

W. L. Snodgrass, R. G. Thursday, June 5th, 1947

A brief announcement from the State Department tonight:- G. S. Messersmith has resigned as American Ambassador to Argentina.

Yesterday Spruille Braden resigned as Assistant Secretary of State. Braden having been the Chief opponent in the State Department ~~in~~ of the present Argentine government and its alleged fascist policy. Braden quit because President Truman had just decided that Argentina was, after all, a good neighbor - or good enough to share in the benefits of other good ~~with~~ neighbors.

George Messersmith, our Ambassador to ~~the~~ Buenos Aires, has been contending all along that we could and should come to terms with Argentina's strong-man Juan Peron. And Messersmith won out. At least his point of view prevailed. Yesterday Braden Resigned. But today Messersmith steps out. ^{It seems} ~~Our~~ [^] Our new American policy toward Argentina is calling for new men to run it tonight.

ARMY

One action of the House of Representatives today shows how the public temper has been changed by the events leading up to the last war. You may recall that after the first World War, and its expenses, which seemed heavy then but ~~seem~~ trivial now, our military ~~establishment~~ establishment was cut ^{way down,} ~~to the bone.~~ But now we seem to have learned the lesson driven home when the attack on Pearl Harbor found Uncle Sam virtually ~~and~~ defenseless. ^{Ⓜ This was indicated today by} ~~The event at the Capitol which showed that~~ ^{was} the roar of approval in the House for a bill appropriating more than five-and-a quarter billions for the Army and the Air Forces. The exact figure, ~~was~~ five billion, two hundred-and-eighty-million, nine-hundred-and-eighty-two-thousand, four-hundred-and-eighty-three dollars. ~~It is~~ ~~some~~ Four hundred and thirty-five million ~~dollars,~~ less than what the War Department and ^{the} President ^{asked,} ~~asked~~ ^{had asked.} [Ⓜ] At the last moment, the Representatives restored one item they had cut out, a matter of ~~six~~ forty millions for aircraft, after hearing a warning from

War Secretary Patterson, and a personal plea from General "Touhy" Spaatz.

The bill will now go to the Senate. For one thing it will reduce the strength of the Army by some twenty thousand officers.

The House has already passed the Navy bill, cutting ten percent off what the President had asked.

MARSHALL

Uncle Sam although willing to help Europe get back on its feet will not carry the load alone. Other countries must help. But, we will have to loosen up the national pocketbook and help folks on the other side of the Atlantic. They are going to need food and other essential products, ~~part~~ principally from us, for the next three or four years -- far more of it than they will be able to pay for. And if we don't help, says State Secretary Marshall, there will be grave economic, social and political depreciation in Europe.

The Secretary chose the occasion of Commencement at Harvard for this statement on foreign policy. But he didn't indicate how much our government proposes to spend for foreign relief. Washington reports that the State Department is at work on a long range program to cover the entire globe - at a probably cost of five billion dollars a year for the next three or four years.

General Marshall made it clear that no help will go to any of the Soviet countries. He

put it this way: "Any government which maneuvers to block the recovery of other countries, can't expect help from us." And he added: "Governments, parties or groups which seek to perpetuate human misery, to profit therefrom, politically or otherwise, will encounter the opposition of the United States."

The White House announced today that the job of supervising Uncle Sam's help to the Greeks would be in the hands of Dwight Griswold, ^{able} former Republican Governor of Nebraska.

HUNGARY

President Truman spoke his mind on the Communists in Hungary today - and did it in stronger language than he has ever used since he assumed the office of President. Language, in fact, beyond the bounds of diplomatic usage. At his Press Conference today he described the Red Coup as an outrage, a terrible outrage.

And he left no doubt in the minds of his hearers that our government intends to take steps in retaliation. Although he gave no hint as to what form these steps would take. But, there is a report in Washington that they will include a strong protest to the Soviet Government, also economic measures to hamper the Red Rēgime at Budapest, and help for the Hungarian Parties opposed to Communism.

The State Department it is assumed, will refuse to recognize the Reds at Budapest.

Ferenz Nagy, deposed Premier of Hungary, now in exile in Switzerland, will soon take refuge in the United States. So says his son, who is an attache

of the Hungarian Legation at Washington, one of the many who have rejected the new Communist government.

The State Department announces that exiles from Hungary will be welcome in the U.S.A. and will have official protection. Which may mean a provisional government, with headquarters over here.

The upheaval in Hungary has aroused both Republican and Democratic leaders in the Senate to the necessity of ratifying the treaties, with not only Hungary but also Italy, Bulgaria and Rumania.

Opponents of the treaties fought to the end - but, they didn't have a chance. Senator

~~Fulbright of Arkansas wanted to hold them up until next January - all of which aroused the wrath of Senator Vandenberg, now top Republican on Foreign Affairs. Senator Fulbright's resolution was voted down sixty-seven to twenty-two.~~

The hottest ~~opposition~~ opposition was against the Italian treaty, which the Italians themselves and the Americans of Italian origin over here, have

HUNGARY - 3

protested bitterly as being unfair, ~~even oppressive.~~

But only ten Senators voted against it - with
seventy-nine in favor. The other treaties were passed
by overwhelming majorities.

PALESTINE

(The White House today made public the gist of the British Government's protest against certain activities in the U.S.A. for financing the Jewish Underground. The British Ambassador objecting in particular to advertisements in newspapers written by author and playwright Ben Hecht. One an open letter in which Hecht said that every time the Stern Gand or the Argun blew up a British arsenal, prison, or train, or robbed a British Bank, every time they let go with their guns and bombs at the British, the Jews of America make a little holiday in their hearts.) Those were Ben Hecht's exact words: "The Jews of America make a little holiday in their hearts."

President Truman, today issued a formal statement urging every citizen, every resident of the United States, to refrain, meticulously, from any such activities in the future. He reminds us that the general assembly of the United Nations called upon all governments and all peoples not to use threats, force

----->

or any other action which might create an atmosphere unfavorable to the settlement of the Palestine question.

^{Pres.} Truman pointed ^S out that the search for a fair and workable solution ^{of the Palestine problem is} ~~was~~ one of the most difficult jobs facing the United Nations. And, ~~he pointed out further~~ that it ~~was~~ ^{is} in the interest of the United States as well as the United Nations, that such efforts be successful. ^{That} ~~steps~~ calculated to inflame passions, to undermine law and order or promote violence in Palestine, are certain to hinder, if not make impossible, any early ~~settlement~~ settlement of the Palestine problem.

So Mr. Truman ~~pleads~~ ^{all} pleads that such activities be ~~at least~~ suspended in the interest of humanity.

BOMBS

In England three more of those mysterious letter bombs were received today. One by Foreign Minister Ernest Bevin, and one by his predecessor, Anthony Eden. All three coming from Italy.

Bevin never even saw the one addressed to him. A secretary grabbed it and rushed it to Scotland Yard. But Anthony Eden had a narrow squeak. He carried his in his brief case for a whole day, even took it to the House of Commons. If he hadn't been in a rush at the time it was delivered, he would have opened it. He told Scotland Yard that it did not look very important; so he hadn't bothered with it, and then forgot all about it.

So far eleven heads of the British government have received ~~them~~ the letter-bombs. The one intended for Sir Arthur Greenwood went to another Greenwood, manager of a laundry, who was quite annoyed. Said he: "Why should I get Arthur Greenwood's bombs. I'm not a politician, and I don't even know him."

Then he added a characteristic British remark. Said he: "I take a very dim view of this business of taking risks for a bally Cabinet Minister!"

TAFT

~~President~~^{Mr.} Truman came out with a blistering

attack on Senator ~~Bob~~ Taft today. At his Press Conference

~~the President read a~~
~~to read properly~~¹ statement, ~~some~~ twelve hundred words
long, ~~in which he~~ ^{ing} accused the Ohio Senator of going back
[^] to the old idea of boom or bust, which he described as
a defeatist economic philosophy, ~~that results inevitably~~
~~in recession or depression.~~

The ~~&~~ Taft criticisms of the Truman program to
cut prices are both false and dangerous, said the ~~President.~~
~~President.~~

~~He added that in the long run the Taft ideas~~
~~would destroy both prosperity and profits. He said the~~

~~adding that the~~
[^] Taft argument is that the only way to bring down prices is
to reduce the demand for goods.)

~~But,~~^{that} [^] if wages are reduced, savings exhausted,
and unemployment sets in, then demand will fall and

prices will drop. ^{So} [^] said Mr. Truman, ~~he said~~ ^{adding that} [^] he supposed
Senator Taft would call that "adjustment", but he, the
President, would call it a tragic recession, or depression.

All this in reply to a recent interview with

FRAUD

The row over the primary election in President Truman's home county became hotter today. J. Edgar Hoover told a subcommittee of the Senate that the F.B.I. was making a full investigation of the vote frauds in that primary, which resulted in the purging of Representative ~~Roger~~ Slaughter at the President's request. ^{J. Edgar} Hoover told the Senators that the investigation his Bureau had made last fall, was only preliminary; ~~but~~ ^{that} his agents are now at it in earnest. ~~However, they are~~ ^{But - are} being seriously handicapped by not having the ballots which ~~were~~ ^{- stolen} stolen, evidently by professional safe-crackers, last week.

~~XXXXXX~~ United States Attorney General Tom Clark also appeared before the Committee. He denied, innuendoes that the Government was trying to whitewash the Jackson County, Missouri, scandals.

Mr. Truman himself announced that the investigation should be ~~is~~ carried out to the bitter end, no matter who is hurt. No body, he declares, wants vote

frauds, and he added that irregularities of that sort are among the worst things that can happen in a democracy.

LOVE

~~There was a tussle~~ ^{TP} on the floor of the Senate today, ~~and~~ ^{was:} the issue ^{of} true love. Or at least, marriage. It concerned the weddings of members of the graduating class at Annapolis. And by a quirk of Legislative rules, those seven-hundred-and-seventy-five Democratic postmasters were also involved. It's a difficult story to tell briefly, but here goes ^{I'll try it!} -

By accident ~~■~~ the names of twenty-five members of the graduating ^{class at Annapolis} ~~Midshipmen~~ were left off the list ~~that~~ the Senate confirmed several weeks ago. That was tough on the twenty-five, because if they were not confirmed today, they could not graduate tomorrow. And if they ~~couldn't~~ ^{couldn't} graduate tomorrow, some ~~of them~~ couldn't attend their own weddings ~~as planned for~~ ^{on} Saturday. There were the brides with their orange blossoms, ^{their} organdy and ~~satins~~ ^{and} everything, facing the ~~evil~~ ^{sad} prospect of no grooms, since a midshipman may not marry, although an ensign may.

The cupid of this occasion was Senator Chan

→ Gurney of South Dakota, Chairman of the Armed Services Committee, ^{who} ~~He~~ quickly rushed those twenty-five names through his committee and then over to get action by the ~~whole~~ Senate. ~~There he ran into a snag.~~ ^{But,} Such confirmations have to be done in Executive Session, and if the Senate went into Executive Session, ^{then} the first order of business would ^{have} ^{to} be the fate of fifty of those seven-hundred-and-seventy-five postmasters. Gurney asked the Senate to go into Executive Session just long enough to confirm the Midshipmen. Senator ~~Arthur~~ George of Georgia, ~~Rose,~~ said he was sorry he ^d ~~would~~ have to object, unless the Senate went all the way into Executive Session.

"All right," said Gurney, "Let's do that."

Then up ~~R~~ rose Senator Taft with the same words, "I object."

Gurney turned a yearning look at Arthur Vandenberg, President of the Senate, asking him to intercede. Vandenberg was stumped. Taft was sympathetic

but firm, and so was George. So finally Gurney took a chance. He asked the Senate to go all the way - go into Executive session. That was done, the Midshipmen were confirmed; and to everybody's relief, love found a way - in the United States Senate.

BREACH

In a breach of promise trial at St. Louis today, the defendant was a great grandfather, eighty-six years old. Mrs. Marie Brady of St. Louis is demanding twenty-five thousand dollars from Mr. Fred Neustadt because, said she, he declined to lead her to the altar.

Mr. Neustadt, ^{formerly} ~~used to be~~ a farmer, evidently a good one because he retired with plenty of what ~~my~~ ~~late friend~~ Damon Runyon ~~used to~~ ^{call} "potatoes," ~~He~~ took it all in good part and ^{seemed} ~~was~~ highly amused by the proceedings. But not sufficiently amused to be willing to give Mrs. Brady either twenty-five thousand dollars or, ~~to~~ marry her. He said he had never conducted any romance with Mrs. Brady, who herself had four children. But ^{that} she, on the contrary, had proposed to him several times. ^{He said he} ~~He~~ fended her off, ~~said he~~, on the grounds that he was too old, ~~and~~. Nevertheless, he never could get her to stop talking about marriage. He said that all he had ever done for Mrs. Brady was to take her to a movie once and give some ^{cash} ~~cad~~ to her children, ~~as he~~

~~did to other children in the neighborhood.~~

A Mrs. Baker, a friend of Mrs. Brady's, told the court that she had once said to Mrs. Brady she wished she had some of ^{that} ~~his~~ money so ~~that~~ her ~~xxxx~~ husband wouldn't have to leave St. Louis to get work. Whereupon Mrs. Brady replied: "There's ways and means of doing that," Then she explained: "He's only got one leg, but I'm going to pull it." So said the witness.

And what do you say, Nelson?

Senator Taft, in which the Ohio Solon said that the President and the Administration apparently were abandoning the idea of keeping prices down in favor of heavy spending abroad that will keep them up. All of which needled and aroused Mr. Truman. So today he defended his price policy and praised industries that have raised wages without increasing prices. He also quoted some figures tending to back up his claim that the trend towards extraordinary price increases has been checked with prices on the whole declining moderately, except on food.