

Locomotive's End—German railroad workers overhaul a locomotive in Berlin's Grunewald station in anticipation of lifting of the Berlin blockades on May 12. One mechanic, with hammer in hand, secures in place a sign bearing United States and British flags, to the front of engine of an inter-zonal train. (AP Wirephoto via radio from Berlin)

PICTURES FORBIDDEN

'Curse' on Fabulous Stone Fails to Worry New Owner

By SAUL PETER (AP Newfeatures Writer)

New York (AP)—There was one awkward moment in the interview with Harry Winston, new owner of the fabulous Hope diamond.

He was talking casually to a reporter over a long, velvet-covered table. Between them, in four trays, lay the famed jewel collection of the late Evalyn Walsh McLean. The 44 1/2-carat Hope and the 100-carat Star of the East diamonds hung on a little stand.

"There's a diamond missing," the jeweler said, just a mite less casually. "The little five-carat one."

A sickening pause followed. The reporter, who had never owned more than a \$4.50 class pin, shuddered. But Winston, who has owned the 726-carat Jonker diamond and the 726 1/2-carat Vargand diamond, still was relaxed as he hunted through the collection. Finally the missing stone was uncovered under a large ring setting.

"Funny," the jeweler said, "I can tell in a second when one's missing. Works unconsciously." Winston recalled, with a nervous grin, the time he was looking at some big stones when his elbow brushed a \$125,000 diamond into the waste basket. The stone was missing for three days, while everybody in the organization had themselves a small nervous breakdown searching the vaults and 1500-odd paper packages of gems.

"Finally," he said, "three days later, we discovered the diamond—in a trash can in front of our building waiting to be dumped into a city truck. Since then, we keep all our refuse in the building for at least a week, just in case."

Harry Winston, "just past 50," is a sticky, suave, dark-skinned man whose continental air reflects his years of dealing with royalty all around the world. "You know," he said, "these big stones are the glamor end of our business. To do it, you need great knowledge. Also courage. Also you must enjoy looking at a very rare diamond because sometimes it takes 15 years to sell one."

Winston was born in Los Angeles. His father was a small retail jeweler and the business goes back in the family several generations. Harry started work in his father's shop at 16, studied, acquired a "feel" for gems, and then moved to New York at 21.

No Decision on Truman Bills

Washington, May 10 (AP)—Senate Majority Leader Lucas (D., Ill.) said today a White House conference after a White House conference today that no decision has been reached as to whether the senate will take up the administration labor bill or the North Atlantic Pact first.

Both matters are expected to take up considerable time. Legislative leaders were reported ready to let President Truman say which he wants first.

Lucas, House Speaker Rayburn (D., Tex.), Vice President Barkley and House Majority Leader McCormack (D., Mass.) attended the regular Monday White House conference with Mr. Truman.

The senate is busy now with a bill proposing a two percent sales tax for the District of Columbia.

Lucas said a measure to extend the reciprocal trade agreements program likely will be taken up after the sales tax legislation. He has just returned to his post after an illness.

Rayburn said the house probably will pass within a few days a bill amending the Commodity Credit Corporation law.

The speaker said he discussed with Mr. Truman a new measure that would raise the minimum wage from 40 cents to 75 cents an hour. He said he also told the president of house developments concerning labor legislation.

years ago, after a busy day, he frequently would find himself coming home with \$100,000 worth of stones in his pockets.

Winston was asked about the tradition of bad luck—the 11 violent deaths associated with the Hope diamond from India to America.

He shrugged. "Doesn't bother me a bit. After all, those things would have happened without the diamond."

He said he would put the Hope on public exhibition for a while before trying to sell it.

Portland Air Base To Be Reactivated

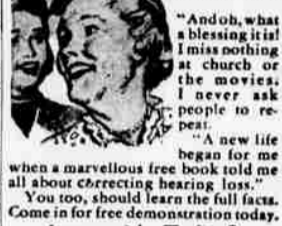
Portland, May 10 (AP)—The air force is planning to reactivate the Portland air base July 1 as a reserve training center.

Lt. Col. Jackson W. Lewis, commander of the 2345th air force reserve center at McChord air base, said the 70 buildings damaged by last June's flood would be renovated at a cost of \$500,000.

There will be 50 regular air force officers, 450 enlisted men and 190 civilian employees.

Emperor Nero paid the equivalent of three million dollars for a vessel of rare glass.

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Series of Quakes Reported in Indies

New York, May 10 (AP)—A series of earthquakes were recorded on Fordham university seismographs during the past 24

hours, the Rev. Joseph Lynch reported today.

One, described as "quite strong," was centered 10,200 miles from New York in the Netherlands East Indies. A "mild" quake at a distance of 2400 miles in an undetermined direction was also recorded.

Capital Journal, Salem, Oregon, Tuesday, May 10, 1949—15

Several other shocks were recorded too lightly to make determination possible, Lynch said.

\$100,000 Fire in Everett
Everett, Wash., May 10 (AP)—

Investigators probed the charred ruins of the Bayside Iron works today in an attempt to find the cause of a \$100,000 fire that destroyed the frame building late Monday.

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