

~~The word has just come~~ ^{so} The place of the meeting is ^{to be} Wake Island. Tonight in Honolulu Presidential Secretary Charlie Ross stated that President Truman will take off at Midnight bound for his meeting with General Douglas MacArthur -- at Wake Island.

The much-headlined interview will be brief -- all in the compass of one day. The President takes off for Wake Island this midnight and is due to arrive back in Honolulu tomorrow night. ~~at~~ Which leaves something like twenty four hours minus the time to fly out to ^{Wake, and} ~~the unknown destination, and~~ back again to Honolulu.

~~Here's the latest~~ -- General Douglas MacArthur has just taken off from Tokyo, flying on his way to his mid-Pacific rendezvous with President Truman.

KOREA

The news from the Korean warfront was blacked out largely today - by security regulations. Which leads to the belief that an all-out blow may be at hand - with General MacArthur imposing secrecy to hide the strategy.

The principal information we get is about the ^{city} ~~area~~ of Kumchon, a number one objective of the U.N. forces as they drive into North Korea. Kumchon was captured today by the U.S. First Cavalry - winning the race against the British Middlesex Regiment, which wanted to be first in arriving at the goal. Eight thousand Korean Reds are in a trap, which closed around them when Kumchon was captured.

On the east coast the tremendous Naval bombardment continued today, with U.S. warships hurling salvos of shells at Communist positions along the coast. That just about completes the war news ~~fix~~ for tonight, all that's allowed to come through. The guess is that a new stroke of war is about to be launched - perhaps amphibious. That's the hint - a repetition of the

amphibious invasion near Seoul, which broke the backs of the Reds in South Korea. There's even a surmise that this might happen, as General MacArthur confers with President Truman -- adding to the drama.

FRANCE

France asks the United States for three ~~two~~ billion and one hundred and seventy million dollars for French re-armament in Europe - and in Indo-China. Part of the giant sum would be in money and part in weapons - if the French request is granted.

This was presented in Washington today by a French mission in conference with Secretary of Defense Marshall. The problem is of the broadest possible scope - the defense of Europe, the attitude of France toward the re-armament of Germany, and the crisis in Indo-China.

The large request of more than three billion dollars worth of aid was received with reservations by Secretary of Defense General Marshall -- so we are told. But he promised an immediate shipment of armament to Southeast Asia, where the French are suffering heavy defeats at the hands of the Communists. The word is that American armament will be sent to Indo-China from Korea, as quickly as it can be spared - by the winning of the war there.

VISAS

News from abroad tells of one of the worst confusions of all time, a champion diplomatic mix up -- all because of the ^{*}State Department order, invalidating visas on passports of people about to make trips to the United States. Today hundreds of bewildered foreigners, in capitals all over Europe, milled around American Embassies and Consulates - to get their visas put back into shape. While American consular officials were equally bedeviled - with crowds of people jamming in on them, and passports piling up on their desks.

Many of the marooned travelers were already on their way to the U.S.A., and were told they'd have to go back to their native countries, to have the job done on the visas. One unfortunate way-farer, in London, is from India, and he was told he would have to go all the way back to India. "But," he exclaimed bitterly, "that will cost me ten thousand dollars in time and money!"

In the worst fix of all are the Italians, nearly all of whom had some contact with Fascism. That puts them especially under the provisions of the Communist

Control Bill which forbids the entrance of persons who had anything to do with totalitarianism of any kind.

Well, it's a weird business - in that quarrel between President Truman and Congress over Communist control. The administration objecting to the law, is enforcing it to the letter - with a maximum of nonsense. But it certainly is a weird predicament for all those travelers abroad - caught ^{as they are} in the middle of an American political battle.

BRIBE

The Governor of Arizona says he was offered a bribe of two hundred thousand dollars to appoint - a "gambling czar." That is, if a bill to legalize gambling wins out in the November state election. The bill calls for the appointment of an official with full power to license gambling houses and supervise games of chance. Hence, if that should go through, Governor Garvey would get two hundred thousand dollars - if he would name a certain individual as gambling czar.

~~(The proposition was offered by racketeering interests. So what did the Governor say: "I told the go-between I would punch him in the nose if he came to me again," he relates, and adds: "After all, that bill isn't going over anyway.")~~

~~This is the latest in the Arizona gambling battle - an issue called the most controversial ever placed before the voters of the state.)~~

CRIME

In Chicago, a Senate investigator makes a report on an interview with big Bob McCullough, who is the "private police chief" at two big race tracks, Boss of the guards-and-unofficial-detectives employed by Sportsman's Park in Chicago and the Miami Kennel Club, in Florida. Both - race tracks.

The investigator, Colonel George White, represents the Senate Crime Committee which is investigating the nationwide gambling racket. The focus/right now is on Chicago - where the underworld committed a brazen murder eighteen days ago. Gunmen shot down former Detective William Drury - who, after retiring from the police, became a private investigator and was digging up evidence on big-time gambling, for public exposure. There was a tip that murder threats against Drury had been made by big Bob McCullough, the private "police chief" for ^{the} two race tracks. McCullough is described as a former associate of Scarface Al Capone from the days of the Chicago bootleg wars. Some say he was a gunman for the Capone mob. →

So the Senate investigator paid a visit to the McCullough home - a twenty-five thousand dollar residence at Cedar Lake, Indiana. He arrived at the place about eleven thirty P.M. - and just then big Bob ~~McCullough~~ drove up in a new cream colored Cadillac convertible.

"When he saw me," says investigator White, "he looked as if he thought I was a gunman come to take him for a ride. He looked relieved, when I showed him my badge."

So they went inside and had a talk, and White quotes McCullough as declaring: "I didn't kill Drury. But I'll say this - I'm sorry someone else beat me to it. I met Drury only a couple of times," ~~then~~ he went on, "but he did his best to louse me up with the Miami newspapers, the Miami Crime Commission, and the people in Florida. He went on the radio last summer, and said it was a sad state of affairs that a Capone hoodlum was chief of police at the Miami Kennel Club."

(But what about Scarface Al? McCullough said he was with

Capone in Florida when the arch gangster died a few years ago, ^{and he} ~~Andrew~~ described the former lord of the Chicago underworld in these words - "One of the finest men I ever knew."

All of which is colorful crime drama, ⁱⁿ the Senate investigation. McCullough ^{declares that} ~~says~~ he has an alibi to clear him for the murder of Drury. But investigator White says the private police chief for racetracks is - "A good suspect."

POLICE

News from Denver tells of a proposal presented to the International Association of Chiefs of Police - and I'm agin ^{the} proposal. Denver police chief Herbert Forsyth laid a plan of crime prevention before the conference. - ^{for me am all} ~~and~~ in favor of crime ~~pre~~ prevention. But -- not ^{the} plan.

^{of Denver - my old home -} Chief Forsyth suggested that the police departments of the United States form a national organization to battle against law-breaking, and appoint -- "A director of crime prevention."

Which strikes me as a good idea, until we come to the ^{next} ~~end~~ part of it, ^{all}. Who should they name as ^{national} ~~the~~ director of crime prevention? The Denver chief of police declared it should be, in the words of the ^{United} ~~United~~ ^{Press} dispatch:-- "a man with press and radio experience, such a man as Lowell Thomas."

No, I do not second the nomination. What they need is somebody ^{who} ~~that~~ knows a thing or two about sleuthing and crime detection. All I can do is - go sleuthing through the news and try to detect an interesting story. ^{But many thanks Chief Forsyth!}

LONDON

In London - a mystery of crime sensational and spectacular. With international angles - and royal angles. Today a ragged old man, rumaging in a garbage can, found a diplomatic dispatch case taken from Buckingham Palace. It was filled with secret papers, and the immediate belief was - international espionage, a theft of official secrets. Buckingham Palace is closely guarded, with sentries at the gates, the stately guards who wear the tall bear skins. The mystery was such that Scotland Yard went into frantic action. Who stole the secret diplomatic papers from the residence of His Majesty the King?

At the same time, another discovery was made. On the grounds of Buckingham Palace, they found a drunken sailor, sound asleep. They took him to a police station - and, when he came to, he told the amazing thing. Yes, it was he who had swiped the diplomatic dispatch case.

Sailor Douglas Monroe ^{said that} ~~told her~~ after visiting various pubs, he climbed over the wall and went

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staggering across the royal grounds. He blundered right on into Buckingham Palace, and went wandering around. In a room he saw the diplomatic dispatch case, and took it away. Then ^{he} went reeling out of the palace, across the grounds, and over the wall again. After which, he tried to open the case, but couldn't. So he got disgusted with it, and tossed it into a garbage can.

By now he was ready to go to sleep - and thought of those nice fine rooms in the palace. ^{Whereupon} he started back, and got over the wall again. But this time, he never reached the palace. His legs gave way, ~~and~~ he fell into some shrubbery, ^{and} passed out.

(Today, a red faced official of Scotland Yard announced: "There are no political implications." I should think not - but how does a drunken sailor get into Buckingham Palace, and stagger out with a diplomatic dispatch case full of secret documents?)

LEVITATION

Here's an offer - if you can make somebody
rise from the ground, ~~without anything to lift him,~~
It's worth twenty-eight hundred dollars, ^{*if you can do it.*} That reward
was put up today in London, by the "Magic Circle", a
British organization of magicians. They're doing it
to investigate that occult phenomenon called -
levitation, said to be performed at seances of
spiritualism. ^{*Mary*} ~~and~~ ^{*and Yogi's*} Indian fakirs claim that they can
lift a human being from the ground by means of a
mysterious power. ~~Some~~ Magicians of Britain want to
make a definitive test ^{*of this -*} - with a prize of a thousand
pounds ^{*if you can do it.*} ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

~~("We decided to make the offer," says Magic
Circle secretary James Elser, "because so many people
who attend seances are firmly convinced that levitation
happens. Some magazines have even published
photographs of such alleged phenomena in Scandinavia
and elsewhere. We don't say it can't be done he adds -
we just say it would be worth a thousand pounds to see
it done to our satisfaction.")~~

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To satisfy the Magic Circle, the levitation will have to lift a human being at least twelve inches off the floor and keep him there for at least fifteen seconds. It could be done in light, or in darkness. But, if it's in the dark, the magicians will have infra-red equipment - radiation that makes it possible to photograph things in the darkness.

Back in Nineteen Twenty-Six the London Magic Circle put up five thousand pounds for anyone who could perform the Indian rope trick! - According to the worldwide legend ^{magicians and} ~~that~~ fakirs of Hindustan can toss a rope into the air, where it hangs, suspended from nothing, and a boy climbs the rope. That offer, twenty-four years ago, still stands. Nobody ever showed up to claim the five thousand pounds - so now they're posting a reward for - levitation.

well But here's an exploit of levitation in California -- reported by Charles Fletcher of Oakland. ^{who} Charlie _{is} is seventy-nine, has the old rheumatics, and limps a bit. So he was hobbling down the street, when

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a passing automobile stopped, and two women in the car spoke to him. Charlie says they looked like gypsies. They told him they could cure his rheumatics -- by laying ^m of hands. Whereupon one of the gypsy women placed her hand on Charlie's right leg, where the misery was the worst. They told him that would cure him, and drove on.

Charlie was mystified by the whole thing. But a great understanding dawned, when he reached for his wallet, - and it wasn't there. Gone - together with seventy-five dollars.

Which really was levitation, - ^{Nelson} seventy-five
bucks levitated.

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