

TRUMAN

L.I. - Sunoco. Tuesday, June 11, 1946.

The President's veto of the Case Bill had all the tenseness and excitement that you might have expected. All along, the average citizen has been in a state of confusion because of what seemed like a contradiction. On the one hand there was the President's drastic attitude toward strikes, as illustrated by the White House proposal to draft strikers; And, on the other hand, there were the increasing signs that President Truman would veto the Case Bill - the anti-strike measure passed by Congress. A lot of people thought, how could he turn down the congressional anti-strike bill, when he proposed such a drastic anti-strike measure of his own?

Today President Truman, in his message to Congress accompanying the veto, gave a scathing analysis of the Case Bill - in which, point by point, he argued that its provisions would fail in their purpose, that they would not regulate labor relations in a reasonable way, and would not prevent strikes. He said that

Congress should go to work again and draw up another law, more thoroughly considered, more acutely studied.

The ^{veto}~~bill~~ was no surprise in Congress, the suspense being - what would Congress do about it?

It was up to the House of Representatives - whether to override the veto or not. That would take a two-thirds majority, and the thing was so close nobody could make any real guess about whether or not a two-thirds vote could be had. Action was immediate. A vote ~~was~~ taken, and it came out two hundred and fifty-five to a hundred and thirty-five. That was a large majority in favor of passing the bill over the President's veto, but it was not two-thirds - just five votes lacking. So, by that narrow margin, the veto was sustained - the Case Bill killed, ^{today.}

The excitement consisted of a rousing jubilation by the pro-labor congressmen, who staged a demonstration

of glee. That, ~~with~~ ^{and} bitter reproaches from the advocates of the Case Bill, who charged the President with being false to his own anti-strike statements. There were cries of "stab in the back", and accusations of what was called "a sell-out to the labor leaders."

The proponents of the Case Bill immediately began maneuvers to tack the terms of the measure onto the President's own anti-strike bill. That White House proposal, minus the notion of drafting strikers, is now up before a joint committee of the House of Representatives and the Senate. And the defeated champions of the Case Bill have ideas of trying to tie their ~~vote~~ ^{veto} ~~XXXXXX~~ law onto the presidential measure. That's a complicated going, however, and it is highly doubtful.

SUPREME COURT

The latest from Washington indicates that the feud in the Supreme Court may break into the open in the Senate tomorrow. Senator Eastland of Mississippi, a member of the Judiciary Committee, told newsmen today that he intended to bring about a discussion of that public quarrel without precedent - between Justice ~~Robert H.~~ Jackson and Justice ~~Hugo L.~~ Black. And there may be lively fireworks in the airing of the charge made by Jackson, that ^{his} a fellow Supreme Court Justice, Hugo Black, insisted on taking part in the judging of cases in which Black's former law partner represented one side - before the Supreme Court.

The Senate by the way has just confirmed the appointment of John Snyder as Sec. of the Trea.

MARITIME

In the Maritime Labor dispute the ship owners ^{have} handed in a compromise proposal to avert ^{the} strike -- scheduled for Friday at midnight. What the terms of the compromise are we are not informed officially. But the word is that they call for crews of ships to have a day off in port, with pay, for each fourteen days at sea. This -- as a way of reducing the fifty-six hour work week at sea.

The proposal of the ship owners was given to government conciliators -- and there is no word as yet of Union reaction.

ITALY

The republic or kingdom of Italy is in crisis and conflict tonight. Is the ancient land a republic? Or is it still a kingdom?

Today in Rome, government buildings controlled by the Republicans, flew the new flag of the republic, while those in charge of the Monarchists displayed the old Italian flag of the House of Savoy. *⚡* This double angle comes from the fact that King Humbert the Second refuses to abdicate and hand over his power until the Supreme Court of Italy passes on the election, and a republic is formally proclaimed. The Cabinet, meanwhile, has *declared* ~~proclaimed~~ a de facto republic, on an informal basis, but Humbert insists that Premier de Gasperi shall act as a civil regent under the sovereign, until the Supreme Court has *decided* ~~acted~~. The court is considering the charges of election frauds made by the Monarchists - though it would hardly seem that any exposure of election

irregularities could overturn the majority of nearly ~~two~~
two million against the monarchy.

This was a day of excitement in Rome, with the latest news telling of a huge crowd of fifty thousand—
many with communist flags—
marching to government headquarters and demanding that a
full and formal proclamation of the republic be made immediately. The Republican demand is being answered by the Monarchists, with demonstrations of their own, crowds gathering at King Humbert's palace, cheering, and demanding that he appear on the balcony.

Monarchist crowds gathered today by the thousands, when Premier de Gasperi arrived for a conference with the King. He was booed and hissed when he went in, the police having to clear a path for his automobile. When he emerged, the mob was ³bigger than ever, and louder, with angry shouts and jeers. This time the swarming Monarchists rushed the Premier to his automobile,

and the police had to fight them off.

Tonight six thousand troops, infantry and artillery, were on guard in Rome, the Eternal City, capital of the republic or the kingdom of Italy, or what-have-you.

~~had voluntarily returned to Italy after being expelled from the United States and made it clear that he had never been used as a spy for the Communist Party of the United States.~~

In his testimony today Mikoyan declared that the British embassy, Sir John Hudson, had told him to fight against the Nazis in the interests of Italy and not necessarily for Communist interests in Soviet Russia. He admitted that he had signed a treaty with German occupation forces, but denied that the Nazis had recruited his own children as "Hitler Youth." He denied collaboration with the Germans, people helping the Germans, but admitted that he had attacked the German hands of Communist Marshal Tito -- to stop...

MIKHAILOVITCH

The trial of General Mikhailovitch began today

with statements by the war hero who was once so fervently acclaimed as an anti-Nazi patriot. Mikhailovitch pleaded not guilty to the charge of treason and collaboration with the Nazis. (He said he had voluntarily refused legal assistance offered by friends in the United States and denied that he had been ill-treated ~~xx~~ after being arrested by the Communist regime of Marshal Tito.)

In his testimony today Mikhailovitch declared that a British emissary, Captain Hudson, had told him to fight against the Nazis in the interests of Yugoslavia, -- and not ~~responsible~~ for Communism in the interests of Soviet Russia. He admitted that he had signed a truce with German occupation forces, but denied that the Nazis had recognized his own Chetniks as -- "friendly." He denied collaboration with the Quisling people helping the Germans, but admitted that he had attacked the partisan bands of Communist Marshal Tito -- to stop looting.

The trial at Belgrade is of a Totalitarian sort, with the Judge joining the prosecution in assailing the defendant. The pattern is that of those famous purge trials which Stalin staged in Russia.

On this side of the ocean an American comes forward with testimony about Mikhailovitch. He's Colonel Robert H. McDowell, former head of the American military mission ^{to} of the Chetniks. Colonel McDowell tells of a conference with a Nazi representative, and says that this conference was for the purpose of discussing a ~~Nazi~~ Nazi offer to surrender, with no collaboration about it -- ~~was~~ and he adds that he was present all the time and that Mikhailovitch had no chance to talk privately with the German emissary.

We are further told that even while Mikhailovitch and his Chetniks were being ~~persecuted~~ ^{pursued} by Tito's Communist partisans, ~~that~~ Mikhailovitch would ~~not~~ have ~~any~~ ^{had} contact with the Germans. And Colonel McDowell testifies, moreover, that Tito's partisans refused to fight against the Germans -- and attacked the Chetniks of Mikhailovitch instead.

PALESTINE

Great Britain has asked - will the United States help ~~to~~ crush Arab resistance, if a hundred thousand Jews be permitted into Palestine? This was disclosed today by Secretary of State Byrnes. The British inquiry was blunt. It took the line that, since we are urging the admission of a hundred thousand Zionist immigrants - what will we do if fighting breaks out with the Arabs? Will America join in the battle?

JEWELS

The affair of the crown jewels of Hesse becomes even more fantastic - with suppositions that the Colonel Durant implicated ~~in the theft of the heirlooms of Hesse~~ may have had something to do with still another treasure trove looted in Germany. This surmise follows the disclosure that Colonel Durant was caught in an attempt to smuggle diamonds into the United States - an episode that apparently had nothing to do with the crown jewels of Hesse. He had a hundred and six brilliant stones, which did not ~~belong~~ belong to the hoard of wealth found in the basement of Kronberg Castle.

This was stated today by the War Department.

Colonel A.C. Miller, in the Office of the Provost Marshal, stated that Durant brought the hundred and six diamonds into this country, and tried to dispose of them here. *He had* A Chicago physician ~~tried~~⁴ to sell them to a firm of Chicago diamond merchants. The dealers, however, were

suspicious, and wanted to know whether the gems had been cleared through customs. That ^aque_rred the deal - and Colonel Durant thereupon turned the diamonds over to the customs authorities.

Where did these stones come from? Somewhere in Germany, apparently - and it's a guess that some other German treasure was found.

Meanwhile, the official of the Provost Marshal authorities today denied a number of rumors - including the one that a general was involved in the theft of the crown jewels of Hesse. He said that, so far as the Provost Marshall's office knew, nobody of higher rank than Colonel Durant was implicated. ~~Also Colonel~~

~~Miller denied any knowledge of the melodramatic Chicago story that the heirlooms had been turned over to a "fence" for disposal. He spoke, likewise, of the hiking of the value of the crown jewels. The Chicago~~

stories put them as high as three million dollars in gems and precious metals, but the Provost Marshal's office sticks to its original appraisal of a million and a half.

And we have a new story about the discovery of the treasure trove at Kronberg Castle - the affair of eighteen hundred bottles of vintage wine hidden away with the crown jewels. Colonel Miller tells of high indignation on the part of Mrs. Durant, former War captain, Kathleen Nash, who was in charge at ~~Kronberg~~ ^{the} Castle. She is irked no end by statements that she was ~~seeking the~~ ^{snooping for} wine in the castle cellar. She denies that there was any hunting for wine, and ~~that~~ ^{says} the eighteen hundred bottles of rare vintage were ~~connected~~ ^{not} with the finding of the crown jewels.

She ~~admits~~ admits that the wine was drunk - but says that some German plumbers drank it. These

plumbers, she relates, were brought in to repair the heating system at the castle and were found drunk every day. Where did they get the liquor? An investigation was made, and it was found that the German plumbers were drinking up the cellar of the princely House of Hesse, eighteen hundred bottles. The plumbers were fired, and the bottles of wine removed - that's all there is to it.

The discovery of the crown jewels was something else, according to the Wac Captain. She says that a tip about the hidden treasure was given by a Nazi. One of the retainers ~~of~~ the castle, this Nazi disliked the head of the House of Hesse, Prince Wolfgang. ~~This Nazi~~ Like other trusted ~~fixing~~ family servants, ^{the Nazi} knew about the hiding of the jewels, and gave the tip to the Americans - out of spite.

KILLING

The murder of the Boston paper millionaire, William Whitcomb, took a strange turn of melodrama today. The paper manufacturer was shot in his Boston office by a dapper, sedate looking visitor, who thereupon walked out coolly, pistol in hand - and escaped. On the desk over which William Whitcomb had slumped, was found a contract with a ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ man named George E. Hardy, a contract engaging Hardy as an executive of the Whitcomb paper industry at a salary of twenty-five thousand dollars a year. The contract had not been signed - and the police assumed that the ~~XXXXXXXXXX killer~~ ^{killer might be} was Hardy, who had shot Whitcomb because he refused to sign.

That's the background for the news from ^{another} ~~place~~ place, hundreds of miles from Boston. At Westfield, New Jersey, an explosion occurred last night. A man was killed, and his wife injured. The man's name was - George Hardy.

This disclosure today was followed by the revelation that George Hardy, killed in last night's explosion at Westfield, New Jersey, had been a visitor to a Whitcomb paper plant at Millinocket, Maine, which plant was field headquarters of the paper industry controlled by the millionaire shot in Boston.

So that's how the mystery stands tonight - with

late word that the
~~little information of the nature and cause of the~~
explosion at Westfield, New Jersey, ^{*result from an*} ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~
attempt at suicide by gas - falling
~~XX~~

~~We are merely told it was in, what is called, "mysterious~~
~~circumstances", the ~~place~~ that killed the man whose~~
name was on the contract that lay on the desk of the
murdered millionaire.

WELL

At a village in India they've closed - "the Well of Death." This is to prevent further fatalities, after the devouring well had killed and half consumed seven villagers.

These weird doings happened at the village of Atra, thirty-five miles from Lucknow, where for years the local inhabitants were accustomed to drink the water and go swimming in what amounted to a natural bathing pool. Then, about two weeks ago, it was noticed that the water of the well had a strange taste - a flavor of sulphur.

The villagers of India have traditional ways, the people at Atra threw into the pool a large quantity of a fruit called myronbalan, something like an astringent plum. They ^{villagers} covered the pool, while the myronbalan was at work. Several days later they opened it, and out came fumes - similar to smoke.

This was strange, but seven of the villagers, accustomed to swimming in the pool, insisted on taking

their usual plunge. So in they dived, and not one of them reappeared. They simply vanished under water. Later, the pool was dragged, and the half consumed remains of bodies were found - half devoured, by the "Well of Death."

Experts of the British-Indian government have been investigating. A Professor of Pathology and Bacteriology at the Bombay Medical University suggests that the secret of the "Well of Death" may be - sulphuric deposits. He says that in certain areas of India layers of corrosive acid-material lie below the surface of the ground, and suggests that erosion at the bottom of the pool might have reached down that far. "Possibly," says he, "a strong sulphuric deposit at the bottom of the well killed the bathers and partially consumed their bodies."

Other scientists don't believe this possible, and are simply mystified. As for the villagers, they have their own explanation - not so scientific. They tell of a legend of long ago -- the murder of seven

WELL - 3

Englishmen, whose bodies were thrown into the pool in the village of Atra. And now, the spirits of the seven Englishmen have taken their revenge. Lurking down at the bottom of the Well of Death, they ^{ghosts of the Englishmen} killed and partly ~~and~~ devoured the seven Indian villagers.

Fabulous India has its own fantasies of terror - and its own ways of explaining.

And now Hugh, have you anything to explain?