

BERLIN BLOCKADE C. J. P. O. Thursday, April 20, 1949.

The President thinks the Russians are acting in good faith. ~~President Truman~~^{He} believed that, in the New York talks between American Ambassador-at-Large-Jessup and Russian-U-N-delegate-Malik, the Soviets mean what they say -- in offering to lift the Berlin blockade in advance of a meeting of the Foreign Minister of the Big Four to discuss the German crisis. This optimistic Truman view was expressed at a White House conference today.

At the U N, Lake Success, Long Island, a high ranking western diplomat was quoted as saying that final arrangements for ending the blockade will be made at a meeting of Russian, British, French and American representatives this week, and that a conference of the Foreign Ministers will be held in May.

The sudden turn of events, in the last few days, is connected with the resignation of a high Russian official employed by the U N, Assistant Secretary General Sobolev. His retirement was announced today -- Sobolev returning to the Soviet

BERLIN CANALS

There was a sharp local crisis in Berlin today -- and the Soviets backed down. ~~It had to do with canals, which are important in Berlin traffic -- the British in their sector of the city, relying largely on such waterways.~~ ^R Yesterday the Russians began interfering with British ^{canal} traffic, stopping barges at the locks. So today, the British command sent ^{forty} ~~a party of~~ soldiers to the important Charlottenburg Lock, with orders to put a stop to the interference. ^R At the lock the British detachment told the Soviet officers to get their people out or the British would remove them. ~~The threat to use military force was clear. The Soviet officers said they would have to communicate with their superiors, which they did -- and were told to yield.~~ ^R Shortly afterward, a launch flying the Red flag came through the canal, and removed the Russians. So the day ended with barge traffic moving unimpeded, after the Red backdown.

GERMANY - URANIUM

In occupied Germany the U S Army reports the smashing of a uranium ring, black marketeers out to peddle Three Million Dollars worth of the stuff of which the atomic bomb is made. The uranium was from German supplies accumulated before the war, now in the hands of the black market. The schemers tried to sell the radio-active metal to American investigators, and four gm Germans were arrested with two-thousand-and-three-hundred grams of uranium in an old battered suitcase.

PHILIPPINES

In Manila today, crowds gathered in front of a house, people stunned by grief, many weeping -- the Quezon home -- where the first President of the Philippines lived with his family. And now his widow and eldest daughter have been murdered in an ambush-massacre by a band of guerrillas. Hukbalahaps, said to be Communist inspired.

The scene as described by dispatches from Manila is one of utter savagry. Mrs. Quezon was on her way to lay a hospital cornerstone in the town where her late husband, the first Philippine President, was born. The automobiles of the official party were ambushed on a mountain road in central Luzon and there was an orgy of gunfire and killing. It is believed in Manila that the guerrillas supposed Philippine President Quirino was in the party and wanted to kill him also.

COPLON

It was stated in New York today that Judy Coplon, former employee of the Department of Justice, had her purse crammed with secret documents, thirty in all -- when she met the alleged Soviet secret agent -- Gubitchev. One of those ~~an~~ official secrets provides the irony. It had been ~~planted~~ ^{by the FBI for} Judy Coplon to take from the Department of Justice files -- such ~~was~~ the statement made today at her trial in New York.

The document ~~was a memorandum named~~ an official of Amtorg the Soviet Purchasing Agency, as a Russian who was giving information secretly to the F B I. ~~This was~~ ^{This was} ~~Another Russian was likewise named in that~~ ~~phony document which the F B I planted. It was~~ copied in a memorandum by the woman ~~an~~ employee of the Department of Justice, ^{which} ~~and this~~ memorandum was found in her purse -- for transmission to the Soviets, according to the prosecution. →

ADD COPLON

The Defense Counsel opening his case, denounced the F B I for planting papers to trap Judy Coplon. Her only trouble, ~~was~~, he said, was, "a futile romantic feeling for the Soviet, Gubitchev". What her lawyer called ~~in~~ a "kissless" love.

Here's news, or it will be for many of us:
The IWW still in existence. I thought the one-time
scare-headline Red-radical organization of Wobblies had
vanished -- the International Workers of the World, who
in the old days raised ructions with violent strikes.

But today we have a complaint because Attorney
General Clark, in a recent list of subversive
organizations, included that old Wobbly labor group so
familiar around the days of World War One. The Wobbly
secretary argues that the IWW is a bitter foe of
Communism -- the Soviet Reds having declared war on it
some twenty-five years ago.

That squares with the record. When, after
the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia, the Communist Party
came into being over here, its policy was to penetrate
and take over the more conservative unions - and destroy
the extreme radical IWW. Why? Because the "Wobblies"
held another kind of revolutionary doctrine, always
anathema to the Soviets.

So in a brief time the big noise of the IWW subsided into silence. It seemed as if the Communists had succeeded in eliminating the Wobblies altogether. But, apparently they still survive -- though not so noisy.

The battle over the repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act came to a new climax today, when President Truman stated that the power of patronage would be used to force rebellious Democrats into line. At a news conference the President stated that ~~xx~~ federal jobs would be withheld from such Democratic members of Congress as failed to support the Administration program. He was asked -- did this apply to the bill to repeal the Taft Hartley Act? And ~~and~~ the answer was -- yes. ~~Which amounts to powerful White House intervention since legislators get a lot of political benefit out of government jobs placed at their disposal, and they can reward political supporters with federal patronage.)~~

~~This is aimed especially at Southern Democrats who have joined the Republicans in presenting a substitute for the White House Bill to repeal the Taft-Hartley ~~xxx~~ Law. The Dixiecrat-Republican ~~substitute~~ ~~Bill~~ was introduced today by Democratic Congressman Wood from Georgia.~~

~~one of~~ The southerners of the coalition

with the Republicans ^{are} making ^{an angry} ~~quick~~ comeback to the
White House intention of using patronage as a whip.

Congressman Hebert of Louisiana states: "The position
is very clear -- that a vote is for sale for a job,
or jobs."

OLYMPICS

The Olympic games for Nineteen Fifty-six go to Melbourne, Australia. In Rome, today, the International Olympic Committee voted, and it was a close race between Buenos Aires and the big town in

Down Under.

~~Australia~~ But on the fourth ballot Melbourne won out, twenty-one to twenty. The various American cities competing were never in the running, none of them ever getting more than several votes.

The winter Olympics for Nineteen Fifty-Six will be held in Italy ^{— at} Cortina, ~~Bormio~~ in the Italian Alps. A surprise, but adopted by an overwhelming ~~majority~~ majority.

FOLLOW OLYMPICS

Tonight there are bitter American complaints, ^wsquaks that the United States was ~~en~~ganged by a combination of British Empire votes.

W However, half a dozen cities of our own U S A could not get together to pick one single American ~~an~~ candidate. ~~Proposals were made that the Americans should get together and select one city as the American entrant.~~ But ^XThey couldn't agree among themselves, and six American cities went into the competition independently -- against three cities abroad. Detroit felt sure of winning, and is particularly annoyed because Detroit got only two votes. Los Angeles got five. **B**ut, the Americans divided six ways, got nowhere against Melbourne.

Tonight in a Harlem hospital, there is a twenty-two year old negro suffering from bruises and contusions, which he claims were inflicted on him this afternoon by Leo Durocher, Manager of the New York Giants. The ball game today was between those two old bitter rivals, the New York giants and the Brooklyn Dodgers, the more bitter because until the middle of last season, Durocher was the Manager of the Dodgers.

All of which was at a climax today. The Dodger fans, joined by the Brooklyn team, concentrated a storm of abuse on Durocher -- riding and heckling Lippy Leo.

One of the loudest exponents of the Dodger hurrah was the twenty-two year old negro Fred Boysen. Tonight his attorney admits that he kept howling that Durocher was -- "a big bum." All the more aggravating because of what the Dodgers did to the Giants -- flattening them out by a lop-sided score of fifteen to two -- the Dodgers clouting eight runs in one big inning.

After the triumphant end, Boysen ran out onto the field to greet his heroes -- especially the negro star -- Jackie Robinson. According to his story, Durocher had him spotted -- and the next thing you know the hilarious Dodger fan was knocked down and kicked around. Brooklyn coming through with the unusual -- as usual.

The New York news of the sale of ^a~~the~~ Lincoln manuscript copy of the Gettysburg Address brings interesting reminiscence of that speech of world renown. At an auction, a retired business man from Cuba, *Sintas*, Oscar Cintas ~~and~~ paid Fifty-four thousand dollars for the Fifth copy ~~in~~ that Lincoln made of the Gettysburg address. ~~So, did the Great Emancipator write and re-write that masterpiece of eloquence so often -- five times? Not at all -- he was merely that good natured.~~

Lincoln drafted the Gettysburg address in pencil, scribbling on a piece of paper. Then he wrote it out in ink. Those two copies he gave to John Hay, his Assistant Secretary -- and they both are now in the Library of Congress.

A year later, there was a fair in New York city, and they wanted a copy of the speech the war President delivered at Gettysburg. So Lincoln obligingly sat down with pen and paper and wrote another copy of it -- this copy -- Number three -- now being in the Illinois State historical library.

A little later, George Bancroft, the historian asked President Lincoln for still another copy to be given to a fair at Baltimore for soldiers and sailors. Once again Lincoln obliged. But this copy, number four, did ⁿot please Bancroft, because it had no title, date ~~nor~~ signature. He kept it himself -- the copy now the property of a mid-western private collector. Bancroft asked the President to make still another copy, for the affair in Baltimore, and the good natured Lincoln did.

~~(This is the one sold in New York last night for Fifty-four thousand dollars -- two-hundred-and-eighty words, thirty-nine lines, on three pages, the Fifth hand written copy of that Abraham Lincoln made of the Gettysburg Address.)~~

MAIL MAN

In Los Angeles, a mailman is under arrest -- after they found five thousand letters in his home, letters he failed to deliver. William Lilley has been a mailman for twenty years, during which time he delivered myriads of letters. But, you know, there comes a time when walking the rounds is not so easy -- the endless tramp, tramp, tramp of the mailman. Today, Lilley gave the explanation of the ~~xxxx~~ five thousand letters in his house. "when my feet hurt," he says, "I just took the mail home." Yes, those aching dogs.

He says he always intended to deliver that mail but never got around to it -- his feet still kept hurting.

Nelson do you think you
can walk up to the microphone.

PRINCESS

There is a rebellion in Italy today -- a royal revolt, insurrection by Princess Margaret of Great Britain. The younger daughter of King George and Queen Elizabeth is on a tour of that ancient land of romance, but she is getting too much of a reception. Arriving at Naples yesterday she was greeted by a big ceremony of welcome. Then, today, an official deputation waited on her to take her for a conducted tour, with ~~much~~ pomp and circumstance. But the Princess rebelled, and didn't go. ^R Instead, she took a boat to the nearby Island of Capri, far-famed in song and sentimental story. But, as the boat neared the dock, Margaret noticed that a crowd was waiting there, a host of photographers. Once again, she rebelled, and told the pilot of the launch to change course and go around the island. When the cameramen saw that, they made a bee-line for every kind of craft available, boats of all sorts, and gave chase,

trying to catch the Princess of Britain. But her launch, once the property of King Victor Emanuel of Italy was too fast and out-distanced the fleet of photographers. So Margaret was able to land at Capri while the picture-men were still out at sea. ~~She went immediately to her hotel, but a crowd was there, chiefly British and American tourists -- for whom Capri is a favorite haunt.~~ At last ~~reputed~~ reports, the princess, in insurrection, was secluded in her hotel room, the word being that she would stay there until night-fall and then go out for a walk -- protected by darkness from the photographers.

Well, that's what happens when you are a royal Princess -- instead of just Mamie, Katie, or Susie. Isn't that so, Nelson?