

# Los Angeles Times

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## PART I

### THE OATIS STORY

#### Truth Mocked in Red Trial

**(Editor's Note: When William N. Oatis returned to this country last May after more than two years in jail in Czechoslovakia, it was announced that he would work for the New York Post as a foreign correspondent. The Communist Party, however, has written that story. Below is the first article to appear under Oatis' own byline since April 18, 1951, five days before he was arrested in Prague.)**

BY WILLIAM N. OATIS

Back home in Mason, Ind., I used to be the Fourth of July.

But in Prague in 1951 I hated it.

That was the day we got the bad news.

There were four of us, all employees of the Associated Press in Czechoslovakia. I was the only American.

The other three were Czechs—reporters and interpreters. I was a foreign correspondent, and the chief of bureau.

On that sunny Wednesday morning, we were led into a brightly lit, high-ceilinged hall of the courthouse at Paterka Prison in Prague. We were seated on a long wooden bench. It was like a church pew. And we would have made a proper choir of choristers. We were dressed respectably in business suits, our faces were clean and we were quiet—very quiet.

Remembered back here these months later. Because we did not sit down. We sat on the edge of the bench, our feet on the floor. And we were dressed respectably in business suits, our faces were clean and we were quiet—very quiet.

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SMILE FROM LUCY—Across Lucille Ball laughs at her husband, Desi Arnaz, who is smiling in a press conference Saturday. They met newsmen after her Red link testimony was released.

## New No. 2 Russ Chief Revealed

### Party Leader Khrushchev Now Ranks After Malenkov

LONDON, Sept. 12 (AP)—Nikita S. Khrushchev, 59, a stocky, energetic boss of the Ukraine, has been elected first secretary of the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party, the Moscow radio announced tonight.

This gives him control over the party machinery and makes him the second most important man in Russia. He ranks right after Premier Joseph Stalin, the chief of the party's Presidium.

Joseph Stalin used a similar post as secretary-general of the Central Committee to make himself dictator of the Soviet Union.

Without the title, Khrushchev's actual rank is that of the Communist Party's second secretary. He was elected on Sept. 12. At that time Malenkov, who had taken over as secretary of the Communist Party in Stalin's Prague in 1952, had been elected secretary of the Central Committee.

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**BEFORE**—William N. Oatis, newspaperman, before Caesar's jailed him on Sept. 13.

### VAN FLEET SON ON U.S. DEMAND LIST

FANNINGTON, Sept. 13 (AP)—The son of a prominent Van Fleet family who changed their minds to live north today—beyond the Humber River, which still divides the mystery of what happened to more than 100 Americans in the crash of the plane of Gen. James A. Van Fleet.

The Pentagon in Washington issued a statement today announcing that Air Force Capt. James A. Van Fleet Jr., a 25-year-old pilot, is among at least 103 Americans for whom the U.S. command is demanding an accounting from the Reds.

It is the first time that the son of a prominent American family has been named in the list of missing men.

The Air Force announced today that the son of Gen. Van Fleet, who was killed in action in North Vietnam, April 5, 1952.

### Heat and Smog Onslaught Here

Los Angeles awakened and groggy yesterday when a renewed onslaught of heat and smog descended on the city.

The weatherman reported that the heat wave would last for several days, but there was slight relief in that prediction as he put today's Civic Center maximum at a probable 85, one only one degree below yesterday's.

Yesterday's peak of 85 was the highest in the city since a maximum of 87 on July 27.

Relative humidity showed a beachcomber's range from a peak of 77% at 1:30 p.m. to a minimum of 25% at 11:30 a.m. on the day's highest temperature.

Visibility was sharply cut to a few feet at 10 a.m. and varied readings ranged from the low of 1/4 mile near the Central Post Office, to 1/2 mile near the North Hollywood station.

Temperatures fell as much as 10 degrees at the top of the smog, but the heat wave was not over.

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### Lucille Ball Explains 1936 Communist Link

#### Star Confident Election Registration Won't Prove Damaging to Her Career

Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz faced the press outside the swimming pool of their Chatsworth ranch home yesterday and said they were glad the truth was out about Lucy's 1936 Communist Party membership.

The nation's top television star and her husband, who were interviewed at home by the House Un-American Activities Committee, said they were confident their election registration would not prove damaging to her career.

Ball said she had not been a Communist since 1936, and she had never been a member of the party since then.

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### Fire Continues Out of Control

Blasted on Page 2

A savage uncontrollable fire that has burned more than 12,000 acres of valuable brush and timber in Annapolis National Forest since Monday yesterday continued on a path of destruction, while 472 men battled by burning sections.

"There doesn't seem to be any chance of having it controlled before at least Tuesday," said Harry Green, 77, chief of the fire fighters stationed two days yesterday.

One section, Clifford Plank, 65, Big Stone Creek, the government, other sections were destroyed by the fire. The fire was brought out of the danger by helicopter, and was taken by ambulance to St. Bernard's Hospital, where his condition was reported fairly good.

"About now," he said, "I have more faith in the American people than I do in any other people's truth they're with."

Miss Ball said that record showed she had not only registered as a Communist but also voted. She said she had not only registered as a Communist but also voted.

There were press agents present. They stepped forward and Lucy had the word after all in the primary election.

"Okay," said Lucy, "I voted big girl."

### Snow Falls at Sault Ste. Marie

As an unseasonable snow on the western hill country near Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., fell on Sunday.

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"Okay," said Lucy, "I voted big girl."

### Train Derailed in Arizona

PHOENIX, Ariz., Sept. 12 (AP)—A freight train carrying a full load of lumber derailed today in the desert.

The derailed train was carrying a full load of lumber.

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### Storm Looms as Search for Boy Continues

SEARCH FOR A BOY who disappeared in the search for Dana Moore, 12, who was missing since early Friday morning.

The search today was made by the search party, which was led by Dana Moore's father.

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### Lewis Stone, Film Star, Dies at 73

Los Angeles, Sept. 12 (AP)—Lewis Stone, 73, died today in a Hollywood hospital.

Stone, who was a Hollywood actor, died of a heart attack.

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### Dodge's Clinch Second Straight League Flag

PHOENIX, Ariz., Sept. 12 (AP)—The Dodge Brothers Co. clinched its second straight National League pennant today.

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### Lucille Ball's Testimony on Red Link Released by House Committee

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### The Weather

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