

C.M. - P+G Monday, Feb. 28, 1949.

The director of the Marshall Plan, Paul Hoffman, gave an explanation today of the statement made by British Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Christopher Mayhew. That London official told the United Nations that British Economic Recovery is almost complete. A similar statement was made in Scotland by British Minister of State, Hector O'Neill - echoing that same thought, Britain almost back to normal.

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee figured - if that be true, why should we continue our huge economic aid to Britain, that nine hundred and forty billion dollar program? So today Director Hoffman was asked to explain - why?

He told the Committee British Economic Recovery was not nearly complete, ~~at all~~. The statements by the two high ranking officials of the London government - not correct. So why did they say what they did? Hoffman declared that their optimistic <sup>new</sup> relations were political in character

provoked by Soviet propaganda. Speaking of the Mayhew remarks, Hoffman said: "He had been needled by the Russians, and was making an appropriate reply. <sup>It</sup> ~~It~~ was entirely political in character", in other words, we should disregard ~~xxxx~~ British expressions of optimism and go right ahead with the program of economic aid.

Whereupon committee member Senator George called the explanation "the biggest piece of sophistry I ever ~~xxxx~~ heard a business man make."

Well, there is something paradoxical about the whole thing - the British saying how well off they are and the American Director of Economic aid retorting that they are still in dire straights.

BULGARIA

5 more

another confession<sup>s</sup> in the trial of the

Protestant churchmen in Bulgaria, - ~~confession number~~  
four. One after another, the fifteen evangelical  
pastors are taking the witness stand and admitting  
their guilt to -- treason - black-marketing and  
espionage.

The confessions on the previous days were  
accompanied by displays of emotion, faltering voices,  
weeping and tears. Today it was the turn of Pastor  
Chernev, head of the Pentecostal Church in Bulgaria -  
and he spoke in a tired, monotonous voice. For three  
hours, before the Red tribunal, he talked in tones  
of drab depression.

He said he blamed his crimes on the other  
defendants - particularly the Reverend Naunov, of the  
Baptist Church. He declared that at the end of  
Nineteen Forty-four, as the war in Europe was nearing  
a close, the Baptist leader told him that orders  
had been received from Protestant Church circles to  
collect information in Bulgaria and pass it along to  
Cyril Black of the United States mission in Bulgaria.

His confession of blackmarketing concerned the transfer of monies in violation of the currency restrictions imposed by the Red regime. He told of one such transaction to the amount of two hundred thousand dollars.

In this latest Red trial, one day is about the same as another, with confessions that sound like carbon copies. It is the same pattern as was witnessed by at another Communist tribunals - as Protestant Churchmen in Bulgaria compete with each other in self-accusation and expressions of guilt. Which makes the world wonder all over again at the Communist <sup>genius)</sup> ~~regime~~ <sup>^</sup> for extracting confessions.

## BULGARIA

The trial of the Protestant churchmen in Bulgaria became a rush of confessions today. The Reds are speeding up the place in the prosecution of the fifteen pastors for treason. Black-marketing and espionage. Last week there were three confessions in two days, while today there were five in one -- the defendants hurrying through their admissions of guilt, with weeping and choking voices. A frenzy of self-accusations and appeals for mercy. The Red judges hardly paid any attention. Just kept the tragic parade moving at a rapid rate -- with seven more confessions to go.

The pattern in each case is the same -- presenting the American Protestant churches and the United States Government as the villains of the piece. Those Communists do have a genius for getting confessions.

## SIAM

From Siam, the land of the white elephant, comes news of a violent uproar - a revolution. Thirty-six hours of fierce fighting in the exotic city of Bangkok.

The story of the revolt features one particular name not at all Siamese - Captain Charlie. He is said to have been a leader of the underground against the Japanese during the Second World War - an oriental who somehow, in the international ports of Southern Asia came to be known as Captain Charlie. He is believed to have been a prime mover in the insurrection that hit Bangkok yesterday.

Groups of rebels appeared suddenly, and seized various government buildings - including the radio station. There an insurgent party, wearing the uniform of the Siamese Navy, broadcast appeals to the warships - whatever warships the Siamese may have. Another group occupied the University of Moral- and-Political sciences -- which seems like an odd place to stage an orgy of gun fire. Not such moral politics,

you should think. They held out stubbornly against the soldiers the government hastily mobilized against the revolt. At last reports, the <sup>2</sup>Bankok authorities claimed to have suppressed the outbreak, though a party of rebels was <sup>still</sup> holding out ~~still~~ in the royal palace. That ~~off~~ edifice, too, was seized in the revolution. And tonight there is a siege of the flamboyant, ornate palace in the land of the White Elephant.