loot. The F B I had already recovered thirty-six thousand and forty thousand more has been located, which accounts for most of the cash he took -- one hundred and ninety-three thousand dollars. The rest was in securities -- nearly seven hundred thousand dollars worth. So what about these?

They were not money to be spent, not negotiable apparently. So why did he take them?

The story from Daytona Beach relates that the absconding bank official stole the securities to -- make the bank angry, having some sort of spite against the heads of National City. He is said to have told the FBI that he threw the seven hundred thousand dollars worth of securities into the Atlantic Ocean -- which is the strangest angle of all.

ELECTION

Los Angeles is having an exciting city election, the major feature of which is Mayor Bowron running for another term of office. Only scattered votes have been counted at this early hour. But they show Mayor Bowron running well ahead -- though it does not necessarily indicate the outright majority which he has to have. There are nine candidates and the winner must have more than all of the rest of his opponents combined -- or there must be a run-off of the two highest candidates. A late report gave five percent of the precincts reporting, Bowron 3475 to 1782 for Aldrich, next highest.

Now the sad story of how the worst has come to pass -- a thing I've been fearing for a long time. Last night I told of a visit to the radiation laboratory of the University of California, west coast headquarters for research into that most secret of all the business on this earth -- the atomic secret. I have made various visits to that home of the atomic smashing cyclotron, so important in the development of the atomic bomb -- and each time, I've been afraid I might disclose something forbidden. I might talk to somebody, the wrong person -- and let slip a military secret. Not that I would know a military secret if I saw one, but I might let slip.

Well, this time, the thing I feared has occurred -- I have disclosed a military secret. To what sinister individual? The answer is terrifying. During our weekend visit to the atomic research laboratory, I learned something -- and told it to the wrong person. The most dangerous one of all.

So here's the story, a confession that I must make. After witnessing the atomic wonders at the

radiation laboratory, at a San Francisco haunt of newsmen and similar misdoers, I saw an old friend - Ole Olsen of "Hellzapoppin," and I went along with him to his show. That promised to make the weekend perfect -- atomic science followed by Olsen and Johnson -- from the sublime to belly laughs. Olsen and Johnson as baby sitters, showing how to quiet a crying baby - shoot the baby.

All of which was okay, if I hadn't disclosed the atomic secret -- to Ole. Blurting out the information -- that, in the Berkeley sanctuary of atomic research some aspects are pure Olsen and Johnson. That was the military secret.

For example, the invisible ray -- under which we ducked. You can't see it but it can smack you. You can imagine Chic Johnson getting slapped by something he can't see. I told him also, about the vacuum cleaner run by the porter in the hall, at Cyclotron -- which gave us a scare, sounding like screaming protons.

Just as I might have expected, Ole Olsen was

excited. Said he must go there and see those atomic wonders. So there's the danger, Olsen and Johnson getting into the inner sanctum of atomic miracles -- and taking over. With Olsen and Johnson working on atomic matters hell would be apoppin'.

They might have it in their next show along with the skit where they sink the ship in the picture! They fire so many pistol shots at a picture on the wall that the battleship in the picture starts firing back with its big guns -- whereupon, Johnson seizes a shotgun, blazes away in return, and the vessel plunges bow first, to the bottom of the sea. After which a survivor comes in, a sailor with a big fish.

Well, if Olsen and Johnson can sink the ship in the picture, think what they could do with -- the atom bomb. Or Ken, would you rather not think about it?