

BRITAIN

L.T.- P&G. MONDAY, SEPT. 5, 1949.
(Eddie Eagan substituting)

Two important events will be held this week, on the two sides of the Atlantic Ocean - and both are closely related. In Washington, on Wednesday, the British-American talks will begin - trying to devise means for helping Britain out of her economic troubles. On the other side of the Atlantic - the annual Congress of the British Trades Unions began today. London has a Labor government based on the trades unions - and what they say will have a lot of meaning for the talks on economies in Washington.

The Congress is being held at a town with a name that sounds delightfully English - Bridlington. The meeting was opened today by Sir William Lawther, President of the Trades Union Congress, ~~and what he had to say was less important, perhaps, than the response~~.

He lashed out against the Communists, blaming the recent British strikes on Red agitators. He declared they were trying to sabotage the Labor government, and British economic recovery, and said those Red agitators should be outlawed.

This provoked an uproar among the Communists. They leaped to their feet with shouts of - "rubbish", "claptrap." But it was noted that the Reds, judging from the amount of noise they made, were not nearly so strong as at previous conferences of the trades unions - and they were promptly shouted down by a huge majority of delegates.

The real showdown will come when the Labor Congress takes up the question of freezing wages. That, we understand, is one thing which Bevin and Cripps will promise in Washington - in return for American concessions. The Communists in the British unions oppose a wage freeze, and they will be joined by other Left Wing elements. But, on the basis of the weakness of the Reds today, the opposition is not expected to muster more than twenty-five per cent of the votes.

ITALY

News from Italy tells of wild riots in the city of Milan today - the police fighting pitched battles against the Communists. Milan is a Red stronghold, and in the rioting Communist machine guns appeared - the Reds fighting with automatic weapons. They tried to storm police roadblocks, and armored cars had to be brought up to beat off the assault. Then the Reds threw up barricades, and the police had to storm these.

Three ~~thousand~~ were killed and ~~seventeen~~ ^{eighteen} wounded - and, at last report, speradic disturbances were still going on in Milan.

LABOR DAY

This country, far and wide, has been celebrating Labor Day, the festival dedicated to those whose work makes the wealth of this nation. President Truman celebrated the day by delivering addresses at Pittsburgh and Omaha - which two cities represent industry and agriculture.

At Pittsburgh, the President ~~announced~~ ~~that~~ ~~he~~ ~~will~~ ~~continue~~ ~~to~~ ~~work~~ ~~for~~ ~~the~~ ~~repeal~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~Taft-Hartley~~ ~~Law~~. At Omaha, the presidential words were adapted to the corn country - a declaration of confidence that the present Congress will pass a farm bill modeled on the Brannan Plan - ~~with~~ ~~the~~ ~~purpose~~ ~~of~~ ~~providing~~ ~~for~~ ~~a~~ ~~high~~ ~~income~~ ~~on~~ ~~the~~ ~~farm~~, and low prices in the retail stores.

TENNIS

The longest Championship tennis match was played today - Pancho Gonzales beating Ted Schroeder in 3 out of 5 sets.

The previous record for length was sixty-five games, and today Gonzales and Schroeder went to sixty-seven games.

SUBSTITUTE AIR RACE

In the Cleveland Air Races, disaster struck today with flaming tragedy. Bill Odom, round-the-world aviator, was in the Thompson Trophy Race, flying a souped-up Mustang. He was in third place, when he went out of control rounding a pylon. He flew upside down for seconds, then righted himself, only to crash into a house -- the plane plowing through with a burst of flame. Odom was killed, as was an occupant of the house -- Mrs. Bradley Laird. Two were injured -- in as tragic an accident as ever happened in an air race.

The Thompson Trophy Race was won by Cook Cleland, at an average of more than three hundred and ninety-six miles an hour.

In the jet plane event, a speed record was made, more than five hundred and eighty-six miles an hour -- the fastest ever for a closed course, flying round and round.

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Captain Bruce Cunningham was the winner. A veteran of fifty missions in the war, he reached a top speed of more than six hundred and thirty-five miles an hour.

CIRCUMNAVIGATORS

The reason I am substituting for Lowell Thomas is because of one of the two jobs I hold. I happen to be ^{Chairman} Chairman of the New York State Daring Commission - but that is

^{PR. LE} not the reason I am on this program tonight. I'm talking as President of the Circumnavigators Club, because Lowell Thomas, while on an expedition into Tibet, is also making a trip ^{around} around the world - though it's a mighty strange one.

Some few weeks ago I, myself, went on a record breaking circumnavigation - the speediest ever made by regular ^{passenger} commercial airplanes. Pan-American was beginning its globe-girdling air service, and around we went in six days and three hours. ^{we} We made the regular stops of airline flying, but there was mighty little time on the ground - just forty hours in all. I had a couple of hours in London

~~to present a set of American-bought glasses to an English boy's club. In summary some of the primary results,~~

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~~we had just time enough to get into the Circumnavigators' basement had a camera and thought might make a few pictures~~

~~In Bangkok, southern Asia, there was an attempt to note how clever the Siamese mechanics were in learning American ways of servicing a giant airplane:~~

~~But the minutes on the ground at any one time were few,~~ and that brings us to the surprising contrast. Lowell Thomas, on a flight around the world, is making a record-breaking step, going for a trip by caravan through the Himalayas, to the forbidden city of Lhasa. Nobody ever made a step-off like that before.

To illustrate how strange it is, here's a report from the expedition. Lowell Thomas, Jr., is with his father, and he gives us a recorded broadcast from over there in the highest mountains of the world.

(AS WE RIDE ON TOWARD YATUNG)

END

That was Lowell Thomas, Junior, speaking for broadcast in the high Himalayas. The Tibetan beggar sounded like central Asian boogie-weegie, or calypso among the lamas. We'll hear from the expedition again in a day or so, and now it's time for Nelson Case.

(early 9/5/49)

In the Cleveland Air Races, tragedy struck today.

Bill Odom, the round-the-world flyer, was killed. He was flying in the Thompson Trophy Race - ~~for propeller driven planes~~, and was in third place, when his plane went out of control and crashed. A flyer's end for one of the famous aviators of these times.

The Thompson Trophy Race was won by Cook Cleland, who flew around the pylons at an average of more than three hundred and ninety-six miles an hour.

In the jet plane event, a ~~new~~ speed record was made, more than five hundred and eighty-six miles an hour - the fastest ever for a closed course, flying round and round.

Captain Bruce Cunningham, a veteran of fifty missions in the war, reached a top speed of more than six hundred and thirty-five miles an hour, ~~-- on the ninth lap -- then had to slow down because his fuel was running low for the tenth lap, the last one. Except for the fuel shortage, his average speed would have been higher than that record-breaking five hundred and eighty-six miles an hour.~~