

P. 49 Tuesday, April 20, 1948.

REUTHER. (A late bulletin tonight tells of the shooting of Walter Reuther, President of the Auto Workers Union. A gunman fired at him through a window of his <sup>Detroit</sup> home!) - So his wife reported to the police. Who the gunman may have been is a mystery at the moment. We only know that Walter Reuther was badly wounded, ~~his~~ <sup>his</sup> wife ~~has~~ <sup>has</sup> ~~been~~ just ~~told~~ <sup>said to</sup> the United Press -- "he is seriously hurt."

This is a startling episode in the case of the young head of the Auto Workers Union, who has had such a rapid and brilliant career in the world of labor.

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Still later: - (Reuther was standing in his kitchen when a shotgun blast nearly tore off his arm.) - He will lose the arm.

NIGHT SHOW  
April 20, 1948.

SUBSTITUTE LEWIS. The coal mine strike of protest grew so large today that John L Lewis now intervenes personally with the miners. (One hundred and fifty thousand <sup>Coal mines</sup> abandoned their jobs ~~today~~ when the news came that Federal Judge Goldsborough had imposed a fine of twenty thousand dollars on Lewis, and a financial penalty of ~~fourteen hundred dollars~~ <sup>\$1,400,000</sup> on the Union -- punishment for contempt of court.) Another hundred thousand miners have never gone back to work <sup>sivene</sup> ~~after~~ the beginning of the strike that caused all the trouble. So that left a quarter of a million out -- with the gravest kind of peril to the nation's coal supply.

During the day word came that local officials of the Union were urging the miners to go back -- arguing that ~~the fines~~ <sup>imposed</sup> would be appealed to the Supreme Court and it would be six months before the High Tribunal ~~would give~~ <sup>gave</sup> its final decision. So wait for the Supreme Court - and meanwhile go back on the job. <sup>#</sup> The appeal of the local Union leaders, however, was not doing the trick --

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Hence tonight's news that (Lewis himself has made it a personal plea to the miners <sup>to go back to work</sup>) In a telegram to the field officials of the Union he wired "I do hope you will convey to each member my wish that they immediately return to work".

It was pointed out that (Judge Goldsborough, in imposing today's fines, threatened severer penalties, if the ~~strike~~ continued.) John L Lewis and the Union were convicted of both criminal and civil contempt of court. Today's punishment was decreed for the criminal contempt part of it, and Judge Goldsborough has still to take action on the civil aspect. Hence his threat of imposing new fines, or even a prison sentence if the coal ~~in~~ miners continue their strike. All of which produces a kind of paradox <sup>-- the possibility</sup> ~~-- the policy~~ of punishment being inflicted on John L Lewis because of something done by the coal miners. Suppose they should reject John L Lewis' appeal and fail to return to work --which might indeed be the case? Tonight the head of one of the



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largest Pennsylvania districts of the miners' Union expressed his own doubt as follows -- "you would have to be a magician to tell what the boys are going to do",  
*said he.*



SUBSTITUTE LEAD ITALY. Almost complete returns from the Italian election are in, <sup>and</sup> they show two sets of figures -- the voters having cast their ballots in two different contests. One was the election for the Italian Senate. The other -- for the Chamber of Deputies.

In the battle for the Chamber of Deputies the Communists got about two percent more votes than they did in the contest for the Senate. Just why this should happen is none too clear -- but, in any case, it leaves the Red parties just about where they were in the election two years ago. They made no progress. (The huge phenomenon was the sweep in the Christian Democratic Party lead by Premier De Gaspari -- which moderate party, as the news has been telling, ~~of it,~~ came close to winning an absolute majority over all other parties) -- forty-seven and nine-tenths percent for the Senate and forty-eight and a half percent for the Chamber of Deputies.

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~~The only~~ immediate result in Rome today was the appearance of signs that the Communist front might fall apart -- consisting as it does, of Communists and their

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Socialist Allies. The newspapers of the two wings of the Red front were not at all in harmony about the election result -- the Communists and the Socialists taking each a different line. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ The propaganda twist of the Communists was that the election was a <sup>victory</sup> victory for them, while the big Socialist daily, "Avanti", came plain out, calling the election a triumph for Premier de Gasperi - which it is.

The Communist twist went so far as an announcement of a victory parade in Milan, to celebrate Red success in the election. I'd like to hear the laughter of the Italians on the sidelines, as that parade goes by - only it won't apparently. The Government at Rome today forbade the demonstration, this tying in with rumors that the Communists might try to start a revolt. One surmise has been that they might begin an insurrection with a claim of an election day victory.

( There were reports today of threatening Red sedition, rumors of Communist partisans gathering in the area south of industrial Milan. ) But all that is vague, and

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there seems little reason to anticipate a Communist revolt as an immediate follow-up to the election day defeat of the Reds.



PALESTINE

(The United States is willing to put American troops into Palestine - but only if other countries contribute their own share of military force.) This was stated today by U.S. Delegate Warren Austin, in a declaration to the General Assembly of the United Nations, ~~which is~~ <sup>now</sup> holding a special session on Palestine. This country will agree to use the U.S. Army to enforce a trusteeship, which the Jews oppose, or any other kind of government that the U.N. may set up in the Holy Land. But we will not do so unless other nations send soldiers of their own for an international force. <sup>He</sup> To this Delegate Warren Austin added that, (so far, all attempts to persuade other countries to contribute troops has, in the words of our delegate - "produced no tangible results.") In other words, nobody else wants to send soldiers, and we won't unless they do;- so, what does it all come to? Nothing, apparently - the problem of the war in Palestine still deadlocked, getting nowhere.

That war takes on more and more aspects of regular military operations. Today the Jewish militia, Haganah, reports

the capture of an Arab village, a strong point dominating a highway to Tel Aviv. They blew up all the houses of the village, which had been used as posts for sniping at Jewish traffic rolling along the road, ~~between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem.~~ This is said to be the eighth village-fortress eliminated by Haganah along that highway, so vital for Jewish communication?

P/ Which points to the major military problem faced by the new Jewish state, which is coming into being - a problem of communication lines. The territories occupied by Jewish settlements are spread out in a sort of maze <sup>from</sup> in the southern desert to the <sup>northern valleys</sup> fertile fields of Galilea, settlements ~~scattered~~ dotted at places far apart, easy to isolate, communications difficult in the face of an enemy. The Arab strategy is to strike at the lines of supply. Some have supposed that if worst came to the worst, the Zionists might have to pull in, withdraw from outlying places, and concentrate along the coastal plain. But that seems not the plan of Haganah, the Jewish militia methodically attacking Arab strongholds

( along vital highways - which is the military point of today's news of the seizure and destruction of the eighth Arab village on the way between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. )

( Today, large units of the Arab Legion moved into the outskirts of Jerusalem, and took over a big military base, Aleman Camp. They entered, as the British were withdrawing ~~withdrawing~~ that long promised British evacuation of Palestine <sup>now being</sup> in full swing. Aleman <sup>Camp</sup> is the largest in the area of Jerusalem, and dominates one section of the Jewish quarter - a section where the Jewish militia trades gunfire with the Arabs every day - and today's event was a headline example of how the Arabs are taking over from the withdrawing British in Arab ~~sections~~ sections. )

( In the Jewish <sup>area</sup> ~~section~~, the British, as they move out, are turning things over to Haganah. ) Today, at a police fortress ~~to~~ the south of Haifa, a transfer was accomplished by formal ceremony. British soldiers lined up, and so did the men of Haganah. From the flagpole the Union Jack of



Great Britain was lowered, and up went the Zionist colors, the flag of the new Jewish state - blue and white.

The formation of that new state has gone so far that the Jewish Agency today gave instructions for the payment of income taxes, beginning May Fifteenth, when the British give up their Palestine mandate. Thereafter taxes will be paid into what today's announcement calls - "the Treasury of the Jewish state." Moreover, an issue of postage stamps is being printed, postage stamps for the mails, in the modern revival of ancient Zion.

LATIN-AMERICA

News from Costa Rica - President Picado has resigned, ousted by revolution. His government is making an unconditional surrender to the insurrectos led by General José Figueres.

This would seem to bring to an end the uproar that began when the Costa Rican Congress, backed by Red elements, cancelled an election in which the conservative candidate for president won out. This the conservatives refused to accept, and the Costa Rican fireworks were on. The government has been losing, and now! - this way out! Señor!

Earlier in the day, the word was that the whole thing had been tossed into new turmoil by soldiers from Nicaragua. These crossed the border to Costa Rica, & playing some kind of hand in the revolutionary complication. Just why the Nicaraguans moved in, is ~~unknown~~ none too clear - the ways of Latin-American insurrecto politics being mysterious, as usual. However, the whole thing must have been <sup>of</sup> hemisphere-shaking, if not world-shaking importance, because the

Pan-American Conference promptly got excited - that assembly of the Americas has, of course, resumed its meetings, after they were interrupted by the revolution in Bogota. So now there was new agitation because of the Nicaraguan push into the revolution in Costa Rica. Having just survived one revolution, the delegates were immediately tangled up in the problems of another revolution. *The latest -- the Nic-*

*ranaguan troops have been ordered to withdraw. at last*  
In Bogota, meanwhile, they have held the funeral of

liberal leader Gaitan, whose assassination caused the revolution in Colombia. Today he was given a solemn and stately funeral.

Which, still, is not the whole story, because the news brings us word of a third revolution. This one - a plot to overthrow the government of Paraguay, and assassinate the President. A bulletin from Paraguay tells of an invasion of what it calls - agents of international terrorism. That sounds mighty Red, but we are told that the terroristic outfit crossed into Paraguay from Argentina. We know, of course, that



~~Argentina, ruled by Strong Man Peron, is hardly Communistic -  
so what kind of international terrorism could it be? That~~

*Well,*  
~~also is a mystery -~~ and we can only reflect that, in this  
atomic era, we still have with us those Latin-American  
revolutions, a la O'Henry. Which reminds me of a story told  
by a Latin-American colleague, who works on film at the  
Movietone Newsreel. He tells how a business man in one of the  
banana republics, ~~sends~~ <sup>wrote</sup> a letter placing an order for an engine  
capable of a thousand revolutions a minute. The letter was  
intercepted by government agents - whereupon the business man  
was called before El Presidente', who said: "One revolution  
a day we can handle. But a thousand revolutions a minute --  
that is too much."

ADD LATIN AMERICA. The latest from Costa Rica tells  
of disorderly scenes as soldiers of the ousted government  
turned in their weapons -- twelve hundred recruits <sup>who had</sup> ~~have~~  
been enlisted to fight against the ~~conservative~~ <sup>revolution,</sup>  
They streamed through the streets of the capital city of  
San Jose, firing their rifles in the air, and cheering  
Communist leaders. Most of them are coffee or banana  
workers, turned hastily into soldiers -- when the Leftists  
mobilized against the insurrection. Their cheers tonight  
for Communist leaders would seem to indicate that Red  
elements were indeed supporting a regime that <sup>has</sup> ~~is~~ now  
~~been~~ forced out. <sup>#</sup> President Picado is on his way into  
exile, his place taken by a seventy-four year old civil  
engineer Santos Leon Herrera, who becomes Acting President  
of Costa Rica.

## NOMINATIONS

President Truman brought forth a surprise today - the latest in a series of quick changes. He nominated members of the Atomic Energy Commission, reappointing all five, ~~including~~ including Chairman David E. Lilienthal - and sent their names to the Senate for confirmation. Earlier in the day, the White House had stated that the nominations would not be sent - they'd be held up for a while. This, in itself, was a reversal of a previous decision. ~~- to hand the Senate the nominations.~~ So it was - yes, no, yes.

All of this change-about is tied in with word from the Senate <sup>- that</sup> - the Republican majority is in the mood to take it easy with all White House appointments. Today Senator Taft declared: "The inclination is to slow down." All of which is a reflection of Republican hopes. Why confirm the appointments of a Democratic President, when, in a few months a Republican President will be making the appointments - or so the G.O.P. believes. If they let the Truman appointments ride, why then those same appointments would be made by Republican



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President --- what's his name? The G.O.P. chieftains are wondering about that.

1/2 { Such, we are told, was the reason why President Truman had decided to hold up the reappointment of the Chairman and members of the Atomic Energy Commission, reversing his former intention. But this afternoon he reversed the reversal, and sent the names to the Senate. It reminds one of the report that, at the opening of the baseball season, the President would throw out the first ball with his right hand, but he threw it with his left hand.

4 And then they say that women are fickle! That is everyone but Nelson. He wouldn't say that.