

ITALY

27 - P. G. Monday, March 28, 1949.

In Washington tonight arrived Count

Carlo Sforza, the Italian Foreign Minister. He comes to sign the North Atlantic Security Pact, the first foreign statesman to show up for that purpose. Italy was invited to join in the treaty with the original North Atlantic powers. The acceptance of the invitation went through the Parliament at Rome at a rapid clip -- despite the bitter opposition of the Communists. So now the first on the scene in Washington -- Sforza of Italy. The veteran statesman, whose career dates back to the days before the first World War told the newsmen: "I have put my name to many treaties. But, if there is one which I am glad to sign as a man and a citizen, it is the Atlantic Pact", because it means - peace".

## STOCKS

The margin for trading in stocks will be reduced to fifty percent -- effective Wednesday. Hitherto, in buying securities on Wall Street, the traders have had to put up a margin of seventy-five percent. But Wall Street has been in the doldrums for several months, and the argument has been made that this is - in part, because <sup>of</sup> ~~the~~ heavy margin decreed by the Federal Reserve Board. So now the Board takes action, reducing margin requirements from seventy-five to fifty percent.

## RENT

The joint committee of the Senate and House have agreed on a rent control bill. ~~--- a compromise between the versions passed by the two branches of Congress. This~~ The bill would extend rent control for fifteen months, and represents a compromise between the two versions passed by the two branches of Congress. ~~This~~ The compromise intends to guarantee to landlords what is called: "A fair net operating income".

Local municipalities, under the bill, will be permitted to remove rent controls-- with the permission of the governor of their state.

The bill now goes back to the two Houses, which are expected to pass it in time for President Truman to sign it by Midnight Thursday -- when the present rent control law expires.

SPY

The United States has rejected the Soviet demand for the release of Valentin Gubitchev, United Nations employee arrested on charges of ~~xxx~~ espionage. Gubitchev, has been indicted, along with Judy Coplon, a woman employee of the Department of Justice, she charged with planning to hand secret government information to the Russian. Gubitchev's arrest was protested by the Soviet Ambassador to Washington, the claim being that, as an employee of the United Nations, he enjoyed diplomatic immunity. That claim has now been rejected, by the State Department in Washington, and Gubitchev will have to stand trial as an accused spy.

## REDS

This Monday is a time for reflection on the weekend Red Peace Conference in New York. It ended with a roar, at Madison Square Garden -- while the anti-Communist pickets held their own demonstration outside. Plenty of police, no disturbance but much noise.

The final note was characteristic -- Red howls against a speaker who ventured some criticism of ~~the~~ Soviet Russia. Then -- thunders of Red applause for the Chief Soviet Delegate who replied with a diatribe against America.

~~Professor Dr. Frederick L. Schuman, professor of political science from Williams College, told the Madison Square gathering that both the United States and Soviet Russia were at fault, both sides shouting the charge of "war monger" at the other. Which did not please the audience one bit. But the booing turned into cheers when Soviet delegate Fadeev answered back -- that the United States was the only war monger.~~

LEAD REDS

Today a permanent committee of that World Peace Conference, dominated by Communists, held a meeting to plan methods for carrying out the ideas propounded at the conference. Thus they intend to perpetuate the doings of that organ of Soviet propaganda, which met in this country with great fanfare of noise and speeches.

*The outstanding*  
~~however, the simple~~

feature of the Red Peace Conference was the short, slight Russian,

<sup>a</sup>  
~~the~~ composer of music. Today the Los Angeles Times

puts the matter in a large headline which reads:

"Shostakovitch confesses Failure To Reach Masses".

That points to the real drama -- <sup>a</sup> Shostakovitch

confession. <sup>TP</sup> The news has told for a couple of years

how this number one Soviet composer has repeatedly

*been in Dutch*  
~~gotten in touch~~ with the Communist big-wigs, because

his music failed to follow the party line. He has

been slapped down and been ~~mp~~ compelled to humble

himself in that characteristic Soviet <sup>W</sup>ay --

confession. ~~Making abject apologies, that is, and~~

~~promising to compose music that is politically~~

~~correct, symphonies according to the taste of the~~

~~Stalin crowd.~~

well, [Shostakovitch at Madison Square

Garden provided the unique spectacle of a musician

*confessing*  
~~repeating that~~ ~~the~~ kind of confession before an audience

<sup>in</sup> American audience. He admitted that he had committed

what he called: "decadent bourgeois faults". He made a ~~bitter~~ ~~harsh~~ attack on musicians who believe in "art for arts sake". He proclaimed the principle of "music for the sake of politics". And he defended the right of the Soviet Communist party to dictate the kind of music Russians must compose. He admitted that his own compositions after the war, had in his own words: "lost ~~ixk~~ touch with the masses". And he promised to do better. ~~Same old Soviet confession repeated over here.~~

Which might give occasion, I suppose, for some reflections on the philosophy of music. What about composing music for the masses - and not for the more cultivated class of music lovers? Well, over here we have popular music and what is called classical music; ~~both~~ <sup>two</sup> kinds. In the history of composition, music for the masses is represented shiningly by the Italian Opera. The great Italian composers, like Verdi for example, wrote <sup>their</sup> ~~his~~ works for the general public - the masses. But then, in

Italy, a learned scholar, or <sup>an aristocratic</sup> ~~an illustrious~~ Duke was likely to have the same taste for music as a worker in a shop or a farmer in the field. You see a reflection of that in this country. Where an Italian barber will hold himself up as an authority on the opera and singing. His taste, in fact, is likely <sup>the same as</sup> to be that of a top-ranking Italian musician.

But, ~~in the history of music~~ German composition was otherwise -- with its great symphonies and music dramas. These were composed, not for the masses at all -- but for a top level of music appreciation. Richard Wagner for example, writing his music <sup>of</sup> ~~in~~ the future, did not compose for the general public. He was thinking - o of the future.

~~was~~ However, all this may philosophize, there was never any notion that the kind of music written should be dictated by the government. That would have been considered an artistic nightmare - the politicians of a despotism dictating what a composer should ~~may~~ compose. <sup>But that's just</sup> ~~is~~ what the

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Number One Russian composer defended - - in his  
confession before the peace conference of the Leftists  
in New York.

## KILLING

In Milwaukee today nineteen year old Milton Babich was arraigned on the charge of murder in the first degree -- the murder of sixteen year old Patricia Birmingham. This case, a mystery for days, was cleared up over the weekend ~~in~~ by a confession from the nineteen year old high school honor student -- and today a full explanation of the crime presents one of the strangest of pictures -- something to cause ~~xxx~~ grim reflection on the manners and morals of a certain section of teen-agers today. These involved belong to good families, middle class, well-behaved people -- families of a kind favorable for the bringing up of children -- yet what do we find?

The story is that Milton Babich killed Patricia Birmingham because he was trying to protect the reputation of the girl's older sister, eighteen year old Kathleen. There was a romance between Milton and Kathleen, and Patricia joked about her sister's condition. She laughed about it to fellow

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high school pupils, and even made sly, grinning references to it in front of their parents.<sup>TP</sup> Milton Babich tried to persuade Patricia to stop it, not expose her sister's secret - until he, himself, could arrange for an elopement and a marriage.

So, he made an appointment with Patricia, meeting her in an effort to make her keep still. He tried to persuade her not to go on ~~and~~ joking in public about Kathleen, but she only giggled, snickered and <sup>made</sup> more facetious remarks. He says he threatened her with a pistol to frighten her into silence, and there was a struggle -- two pistol shots killing Patricia. The boy claims it was an accident.<sup>TP</sup> But he took the body, fastened it to a ~~big~~ block of concrete, and dropped it into the Milwaukee river -- the way things were done in ~~gangster~~ <sup>TP</sup> stories. No stranger motivation ever appeared in a murder case -- the amused chatter of sixteen year old Patricia about her older sister.

~~After the crime Milton Babich went ahead with~~

his plan of eloping with Kathleen and marrying her. He told her nothing about the killing of Patricia - and showed no sign that anything was amiss. He ~~was~~ was gay and cheerful, and she never suspected - until the body of Patricia was found, and the hand of the law reached out and seized Milton Babich.

So now a murder trial is on, with the arraignment in Milwaukee today, and sociologists may wonder what is happening to the manners and morals of high school <sup>te</sup>ten-agers -- when such ~~a~~ motivation can come about for murder.

## MITCHUM

A secret has been discovered by a motion picture actor -- how can a screen celebrity have privacy? The cheerful answer is given - by going to jail. So says Robert Mitchum, sent to the hoosegow for ~~sm~~ smoking marijuanas. Scheduled to be released on Wednesday, after serving his term, the idol of the bobby-soxers stated today: "Everybody says an actor can't have privacy. Why not? I know this sounds funny," he goes on, "but my stay here has been one of the happiest periods of my life."

His stay in jail, that is. ~~So~~ So Robert Mitchum says that, when he returns to circulation after his fifty days in <sup>Stir</sup> ~~the calaboose~~ he's going to try to establish for himself ~~xxxxxx~~ an equal degree of privacy in ordinary life as a movie star. He will try to reproduce the beatitude of -- jail.

## GOAT

In Hollywood -- Darryl Zanuck is producing a picture that features a goat.

The human star of the picture is beautiful Jeanne Crain, and Darryl Zanuck would not want her to be butted all around the Twentieth Century lot.

However, the goat has been trained to avoid just that. Not only trained, but also tested.

My own personal reaction goes back to an experiment we tried in our Quaker Hill - Dutchess County neighborhood. This involved sheep -- not goats -- but a mean old ram can hit you as hard and as pugnaciously as any billy goat. That was proved by what happened to my partner in the sheep raising venture -- Bobby Lansden. He was a husky water-polo player from Princeton, but what happened to him shouldn't happen to a football player from Notre Dame. One day, Bobby was stooping over fixing something, and the old ram saw him. The ram was big and bad-tempered, and he thought: What an opportunity. So he took a long run, lowered his head, and hit Bobby so

hard that he was pitched headlong for ten feet or so, and came up with a couple of broken ribs.

Now that, I offer, should not happen to Jeanne Crain. But the goat, as I say, has been tested. When his education was complete they lined up a half a dozen people of assorted varieties, and had them bend over. The goat was led behind them, and turned loose. He took a long look, at those figures, enticingly stooped over, and walked away in disdain.

So that makes it perfectly safe for Jeanne Crain or any other of Darryl Zanuck's fair stars, to stoop over to fix a stocking seam without any danger whatsoever, not from the goat.

## CATALINA

Here's a report on a romantic isle - Santa Catalina. Ever since the Spaniards went sailing along the California coast, that group of islands across the Pan Pedro Channel, twenty odd miles off Los Angeles, have beguiled the fancy. How much is illustrated by the story of how a man bought an island without even having seen it. Thirty years ago William Wrigley, chief of the chewing gum Wrigleys, was in California and met an old friend, Captain David Blankenhorn. "Well, David" asked Wrigley, "what are you doing these days?"

"At the moment" replied Captain Blankenhorn, "I'm trying to sell an island".

That began a deal, which was quickly made. ~~Santa Catalina had been privately owned all the way back to Spanish days. Now its owner wanted to sell.~~ William Wrigley had never had a glimpse of Santa Catalina, but he bought it -- sight unseen - an island like a pig in a poke. In fact, when he first caught sight of Santa Catalina, he was astonished - at the

towering summits rising out of the sea. "It has mountains," he exclaimed. "I thought the island was flat."

He had bought it on little more than the romance of a name, Santa Catalina -- and thereafter spent millions developing an island paradise, for travelers to come and visit.

But the report I have to make concerns the economics of the island paradise. I went to Santa Catalina at the suggestion of my old friend C -- well, and there I was told how the present head of the clan, Philip K. Wrigley, has turned over the operation of the island, all its various projects -- to the old-time employees of his father. One of these veteran co-workers takes over the chief hotel in Avalon.

The cluster of cottages called Las Casitas goes to another co-worker of the elder Wrigley, as does the ranch in the middle of the Island.

There I saw some interesting novelties. The rancher ~~is~~ Jim White of Texas, recently has brought in

strange animals from afar, to introduce them on Santa Catalina Island. One is a mule-foot pig, from Africa -- a porker that has hooves like a mule, and makes tracks like a miniature mule. Jim White is crossing this peculiar critter with southern wild boar, the old razor back, to produce a new variety -- which he thinks will do well on Santa Catalina.

He has also brought in a herd of Aoudad, a species of wild sheep from the Sahara Desert. They are to be turned loose to become wild sheep of Santa Catalina, herds of Aoudad which should provide many a pun - Aoudad? Aoudad? Aoudad say Aoudad?

Also -- the Moufflon, one of the famous animals of romantic Mediterranean story. The Moufflon is also a wild sheep, smaller than the Aoudad of the Sahara, nimble mountain sheep, the hunting of which has for centuries been likened to the chase of the chamois in the Alps.

The Moufflon is famous for its long jumps and

we saw a vivid example of that. The wild sheep were in a large pen and came running around when<sup>a</sup> moufflon executed a leap that was wonderful to behold, high up into the air and for a distance of twenty to thirty feet - with the greatest of ease, like the man on the flying trapeeze.

But there was something even more remarkable than that. One of our party was Howard Morgens, Vice President of Proctor and Gamble, my sponsors. We went out to shoot a round of golf and it was Howard Morgens first time out this year. We teed off, the first hole -- normal -- the usual. Then the 2nd hole: - Howard Morgens swung again shooting his second hole this year. Yes, you've guessed it. He made a hole in one. The first I ever saw. And wouldn't have believed it, if I hadn't seen it! Quite a way to begin the season at golf, swinging in your first game, on your second hole -- a hole in one!

The enho would seem to be not Aoudd -- Ow-dad?