

MACARTHUR C.I. - P. & G. Tuesday, March 1, 1949. Spokane

In tonight's interview with General Douglas MacArthur, there are striking statements. In Tokyo the Supreme Commander had a long talk with the prominent British correspondent, G. Ward Price, who cables an account of how Mac Arthur spoke frankly and freely.

He repeated previous contentions that, if the Soviets should attack Japan, the Americans will fight. But the General added that he did not believe the Russians would attack. Even if they wanted to, they have not the air command and the sea power for invading the Japanese islands.

MacArthur said that it is not American policy to line Japan on our side, if war should come. "We never intended to use Japan as an ally," said he.

"All we want her to do is to remain neutral."

He said he visioned Japan as a sort of Far Eastern Switzerland, a permanent neutral.

However, should the Soviets attack, it would be easy to raise an army in Japan to fight alongside the Americans."

So says MacArthur, and he adds: "The Japanese are about the stubbornest infantry soldiers in the world."

Then came one exceedingly interesting turn of the interview. British newsman Ward Price remarked that, in the Far East, MacArthur has had little trouble with the Soviets. They haven't bothered him much in the occupation of Japan -- while they are making constant trouble in occupied Germany.

MacArthur answered in the following words:

"Perhaps that is because the Russian mentality is as oriental as it was in the days of ~~Genghis~~ Genghis Khan, and I have had fifty years experience dealing with Orientals."

JAPAN - FLIER

At the same time, newsmen in Japan were interviewing a Soviet airforce pilot - another Russian aviator who flew the coop. He is Lieutenant ~~Barash~~ Barashov, who was on a routine flight, piloting a Soviet transport plane. At one stop, in Eastern Siberia he was left alone with the plane to guard it. So he had a sudden inspiration, jumped in, took off, and flew to the Americans in Japan.

The statements <sup>the Russian pilot</sup> ~~he~~ made tended to confirm the MacArthur belief that the Soviets will not attack Japan. He said that the Red forces in the Far East were not being indoctrinated for aggressive action. If war should come, he thought it would be in Europe. But he said he did not think that Soviet Russia was prepared to fight any ~~any~~ war.

## GERMANY

In the city of Frankfurt, American occupation headquarters in Germany, a Russian delegation is under siege tonight. The Soviet people, eight of them, are in a red sandstone building - beleaguered and holding out.

They are a Red repatriation committee, ordered to leave the American zone. During the months after the end of the war they were assigned to the job of sending back Russians who wanted to return to their native land. But few of the Russians ever wanted to go -- and it has been a long time since the Commission succeeded in repatriating anybody. So General Lucius Clay finally decided that they were serving no useful purpose in the American zone and told them to repatriate themselves. The deadline for their departure was last midnight, but they refused to go. They are stubbornly sticking to the building previously assigned to them as headquarters.

So what to do about it? Today General Clay suggested: "Throw a guard around the place until they get tired of it, and want to go home." To which he

added: "It is not my problem how they get fed." Being no longer accredited in the American zone - that having been cancelled - they are entitled to no privileges -- not even to the use of the sidewalks in Frankfurt.

But there they are, standing siege. The question is how long it will take to tire them out, to starve them out. The Reds having blockaded the western sector of Berlin, their eight-man Soviet repatriation commission is now blockaded in Frankfurt.

## BULGARIA

The first act of the Red trial in Bulgaria was completed today -- the confessions. The last seven of the fifteen Protestant pastors made their statements -- and there was one surprise. One of the accused churchmen refused to confess. This exception, striking indeed, was the Reverend Popov, Minister of the Pentecostal Church. He stood before the Red Court, a small bald-headed man, and denied the charges of treason and espionage. He admitted violating currency regulations, called blackmarketing, but refused to concede that he was a spy and a traitor.

And that was the exception that proved the rule -- all of the others confessing everything the Reds charged against them, admissions of guilt, self-~~xxx~~ accusation, often with weeping and emotional outbreaks. ~~The Communist court speeded up the final court at such a rate that, after a whole string of~~ ~~xxxxxx~~ prosecution witnesses are heard, the verdicts ~~are xxxxxxxx~~ expected by next Monday.

## ITALIAN FIREMEN

In Italy, another threat of a nation-wide strike. This time - firemen. Throughout the Italian Republic today, fire fighters were debating angrily the question of a walkout. Let the fires burn!

This time it is no case Communism, the Reds trying to sabotage the Marshall Plan. The trouble is -- a song. The Italian firemen are demanding that the Government in Rome suppress a new melodious hit, which is sweeping all Italy. It is called - "The Firemen of Viggiu".

This ditty has a lilting Italian tune, and tells how the firemen in the town of Viggiu went swaggering around in fancy uniforms with blue and red feathers in their caps - seeking to impress the young ladies of Viggiu. They set fire to the town - hoping to look like heroes in putting out <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ blaze. But they found that there was no ~~water~~ water and tried to put out the flames with gasoline.

Sounds like a lively ballad, but the firemen don't think it is so funny. Today their national spokesman stated: "It is an insult to all

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firemen - they do not swagger". Moreover they don't wear fancy uniforms any more. Likewise they don't set fire to the town and then try to put out the blaze with gasoline. Hence the demand that the Government suppress libel - or there will be a strike. However, the song is sweeping the country, and a motion picture director has announced that he will produce a movie called "The Firemen of Viggiu."



## WEATHER

A weather story, featuring the violence of the elements -- but it's ~~mm~~ from another continent this time. Storms, and flooding tides raised havoc in Western Europe today - the worst conditions of late winter that have been witnesses in recent history. In England, huge tides, swept by the gales, poured inland -- the Thames flooding London, the innundation reaching the Houses of Parliament, the House of Lords. Willages along the English coast flooded to a depth of six feet.

(The sweep of the winds, with the force of a hurricane, reached all the way south to Rome, where buildings were damaged today by the blast. In the American occupation zone of Germany, United States military police rushed through the streets of Frankfurt today, warning people against the danger of falling buildings - as the tempest lashed weakened structures in bombed out sections.)

## BESCUE

Rescue has come to the three persons marooned for nine days on a tiny grass-covered island off the coast of Alaska - Prince William Sound. A coast guard cutter braved the ice-choked waters and rescued Mr. and Mrs. Fred Howard and their son-in-law. They were stranded on February twenty-first when a barge they were navigating went aground. Yesterday they watched helplessly while a rescue boat plowed its way to within forty feet of them - only to be hurled back by the ~~violent~~ <sup>violent</sup> ice-filled seas. But today the Coast Guard turned the trick - and took them off that grass-covered island in Prince William Sound.

## FILIBUSTER

In Washington the filibuster in defense of filibusters seems likely to go to Vice President Barkley for decision. That is, the whole thing is likely to depend on a ruling that he will be called upon to make. Today Senator Scott Lucas of Illinois, who leads the White House forces, said he was drafting a motion for cloture, a resolution to stop the debate - as the Southern Senators try to talk the anti-filibuster idea to death. The question is - can the Senate, under its rules, consider any such motion for cloture? It will be up to the Chair to decide - Vice-President Barkley.

~~(Today Senator Russell of Georgia used statey phrases in decrying the notion that debate should be cut off. He said in his own words: "This would be premature, as there is so much ground to be covered." Yes, acres of ground, even square miles, when the Southerners decide to talk something to death - something that has to do with the racial issue.)~~

The latest pictures Senator Tom Connelly of

Texas in the forefront of the filibuster - Connelly  
who, ordinarily, is a number one supporter of the  
White House. But now he joins with his comrades  
from Dixieland.

## JOE LOUIS

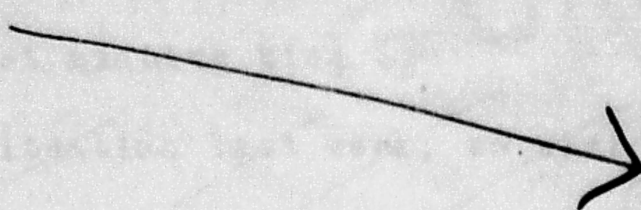
The prize fight heavyweight scene has changed all of a sudden - with an announcement from Champion Joe Louis that he actually has retired; given up the heavyweight title. Joe did a retiring act some while ago, but he took it all back - planning another championship fight. But now his action is final - in a signed formal statement, vacating the championship.

~~But this is only half of the ~~xxxx~~ transformation of the prize fight scene. Joe Louis announces simultaneously that he becomes the promoter of a bout which will decide the new champion - a fight between Ezzard Charles and Jersey Joe Wolcott, two top-ranking negro pugilists. The retiring champ with a couple of partners, has formed an organization to stage the brawl to pick his own successor.~~

## LIQUOR

I am in Spokane tonight and find the local news featuring a battle over a liquor law. The law was voted by the people in the November election, but is now being taken to the courts - reaching the State Supreme Court. Today in the ~~next~~ legislature Governor Langlie put through a bill for taxation under this liquor law - and arguments on the subject are being heard everywhere.

Which reminds me of Idaho, where I ran into a legislative crisis over gambling. After stormy debate, the legislature killed a bill to make gambling legal and open. But the gambling forces would not submit ~~the~~ to defeat, and resorted to a filibuster - tying up <sup>legislation.</sup> ~~legislation.~~



Thus The business of the state was brought to a standstill.

Here is a picture of the situation according to a story on the news wire today written by Bill Hatch, United Press Bureau Manager at Boise. "Idaho's legislature went through tortures over the gambling issue" he says. "Pressure from outside the state, from large eastern and midwestern gambling syndicates, built up during the week - until it was almost unbearable for some of the legislators? To which <sup>he</sup> adds: "at least one big eastern gambler identified by one reporter as Frankie Costello, was known to be in Boise most of the week". That same Frankie Costello, known in the East as the slot machine king.

~~That was the situation last week; so what have we today? After the weekend, ~~and~~ the filibuster has been resumed <sup>in an attempt to</sup> legalize ~~xxx~~ roulette, dice and black jack in Idaho.)~~

I heard so much of the argument that one large question is left in my mind. Back east you would

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constantly hear it said that, when gambling is illegal it is run by racketeers and gamblers, so if you legalize gambling, that would take it out of the control of the underworld. They point to the fact that, under prohibition, the bootleg racket flourished. Then when repeal came, the underworld control vanished.

So it should be the same with gambling. But is it? In the Idaho controversy, I constantly heard it pointed out that, when gambling is made legal and wide open, it can still be controlled by the racketeers. Witness the case of Bugsy Siegel, the former member of Brooklyn's Murder Incorporated, who was killed by mobsters in Los Angeles - his murder attributed to a feud for domination of Nevada gambling, <sup>the</sup> big money taken by casinos in Los Vegas.

So <sup>what</sup> makes me wonder is this: - why is it, that legalized, wide open gambling can still remain in the hands of the racketeers? Maybe you can figure it out.



## PROPOSAL

In the Idaho legislature - a triumph of romance which deserves the sentimental attention of this heart throbbly world. Among all the law makers of Idaho, there were only two batchelors. And one of these, Representative Walter Averill, rose in full legislative session - announcing that he would be married over the weekend. So that would leave only one batchelor - Representative Edwin Snow -- and how long would he remain outside ~~an~~ wedded bliss? Well, the legislative proceedings, upon being resumed, quickly answered that.

With correct parliamentary procedure, Representative Snow rose and said: "In view of the announcement made by Mr. Averill, I wonder if the Lady from Ada would yield to a question".

The lady from Ada was Representative Edith Miller, who rose to political note when she became the first woman judge in Boise - since elected to the legislature. She is described as red headed and good looking, adding an abundance of feminine charms to legal learning.

The lady from Ada replied in proper  
parliamentary fashion, "I will yield, but only  
to the question, and I won't guarantee an answer".

Whereupon Representative Snow presented his  
query: "Since Mr. Averill has accepted the bonds of  
happy matrimony", he said, "I was wondering if the  
Lady from Ada would consent to marry me."

That knocked the legislative serenity right  
out of Representative Edith Miller. She blushed  
furiously, jumped up, and ran out - her face ~~xxx~~  
scarlet. Disappearing amid roars of alughter that  
greeted what undoubtedly was the first proposal  
of ~~marriage~~ <sup>marriage</sup> ever made with all due parliamentary  
form in a sovereign legislature. Popping the question  
the way you propose a law.

In a few minutes the Lady from Ada returned,  
resumed her place, and announced: "On a point of  
personal privilege, I accept Mr. Snow's proposal".  
The legislative way of ~~xxx~~ saying - yes.

So now all that remains is to arrange the

the ceremony uniting the romantic law maker and the  
Lady from Ada.

And from the lady from Ada we turn to the  
gentleman in Hollywood -- meaning you, Ken.

SPIES

In Munich an American military court convicted five spies today. The leader of the group is a Pole - the other four are Germans. They confessed to espionage on behalf of the Secret Police of Red Poland, -- and today were sentenced to prison terms of from twelve to thirty years.

MACARTHUR

A late story from Japan, now coming in on the wire. An interview with General Douglas MacArthur, the Supreme Commander, declaring that his troops will certainly fight if the Soviets should fight Japan. But MacArthur adds he does not believe the Reds will attack.