

ACHESON

wed. ~~June~~ 1950.  
May 31st. 7

The newsmen in Washington are noting the unusual meanings in today's event - Secretary of State Acheson in a question-and-answer session with Congress. Which was without precedent - something that never happened before.

In the European system of Parliamentary government it's the usual thing - but not in the American. In Britain, for example, cabinet ministers, headed by the prime minister, are members of the House of Commons - who, in Parliament, state their case and have to answer to their fellow M.P.'s. But in this country the President is independent of Congress, and does not have to submit to Congressional questioning - nor do the cabinet members. But today Secretary Acheson did - and the political reporters note that it was reminiscent of Parliamentary ways abroad.

(The members of the Senate and House of Representatives gathered in the auditorium of the Libarary of Congress. Not in the capital building - because it was not an official session. It was entirely

unofficial - a sign of how exceptional it was. Outside the American system of government - for a Secretary of state to go into a question-and-answer session with Congress.)

But nothing exciting happened - although among the members of Congress were bitter critics of Dean Acheson, who have been denouncing him and his policies. He began with a report on the meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Big Three in London - a report given to the public by means of radio, television, newsreel. In this he merely restated in the most positive tones, what we already know - that the Big Three decision was to build up the defenses of the Western democracies in the face of Soviet Russia. So the weakness of the free nations would not invite war.

The most important point in the question been concerned China - Dean Acheson declaring that, if the United Nations decides to expel the Chinese Nationalists, and seat the Chinese Communists - the United States will not cast any veto. He said we will continue to support

the Chinese Nationalist representatives - but, if the Security Council should decide the other way, there will be no American veto.

There were some sharp questions, with sharp answers - as when Congressman x Rankin of Mississippi asked: "Is Trygve Lie, Secretary General of the United Nations, a Communist?"

Acheson barked back that such might be Rankin's opinion - but it was nobody else's.

The most furious Acheson critic of all was there, Senator McCarthy of Wisconsin - with his charges that the State Department is infested with Communists. But he had no question to ask - he just listened.

Yes, it was all something new in the ways of American Government - but there were no fireworks. It was all rather tame, and that goes for the Congressional reactions expressed afterward. The Democrats were moderate in approval, while the Republicans were mildly critical - in commenting on today's foreign policy quiz.

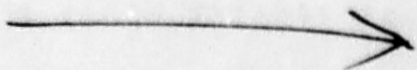
GERMANY

There's an explosive situation along the Iron Curtain tonight, where that deadline meets the Baltic Sea in northern Germany. In that sector, thousands of Communist youths, in huge mobs, are shouting defiance against the police guarding the British Zone. At last reports, they numbered nine thousand, with new arrivals joining them constantly - the figure expected to rise to twelve thousand tonight.

In the weekend rally of Communist youth at Berlin, many came from western Germany, and were allowed to go freely, as they pleased, now they're returning to ~~xxxxxxx~~ their homes, and that's okay too. But word has come of a threat of disease at the Berlin rally - where the hosts in the demonstration were kept in cities of tents. Sanitary precautions not too good, apparently - and there's news of typhus and small-pox breaking out. So orders were issued for a medical inspection of all the Communist youth - on their way home.

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At other places, the Reds made no trouble,



going through the routine inspection. But at the British Zone, they ~~are~~ defiant, trying to crash through - beaten back by west German police. Today, they were shouting in a threatening chorus - with Communist songs and Red slogans. Lines of pickets posted - to keep others from yielding to the medical inspection. The situation becoming more and more explosive - as new thousands of Reds arrive. 

~~That's the crisis at Luebeck tonight - with western German police declaring that, if the mass of Communists were to stage a concerted rush, there would be no way of stopping them. The thin line of police would be simply pushed aside - and that might be happening now.~~

Here's the latest - a capitulation by the Communist crowd. They were finally worn out by their sit-down strike, and tonight gave in - accepting a sort of compromise whereby they march across, five hundred at a time, and take the medical examination.

In Berlin, meanwhile, a thousand of the Communist youth, still lingering behind, invaded <sup>ing</sup> western Berlin - to attend a radio variety program. They sneaked past Red patrols - to go to a show hastily arranged by the American-controlled radio. ~~xx~~ They were treated to American tunes, and then took part in a quizz program - receiving prizes of loaves of bread, sport shirts and other articles of clothing. They cheered their heads off.

KOREA

Returns in the Korean election that show a defeat for the government of President Syngman Rhee.

But the opposition party does not win either. There were a lot of independent candidates, attached to no

party, and they win out. *With nearly all returns*

*in, the independents have won more than half* figures, the government has twenty-nine members in *of the seats in the Korean parliament.*


~~Parliament. The opposition fourteen. The independents~~

~~seventy three.~~ } They are moderate Liberals mostly.

AMERIASIA

The Department of Justice denies reports about documents that were seized in the Amerasia case. Stolen secrets were found in the office of that leftist magazine - back in Nineteen Forty-Five. Republican Senator Hickenlooper says they included the disposition of American submarines in the Pacific. Also - a confidential memorandum sent by the late President Roosevelt to Chinese Nationalist leader Chiang Kai-Shek.

Not at all - replies the Department of Justice stating - that no such documents were found in the stolen material at the Amerasia office. (Nor did the purloined papers include U. S. Naval Intelligence plans for counter-espionage, or a statement, signed by Secretary of State Cordell Hull, plugging Amerasia, as an authoritative source for information on American foreign policy in the Far East. All of which has been reported.)





FOLLOW AMERASIA

The news tonight is that the six defendants in the Amerasia case will be brought before a Senate sub-committee -- to tell their story of how they were arrested in connection with the stolen documents, and then were turned loose with such little fuss.

The first to testify will be ~~Mr~~ Emanuel Larson who, at the time of the Amerasia affair, was a specialist in the China division of the State Department.

## FUR

The other evening we had a story telling how the New York Furriers Association got the worst of a deal with Soviet Russia. The transaction was an exchange of twelve American minks, with special color mutations, in return for a dozen Russian sables - (all) for breeding (purposes.) The American minks were delivered, according to the bargain - and presumably are producing little minks over in Russia. But, when the Soviet sables arrived, they were found to have been sterilized - no good for breeding.

This brings a letter from Frank G. Ashbrook, of the fish and wild life service, <sup>of the</sup> Department of the Interior. Dr. Ashbrook is in charge of research on fur bearing animals; - and he relates an incident some years ago. "Russia," he writes, "did not permit the exportation of live Russian sables - and anyone caught taking them outside ~~the~~ country would pay the death penalty. Even so; 'the scientist goes on, "I suggested to a German friend, who was in this country, that he try and obtain some Russian sables. Returning to Germany,

he negotiated with the Russians, who promised to sell him two pairs, if he came to the border near Koenigsberg, and accepted delivery. I instructed my friend to examine the sables before he accepted them and paid the price - as they might be sterilized. He went to the border, met the Russians with the sables - and, upon examining them carefully, found the situation to be just as I had warned him. It's an old Russian custom."

Dr. Ashbrook goes on to tell how, back in the 'Thirties, the Soviet commissar of the fur trade, visited the United States, and was invited to inspect the fur animal experiment station at Saratoga Springs. §  
"While he was there," says Dr. Ashbrook, "we made a tentative arrangement to trade silver foxes for Russian sables. But, after he returned to Moscow, I never heard from him again." ~~The letter states that this commissar for the fur trade was transferred to something connected with the civil war in Spain. Then, the letter concludes, "he was ordered back to Moscow, thrown~~

~~into prison, and liquidated in Nineteen Thirty Seven,  
along with other purged commissars and generals.~~

So it would appear that the story <sup>of</sup> how the  
New York Furriers Association was gyped in a deal with  
the Soviets - had a grim, dark background.



## STRIKE

The atomic strike at Oak Ridge, Tennessee, is over - the construction workers back on the job today. So, after a week's delay, work was resumed at full speed - building two huge plants for the separation of uranium, material for the bomb.

ARMY

In Washington today, the story was told how an Army finance officer promoted an insurance association - using government offices, typewriters, telephones, and the service of government employees. The account was given to a Congressional sub-committee by Major General Louis Craig, Inspector General of the Army. The officer in the insurance business was Major General William Kasten, while he was Army Chief of Finance.

*According to Gen. Craig*

It all began two years ago, when General Kasten organized a firm called - the Armed Forces Mutual Benefit Association. Which sold life insurance to officers of the Army, Navy and Air Force who were about to be sent overseas. The association had a large advantage over private insurance companies - by knowing in advance when prospective customers were ordered abroad.

Headquarters were in the Pentagon Building, and another Army station - and General Kasten admits that he used government facilities, free. That went on for about a year, until the Army clamped down - and

Kasten was censured for devoting Army time to outside business. (He denied that the insurance interfered with his Army duties. But, anyway, the company was moved out of the Pentagon Building, to an office in downtown Washington.)

It was all - non-profit. But the officials received salaries. (~~Kasten was paid no money while he was on active duty as Army finance chief - but presumably has been drawing a salary since he retired.~~ The vice-president is Major General Eugene Foster, who succeeded Kasten on the Army financial job.) Most of the officials and directors of the company are officers of the Army, Navy and Air Force - on duty right now. A flourishing concern - doing business at the rate of thirty-eight thousand dollars a month.

## GAMBLING

In New York, a grand jury has issued a charge against bookmaker Frank Erickson. On "information", as it is called. Plenty of information! - There are sixty counts. On each count Erickson could get a year in jail, sixty years in all. But, actually, the gambling charges come under the heading of - misdemeanors. Not felonies - not so desperately serious as major crime.

Fifty-nine of the sixty counts allege bookmaking - the "information" picturing Frank Erickson as a top shot gambler, taking bets on horse races, basket ball and baseball games for a period of twenty years. (Nineteen Thirty to Nineteen Fifty. Today, when Erickson was arraigned in court, district attorney Hogan called him - "The biggest and most notorious bookmaker in the United States.")

The one remaining count of the sixty, charges - conspiracy. To support which, the "information" cites a lot of - christmas gifts. Not so sinister ordinarily - presents at yuletide. But we are told that, at Christmas of Nineteen Forty-Eight and Forty-Nine,



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bookmaker Erickson gave tie-clasps, procured at Tiffany's  
Also - most expensive hats. The tie-clasps came to -  
twenty-nine thousand dollars. The hats - more than  
twenty-one hundred dollars. Christmas presents to the  
tune of more than thirty thousand dollars. - Sounds like  
Santa Claus himself.

## RAIN

New York City's perplexities of water and rain came to a new twister today - when a house wife demanded city help for her family. Because of the doings of the rain-maker.

In the crisis of the water shortage several months ago, the metropolis employed a scientist, Dr. Wallace Howell, to put into practice a new magic of rain-making. So the doctor, at a hundred dollars a day, sent up airplanes to seed the clouds, and make them shed their water. Recently, there has been plenty of rain, and now the reservoirs are full enough to make an end to the crisis - although nobody knows how much the rain-making magic had to do with it. Maybe nature was just taking its course - in the way of clouds and spring showers.

But Mrs. Elizabeth Cygan has no doubt - she blames the rain-maker. She's the wife of a carnival man who runs concessions, and states that, last autumn, she and her husband had enough money to carry the family through until spring - when the carnival season would

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open again. But the recent rains have kept the carnival inactive, no business. Which, claims the concession owners wife, is because the rain-maker produced wet weather all over the place in the area of New York. So now she demands that the city provide for the family ~~and~~<sup>and</sup> three children.

*Nelson* - The rain-maker may not get the credit - but, at least he gets the blame.