

PARLIAMENT [J. P. G. Thompson, Feb. 15 - '51.

In the London House of Commons, the Labor Government won another victory tonight, its fourth in two weeks - and the biggest. The majority for Prime Minister Attlee's party was - twenty-one. Which is three times the normal Labor margin - the Commons being divided that evenly.

The vote of confidence tonight was on British rearmament - after Conservative Leader Winston Churchill delivered a blazing attack on what he called the "incompetence and ineptitude" of the Labor Government in preparing for defense. That had little effect - and the unusually large majority ~~was~~ supporting the Attlee Cabinet would seem to indicate that Parliament is pretty well satisfied with the British rearmament.

KOREA

(In Korea, the siege of Chipyeong has been raised. At that key point, on the central mountain front, a Franco-American combat team was encircled for four days, supplied by air, and beating off Red attacks. Today, a U.S. armored column ran fourteen miles - cutting through the lines of besieging Chinese.) The Red enemy forces were smashed, driven in wild flight by the drive of the hard shooting tanks. The Franco-American troops at Chipyeong welcomed the relieving force, but said they could have held out as long as necessary - a "rock of resistance."

(Everywhere, the Reds took a beating today, incurring murderous losses - as the U.N. forces went at them with counter-attacks on the ground and assaults from the air,) a record-breaking number of sorties. In one area so many Korean Communists were killed, that the U.S. Third Division sent a mocking message to the enemy commander, saying: "Count your men."

But the Red attempt to break through on the central

mountain front does not seem to be abandoned. A new massing of Chinese **Reds** is reported, just north of the line of Chipyeong and Wonju. The number is estimated at a hundred and twenty thousand - apparently ~~are~~ gathering for a new offensive.
~~NAKTOEK~~

ADD_KOREA

The latest - the Reds, stopped with
savage losses on the central mountain front, have
shifted their attack eastward and made an advance
toward the town of Chechon, a highway centre.

We have an explanation of how the commander of the Netherlands battalion at the battlefront was killed in action, Monday night. He was shot down by Chinese Reds, disguised as South Korean soldiers. Wearing uniforms of the Free Korean army, they walked boldly into the Dutch command post - carrying American weapons, and one of them speaking English. They said they were soldiers on our side, and asked for ammunition - which was given to them. Whereupon, they loaded the ammunition in their guns, and opened fire at short range - killing the Dutch battalion commander. Lieutenant Colonel den Ouden, after which a hand to hand battle ensued.

One of the Chinese Reds lighted a pile of brush wood, and enemy mortars on surrounding hills, using the fire as a target, rained shells on the command post. A number of Chinese were killed by their own mortar fire - and others escaped into the hills.

ITALIAN COMMUNISTS

The revolt in the Communist Party of Italy goes on with the creation of a new party - Communist, out anti-Soviet. The word from Rome tonight is that a manifesto has just been issued - by the two Red members of the Italian Parliament who rebelled against the Moscow insistence that Italian Communists must put Soviet Russia above their own country. They are the number one figures in a whole series of desertions in the ranks of the Reds - and they will take the lead in launching a new party. National Communist; Titoist.

FOLLOW ITALIAN COMMUNISTS

The latest tonight states that twenty-one Communist labor bosses at the city of Asti have made a public renunciation of the Stalinist Communist Party tonight, and declare their support of the new faction of anti-Soviet Reds.

CANADA - INFLUENZA

The influenza epidemic has hit Eastern Canada in a big way, as is indicated by a dispatch from Montreal tonight. Eighty thousand Canadians ill with with flu. More than twenty percent of the industrial workers of Montreal were sick today, and stayed home. Ten thousand cases in Ottawa, schools closed in many parts of eastern Canada. Thousands of people stricken in Nova Scotia. Medical authorities declare it is the same type of influenza that has been epidemic in Europe, especially Britain. So they suppose that the flu was brought over from Britain by passengers arriving by boat or ~~air~~plane.

However, the Health Officer at Montreal predicts that the epidemic will begin to die out in the city by the weekend -- this new outbreak of the flu ^(being of) a transient sort.

CONTROLS

The Government has ordered the meat packers to go back to - a "regional pricing system." This is the latest in the price freeze.

When the ceilings were clamped on, packers picked the highest price charged by any one of their branches - and used these as a nationwide ceiling, when, of course, the price levels were different in various parts of the country. So now the packers are told to put the ceilings on a regional basis - freezing prices at local levels.

EISENHOWER

(Here's another addition to the boom -- Eisenhower-for-President. But this time -- on the Democratic ticket.

Governor Dewey of New York calls on the Republicans to nominate General Ike. But today Republican Congressman Malone of Nevada, declared: "The Democrats are grooming General Eisenhower for their presidential nominee."

The reasoning is this. The Congressman claims that Ike is backing up the Truman foreign policy. Which he calls -- "playing ball with the Democrats." He argues that the Democrats are tired of Truman, and are jumping at a chance to get Eisenhower as their candidate.

Which makes it sound as if both parties were for General Ike - everybody except Stalin.

TRUMAN

President Truman fires a blast at the Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives - charging that the Committee is jeopardizing the anti-inflation program, by delaying action on taxes.

At his weekly news conference ~~today~~ today, the President took note of the decision to hold extensive hearings on his program for a ten billion dollar increase in defense taxes. That will take so much time, that Congress won't be able to pass the bill until April or May. After which an okay from the Senate will be needed - and the tax hike couldn't be put into effect until July. President Truman ^{said} ~~stated~~ one main reason for increasing taxes, is to check inflation - and it ought to be done as soon as possible.

TRUMAN - LETTERS

Today we have a disclosure of the why and wherefor of those famous Truman letters - the ones that make such an uproar. The information comes from Jonathan Daniels, in Collier's Magazine. Daniels, editor of the Raleigh, North Carolina News, is also the author of the Truman biography, "The Man of Independence." His article in Collier's is entitled, "How Truman Writes Those Letters," and states that it happens in the early morning hours. The President has a habit of dashing off personal correspondence, ~~sometimes~~ ~~hot and bothered,~~ at six or seven A.M., before the members of his own staff have a chance to read ^{(the letters.} ~~them~~ [^] Before they [^] are out of bed - probably. The President, as is well known, is an early riser.

So that explains the famous Truman epistle in which the Marines were called "Navy cops", and were said to run a propaganda almost equal to Stalin's. Also - the one abusing the music critic, who wrote badly about Daughter Margaret's voice. ~~But there are countless others - that are~~

~~innocuous, and never get into the news. Jonathan Daniels
tells us that Harry Truman writes ten times as many of his
personal letters as did the late President Franklin D.
Roosevelt. He writes - "several hundred a month." Mostly
in these early morning hours.~~

Then there was the time when

~~one was written after~~ (a newspaper column quoted

Comedian Groucho Marx as getting off a gag, as follows:

"Things would be a lot better in Washington, if Truman were
alive," ~~Groucho is supposed to have said. But~~ But the comedian
got there first with a letter. With rare prudence, he wrote
immediately to the White House, denying he had ever said
any such thing.

Whereupon he received a Truman epistle in reply:

"I was very certain," wrote the President, "that the joke
referred to was not of your making. You can make better ones
than that."

So that's how Groucho Marx ducked fast - or he might
have got a Truman schorcher.

History will record that Herbert Hoover, in his time, had to make momentous decisions. Yet, on one occasion, he didn't dare ~~to~~ buy some dinner plates without the approval of his wife - and that was a virtual catastrophe.

It happened when he was a young engineer, recently married. ~~Also - it was shortly after the time~~ ^{Also - it was shortly after the time} ~~he advised his boss to invest~~ a million dollars in an Australian gold mine. ~~which was very~~ ~~because~~ The mine produced fifty-five million dollars' worth of gold in fifty years, and paid ten million dollars in dividends. That was good going - but it was different with the dinner plates.

Publishing his memoirs in Collier's, ~~Magazine~~, the former President tells how he was in China, where Mrs. Hoover began collecting ancient Chinese porcelains. "Once, while she was in Japan," Herbert Hoover relates, "my Chinese boy produced an ~~itinerant~~ itinerant dealer who had twelve plates to sell." The price was five dollars ^{each,} ~~but~~ the future President of the United States did not dare to invest.

"Not trusting my judgment," he says, "I bought one plate and sent it to my wife in Tokyo. Her instant cable was to buy the other eleven at almost any price." Which was just too bad, because the Chinese peddler was gone, and they never could find him. Later, a similar Chinese plate sold at an auction in London for more than a thousand dollars!

A sad story - of how a husband was afraid to buy something, without an okay from his wife.

TASSOULA

The story was told today of the romance that nearly started civil war on the island of Crete. In court, evidence was given by the abductor, named Costas, who kidnapped the beautiful Tassoula.

Costas is on trial - with Tassoula's ~~husband~~ kinfolks making bitter charges about the violence he used in carrying her away. So today, on the witness stand, he told how he ~~first~~ fell in love with Tassoula, when he first shook hands with her. Must have been quite a hand-shake -- to bring about all the uproar that ensued.

"I always went to the movies when she did," he told the court, and added: "Many snowy nights I leaped from my ^{bed} ~~room~~ in order to pass in front of her house." Then he heard that Tassoula's father intended to marry her to another man.

In desperation, he went to the double-feature motion picture show, which Tassoula usually attended - and saw her there. He decided to abduct her - and

waited for her to come out of the ~~music~~ theatre.

"When I grabbed Tassoula," he told the judge today, "she resisted strongly." But he carried her off and took her to Mount Ida. That's the legendary summit on the island of Crete, the sacred mountain, on top of which Jupiter used to dwell - according to ancient fable.

He hid with Tassoula in a cave on Mount Ida, emerging only at night. "We both sang love songs in the moonlight," he relates, and Tassoula said she thought they'd better get married - as well she might. So they got a Greek Orthodox Priest, and were wedded.

Meanwhile, Tassoula's family relations were storming with rage - threatening to go to war with family and friends of the abductor. Civil strife was narrowly averted - and, at the insistence of Tassoula's kinfolks,

~~Samira~~ Costas was put on trial.

But what has Tassoula to say about all this? She supports her abductor's account in every particular,

and states: "I am Costas's wife, and I love him - and there's no sense trying to separate us." Which, I imagine, would also be the decision of a wise judge.

WEDDING

Here's a story about an engagement ring and other jewelry, which Mario Cerni of Boston gave to Jennefer Margaret Vance of Jacksonville, Florida - when he proposed, and she said "Yes." That was five years ago, but the engagement didn't last. The young couple decided to call it off - and, according to custom, Jennefer should have given back the engagement ring and other jewelry.

But she didn't - and Mario was indignant about it. He demanded that the gifts be returned, but Jennefer only wrote back - "come and get them." Which might sound like a defiance. If so, Mario took it up, and went down to Florida. So did he get the ring and jewelry back? He did not. He got Jennefer.

A news dispatch from Lillington, North Carolina, states that the couple, ~~xxx~~ on their way north, stopped off and got married.

NUDE

At Oakland, California, there was consternation today on Main Street - when a man came dashing along without anything on at all. The nudist was a thirty-six year old welder, who later told the police - he was taking a bath when, ^{Nelson} somehow, he lost the tub.

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