

P.M. - P. & S. Friday, June 3, 1949.

A record breaking event is reported tonight, a formidable event indeed. John L. Lewis, is said to have gotten madder than he ever was before. Which is something, considering the heights of wrath to which the boss of the coal miners has been known to rise on more occasions than one.

At Bluefield, West Virginia, negotiations between the southern coal mine operators and the union. Proceedings going on for ~~the~~ days, with Lewis demanding all sorts of information from the companies. So today impatient mine owners presented a formal demand -- calling on John L. Lewis to stop the delay, and negotiate as required by law.

The mention of the law was what irked Lewis. Levelling an accusing finger at the Chairman of the coal operators, Lewis thundered that he had not yet met the man who could force him to do anything by threatening his personal liberty.

The law, which the operators mentioned

COMMUNISTS

In the New York trial of Communist leaders, three ~~defendants~~ ^{defendants} individuals were sent to jail today. - ~~one witness and two~~ defendants. This, as part of uproarious proceedings in court.

~~The witness~~ ^{He was} John Gates, editor of the "Daily Worker."

On the stand as a witness for the defense, he refused to answer questions under cross-examination. The judge told ^{him} ~~me~~ to reply, he still refused, and the judge pronounced him guilty of contempt of court, [!] - thirty days in jail. [!]

When this was announced, ^{other} the ~~eleven~~ Communist leaders, burst into a wild uproar - the chief noise makers being Henry Winston, Organizational Secretary of the Communist Party, and Gus Hall, the Red Chairman ^{for} ~~of~~ the State of Ohio. Federal Judge Harold Medina then lost ~~his~~ patience altogether. He responded by revoking the bail on Winston and Hall - all eleven of the Communist leaders being out on bond. Meaning - that the two Red leaders will have to spend the rest of the trial in a prison cell, except when they are in the courtroom.

BIG FOUR

The news from Paris tells of - secrecy and smiles.

The four power conference, deadlocked in public, ~~today~~

^{my}resorted to a session behind closed doors. What went on, we

don't know, except that one Western delegate, upon emerging,

stated: "The Russians have never been so ~~amici~~ cordial as

at today's meeting." He described it as the old-time

atmosphere before the Potsdam Conference, the war days, when

the Soviets and the West were on beaming terms. That -

revived again today. "Very clubby", says that Western

delegate. To which he adds: "No decision was reached, but

I think some progress was made."

So that's the Big Four story tonight - secrecy and

smiles.

BERLIN

Berlin had a local four power meeting today - the first one in almost a year. The Western commanders met the Soviet general in an effort to bring about a settlement of the German railway strike. But it was the old story - failure and deadlock. The Western commanders offered six different proposals for mediation in the walkout, and the Russian general turned down all six.

HITLER

Germany reports - a best seller. A small book is selling hand-over-fist in Germany - and it's about Hitler. The one-time Fuehrer's face is on the cover, and the title is - "Hitler As A Commander." ~~So that's the new German best seller.~~

The author is General Halder, who was German Chief of Staff during the first three years of the Second World War. His theme is - Hitler as a Twentieth Century Napoleon. And here are a few things he has to say about Der Fuehrer as a military genius: —

~~Halder states that~~ ^WWhen Hitler was about to attack Poland, the German generals warned him that any conflict he might begin must inevitably develop into a world war. But Hitler had his own opinion, and thought he could bluff ~~and~~ Britain and France out of war. He was wrong. ~~The former~~ ^P~~German Chief of Staff declares that~~ Hitler was jealous of the ideas of others. In Nineteen Thirty-Nine, he stopped all experiments with rockets - because he hadn't thought of it

first. Then , two years later, he revived the rocket program - as his own idea. ~~Then~~ It was too late. By the time the V-1 and the V-2 began the job of knocking out Britain - Hitler had already lost the war.

Halder blames Der Fuehrer for losing the war in Russia - because of a typical Hitler miscalculation. The correct military strategy, says the former Chief of Staff, was to concentrate on Moscow - the nerve center of Russian communications and transport. But Hitler insisted on diverting the strategy and assailing Leningrad and Stalingrad, because he considered those two places, what he called - "the gradles of Bolshevism." Hitler injected his political ideas, and believed that the fall of the two cradles of Bolshevism would ruin Communism and bring about an anti-Communist revolt in Russia. So the German armies wasted their strength at Leningrad and Stalingrad - and failed to capture either.

Halder says Hitler ~~was~~ as a politician had a genius

for manipulating the mass psychology of the nation -- but not for dealing with the psychology of an army. He lacked the true feeling of an officer, who has a sense of responsibility for the soldiers under his command. ^{and he} ~~Hitler~~ sacrificed tens of thousands of troops callously and without need. When his generals tried to consider their troops and avoid sacrifices not necessary, Hitler called them - cowards.

~~The former German Chief of Staff climaxes ^{with} ~~that~~ what he considers the greatest military mistake of all - the failure to understand when the war was lost, and call it off. Halder points to Ludendorff at the end of the First World War, when Ludendorff saw the game was up - and told the Kaiser's government to surrender.~~

Halder summarizes Hitler as a military commander by saying that Der Fuehrer made strategic decisions on the basis of what Halder calls - ~~XXXXXX~~ "wish dreams." The former German Chief of Staff puts it in these definitive words: "Hitler did not recognize the limits of the possible."

Which reminds us of a famous definition of statesmanship as -
"the art of the possible."

All of which is the gist of the new best seller in
Germany - Hitler was no Napoleon.

URANIUM

In Germany today, Frankfurt, the evidence in a trial was a two inch cube of dark metal, weighing twenty-five pounds. ~~quite~~ heavy for the size, but it was the ^{(heaviest of metals} ~~heaviness of this~~ ~~metal~~ and the greatest ⁱⁿ of atomic importance - uranium. Nine Germans face the court on ^(a) charge that they tried to sell the cube of uranium, a forbidden transaction, ~~tried to~~ sell it for three million dollars.

The story behind it is weird. The cube came originally from the Hitler stock of uranium at the plant where German scientists were trying to make an atomic bomb. In the confusion when the war ended, the heavy cube of black metal found its way into the hands of children, who played with it, an exciting toy! They were fascinated by the way it threw off sparks when struck.

This attracted the attention of a blacksmith, who bought the cube from the children for two hundred Marks, sixty Dollars.

Next the cube was noticed by an individual who

recognized it as - atomic bomb stuff. He bought it for ninety thousand Marks, twenty-seven thousand Dollars.

That cube was arousing dreams of avarice, because it all ended when a shopkeeper tried to sell it for three million Dollars. He got in touch with people who appeared to be willing to pay that huge price. They were Intelligence officers of the U.S. Army. Hence the trial today.

GIANNINI

A singular and a dominant figure disappears from the American scene - A.P. Giannini, head of the Bank of America, ^{called} the greatest banking institution in the world. He died today in California, at the age of seventy-nine. Until the last, he had continued to direct his financial empire, and only recently had appeared in Washington, making vigorous and vociferous defense against charges that the Bank of America was a giant monopoly on the west coast.

I got to know A.P. Giannini ^{some} a few years ago, and ^{observed him with interest} ~~was impressed by the strength and ruggedness of the California financier.~~ Even at his great age, he was of powerful stature and physique, with a craggy face, that looked the very picture of a Genoese banker of old. His family came from Genoa, for long centuries a city of banking.

West
~~Down in Florida, I was at ^{one} a dinner party given by A.P. Giannini, at a swanky gambling house, where he liked to dine. Then the party moved on to the gaming tables - Giannini handing to each of the ladies money with which to~~

gamble. They were stately ladies, of excellent position in life, but they didn't object. They didn't mind being financed for a whirl at the roulette wheel. Giannini himself? He merely stood and watched. He told me that he never gambled.

He liked to be there as a spectator, not a ~~success~~ ^{observer} observing the displays of human folly and cupidity.

He ^{often} told me of his own origins - one of the fabulous tales in the epic of America. He liked to relate how he began life among the Italian vegetable growers in the country outside of old San Francisco. His father, a truck garden farmer, who died - and his mother later married a wagon driver who hauled farm produce into San Francisco. The boy, Giannini, went to work on the wagon, and he spent his first youth driving around from one farm to another, gathering loads of ~~vegetables~~ vegetables. This gave him an unrivaled view of the rich wonders of central California.

His great break came in the ~~great~~ San Francisco earthquake and fire of Nineteen Six - this in the form of a

bank. The family earnings were deposited in one of those little Italian banks that staggered along, often in trouble. This one was in such a state that Giannini's family had taken it over. When the earthquake came, the bank was right in the path of the storming, raging fire. As it was about to be engulfed, a young Giannini, acting fast, got out the gold the bank had, and carted it away in one of his vegetable wagons. He took the gold to the family home outside the burning city - and then acted fast all over again.

All the banks of San Francisco were hit, not one paying off during days of ~~the~~^{the} panic, ~~of~~^{of} earthquake and fire - frantic depositors unable to draw out any money. So young Giannini took a ~~car~~^aload of gold into San Francisco, established himself in ~~the~~^a burned out section - and, with gold on a bench, published an announcement that his depositors could draw out money - hard cash, gold. All his banking records were destroyed, no bookkeeping was possible, but he honored the drafts of depositors. *And even advanced loans.*

This quickly established such confidence, that there was no panicky run on that bank - so hastily improvised.

~~xxxx~~ Instead, people who had money they wanted to deposit brought it to the bench with gold in the burned out section.

The^t confidence and good-will thus built up in the San Francisco earthquake was a basic ~~xxx~~ asset, which A.P. Giannini parleyed into the Bank of America, the biggest banking institution in the world.

Through the years his policy was - always bet on California. In any financial question, he always gambled on the assumption that California would grow and expand - and he always won. Such was the policy that created a giant financial empire - a fanatical faith in California, based on A. P. Giannini's early experience as a wagon driver hauling vegetables.

~~But~~ In Idaho, there is a mystery of wild life, a puzzle connected with the banding of wild geese to keep a check on the migration of birds. Wild geese are caught, and to their legs bands with numbers are attached. Which gives a line on the distances birds travel. Sometimes it is astonishing.

But not so astonishing is it in the case of band number forty-four, with which a wild goose was tagged in Southern Idaho some while ago. Today band number forty-four was found -- attached to a ~~xxx~~ cow. In a pasture near the town of Soda Springs a hereford was grazing, and on the ear of the cow there was band number forty-four.

Students of ~~the~~ wild life are mystified.

So are the local inhabitants at Soda Springs. Today one old-timer said: ^{"mebbe"}~~perhaps~~ our geese are ~~as~~ as big as cows ^{and} ~~so~~ the tagger got confused, or ^{mebbe}~~this~~ is the cow that jumped over the moon."

GAG RULE

If any of you folks happen to be a general or an admiral, step right up and talk right out. The gag is out of your mouth. Today brings the end of a painful picture - army generals, navy admirals, and air force commanders with handkerchiefs stuffed in their mouths to keep them from talking.

Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson withdraws the rule restricting all members of the armed forces in their public utterances. According to the st rule, any officer giving news interviews or giving any kind of material for publication, printed or ^{radio,} ~~etc,~~ was required to submit a copy of what he had to say, and ~~if~~ have this okayed in advance. Hereafter, they can say what they please - subject only to normal security regulations.

(This drastic regulation was provoked by the uproar between the Navy and the Air Force, with admirals hurling broadsides at air force generals who intimated that maybe we did ^{not} need much of a navy. So ~~now~~ the ^{removal} ~~removal~~ of the restriction might seem to indicate that the battle between

the navy and the air force is over - restriction not needed any more. But that's hardly the case, with the quarrel over the B-36 rising to new heights - all the way up to forty thousand feet, the altitude at which the super-bomber can fly.

The reason for the abolition of the regulation is the fact that it was being denounced as - a gag rule.

Denounced in Congress, for example - with the legislators growling that the Secretary of Defense had applied the gag to keep Congress from learning things.

The new ruling, apparently, does not change the Secretary's order cutting down the army, navy and air force ~~half~~ battalions of press agents. This mandate ^{now} ~~issued~~ ^{disclosed,} ~~recently,~~ permits each branch of the armed services to retain only fifteen publicity experts. How drastic it all is may be found in the figures. The army had a hundred and forty-nine press agents, the navy and marine corps two-hundred and-six, and the air force a hundred-and-eighteen - a total

RETAKE

of four-hundred-and-seventy-three. They are now allowed to have a mere total of forty-five. So four hundred and twenty-eight are out. Meaning - that a lot of public relations officers are on their way back to regiments, ships and airplanes.

I don't want to give any encouragement to cynics, but some sour philosophers, disillusioned with the human race, might say that there's a connection between the ousting of the press agents and the abolition of the gag rule. Because what the high brass has to say emanates largely from the press agents - and, when they go, will they need a gag? Why choke the loud speaker, when you've taken off the record?

And now let's spin the Nelson Case record!