

L.T.-K. Mon. Nov. 16-'53,

Substitute TRUMAN

Former President Truman, tonight, followed the line of argument that had been ~~expected~~ ^{anticipated}. We might have anticipated, also, that he'd be vigorous about it - HST being a political gladiator known for hitting hard. ^{However} ~~xxxx~~, he excelled even himself in the way he lit into Attorney General Brownell for having made a charge - that Harry Truman had knowingly promoted an accused Soviet spy for higher office. Of course, the Attorney General stated, later, that he never questioned the loyalty of the ex-president. But HST would have none of that - he blasted Brownell with vitriolic phrases.

As for the facts and the logic of the business, the former president said ~~xx~~ what we had been hearing - that the assignment of Harry Dexter White to the International Monetary Fund was confirmed, so that a watch might be kept on him. If his appointment had been cancelled, said Mr. Truman, it would have given

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him warning - and would have handicapped the FBI in its campaign against Red espionage in our government.

In this, he had to take back what he said before - that he had never heard of the charges against Harry Dexter White. Tonight, ^{he} said he did not receive the first FBI report on the Assistant Secretary of the Treasury. But he did get the second, and stronger, FBI report - brought to his attention by Secretary of State James Byrnes, now Governor of South Carolina. In this, he confirms the statements made by Byrnes.

He says he discussed that second FBI report with Secretary of the Treasury Vinson and Attorney General Clark - and, together, they decided on the plan to keep Harry Dexter White on the Monetary Fund, though not at the high level previously intended for him.

~~Exhibit~~ The former president did not state that FBI Director, J. Edgar Hoover, had any part in it. Although, previous Democratic declarations had been,

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that the FBI Director had sat in on the conference, and agreed with the plan. That has been one of the critical points in the whole debate, and the understanding is - that J. Edgar Hoover denies any part in the decision. We will have to wait for a definite statement from the Director of the FBI on that point. He should be an authority on the subject of the plan - to keep an accused Soviet spy on the Monetary Fund, so that the FBI could investigate him.

Mr. Truman also admitted that he made a mistake, when he said that Harry Dexter White had been fired, when found to be disloyal. He resigned, a year later, for reasons of health.

Which still left the question - of the high praise and congratulations with which President Truman accepted the resignation.

Tonight, the comment at this moment, is strictly political. The Democrats are saying that the

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Truman explanation is perfectly satisfactory. The
Republicans call it - not plausible, and contradictory.

SUBPOENA

In his refusal to testify before a Congressional Committee, former President Truman cited a long list of Presidents who had, likewise, rejected subpoenas or demands for information. But, a curious point along that line is brought up by ~~the~~ columnist, David Lawrence, ^{who has been a Democrat} ~~in the New York Herald~~ ^{all his life so far as I know.} ~~tribune~~ Of course, H.S.T. is not a President, but an ~~ex-President~~ ex-President -- and David Lawrence points out that there was an ex-President who accepted a subpoena, and testified before a Congressional Committee. ^P John Tyler, back before the Civil War. He was questioned about actions during his administration. By way of a coincidence, it all concerned - foreign espionage. ~~It~~ Seems like we had those same troubles - more than a hundred years ago.

REPUBLICAN

A former Republican leader was indicted in Washington today. Warren Stevenson - accused of perjury in ^a~~the~~ case of influence peddling.

Stevenson, former Secretary of the District of Columbia Republican Club, and a member of the Eisenhower Inaugural Committee - was charged with trying to get a fee from a firm dealing with the government. He was questioned by a Congressional Committee, and the denials he made brought about the prosecution he now faces.

Attorney General Brownell, announcing the grand jury investigation, declared: "This administration will not tolerate influence ^e~~p~~ddling or any other form of corruption."

C.I.O.

President Eisenhower sent a message to the C.I.O. convention, today - but it was received with no applause. The President told the big labor organization that he will support changes in the Taft-Hartley Law - to make that act "absolutely fair" to labor, industry, and the public.

The seven hundred delegates at the Convention in Cleveland did not applaud at any point. All - following an attack on the ~~Foster~~ administration in a report circulated by C.I.O. President Walter Reuther. The administration - charged with being dominated by big business.

SUPREME COURT

The Supreme Court upholds an indictment against five Democratic leaders in Mississippi - charged with perjury. They were members of a pro-Truman wing, of the Party in Mississippi, and were charged with selling federal jobs. Questioned by a Congressional Sub-Committee back in Nineteen Fifty-One, they gave answers that brought about an indictment for perjury.

They took their case to the Supreme Court - which, today, turned them down.

GEORGIA

In Georgia, moves began today - to abolish the public schools. Governor Talmade^g asked the Legislature to submit to the voters an amendment to the State Constitution - which would alter the school system. Substituting - private schools.

The reason - ~~to crush~~ the segregation question, which is now before the^{U.S.} Supreme Court. The high tribunal - to give a decision in December. If the decision outlaws racial segregation in public schools, Georgia won't have any. ^{at any rate} That's the purpose of the amendment.

Actually, the change would be mostly on paper - and of a constitutional character. The state would provide funds for private schools - in which segregation could be practiced. But, it's rather startling^{to} think - no public schools!

NOTE

The Western Big Three have sent a note to Moscow, saying that negotiations with Soviet Russia on Germany and Austria seem to be impossible. This they are forced to conclude - "regretfully."

All of which pertains to efforts for a four-power conference of Foreign Ministers. The Soviets - demanding a five-power conference, including Red China. In today's note, Great Britain, France and the United States called the Moscow conditions - "totally unacceptable."

They tell ~~Moscow~~ Moscow - the invitation still stands. But they don't believe the Soviets really want ~~any~~ a conference.

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KOREA - CONFERENCE

In Korea, the Reds now propose that the Peace Conference be held at Panmunjom, and that Soviet Russia should have a place as a Neutral. Our stand has been that Moscow should have a place at the Peace Conference - on the Communist side. ~~Soviet Russia should have a place at the Peace Conference on the Communist side.~~
~~Our stand has been that Moscow should have a place at the Peace Conference on the Communist side.~~
The Communists also want four Asian countries to have places as neutrals - and we've been objecting to neutrals in the conference.

PRISONERS

Same noise - at Pan Mun Jom. Anti-Communist prisoners howling and raging at the Red "explainers." Today, two-hundred-and-twenty-seven North Koreans were brought in. They yelled insults at the Reds, ~~made anti-Communist remarks,~~ and shouted anti-Communist oratory. But the noise wasn't the worst of it. They ~~threw~~^{hurled} hats and shoes at the "explainers," and threw over tables.

One prisoner took a Communist "explanation sheet", and blew his nose in it. That infuriated the Reds, and they demanded the prisoner should be punished. Indian guards refused.

(Another captive came in, wearing an anti-Communist banner across his chest. The Reds objected to that, and the North Korean yelled: "I wrote it with my own blood.")

(When it was all over, the "explainers" had persuaded six to choose repatriation. The score, as of tonight, is as follows: The "explainers" have made sixty-nine converts out of two thousand, four hundred and thirty-one prisoners.)

ADD PRISONERS

A later dispatch states that the Red Explainers have again called off their sessions with the prisoners. They were to have faced five hundred Chinese, but have postponed this. Discouraged, perhaps.

BERLIN - BOYS

Two boys, today, rode into West Berlin on a motorcycle. Through a hail of bullets; - one of them shot in the leg. The trouble? They had been to - a movie.

Joachim Krause and Rolfe Kiessling, each eighteen years old, went to a motion picture in Dresden, Saxony. The film was all about the villainy of Western secret agents in a Communist factory. The boys thought it ridiculous - those Red heroes and American villains. They laughed out loud, and poked fun at the movie.

When they left the place, they saw they were being followed, ~~tracked~~ by Communist police ^{agents.} They tried to ~~shake~~ shake them off, ~~the ones who were tracking them,~~ but couldn't. So they hopped a motorcycle, for a wild ride.

They headed for West Berlin - and then, when they got to the border, the Red police tried to stop them. But they just kept on riding that motorcycle, as fast as it would go.

The Communists opened fire, and one fugitive got a bullet in his leg. But they went speeding through the ~~fusillade~~ fusillade to safety.

LETTER

Here's an interesting literary bit - about the famous Churchill phrase: "Blood, sweat and tears." Which is actually a misquotation, as I noted on the day when Sir Winston won the Nobel Prize for literature. What Churchill actually said, in the Second World War when Britain seemed to be falling - was this: "I have nothing to offer - but blood, toil, tears and sweat."

So now I have a letter from a lady in Philadelphia, who writes: "After your broadcast my husband Michael Donovan, went to his bookcase, and reached for the poetical works of Lord Byron." Mike Donovan, who seems to know his poetry, went to the right page, and picked out the right line, where Byron wrote bitterly about the ways of landlords with tenants. The line is as follows:

"Blood, sweat and tear-wrung millions. Why? For rent."

Churchill may have had some recollection of that, when he spoke his own ~~fx~~ phrase. But the oddity is - that

people at large, misquoting Churchill, reproduce almost the exact words of Lord Byron.

The fortune was left by Sarah Waller, widow of an early pioneer of Pennsylvania oil. When she died, the disposition of her estate was held up - because of the absence of a missing heir. There was a niece, who could be entitled to a share - worth to half a million dollars, six years. If your niece were still alive - and could be found.

The search was taken up by Charles J. Reissell, a Pittsburgh lawyer - and, in his belongings, he found the picture of a girl. With a Christmas greeting, dated sixteen hundred - and the name of the missing niece.

The trail led to St. Louis - to Mrs. Della May Jackson, sixty-seven years old, living with her son, a St. Louis maintenance worker. So far so good - but, how could you identify a picture of a fourteen year old girl with an aged woman. Investigation reveals that

ESTATE

A claim in an estate of three and a half million dollars was filed in a Pittsburgh court today. A claim based on an old, faded photograph - taken fifty-three years ago.

The fortune was left by Sarah Weller, widow of an early pioneer of Pennsylvania oil. When she died, the disposition of her estate was held up - because of the absence of a missing heir. There was a niece, who would be entitled to a share coming to half a million dollars, tax free. If this niece were still alive - and could be found.

The search was taken up by Charles J. Spinelli, a Pittsburgh lawyer - and, in old belongings, he found the picture of a girl. With a Christmas greeting, dated Nineteen Hundred - and the name of the missing niece.

The trail led to St. Louis - to Mrs. Delia May McKeon, sixty-seven years old, living with her son, a St. Louis maintenance worker. So far so good; - but, how could you identify a picture of a fourteen year old girl with an aged woman, fifty-three years later?

Well, Mrs. McKeon dug into old belongings of hers, and brought out a duplicate of that same photograph of herself as a girl.

She says she lost track of her wealthy relatives half a century ago. Now she claims - the half a million.

BRIDE

Tonight, Mrs. Lonnie Brandes is in Milwaukee - which would not sound like anything out of the ordinary, except for the fact that Mrs. Brandes, ~~is~~ a Japanese war bride, is a ^{the fabulous} granddaughter of Lafcadio Hearn. Recalling - the strange story of the American newspaperman, a famous writer, who went to Japan and became a Japanese.

Lafcadio Hearn was an odd mixture to begin with - born in Greece, half Greek and half Irish. He came to the United States, made a name on newspapers and magazines here. Then, in Eighteen Ninety, went to Japan. He took a Japanese wife, daughter of a Samurai noble, and increased his reputation by writing moody, romantic stories from Japan.

A son of his became one of Japan's best known painters, whose daughter has now married a U.S. Air Force officer. Her home - - - ~~They're home now~~ - in Milwaukee.

WHITE HOUSE

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The White House, as we know, is a place of dignity and correct social form. Nobody ^{ever} explains this better than the Social Secretary of the First Lady of the Land. Mrs. Mary Jane McCaffree, a chic, ^{poised} ~~stare~~ brunette. So, when Mrs. Eisenhower's lady secretary makes a faux pas - that's news. But she did - a social error.

Reporters were talking to her about a diplomatic reception at the White House, and a girl reporter asked:

"Is the party really formal?"

"Why, of course," Mrs. McCaffree replied in an aloof way.

"Of course, it's formal - white tails!"

Well, I don't wear tails and white tie often, and I never did ~~was~~ wear "white tails," did you, Mike?
Say when you were leading the college band at Bowling Green, or Michigan State?

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