

NIGHT SHOW
Wednesday, July 28, 1948

SUBSTITUTE GERMAN EXPLOSION

At last report flames were still erupting in Germany's great chemical plant explosion. The I.G. Farben factory at Ludwigshafen, ⁱⁿ the French occupation zone, caught fire this afternoon and was shattered by a series of tremendous blasts. The casualty list is now estimated at two hundred killed and twenty-five hundred injured. The cause of the disaster is not known, but the French authorities say they do not suspect sabotage. One fact is established beyond doubt, the exact time of the first earth-shaking detonation. It stopped clocks far and wide in the city of Ludwigshafen, thus giving the exact time -- three forty-four this afternoon.

SUBVERSIVES

(There is to be an investigation of the charges that the United Nations is being used to shield Red subversives and spies in this country. / Today Secretary of State Marshall announced that he has appointed a three-man committee to look into stories of Communist agents coming in from abroad through the U.N. /

⌞ The idea would be to find out if people who get into the U.N. are all ~~that~~ they seem to be -- genuine employees doing normal jobs, not →

SUBVERSIVES -2

secret agents using the U.N. under the cover of normal jobs.

What have the United Nations to say about this? The question was promptly answered this afternoon in a statement from the Assistant Secretary General. He happens to be a Soviet Russian, General Sobolev - and he declares that the world organization will not open its records to the investigating committee appointed by Secretary of State Marshall. "It is obvious," declares General Sobolev, "that the United States can investigate only its own files - and not those belonging to the U.N."

All of which gives promise of new complications in the already complicated realm of international affairs.

ESPIONAGE

The identity of the blond spy has been revealed - the young woman whose confession of Red espionage is said to have brought about the grand jury investigation that has resulted in the indictment of the leadership of the Communist Party. She is being summoned to testify before the Committee on UnAmerican Activities in Washington. She is Miss Elizabeth T. Bentley, at present employed as a secretary-stenographer by a New York business firm.

So Elizabeth Bentley is the blonde in the Red espionage sensation. During wartime, according to the story, she did liaison work for a Soviet spy ring in Washington - passing on to them military secrets procured from as many as fifty Communists in government service. One -- a personal adviser to the late President Roosevelt.

Today, with her identity disclosed, she had the following to say about the summons calling her to testify before the Congressional Committee in Washington:

"I'm not enthusiastic about the publicity I shall receive, but, just as I went to the F.B.I. and later appeared before the Grand Jury, I will now cooperate with

the Committee or any other American agency to which I
feel I can be of service."

Today on the ~~British liner~~ Queen Mary, there arrived in New York, two shades out of the past, two ghosts from the Eighteenth Century. / At least, we can think of them as ^{being} ~~having~~ ^{British liner.} been aboard the ~~great steamship.~~ One - a great ponderous fellow, ~~fat~~ ^{and} in a suit of russet brown, wearing a wig not too well kept - majestic in demeanor, large and weighty in conversation.)

The other - a younger man, more slender, more trimly dressed, a gentleman of the Eighteenth Century - but obviously somewhat ~~smaller~~ overawed by his venerated companion.)

In brief, the shades ^{of} ~~the ghosts~~ - Dr. Samuel Johnson and James Boswell, Esquire. / Surely, they must have been aboard the Queen Mary in connection with ^{an item of} ~~a small~~ cargo brought to New York. /

You can imagine Dr. Johnson and Boswell on the deck, gazing at the New York skyline. With Boswell saying: "Sir, we have arrived in those colonies of which you did not altogether approve." / To which Dr. Johnson replies: "Why

indeed, Sir, gazing at the prospect of this large city, I perceive that ^{the Americans} ~~they~~ have made some use of their liberty, though I could only reprehend the way they gained it."

Yes, history records that the great lexicographer, Dr. Samuel Johnson, had little sympathy with the Americans in the days of Seventeen Seventy-Six. - ^{Yet} ~~but~~ now, America has come into possession of the last great store of Boswell-Johnson manuscripts. / They arrived today, in five large steel cases, aboard the Queen Mary. ~~Which takes memory back~~ ⁴ ~~A~~ dozen years ago, ^{an earlier} ~~when the first~~ treasure of Boswell-Johnson papers came to this country - brought by Colonel Ralph Isham, who had procured them at an ancient castle in Ireland. / That was a literary sensation, which now is being duplicated - Colonel Isham bringing over the final Boswell-Johnson treasure - ~~presented this time~~, from an old baronial house in Scotland. /

In the five steel cases, now in New York, are sixteen hundred and ten items of manuscript, two hundred and

eighty-seven letters written by Boswell, one thousand and thirty letters written to Boswell, a hundred and nineteen letters written by Dr. Johnson, a seven hundred page journal giving a minutely detailed account of Boswell's famous first meeting with Johnson - not counting heaps of other mementoes.

All this was catalogued in England, and now is to be examined in New York - when the five steel cases are opened. Who knows what gems of Johnsonian wit and wisdom may be discovered. Perhaps they'll find some more of those sledge-hammer knockdown retorts, favored by Johnson, like the one when he and Boswell were talking about a mutual acquaintance who did not always tell the truth.

Boswell remarked: "Well, Sir, may we not believe half of what he says?" Johnson replied: "Aye, but how shall we know which half to believe?"

I always liked Dr. Johnson's advise to young authors: "Read over," he said, "what you have written, and when you come to a passage that you consider particularly fine -- cross it out."

From Michigan, the town of Grant - a story of the
grief of parents. / But in the end the ~~story~~ ^{emotion} turns out to be
slightly mixed. / There was anguish of suspense - but it's
hard to tell just how those parents feel tonight. /

Two boys, Charles Overlay and George Taylor, who are
ten and twelve years old respectively, went out fishing in a
boat on Rance Lake. / They failed to return home, and then their
boat was found - empty. / The oars and their fishing poles were
found floating. / All the signs were that the two boys had
fallen overboard and drowned. / The anxiety of their parents
can be understood by those of us who are parents. / The lake
was dragged for the bodies, the parents out at the lake
watching the melancholy search - overwhelmed with grief. /

The search was futile - and the bodies were not found. /

At length, after long hours, the ^{sorrowing} parents went to
their homes - and found the boys asleep in bed. / You can

imagine the joy in each of the two households, the relief
of father and mother, ^{the} upsurging happiness. / Then, you can also

imagine the upsurge of other emotions that followed - when the story of the two boys was told. /

Charlie and Georgie had just wanted to see what would happen if they appeared to have drowned. / They tossed overboard their oars and fishing poles, and swam ashore. / Charlie explained: "We just wanted to see how many people would turn out and drag for us." / All the while they were hidden in some bushes on the bank, watching the dragging operations. / It was a lot of fun, until they got tired - and went home to bed. /

An odd story that perhaps had a whacking good finish. Don't you think so, Nelson?

as Lowell Thomas would say:
so long until tomorrow

early July 28/48.

Tonight's latest word about the prospect in Congress, is from Pawling, New York. / At his home there, Governor Dewey is assuming his share of the responsibility for what the legislators in Washington do about the program presented by President Truman. / Hitherto, the Republican candidate has kept hands off, leaving decisions to the Republican leaders in Congress. / He will still confine his activities to advice behind the scenes, but will take a part of the political burdens. / Today an aide to Dewey stated: "The Governor has no intention of attempting to tell congressional leaders what to do, but he is ready to assume his full share of the party's congressional activities." /

We continue to hear that the Dewey advice is against a quick adjournment, the candidate believing that the legislators in Washington should give careful consideration to the proposals in the Truman message to the special session - particularly along the line of measures to control inflation, and meet the issue of high ~~prc~~ prices. / The question would

23

In the Senate, however, there are signs of a filibuster on the racial issue. President Truman recommended that inflation should be taken up first, leaving his policy of racial rights to wait until later. However, the Republican caucus has agreed to bring up a poll tax bill tomorrow. In the regular session of Congress, the Lower House passed a bill to outlaw poll taxes in the South - and that only needs action by the Senate.

The mere mention of the poll tax bill started Southern Senators talking today - and, if the measure is brought up, they will stage a filibuster, and keep on talking as long as the Senate stays in session. The old filibuster idea - talking it to death.

LEAD

Good evening, everybody.

The latest tonight is news of a flare-up in Palestine -- a battle that started in the presence of truce observers from the United Nations. / A dispatch from Tel-aviv states that Egyptian forces attacked a Jewish supply convoy in the southern part of the Holy Land. / With the convoy were U. N. truce observers, who could only look on as the Egyptian attack resulted in a violent fight, details of which have not yet been reported.

GERMAN EXPLOSION

The giant explosion reported in Germany seems to have been one of the most disastrous on record. The great I.G. Farben Chemical Plant at Ludwigshafen, in the French occupation zone, erupted with a series of tremendous blasts today - one explosion after another, pulverizing a huge chemical ~~an~~ area crowded with eighteen large buildings. /

The latest is a ^{French} communique with a casualty list of fifty killed and one hundred injured. But the real figures may be higher. /