

COMMONS L.T. R.G. Tues. Feb. 26 - '52.

Late word from London. The House of Commons has just defeated <sup>^</sup>by a vote of three-hundred and eighteen to two-hundred-and-eighty-five, <sup>^</sup>a motion of personal censure against Prime Minister Winston Churchill. The motion was introduced by the Labor Party leaders, in protest against Prime Minister Churchill's pledges <sup>our</sup>in <sup>^</sup>Congress, that Britain would take joint, limited action "outside Korea" if the Communists make heavy air attacks on U.N. forces from Chinese bases.

The House of Commons was the scene of fiery debate as ~~today, when~~ Prime Minister Churchill reiterated his pledge, made in Congress, that Britain's action will be "prompt, resolute and effective," if the Reds make and then break a truce in Korea. ~~Sitting in the gallery of the House during the uproar was the Duke of Edinburgh.~~ "I believe," said Churchill, "we are, <sup>^</sup>on both sides of the Atlantic, <sup>^</sup>convinced that nothing could be more foolish than for the armies of the United States or the United Nations, to be engulfed in the vast areas of China - and also that few adventures could be less useful or

fruitful than for Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek to plunge  
onto the mainland." On that basis, Churchill wins a victory  
in the Commons.

## ADD COMMONS

Churchill also told the Commons that the Labor Government had made an experimental atom bomb - to be tested in Australia later this year. He revealed that Britain now had a plant capable of turning out atomic bombs regularly and said that this disclosure in Washington had "created quite a new atmosphere about the exchange of atomic information with the United States."

## **KOREA**

Winter holds Korea in its grip with a vengeance. All planes are grounded by a blizzard, that has swept down from Manchuria - paralyzing everything.

Tokyo headquarters says the Communists are still stalling. In a broadcast over Tokyo Radio, the U N accused the Chinese and North Koreans of delaying the talks either to hide preparations for a spring offensive, or to put off the armistice until the traditional Communist holiday, on May first.

At today's meetings, the Reds flatly rejected the Allied plan for withdrawing Norway and Russia from the neutral inspection team.



One of the great war stories comes from Korea today. All because James Michener - was hooked. The author of "South Pacific" was trapped. Sending news accounts to the United Press, he was interviewing Felix Bertanga, and Felix handed him - a dare.

Bertanga, who hails from Andover, New Hampshire, is a night fighter pilot. He gave Michener a grim story about those dare-devils in the darkness, and concluded by saying: "You wouldn't dare to take a night flight, would you?"

So they took off from the carrier Essex - were hurled off by catapult. Michener writes: "There's nothing like a night catapult launching. You're whipped forward at enormous speed, shot out into perfect darkness, dropped perilously low over the ocean that you can't see, then shoved upward into the sky. It's an amazing sensation."

They flew up the coast, and then came the

mad fantastic. "With a burst of pure luck," writes the author of South Pacific, "Felix opened up what was to be one of the most sensational night flights in history. He thought he saw a light in what could have been a very large building. He leveled off for a terrific bomb run, dropped to a hundred and fifty feet, and let go. What happened next," Michener goes on, "is difficult to describe - for Felix had hit a big munitions plant. There was a gigantic explosion, and the entire countryside was a blaze of light. Pillars of fire two or three hundred feet high probed into the pitch black. What they illuminated was a night fighter's dream."

Michener tells how Felix had a wingman - Red Stilwell of Independence, Missouri. And Red saw that night fighter's dream. Two strings of railroad freight cars, pulled by two locomotives - running at top speed to a tunnel. Along the Communist lifeline, trains of munitions move by night, and hide in tunnels

by day - for safety from American air attack. So there, in the brilliant light of the <sup>(exploding)</sup>~~flashing~~ munitions factory, were two long freight trains.

"The next half hour," says Michener, "was amazing. With a terrific blast, Red cut the track leading to the tunnel. With another, Felix knocked some cars off the rear end of the second train - and the valuable locomotives were trapped.

"Now we hit them from every angle," continues the author of "South Pacific." "Out of absolute darkness, Felix and Red combed those trains from end to end. One big bomb caught a carload of ammunition."

"The valley," he says, "was a ghostly inferno, with four separate big fires, topped by the factory itself - which kept burning furiously."

So that was how the author of "South Pacific" trapped himself into a night fighter flight, which turned out to be - the mad fantastic.

## INDO-CHINA

In Paris, there is a report that French troops may have to abandon northern Indo-China to the Reds, following the serious defeats of the past few days. This is unofficial; but Quai D'Orsay spokesmen admit that the situation around Hanoi doesn't look good at all.

Furthermore there is word from Indo-China that the French may be willing to negotiate with the rebels. In Saigon, the French Minister for Indo-China said that the French "cannot force a decision by launching a great offensive," Why? "Because there is no front." He says the end of the Indo-Chinese War depends on a political rather than military, solution.



## GUATEMALA

Word from Washington is that top officials of the government are worried about - Guatemala. In Congress, there have been warnings that the Communists are taking control of that ~~South~~ <sup>(Central)</sup> American republic. Guatemala called - "a full fledged Soviet beachhead in the Western Hemisphere."

This draws an angry denial from the Guatemalan envoy in Washington, who states: "There are Communists in Guatemala as in other countries of the free world, but they do not control the government."

One angle is - the United Fruit Company. We hear that moves are being made, under Red influence, to confiscate the property of that huge corporation, which has played so large a part in the history of Central America, the banana republics. United Fruit - a tempting target for Communist agitation.

The word in Washington is that the Guatemalan President, Jacobo Arbenz, is not considered a Red - but that he has around him a lot of Communists and fellow travelers, holding key positions in his government. One diplomatic

observer is quoted as saying: "Guatemala is unquestionably the worst case of Communist infiltration in Latin America."

All this comes about as a result of a recent election, with a Communist bid for power, directed by Moscow. Soviet interest in that ~~country~~ Central American Republic is obvious - down there in the general area of the Panama Canal. What would for Stalin be sweeter, than to create a Suez Canal situation at Panama?

**McGRATH**

Late word from Washington - the House

Judiciary Sub-Committee is to call Attorney General

J. Howard McGrath to explain the running of his office  
and "the entire Caudle affair" - as soon as possible."

## AIRPORTS

The investigation into the problem of airports is looking forward to an era of - jet airliners. Which raises a whole series of new questions. In Washington today, the newsmen had a conference with Lieutenant-General James H. Doolittle, head of the Special Commission appointed by the President - after that last air disaster in Elizabeth, New Jersey, <sup>that</sup> caused the closing of the great Newark airport.

The reporters were told that flying field conditions all over the country are being inspected. To which Jimmy Doolittle added - that an age of jet is being taken into consideration. Not only in the matter of speed, but also in that of noise - the whistling, reverberating roar of jet engines.



## CORONATION

Britain has made its first move toward the coronation of Queen Elizabeth the Second - an impressive move. Today in the House of Commons, Prime Minister Winston Churchill stated that the Stone of Scone has been put back in its old place - in the royal throne, <sup>at</sup> Westminster Abbey. That renowned slab of rock has been kept hidden for safety - ever since it was recovered in Scotland, following that famous theft of the Stone of Scone on Christmas Day, Nineteen Fifty.

The Churchill announcement caused an immediate uproar in the House of Commons - with Scottish M.P's protesting that Scotland was not consulted about the disposition of that historic seat of Scottish kings of old. They declared that the Stone of Scone should be kept in Edinburgh, except for actual coronation ceremonies - when it might be taken to London.

But Churchill insisted that most of the people of Scotland would approve of his action - in placing the Stone of Scone back in the British throne, as a move toward the coronation of Her Young Majesty.

The latest word in London is now - that the coronation will probably be held next year, in May, Nineteen Fifty-three. There has been talk of late this summer, but court officials point to the long and elaborate preparations that must be made.

## **BANKER**

At Parkersburg, West Virginia, the Vice-President of a bank says he embezzled fifty thousand dollars - because of "starvation wages." Samuel Swiger disappeared, after a bank audit showed a lot of money missing. Now, surrendering to the F.B.I., he says: "I lay the reason to starvation wages through my twenty-five years in the banking business. That," he adds, "I want to stress, because I don't want other men to get into the same profession." That's his advice - don't be a banker.

He says he worked for many years at eighty-five dollars a month - then, ten years ago, was raised to a hundred a month. As the Vice-President of the bank, he got a better salary, but adds: "Under present conditions it just won't support an ordinary family." Sounds odd - the Vice-President of a bank not making as much as ordinary folks. Maybe the new Henry Fonda show - Point of No Return is not so far wrong in emphacizing this same idea.

But what was this Banker's salary, exactly?

The President of the bank that was embezzled answers:

"Around two hundred and fifty dollars a month - a very liberal wage in this community," said he.



Today's account of detective work up in the sky presents a picture of - contrast. In the airplane arrest, there was bungling and blundering on one side. On the other - a smart ~~and~~ clever job.

John Richard Bayless, an ex-convict who once tried to escape from Alcatraz - was about as clumsy and fumbling a bank robber as you can imagine. He held up the Bank of America in Hollywood, and got nineteen thousand dollars - fleeing in a stolen automobile. Then he abandoned the car, leaving in it a bank book - marked with his name, John Richard Bayless. This was near an airport, and the police inquired there - and found Bayless to be a passenger on an airliner, flying east. He had made the plane reservation - under his own right name.

So they got in radio touch with the plane, and asked the pilot to get a description of the clothes Bayless was wearing, and radio this to LaGuardia Airport, so that agents of the F.B.I., waiting there, would be able to pick out the bank robber. The pilot enlisted Stewardess Joyce Eileen Starr,

who went to have a look. ~~But~~ She found ~~that~~ Bayless was asleep - covered with a blanket. So she couldn't tell about his clothes. But they got around that - the pilot flashing a light signal for passengers to fasten their safety belts for landing, although they were still quite a way from LaGuardia Field. ~~So~~ The passengers put on their safety belts, and the stewardess relates: "Bayless pushed away the blanket, and I was able to get a description of his clothing." That was radioed on. And, when the plane landed - there was an F.B.I. man dressed as an airport mechanic. He made the arrest.

Bayless's luggage was marked conspicuously with his initials, and he had in his possession the nineteen thousand dollars taken from the bank - including specially marked bills that the Bank of America in Hollywood had prepared - to be handed to robbers only. Then, in a suitcase, they found a book of cooking recipes. This Bayless had compiled - while working in the kitchen at Alcatraz. Still carrying the recipes. The first one ~~on the list was~~ for - jelly roll. The last - for

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lady fingers. Odd items of detail, <sup>Nelson</sup> - in the story of detective  
work high in the sky. — Jelly roll — and lady  
fingers!