

L.T.- Delco. Mon. Feb. 28-'55

BURMA

At Rangoon, today, the Premier of Burma held a news conference, at which he repeated the word - that Red China is willing to discuss the question of the imprisoned American airmen. Premier Unu said the Chinese Reds have offered to receive an unofficial American delegation - for talks. ~~The Burmese premier~~ He told the newsmen that, having received this information from China - he passed the word along to American Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, who - was in Rangoon on Saturday, stopping for a visit - following the South East Asian Conferences at Bangkok. He didn't say what the Dulles reaction had been - favorable, or unfavorable.

Unu shied away from giving details - and the whole proposition is left vague and ■ indecisive.

The word evokes no enthusiasm in Washington where it is pointed out - that UN Secretary Dag Hammarskjold went on a mission to Red China. But seems to have accomplished mighty little - in procuring the release of the airmen. If, now, an American delegation should go - it would be the first direct talks between the United States and Red China. Maybe that's what the communists ~~wik~~ are angling for - using the case of the eleven airmen, and two civilians imprisoned on charges of espionage.

PRISONERS

The whole country is gaping at the case of those two Americans, who, released from a Chinese Communist prison, are shouting the praises of the Reds. At Hong Kong today, Malcolm Bersohn of New York, and Mrs. Adele Rickett of Yonkers, applied for passports, to return home. The passports will be granted -- in a general air of amazement.

Malcolm *Adele*
Bersohn and Mrs. Rickett, fresh out of jail, repeated their statements -- that they were guilty of espionage. *And* from the way they talk, you'd think the Chinese Reds were angels.

The news dispatches are noting -- the way the two ~~men~~ released Americans repeat the Chinese Communist Party line. Like parrots. Here are a couple of lines of the dialogue.

Today, Bersohn was asked -- was he a Communist? He replied: "I cannot be honored like that."

Mrs. Rickett was asked was she a Communist?

She replied: "I am not a Communist, because I cannot be so honored."

The dispatches call it -- the result of Chinese brainwashing.

The mystery of the British atomic scientist, Pontecorvo, is now cleared up. The Italian-born physicist - who disappeared from Britain several years ago. He was reported to have gone to Soviet Russia, but that was not confirmed - until today. When articles appeared in two official Moscow newspapers. Pravda and Izvestia. Articles signed by - Pontecorvo. Who comes out with an argument for a world-wide ban of atomic weapons.

SUPREME COURT

The Supreme Court refuses a hearing - in the case of the thirteen second-string communist leaders, who petitioned for a new trial - citing the turn-coat witness, Harvey Matusow. They presented an affidavit, signed by Matusow - in which he swore his testimony against the thirteen communists was false. But the Supreme Court refuses to take up the case. In which, of course, a number one question would be - was Matusow's evidence vital in the verdict of guilty? Was the testimony, which he now calles false - necessary to ~~th~~ convict those communist leaders of conspiring to overthrow the government?

MATUSOW

The

turn-coat witness was in a hot session,

today, with the Senate Internal Security ~~Subcommittee~~ Subcommittee.

Matusow

~~he~~ charged - that congressional committees had compelled him to become a "lying stool pigeon." Under questioning, he admitted that no committee member had ever pressured him. But said - they had created "an ~~atmosphere~~ atmosphere of fear and hysteria" about communism. *Thus* *ing* ~~Created~~ "public pressure". Which caused Matusow to become a "lying stool pigeon."

He added - he didn't care whether the publishers of his forthcoming book were communists or not.

CHAPLIN

Charlie Chaplin has ended his last financial connection with the United States. Selling - his share in the United Artists Corporation. Which concern was - a pioneer in early motion pictures.

Back in nineteen nineteen ~~thirteen~~ Chaplin, at the height of his fame as a comedian, combined with Mary Pickford, America's sweetheart, and Douglas Fairbanks swashbuckling hero of the films, ~~Founding~~ - their own company. Which produced a long string of world-wide hits - in the silent films. Including - some of ~~Chaplin's~~ Chaplin's greatest successes.

Douglas Fairbanks died, and that left Chaplin and Mary Pickford as owners - together with a management group. United Artists - retaining ownership of a treasure of old pictures.

~~disgruntled~~
~~Charlie~~ Chaplin, left this country in
^

nineteen fifty-two. Deciding - never to come back.

Announcing what he called an "unhealthy" political atmosphere. Chaplin - often charged with having pro-communist sympathies. So now he ~~cuts~~ ^{cuts} the final financial tie - by selling his twenty-five percent interest in United Artists.

Substitute TAXES

The Democrats in the Senate have picked a witness - to answer Secretary of the Treasury Humphrey. Who, today, put up an argument against the bill for a tax cut of twenty dollars per person. He presented President Eisenhower's contention that the reduction would be the "height of financial irresponsibility." Arguing so strongly - that the Democrats on the Senate Finance Committee decided - they'd call a witness in rebuttal. So they delayed Committee proceedings for a day, looked around for a witness, and found - Leon Keyserling - who was an Economic Adviser to the Truman Administration. He'll testify tomorrow.

GENERAL MOTORS

Here ~~is~~ ^{are} some figures from the world of business - figures telling of a stupendous payroll. General Motors reports that, last year, the company had - more than five hundred and seventy-six thousand employees. Their average earning was about ninety-one dollars and a half a week. Figure out the arithmetic, and it comes to a total payroll, for the year, of two billion ~~and~~ six hundred and ten million dollars.

WIRE TAP

In New York, the disclosure that the telephone of DeSapio was tapped. The Tammany Hall chief - who is a Democratic National Committeeman and is New York Secretary of State. The wire tap - in connection with a murder investigation. In the background - alleged political purposes.

This comes from William Keating, former assistant district attorney, who is now counsel # of the New York City Anti-Crime Committee.

He says that, in nineteen forty-seven - forty-eight, while he was an assistant district attorney he was in charge of an investigation of the murder of one Anthony Hintz in the course of which, a court order was obtained for tapping DeSapio's wire. DeSapio then - a Tammany district leader. Keating says the court order was obtained "on very flimsy facts." Indicating -

WIRE TAP - 2

political reasons.

There's no indication of what the tapping of DeSapio's wire may have produced. The district attorney Frank Hogan, who was in office at the time says - there were no political reasons in this or any other wire tapping, with which I had anything to do.

TOSCANNINI.

Maestro Toscannini arrived at New York, this afternoon, ^{and} was asked about - a rumor. Nothing about conducting an orchestra in this country, but about - marriage. The report being - that the eighty-eight year old musician planned to marry his secretary. The prospective bride - looking something like fifty or sixty. But the marriage rumor is denied. Toscannini's son, Walter, telling the newsmen - "you can deny it as just ridiculous."

CHICAGO

In Chicago there's a building which, they said, would last for a thousand years. Constructed seventy-nine years ago. Now -- to be torn down. /

In Eighteen Seventy-six Marshall Field, the ~~merchant~~ merchant prince, built his famous mansion -- at a cost of more than a million dollars. The first Chicago home, to have electric lights. Scene -- of the most elaborate party in Chicago history -- the "Mikado Ball" in Eighteen Eighty-six. The building, so massively constructed -- they said it would last for a thousand years.

The location -- Prairie Avenue on the West Side. Then -- the center of wealth and fashion. But that soon changed. Prairie Avenue left ~~an~~ an ordinary sort of neighborhood. The last of the Marshall Field family moved out -- before Nineteen ^{ten}ten.

Followed -- by a series of tenants. ~~Box~~

The latest -- an aviation school. Which now --
is moving. The mansion -- to be replaced by an
office building, apparently.

So the wreckers are getting ready to tear
down the "house that was to last for a thousand years."

ITALY - WEATHER

From Italy, news of stormy weather. Heavy
snows, ^{wild}~~violent~~ gales - and flooded rivers.

In Rome, a violent hail storm - a torrent of
^{pelting} ice from the sky. Also - something reminiscent of those
ancient ruins in Rome. In the high Appennines, the
blizzards have driven packs of wolves - down on to the
plains, in the neighborhood of Rome. Famished wolves -
raiding the farms, killing sheep.

Well, the wolf was the symbol of ancient
Rome. Remember - how Romulus and Remus were cared for
by a she-wolf? And there's that familiar
~~Remember~~ ancient sculpture, the
Wolf of the Capitol? Twenty-five centuries have gone by.
^{And}
~~But~~ once again, the Roman story is - wolf.

Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden looking bored. Chancellor of the Exchequer R. A. Butler - with his feet on the table - also bored. Defence Minister Harold MacMillan sound asleep , apparently - and that would imply being bored. Various M.P's slumped in their seats. Hugh - some of them - dozing off- all bored!

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~~Not so dignified, not so thrilling~~

~~during an address by the Prime Minister.~~