

C.J. - Sunoco and P.G. Friday, April 18, 1947.

EXPLOSION

(Tonight's account from Galveston Bay tells of men entering a world of horror, rescue crews penetrating the heart of the havoc at Texas City.) Three hundred drove deep into the still smoldering ruins today. They wore heavy gloves, we are told, <sup>as</sup> protection against gas gangrene. A number of the injured are reported to be infected with that kind of gangrene that comes from searing gases given off by chemicals. So the rescue crews wore gloves to protect their hands, as they dug into wreckage sodden with chemical gas.

They are in a realm of death, digging out shattered bodies - and living persons, too. One report from the Coast Guard today stated: "Live people are being uncovered in the ruins of the Monsanto Chemical Plant."

Two oil fires still burned today, but they were dying out. There was fear that a couple of great tanks of explosive propane gas might blow up, ~~th~~ but that terror has diminished. (The count of lives lost is still far from complete - hundreds of people still

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missing. It is now thought the final figure may run as high as seven hundred, but officials admit ~~that~~ this is only a guess.)

## STEEL

From the world of labor, news of optimism comes tonight. The United Press begins a late dispatch with the following lead: "A year of labor-management peace," it says, "appeared to be in the making today - on the basis of a fifteen cent an hour increase for C.I.O. workers in heavy industry."

To back that up, is a dispatch that the United Electrical Workers, C.I.O., have come to an ~~agrr~~ agreement with Westinghouse, accepting a fifteen cent an hour pay boost. That settlement today is virtually identical with the one between the union and the electrical division of General Motors. Westinghouse has seventy-five thousand workers, and the General Motors deal covered thirty thousand - bringing a-hundred-and-five <sup>thousand</sup> C.I.O. members into the pattern of a fifteen cent an hour increase.

However, a similar offer is turned down by the auto workers. General Motors proposed the same kind of wage boost for two-hundred-and-twenty-thousand members of that union; but today Walter Reuther, Union

President, said it was - "unsatisfactory." But that's being negotiated, Reuther making a hurried trip to Detroit for the purpose today.

We have a report that United States Steel has made a wage increase offer to its own C.I.O. Union. A dispatch from Pittsburgh states that this has eased the tension over a possible steel strike.

## TELEPHONE

In the telephone strike, the union is bidding for intervention by the President. Strike leader Joseph Beirne stated today that he is going to lay all the facts in the labor dispute before President Truman. The union leader says he is not making - an appeal. But it all amounts to a <sup>^</sup>tact request for White House intervention.

At the same time, there is a union peace feeler thrown out in the direction of the telephone companies. Strike Leader Beirne stated today that the walkout would end quickly if the companies woul offer, ~~xxx~~ what he called a "down payment." That is, if they would concede some kind of wage increase as a down payment, while the whole question of wages and the other issues are being settled.

Meanwhile, the American Federation of Labor ~~xxx~~ today issued a demand with reference to that other form of communication - telegraph. The Federation wants the government to take over and operate Western Union. This was stated today to the Federal Communications

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Commission, a union attorney arguing that the telegraph system is a natural monopoly, and that therefore it should be run by the government.

UN

( Uncle Sam scores a major victory at a Security Council Meeting. The council today rejected a Russian resolution giving the U.N. supervision over American aid to Greece. Which virtually amounts to U.N. approval of President Truman's four hundred million dollar loan to Greece and Turkey. )

Also, the Security Council voted to leave a permanent commission in the Balkans, to watch for border violations, another proposal sponsored by the U.S.A.

Shortly before today's decision came, on the Greco-Turkish aid proposal, American Delegate Warren Austin announced that regardless of how the vote went, he would not veto it.

That was aimed at Gromyko, of course, who is always vetoing.

Gromyko came back with charges of deceit against the American delegate. "I admit the situation of the United States has endeavored to deny that the proposed help will be used as a political weapon in Greece. However, the proclaimed plans say it not only will be,

but should be used for such purposes. Decide ~~ye~~ for yourselves" said Gromyko, "where there is absurdity and where there is truth."

Whereupon the delegates did decide. They rejected the Russian proposition that American aid to Greece and Turkey be supervised by the U.N.

HOOVER

A sort of tragic paradox was pointed out angrily today, decried by former President Hoover. He stated that in conquered Germany the forces of occupation American, British, Soviet and French, are busy destroying fertilizer plants, of which Europe has desperate need. All Europe, said he, is gasping for fertilizers required in food production. Yet many German factories, capable of turning out an enormous production of fertilizer, are being demolished.

The former President stated this to the newsmen, as he emerged from a congressional committee hearing, at which he advocated the White House Bill for general foreign food relief. Presumably, he had told the committee in no uncertain terms about the destruction of the German Fertilizer plants, because Herbert Hoover was boiling about it when he emerged.

He admitted that some of the plants might be used for manufacturing war material - and that pointed up the paradox of the whole thing. It happens, by an

unlucky twist of science, that both explosives and fertilizers are nitrates - that protean element called nitrogen being the basis of the stuff that blows up and the material of living things. Nitrates for modern war. But, nitrates are also needed for the growing <sup>a</sup> crops. German war industry should be destroyed, ~~which included~~ <sup>meaning</sup> munitions plants. <sup>But a</sup> factory that can make exploding nitrates, can also make fertilizing nitrates - and vice-versa. So now, in tearing down the one, they are tearing down the other. <sup>R</sup> And post-war Europe, with its grim problem of hunger, is in desperate need of the fertilizer that could be produced by the demolished plants. <sup>And</sup> all the nations of Europe, the victors as well as vanquished Germany, ~~are~~ harmed thereby.

Maybe that's okay with somebody who thinks only in terms of a possible revival of German military menace but it's infuriating to a food expert, like Herbert Hoover, whose thought is in terms of feeding the hungry.

Today he put the paradox in sharp terms for the American people. We have to send to Europe huge supplies of food, which might be produced over there with the help of the fertilizer from the German plants. Even more directly to the point, we are sending great cargoes of fertilizer - which might be turned out by the demolished factories over there. We Americans are bearing the biggest part of the burden, immense in terms of money - the burden created by the demolition of the fertilizer plants.

Indignant Herbert Hoover, emerging from the Committee hearing, was on his way to the White House for a conference with President Truman. There, no doubt, in talking with the President, he continued the theme of tragic paradox, the destruction of the fertilizer plants, when fertilizer is now so desperately needed in Europe.

## CHURCHILL

We have a new term for our political vocabulary, one provided by Winston Churchill today. The term - crypto-Communist. Which gives a vivid enough impression, "crypto~~os~~" meaning - hidden, obscure. Churchill himself, provided a definition, saying that a crypto~~os~~-Communist ~~is~~ - "One who has ~~not~~ got the courage to explain the destination for which he is making." An apt description of those Lefties and Pinkoes who play the game of Red dictatorship, and can never quite bring themselves to face the fact that what they favor is totalitarian tyranny.

Britain's wartime Prime Minister coined the term in talking about our own American Henry Wallace - saying that Wallace, over in England, was in cahoots with Britain's small minority of Cryptic-Communists. They ~~are~~ <sup>are</sup> opposing the Labor Government policy of solidarity with the U.S.A., and want Britain to team up with Soviet Russia.

Well, it has been stated that Henry has

been deriving his ideas from British Left Wingers visiting America, and that they instigated his trip abroad to campaign against the Truman policy of checking Communism. The assertion has been made that these British Left Wingers were using Henry as a means of assailing the pro-American program of the labor government in London, in the hope of changing this over to pro-Soviet.

So now we find Winston Churchill supporting that view by giving us a picture of Henry over there hobnobbing with the Cryptic-Communists. "The object", says he, "Has been to separate Great Britain from the United States, and weave Britain into the vast system of Communist intrigue which radiates from Moscow."

Churchill made a wry reference to the blasts issued by Wallace, the former Vice-President, charging his own country with a ruthless imperialism and war-mongering. Which is a precise echo of the fulminations that emanate from Moscow. Churchill, the

leader of the opposition to the Labor Government, used acid phraseology. "I've traveled quite a bit myself," said he. "I am received abroad with much kindness in Europe and America. But, when I am abroad," he remarked, "I always make it a rule never to criticize or attack the government of my country." To which he added with sly humor: "I make up for lost time when I come home."

~~Which would seem to echo ~~what~~ what many in American have been asking - why did Henry have to go to Europe to campaign against the Truman policy of aiding Greece and Turkey against Red aggression, when that ~~policy~~ policy is being decided over here in the U.S.A., in Washington?~~

ADD CHURCHILL

Well, Henry when he returns may be wearing a halo. Tonight we hear from Stockholm that he has taken official cognizance of the Churchillian comments and has turned the other cheek.

Says Henry: "I understand the Great British leader, to whom we all owe gratitude, has honored me with the term - crypto-communist. I refuse to be disturbed. Peace can never be served by namecalling or hatred. Hatred sunders people, but love encompasses.

FOLLOW CHURCHILL

*Later news shows Henry Wallace giving*  
*Wallace late today announced that*  
~~some kind of answer to that question. He says,~~ he's going  
to attack the Truman anti-Communist policy at home as  
well as abroad.) The former Vice-President, upon  
returning home, will make a coast-to-coast speaking tour,  
preaching his usual gospel of "appease the Soviets." He  
announces this from Sweden, 'in which country he has just  
arrived from England.

Today Henry made an address in Stockholm,  
which was different somewhat from his pronunciamentos in  
Britain. Yes, he again attacked the U.S.A. for having  
war fever. "Inflamed by propaganda," said Henry. "But in  
Sweden today he did not limit himself to charges  
against his own country, as he did in Britain. He  
included ~~Soviet~~ Soviet Russia in his castigation of  
imperialism and aggression. His criticism of the Soviets  
was in contrast to his attitude while he was in Britain  
- fraternizing with the Crypto-Communists.

## HELIGOLAND

In the North Sea, not far from the German Coast, there was a tremendous explosion today. Fire and smoke shot up into the sky - the blast assuming the mushroom form made familiar by the atomic bomb.

It was all according to plan, the British Navy blowing up the fortress of Heligoland. Since the days of world war one that North Sea Island has been famous as a naval stronghold - a base for the fleet of the Kaiser, later for the warships of Hitler. The disarmament of Germany implied the demilitarization of Heligoland, so today the mighty fortifications were blown sky high by a huge blast of explosive. The plan is for Heligoland <sup>— what's left of it —</sup> to be transformed into a peaceful haven for North sea fishermen.

DODGER

Well, the Dodgers have a manager. President Branch Rickey today announced a successor to Leo Durocher who has been suspended from baseball for a year. The new leader of the "Beloved Bums" is Burt Shotton, who will recall memories of old-time pitching. As I recall, Burt Shotton was a star on the mound <sup>for</sup> ~~of~~ the St. Louis Browns, ~~xxxx~~ twenty years ago. Since then he has had an industrious career as a manager, running teams in both the major and minor leagues - and now the Dodgers.

FORD

( Henry Ford's will was offered for probate today, and it shows the fabulous motor magnate leaving his immense fortune in two parts. One, consisting of the voting stock of the Ford Motor Company, goes to his family, chiefly his grandchildren. Motor Company control is vested in Henry Ford the Second. The other part of the fortune consisting of non-voting stock, is bequeathed to a fund for scientific, educational and charitable purposes.) The executrix is Henry Ford's widow, Mrs. Clare Bryant Ford.

It is clear from the terms of the will that it was made out before the death of Henry Ford's only son, Edsel because he is mentioned as living. The terms are much the same as those in Edsel's will -- he having similarly bequeathed his own immense fortune, derived from his father <sup>leaving</sup> ~~left~~ the voting stock to his family and the non-voting stock to a fund for benevolence

We are given no official information about the value of Henry Ford's estate, but there is unofficial

word that it comes to more than seven hundred million dollars. Edsel's wealth has been estimated at two hundred million-- which would put the total amount of the Ford fortune at close to a billion dollars, the figure at which it has been rumored.

And now Nelson how's your bankroll?

## MINERS

We have an ugly picture of the way the coal miners live. The unpleasant picture is painted by the federal coal mines Administration, which makes a nationwide report on conditions in coal mining towns. In many of these, the way of life is described as one of - "squalor." Things are so miserable and shabby, that the coal mines administration calls them - "A national disgrace."

~~This will come as no surprise to some of us, who have traveled around in coal mine towns, and have seen the low standards of living. In <sup>many coal</sup> ~~some~~ mining communities, conditions are good, proper to a decent way of life. <sup>I saw some model towns - in West Va., for example,</sup> But in too many others the accurate word is - "Squalor."~~

Who is to blame? The report of the mines administration distributes the guilt equally - on the mine owners, the John L. Lewis Union, and the Coal Miners themselves. The finding is that all three, company, union and miners, take it too much for granted that ~~ix~~ living standards in coal mine areas are bad, and

nothing much need be done about it. It's an old story, of people themselves being sunk into apathy about the way they exist - and ~~the~~ employers and ~~the~~ union ~~can~~ ~~be~~ equally apathetic.

The Coal administration report recommends concerted efforts to raise coal mine living standards. ~~Y~~ The recommended program includes the teaching of health and sanitation to mine families; and, laws to compel mine ~~ee~~ owners to build and maintain better housing. The report summarizes: "If it is the custom and tradition that mine families ~~xhmm~~ should exist in squalor, it is time for that custom and tradition to be abolished."