

HAIL

Tues. Mar. 21st 1950. C.I. P.H.

At the Air Force base, Panama City, Florida, a bombardment this afternoon knocked out virtually all of the warplanes -- as completely as the most successful kind of enemy assault. It was a hail storm -- a torrent smashing down, with hail stones as big as tennis balls. They ripped through the metal wings and shattered plexi-glass domes -- not to mention a battering of hangars and other buildings. Staff Sergeant G. T. King retrieved one of the hail stones, and put it in his refrigerator, as evidence of magnitude -- seven and one-half inches in circumference and two and one half inches thick.

APPROPRIATIONS

A committee of the House of Representatives has cut a billion and a half from the giant White House appropriations bill of more than thirty-billions-and-a-half. The magnitude is not only in the amount of money - but also in the fact that it's an omnibus ~~XXXX~~ appropriations bill, the whole cost of government put into one document. The bill is four-hundred-and-thirty pages long, the first omnibus appropriations bill in a hundred-and-fifty-years.

MARSHALL PLAN

In both the Senate and the House of Representatives decisive steps were taken this afternoon to put up Marshall Plan funds - money for the third year of the European Aid Program. The Foreign Affairs Committee of each house gave its okay - with simultaneous action.

But there were differences in the two bills, though each names the same amount - three billion, one hundred million dollars, as requested by President Truman. The Senate group voted that much in cash. But in the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House, the decision was to put up one billion dollars worth in the form of American farm surpluses.

The general view is that this action by the two committees today clears the way for the third year of Marshall Plan funds to go through - though there may be some opposition on the floor of the Senate and the House.

CONGRESSMAN

I cannot tell you the prediction that Congressman Church of Illinois was making today. Before a committee, the sixty-six year old veteran was testifying against President Truman's plan to abolish the office of general counsel of the National Labor Relations Board. Congressman Church, a long time opponent of Democratic administrations, demanded that this White House move be cancelled. "If Congress," he started to proph^asy, "does not set it aside within the required sixty days, I venture the prediction that it will result in considerable....."

At that point, he stopped and slumped out of his chair.

Congressman Miller of Nebraska, who is a doctor, hurried to his side, made a quick examination, and said - "Heart attack."

A fatal heart attack, and so the prediction that was begun today will never be completed.

HIRING HALLS

Congress is being urged, in the strongest way, to do something to restore - the hiring halls. The various rival maritime unions have joined to demand a law to reestablish that method of engaging seafarers, which was outlawed by the Supreme Court under the Taft-Hartley Law.

Today Federal mediator Cyrus Ching warned Congress that there would probably be a nationwide shipping strike - unless the maritime unions are allowed to operate the hiring hall system. The Federal mediator called the system - "Essential and indispensable". And added - that the employers of maritime labor approve of what he called "well run" hiring halls.

COMMUNISTS

A Senate Sub-Committee met behind closed doors today, to hear the culminating charge by Senator McCarthy of Wisconsin, who has named what he calls, Russia's "Top espionage agent". And ^{he} says - that this top ranking R_ed spy is now connected with the State Department. The Senator has already given the name of this individual - to the sub-committee - which name has not been made public.

We are merely told that the alleged "Top espionage agent" was the boss of Alger Hiss ^{who was} sentenced to prison for perjury in connection with spy work.

(At the secret session, which was called hastily today, Senator McCarthy was called upon to present his formal charges - the proof in the matter. A Democratic member of the committee says it was a case of "Put up or shut up.")

Later on, after the sub-committee proceedings were over, the chairman, Senator Tydings of Maryland, stated that McCarthy did not produce what Tydings called - "Primary evidence." He merely repeated his


allegations under oath, and declared that proof would be found in the loyalty files. Senator Tydings declares he intended^s to do everything possible to procure access to those files.

CHINA

The attempt to remove two thousand foreigners, including six hundred Americans from Red Shanghai ended in final failure today. The Reds refused to permit the evacuation - for which the American rescue ship, General Gordon, was waiting for days.

Reports are that they objected because the Americans and other foreigners were to be transferred by - LST boats. These are American military landing craft, now adapted for civilain use - and would have to be used, because the steamship itself could not navigate through channels in which mines have been strewn. But the Reds decided to consider the LST boats - warships. And - refused to let them take off the refugees.

So today the steamship General Gordon sailed away to Yokohama, and our government is still trying to find some way to get those people out.



ADD CHINA

A late dispatch states that the steamship line operating the General Gordon still has hopes that an arrangement can be made with the Communists, and that the rescue vessel may be able to return and pick up the refugees.

BELGIUM

The latest in the Belgian dispute is an appeal by former Premier Spaak, addressed to King Leopold - urging that exiled monarch to abdicate in favor of the crown prince. The argument, presented in a respectful but urgent tone, is that, if Leopold insists on resuming his throne, it will plunge Belgium into dissension and strife.

The Socialists are calling "anti-Leopold strikes." The cabinet is divided on the subject, and we are told of attempts at a compromise. One compromise might be to have Leopold return to his throne, but with a pledge that he will immediately resign in favor of his son, the crown prince. The purpose of this would be to exonerate the king, who during the Second World War surrendered ^{with} his army and allowed himself to be made a prisoner by the Nazis. After which he would step out in the interest of national unity.

ITALY

Late news from Italy -- where the Communists have called a nationwide general strike for tomorrow. This is in protest against police action in a clash at a place one-hundred-and-fifty miles south of Rome, where one rider was killed, a score injured. To which the Reds respond with an order for a one day general strike.

BRITAIN - FLOGGING

The British government has no intention to restore - flogging. They won't resort to the old cat^{d-} and nine-tails as punishment. Britain is having a bad crime wave, and this has raised newspaper and public demand - for corporal punishment, which was abolished in British prisons two years ago.

But today, in the House of Lords, the outcry was rejected - by the Lord High Chancellor. He said there would be no resort to flogging - no more cat^{-o'-} and nine-tails.

ADVERTISING

A diplomatic storm in Sweden, all because of an advertisement printed in Stockholm newspapers. The effect of the ad was such that the British Ambassador, Sir Harold Farquhar, went at once to the Swedish Foreign Office and made a personal, indignant protest. The British Embassy called the newspaper display - "Vulgar". Also - "Horrible." To which Sir Harold Farquhar added a stern demand in the following words - "That, under no circumstance, will the advertisement be printed again."

(The diplomatic storm was such that the Swedish Foreign Office immediately complied, and made representations to the newspaper publishers Association - which today put a ban on the offending ad.)

So what was it? Well, a concern manufacturing cheap jewelry put out an imitation pearl collar, priced at thirty-five kroner - seven dollars. And called it - "The Princess Elizabeth pearl collar." And printed a picture of the heiress to the crown of Great Britain, Princess Elizabeth, wearing a pearl

choker - same design. And holding in her arms - her baby son, Bonnie Prince Charlie. The blurb with the picture said "Get your Princess Elizabeth pearl collar today. Wear it for eight days, and return if not satisfied." If satisfied - the customer was to pay off at the rate of ninety-two cents a month.

The British Embassy said the impression given was that the cheap jewelry firm had paid the heiress to the British crown for permission to use her name and picture in advertising the seven dollar junk represented as the royal necklace.

The offense to British dignity was all the greater because of the history of Princess Elizabeth's pearl collar. From the time she was born, her father, King George, presented her with one pearl each year - a gem of exquisite perfection, for her birthday. When she was eighteen, these with a number of others were made into a gleaming collar. Value - many thousands of dollars. No, not seven bucks to be paid off at ninety-two cents a month.

So you can imagine the sputtering of Sir
Harold Farquhar, ~~ambassador to~~ His Majesty, George the
Sixth, ^{ambassador} to the court of Stockholm. "I say, what gross
impertinence!"

OPERA

Something of a record is being set in Italy - that familiar Italian realm, the opera. A fifteen year old girl is making her debut as a star soprano - singing ^{atop} ~~the~~ role of ~~Gilda (The C is soft)~~ in Rigoletto. Her name does not sound surprising for operatic matters in the vicinity of Rome - Jeanetta La Bianca.

But she comes from Buffalo, where her parents now live, and she started singing in a Buffalo public school. There she also was the captain of the girls' baseball and basketball teams - while starting to warble high notes. Her voice, even as a small girl, was such that she was sent to Italy to study - and now, ~~as~~ a prima donna at fifteen. They say that, her career is a success, ~~she will be~~ the youngest opera star since the legended Adelina Patti - who was a triumph in opera at sixteen, a little older than the girl from Buffalo.

SKATER

In Washington, the National Figure Skating Championships are to begin on Thursday - with world champion Dick Button of Harvard defending his U. S. title. And so, while waiting for the big event, day after tomorrow, Dick Button sends me a story with a moody international angle.

He says that two years ago, right after he won the olympic figure skating championship in Switzerland, he flew to Prague, Czechoslovakia, where he gave an exhibition - and there he had a strange surprise. While he was going through speedy turns and twists on the ice, there was plenty of applause. But then, suddenly, from the dark audience an orange was flung - landing on the stage. Angered by this insult, Dick swooped down, snatched up the orange, and threw it back into the audience. This drew a new burst of applause - and more oranges.

He thought they were trying to bombard him off the stage - until he picked one up, wrapped in paper, on the paper was written - "Good luck, Dick Button, good

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luck U.S.A."

Still mystified, Dick had to hurry to catch a plane - and there he was told that the Communists were seizing power. The oranges, so scarce an article of food in the country, were the last free expression of good-will to America - as the darkness of the Red dictatorship descended.

LORA LEE

~~Dramatic~~ ^{Mare} testimony in Hollywood today,

in the trial of Mrs. Lorraine Mishel, foster mother of the child film star, Lorelee. The nine-year old actress herself was on the witness stand, and told how she stole food because her foster mother starved her to keep her small enough to play in pictures. But then, in cross-examination, Lorelee said she stole ~~the~~ the food because her drama coach put her up to it - a thing which her drama coach indignantly denies.

WILL DURANT

In Hollywood, they've arrested the burglar who robbed the philosopher. The prisoner is twenty-two year old George Roden, in whose room the police found the loot, three-hundred-and-fourteen-thousand dollars' worth of securities and jewelry - and Roden tells the following story. He says he watched the philosopher and his wife leave home in the evening, and then he broke into the house - where, in a strong-box, he discovered the treasure. He says he never expected to find that much - as who would, in the home of a philosopher? Whereupon he was frightened. "When I found what I had, I was scared to death," the police quote him as saying. "I thought somebody might kill me," he explains, "if they caught me with it." He was disturbed by the thought that - if other crooks learned about the treasure he had, they might kill him to get it. Which is a twister for a philosopher to meditate upon.

Will Durant, himself, was bothered mostly by the loss of time - the amount of his time the police took in their investigation. He is working on the sixth

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volume of a "History of Civilization," and a philosopher knows that - time lost cannot be regained.

But how does a philosopher come to have so much money? The sages of old were not famous for worldly possessions. Of course, Will Durant had a most profitable success years ago with his - "Story of Philosophy." He has written other successful books, too. But still, living in a Hollywood mansion with hundreds of thousands of dollars in the till - well, that leads me to remind ^{Philosopher} Will Durant that ^{Philosopher} Diogenes lived in a tub.

1/2 Tub - Tub - remind you of anything, Nelson?