

TRUMAN

L.J. - R.G.

Monday, Nov. 22, 1948.

The President of the United States has moved - across the street. (The Trumans are now living at Blair House, so those repairs can be made at the White House.)

~~This morning~~ <sup>Today</sup> the President walked to work with other government employees. Then, after a conference on the European situation with Averill Harriman, on the spot director of the Marshall plan in Europe, Mr. Truman went to the Washington airport to meet his returning Secretary of State.

Afterwards, the President and Secretary of State Marshall held a half hour conference at the White House. After which they walked across the street to Blair House. There a luncheon awaited them - a luncheon attended by the entire Cabinet. This to give Marshall an opportunity to brief his colleagues on the foreign situation, the Berlin blockade, also China, and Korea. A White House Secretary described it as a "useful and informative meeting."

The word in Washington is that Mr. Truman's private session with his secretary of State is likely

produce one or more major decisions in our foreign policy - also perhaps decide whether Marshall will stay on. The Secretary of State had nothing to say beyond that he had talked with the President. And that he didn't know yet whether he was going back to Paris.

A rumor probably without foundation.

In Montreal, Dr. Liao, a member of the Chinese Nationalist Government, said that China holds the United States morally responsible for its present plight. He reported the charge that a year ago Secretary of State Marshall suggested that the Nationalists form a coalition with the Communists and added that if the Nationalists had agreed to go along with General Marshall on that point you would be, what he called, another Czechoslovakia overruled by the Reds.

CHINA

( In the capital of Nationalist China, Foreign Embassies are packing - getting ready to leave. This as Chiang's government also packs for the journey South if Suchow falls. )

But in Nanking, there's that rumor still buoying up the hopes of the populace and government officials. The rumor that one of our top military leaders, possibly MacArthur, or Mark Clark, is heading for China to act as Chiang's adviser in his most desperate hour.

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U N FOLLOW PALESTINE OIL

And in Paris today, Russia and Poland charged that Count Bernadotte's/<sup>Palestine</sup>partition plan was designed for one end. To give the United States and Great Britain military domination over Palestine and control of all Middle East oil.

~~Before the U N political committee the Russians demanded that all Arab armies should be withdrawn from the Holy Land. The Russian spokesman harped continuously on the words "oil" and "monopolies."~~

## PALESTINE OIL

There is one bit of news today that sheds a flood of illumination on the motives and policies in the problem of Palestine. A dispatch from Beersheba states that they have struck oil in the Southern <sup>Palestine</sup> Desert, the Negeb. <sup>Right</sup> ~~That is~~ where fighting broke out, in violation of the armistice. The Negeb ~~is, in fact,~~ the number one bone of contention right now -- Israel insisting on the possession of that <sup>almost uninhabited</sup> ~~blistering~~ expanse of desert.

Many have wondered - why is the Jewish State so concerned about the Negeb, one of the most forbidding <sup>areas</sup> ~~spaces~~ of land on earth. I've been there, and ~~can tell you that~~ it is forbidding. You'd ~~would~~ think nobody would want <sup>it.</sup> ~~such arid desolation.~~ Of course, if you get water you can irrigate - but the answer would seem to be something else.

Today's news dispatch states that they have struck oil in three places. Two of these are under Jewish Control, one <sup>in Sinai,</sup> near Gaza, where they drove down twenty-two hundred feet, and up came - petroleum.

The same story at a point southeast of Beersheba. The third spot is in a section of no man's land, near the southern tip of the Dead Sea -- the prospectors working there, too. The lowest sport on the planet, 1500 feet below sea level.

The story is that the hunt for oil in the Negeb began several years ago, when Palestine was run by the British. The work was interrupted last spring when the British withdrew and the independent State of Israel was declared. Arab armies pushed into Palestine and the Egyptians seized most of the Negeb. When the United Nations imposed the present truce, the Egyptians remained in possession of what they had acquired.

All of which was followed by the recent flareup in the Southern Desert, the forces of Israel. As they advanced, they were followed by prospectors and derricks -- resuming the interrupted hunt for oil.

Oil in the Negeb would change a lot of



pictures. It would make the barren land a major prize and would have an interesting relation to the whole fabulous empire of Arabian oil.

The <sup>present</sup> world position of the Arabs is founded largely on the fact that they have in their territories the worlds greatest deposits of Petroleum. Geology holds that the basin of the Persian Gulf, and lands in that general area, lie above one vast reserve of Petroleum. ~~a story in~~

~~the Saturday Evening Post gives stunning figures, saying that oil fields already blocked out in that area represent thirty billion barrels. The estimate is that the total may run as high as one hundred to <sup>a</sup> one hundred and fifty billions of barrels of oil.~~

~~an immense amount of this lies beneath the desert sands of Arabia.~~ Strange stories are told of local Bedouin Sheiks suddenly become oil millnoaires, their few square miles of miserable desert wilderness turning, overnight, into rich realms of oil.

I have heard much about this from a friend of this program, <sup>Wreston</sup> Max Thornburg, <sup>fabulous American oil expert</sup> who owns an island in

the Persian Gulf. It was given to him by the Sheik of Bahrein, legended Island of the Pearl Fishers. For centuries the Sheik of Bahrein ruled a realm that owed its existence to swarthy divers plunging to the bottom of the sea and gathering pearl oysters. But now the kingdom of the pearl fishers is an oil field, and the Sheik of Bahrein is an oil multi-multi millionaire. From pearls to petroleum.

It is odd to note how often oil is struck in the desert -- or in country that is near desert. The Bedouin of the eternal sands have oceans of petroleum -- and they need none at all. But it does again give them world influence. Yes, it is curious to think of oil and the desert, especially that forbidding desert south of Palestine -- The Negeb. That gives to the oddity a huge significance in the world drama of the nations.



GROMYKO

From Moscow we hear that Andrei Gromyko, who represented the Soviet so efficiently in the matter of vetoes at the U N is slated for promotion.

When he ~~ex~~ returned home from the U.S. early this year Gromyko disappeared - or seemed to. There was no mention of his name in the press. Gromyko the forgotten man; so it seemed -- until November seventh, the anniversary of the Nineteen Seventeen Revolution. Then he turned up - in the diplomatic corps stand, in Red Square - Moscow -- all decked out in the elaborate Ambassadorial uniform the Russians recently created. Chest covered with medals. And the very next day he was awarded the highest civilian order in the U.S.S. R - the Red Banner of Labor. What post has he been given? He is in the Foreign Office, ~~a Deputy~~ ~~Minister~~ -- one of the right hand men to Molotov. The report from Moscow is that Gromyko, at thirty-nine is the most decorated of the younger Red diplomats.

Quite a success story, that. The story of a

young man who started out as a Government research economist. He showed early brilliance, and rose rapidly, to represent his country at the United Nations. Twice decorated with the Order of Lenin, a member of the Supreme Soviet -- the Russian Parliament - and now, not so many rungs from the top of the Red ladder.

~~Those who saw the most of him at Lake Success, say he has charm. Knows how to make people like him. No easy achievement behind the Iron Curtain!~~

ROMMEL

In Berchtesgaden, the local de-nazification Court adjourned today, in an atmosphere of suspense and frustration. All because a star woman witness sent a note, saying that she is sick with Influenza and cannot come to complete her testimony.

The woman witness is Frau ~~Lucie~~ Rommel, the Widow of the Desert Fox. On trial is General Ernst Raisel, a Hitler Aide, who is said to be one of the two men responsible for Rommel's death in October, Nineteen Forty-four. Frau Rommel wanted to testify to tell the story of what happened to her husband. She claims that shortly before he died, Field Marshal Rommel told her that the Fuehrer wanted him to take poison; and that he would be dead within a quarter of an hour.

Rommel, says the Berchtesgaden Dispatch, was suspected of plotting against ~~Hitler~~ Hitler, and ~~was ordered by Hitler~~ <sup>was ordered by Hitler</sup> ~~so he~~ either <sup>to</sup> poisoned or shoot himself. Which story the court in Berchtesgaden <sup>had</sup> hoped to hear <sup>today</sup> from the lips of Rommel's widow. ~~today. But now it will have to wait until the lady is in better health.~~



LONDON

A bulletin from London. Buckingham Palace announces that King George Sixth has cancelled his proposed visit to Australia and New Zealand because of ill health. A bulletin issued from Buckingham Palace at one-thirty in the morning said that the King is suffering from an obstruction on the circulatory system of his legs -- and that the condition has become acute.

~~Here's further word on that.~~ A second medical bulletin signed by five physicians <sup>states</sup> ~~at the Palace~~ ~~which says~~ that the fifty-two year old monarch is suffering from a blood clot in the right leg; ~~and~~ that it would be hazardous for <sup>him</sup> ~~the King~~ to embark upon a long journey; ~~which says the bulletin TONIGHT might delay his recovery, and involve serious risk to his limb.~~ The royal doctors are advising the King to take complete rest, with treatments that must be maintained for a prolonged period. ~~and~~ Their bulletin adds that although the King's general health gives no reason for concern, there is no doubt that the strain of the past twelve years <sup>is beginning to show.</sup> ~~has appreciably affected~~

LABOR

In Cincinnati, ~~Ohio~~ tonight, Charles MacGown, the President of the international boilermaker's union appealed to the sixty-seventh convention of the A F of L. <sup>He asked them</sup> not to agitate for a general fourth round of wage increases. The Union leader said he does not want the American ~~people~~ people to get the impression that labor is arrogant and flushed with triumph over what he termed its ~~its~~ "election victory." ~~so~~ He asked ~~that~~ instead, <sup>that</sup> ~~they not~~ <sup>and that</sup> ~~demanding~~ increased wages; everyone, labor and capital, ~~both should~~ concentrate on defeating inflation; ~~and Rolling~~ back prices <sup>and bring about</sup> ~~to the level of~~ a stabilized economy.

BREEN

Out in Hayward, Wisconsin, tonight they are looking for a light plane piloted by Bobbie Breen, Hollywood Singer. Missing for over twenty-four hours. The belief is that the Breen plane may have crashed in some remote spot in the <sup>vast</sup>wilderness of northern Wisconsin. The air search is being led by a B-17 of the Army's air-sea rescue service and by <sup>small planes</sup>~~puddle jumpers~~ of the civil air patrol. ~~But the light planes had to give up because of ice on their wings while the searchers on the ground are hampered by storms of sleet and rain.~~



## BLAST

At Cambridge, Massachusetts, the Harvard Crimson the undergraduate newspaper, scooped the metropolitan dailies of nearby Boston today. A solution to the story of the explosion in Cambridge last Saturday morning, a blast that shattered windows and caused considerable alarm in Boston. There was no loss of life, but at the time the explosion gave rise to a number of rumors. One, that an atomic experiment at Harvard had mis-fired.

Today the Crimson says the blast was caused by the explosion of dynamite set off by an expelled student. He is referred to as a Texan. And the Crimson tells how he went to Oregon last year to work as a log glaster, brought the synamite back with him to Harvard, and then used it for his farewell salute before heading <sup>South - heading</sup> for the Rio Grande.

## HAYWORTH

When Rite Hayworth and Prince Ali Khan of India arrived by air at New Orleans today they again were avoiding each other. Or seemed to be.

"Me?" said the film star, looking innocent when the reporters asked her whether she was going to marry the young Mohammedan who is heir to one of the world's ~~an~~ number one fortunes. "Me?" I don't know a thing about Ali Khan."

And what did the heir to the Aga Khan have to say? ~~He~~ "Oh, he asked the press to ask him about his race horses, or about his father. Among other things he said he didn't know how much money he had because he hadn't counted it lately.

All this, while the film star and the Prince were trying hard to look as if they didn't know each other.

But when they drove to town in an airport limousine, they were holding hands - the Queen of Hollywood and the Prince of India - acting just like any other lovers.

## EARL

Here's another story from England portraying the trials of British nobility these days.

The young Earl of Shrewsbury, England's Premier Earl, owns an estate of eight thousand acres, which has belonged to his family since fourteen hundred and forty-two. Since fifty years before Columbus discovered America. Today on the side of a road running through the Earl's rolling acres, a reporter found a fruit and vegetable stand. Stopping his car to buy himself a cabbage, he got into conversation with the young man who was selling the cabbages. And what did he find? Yes, you've guessed it. It was the belted Earl himself -- in overalls selling the produce of his farm.

Young Shrewsbury told a reporter that he's broke. But, he says he hopes to make ends meet, by selling three thousand of his acres, and raising vegetables on the remaining five thousand -- at his roadside stand.

And now from the Earl of Shrewsbury we turn to you, Nelson.