

CONFERENCE

C.I. - Summary and P. & G. Denver, Apr. 7 '48.

At the Moscow conference today Soviet Foreign Minister Molotov made the proposal that the most important question in the framing of a new government for Germany should be answered by the German people themselves. He demanded a plebiscite in which the defeated Germans would ~~make~~ make their own decision -- because the victorious powers, the Big Four, cannot agree.

The question at issue is basic. (The western democracies want a federated Germany with a weak central government and a lot of local self rule -- self rule by German states. Soviet Russia wants the new Germany to have a strong central government, with a minimum of political power vested ~~in~~ in the local German states.) The opposition to that Soviet view, opposition led by American Secretary of State Marshall -- is ~~is~~ that a powerful centralized ~~g~~ government in Germany might be the means of another dictatorship, another Hitler. ~~Today, the question got down to a ~~constitutional~~ constitutional point. Molotov argued that~~

the new German constitution should specify what powers are to be given to the central government and exactly what authority is to be vested in the local German states. ^{TP} The western democracies, led by our own ~~General~~ General Marshall, contended that the powers of the new central government in Germany should be defined, but that the authority of the states should not be defined. In other words, give the central government thus and so -- all the remainder to go to the States. ^{TP} That's in line with the American constitution, which specifies what authority the federal government shall have, and provides that all other powers, not specifically mentioned, shall be vested in the State. ^P

^{With} that constitutional question at a deadlock in Moscow today Molotov made his proposal -- let the Germans themselves decide. Let the defeated Germans take a vote on their own constitution, on the kind of government they are to have. Let them say - whether or not they are to have a strong or weak central

government. This was immediately opposed by Secretary of State Marshall, and he had the prompt support of Great Britain and France. Their view was that the kind of government for Germany is to be decided by the victors in the war, not by the conquered Germans themselves.) British ~~Foreign~~ Foreign Secretary Bevin expressed this sharply by stating that the problem of a new German government involved the security of Great Britain and he would not let the Germans decide in any matter of British security.

U N

Before the Security Council of the United Nations today, Gromyko had the floor - he had the floor twice. The first time he ~~xxx~~ presented Soviet demands on the subject of disarmament and the atomic bomb. (It was the same old story -- Gromyko demanding that we scrap our atomic power before there is any agreement ~~in~~ about a system to outlaw atomic warfare.)

~~We, of course, oppose this, contending that there must be an effective agreement to abolish the atomic bomb, actually, and no fooling -- before we ~~draw~~ throw away our bombs.~~

^{TP} The second time Gromyko took the floor, this afternoon, he assailed President Truman's new foreign policy. That policy of aid to Greece and Turkey, for the purpose of checking communism, was up ~~and~~ for debate today by the United Nations.

^{TP} And Gromyko led off by denouncing the Truman policy as a blow against the world organization. In Gromyko's words, the Truman policy "weakens and undermines the United Nations". ~~In addition to which he denied~~

~~that there was any crisis of Communist menace against Turkey, and he denounced Turkey and the Turkish situation.~~

Gromyko summed up by proposing that the U N take over the task of helping Greece. He suggested that a special commission be constituted for that purpose -- to ~~be~~ rule out the American program of giving American aid to Greece. The Gromyko motion, of course, would be to limit the aid to mere relief, -- nothing like the military help that the ~~the~~ Truman policy would give to Greece against communism.

Gromyko was immediately answered by British delegate Sir Alexander Cadogan who stated that the U N was in no position to provide the aid that Greece requires -- hence the United States would have to do it - and Cadogan told the Security Council ~~for~~ for the first time that Great Britain endor^ses the American program.

TELEPHONE

*Now for a summary - a
panorama of the day in the telephone strike.*

In Washington, shortly before six o'clock

this morning, Secretary of Labor Schwollenbach walked into an auditorium in the Department of Labor. There a meeting was being held -- a meeting of the Policy Committee of the Telephone Union. The strike was less than fifteen minutes away, called for six a.m. The Secretary of Labor addressed the Union Policy Committee, and made a last minute appeal -- asking that the strike be delayed for forty-eight hours.

"I think" said Schwollenbach to the union leaders "that I have a right to talk to you -- not only as the Secretary of Labor but as a proven friend of your organization." He told them that he had hopes that a settlement could be reached within forty-eight hours, and asked them to postpone the strike for that length of time.

It was a brief urgent appeal, after which the Secretary of Labor walked out -- leaving his request for the union leaders to consider. Schwollenbach

was just going through the door, when ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ ^{telephone} union President Joseph Beirne arose and spoke -- talking to his fellow union leaders. What did he say? He adjourned the meeting. He simply closed the session, and dismissed the policy committee -- without even mentioning the Schwellenbach appeal. Later he said that it came too late. The huge mechanism for a nationwide telephone strike had been set to ~~go~~ ^{go} into action, and could not be halted at the last minute.

Such was the bit of dramatic action that ushered in the strike today; and immediately thereafter the mechanism of the walkout began -- the shutting down of the nation-wide telephone system. This, too, was of dramatic sweep and scope -- the strike moving across the country by steps from one hour to another, the strike moving east to west with the sun. The ~~xxx~~ walkout was called for six a.m. ~~all across the~~ nation, ~~and~~ ^{and} we know ~~that~~ the time of day ^{varies} ~~various~~ from one time zone to another. In each time zone, the zero

hour was six A.m, local time. So on the East Coast the strike began an hour earlier than in the middle west, the mountain states had the strike an hour earlier than the Pacific Coast. So that was the progression -- six a.m. Eastern Standard Time, then the same hour Central Time, next Mountain Time and ~~fix~~ finally Pacific Coast time. The strike moving westward hour by hour ~~westward~~ with the sun.

Everywhere picket lines were formed -- strikers picketing telephone exchanges. There were the usual lines of marchers, parading to and fro, carrying banners. At Salt Lake City the pickets contrived to inject a touch of levity. One placard carried by a picket read:

The voice with a smile

Will be gone for a while.

Long distance lines were the ones principally affected -- ~~taxgnt~~ together with local service that does not operate by the dial system.

Where dials are used as in big cities, local services

went on ~~today~~ -- and will continue as long as the mechanism holds out. ~~However, when and if mechanical faults develop there will be little or no repairing to keep dial systems going -- the maintenance workers being on strike. News wire services are not affected, nor is radio transmission -- these being considered vital services, which the unions have agreed to continue. It is also agreed that emergency calls of various kinds shall be put through.~~

The latest tonight pictures long distance telephone services pretty well tied up ^{between three} ~~between three~~ and four hundred thousand workers on strike. Telephone Company officials declare that the walkout is about seventy-five percent effective. (There are some localities in which the strike is not effective at all. In New England, the telephone workers belong to a union not affiliated with the organization that ~~is~~ called the tie-up. So the New England workers are on the job. In Montana, the telephone workers are not organized ~~at all~~ -- and are on the job. And in


Virginia and Indiana there are state laws -- which block the walkout. In New Jersey, the state has taken over the telephone system -- New Jersey having recently passed a law providing for the seizure of necessary public ~~ma~~ utilities in case of strike.

What about the Federal Government? We heard some days ago that the Administration believed it had legal power to take over the telephone systems of the nation - should ~~be~~ there be a strike. But the word from Washington tonight is that President Truman has decided not to invoke seizure by the Government -- not at the moment, anyway. ~~Government action takes the form of ~~an~~ emergency attempts to bring about an agreement between the union and the telephone companies. In Congress there are no signs of emergency action -- the general opinion of the Republican majority being that ~~it~~ ^{there} will be no stampede into hasty legislation.~~

~~The drafting of labor laws will continue at normal pace. The prospects tonight look none too hopeful for a quick end of the walkout.~~

The strikers are demanding a wage increase of twelve dollars a week, plus some other concessions -- ~~and tonight~~ ^{but so far} there are few signs of a compromise that might bring about an end to the first coast to coast telephone strike this nation has ~~xxxxxx~~ ever had.

^{Further} ~~The latest~~ news this evening rounds ~~it~~ out the day of drama, ~~in the telephone strike.~~ A bulletin from Washington tells of the rejection of a plea for a truce, -- a plea made by Secretary of Labor Schwellenbach to the Policy Committee of the Union, asking that the ~~xxxxxx~~ telephone workers go back to their jobs, temporarily at least, while a settlement is being worked out. The Union leaders rejected ~~the~~ the Schwellenbach appeal for a truce, just as they had begun the day by turning down the ~~urging of the~~ Secretary of Labor, ^{'s appeal} ~~urging~~ that the beginning of the strike be delayed.



ADD TELEPHONE

Still later news is in a more hopeful vein -- a federal conciliator, directing new negotiations for a settlement, giving out the following statement: "good progress has been made."

On the other hand the Union President says his people expect a long tie-up -- and are ready for it.

COAL

The coal industry is having what is being called -- a safety strike. Last midnight ended the one week of work stoppage, which was called as a gesture of mourning for the victims of the coal mine disaster at Centralia, Illinois. However, when the "memorial" shut-down ended, there was no rush back to work today. The coal miners, for the most part, stayed away from the black pits. They say they won't go back to work until the mines have been inspected, checked and rechecked for safety. We are told that this "safety strike" is a spontaneous thing, miners remaining out of their own volition -- without any direction from the union.

However, that all may be, it means a continued shut down of the mines, a continued stop of the production of coal -- a blow to industry -- to the steel industry in particular.

MURDER

Tonight's news brings a strange turn of drama in an atrocious murder story at St. Joseph, Missouri. A late bulletin states: -- "the killer is shocked."

Earlier in the day the news came through with ~~the~~ the headline -- the church murder. It told how the sixteen year old son of a prominent pastor in the Missouri City had confessed to the killing of the fifty-eight year old sexton of his father's church. Stuart Buckner Allen, a pre-possessing college sophomore, told the police how, in the basement of the church he had slugged the sexton with ~~an~~ a hammer -- in what the police called "the most brutal and vicious crime in the history of the city." ^PThe youth confessed with the utmost calmness, and explained that he had long been obsessed with what he called -- an urge to kill. He discussed his psychopathic impulse with the utmost coolness. He seemed utterly imperturable; then, something happened to ~~shake~~ ^{shake} the nerve of the young killer, something

that shocked him.

This was when the pastor - shaken with grief, came to see him, and told him something he had never known before. This disclosure was -- that he was an adopted son.

"I guess" said the youth afterward, "that was more of a shock than anything else".

ASPEN

Arriving in Denver today, I noticed an interesting item in the Rocky Mountain News -- an item with as much flavor of the west as the name of that newspaper. It related that, in the present-day revival of the old ghost mining town of Aspen, they are planning to bring back to life a silver ~~camp opera~~ house, which flourished in the gone-by days when the white metal was abounding treasure at Aspen.

~~Well, it happened that over the weekend I had been at Aspen -- doing some skiing. The revival of the ghost town has taken the form of an up-to-date development for sliding down the snowy mountain slopes. But, in addition to that, They have a project of establishing a kind of cultural center at the old silver camp, which may sound strange -- because you don't ordinarily connect the wild boom towns of the ~~xxxx~~ wild west with anything high-brow or High falutin. Yet it is a fact that the gold and silver camps, rough and rambunctious as they were, did go in~~

for artistic cultivation and even elegance. Along with the hell-roaring of saloons and gambling houses, dance hall girls and gun fights, ~~we~~ went a picturesque ~~contrast~~ contrast of the fashionable and top-lofty.

There was no lack of plug hats and fancy weskits in those old mining camps. ^R At Aspen they told me how the wife of a prospector who had struck it rich had a standing order ^{— Worths —} at [^] one of the great fashion houses of Paris, whereby she was sent each year the latest of Parisian styles -- to wear in the up-roar of the silver camp. ^R But of all this, the prime example is the Aspen Opera House. The Rocky Mountain News tells of the stars ~~and~~ of the theater and grand opera who, sixty odd years ago, made spectacular appearances in the silver camp -- the renowned Madame Modjeska, playing Shakespeare with the company of Edwin Booth. ~~And~~ opera stars were headed by the peerless Adalina Patti.

As for the elegance of the mining town opera house, here's a quotation from the Aspen Daily

Times back in ^{Eight} ~~Nineteen~~ Eighty-nine: "The Opera House," wrote the silver camp society editor, "was filled with delicate ~~xx~~ odors that added an oriental touch ~~xx~~ to the scene. This was accounted for," ^{he} continued, ~~the ~~xxx~~ society editor,~~ "when it was learned that an enterprising Aspen druggist had perfumed the satin programs for the ladies". ^R How's that for elegance of the old wild West -- perfumed satin programs for the ladies.

ORSON WELLES

From Hollywood we have the reaction of movie star Orson Welles to the latest award bestowed upon him. The Harvard Lampoon names Orson Wells as its Nineteen Forty-Six selection of -- the Worst Actor. He's the favorite, in reverse English, among the Lamponers of Harvard. So what does Orson Welles have to say to that?

In Hollywood today, the ^{(star thus honored} ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~
~~XXXXXXXX~~ expresses his appreciation saying that the Harvard idea of picking the worst actor is more sensible than the Hollywood way of ~~an~~ awarding Oscars to the best actor. "I always thought" says he, "that it was silly for a bunch of grown-up people to give each other little statues". He prefers the Lampoon from Harvard to a little statue.

But Orson Welles has one criticism to make of that award naming him the worst actor of Nineteen forty-six. He says the Harvard boys should have seen him, a few years ago, in a stage ~~an~~ appearance he made with Katherine Cornell ~~XXXXXX~~ in the Shaw play --

Candida. Unless they saw him then, he intimates -- they really don't know what bad acting is.

After which, I think we should award to Orson Welles an Oscar for a good comeback.

4 And with that the microphone comes back to you Nelson.