

POLITICS

L.T. - Willy, Thurs - Feb. 11, 1954

The Democrats, today, were hailing President Eisenhower's declaration yesterday -- when he said he was out of sympathy with Republican attacks, charging the Democratic party with coddling Communism. Senator McCarthy, for example, accusing the Roosevelt and Truman administrations of having been tinged with treason. The President <sup>argued that</sup> ~~was~~ this was no time for such extreme partisanship.

Today, Senator Lyndon Johnson, Democratic leader in the Senate, said those Eisenhower remarks amounted to a "rebuke" for his own White House advisors. Senator Lister Hill of Alabama, agreed, that it was a presidential "rebuke."

On the Republican side, however, there's no indication that the tactics will be discontinued. Yesterday, the President noted that he could control officials of his own administration, but he couldn't do anything about Republican leaders elsewhere -- as in Congress. Today, Republican Senator Homer Ferguson of Michigan argued that Republicans with

their charges pertaining to Communism are merely giving people "the facts". He said -- "there can be no armistice on telling the truth".

And what about Senator McCarthy? He says: "I don't think the President was advising us to white wash."

All indicating that the political brawl will go on.

Well, memory goes back to a time when the Democrats were accused of ruthless political tactics. The days of --- Charlie Michelson, that master of political invective who ran the propaganda against the Hoover administration. The slogan was -- "Smear Hoover". And Charlie Michelson certainly did, in behalf of F.D.R. and the Democratic National Committee.

Later, he wrote a book of memoirs in which he laid down the following principle of political strategy. "Despite the -

fine altruistic language of party platforms, ~~the~~  
he wrote, "the habit has always been to smite the  
opposition, regardless of Marquis of Queensbury rules,  
whenever and however the opportunity offers."

Today, in political comment from Washington,  
~~the~~ United Press correspondent Lyle Wilson writes:

"If Charlie Michelson has maintained his interest  
in ~~politics~~ <sup>(politics)</sup> since departing this earth back in  
Nineteen Forty-eight -- he must be mystified,  
considerably, by the anguish of Democratic statesmen  
under the lash of Republican campaign oratory."

Old Charlie -- who used to swing the  
Democratic lash on the backs of Republicans.

## BERLIN CONFERENCE

At the end of the day in Berlin, the Foreign Ministers issued a brief communique, which said next to nothing. A mere three lines -- completely uninformative. Which would indicate that they failed to reach any sort of agreement <sup>in their</sup> ~~in~~ secret deliberations. ~~which is not too pessimistic because~~

<sup>But</sup> The Foreign Ministers will have another secret meeting tomorrow, at which they will resume today's discussions. Subject -- the Far East.

It is known, of course, that the western Foreign Ministers, right now, are presenting a proposal for a parley with Red China -- on specific topics. Korean peace - and Indo China. Messrs. Eden, Bidault and Dulles want to pin Molotov down on this, and get a definite answer. The fact that they were not able to do so today, is taken to indicate that Molotov might need more time to consult Moscow and the Chinese Reds. Anyway, they'll be at it again tomorrow -- another secret session.

## COMMUNIST

A dispatch from Washington suggests the identity of an American who has asked for political asylum behind the Iron Curtain. Earlier in the week, Red Czechoslovakia said that George Lohr, together with his wife, had <sup>requested</sup> ~~asked for~~ permission to stay in the Communist country -- as refugees. So now the word is that Lohr is really George Olwerther, former chairman of the Communist Party unit at San Diego California. The report from Czechoslovakia calls him -- an American newspaperman. Olwerther was an editor of a California sheet called "Daily Peoples World". <sup>It looks like</sup> ~~Substantive~~ a case of an American Communist going to Communism.

INDO CHINA

In Washington, General John Hull, commander of U.S. forces in the Far East, made the statement today, that there would be "certain advantages" in sending South Korean troops to Indo China. Syngman Rhee has offered ~~to send~~ a division, to help the French-union defense against the Communists. General Hull <sup>gives</sup> ~~was asked about this offer by the South Korean President, and gave~~ his approval in these words:

"It would be one ~~xxxxxx~~ Asiatic country coming to the assistance of another", said he, <sup>well that</sup> ~~which~~ might indeed present "certain ~~xxx~~ advantages." (The peoples of Asia feeling as they do about the powers of the West. They resent "colonialism", and Indo China might well give a more favorable reception to Asiatic soldiers, like South Koreans.)

~~(General Hull is in this country to confer with top officials in Washington, and had a visit with President Eisenhower today.)~~

Meanwhile, the French Embassy in Washington discloses that Americans have been volunteering for

service in Indo China. "We have received lots of letters and some telephone calls from Americans who want to volunteer," says a French Embassy spokesman. "But we have turned them down," he adds, "because we don't recruit in this country." <sup>AP</sup> It is illegal, by the way, for any American to go abroad and serve in a foreign military force.

## INDO CHINA - FIGHTING

The war news from Indo China tells of a defeat for the Communists in a four day battle not far from the Air Base, where American technicians are at work. Doing a maintenance job on American planes in the service ~~of~~ of the French union. A Communist regiment - shattered, <sup>With</sup> further interesting word of eight hundred civilians captured -- fake civilians, that is.

French intelligence noted an odd mournful fact in that area - a sudden increase of funerals. Nobody had ever seen so many funeral processions before. French intelligence grew suspicious and found they were fraudulent funerals. ~~Each~~ Each -- a dummy coffin, followed by Communist ~~inf~~ soldiers dressed as peasants, playing the part of mourners. In that way, they were infiltrating -- making their way behind the French Union lines.

~~(From the Kingdom of Laos, not much news. The Reds, in front of the capital City of Luang Prabang -- are apparently marking time.)~~



## EARTHQUAKE

Around the world, today, the seismographs  
~~XXXXXX~~ recorded a violent earthquake. Norway and  
Italy, for example, report <sup>ing</sup> "especially strong" shocks.  
<sup>at</sup> The California Institute of Technology <sup>The</sup> seismograph  
recorded a powerful quake -- at a great distance.  
Direction -- northwest, some seven thousand miles  
away. The scientists think it occurred in China,  
the distance <sup>+</sup> province of Kansu. But, thus far,  
there's no report from ~~R~~ China -- on a violent  
earthquake.

## YACHT

The missing Yacht Dirigo Second has been located -- the ~~sinking~~ <sup>racing</sup> craft missing for several days, after sending a panicky S O S. Saying -- the ~~yacht~~ <sup>with four men aboard</sup> had been caught in a ~~hurricane~~ <sup>violent</sup> storm off the west coast of Mexico; And seemed in danger of sinking, ~~with four men aboard.~~

Today, a U.S. Navy patrol vessel reported radio contact with the Dirigo Second. The yacht okay -- off the Mexican coast, two hundred and forty miles south of Acapulco.

~~(Recently, the Dirigo Second competed in a race from San Diego, California, to Acapulco. Then, sailed on a voyage bound for the Galapagos Islands. That was when she was caught in hurricane winds. But the yacht was able to make her way back to the Mexican coast.)~~

## RAILROAD

News from Wall Street indicates that a railroad war may break out -- a financial contest for the control of the New York Central. This follows a move made by Robert R. Young, who has been in the news from time to time -- with bold strokes ~~and~~ *in* railroad finance. Young has the ambition to create the first transcontinental railroad in the United States. ~~It is a rather remarkable fact that~~ *Right now* we have no such thing as a train running from coast to coast. ~~Right through from New York to San Francisco for~~ ~~example~~ There's a break at Chicago, where several individual coaches may be switched from one line to another. But -- no through train.

~~Robert R.~~ <sup>Y</sup> Young wants to start in with the New York Central -- as the first unit in linking up lines for <sup>a trans</sup> continental system. So, yesterday, at a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Central, he made a try. <sup>Y</sup> It was a super-secret meeting that lasted five hours -- and today, the word is, that Young asked that he and an associate be given places

on the Board of Directors, <sup>and</sup> that he be made chairman --  
in charge of the railroad. These requests were  
rejected by the Board of Directors, ~~and the prospect~~  
~~is now that~~ <sup>So now</sup> there will be a battle for control.

Young, going to the stockholders, trying to line up  
proxies, which would vote him in.

~~(They say that this might result in a war  
between eastern banking interests, and financial  
powers in the middlewest. Young is quoted as  
declaring that the New York Central is dominated by  
Morgan interests, ~~in the power of~~ the House of Morgan.  
This he denounces, ~~and it sounds like a possible  
declaration of war between eastern and mid-western  
finances.~~~~

The New York Central has more than forty-  
four thousand stockholders, and they'll be the  
battleground -- in Young's effort to establish a  
transcontinental rail system.

## COFFEE

Four American women took off for Brazil today -- to study the coffee situation. They are going at the invitation, and expense -- of the Brazilian Coffee Institute. Which wants them to make a survey, and report back to American housewives on the reason for the high price of coffee.

The four ladies are members of the general Federation of Womens Clubs. ~~(One is a Ohio grandmother. Another a woman farm operator. Number three, a State milk commissioner in Maine. The fourth -- a Michigan lawyer.~~

~~On their return, they'll present a report on coffee prices, to the eleven million members of the Federation of Womens Clubs.)~~

~~But first Harvey, let's hear your report.~~

CHAPLIN

Word from Europe that Mrs. Oona O'Neill Chaplin will make a formal renunciation of American citizenship. Becoming a British citizen, and thereby joining in the nationality of her husband, Charlie Chaplin. Their ~~in~~ five children - to be British.

Well, Charlie Chaplin lived in this country for forty years and made his fortune here - but he never became an American citizen. His wife, daughter of the playwright Eugene O'Neill, <sup>now to</sup> ~~is to be determined~~  
~~is in the matter of her own nationality. She'll~~  
renounce her American citizenship -- in a ceremony at the U.S. Embassy in Switzerland.

## QUEEN

At Canberra, capital of Australia, the City Fathers have removed a statue from a pedestal along one of the main avenues of the city. A Roman Goddess ~~in ancient bronze~~ -- a classical nude, ~~considered an ancient masterpiece.~~ They have taken down the Goddess -- in preparation for the visit of Queen Elizabeth.

Her Majesty has been getting an enthusiastic welcome in Australia, and ~~she'll~~ <sup>she'll</sup> be given a royal greeting at Canberra, with a great parade down that avenue, where the Roman Goddess usually stands. But the Goddess won't be there, ~~and it is not because Her Majesty might be shocked by the classical nude.~~

The reason is that local practical jokers have made it a custom, on stately occasions -- to put underclothing on the Goddess. They ~~decorate~~ <sup>decorate</sup> the classical nude, ~~and he decorate her~~ with pink panties and a brassiere. Which ~~gets a laugh~~

wouldn't be so dignified for the Queens visit.

It might be too much for the royal sense of humor. Her Majesty might break into a queenly laugh - at the Goddess all dolled up in pink lingerie.



## WEST WEATHER

This has been a strange winter throughout the West. Today at Snow Basin, above Ogden, Utah, I saw the first snow flakes fall that I have seen in a month of western travel. In Idaho, Utah and California, for weeks it has been more like late April or May.

Salt Lake City is just now emerging from the clouds in which it has been hidden for 2 weeks, - only an occasional dim glimmer of sun.

At Aspen, Colo., where we go next, the world's longest chair lift broke down and for a two days they are rounding up all the jeeps in that area and taking crowds of skiers to the mountain tops in a style to which they are not accustomed. By Jeep should be a lot more fun. But that sounds as tho I'm doing Harry Marbles commercial for him!