

There were loud ructions in Tokyo today - when a crowd of Japanese besieged the Soviet Embassy. They gathered before the gates, and shouted demands - asking about Japanese prisoners of war, three hundred and seventy-six thousand of them.

The war in the Pacific ended four years ago, and the Soviets have sent back numbers of Japanese prisoners indoctrinated in Communism. But there are hundreds of thousands still missing - and the charge is that the Reds are using them for slave labor in Siberia.

The crowd today consisted mostly of women, weeping and wanting to know what has happened to their long missing husbands, sons, brothers. At one point, the embassy gate was opened to let out a Russian automobile, and the crowd tried to storm through. But the Soviet guards managed to slam the gates, and stop the invasion.

The demonstration was in a drizzling rain, but the crowd stuck it out for five hours - until a Soviet official came out and promised a reply in a few

days. Japanese members of Parliament added their own plea, urging the people to go home.

Which they finally did - after a curious, typical Japanese gesture. The crowd, mostly women, asked the Russian Embassy guards to give them brooms - and with these they swept up the street, clearing away the litter caused by the demonstration.

To the voice of the Japanese crowd was added another - the voice of MacArthur. Tonight the Supreme Commander announced that he is going to ask the United States Government to get a neutral nation to investigate the mystery of the prisoners-of-war. Yesterday that question was raised at a Soviet delegation. Headed by a general, they stormed out of the meeting.

Today the Supreme Commander gave his comment on that, and the words were of the special MacArthur brand - blazing. "I can well understand the reluctance of the Soviet member yesterday to listen to so gruesome and savage a story in all its harrowing

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barbarity," says MacArthur. "It would well chill and sicken even a hardened soldier."

## **FRANCE**

In Paris tonight the French Assembly is taking a vote - ~~on~~ and the fate of the Cabinet of Premier Bidault is at stake. The new political crisis is because of a budget for Nineteen Fifty -- a parliamentary committee calling for a large cut, the Premier trying to work out a compromise. But the compromise effort failed, and tonight Bidault appeared before the national assembly and said -- either okay our budget or we resign.

## TRUMAN

President Truman does not believe that General Eisenhower will be a candidate for the presidency in Nineteen Fifty-Two. The President, having returned from a Florida vacation, had a news conference in Washington today - and immediately reporters asked him about those rumors - the White House supposed to believe that Eisenhower will run on the Republican ticket. He laughed that off, and said that some people, presumably Republicans, would like to make General Ike a candidate. But the General has declared repeatedly that he is not in politics - and that's that, in the Truman view.

But what about the President himself - in Nineteen Fifty-Two? Well, he wouldn't say anything about the possibility that he might run for reelection. Nums the word.

## ROOSEVELT

And now - actress Faye Emerson, wife of Elliott Roosevelt, makes a few remarks about an announcement that her husband is going to marry cafe singer Gigi Durston. His plan to wed is stated by the mother of the singer, and Faye Emerson replies - "premature." "It is rather premature," says Faye, "for such an announcement to be made, especially in the light of the fact that we have not been divorced yet."

Well, it was a headline romance when Elliott, son of the late President Franklin D. Roosevelt, married the beautiful actress - his third wife, and her second husband. ~~(But romance faded, and now he is all set to get married again - according to the report.)~~ Faye Emerson said today - that it is fairly common knowledge to anyone who reads the columns that her husband plans to wed Gigi Durston. "I'm not put out," says Faye, "but I just like to announce my own divorce." She says she doesn't know when she'll get

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around to that necessary formality. She's a star in television, and explains: "I'm a working girl, you see, and don't know when I'll be able to get away."

Well, it's a wonderful thing to get married, but sometimes your <sup>present</sup> wife may have something to say about it.

## SUB WEATHER

The news tonight builds up the story of -- freak weather. In the east -- record breaking warmth, a heat wave at Christmas time. Boston today recorded an all-time high for December twenty-second, and in New York it is humid and sweltering tonight.

But in the middlewest, bitter cold and icy storms -- ~~wicked weather that has caused~~ <sup>ing</sup> ~~twenty-three~~ <sub>18</sub> deaths. At Sedalia, Missouri, they had an ice storm - two inches of ice forming all over the ~~the~~ place. Fifteen hundred breaks in telephone wires are reported, and one hundred and twenty-five telephone poles collapsed. But the climax is at Quincy, Illinois, which is not only icy, but isolated. Ever since noon today, communications with the town have been cut off, and tonight's dispatch was ~~sent~~ put through by an amateur radio operator -- a radio ham.

The weight of accumulated ice broke down the power lines and electricity was cut off -- plunging the city into a blackout. The treacherous glaze on the streets - so bad that transportation was paralyzed.

**Cleveland tied up by a strike. Transportation at a stand-still because of a walkout at the height of the Christmas shopping season. Today automobile traffic in Cleveland ran into the worst jam in the history of the city. Cars piled up for miles along the streets and highways - and the Mayor has declared a state of emergency.**

## PRISONER

Tomorrow a convict, sentenced to life imprisonment for ~~murder~~ murder, will go free - after serving eighteen years in Sing Sing. He will go home to a proud family for a Christmas celebration. No family shame - but pride.

Today Governor Dewey granted a pardon to Louis Boy, who has made a reputation in Sing Sing for submitting voluntarily to medical experiments that endangered his own life. Specifically, he underwent a mutual blood transfusion a few months ago with a child victim of leukemia, knowing that he himself might be stricken with that fatal disease.

Louis Boy was convicted in a hold-up murder in N<sub>ineteen</sub> Thirty-One - although he was not there when the crime was committed. But he did participate, providing the guns the bandits used. His family stayed loyal to him, his wife, son and daughter. And, then he began to submit himself to the <sup>real</sup> perilous medical experiments, ~~they admitted him.~~ ~~So~~ Now, as the convict comes out of prison, they will have a proud Merry Christmas.

At New Brunswick, New Jersey, today they found Donald Stalker, ten years old - but only after Donald had taken the poison. There had been frantic warning, the alarm given by police, by radio. But it was all in vain - Donald took the poison.

The story began in Philadelphia two days ago, when Mrs. Chester Stalker and her two children were driving through town, on their way home. Her thirteen year old girl, Jean, was okay. But Donald was car sick - and the mother stopped at a drug store to get something for him to take. The druggish<sup>t</sup> gave Mrs. Stalker the medicine, and she drove off - intending to give Donald a dose the next time he became ill in the automobile.

No sooner had she gone than the druggist realized, with horror - he had made a mistake. Instead of the right medicine, he had given the mother poison - nitrate of silver. He was aghast, filled with panic. He called the police, but he didn't know the name of

the lady or where she was going. So an alarm was sounded in all directions, and for two days the warning was repeated incessantly - to save the boy's life, keep the mother from poisoning her own small son. But there was no word - only a dead silence, and dead seemed to be the right ominous word.

Today at New Brunswick, New Jersey, Mrs. Stalker heard about it for the first time. She said - Yes, she gave Donald that medicine. When he got car-sick again, she made him swallow a big dose. So what happened? Did he die?

Well, it was poison all right, because it made Donald real sick this time, and he threw up all over the car. Then he felt fine, frisky and dandy, and mama thought - it sure was good medicine, pointing to the youngster playing around in the back yard.

Oh, for the stomach you have when you're ten years old!

## ARABIA

Tonight an expedition is on its way to make a fascinating study. Destination - Arabia. Subject, the camel. One large purpose is to investigate the domestication and widespread employment of the old ship of the desert. Sponsored by the American Foundation for the Student of Man, a group of resourceful, and able young scholars, led by Wendell Phillips, goes exploring in the most remote wilderness of Southern Arabia, to dig into the age-old sands for evidence of a lost civilization.

It is known that some three thousand years ago, Southern Arabia was far more fertile than the blistering desert of today - a kingdom of spices, with a fabulous ~~the same~~ caravan trade in the frankincense and myrrh of the Bible, King Solomon, the Queen of Sheba. It is believed that the people of the kingdom of spices were the first to tame the camel, domesticating the Arabian dromedary. (The camel was unknown in the early empires of Egypt and Mesopotamia - but that ancient spice trade of Southern Arabia could not have gone on

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without the camel. Which later revolutionized the life of man in the vast areas of eternal sands.

(From what I've read, for example, the camel did not come to North Africa until long after the Roman Empire - so that it was impossible to cross the Sahara desert in Roman times. <sup>Then</sup> The camel caravan became a great feature after the Arab conquest of North Africa - and at last the Sahara could be crossed.)

(There's a lot of history in that ungainly beast with the big hump-back and the bad temper; - and now an expedition goes to discover the beginning of the ship of the desert. And, they are going to investigate some ancient lost cities as well.)

## COLLEGES

A frightful disaster was averted in Washington today, a ghastly horror. Measures were taken so that the colleges of this country will not have to kick back a hundred million dollars to the government.

The academic nightmare came about because of a complication under the G I Bill of Rights - tens of thousands of veterans getting an education, more or less, at government expense. All was quiet and serene; but there's a government outfit called - the general accounting office. Otherwise known as - the watchdog of the treasury. And the watchdog said the University of Wisconsin had been overpaid by as much as eight million dollars.

State schools charge more for "non-residents" than for students who live in the state - and Wisconsin charged the higher "non-resident" fee for ex-G.I.'s who actually live in Wisconsin. So the watchdog of the treasury said there should be a refund.

Whereupon, it was discovered that the same

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thing applied to a whole series of other state universities, and it looked as if colleges would have to kick back a total of a hundred million. Imagine that at this time of year! Imagine the face of many a leading light of learning, when somebody said:

"Merry Christmas, prexy!"

~~( But the horror has been averted. Our government is ingenious and has found a way to keep itself from collecting the over-payments to the colleges. Leave it to your Uncle Sam to be smart about something like that - doping out a way not to receive something. Except from the taxpayers, of course. )~~

Today veterans' administrator Carl Gray issued a ruling to quiet the alarm and panic in college circles. He points to the fact that the law know as the "G.I. Bill of Rights" provides that schools teaching veterans shall receive what the bill calls - "A fair and reasonable rate." So there you have it. If a college charges non-resident tuition for a resident G. I. student - that's "fair and

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reasonable." So the watchdog of the treasury is chased right back into his kennel - and the colleges are out of the doghouse.

(Which is only just and proper, because to hand back a hundred million dollars would certainly be flanking in economics.)

## TAXPAYERS

In Canada they have staged one of those contests, always familiar as the New Year approaches - selecting Canada's man-of-the-year. The editors of fifty-five Canadian newspapers were polled, and today at Montreal the results were published. Three winners are named, in one, two, three order - and there isn't too much to be said about the first and second. It's number three on the list who captures the eye - and takes the cake.

Canada's top ranking men-of-the-year are:  
first - Prime Minister San Laurent. Second - Minister of External Affairs Leslie Pearson. Third - the taxpayer - *old Tox Doakes!*

So three cheers! - <sup>*I think*</sup> although they should have given first place to Henry H Taxpayer - H for humble.

I have the profoundest respect for the other two gentlemen - but who, these days, does the most for his country? Who pays the bill and takes it on the chin - a hero, a martyr. So let's have him step forward and take a bow. He's a meek little fellow,

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with frightened eyes and a drooping jaw. But he's the  
savior<sup>u</sup> of his country, the man-of-the-year - Mr. *Henry H.*  
<sup>^</sup>  
Taxpayer. Shake his hand, Nelson.

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