

L.T. P.& G. THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 1949.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

For twenty-nine minutes today this Republic was without a President. That was because the swearing-in ceremony was a bit late, with all the push of the crowds, the jam of dignitaries in the stand.

The first term of the President expired at noon today, the stroke of twelve. The oath of office was administered to Harry Truman by Chief Justice Vinson at twelve-twenty-nine. So for those twenty-nine minutes the United States had no President. But we managed to survive it.

INAUGURATION

The way this program covered the Inauguration today requires a little explaining -- not because it was unusual, but because it was what a few million others did. I'm on my way west - the Rockies - and the Pacific Coast - to renew acquaintance with western ideas, western ways of thinking. It's always a good thing to break away from the New York scene, the mental habits of the East. Just using a western news wire is a refreshing change.

All of which got me chatting with a Chicago friend, and the idea was suggested -- instead of going to Washington, why not cover the Inauguration in Chicago, by television? The friend in question was just the person to talk about that -- Commander Gene McDonald of Zenith Radio, who is now at the forefront in television.

Full of enthusiasm for the new miracle, he pointed out that the new television hook-up between the East and Middlewest -- brand new here -- would bring the inaugural ceremonies to Chicago. He argued that I would actually be able to see and hear more than if I were in Washington -- the television camera bringing scenes from

one place and another -- the Capitol, Pennsylvania Avenue, the White House, all along the line -- all the various aspects of the festivities and the parade, all shown from most favorable angles -- even closeup.

Well, I remembered the conventions in Philadelphia. I was there, at both -- reporter on the scene -- and yet I covered both of those conventions - in part, by television.

We all remember the brutal heat, the sweltering oppressiveness of that Convention Hall in Philadelphia. It was so stifling and broiling that from time to time I would go to United Press headquarters in the basement. Much cooler there! Air was coming in! Positively refreshing after the inferno of heat in the hall upstairs.

Well, in that newspaper headquarters they had a television set -- and you could ~~actually~~ see ^{many} ~~some~~ things better than if you were on the convention floor. So, part of the time I stayed there. Cooling off and reporting the convention by television.

Nor was I the only one. I felt the better about it, when I noticed that ^{so many other} ~~some~~ newsmen of the ~~United Press~~ were doing the same ~~thing~~. There ~~were~~ ~~plenty~~ of them on the convention floor, but ~~some~~

^{Some were} ~~were~~ ~~rapping~~ rapping out a running account of the proceedings - banging away on their typewriters as they watched and listened to the television version. ^{and there they were underneath the convention hall}

So having done that at the nominations, why not do it all over again for the Inauguration? ^{al?}

I accepted Gene McDonald's invitation to use his fine, up-to-the-minute set -- and today ~~did~~ did a reporting job by television.

There was one impressive observation to be made. Millions of Americans ^{this time} were closeup witnesses to the oath taken by the President of the United States. It was as if myriads of average citizens were there on the ^{at} inaugural stand, a mere few feet away, as Harry Truman took the oath to defend the Constitution of the United States.

And here is one small detail. During President Truman's inauguration ^{speech} ~~speech~~, the camera gave a series of closeup angles. Occasionally, it gave you a scene from a point behind the President. I noticed the way he turned the pages of his manuscript as he read it -- the smooth practiced motion of the speaker of long experience ~~and practice~~ -- getting the page over with an easy, deft flick of the hand, ^{right} ~~while~~ in the middle of a resounding phrase. You can tell the old hand at public speaking by the way he flips the pages in the middle of ^{his} oratory. I noticed ^{this time a new,} ~~the~~ sure, self-possessed manner, ~~of~~ ~~the President~~ in everything throughout the

President's
inaugural address. - and ^{all} It gave an added power to what he had to say. And he had strong, impressive things to say. Today's inaugural speech was, in fact, an important page in contemporary history.

It was devoted entirely to foreign policy -- and must be ringing with loud reverberations in Moscow tonight, in the Kremlin, in the ears of Stalin and his politburo.

As a matter of headline news, the inaugural address gave the formal announcement that the United States is going, full scale, into the North Atlantic Defense alliance. The President stated that he would soon place before Congress a bill for this country to go into the alliance of western European democracies, and provide them with military help, [—] armament, against any possible Soviet aggression.

~~That reasoning was the background for the announcement he then made: "I hope soon to send to the Senate a treaty respecting the North Atlantic~~

President Truman's words, affirming all this, are well worth repeating. He said "If we can make it sufficiently clear, in advance, that any armed attack affecting our national security will be met with overwhelming force - the armed attack might never occur."

~~That reasoning was the background for the announcement he then made: "I hope soon to send to the Senate a treaty respecting the North Atlantic~~

Security Plan. In addition," he went on, "we will provide military advice and equipment to free nations ~~xxx~~ which will cooperate with us in the maintenance of peace and security."

The final point of policy covered by the inaugural address was less ~~precise~~ precise and further up in the realm of international idealism. The President called for American leadership and aid in a world program to raise economic levels and ways of living in all countries. (He attacked the old colonial system, ~~and~~ decried the exploitation of native peoples. He proposed that America should help to ~~develop~~ develop backward areas, and said that an increase of prosperity in such countries would increase our trade, our commercial relations -- and be of benefit to all.)

To which he added a pertinent and interesting observation. He said that our American resources are limited, our natural physical ^{possessions} resources - but that our technological and scientific resources were inexhaustible. Hence, the greatest aid that

we can give is in the technical field, providing the wealth of American scientific knowledge and advanced methods ~~as~~ in the business of raising the well being of underdeveloped, poverty-stricken sections of the world.

This part of the inaugural address, with its angle of world improvement, is getting a cautious reception -- even from the President's own party-leaders -- the Democrats. The policy toward Soviet Russia and the North Atlantic Defense Alliance, are being generally applauded. But even so important a Democratic leader as Senator Tom Connally of Texas, Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate is with-holding comment on the program of global economic assistance. Tom Connally says he wants more time to study it before he talks about it. _____ o _____

The ~~inauguration~~ parade was as big as had been expected -- the television screen presenting endless angles from a lot of places, as the march went past. Most prominent was the military display.

troops on parade -- reminding us that this morning the President had a rollicking breakfast with members of his old World War One outfit, Battery D. In that jovial society, he was not - Mr. President. He was -- Captain Harry, the name by which he is known among his old-time buddies of doughboy days in France.

And then, this afternoon, swinging their walking sticks jauntily, they strode beside his car as his special guard of honor -- from the Capitol, up Penn. Ave., to the White House -- at the inauguration of Captain Harry.

INDEPENDENCE

In Washington things went okay, but there was ■■ one place where the celebration was washed out. Or rather, burned out. Independence, Missouri, the President's home town. Big inauguration doings had been planned, but this morning a fire broke out, and four of the chief buildings of the business district of Independence, went up in flame and smoke. Damage -- up to two million dollars.

Fire engines raced from Kansas City, and were able to save much of the rest of Independence from burning down. They poured oceans of water, which quickly froze -- the weather bitterly cold, on that Independence inauguration day which was burned out.

WEATHER

New weather warning of a blizzard ~~xxxx~~ bearing down on the Dakotas and Nebraska, but the forecast is that this one will not be as violent and severe as those blizzards earlier this month.

At any rate this is an appropriate time for a warning about driving. Take it easy on the road, if you are out in your car or going out. This is the time when taking even a little chance may be serious - for those who drive - and those who walk!

COMMUNISTS

A judicial ruling of a novel sort was given ~~in~~ in a New York court room, a ruling that a lawyer pleading a case may weep, may shed tears, in moderation. This happened at the trial of the eleven Communist leaders, whose lawyers are raising all sorts of uproar. ^R Today, Defense Attorney George W. Crockett, a negro lawyer from Detroit, was protesting about the absence of negroes from the jury trying the Reds. He said he wanted to plead in behalf of what he called "three hundred thousand black people who are segregated in New York." His plea was so fervent that he burst into tears.

Federal Judge Medina interrupted saying, "I think it is better when the counsel refrains from ~~we~~ weeping in the court room". To which His Honor added words of understanding. ^{"Sometimes"} ~~sometimes~~ he said, "these emotions cannot be controlled."

The tearful attorney replied by saying: "I appreciate Your Honor's permission to give vent to my emotions."

Judge Medina acquiesced but with a qualification.

"In moderation of course," said he. Well, everything in moderation ■■ as the philosopher said.

MURDER

At Oklahoma City, the police announce that they have a confession from Roy Frank Godbey, the ~~ga~~ vengeance-mad--exconvict. They say he admits ~~tht~~ that he killed Attorney Earl Pruet in his law office last week. Pruet was the prosecutor who sent Godbey to prison for robbery seventeen years ago.

The ex-convict was ~~re~~ captured yesterday, and at first Godbey insistently denied the murder of the Okalhoma City attorney. But tbday, ~~he~~ a confession. The word was that the criminal was maddened by a desire for revenge against those who sent him to prison years ago. That now is confirmed.

TP The story ~~today~~ relates how when the police were questioning Godbey, he was enraged by the mere mention of Oklahoma City. And he snarled, "I'd like to grind up the people ^{there.} I'd like to poison the water". That outbreak of crazy vèndictiveness sounds the keynote of the ~~murder~~ murder confession of the ex-convict who went back lusting for revenge.

GYPSIES

At Allegan, Michigan, the King of the Gypsies is under arrest, together with several others of his tribe -- charged with swindling a victim of eight thousand dollars. They got that much for incantations to remove -- "an evil curse". ^R The victim got into the toils of the Gypsies when he met ~~an~~ the King's wife at a ~~country~~ county fair ~~booth~~ where she had a palmistry booth. She read his hand and told his fortune, and informed him that his family was afflicted with a "hex". All of which lead the gullible victim to the King of ~~an~~ the Gypsies who went through a lot of black magic, with ceremonies that involved weird chanting and black roosters. ^{And it} ~~also~~ ^{cost} ~~him~~ ^{him} payments amounting ~~to~~ eight thousand dollars.

The kicker is this! -- The victim swindled by the black magic of the gypsies is -- a Hungarian astrologer. He reads the stars, but, the planets and the constellations fail ^{ed} to inform him that he was being gyped by gypsies.

CHINESE PUZZLE

In China, at the northern capital of Peiping things are in a puzzle tonight. The people don't know whether they have war -- or peace. Whether -- there is an armistice or no armistice at all.

R A couple of days ago a delegation went out to the Communist Army ~~and~~ instructed to negotiate a truce -- if possible. Now they have returned, and tell a confusion of stories. One member of the armistice delegation ~~is~~ says the Red leaders agreed on a ten day truce. But other delegation members ~~are~~ ^{say} ~~declared that~~ the Reds merely declared that Peiping already has a truce -- since the Communists are not making any concentrated assault on the city.

One delegate asserts that the Communists agreed to stop shelling Peiping. While another quotes the Reds as saying -- "while there is a war going on" a few salvos of gun fire are very commonplace."

About the only thing on which there is

CHINESE PUZZLE - 2

any agreement is that the Reds gave the Armistice delegation a lot of Chinese hospitality -- with an abundance of rice wine. The rice wine flowed so freely that ~~it~~ it may account for the vague, ~~and~~ nebulous and contradictory report on the truce negotiations.

Various delegates are quoted in the Peiping newspapers and give such conflicting accounts as to suggest the delegates may have attended different conferences. It's all a Chinese puzzle. whether Peiping now has ~~no~~ peace or war.

And now from that enigma
let's turn to something none of us
can fail to understand -- your
message, Nelson!

MARSAN

In Hollywood today, the verdict was pronounced in the case of "ze great lovaire".

He is found guilty. Claude Marsan, who was tried for conducting classes in the art of sentiment.

^{TP} In Hollywood he ran a sort of school in which he gave instructions to pupils - lessons in the way to woo and win a lady. In these he gave demonstrations with a girl assistant, all of such sort that the cops locked him up. ^{TP} The Hollywood trial was a riot, as Marsan explained his theory of romance. He went into ~~an~~ ecstasies, with a French accent and graphic gesticulations. Whereupon the headline writers dubbed him "ze great lovaire". ^{TP} In his testimony he claimed he was achieving a great public purpose -- in circulating his own irresistible skill in affairs of the heart. And the courtroom ~~huzzed~~ howled with mirth, at the antics of "ze great lovaire".

^R He was ~~an~~ tried before a jury of three middle-aged business men and nine elderly housewives, who ~~trasy~~ brought in a verdict of -- guilty. Not so romantic for "zat great lovaire." *And now Nelson — something from you ?*