

HURRICANE

P.T. Sunco & P.D. Friday, Sept. 19, 1947

(New Orleans had ^{quite an} ~~an extraordinary~~ experience today - ~~extraordinary, that is, for~~ ^{for one} of the world's prominent cities.) The Louisiana metropolis, as the news has been blaring all day, was hit by the hurricane - the ferocious blast of the wind, the driving deluge of rain. But that wasn't the astonishing part of it -- not the fury of wind, not the lash of rain. It was just the reverse - ~~quite~~ ^{at} and ~~in~~ calm, balmy breeze and bright skies. The (beautiful weather came suddenly, and people by the tens of thousands flocked out of buildings and shelters, thinking the hurricane was over - "Happy days are here again!" ^{at} the weather man's version of the ~~at~~ ditty.)

~~Well, we can all surmise what it was - the center of the hurricane, the eye.~~ ^{TP} Stories of the sea are full of that wonder of the ~~typical~~ tropical tempest - the hurricane, ~~being a vast circular whirlpool of wind and rain,~~ revolving with tremendous velocity ^{at} ~~and violence at~~ the rim but with little motion ~~at~~ at the center. Rather like a revolving wheel, or a phonograph record, fast ~~at~~ at the outside - but around the center it hardly moves at all

Seafaring men of old marvelled at the weird fantasy of it, when their ship, lashed by the hurricane, was swept into the dead center, ~~the eye, and~~ smashed by the roaring gale, ~~in desperate fear for their~~ -- they'd suddenly find themselves in calm weather, ~~the~~ wind ~~a gentle breeze,~~ ^{even} the sky clear. ~~That's a frequent~~ ~~theme in tales of the tropical sea -- but it seldom has~~ happened to a large metropolitan city. ^{Well, today} But, it happened to New Orleans; ~~today, the city,~~ ^{today that city in} for half an hour, ~~was in~~ the eye of the hurricane.

~~New Orleans was in no enviable position~~ ~~as the storm came in from the Gulf.~~ New Orleans hadn't had a hurricane since Nineteen Fifteen, ^{thirty-two} years ago. ^{So} the city ^{isn't} ~~not~~ accustomed to the storm demon of West Indian waters. True, this ^{one} ~~present hurricane~~ had been reported for days, swooping down on Southern Florida, and cutting across to the Gulf of Mexico. -- ~~and~~ the weather warnings had been urgent, ^{telling of} ~~saying that~~ the tempest was heading toward the northern shore of the Gulf. But New Orleans didn't expect to get the full blast, didn't

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expect to be hit so squarely - ~~that the eye passed over~~ ^{with the very eye of the}
~~the city.~~ storm enveloping the city.

It was only at the ^el^lventh hour that
hasty precautions were taken, ~~fix~~ frantic activity last
night, moveable objects got ^{ten} out of the way, windows
boarded up. During night, with a deluge of rain heralding
the approach of the hurricane, carpenters labored in the
downpour - boarding up the expensive window of fancy
stores in the business district. Truckloads of lumber
went rumbling through the rain - but there ~~wasn't~~ wasn't
enough. New Orleans ran out of quick supplies of lumber,
and many an expanse of costly plate glass was smashed ^{by the}
battering of wind and rain today.

Then, too, New Orleans was worried about
floods. The city, in the Delta of the Mississippi River,
is actually below sea level, and there is plenty of water
nearby - old man river himself and Lake Pontchartrain,
ⁿ ~~of~~ the outskirts. Hurrican^es have a way of causing floods,
and this one sounded exceptionally alarming, as it came
shrieking ^{down upon} ~~to~~ the Gulf Coast. With the hurricane blowing

the water, the tides were huge at place^s like Pensacola, Mobile, ^{and} Biloxi. At Biloxi the tide was from fifteen to twenty-five feet above normal.

Pushing the waters in that fashion, the hurricane hit the mouth of the Mississippi, seventy-five miles below New Orleans reports told how the giant drive of the wind was shoving back the waters of Old Man River, piling ~~them~~ back for a rise of the stream. Meaning floods - the Mississippi spilling over its banks and levees. Would the levees at New Orleans hold?

That was the state of mind, when the hurricane bore down, ~~on the city.~~ The wind and rain ~~came~~ ⁱⁿ at a hundred-and-twenty miles an hour. Signs were knocked down, windows blown out, a storm of debris flying in the gale. Communications ~~were~~ smashed, houses wrecked or damaged. On the outskirts, one whole housing project ~~was~~ wiped out.

Lake Pontchartrain ~~was~~ churning furiously, the water dashing over the levees. Flood waters poured ^{ing} ~~ed~~ into New Orleans streets - as the hurricane mounted to

keep going for a hundred miles or so before it breaks up.

The latest tonight from New Orleans: Good news. The Red Cross reports: no loss of life, nobody killed - and the good news is even better than that. Nobody even infured badly enough to go to a hospital.

a climax.

Then came the sudden change. Suddenly New Orleans seemed to be having one of the fairest of days, and people by the tens of thousands were fooled. (An old weather-beaten sailor of the tropical ocean would have known he'd have understood all about the eye of the hurricane. That beautiful weather would have made him shiver in his oil skins. But how were the land lubbers know? Out they came! Rejoicing! Right in the eye of the hurricane.)

Radios of the city blasted the warnings that it was all a snare and a delusion,, that in the space of mere minutes the tempest would start lashing again with renewed fury. Radio warnings did ~~drive~~ people back indoors. (Then after half an hour of beautiful weather, New Orleans was engulfed again by wind and deluge, when it was hit by the other rim of the circular revolving storm)

New Orleans they are cleaning up the debris, as the hurricane drives inland - toward Arkansas.

Weather authorities say the whirling gale will

JAPANESE FLOOD

From Tokyo comes word of a series of violent explosions - blasts off by American Troops; setting blasts, trying to save Tokyo.

It's all part of the continuing story of floods in Japan - floods following the devastating typhoon. Over there - the typhoon followed by floods that already have inundated one sixth of Tokyo. Six hundred thousand people homeless - with the flood threatening now to engulf the whole city.

So American soldiers today were dynamiting levees and embankments. Ordinarily, the flood story is one of trying to save the levees and embankments that keep the water out. But the situation in Tokyo is peculiar. The menace is from the Naka River, which is in high flood; the crest moving toward Tokyo. So American engineers were opening the river dykes some distance above Tokyo, to release the flood waters into a low lying plain -- and on the sea.

Tonight we learn, that in spite of all that labor by American engineers, the banks of the Naka River burst -

crumbling under the heavy flood to unleash a surge of water. Northeastern Tokyo swamped -- two hundred thousand persons in danger.

The Naka River broke its banks in two places. So sudden was the on-rush of the flood, that Army engineers and their volunteer civilian help had to take to their assault boats to save their lives.

The latest word is that more than two thousand Japanese may have perished with tens of thousands homeless. The waters of the swollen Naka River tonight flowing unchecked into north eastern Tokyo -- only four miles from the Imperial palace.

PRICES

Today there was a drop in prices - which certainly sounds like news. On the exchanges in the Middlewest, the price of grains, instead of soaring, went the other way, - ~~took a dive~~ On the Chicago board of trade, corn sank eight cents a bushel. That was the limit ~~x~~ - as large a decrease of quoted prices as is permitted by regulations. ~~Four days ago, corn ~~was~~ reached an all time high of more than two-dollars-and-sixty-cents a bushel. After which the figure started to decline. And tonight it was down to two-dollars-and-forty-six-cents.~~

With corn leading the procession, wheat declined, also for the limit - a drop of ten cents a bushel. Oats follows ^{ed suit,} ~~with~~ and so did livestock, butter and eggs. One reason is to be found in a report issued by the Department of Agriculture today - stating that the corn crop of the nation is safe from the danger of frost. Previously, it had been feared that an early frost would hit the twelve big corn states of the Middlewest, but the weather indications are that the danger is past. ~~If the corn crop had been cut, like this, wheat would have to be~~

~~substituted in the feeding of livestock - increasing~~
~~the price of wheat, also the livestock.~~ Reminding us
that this country ^{has,} ~~is~~ basically, a corn economy, founded
on maize, the old American grain ^{that} the white man got from
the Indians.

LABOR

The Pacific West Coast tonight is looking forward to labor peace. Peace in the troubled shipping industry, brought about by improvement of relations with the A F of L sailors, and possibly an understanding between the water front employers and the longshoremen.

Tonight Harry Lundeberg, President of the Seamen's Union of the Pacific, told the press he is confident his union now can work out a new contract -- this, in spite of the closed ship ban of the Taft-Hartley act. This, after Lundeberg and Gray Harrison, Counsel for the Pacific American ship owners association, conferred with Senator Taft, co-author of the law that bans the closed ship.

The anti-closed ship provision of the Taft-Hartley act has been the major stumbling block in negotiations on the coast.

Now they are saying ~~in~~ in San Francisco that if the sailors and ship owners association can reach agreement without clashing with this provision, then perhaps the waterfront ~~employers~~ employers and the dock workers can also come to terms.

ITALY

In Italy the dangerous labor crisis, provoked by Communists, has come to a surprising end. One million agricultural workers on strike have agreed to return to work - under a settlement negotiated by labor officials of the moderate, non-Communist government of Premier De Gasperi.

This, according to word from Rome, amounts to a major defeat for the Italian Communist Party which called the strike. The Reds ^{had} planned to overthrow the non-Communist government by means of a labor crisis, and for ~~which~~ ^{a while} the situation had a revolutionary look.

The end of the agricultural strike will permit the harvesting of the crops of rice and sugar beet^s in Italy - vitally needed food supplies imperilled by the walkout. But even more important is the political aspect - the collapse, temporarily at least, of the Communist labor ~~agitation~~ agitation against Premier De Gasperi.

The Reds are now carrying on with efforts to promote what they call - "A day of ~~x~~ protests." This is to be held tomorrow - a protest against shortages and

U.N.

Today the United Nations had the aftermath of Vishinsky, the reaction to the horrendous blast the chief Soviet Delegate hurled against the United States yesterday. The smaller nations had their say, coming forward one after another, with their own opinions of the Vishinsky tirade.

Many took sides boldly - Brazil, Argentina, South Africa, Australia, Greece. They lashed back at the Soviet Diatribe, defending the United States against the charge of trying to steam up another World War, and bitterly assailed ^{ing} the Soviet veto. A couple of the smaller nations assumed a more neutral attitude, like Sweden and India.

Support for the Soviet was also a part of the proceedings. So what nation stepped forward to back up the violent Vishinsky assault against the United States? The answer can be phrased in peculiar fashion - Russia was supported by Russia. That is - by white Russia. The ~~Ukrainian~~ white Russian Delegate, echoed the Russian Delegate.

The twister is, of course, explained.

by the fact that the Soviets have three votes in the General Assembly of the United Nations. Moscow casting one, the Ukraine another and White Russia a third. Both the Ukraine and White Russia are parts of Soviet Russia, as much as Vermont or Alabama^a are parts of the United States. But Moscow insisted on having three votes; so the fiction ^{being} ~~is~~ that the Ukraine and White Russia are independent countries, ^{with} ~~and they have~~ the status of nations.

Thus it was that White Russia supported Soviet Russia today, the white Russian Delegate going into a fit of oratory that echoed Vishinsky. White Russia, for example, repeated the Vishinsky demand that war-mongering against Soviet Russia be outlawed - a war-monger being one who talks against the Soviets and ~~denounces~~ denounces Communism.

(Today, Vishinsky offered that sweet idea in formal fashion to the United Nations, filing a resolution to ~~condemn~~ condemn the United States for fomenting war.) This anti-American resolution has, of course, not a single chance of passing. But it's

interesting -- especially the part which demands that anti-Soviet war-mongering be made a criminal act.

If you criticize the Soviets and Communism you go to jail - sent by an American judge to an ~~anti~~ American jail. Of course, you might even face an American firing squad. That, as applied to the whole world, is essentially the Soviet proposal. Oh freedom ~~fixxxxxxx~~ of speech, where art thou? ~~In the sink and~~ down the drain, if the Soviets have anything to say about it.

If you think this is exaggerated, ~~it~~ let's just refer back to Vishinsky's actual statement yesterday. He proposed that the world organization adopt the following resolution. These are Vishinsky's words:

"The United Nations Organization considers it necessary to urge governments of all countries, on pain of criminal punishment to prohibit war propaganda in any form, and take measures for the prevention and suppression of war propaganda as a socially dangerous activity."

Well you need only remember what happened in Soviet Russia to a lot of people who were guilty of

what Stalin considered - "socially dangerous activity."
And the United Nations is now called to inflict that
sort of thing on all the countries of this earth the
Soviet version of the freedom of speech. And So-Long-
Until-Monday.

And now Nelson -- it's up to you. Freedom of the
air. Freedom of speech.