

OATH

L. J. P. & G. Friday, April 21, 1950.

I'm broadcasting at the San Francisco

(San Francisco)

Press Club tonight -- one of the most famous of institutions where news men gather. Sitting around are the editors and reporters of San Francisco -- and there is ^{little} ~~no~~ doubt about what they would pick as the most important piece of local news, which actually, is of national interest -- the battle of the loyalty oath.

That controversy, which ~~ix~~ has filled columns of news and editorial space for weeks -- has now been settled. A late dispatch tonight states the compromise has been worked out -- and accepted by the State Board of Regents. The University insurrectos seem certain to accept -- and that will be that.

The compromise provides that the employees of the university will be required to sign the constitutional oath required of all state officials. But not the special ~~ix~~ loyalty oath, which the Regents had decreed. They'll also sign a contract

of employment, which includes a statement that they are not communists. Seems like the difference between a contract and an oath. And, moreover, any University employee who feels that this is too much, can appeal -- instead of being summarily fired.

The vote of the Regents was twenty-one to one -- the dissenting vote being cast by one of the most important of their number, Lawrence Giannini, head of the vast Giannini interests, Bank of America. He not only voted no, but immediately resigned, when the compromise was accepted. Every effort was made to persuade him to reconsider his resignation -- Governor Earl Warren joining University President ~~Robert Gordon~~ Sproul in the plea. But Lawrence Giannini replied: "We are underestimating the threat of Communism in this State and in the whole world." And remained obdurate.

MOSCOW

The Moscow rejection of the American protest was only to be expected -- considering the truculent, belligerent attitude of the Soviets nowadays. ^{Russians.} The ~~Soviets~~ gave a flat turn-down to the American demand for apology and indemnity for the shooting down of the unarmed Navy patrol plane, the Privateer -- also ^{any} ~~the~~ punishment ^{for} ~~of~~ the Red fighter pilots who did the shooting. Moscow, to the contrary, states that Soviet flyers will go on shooting down any plane over Red territory, which resists orders to land. The American protest is called -- "absurd and lacking any foundation whatever."

There is only one thing unexpected -- a denial in the Moscow note that the plane involved in the shooting was a Navy patrol craft, the Privateer. Previously, Soviet propaganda statements appeared to admit that it was a Privateer. But now

Moscow reverts to the claim in its original note -- that the plane was a B-29 Superfortress.

In any case, our protest gets a flat turn-down, Moscow insisting -- that the American plane began the shooting, and saying that the Russians do not know what happened to the alleged B-29, which disappeared out to sea.

CONGRESS-PLANE

In Washington the House of Representatives, by unanimous vote today, passed a recommendation that honors be paid to the ten navy flyers who lost their lives -- posthumous decorations. There were angry denunciations of Soviet Russia, and Congressman Vinson of Georgia, chairman of the Armed Services Committee, compared the case of the Privateer with that incident which preceeded our war with Japan -- the ^Ksinking of the American gun-boat "Panay".

Recalling that outrage committed by the Japanese, Chairman Vinson went on in the following words: "and here, in the same pattern, in the same manner, for the same purpose, with the same ruthlessness, with the same contempt for life, for democratic institutions, for international law, for decency -- barbaric attack is ~~made~~ ^{made} on an unarmed, defenseless American aircraft."

But there is one most notable difference between the cases of the Privateer and the "Panay". In the latter incident, back in 1927, the Japanese made

profus apologies -- so sorry. While now Soviet Russia
replies with a bruske rebuff.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA


A new twister of Red police tactics is disclosed in an American protest to Communist Czechoslovakia.

Miss Catherine Kosmak of New York City, employed by our Embassy at Prague -- relates her story in an affidavit^v accompanying the protest today. She tells how she fell in love with Ivan Elbl, an employee of the United States Information Service at Prague. The romance was happy -- until Elbl got into a position which is the regular thing now days in Czechoslovakia. The Red police have been taking action against Czech employees of the American Embassy -- and there have been the usual confessions and the familiar charges against the American diplomatic staff, talk of espionage and false propaganda against the Reds. So, pretty soon, Elbl, quitting the embassy, was making such declarations.

You can imagine the feeling of Catherine Kosmak, the American girl in love with him -- and presently she had a telephone call from Elbl. He told

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her of the anti-American statement he was making --
and asked her to marry him. "To this I replied,"
relates Chatherine Kosmak, "that my feeling



for him remained unchanged". But she added that if she ever married him, it would not be on terms imposed by the Communists. Obviously, she realized he was under pressure and police coercion.

The next thing, Elbl came to her apartment - accompanied by two members of the Red political police, and they put pressure on her. "These two men," her affidavit declares, "told me that, if Mr. Elbl married me, ~~that I~~^{they} would never let me leave the country." By indirection," she goes on, "they tried to persuade me to marry Mr. Elbl, renounce my American citizenship and live in Czechoslovakia". ^{ff} This she rejected, and informed the Embassy how the Red political police were trying to make her romance a means of compelling her to turn against her own country, ~~and go Red.~~

The Chinese Nationalists claim an overwhelming victory at ^{Hainan} ~~Hainan~~ the Red invasion of the island -- crushed. They tell of smashing new invasion fleets, and of wiping out most of the Red forces that had established bridgeheads. Communist ~~invaders~~ are said to be surrendering, the largest party of them, some six thousand, giving up today.

RACING

The statement was made in Washington today that there is one big horse-racing information^{ation} outfit which tends, in words of the testimony- "to corrupt police headquarters throughout the country". The charge was made by Police Chief of Los Angeles, Major General ~~William Arthur~~ Worton, a former officer of the Marines. ~~In this he was~~ Supported by Mayor ~~Delesseps~~ Morrison of New Orleans -- both backing a bill to outlaw interstate dissemination of data for gambling. ^{TP} They named the Continental Press Service -- which, they said, sends race track information to most of the illegal bookmakers of the country. The statement was made that this news service, with headquarters at Cleveland, is dominated by heirs of the old Capone gang in Chicago. Also that gang killings in Los Angeles are attributed to the business of a nation-wide transmission of race track news to bookmakers everywhere.

The New Orleans Mayor today declared that the commercialised gambling takes "billions of dollars out of ordinary commerce, and puts fabulous sums in the pockets of underworld big-shots". He spoke of what he called -- "an immense concentration of wealth placed in the hands of a relatively small group of unprincipled racketeers".

WEATHER

A cycle of nature is occurring in North Dakota -- and the people there hope it is only a temporary thing. Nearly seven thousand have been washed out of their homes by flood waters from the Red River, which has inundated a vast area of rich farm land. No doubt the deluge will recede, but right now a feature of long eons ago is being restored. Lake Agassiz is becoming a lake all over again.

It was named after the famous naturalist Louis Agassiz, who years ago studied the geology of the region -- and found that a great area along the Red River had once been a lake. Twenty thousand years back in the dim prehistoric past -- the ice age, when the glaciers were spread all over what is now Canada to the northern part of the United States. When the ice receded, it left a majestic body of water, which was there for long ages -- until

finally the lake drained out and dried up.

But now the North Central States are having a series of dangerous floods -- heavy rains and a rapid melting of the great snows of winter. Rivers are on the rampage. Worst of all, the Red River, its deluge flowing into the depression that was once a lake of the Ice Age. There is no doubt the inundation will recede, and farms will be farms again. But at this moment history, or rather pre-history, is repeating itself.

ELLIOTT ROOSEVELT

Elliott Roosevelt's latest romance is, in the words of singer "Gigi" Durston -- "all washed up". The second son of the late president, after another of those numerous Roosevelt divorces, became engaged to "Gigi" -- or at least, so it was said. Today the singer of blues declared: "We were never officially engaged". And ^{advanced} ~~gave~~ an explanation about two rings Elliott Roosevelt gave her, a star sapphire, and a blue onyx ring bearing the Roosevelt crest. No, not engagement rings, "They were just gifts", says "Gigi". Adding: "I haven't decided yet whether or not to give them back to him."

They ~~had~~ decided to get married, but now that is all off. "Certain situations," declares the lady, "just ^{make} ~~made~~ it impossible for me to marry him". She doesn't say what the ^{situations} ~~circumstances~~ were, merely denying that she and Elliott Roosevelt had any kind of quarrel, ~~breaking up the romance~~. But there was something disturbing, emotional, today "Gigi"

sighs^{ed:-} "I am all mixed up now. I am all confused,
I don't know how I feel about him any more".

All a little indefinite. But the
romance is off -- definitely.

GOLDWYN

A silver wedding anniversary is an event that should be treated with sentimental reverence. But what can you do when the one celebrating the silver wedding is Hollywood magnate Sam Goldwyn. He was interviewed today -- and, inevitably, the echo of wedding bells of long ago turned to a discussion of that peculiarity of English known as -- the Goldwynism. (~~The big-time producer says~~ he only wishes he had actually said some of the ridiculous things attributed to him, and the silver wedding interview turned into a nostalgic reminiscences of Goldwynisms.)

One, the most famous, has become a standard idiom of popular speech -- "include me out". Sam Goldwyn says that for twenty years he has been looking for the genius who invented that. Not to sue him ~~or anything like that~~ -- but to give him a job as a gag-writer. Maybe he could invent

something ^{more} as good as the immortal -- "include me out".

Sam, himself, is a fancier of Goldwynisms, and says he likes the new one he heard the other day. Goldwyn proclaiming: "The H-bomb is dynamite".

On his silver wedding anniversary he mentioned with affection his alleged remark in a business conference -- "I will write you a blanket check". Not to mention that profound aphorism of business -- "A verbal contract isn't worth the paper it is written on."

Hollywood wits amuse and exert themselves, making up new Goldwynisms like -- "Any man who would go to a psychiatrist ought to have his head examined". And -- "I never put on a pair of new shoes unless I have worn them for at least five years."

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Say Sam Nelson -- ^{whatever you have to say} ~~say he you haven't got~~ in behalf of our sponsor -- ~~say it right~~ say it right.

BELGIUM

Late news from Belgium tells of a compromise plan -- which may solve the problem of King Leopold. The program would be to have the exiled monarch return, and resume his throne. But he would stay only temporarily, for a brief time -- eighteen days. Then Leopold would go on what is called -- "A long trip abroad". Meaning virtual exile all over again -- with the royal power exercised actually by the Crown Prince. This compromise was ~~rejected~~^{accepted} today by the Catholic party, strong supporters of the King. Prospects seem~~ed~~ favorable with the Liberal Party -- but the Socialists, strongest of Leopold's enemies are doubtful. Former Socialist Premier Spaak says he is not sure the proposal will be accepted by ~~their~~ his party.

TAXES

In Congress the knife is out, slashing excise taxes. Today the Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives voted to cut levies on furs, jewelry, cosmetics, and so on, by some two hundred and fifty million dollars. With previous reductions, voted by the Committee during the past two days, The slash^{ed} proposed for excise taxes comes to three-hundred-thirty-five million dollars. Which is a lot more than President Truman suggested -- the White House thinking that a ^{cut} ~~percent~~ of luxury levies of one-hundred ^{and} ninety-million would be about right.