

Washington Digest

UN Gets Public Airing; CIO at War With Reds

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HUNTER COLLEGE, The Bronx, N. Y.—Fifteen minutes ago the session of the security council of the United Nations adjourned and the attractive room which it is hard to believe was ever the gymnasium of Hunter college in the northern latitudes of New York City, is almost empty.

Since 11 o'clock the council members have been at their places at the curving table on the platform and every seat in the "audience" has been filled. The first 40 persons to line up at the gates are given seats. Tickets are issued only to those with some plausible reason to hold them. Some of the "visitors" remain and the marine guards are still on duty while other attendants clear away the various impediments before each place from the Russian ambassador's at one end to the Polish delegate's at the other.

After each day's performance the actors and the audience in this play are soon far from the brown and rose room of Hunter college, but for a long time, there are scores of busy men and women.

They are the people whose business it is to report this drama and build up opinion strong enough to discourage war. I refer to the members of the press, radio, the news-reels, the photographers, the sound-recorders. As I sit here they are gathering up their notes and memoranda, making quick contacts before delegates get away, pulling off head-sets, packing up cameras and tripods—and then perhaps pausing for refreshments in the "press lounge" especially installed in the basement of the gymnasium where their quarters are located.



Baukhage

UN Recognizes Popular Interest

I have covered many international gatherings from the peace conference of Paris after World War I and none has given as much proportional attention to providing the necessary facilities for bringing the proceedings to the citizens of the world as this gathering at Hunter college.

Of course the council is relatively small and the army of reporters seems large in comparison to its scant 11 members, the secretary and assistant secretary general and the various advisors. The fact that the principals are so few increases the informality and the feeling of intimacy which seems to exist between the organization and the group of men and women who observe, record and report its doings.

Along the wall, opposite the council table at gallery level are a row of glass windows, the booths of the American radio networks, the BBC, and some separate stations. In a glassed-in-corner behind and to the left of the table are radio engineers and the equipment which records all the spoken words of the members. At any moment a speaker may be cut in and heard by listeners on any of the networks. At special points of vantage there are places for taking movie and still photographs. Whenever some dramatic moment arrives you can see the Klieg lights slowly rise (and the busiest delegate is likely to straighten his tie, take off or put on his glasses) while the moving picture cameras grind.

Most of the speaking by the delegates, except when formal statements are read, is done from notes or completely ad lib and since all of the members speak either English or French the pauses for interpreting are short—either into French or English except when Ambassador Gromyko speaks in Russian. These words must be interpreted into both French and English and Gromyko doesn't hesitate to stop the interpreter and give his own English translation if he doesn't like the interpreter's choice of words. He could speak in English himself if he wanted to but probably wants the Russian for the record for home consumption.

Eventually when the permanent meeting place is established the system employed at Nuernberg will be used—earphones and simultaneous translation. This slows down the speakers but is much more rapid in the long run making repetition of

an entire speech unnecessary sometimes twice or sometimes three times, as at San Francisco. But here at Hunter the business moves with a briskness that adds to the informality.

May Leave Reds On Political Limb

I never realized before that New York was NOT an "early" town. When transportation is normal I can buy a New York newspaper in Washington on my way to work. On the other hand, in New York at the same hour (7:30) I found there were no newsstands open between the club where I stayed on 57th street to the subway station, nor in the subway where I got on, or where I got off, 40 minutes later. Of course the crowds were pouring southward in the subway at that hour and they had been able to buy their papers when they got on, but in the normally busy area of the 50's the natives were not abroad in sufficient numbers at 7:30 to justify the presence of news vendors.

On the streets at the end of my run which is about 200th street (Kingsbridge station in the Bronx) the stands were open and most of the people who bumped against me as I reached for the staid Times and the Republican Herald Tribune, were buying the left-wing PM. PM can't be called Communist since Editor Ingersoll is not a Communist but while he was off to the wars it hewed pretty close to the party line. The Daily Worker, however, is considered to express the official "wishes" of the Communist party and, according to most of the other newspapers these "wishes" come direct from the Kremlin—or maybe next door.

Heretofore the Communists have supported the American Labor party which is a New York party which in general embraced Democratic, New Deal, CIO supporters and had the co-operation of the Communists. Now the war is on between the CIO and the Communists and ructions are expected to arise in any corner.

Nevertheless, when the Russian delegate walked out of the United Nations security council meeting, it was said that until he walked back the American Labor-CIO planning board had decided to withhold support of Senator Mead, Democratic possibility in the race for the New York state governorship. This move was looked upon by conservative papers like the SUN as if the American Labor party were willing to plan its political strategy according to the attitude of Moscow toward the United Nations. Since in the council meeting when the Iran affair came up Secretary of State Byrnes led the fight against the Russian stand. The fact that he later offered the resolution which labeled the Russian reply as satisfactory and postponed the discussion of Iran in which Ambassador Gromyko had refused to take part beyond the time that the Russians themselves had demanded, the left wingers went to bed satisfied.

However critics of the American Labor party and the CIO still insist that they are now on record as having tried to line up American votes to please a foreign power. What the repercussions of this little flurry will be remain to be seen. If this is supposed to be an evidence of left-wing displeasure over the Democratic administration's foreign policy and subsequent events have not removed that displeasure, the question remains, where will the left wingers go?

John Lewis, whose love for the Democrats evaporated when he couldn't collect on his generous donation to the Roosevelt campaign fund, is expected to become a hundred per cent Republican when it comes to the next presidential election.

It would take a great stretch of the imagination, however, to visualize either the communist appendage of CIO, of the non-Communist CIO-PAC head, Sydney Hillman, embracing the elephant. It has already been demonstrated that the Communists are becoming anything but an asset to the Democratic party and Hillman probably would be glad to get rid of them.

Where the Communists will go is a question. It is not likely that they and such fellow travelers as are willing to travel with them would essay a third party. But politicians hereabouts believe that they will be able to shift their weight about in such a manner as to upset more than one state and congressional political apple-cart.



TWO KIDS WITH QUINTUPLET KIDS . . . The goat population on the Foltz farm near Ludlow, Ky., is increasing rapidly these days. Five kids is a rare feat for one birth, even in goatdom. Shown here with the mother and her quintuplets are the proud Foltz children, Edward and Janet.



HEADS WOMEN VETERANS . . . Mrs. Patricia M. Deuse, Astoria, N. Y., national commander of the Legion of Women Veterans, a new all-women veterans group, believed to be the first of its kind in America, is shown at her desk in Brooklyn. Mrs. Deuse is an ex-marine and served for 19 months in the women's reserve of the U. S. marine corps. Before that she wrote for California newspapers and radio.



NOT IMPRESSED BY BASS CATCH . . . Little Bill Rogers shows only disdain at the catch of nine-year-old Susan off pier at Blunt's Bay, Colington, N. C. Spring arrived on time at this North Carolina coast village and Susan is out to repeat her record of last year—which she says was best in the region. Bass have increased during the war.



TOO YOUNG FOR LICENSE . . . Young Jackie Fiorillo, 16, Flushing, L. I., N. Y., is pictured in a cockpit of his light plane on completion of solo flight from Reading, Pa., to Flushing airport. George W. Edwards greets the young flyer. Jackie is still a student. He must wait until his 17th birthday, August 9, before he will be granted a pilot's license—which will permit him to fly.



IKK-DON'T WANT TO GAMBLE . . . Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower told members of the senate military affairs committee that failure to extend the draft act meant to gamble with peace and security of the world. On various occasions General Eisenhower has asked for continued draft.



ROYAL HAT STYLE . . . Exhibiting a gracious smile and wearing her Easter hat, Princess Elizabeth of England leaves Town Hall, Nottingham, England, after attending a concert given by a children's choir.



BREAKS WORLD RECORD . . . Joe Verdeur, Philadelphia Turners club, who broke two world's records at AAU meet held at Bainbridge, Md. He eclipsed the 200-meter and the 200-yard marks, following navy discharge.



ONLY CIVIL WAR NAVY VET . . . A chipper skipper is Henry Doll, 57, who claims to be the only living naval veteran of the Civil war. He is now living at Philadelphia Naval hospital.



WOMAN PADRE . . . The Rev. Elsie Chamberlain has been appointed by the Royal Air Force as its first woman chaplain. She is 35 years old and a graduate of King's college, London.

NEWS BEHIND THE NEWS

By PAUL MALLON

Released by Western Newspaper Union.

PRODUCTION LAGS STILL PROVING SERIOUS

WASHINGTON. — Mr. Truman and his reconverter, John Snyder, have been bragging that the "production of civilian goods and services" has reached the peak of all time. They want to prove by some unexplained generalized figures on income and dollar volume that production has been more than restored and reconversion accomplished.

'Tain't so. There Pres. Truman are tricks in it, to wit:

A foremost weekly index of actual production from a non-governmental source places our output for the week ending March 23 at 131 compared with 143 a year ago and about 127 for 1941. Miscellaneous car loadings are less than a year ago, as are steel, electric power and lumber production, but "other car loadings" and paperboard production are above a year ago.

Messrs. Truman and Snyder did not tabulate actual volume of production but only dollar volumes and income, and they made no allowances for price increases. Furthermore, they said only that "civilian" production was at all-time peak. There is no way of telling how much of the above-cited production is still army, navy and marine, but a portion must be. So the discrepancy is somewhat greater than the figures indicate.

MANY ITEMS STILL ON 'HARD TO GET LIST'

Producers themselves tell me the situation is bad. Ford publicly closed his plant for a week the very day the President spoke, because he could not keep enough steel on hand to warrant continuous operations. Every producer has that same trouble in one way or another. Manufacturers cannot get little things. An air conditioning maker finds his particular kind of steel for certain parts difficult to obtain because the steel companies will not manufacture much of it, saying they lose \$15 a ton on it because of the OPA ceiling. The steel companies are producing other more profitable lines. Then the air conditioning man finds for a time he cannot get motors, finds a shortage of bearings due to strikes, cannot get production of a special copper bolt which is essential. His production line operates off again, on again, off again.

As far as "civilian services" are concerned, there are not any restored around here. Cleaners require three to six weeks to clean a suit, shirtmakers and many other lines inform their customers flatly: "We are not taking any more orders." They will not even consider delivery months hence. Parts for auto repairs are unavailable throughout the United States in some vital cases. A tailor took an order for a suit the first of last November and gave the first fitting at the end of March — five months later. He will not promise the suit by summer. Some outfitters are already stopping orders for summer suits — imagine it, next summer's suits. Meat supplies in Washington are getting bad again, only inferior grades of a few lines having been available the past few weeks.

There are no autos, coal, refrigerators, nylons and only a few radios. A considerable (say 10 to 15 per cent) improvement in sales stocks can be noted in many lines, and a bare beginning toward restoration is noticeable. The experience of the average citizen in these parts will strictly deny, however, any claim that production has been restored in "civilian services."

Now there has been a great acceleration in dollar volume of production in such items (I have noticed in my purchases price increases as high as 400 per cent) even the visible results of greater production in restricted lines do not loom formidably when compared with the job of sizing the production bottleneck up to demand. As measured with demand, we cannot yet begin to speak of "production."

Mr. Truman has a faculty of making the sensational appear to be commonplace. His army day dictum was a re-hash.

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BARBS . . . by Baukhage

Administration housing experts want to hold up construction on non-essential stores, office buildings, factories, roadhouses and amusement projects until veterans homes are taken care of. There'll be screams of anguish over that. Try to get anybody to admit that his shop, his theatre or his doghouse is not essential.

The Kurds again making trouble in the middle east mustn't be confused with the kind Little Miss Muffet ate . . . or drank. That kind of curd is the thick part of the milk as distinguished from the watery part, and the Kurds with a "K" are distinguishable from either by the fact that they are "belligerent Moslem nomads."