

FLOODS

*L. G. Linnas - P. D. B. Tuesday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, 1947*

( All records ~~xx~~ are being broken by the flood waters of the Mississippi. At Hannibal, Missouri, and Quincy, Illinois, which face each other across the river, the crest rose to nearly twenty-four feet today the highest that has ever been registered.)

At Clarkville, Missouri, there's a house built in eighteen Forty-Eight, half a mile from the river. It has a mark showing the high water point of a record - breaking inundation in Eighteen Fifty-One. Today the water flooding the house was within a foot of that mark.

The father-of-waters is hurling the deluge that has flooded a million acres in the State of Missouri alone - and another hundred thousand acres in Illinois and Iowa. Twelve thousand people are homeless, fifteen lives lost, *so far.*

The Missouri ~~xxx~~ is on the rampage too - the river bursting through twenty-five levees - one town so completely inundated that only the tops of the

roofs are visible. Tens of thousands of acres are flooded, thousands homeless -- as the Missouri contributes its own havoc to the floods of the Mississippi

One result of the deluge is a revision downward of the prospects of crops in the Middle West. The heavy rains that caused the floods have set back spring planting in the corn belt, and the inundation of the farmlands has ruined a vast amount of growing grain.

At the Hannibal National Bank, officials set up a human ferry service. Wearing hip boots, they carried girl cashiers and stenographers, on their shoulders, across the flooded streets.

Water lapped all day at the entrance to the Mark Twain hotel. In spite of this thirty rotarians showed up at noon for their weekly luncheon. Some in row boats, others in amphibious jeeps.

## SHIPPING

From San Francisco comes word that negotiations between five C I O maritime unions and ship owners are stalemated. The report is that a strike is certain unless labor contracts are signed within five days -- which the unions say is not likely.

Officials of four west coast C I O unions have left San Francisco for New York to discuss matters with East Coast waterfront workers.—  
*to try and get their support.*

The ~~ix~~ C I O Marine engineers are asking for wage increases up to six percent.

Tonight it looks as though we are headed for another strike like the one last fall that tied up shipping for twenty days.

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Meanwhile, heads of labor organizations are sending final appeals to President Truman asking him to veto the labor bill.

Phil~~ip~~ Murray of the ~~ix~~ C I O says the Taft-Hartley plan would change the American

government from one elected to serve the people

to one bound by law to do the bidding of employers.

~~Against workers~~ <sup>That</sup> this legislation is an announcement

that "the forces of reaction want a showdown with

free labor and want it now."

LABOR

It was stated in Congress today that, if there is any kind of general strike against the labor bill, Congress will respond with an even more drastic anti-strike law. This declaration was made by Congressman Hartley of New Jersey, Chairman of the House Labor Committee, and one of the sponsors of the bill that has been passed.

The Congressman stated that there are increasing signs that a general strike is, in his words, "within the minds of labor leaders." As evidence he pointed out that in the past thirty days more than nine hundred strike notices had been filed - "far above the ~~xxx~~ normal number," said he. "It is obvious," he added, "that the unions want to be in a position to strike as soon as the present bill becomes a law." That is, if the President signs it, or if Congress passes the bill over the White House veto.

To all of this Congressman Hartley made the following comment. "If the labor leaders try

to demonstrate their contempt for Congress by pulling a general strike," said he, "that will be met with an even tougher bill."

We already hear of strikes in protest against the labor legislation - wildcat walkouts among the coal miners in Pennsylvania and Indiana. Twenty-eight mines were shut down today, with union leaders declaring that <sup>these</sup> walkouts are unauthorized - wildcat strikes against the labor bill.

~~In Detroit the Briggs Company faces a general strike - which would tie up the world's largest independent producer of bodies for automobiles. The deadline for the walkout is eleven A.M. tomorrow, Eastern Daylight Time. At last word the company and CIO Union Leaders were still trying for a settlement - little progress reported.~~

One bit of good news however, in a bulletin from Detroit. The strike scheduled for tomorrow morning against the Briggs Manufacturing Company has been called off. C I O officials and the company getting together just minutes ago.

SUBSTITUTE TRUMAN

President Truman is in Canada \* - where he is having a great and spectacular reception. He crossed the border this morning, and all afternoon has been the guest of the most ~~zaxi~~ cordial of hosts - the great Dominion to the North. Huge crowds were out to see the President of the United States, and plenty of color was provided by the Red Coats of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The President will address the Ottawa Parliament tomorrow.

FRANCE

In France, the railroad strike has become so great a national emergency that Premier Ramadier today threatened to mobilize the strikers into the Army and compel them to run the trains under military rule. For five days, French railroads have been crippled by the walkout, called by the Communist-Dominated Union.

TP Ramadier has appealed to the Red Labor Leaders, telling them that the railroad strike is a desperate peril to the national economy of France. This ~~producing~~ producing no result, Ramadier informed the French National Assembly tonight that, unless the strikers return promptly to their jobs, he will mobilize five hundred thousand of them into the Army - to get the railroads running again.



U.N.

Here's news! - *Q* tolerant, cheerful, conceding Gromyko! The Soviet Delegate *to* the U.N., who usually ~~had~~ has a gloomy dead-pan expression, was remarkably different today. Beaming with smiles, he told the other Delegates that he was, in his own words, "just full of compromises."

Well, that's cause for thanksgiving - Gromyko full of compromises. The more so - because it happened at a meeting of the Atomic Energy Commission. Which is exactly the place where we could use a lot of cheerful Soviet concessions - in the matter of outlawing the atomic bomb.

Those Gromyko compromises, however, were mostly of a verbal sort, and on minor points of phraseology - which will hardly impress us as being of such vital consequence. One, in particular, has a peculiar sound. Gromyko compromised on an argument concerning the difference between the words "treaty" and "convention." Should world atom control

be set up by an international treaty or an international convention?

Last week the Soviet Delegate insisted that it should be done with a convention. Our American ~~Rep~~ Representatives thought the opposite - pointing out that, so far as international pacts are concerned, the ~~constitution~~ constitution of the United States uses the word "treaty". That venerable document provides, for example, that the Senate shall ratify treaties - not conventions. To this Gromyko gave a stern reply. He was dead-pan-gloomy at the time - last week. He said: - then let the United States change its constitution.

Our Delegates couldn't quite agree to that - they couldn't change the constitution then and there to suit Gromyko; so, the usual deadlock ensued.

But today it was all settled - by the new and changed Gromyko. Being "just full of compromises," he made a concession in favor of the American Constitution. He agreed that the set-up of world atom control should be phrased in these words - "by a treaty or treaties,

convention or conventions."

So I suppose that, unless some other difficulty intervenes, we Americans can have an atomic treaty - while the *and the Shriners* Elks can have a convention.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Here's astonishing news - from Czechoslovakia. In a village of Southern Bohemia, the entire local Communist Party has joined a society called - "friends of the United States." A lot of local people, who admire this land of the free of ours, formed an organization to promote friendship with America - and all the Reds have joined. Why? A Communist spokesman explains in these words: "We just didn't like to be left out of any village activity."

Well, we've heard of the Red habit of infiltrating into groups of many kinds, but that Czechoslovakian instance would seem to be the limit - the local Communist Party infiltrating into the society of the friends of the United States.

EISLER

There was fast action in the conviction this afternoon of Gerhart Eisler - who has been described as an agent of Stalin who gave orders to the American Communist Party. Charged with contempt of Congress, he got his in a hurry.

Weeks ago he refused to take the oath and testify before the <sup>House</sup> Committee on un-American activities, ~~of the House of Representatives~~. And today the Judge told the jury that, if it was clear that Eisler had deliberately refused to give sworn testimony, he must be found guilty of contempt of Congress.

Things were made even easier by Eisler himself - the bald, mousy middle-aged Communist who is alleged to have bossed American Reds in behalf of ~~Sti~~ Stalin. He testified that he would have been willing to take the oath before the Congressional Committee, if he had first been permitted - "To make a few remarks", as he ~~put it~~. However, a Congressional Committee doesn't have to listen to a few preliminary remarks. Eisler added

that, so far as the Committee was concerned, he was, in his own words, "very much contemptuous."

The Jury took just five minutes to return a verdict of guilty - which calls for a sentence of a year in prison and a thousand dollar fine. On top of which - Eisler will immediately face further ~~charges~~ charges of passport frauds.

The speedy proceedings in the courtroom today kept right on, with Federal Judge Hulzoff immediately calling up the case against sixteen others accused of contempt of Congress. Headed by Howard Fast, ~~the~~ novelist, these defendants are members of the Executive Board of the joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee. The charge against them is that they conspired to prevent Congressional Investigators from having a look at the records of their anti-Fascist, <sup>Refugee</sup> ~~Refugee~~ Committee. The allegation is, of course, that the whole outfit is Red.

Last night in ~~ja~~ mentioning the Army's new bombing plane, the giant B-thirty six, I said that it was built by Boeing. It turns out it's actually a Consolidated Vultee plane, the same company that turned out the B-twenty-four, the Liberator.

LYNCH

There was quick melodrama in an Alabama town today - the rescue of a negro from a lynch mob. The noose was already around the negro's neck, and he was about to be strung up, when the town Mayor intervened.

The story is that the negro tried to attack a white woman. She screamed, and neighbors came running. They seized the negro, and the swarming of neighbors turned immediately into an enraged mob. Somebody brought a rope, and in another minute the lynching would have been completed.

Just then, Mayor Hugh Van and three employees of his office arrived - they having heard of what was happening. The Mayor was able to stop the hanging, and he and his assistants got the negro off to the town jail. <sup>R</sup> But that didn't end the affair. |

Word came that another lynch mob had formed, and was on its way. So they had to move fast again - the negro put in a car and driven to the State



Penitentiary, a ~~xxxx~~ heavy <sup>ly</sup> guarded prison miles away.

Mayor Van states that while in his custody, the negro confessed that he had previously assaulted a white woman - at Buffalo, New York.

## HANDBAGS

In Washington, a terrifying idea was propounded today, something to make you tremble. Gentlemen; - though the Ladies may smile. As things are now, there's a government tax on women's handbags - and today, before a congressional committee, a fiend in human form argued that it was unfair to have a tax on feminine handbags, when there is no tax on men's pockets. He called it - "An out and out inconsistency and unquestionable discrimination." So the inhuman logic was that if you tax handbags, you should put a tax on pockets also. This - in fairness to the ladies.

My ~~xxx~~ fellow citizens - think what that would mean, if we had to pay a tax on each one of our pockets. *Often you and I* ~~at the microphone with a quick count I note that I have five trouser pockets, including <sup>my</sup> ~~that~~ <sub>watch</sub> ~~little change pocket. The coat I'm wearing has four pockets, though some have as many as six. In winter time, an overcoat has from four to six pockets. Meaning that at one time a fellow~~ may be wearing clothes with as many~~

as seventeen pockets, not counting the side pocket you may have in your shirt. And so, my fellow citizens, imagine having to pay an individual tax on each of nearly twenty ~~per~~ pockets! Figure how empty your pockets would be after that. <sup>R</sup>The enemy of mankind - and friend of womankind - who suggests all this, is a director of the National Authority for the Ladies' Handbag Industry - Mr. Abraham Mitenthal. The women folks will applaud him, because Abe's real purpose was to get the tax taken off ladies' handbags - the luxury-tax of twenty per cent. <sup>R</sup>He argued today that handbags instead of being a luxury were a necessity, an utter and absolute necessity. To prove this, <sup>R</sup>Abe performed what can only be described as a Herculean labor. He told the Congressional Committee, in full detail, all the uses to which a woman puts a handbag, all of the many and varied things she carries in one. <sup>R</sup>You know how long a list that is. I, for one, am kept in a state of perpetual astonishment by the unexpected items a lady can dig out of her handbag - all

the way from her compact and hairpins to the missing automobile keys and the letter that Hubby gave her to mail last week.

Handbags are a necessity all right, but the price that wifie pays for them helps to keep hubby's pockets empty - now there's talk of putting a tax on his pockets, too -- meaning your pockets, Nelson.

## PALESTINE

The latest episode of violence in Palestine has come to a quick and summary conclusion. The two British police officers, kidnapped yesterday, came back today. They had been seized as hostages to be held for the safety of five members of Irgun Zvai Leumi, who are now on trial. But they reappeared today, and said they had just walked out from the secret place where they had been held prisoner.

This results from joint action in partnership between the British and the Official Army of the Jewish Underground, Haganah' - which for the first time collaborated actively with the British in checking the doings of the Extremists of the Zionist Underground. Haganah cooperated vigorously with the British Authorities in the hunt for the two kidnapped police officers, and the effect was decisive.

The episode ties in with the larger international scope of the ~~M~~ problem of Palestine - the United Nations inquiry which is now beginning. The

Jewish Agency, which directs Haganah, felt the kidnapping of hostages would harm the Jewish cause in the eyes of the U.N. So the Agency and its underground army ~~exists~~ called upon the entire Jewish Community in Palestine to give all available information about the kidnapping - give information, not to the British authorities, but to the official underground army.<sup>R</sup> Haganah is much larger and better armed than the bands of Extremists, like Irgun Zvai Leumi and the Stern Gang, and was able to turn the trick in a hurry. Information was obtained that the two police officers were being held in a suburb of Tel Aviv, a neighborhood of Oriental Zionists.<sup>TP</sup> This word was conveyed ~~in~~ to the British, who promptly threw a cordon of military patrols around the area. The patrols had hardly taken their positions, when out came the two police officers. They had been seized yesterday while swimming in a bathing pool, and when they reappeared today they still wore their swimming trunks.

It would appear that the kidnapers

had learned that Haganah had discovered their hiding place. So their guards got out in a hurry, leaving the prisoners to walk out whenever they pleased.