

At the American military trial in Munich, confessions were read today. One Pole and four Germans are charged with espionage in behalf of the secret police of Red Poland.

The Number One defendant is the Pole, who tells how he headed the spy ring. He says that during the Nazi occupation of his country he worked for Polish intelligence, which then was part of patriotic opposition to Hitler. Then, when the war was over, he failed to continue in the Polish intelligence - which now became Red. So he was arrested and brought before a Communist official in Breslau. "This Polish officer," says the confession, "accused me of being a reactionary because I did not report to the Polish Secret Service for work."

So with that accusation as a Club, he was drafted for spy work among the Americans," I agreed, says he, "to come to the American zone, and work - otherwise I would be dead or in Siberia".

He made a series of ^{trips,} ~~xxx~~ gathering secret

information among the Americans - and recruited the four Germans for the spy job. They had families and relatives in the Red Zone, and were drafted by means of threats. - unless they joined in espionage for the Polish Secret Police, reprisals would be taken against their families. On his final trip into the American zone the spy chief was caught with a briefcase containing sketches, maps and reports made by his four German collaborators. So they are all now on trial - and confessing.

It looks as if we might have a play-back of that fabulous Truman campaign of last year. Tonight, at the Jackson Day Dinner in Washington the President stated: "I may even get on the train again and make another tour around the country to tell the people how the government is getting run."

Well, who could blame Harry Truman - if he wanted to repeat that prodigious and surprising experience all over again. Who ~~xx~~ could blame Napoleon, if he wanted a repeat performance of the battle of Austerlitz. Who could blame Robert E. Lee, if he wanted a ~~px~~ repetition of Chancellorsville?

We should all like a repeat of the best experience of our lives. ^RThe Truman view is that there is a lot of opposition to his present Congress. That previous national legislature, the Eightieth Congress ~~xxx~~ was simply horrible and horrendous - as the President informed the country with such effect in the last campaign. But, apparently, this present eighty-first Congress, Democratic, may not ~~xx~~ turn out to be

so much better. So tonight President Truman informed the country that he may again stump the nation in opposition to what he calls - "the special interests, and the die-hard reactionaries. A play-back, note by note."

CHINA

A typical Chinese note comes from the ancient land of Cathay. This, in new indications of a possible settlement with the Communists. Two ^{(negotiators} ~~negotiators~~ of the Nationalists have been conferring with Red leader Mao Tze-Tung -- discussing an all-around peace conference. The negotiators are Shao Li-Tze and Dr. W. W. Yen, and much optimistic meaning is attached to the style with which the Red radio speaks of ~~an~~ them - calling them the scholars Shao and Yen. It is most honorable in China when you give somebody the title of - scholar. ^R Other Nationalist personalities are furiously abused by the Reds, but Shao and Yen are granted the dignity ^{once wanted by} ~~from~~ the Mandarins of old. Most optimistic. Reds may come and Reds may go, but China is still the land of Confucius.

PALESTINE

The terms of the agreement between Israel and Egypt were disclosed today, when the treaty was formally signed. They fit exactly the report we had yesterday.

Israel remains in possession of the areas the Jewish forces won in the Negeb-fighting last fall, the conquered sections to be held with light defensive ~~fake~~ forces -- not powerful striking forces. Egypt acquires a strip of Palestine coast from the ^{Egypt. Sinai} border to Gaza, - Egypt, likewise, to occupy this with light defensive forces.

The compromise on Beersheba is as we heard - pure evasion. That biblical town is not mentioned in the peace agreement. But the terms provide that Jewish troops are to occupy a stretch of territory that includes Beersheba. ^{That ancient} ~~The Fortress~~

^{metropolis} of the southern desert goes to them without mention - by default..

All of which continues to be interpreted as a sweeping victory for the new State of Israel. Also a triumph for the United Nations mediator who brought about the settlement, Dr. Ralph Bunche, the American Negro Quaker.

BULGARIA

We have already been informed that in Red Bulgaria the fifteen Protestant pastors have confessed - treason, black marketing, espionage. Which amounts to the same line of Red accusation made against Cardinal Mindszenty. Tonight the Communist regime adds - they also plead for clemency.

In many respects, this latest disclosure by the Reds exceeds any other. It has the classical form, the sounding of the same theme in the beginning of each symphonic movement. Today, the Communist Minister of Justice in Bulgaria showed to the newsmen three bulky volumes containing confessions of the Protestant pastors - all in their own handwriting. Each of the fifteen confessions begins with the statement: "I confess my guilt. I beg for clemency."

~~Well, in music the repetition of a theme is characteristic of the classical school of composition, but not even Beethoven or Brahms were ever so stubbornly classical as to begin each one of fifteen movements with the same theme. Like - I confess, I beg for clemency.~~

ANNA LOUISE STRONG

Anna Louise Strong came home today, the long time pro-Soviet propagandist who has been kicked out of the Communist utopia. She landed by plane in New York, and immediately denied the Moscow charge that she was doing sabotage and espionage in Russia.

Is she indignant at the Red bosses who gave her the heave - ho - after all her years of praising and glorifying the Soviets?

Not exactly. She says that Moscow misinterpreted what she calls her - "energy as a newspaper woman." They ~~mist~~ mistook her busy journalism - for espionage. She puts that version in the following words: "In the present tension and war hysteria the functions of a journalist may seem to be spying. I was endeavoring with ~~me~~ all my energy to do my job as a newspaper woman. They took it to be spying. If it so seemed to the State, which is trying to protect itself," she says, "there is nothing I can do about it."

To all of which the sixty-four year old woman writer added that the American news people were

mistreating her - "worse" said she, "than anybody did in Russia." Which angry statement referred to some fifty reporters and news photographers who besieged the ousted writer, upon her arrival. She gave them a piece of her mind - a lively lambasting. Such was the homecoming of the veteran propagandist who did so much for the Moscow Reds - and they have tossed her out. There was little to indicate that Anna Louise Strong has turned against Communism and become an admirer of American freedom. So what is it all about?

~~There have been suggestions that, in expelling her on charges of sabotage and espionage, the Moscow people were merely using a dodge - trying to establish a pro-Soviet writer in this country under new and false colors. But there was an inkling today, of some thing else.~~

~~The stewardess of the Trans-Atlantic plane informed the reporters of something Anna Louise Strong told her. Saying the reason she got in dutch with the~~

AXIS SALLY

The Washington treason trial of Axis Sally took a turn of romance today, with Mildred Gillars testifying that she was brought to give wartime Nazi broadcasts through the influence of a love affair. This she described in mystical terms, calling the late professor Max Otto Koischewitz - "my man of destiny". # The forty-eight year old one-time actress told how the professor had been her teacher at Hunter College, New York. Then he went back to Germany, and she too went to Germany. She pictured him today as a nature-loving mystic who had a brooding love for the mountains of his own native Silesia. # There was one summit, in particular, which he called -- "his own Mt. Olympus." Every time he had an inner problem to solve he climbed the slopes and brooded on the heights. "In the spring of Nineteen Forty-three," she relates, "he realized what was happening between us, and he went to his Mt. Olympus and got the answer". Well, that answer lead to a result called - treason. Because the nature-loving professor was in the radio

propaganda ^{for} of the Nazis, and soon the American woman was too. Her account pictures a relationship reminiscent of Svengali and Trilby, and she, under the influence of her Svengali, became Axis Sally, broadcasting Nazi propaganda to American troops.

The professor died in Nineteen forty-four - after having played a role which Mildred Gillars today described in words broken by weeping. On the witness stand at her treason trial she declared: "I feel that if Professor Koischewitz had not been in my life, I would not be fighting for my life today. I consider him to have been my man of destiny."

KANSAS

The legislature of Kansas is considering a bill to license - taxpayers. You have to get a license before you are permitted to pay taxes. Anybody paying taxes without a license ^{to be} ~~is~~ subjected to fine~~r~~ imprisonment, or both.

Actually, the Kansas Legislature is considering such a bill * in a pickwickiansense. The measure has been introduced with all due formality -- as a satirical gesture. Of late, Kansas has been afflicted with a whole series of licensing laws. Nearly everything licensed. So why not license tax ~~pa~~ payers?

The sarcastic lawmakers who are sponsoring the bill propose a costly board to administer the tax-paying license law. The board members would be paid six thousand dollars a year, with a generous expense account, including entertainment, hotel costs, and even barber shop expenses.

All a bit of dramatic mockery, but it does arouse enchanting visions of the arrest and trial of offenders who might venture to pay taxes without a license.

HOUSING

The Senate Banking Committee has okayed a Bi-partisan housing bill - calling for the government financed construction of eight hundred and ten thousand homes in the low rent brackets. The program planned for a period of six weeks, also provides for slum clearance to the tune of one billion five hundred million dollars.

The committee okayed the bill after voting down an amendment which would have prohibited racial segregation in any of the new housing - an amendment offered by Republican Senators ^(Cain) ~~Cain~~ of Washington, and Bricker of ^{Ohio} ~~Ohio~~. The bill now goes to the Floor of the Senate.

STORM

The fury of the ocean has been pounding Redondo Beach, California - the ~~the~~ second assault of the wild waves in three months. Today the highest tide in years came sweeping in, the breakers blasting the shore front. ~~Slashing-masses-of-water~~ broke windows, washed away porches and knocked down walls. The pounding surf threw up rocks weighing as much as fifty pounds, hurling them into the streets along the ocean. ^R Stones weighing up to five pounds flew into second story windows - a bombardment by the raging sea. Water flowed four ~~feet~~ deep in the streets of Redondo, and people had to be taken out of the windows of their homes - one hundred families evacuated under the assault of the ocean called Pacific.

TRUMAN

In the presidential Sob story, a new headline was added today. Another foreign decoration was conferred on White House aide, General Vaughan. ^{TP} The Truman outburst night-before-last was aroused by criticism because General Vaughan had accepted a ~~decor~~ decoration from Peron, President of Argentina - Columnist Drew Pearson denouncing Peron as an ~~anti~~-anti-democratic dictator. So now, the day after the Sob Story hit the headlines, along comes another foreign decoration for that same White House aide.

^{TP} However, this one is from the Republic of Mexico - which is not ^T being excoriated as an anti-democratic dictatorship. Mexican decorations were conferred, not only on General Vaughan, the military aide, but also on Rear Admiral Foskett, the President's Naval aide. Also, on our wartime Air Commander General Spaatz and General Devers, Army Ground Commander; Likewise, Mayor O'Dwyer of New York, Arthur Sulzburger of the New York Times, and, Nelson Rockefeller, so prominent in inter-American affairs.

An amusing sidelight on the Sob Story comes from

the United States Bureau in Washington. A young man telephoned and asked - what did President Truman mean by those three letters of the alphabet? A skeptical Editor demanded: "Are you kidding, Mister?" But the young man on the other end of the wire insisted that he was entirely serious.

Whereupon the Editor explained the meaning of those three initials. "Oh," exclaimed the voice on the telephone, "did the President mean that?"

Yes, he did. There was a White House news conference today, and as you would expect, the reporters promptly brought up - the Sob story. They pointed to the amount of talk about the strong language. The President replied: "Yes, and the reaction had been very satisfactory to him."

And now Nelson Case, with language forceful but not quite so strong.