

INTRODUCTION

L.I. - P. & S. Monday, Oct. 31, 1949.

(Lined by L.I., Jr.)

Good evening folks! Tonight I'm pinch-hitting

for my father who's resting up in a New York hospital after an operation on his leg that was injured when he had a losing-argument with a horse deep within the forbidden land of Tibet. You may remember that at the time of the accident we thought Dad's leg injury was only muscular, not too serious. But, when we reached Calcutta, after several weeks of slow going on litter and sedan chair, x-rays showed that he had suffered a ^{multiple} ~~compound~~ fracture of the right leg -- up near the hip, and further x-rays and consultations with bone experts here in New York -- with Orthopedic Surgeon Frank Stinchfield and Orthopedic Specialist Hans Kraus -- indicated that the bones were not mending properly -- that they would have to be wired and pegged together. So that's what was done Saturday when Dr. Stinchfield went to work with his scalpels and anesthetics.

Because of being ^{cooped up} ~~confined~~ in the hospital, Dad has not been able to go to Washington and deliver to President Truman the scroll from the Dalai Lama, together with

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the message about the danger Tibet faces from the sweep of Communism in China, and the need of aid to prevent a red seizure of the Roof-of-the-World. But Dad has been in touch with the White House and the State Department, explaining why he has not been able to appear in person in Washington and carry out the commission from the Dalai Lama.

The latest word is that Dad's leg, broken on that return trip from the Holy City of Lhasa, will be as good as ever before long; and that tomorrow ~~he~~ he will be back on the air, broadcasting for a few days from his hospital bed, the same as he did part of last week.

Now, ¹ ~~the news~~ --- let's see what's happened today ---

SUB STEEL

In news offices all over the country there was dragged out suspense today. The word was that Bethlehem Steel Corporation was settling with the steel workers union - the agreement to be announced by C I O President Philip Murray in a news conference at four o'clock. But that was put off until five-thirty, then seven-thirty. As the suspense lengthened, more and more newsmen gathered -- until the grand ~~night~~ ballroom of the Hotel Statler in Cleveland had to be engaged to accomodate more than one hundred reporters, photographers and radio workers.

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All the while, the contract was being polished up, and finally signed. Then in the grand ballroom, Philip Murray made the announcement ~~to~~ to the crowd.

The settlement is a compromise between the union demand that the company pay for a pension and

social insurance program - and the company insistence that the steel workers contribute a share of the costs.

The terms provide that Bethlehem Steel will finance the pension part of it. Actually, the company has had a pension plan ~~xxxxxxx~~ all along, and this will be expanded to pay a minimum of one hundred dollars a month to retired steel workers. But the cost of the social insurance plan, with benefits for sickness, injury and death will be shared by both the company and the workers -- each side paying half of the bill.

Well, Bethlehem Steel is one of the biggest, and the union expects at least three other major companies to sign similar agreements tomorrow -- Youngstown sheet and tube, Jones and Laughlin and Republic Steel. But what about U.S. Steel, the largest of the giants? Tonight, President Fairless of that company states that he and his officials will

study the Bethlehem ~~xx~~ settlement.

In Washington, Federal Mediator Cyrus Ching says ~~that~~ he hopes it means - industrial peace in the world of steel.

The latest from Bethlehem, Pennsylvania pictures a scene of wild jubilation at the gates of the steel plant, which the strikers had been picketing. There they paraded, cheered and danced, celebrating the end of the walkout. An uproarious affair on the night of Halloween.

C.I.O.

This is show-down week for the C.I.O., in its purge of the Reds. The big labor organization is holding a convention at Cleveland, and the number one item on the program is to take action against Communists and the unions they control. Philip Murray made the opening address today, and stated: "The Communists care nothing about trade unions." To which he added that the only union they care about is, in his words - "The Soviet Union and the Soviet Union alone." He climaxed with a promise that during the convention this week, the Reds would be run out - and this was received with cheers.

The indications are that a group of Communist controlled unions, expelled from the C.I.O., will form their own labor organization. Which would split the world of labor still further, bringing into existence an outfit of unions frankly Red.

ADD C I O

Action began tonight with a committee vote to throw the leaders of twelve left wing unions off the national executive board of the C I O.

CONSUL

[The State Department ridicules charges brought by Chinese Communists against the American Consul General at Mukden, Manchuria. Consul Angus Ward and four members of his staff are accused of beating a Chinese employee, and the Red radio today stated that they will be put on trial. The State Department describes the charges as having been - trumped up. American diplomatic officials in China say - too fantastic for comment.]

CHINA

6 News from Hong Kong is that the British Navy has intervened to break the blockade that the Nationalist Chinese Government has declared against the Communists. The British have no enthusiasm for the Reds, but insist on the right of trading with Communist-held ports - in spite of the Nationalist blockade which, according to International Law, is entirely illegal.

Nationalist gunboats have been stopping British vessels from navigating into the harbor at Shanghai. Protests have been unavailing. So now the news tells how British Navy vessels have escorted merchant ships to Canton, defying the gunboats - one of which was boarded by the British, who reclaimed the papers the Chinese had seized from a merchant vessel.

The final break-up of the Nationalist regime is taking a characteristic form---the provincial governors, the warlords, virtually declaring their independence. The Red sweep over so much of China has now left only five provinces under the control of the

7 government once headed by the all powerful Generalissimo, Chiang Kai-Shek -- and the fear is that several of these provinces, under the rule of warlords, may desert to the Communists. This may happen in Szechuan, which is especially important, because the capital of Szechuan is Chungking - and the Nationalists had intended to make that city their own refugee capital.

Another province of shaky loyalty is Singkiang, ~~which~~ borders ^{ing} on Tibet - and, if Singkiang, goes Communist, it might bring to a head the crisis about which we heard so much in the ^{glittering} ~~Holy~~ City of Lhasa. The Reds would then be all along the northern border of the Realm of the Dalai Lama, and would undoubtedly try to make good their claim to sovereignty over Tibet. When you hear that the Chinese Nationalists, losing all over the place, have also lost Sinkiang, then be ready for news ^{of} ~~for~~ an attempt to establish Communism on the Roof-of-the-World. [No wonder we found the ^{Dalai Lama's} government ~~at~~ ~~the Dalai Lama~~ nervous about the situation, with the prime minister saying that he hoped for American support,

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and pointing
~~it was pointed~~

out to us that Tibet borders on India
and Burma for Sixteen Hundred Miles - a long line of
possible Red infiltration into southern Asia.]

SUB BRITAIN

In London tonight the House of Commons had a second reading of a bill to reduce the authority of the House of Lords - although their lordships have not much authority left, as it is. "Second reading" in the British parliament means a second vote in favor of a measure, and makes it virtually certain to become a law. The purpose of the bill, pushed by the ~~Labour~~ Labor Party, is to modify the veto power of the aristocratic upper house in such fashion as to put into effect the nationalization of the iron and steel industry -- the pet project of the socialists. They hope to get the whole thing done before Parliament goes home for the holidays, and so they are calling it -- "a Christmas present for democracy". Wonder what the Lords are calling it - probably something stronger.

BARKLEY

Word at the White House is that President Truman may not be able to attend the wedding of Vice-President Barkley in St. Louis. The V. P., as the news has been telling, has wooed and won the heart and hand of Mrs. Hadley, a Thirty-Eight year old widow. Vice-President Barkley himself is Seventy-One, but spry enough for wooing and winning.

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The President extends his heartiest congratulations, and will do his best to attend the ceremony, but the wedding is set for November Eighteenth, and on that day he is invited to dinner - a dinner given by the Shah of Persia, Mohammad Reza Shah Pahlevi. The monarch of the ancient land of Iran is coming to this country on a visit of state, and the President has the official duty of giving him a suitable welcome - as the head of one nation to the head of another. He will go to the Barkley wedding, if it is held early enough in the morning, and if the weather is good - so that he can fly to St. Louis and return to Washington in time to have dinner with His Imperial Majesty -- the Shah.

Well, he'll be meeting an interesting young sovereign. This past summer, before we started on our trip to Tibet, I was in Iran, and interviewed the Shah, Twenty-Nine year old Shah at his summer palace in the hills north of Tehran. His Majesty told me a bit about his country's Seven-Year Plan of Economic Development -- and, I remember, we had a long chat on the subject of aviation. The Shah, with his B-17 -- which he pilots himself -- is one of the few flying-kings in the world.

FILM

Over in England, there's a motion picture production that has run into a dilemma, and how they'll ever get out of it is a puzzle. The movie is about fox hunting, that ancient aristocratic sport of Britain. The producers went ahead and shot a lot of scenes, leaving the actual fox-hunting part of it until the last, the riders in their red coats and the yelping hounds. So now they're ready to complete the picture, and all they need is to borrow a pack of hounds from some castle or manor in the fox-hunting country - and that's where they have run into trouble.

The movie, it seems, does not give too favorable an impression of the sport of running a fox to earth;—the British society that presides over fox hunting is annoyed, and has issued an order - that no master of fox hounds may lend his pack to the motion picture people. Meanwhile, the movie has been booked in advance, and sold to theatres ^{both} in Great Britain and the United States. But how can they complete it? How can you have a fox-hunting drama without any dogs?

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Maybe they ~~will~~ have to change it over to squirrel shooting or chasing rabbits. [Yes, it's a dilemma, and it looks as if the film people, to figure a way out, will have to be as smart as ^{the old} fox himself.]

~~Don't you think so, Nelson?~~

HALLOWEEN

This being Halloween, we don't expect a great deal of good sense in the celebration of the feast of traditional foolishness. But from a ^{number} ~~series~~ of cities we ^{we} heard of a reasonable, prudent idea. In places like Teaneck, New Jersey, ~~Scarsdale, New York,~~ and Waynesville, North Carolina, the merchants are not discouraging the pranks of the kids - especially that one favorite stunt of daubing paint over store fronts and show windows. In fact, the merchants are encouraging this particular brand of mischief. They're even offering prizes for the best designs the kids paint.

Sounds as if those business men were looking for trouble. But there's a catch in it. The youngsters are to use washable paint, the kind that a wet cloth will take off. In that way they hope to avoid having their places smeared with stuff that it takes a sand-blast to remove. Which certainly seems a good way to make the best of an annual nuisance - the fun the kids have on Halloween.

Nelson, are you going to duck for apples
tonight - or have you peaches?

STEEL

The news, all day long, indicated - a break in the steel strike. Dispatches kept saying that a headline might be expected any time late this afternoon - word of a major development in the big walkout which for weeks has been slowing down American industry, and throwing more and more thousands out of jobs.

The word was that Bethlehem Steel, one of the biggest corporations involved in the dispute, had come to an agreement with C.I.O. President, Philip Murray, who is also the President of the Steel Workers' Union. The terms - a compromise in the question of pensions and social insurance.

3 The ~~Union~~ has been demanding that the company shall pay the full cost, while the ~~Industry~~ has been insisting that the steel workers should make part of the contribution. The compromise was described as an arrangement whereby the Bethlehem Steel Company would finance the pension part of the ^{UNION} ~~union~~ demand. Actually, Bethlehem Steel has had a pension program all along, which presumably would now be expanded. On the

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other hand, the cost of the social insurance plan, with benefits for sickness, injury and death, would be shared by both the company and the steel workers - each side paying half ~~of~~ the bill.

~~The report was that the agreement would be made public by C.I.O. President Philip Murray at a press conference late this afternoon.~~

BRITAIN

In London today, the Labor Government proposed - a Christmas present. Sounds as if it might be a plan to let up on the austerity a little, and give the British people some extra rations to celebrate the Yuletide. But they call it - "A Christmas present for democracy." And it would be a swift kick for the House of Lords.

In Parliament, the Labor Government introduced a bill to cut down the power of the Lords - reduce it still further. The aristocratic ^{Upper} House, ~~has not~~ ^{no longer has} much authority, ~~but~~ ^{but} it will have even less, when the bill goes through.

As matters now stand, their lordships have a right of veto, by which they can delay legislation for two years. ^{And of late} They've been using their veto power to hold up a bill to nationalize the iron and steel industries of Great Britain. That's a number one item for British Socialism, the nationalization of iron and steel - and the Labor Party wants the bill to become law before the national elections next summer. To make

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that possible, they've got to get it out from under the veto of the Lords. So now the proposal to curtail the veto power, shorten the time element - which would automatically put the nationalization program into effect

The cabinet of Prime Minister Attlee hopes to get this through before Parliament goes home for the Christmas holidays, and so they're calling it - "The Christmas present for democracy." I ^{wonder what} ~~don't know what~~ the Lords are calling it, - probably something stronger!