

L.T. - P.& G. Thursday, March 18, 1948.

COAL (NEW LEAD)

NIGHT SHOW

News from Washington tonight is that (President Truman has been advised to invoke those emergency powers given him under the Taft-Hartley Act against the four-day-old coal strike.) Informed sources say the White House may act tomorrow. This after Federal Mediation Director Cyrus Ching conferred with presidential aide (sat the White House, following separate conferences with John L. Lewis, and Ezra Van Horn, trustee of the Union Welfare and Retirement Fund. Both Lewis and Van Horn have complied with a Congressional Committee's demand for statements on their positions in the dispute over pensions for miners. Lewis has until tomorrow to join the operators in petitioning the Federal District Court for a third trustee for the retirement fund.

Meanwhile, the government today clamped curbs on soft coal exports - an early move to conserve our precious reserves. Then, on Monday, coal burning passenger train service in the U.S. will be cut

twenty-five percent.

Simultaneous orders given the railroads by the O.D.T. and Secretary of Commerce Harriman, the strike having already reduced our reserve stockpile of soft coal - vital to the industrial life of this nation, the U.S. not only being the world's largest producer of coal, but the biggest user. If this strike is prolonged, say Washington observers, our government's in dealing with Soviet Russia may be weakened. Such is the importance of soft coal to this nation's well being.

So far, efforts to settle the dispute have failed. A complete deadlock between the United Mine Workers and the operators. John L. Lewis charges the owners did not live up to their contract to set up a pension plan for his miners, and so he called the strike. But he did not reveal what became known today - that the operators consider his plan for establishing

pensions for miners was financially unsound. That position was substantiated today by a government expert, an actuary who agreed that if Lewis' ideas were followed, the miners' welfare fund would soon be bankrupt. Two different firms of actuaries reporting on this matter. Lewis rejecting them both, because they did not agree with him.

Between the meat workers and the miners, more than half a million men are on strike in the U.S.A. tonight.



## TRUMAN

What does Moscow say? That it's all a political trick -- to get votes. Tass, the official Soviet news agency, carried a story today of how the Truman speech has been sharply criticized by progressive American politicians. When it came down to mentioning them, it turned out that the "progressive American politicians" consist of Henry Wallace and Senator Glen Taylor of Idaho.

As a matter of fact, Henry Wallace is far more excited over what the President said last night to the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, his remark that he'd rather lose the election than have the support of Wallace and his communists.

Henry Wallace went on the air tonight to reply to President Truman's call for a revival of the draft. Wallace saying that the doctrine of stopping communism with American arms now has been expanded to the point where it threatens the life of every human being in the



world. He charged that "wilful men with private interests are, what he called "trafficking in world communism" in a deliberate attempt to blot out reason.

According to Henry Wallace, Mr. Truman has taken a totally wrong approach to stop communism -- the revolt in Europe -- and elsewhere springing from the fact that reform is vitally needed. Wallace recalled that a year ago he called Mr. Truman the greatest salesman communism ever had, and tonight he repeated the charge.

In the western European countries, the officials and journalistic reaction was one of enormous relief. The British Foreign Office said that the message came as a complete and most welcome surprise in official British circles. In fact, one London paper said that President Truman had promulgated a new Monroe Doctrine.

Official Paris today described it as a historic document that puts teeth into the Marshall Plan.

At Rome, the Truman message emboldened Premier de Gasperi to such an extent that he started

on a speech-making tour of northern Italy, through the cities most infested with Communists.

The Foreign Offices of all the Benelux countries greeted the Truman pronouncements with glad relief, likewise the Scandinavian nations, and Turkey. Indeed, causing the Scandinavian countries and Turkey to start talking about joining in the five-power treaty signed yesterday at Brussels, joining immediately.

The reaction in Tokyo was curious. Shares in munition companies went up on the curb market, that is in companies that once manufactured war materials.

In Buenos Aires, the great newspaper La Prensa characterized the Truman message as a strong argument for international peace and a plea for political and civil liberty for all people, everywhere.

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Here in America, there was not one of our thousands of daily newspapers but had an editorial about the President's message. Those viewing it with alarm

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are much in the minority, even in the Republican press.

Arthur Krock in The New York Times, has been a pretty severe critic of the President, but today he said Mr. Truman had discharged a high responsibility. "Congress now cannot escape full responsibility for what happens to the world," says Krock, "and for the state of national security in the immediate future."

He went on to say that the President's political fortunes were at a low level, up to twelve-thirty yesterday. Mr. Truman was addressing many who have decided he does not measure up to the presidency, continued Krock.

Then Arthur Krock concludes with these words: "If Congress will receive the President's address as the expert composite it is, Mr. Truman's personal and political interests and weaknesses can be disregarded in considering its merit."



## RUSSIA FOLLOW TRUMAN

One consequence of the President's speech was an attempt by the Kremlin to make out that Mr. Truman wanted to revive the draft just at the time that the Soviet Union was demobilizing.

According to the best available estimate, there are four million ground troops now in the Red Army, three hundred thousand in their Navy, more than six hundred thousand in the Russian Air Force.

In spite of the favorable countrywide reaction to the President's call for a draft, some Senators remain obdurate. The ~~Armed~~ Services Committee of the Upper Chamber heard from Secretary Forrestal and Secretary of the Army Kenneth Royall today. Both ~~of them~~ ~~testified~~ testified that our military establishment should be raised above the present legal limit of one million, seven hundred thousand. <sup>TP</sup> At present we have only fifty-four thousand soldiers in this country ready for action. (Of them ~~only~~ <sup>only</sup> thirty thousand are organized in divisions.) Of the seven or eight divisions overseas, not one is ready for combat. The Russians, on the other hand, have more than a hundred divisions well organized, well trained, armed to the teeth. The satellite nations of eastern Europe have seventy-five divisions more.

The plans which the Army brass <sup>have</sup> ~~has~~ drawn up for Selective Service would make some three million men subject to the draft, men between the ages of nineteen and twenty-five. They would not be liable to more than two years' service.

## JUMPERS

Since parachutes were first invented, plenty of men have used them, even civilians. Over Berlin today, three women saved their lives by bailing out from a crippled transport plane.

The big C-47 <sup>was leaving</sup> ~~had just taken off from the~~ Tempelhof Airdrome, <sup>in the heart of</sup> ~~outside~~ Berlin, bound for Nuremberg. On board were Brigadier General Telford Taylor, pretty Mrs. Taylor of the auburn hair, Mr. and Mrs. James E. McHaney of Little Rock, Arkansas, and Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Ferencz of Long Island City, New York.

The big transport had just taken off when one of the crew noticed oil spurting from one engine. The passengers were warned to put on their parachute harness, and keep it on.

For a few minutes the plane continued on its way until, as Mrs. Taylor, ~~who is the mother of two children~~, put it, the air got bumpy and the plane acted as though it was shivering.

Lieutenant <sup>Tam</sup> ~~Thomas E.~~ Squires of Lubock, Texas, the ~~main plane's~~ pilot, gave the order to abandon ship. By that time the plane



was losing altitude fast. The men got the rear door open when *it had descended to* ~~the craft was~~ about seven hundred feet. ~~in the air over Berlin.~~

who is the mother of two small children, Mrs. Taylor ~~said that~~ none of them seemed to want to jump/.

One ~~of the~~ women wanted to stay with the plane, *and* ~~but~~ her husband

ordered her to jump. When it came to Mrs. Taylor's turn, she

heard a voice saying, "You'll have to kick her to get her out."

"Most of us," added Mrs. Taylor, "had to be ~~px~~ pushed a little."

And she continued: "Just after I jumped I pulled the rip cord,"

and no one had ever told her that it comes loose from the chute.

She went on to say that she found the rip cord in her hand and

thought she was done for. ~~But~~ Then she added: *"But"* "I began to go

down gently and it was kind of nice." Until she hit the top

of the building and then she wished she was still floating in

*said*  
the air. Mrs. Taylor ~~went on to say that~~ it seemed to be over

so quickly that she wouldn't have minded staying up there a

while longer.

All three women landed without ~~injury~~ injury, so did six other passengers. Only one, an enlisted man in the crew,

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was injured seriously.. General Taylor, chief war crimes prosecutor at Nuremberg, landed in the Russian sector with a sprained back and severe bruises. Tonight he's in a hospital for observation, so is Mrs. Taylor, nursing the bruises she acquired when she fell on top of that building.

Air Force Officers say it's a miracle. so many escaped with so few injuries. A parachute drop into the heart of Berlin, with all its jagged ruins, is rated as decidedly a long shot.

## TELEVISION

## NIGHT SHOW

American television took another step forward today when C.B.S. and the other major networks signed a three year agreement with the American Federation of Musicians -- an argument that makes it possible for union members to appear on television broadcasts.

Hitherto television has been silent - no music! By order of James Caesar Petrillo. Now it's okay for sound--for live music on your television screen--or the one you are thinking of buying - with your favorite network making immediate plans to televize the best in music and musical entertainment. Everyone in the television studios delighted, and looking forward to a new era in this new form of radio entertainment.

Joseph H. Ream, executive Vice-President of this great network hails the new contract as being a particularly great aid to his plans for greatly expanded television programs. "With work under way



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on the largest television studio plant in the nation," he says, "C.B.S. intends to utilize live musicians, and further television broadcasts will be enriched by music from the scene of the event."

Well, many of us were wondering how television could get along without music. The new contract between the Networks and the American Federation of Musicians is the answer. Radio's new baby being allowed to show it with music.

JOLIOT-CURIE- 1

A famous name in the world of science in difficulty with the U.S. Immigration officials tonight. Madame Irene Joliot-Curie, Europe's outstanding nuclear physicist, elder daughter of Marie Curie, the discoverer of radium, detained at La Guardia Field on her arrival by air from her native France.

Madame Joliot-Curie came to this country at the invitation of the Joint Anti-Fascist Committee to speak on behalf of Spanish Loyalists who escaped from Spain to France. This Refugee Committee is featured on that list of subversive organizations issued by Attorney General Tom Clarke; which may be the reason why the scientist has been detained.

## FIRE

A bulletin from Petersburg, Indiana - the "Big Inch" pipeline carrying natural gas exploded tonight near Winslow, ten miles southeast of Petersburg. Fire Companies from four Pike County towns have turned out to fight the blaze.



## FAN MAIL

I've just been reading fourteen postal cards -- which represents the height of something or other.

During my time on the radio I've been a devout student of the morning's mail, and now I think I can say -- I've seen everything.

The other evening I noted that communications from the radio audience have a political slant -- this election year. So now here comes a long election discussion from a radio audience philosopher, who writes ~~me~~ on fourteen postal cards! These arrived <sup>ing</sup> among the sundry letters, not to mention bills, the mailman brought. The cards ~~were~~ numbered, ~~and~~ All I had to do was ~~to~~ shuffle them into the proper order, and read the political treatise -- on <sup>the</sup> fourteen postal cards.

Another disclosure, not on fourteen postal cards, comes from Edward H. Marsh of Springfield, Massachusetts, who refers back to an election-time reminiscence that we had some days ago. I told of a campaign anecdote about George M. Stearnes, a Boston political figure of some years back. So ~~now~~ now Edward

H. Marsh sends me a companion piece. He tells about the time when Stearnes was Attorney for the Defense in a lawsuit brought by an Irishman who had been bumped by a railroad train -- nothing serious. Lawyer Stearnes, addressing the jury, described exactly what had happened to the Irishman in the following tactful words -- but entirely clear. In eloquent voice he cried: "Spanked by a locomotive! Gentlemen of the Jury, this man was struck in the cushioned portion of his anatomy where God Almighty meant that he should be struck."

5/4 Which brings us to you, Nelson.