

Fri. Mar, 24, 1950

The latest from Washington, F.B. I. Chief J. Edgar Hoover has ~~just~~ given the Senate Investigating Committee a full account of the loyalty file in that case of the unknown Red. That is, the mysterious individual who, according to Senator McCarthy, is a Red spy connected with the State Department.

The Senator has been insisting that his accusation would be proved by the F B I reports in the loyalty file. Hence the appearance of J. Edgar Hoover later this afternoon - with the knowledge and consent of President Truman.

It was "strictly confidential". We are not told anything about the secret information. Nor, of course, the name of the alleged Soviet Agent. That also remains top secret, and we can only go on referring to him as the Unknown Red.

There's a new controversy in Washington, and this time the name is Eisenhower.

Legislators are saying they're mighty puxzled about General Ike's latest declaration.

Last night ~~he~~ ^{the General} said that American military strength ~~has~~ ^{been} cut down to the danger point, or below the danger point. But here are his words - and those Eisenhower words can sometimes be slightly complicated, as you may have noted: "America ~~says she~~ has already disarmed to the extent - in some directions even beyond the extent - that I, with deep concern for her safety, could possibly advise."

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~~an~~ Anyway, the meaning is clear, and in Congress it is taken as a rebuke -- disapproval of the way the funds for the armed forces are being cut. The Army, Navy and Air Force ~~xx~~ asked for twenty ~~billion~~ during the next fiscal year, but the administration reduced the request to Fourteen Billion. Which is in accord with the economy ideas in Congress.

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but the understanding is ^{that} he played a leading part
in determining that smaller budget figure. In fact,
Secretary of Defense Johnson, when criticized for
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ASIA

Next week Secretary of State Acheson will go before Congress and call for a program of aid for Burma and French Indo-China to resist the Communist drive into Southeast Asia. (~~At first, only~~ "token" aid will be suggested, something to give the South Asian peoples a practical sign from the West. Full scale not necessary, unless the Chinese ^{Nationalists} ~~make~~ ^{undertake} a military invasion.)

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This is accompanied by news from China - stating that Russian troops are taking up positions near Shanghai. A Hong Kong paper prints a report ~~xx~~ from the Mainland, that several thousand have arrived. Russian ~~xxxx~~ technical units mostly, aviation, anti-aircraft. They are stationed at a mobilization point where the Chinese Reds are practicing amphibious tactics - for a landing on Formosa. All of which would signify, of course that Soviet Russia may be giving the Chinese Reds military aid for an attempt to capture the island where the remnants of the Nationalist regime have taken refuge.

This recalls a conversation I had recently
with a top Chinese official, ^{- Ambassador to Rome James Yee -} who had just come from
Formosa. I asked him - did he believe his government
could hold the island against Communist attack?
He said - yes, he was confident they could. Unless -
the Chinese had received active military help from
Soviet Russia.

ATOMIC

A statement was made, today, that we are soon to have an airplane driven by atomic power - and that the date has been set for the first test flight.

This emanates from a chief engineer at the Oak Ridge atomic plant - Andrew Kalitinsky. He says the atomic powered plane will be capable of flying around the world non-stop at supersonic speed. A huge aircraft - bigger than any present-day bomber. In shape -- resembling the supersonic planes, the small ones that now fly faster than sound. The task of research and construction is on a definite time table, says he; and ^{he} adds - that the scientists have actually fixed a time for the first test flight.

The final thing to be noted is the inevitable angle, which comes to mind:~The research engineer at Oak Ridge declares that the atomic powered ~~in~~ airplane, capable of flying around the world non-stop at supersonic speed, is being developed as a means of hurling the atomic bomb.

BELGIUM

In the ornate city of Brussels today, mounted police, with naked sabers, charged mobs of rioters - as a climax ^{to a} ~~day long~~ ^{at} disturbances in many parts of Belgium. Five hundred thousand socialist workers on strike against the proposal to return exiled King Leopold to his throne. Avenues of Brussels littered with overturned trolley cars. ~~by workers in favor of Leopold undertook to run them.~~ Students trying to storm the stock exchange. Disorders climaxing when mounted police, with drawn sabers, had to charge.

During the fracas, three policemen lost control of their horses - and plunged through big plate glass windows of a department store. Casualties, ~~by~~ thirty-five injured in Brussels *alone.*

FARM BILL

The congressional battle over the farm bill came to a close today - when the Senate finally passed a huge "catch-all" measure, which imposes production controls on the potato crop, but permits a larger planting of cotton and peanuts.

Yesterday, the Senate went into a snarl, unable to get anywhere with the bill, because of the wrangling. But today the measure went through - and, having been passed by the House of Representatives, now goes to President Truman for his signature.

CHRYSLER

Optimistic news in the Chrysler strike. Today the huge automobile company came forward with a major concession - offering the union a thirty million dollar pension fund. This represents a reversal by Chrysler - the question of pensions having been the vital issue all along.

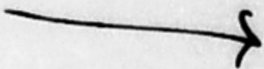
Today's offer was immediately rejected by the union - but the negotiators promptly began a bargaining conference, starting this afternoon. The hope lies in the talks now going on - and the word from Detroit is optimistic.

~~I am in it - quite
I'm sure they never have
labor~~

OIL FIRE

Spectacular scenes in Canadian Alberta - flame and smoke spouting a mile in the air. An oil well fire at Excelsior - burning with a rumble that can be heard ten miles away.

The blaze was caused apparently by a spark from machinery, which ignited gas from the well. There was a flash of flame, and in a minute great sheets of red and white fire soared up - ward with a thundering ~~de~~ ~~not~~ ~~at~~ ~~ion~~. Whereupon there was fast thinking as oilmen drew pistols and fired at huge storage tanks nearby. Shooting up the tanks - so that oil could drain out through bullet holes, and simply burn, instead of blowing up with explosions of tanks.

Tonight they are trying to dynamite the well, to cut off the flow of oil and gas - which is shooting flame and smoke a mile high. 

ADD OIL FIRE

The latest - they've just put out the fire
by exploding thirty pounds of dynamite in the
oil well.

WAREHOUSE FIRE

At Houston, Texas, a warehouse fire - and the big building was burning down. So the fire engines went roaring. But, when they came to the railroad tracks, a long freight train was going by. ~~You know how it is, when it's a slow freight - and that one was just crawling along.~~

The firefighters shouted to the engineer - telling him to put on some speed, so they could get across! ~~and put out the blaze.~~ But that locomotive engineer, according to witnesses - he just laughed. ~~Which is certainly was the wrong time for merriment - when the warehouse was burning down.~~

The superintendent of the warehouse company states that he pleaded with the engineer to hurry up and get his ~~freight~~ train out of the way. But the train did ~~not~~ move a bit faster - quite the contrary.

"The engineer ~~just~~ laughed" says the superintendent, ~~"and even~~ stopped the train to look at the fire!" Must have been a good fire.

LITTLE DOVE

The Island of Puerto Rico has just completed its biggest manhunt in many years. Today the police arrested - "the little dove." He's a burglar and jailbreaker, whose escapes have been so many and clever, that his fellow islanders compare him to a bird which flies away. Hence the nickname - La Palomilla -- the little dove.

His latest exploit was ten days ago when in the Puerto Rico penitentiary, he sawed through the window bars of his third floor cell - and slid down a rope. What kind? Well, he ripped his trousers into strips, and made a rope long enough to get him within dropping distance of the soft ground. Which, of course, left the fugitive without any trousers. May sound disgraceful - but it was the little dove flying the coop.

However, as he fled, a prison guard saw him, and took a shot at him - inflicting a body wound. But he kept going. Last Sunday he got into a gunfight with a policeman, who put a couple of

bullets in him - shoulder and abdominal wounds. But again he got away - a tough little dove.

However, his capture was more in keeping with his name - gentle. The cops got a ~~trip~~ tip, and today found him in a house asleep in bed. So all he could do was coo a little, like a dove.

Try -

OSCAR

After that story night before last, about the Oscar in the ashcan - I feel I should be intensely serious, even reverential at this moment. Because our next bit of news is about the Hollywood presentation of the Academy Awards last night. There was something ribald, virtually sacriligious, in ~~that~~ episode of the ~~statue~~ ^{the} statue discovered in a rubbish container --- ~~and~~ ^{ing} it turned out to be an Oscar presented to some Academy Award winner back in Nineteen Thirty-Five. So - no smiling, please, as we go on to the solemn ceremonies enacted in Hollywood last night. No snickers about ash cans.

of Oscars in Hollywood
(The grand presentation is never a laughing matter - but mostly a weeping matter.) It's the tradition that when an actress gets an Oscar, she goes into raptures and frequently bursts into tears. Nor was the tradition broken last night.

~~The list begins with~~ Broderick Crawford, best actor of the year - for his performance in "All The King's Men," ~~he~~ being a two-gun veteran

of cowboy westerns, restrained his tears.

Best actress of the year, Olivia De Haviland, for the way she played the part of a love-starved spinster in "The Heiress."

Her second Academy Award - and she was restrained and sedate in public. But then, backstage, she let go with the rapture. "~~I was terribly surprised,~~" she exclaimed. "~~This was much more exciting than the first time - but in a different way.~~ The second time" she trilled, "is such an unbelievable experience." ~~Yes, unbelievable.)~~

Then came Mercedes McCambridge, best supporting actress - and as she clutched the golden Oscar, she burst into tears. "What am I going to do with it?" She sobbed, "Oh, I don't know, I don't know. I want my husband." Whereupon she swooned into the arms of radio producer Fletcher Markle, who, I am happy to say is her husband.

~~Well, I hope I succeeded in telling all this in an intensely serious, ^{or} ~~if~~ even reverential way.~~
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FOLLOW OSCAR

The latest is the disclosure of one false note in the Academy Award festivities. Olivia De Havilland won a prize. But her sister, the equally beautiful actress Joan Fontaine, was not there. Today Joan said: "I am terribly glad she got it, of course. But as for going to watch it myself -- oh no.

There is a long time feud between the two sisters both of whom have won Academy Awards. Could it be they are jealous over - Oscar?

AUSTRALIAN FLOOD

If you, a resident of the State of Washington, should live in Walla Walla, this will console you. It's a dispatch from Australia, and

tells about the town of Wagga Wagga. The news ^{tells}

a big flood - people fleeing their homes
~~nothing much merely a flood~~ ^{Wagga Wagga} as a river nearly

overflowed its banks. The river has a good name

too - the Murrumbidgee. That's the stream which

has the Burrinjuck dam.

Over here, there are plenty of places with funny Indian names, while in Australia the names derived from the primitive aborigines are equally

peculiar. Any way, the dispatch says that ~~at~~ the Burrinjuck Dam, on the Murrumbidgee River, ^{is in danger because} there's

a flood at Wagga Wagga. Which should please the folks ~~at~~ Walla Walla.

FOLLOW AUSTRALIAN FLOOD

Just as a matter of names permit me to announce the birth of a child to the Queen of the Caliph of Morocco. Tonight in the ancient city of Tetuan, there was dancing in the streets, and ~~six~~ salvos of ~~one~~ cannon were fired from the fortress of Alcazaba. But the real music of words is in the name of the Queen of the Caliph. She is called Lal-La-Fatima. Yes, Arabic is a melodious language - Lal-La-Fatima.

ROLLING PIN

In Pittsburgh - it finally happened, the incredible reversal. A man hit his wife on the head with a rollin' pin. ~~So let's consult~~ Judge Michael Musanno, as he sentenced Preston Williams to four months in the county workhouse,)

~~His Honor~~ said "from time immemorial cartoonists have portrayed the henpecked husband fleeing from irate housewife, rollin' pin armed.

"You are trying to break down humorous tradition and a legend of comedy. It is incredible that a husband should hit his wife with a rolling pin. This is revolutionary, and cannot be tolerated."

So said His Honor.

ROBERT FROST

The premier American poet, Robert Frost, is celebrating his seventy-fifth birthday with sundry reflections on contemporary life - and he has a word for it. In fact, he has two words - and they have the right rhythm. Contemplating such modern marvels as jukebox and cowboy thrillers, Robert Frost calls them -- vapidities and insipidities. Silly, ~~sound~~, ~~the~~ The words fit the subject.

In his home at Cambridge, Massachusetts, the lyricist of New England says that, though he has been writing verse for many many years, it still ~~makes him~~ embarrassed ~~him~~ to be called a poet. Makes him feel silly to say - "I'm a poet." Like one of those vapidities or insipidities.

Today he said: "On my income tax report, I call myself a teacher. But next year I'm going to put down - 'resigned'. When they ask me - 'resigned from what?' I'll say - 'resigned to everything'."

Yes, there's more truth than poetry in that,

but such is life. Or am I going in for those

vapidities and insipidities? ^{Nelson?} ~~What you think~~

~~and~~

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