

P.L. P. & G. Wednesday, Dec. 8, 1948.

ESPIONAGE

In the Spy case -- another explanation of why Whittaker Chambers did not reveal the microfilm copy of secret documents, when he testified last summer.

*has just been given at a special night session*  
This version ~~was given to~~ the Committee on Un-American

Activities ~~tonight~~ by the editor of an anti-Communist magazine.-- Isaac Don Levine. He stated that magazine editor Chambers kept microfilm copies hidden, as something to use -- should the Communists kidnap his wife or children. If anything like that should occur, Chambers could use the microfilm in dealing with the Soviet Secret Police. "A club to wield", said Isaac Levine.

The anti-Communist editor, ~~has been in Chambers' confidence ever since Chambers, doing secret agent work for the Reds, had a change of heart and turned against the Communists.~~ Levine told the Committee that he

introduced Chambers to General Krivitsky, former head of Soviet Counter Espionage -- who broke with the Communists, and made anti-Red disclosures. Krivitsky was later shot to death in a Washington Hotel under mysterious circumstances.

Levine stated that Chambers lived in fear of his former Communist comrades. "He was scared as any hunted animal," said the anti-Communist editor.

Hence, Chambers' policy in holding the microfilm copies as a pressure weapon -- in case Red conspirators should make an attempt against his wife and children.

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Isaac Don Levine figured in an attempt by Chambers to place the facts about Red Espionage before the late President Roosevelt -- back at the time of the Hitler-Stalin Pact. We have heard previously how Levine, on behalf of Chambers, tried to get to the President. And went to White House Secretary Marvin MacIntyre. He was referred to Assistant Secretary Adolf Berle -- at the State Department.

Tonight Isaac Don Levine added the following. "When I got no action from Berle I sketched the story to Ambassador William Bullitt. He was impressed, excited, and said he would go to the President. But", Levine continued, "nothing happened".

Levine went on to say how he made other contacts, but without result. He said he told the story to newspaper columnist and radio commentator -- Walter Winchell. So what happened then? "Winchell", declares Levine,



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"said he had entry into the White House, and would do something". To which Levine today added: "What happened? Nothing. After a year and a half," he concluded, "I abandoned my efforts."

The latest. The New York Daily News tonight





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states that it has information about some of the secret documents -- these of a most embarrassing sort.

The New York paper says they show that the United States government, in nineteen thirty-seven and nineteen thirty-eight, was playing a part in the appeasement of Nazi Germany, secretly encouraging British Prime Minister Chamberlain in dealing with Hitler. The messages, <sup>in</sup> the words of the Daily News -- "showed that we were playing along with the Chamberlain appeasement policy, and at the same time, we were telling the Russians that they should string along with the Western Powers to stop Hitler".

If this be true, the documents would obviously be of a most embarrassing sort - getting into the hands of Soviet espionage.

The General Assembly of the U.N. is ending the present session in an atmosphere of glum futility. Everything seems to conspire for a mocking comedy of frustration.

They had a fire in the building, nothing too serious, but a couple of committee rooms were burned out - and today there was a strike of waiters. In the restaurants of the Assembly, the waiters walked out, just before lunch - which turned lunch-time for the international delegates into a tangle. Substitute waiters were rushed in at the last minute, but they got things mixed up. The delegate who ordered fish got chops, and vice versa. And the crepe suzette came before the soup.

These cruel accidents of fate were accompanied by something even worse on the Assembly floor, itself -- the Soviets on a filibuster. The delegates from behind the Iron Curtain went into prolonged oratory on minor issues.

They hit a climax of obstruction - demanding delay in the adoption of the "Declaration of Human Rights." This was one thing the General Assembly might be expected to accomplish - adopt the charter of human principles, worked out by a committee with so much labor. But the Soviets now call for a postponement of action on the "Declaration of Human Rights."

The General Assembly, now closing, has been the most futile thus far - winding up in dramatics of glum frustration.



Clear, bright weather in Berlin today - after the great fog and the misty aftermath. And the Air Lift took full advantage of the sunshine and blue skies, making seven hundred and forty-eight flights. American and British transports brought in six thousand, a hundred and thirty-three tons of food and fuel - in a hurry-up to make good <sup>the</sup> time lost <sup>by</sup> ~~in~~ the big fog.

The Soviet zone may be needing a bit of fuel, after a huge gas tank explosion. An American official today stated that the blast was because of the inefficiency of the Russians, who tried to pipe ninety-six thousand cubic meters of gas into a tank intended to hold ninety thousand. Whereupon the tank burst into a giant blaze, which today reduced gas facilities in the Soviet zone by one-third.

The Reds, meanwhile, have stopped mail service between the Eastern and Western Zones - this in retaliation for the way the Western Zone Germans voted so heavily against Communism in the election on Sunday. The Soviet Zone post office today

announced an end to mail deliveries between the two sections of the city.

That sounds like some more Iron Curtain - a tightening of the invisible barrier between East and West in Berlin.

All of which ties in with some remarks made by our former Air Force commander, General Tooev Spaatz. Writing in the magazine, Newsweek, General Spaatz presents this philosophy of the Iron Curtain: "Soviet man can see what the rest of us are doing. Western man has no such reciprocal privilege. This one-way visibility is too dangerous to be tolerated indefinitely."

So it's pretty much like the kind of glass through which you can see from one side, and can't from the other. Looking through, I can see you - but, when you look, you can't see me. Translate that into terms of nations, or of opposing worlds. They can look through the Iron Curtain, and see us. But we can't see them.

MARSHALL

Today's medical report on Secretary of State Marshall uses the phrase - "an uneventful recovery." At the Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, after the removal of a kidney by surgical operation, the Secretary was recuperating today in sound, normal fashion, <sup>— all</sup> as indicated by the medical report that he is making - "an uneventful recovery."

However, the question remains - will Secretary Marshall, who will soon be sixty-eight years old, remain on the job as chief of American foreign policy? He has assured President Truman that he will - if his health permits.

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In congressional circles there is a suggestion that the Secretary might stay on - even if it has to be on a part-time basis, doing only such work as his health permits. They point to the tremendous prestige of the name of Marshall in foreign countries.

But, inevitably, there is talk of a possible successor, ~~mention of Averell Harriman, Marshall Plan ambassador, and Lewis B. Douglas, our Ambassador to London.~~



There is particular mention of Dean Acheson, a former Under-Secretary of State. He has been a frequent visitor <sup>to</sup> ~~of~~ President Truman <sup>^</sup> of late - in connection with other business, however. Dean Acheson is Vice-Chairman of the Hoover Commission on Government Reorganization, and has been conferring with the President on recommendations from that <sup>group</sup> ~~commission~~ <sup>^</sup> headed by the Ex-President.

We don't know if these talks with Truman have had anything to do with the <sup>elimination</sup> ~~changing~~ <sup>^</sup> of one <sup>recommendation</sup> ~~recommendation~~ <sup>^</sup> - but a Washington dispatch today states that the Hoover Commission has changed its mind about <sup>doubling</sup> ~~increasing~~ <sup>^</sup> the salary of the President. ~~It is well known, of course, that the head of the~~ ~~Government of the United States is not paid enough, to~~ finance the official obligations he has to meet. A president, with ~~of~~ wealth of his own, has to dig down into his own pocket, at times. A president, without a private fortune, like Harry Truman, has to do a bit of ~~scimping~~ <sup>scimping</sup> <sup>^</sup> - to finance

~~official White House entertainments, and such burdens. So the Hoover Commission proposed, at first, to double the presidential salary.~~ Raise it from seventy-five thousand a year to a hundred and fifty thousand. But that's out, the President to get no <sup>such</sup> salary raise at all.

The reason has that old familiar sound - income tax. A large pay hike would only put the presidential income in a higher bracket, and the government would take back most of the raise.

So now they have switched over from salary to expense account - which is tax-free. Right now the President is allowed an expense account of thirty thousand dollars a year, and the Hoover Commission proposes to give this a boost - an increase immune from the fingers of the tax collector.

## YUCATAN

Here's a headline from - a lost world. The United Press has sent a correspondent down to Yucatan, to give a report on what's happening to the great ruins there - the lost civilization of <sup>the</sup> Mayans. So Newspaperman Delos Smith sends back an account, saying that the excavations are progressing - and tells of wandering around in a world that was.

Deep in the tropical jungle, in the midst of giant ruins, he writes: "This was civilization - seven hundred years ago. This was the New York of its time. Its inhabitants were wealthy, self satisfied. They excelled in astronomy, mathematics, architecture. They were cocksure their civilization was going to go on forever."

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the Pentagon of the day - headquarters of the military establishment. Next to it, a temple of a thousand columns - no roof is left. <sup>It</sup> Over there, the ball court - a sort of Yankee Stadium, where athletes played <sup>a</sup> ~~the~~ form of basketball in a paved court four hundred and ninety feet long."

That marvel of lost civilization was the great city of Chichen Itza, and the report goes on to say that, in the ~~great area of the~~ equatorial forest, there are fifty other cities, nearly all buried in the jungle.

What's the philosophy of it all? U.P. Correspondent Delos Smith writes: "In this atomic age many earnest people talk with fear of the end of civilization. In this place," he adds, "you understand perfectly."

## ERROL FLYNN

The Errol Flynn drama ended today, the way any screen play should end - a quiet fadeout - all serene, beatific, in fact. The hero of rambunctious romance on the screen appeared in court- on time, right on the dot. Yesterday, he failed to show up, and the judge confiscated five hundred dollars in bail. Ructions all around - the movie actor explaining that he had slept most of the day, and failed to get up, after the excitement of the night before. But today it was different. Errol Flynn saying: "I stayed at home last night, and this morning four friends called me and told me to get up." So he was in court - thanks to four friends.

(~~The judge stated sternly that the police were only doing their duty when they stopped the taxi in which Flynn and a press agent were riding - it was their objection to this that started the rumpus. Flynn listened attentively, and nodded frequently - agreeing with everything the judge said.~~)



Then up spoke Patrolman Joseph Bergeles, the cop  
the screen star kicked in the shins, <sup>in that Mack Sennett scene.</sup> The policeman was  
magnanimous. He said that, as for the shin kicking, he would  
permit Flynn to plead guilty to disorderly conduct rather  
than the more serious charge of - assault. Flynn agreed to  
that, too, and pleaded guilty.

Whereupon the judge pronounced sentence - a fifty  
dollar fine or thirty days in jail. The he-man of Hollywood  
chose the former, and peeled off 5 ten-dollar bills.

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He apologized to everybody. He apologized to the cop  
for the shin kicking, and they shook hands. He apologized  
to the judge, and even to the newspaper reporters covering  
the case. They were somewhat mystified, why they deserved an  
apology - when all that the headliner of the movies had done  
to them was to give them a story to splash on the front page.

and  
Leaving the court, pushing his way through a crowd of  
several hundred people, Flynn <sup>had</sup> ~~acquired~~ what the news dispatch  
calls, "a modest and contrite manner."

"The judge was very fair," said he, "and I was very lucky. I might have got my head banged up."

And so, for a quiet, serene, beatific fadeout.

*A fade out to you - Nelson.*

COTTON

early Nov. 8/48.

The cotton crop this year is down - a decline of one and a half per cent below previous estimates. But, in spite of the decrease, it still is well above last year's ~~cotton~~ production. The figure, nearly fifteen million bales - the seventh largest cotton crop in the history of Dixieland.

The slight decline ~~below estimates~~ was caused by bad cotton-picking weather this autumn. Southern song and story have made familiar the picture of the darkies picking the fleece in the fields of white - way down south in the land of cotton. But the picture is not so perfect when it rains. ~~The~~ The vision of picking cotton in a downpour is a nightmare for a southern farmer - and last month, november, it rained about half of the time.



A new summons has come to President Truman - in addition to those various calls to meet Stalin. Another official duty may be added to the many labors of the presidency - he is requested to give a national concert with Daughter Margaret.

The idea derives, of course, from that father-daughter affair at the Washington Press Club - when the Truman father-and-daughter played a duet on the piano, the "Jenny Lind Polka." That was inspiration for a professor down in Texas, who is described as a naturalist and poet, Dr. Otto Lee Nielt thought - why should the musical treat be limited to a bunch of newspapermen and their daughters? <sup>R</sup> So he made an investigation, and placed the query before a number of school assemblies in Texas, and they all agreed - that the presidential papa and daughter at the piano should be a nationwide event, a coast-to-coast radio broadcast. The date suggested - Christmas Eve.

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He pointed<sup>s</sup> out, moreover, that, with Daughter Margaret, piano playing is only secondary - her number one talent is singing soprano. So, in addition to playing four-handed, there

could also be a piano-soprano duet - the President playing, Margaret singing.

Suggestions are made for the program, all old-fashioned - since the Truman musical taste is classic. Christmas Eve being the time recommended, one suggestion is - "Jingle Bells." So you can imagine the presidential fingers thumping away, with the <sup>soprano</sup> ~~girl~~ vocal chords <sup>of Margaret</sup> warbling, "Jingle Bells, Jingle Bells, jingle all the way."

Such is the Texas proposal made to the Trumans today - with visions of that one-horse open sleigh, while the echo responds - Oh how nice.