

Wednesday, August 4, 1948.

(In Washington today, Nathan Gregory Silvermaster) denied everything. The Russian born citizen, who during the war had a high position on the Board of Economic warfare, (denounced the charges made against him by Elizabeth Bentley. She, having confessed that she did Red spy work during wartime, has accused Silvermaster of having been the head of a Communist underground group in the government) and she also believes him to have been a member of the Soviet Secret Police, the N K V D, the O G P U. Silvermaster today said the charge was "fantastic" and he called Elizabeth Bentley "a neurotic liar".

(But he refused to say whether he is or has been a Communist.) He <sup>simply</sup> told the Congressional Committee that he would not answer questions based on Elizabeth Bentley's testimony.

(He refused on ~~some~~ constitutional privilege; on the grounds that by ~~answering~~ answering he might incriminate himself.

He did say that during wartime, the Navy tried to get him fired from his important post on the Board of Economic warfare, on the ground that he was a Communist. But the Navy failed, because of the intervention of White House adviser Lauchlin Currie, administrative assistant to the late President

Franklin D. Roosevelt. Lauchlin Currie has been accused by Elizabeth Bentley of having cooperated with Soviet espionage in the Federal Government.)

The Congressional Committee today produced a Civil Service report -- this apparently the basis for the Navy's attempt to get Silvermaster out of the Board of Economic Warfare. The Civil Service report states that an investigation indicated that, in the words of the report - "Silvermaster was everything from a fellow traveller to a probable member of the O G P U -- (the Soviet Secret Police).

Yet he was okayed while on the job ~~with~~ with the Board of Economic Warfare. Today the counsel for the committee on Un-American Activities stated that he has subpoenaed a Civil Service investigator who is prepared to swear that Lauchlin Currie, administrative assistant to the late President Roosevelt, told him that Silvermaster was -- "all right". In other words,

clearly by the White House aide. *Silvermaster said he was okayed likewise by C. B. Baldwin, the head of the Federal Security Administration and now a leader in the Henry Wallace Third Party.*  
Silvermaster was followed on the witness stand by

Elizabeth Bentley, who completed and expanded her previous testimony. (She said that, as head of a group of Communist

government officials Silvermaster's lines extended even into the White House, and that Lauchlin Currie provided Silvermaster with information. ) She testified that Silvermaster had a laboratory in the basement of his home in Washington, a laboratory for making microfilm copies of confidential government documents. The actual photographic work was done, she stated, by William Ludwig Ullman, a former official in <sup>our</sup> ~~the~~ Treasury Department. She said that Silvermaster's wife helped in the micro-filming of government documents.

To all of which Silvermaster retorts -- "fantastic".

And - "neurotic liar."

Those two epithets have become familiar in this espionage sensation -- fantastic, neurotic. Other <sup>government</sup> ~~government~~ officials accused of having been connected with Red espionage have ~~used~~ used the same words of denial. All of which is noted in an editorial in the New York World Telegram today. That newspaper makes reference to the fact that it publishes Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt's column MY DAY. And (this afternoon Mrs. Roosevelt gives her opinion of the Red ~~spy~~ spy revelations.)



She calls them "outrageous". She indignantly rejects the charges against Lauchlin Currie, formerly administrative assistant to President Roosevelt. And (she describes Elizabeth Bentley's testimony in the following words -- "the fantastic story of this evidently neurotic lady.") Well, there seems to be a fashion in words. In this age of modern psychiatry, it is the style to call somebody "neurotic."



ADD ESPIONAGE

The latest - former Secretary of State Adolf Berle confirms the fact that Whittaker Chambers in Nineteen Thirty Nine gave him an account of Communists in high government position. Yesterday, Chambers, a Senior editor of Time and Life, told the committee that he tried to warn the White House of Red activities, but that his report, made to the Assistant Secretary of State, produced no results. Tonight, Adolf Berle states that "appropriate action" was taken. He does not explain what the appropriate action was. - He will tell that to the committee when he testifies.

## CRISIS

In the world crisis, the secrecy continues - all care being taken against the possibility that publicity might injure the delicate negotiations that are going on.

~~In London today, there were conferences between American Ambassador Douglas, British Foreign Under-Secretary Sir William Strange, and French Ambassador Massigli. In Paris, American Ambassador Caffery talked the situation over today with French Foreign Minister Schuman. In Washington, there were top level conferences in the Truman Administration.~~

The western powers are carefully coordinating their views on what to say to Soviet Russia in the next diplomatic move - following the talk the Ambassadors had with Stalin on Monday night.

In London, the word today confirms what we had had from Moscow yesterday - that the next move will be another visit by the western ambassadors to the Kremlin, another face-to-face meeting with Stalin and Molotov. What will they say? Well, we don't even

know what was said at that first meeting. The whole thing concerns the lifting of the Berlin blockade, which we want -- and a four-power conference on Germany, which the Soviets want.

But what offers were made and what alternatives were presented -- all that is hidden behind that veil of secrecy. We now have a diplomatic white curtain to match the Soviet Iron Curtain

The story is that members of the Red secret police wear a uniform of olive drab, which looks much like the American uniform. They speak English, and they have their radios to bring their programs broadcast by the U.S. Army radio station in Germany. They set the stage so carefully that refugees are fooled, and talk freely to the radio U.S. - who sympathize and get their stories.

The refugees are asked to give a written account of why they want to leave the Communist regime, which they do - enthusiastically. Moreover they are



## CZECH REFUGEES

An ugly story comes from the border of Czechoslovakia, where the world behind the Iron Curtain meets the American one. It states that the Red Secret Police of Czechoslovakia are <sup>using</sup> ~~making~~ the disguise of American G.I.'s to trap refugees, fugitives who try to get out of the Communist dictatorship of Czechoslovakia. As the refugees near the American Zone, they see what they believe to be American soldiers, and they think they are safe - hailing the false G.I.'s.

The story is that members of the Red secret ~~police~~ police wear a uniform of olive drab, which looks much like the American uniform. They speak English, and they tune their radios to swing music programs broadcast by the U.S. Army radio station in Germany. They set the stage so carefully that refugees are fooled, and talk freely to the fake G.I.'s - who sympathize and get their stories.

The refugees are asked to give a written account of why they want to leave the Communist Regime, which they do - enthusiastically. whereupon they are

arrested, and the written statements are held against them as confessions; - and <sup>then</sup> they disappear into the dark unknown, behind the Iron Curtain.

## SUBSTITUTE CONGRESS

The House Banking Committee voted its approval tonight of an anti-inflation bill -- a measure that corresponds to the predictions that we have been hearing. The two main features are a restriction of installment buying and a curb on bank credits. The bill ignores President Truman's request for power to ration, fix prices and restrict wages.

A joint committee representing both branches of Congress ~~xxx~~ drew up a housing bill today. This makes no provision for public housing, but brings in a surprise feature -- half a billion dollars for a slum clearance program. In addition to this, it offers a variety of credit aids and other incentives to private builders, designed to stimulate private construction of housing.

In the Senate the filibuster ended this afternoon. The southerners stopped orating, but only after they had succeeded in talking the anti-inflation bill to death. The Republicans withdrew



the measure for racial ~~rights~~<sup>rights,</sup> but promised to do something about the whole filibuster question when the next session of Congress comes around. They said <sup>they</sup> will enact a change of Senate rules to put an end to filibustering as a way of talking a bill to death.

## MISSING PLANE

~~This~~ afternoon, <sup>5</sup> a French weather ship in the South Atlantic ~~was~~ reported a faint radio signal, just been picked up ~~at two o'clock~~ this afternoon, ~~eastern daylight time.~~ That's <sup>So there's</sup> ~~the latest~~ a renewal of hope for the huge French flying boat <sup>that</sup> ~~which~~ disappeared in the South ~~Atlantic~~ Atlantic on Sunday with fifty-two ~~persons~~ aboard.

Last night that same weather ship received a similar feeble signal. In both cases, the messages were so faint, they could not be understood. But the radio men aboard the vessel were able to do a job of bracketing, and this places the point from which the two signals appear to have emanated -- somewhere off the Cape Verde Islands. ~~That's~~ near the coast of West Africa. ~~and~~ If the missing aircraft should happen to be in that area, it must have got far off its course.

It's a mere faint hope, but it was enough to send eight American heavy bombers down toward the Cape Verde Islands, searching the sea - joining in the hunt for the largest plane ever to be lost, with so many passengers.

## OLYMPICS

TODAY's Olympic results! Bill Porter of Northwestern University won the ~~one~~ hundred-and-ten-meter high hurdles, and Martin Biles of the University of California ~~was~~ scraped into the finals of the Javelin throwing -- even though he couldn't make the required distance of two-hundred-and-nine feet.

Neither could any of the other competitors, so our man led in.

Today, the sixth day of the games, is the halfway line of the Olympiad at Wembley, with the U S team holding seven of the fourteen championships already disputed.

The ~~one~~ <sup>AL WAR</sup> ~~minor~~ upset today, our women's shot-putters were hopelessly outclassed by their European rivals.

Not one of ~~the~~ our girls reached the finals. The heavier French, Swedish and British women showing more muscle, speed, and zip -- or whatever a woman must have <sup>to</sup> ~~it~~ put the shot.



## GAMBLING

In New York today the District Attorney's office looked like a parade of Cafe Society, as leading lights of night club aristocracy appeared, to be questioned about a sumptuous party on Park Avenue which is suspected of having been a swindle game of crooked gambling.

The story tells how in a luxurious apartment, a galaxy of glittering stars of <sup>New York</sup> the bar room nobility gathered for a fling at the rolling dice and the spinning roulette wheel - a millionaire gambling party. Supposed to be a charity affair, the proceeds to go to a medical project for sending surgical supplies to the suffering in Europe. But the report is that the Park Avenue festival of dice and roulette was rigged up by professional gamblers, who used the dodge of European relief as a way of luring Cafe Society celebrities, to gamble for sweet charity's sake. The professionals are said to have taken the gilded suckers for plenty.

Well among the night club elite who appeared at the District Attorney's office today, was ~~xi~~ ~~XXXXXX~~

GAMBLING -2

Slapsie Maxie Rosenbloom, former prizefighter, one time light heavyweight champion. Slapsie Maxie is now a playboy in the circles of cocktail aristocracy. He was asked if he knew about William Buckner, who is reported to have been the host at the party. Buckner at one time served a prison term for a million dollar fraud in Philippine railroad bonds.

Slapsie Maxie's response was a minor classic. He said: "Do you think I would take my tuxedo out of moth balls to visit a bunch of crum bums?"

Well, ~~it's~~ it's all part of an evening in Cafe Society - and the sad story is that the elegant saloon set ~~was~~ was taken for a ride by professional gamblers.



HEARD IN DINER

Riding around our country in a train for several generations has been regarded as an ideal way to acquire a liberal education -- especially in a Pullman smoking <sup>compartment.</sup> ~~car~~

Today I picked up a little of that liberal education -- in a New York Central dining car. At a nearby table (the whole car could hear him) sat a lady and gentleman. He apparently had just discovered she was from Europe, had started the conversation; and when I came in he was saying: "I don't like California. It has a bad climate." That started me because I'd always thought climate was one of California's chief attractions. Then he went on: "I made plenty of money out there -- about one hundred dollars a day. But that California climate! I don't like it. It makes me lazy."

Whereupon the good looking lady at my table -- whom I didn't know, turned to me and said: "Now there's something I'd like to try -- one hundred a day and being lazy!" in Calif.

~~A moment or two later the man gave forth with another gem. Having found out that his table companion was from Europe he said: "Europe may be all right, but it's too old fashioned!"~~

*He'd had a high ball with five lunch. Strange note, as all of us could hear.*

*to say: "I hope my engine this drink great humbling you? The first may have a good word of the lady said her bill from any reply. But on he went and And then a parting word of the lady said her bill"*