

LEAD

Thurs Apr. 3rd 1952. L.T. - P.C.

Those bang-bang headlines from Washington today make as lively a story of political drama as we've had in a long time. (Morris-McGrath, in a double knockout. The House Cleaner and the Attorney General,) and the only words for it are -- bang-bang!

The story begins in a government office, where there was a gathering at the news ticker today. They were watching optimistically for - the glad tidings. (House Cleaner Newbold Morris and his staff expecting a headline: Attorney General McGrath - fired.) They considered that a sure thing.

Well, you couldn't blame them. Press and radio this morning were predicting that the President would oust McGrath. You couldn't blame press and radio either - after what had gone on.

It had been obvious that the situation was impossible - after the Attorney General told a Congressional Committee that he might not answer the financial questionnaire sent by House Cleaner Morris to government officials. Including his

own boss - McGrath. Which was one measure he was taking in the drive against corruption in government - the house-cleaning.

The Attorney General stated further - that, if he had to do it all over again, he'd refuse to appoint Newbold Morris as a special assistant in the Department of Justice. With a mix-up like that - somebody had to go.

The predictions were - McGrath. It seemed to be a sure thing, (after what reporters noted yesterday. The Attorney General in conference at the White House, and, when he came out, he looked grim. Later, the ^{President} ~~head of the government~~ and his Cabinet ~~were~~ at the Washington airport - ~~from~~ ~~reception~~ ~~reception~~ ~~reception~~ ~~committee~~ to meet Queen Juliana, ~~of the Netherlands~~ where - the newsmen saw what looked like a heated Truman-McGrath conversation. The President and Attorney General talking without a smile - gesticulating as if in hot argument. Which confirmed the general impression, and newspapers came out with headlines - that, in the feud with Newbold Morris, McGrath was on his way out.) Hence, the

party at the news ticker today, the House Cleaner and his aides just waiting for the dispatch. Which, in due time, came along - the news ticker rapping it out. (But - painful surprise! It was the opposite. The ticker said - ~~President fired~~ fired! Newbold Morris There seemed to be some mistake in the names, but there wasn't. Somebody was ousted - and it wasn't McGrath.

~~So that was how Newbold Morris learned about it today~~
~~the news out before he ever got~~ The official notification ~~that~~ came shortly afterward - (and you may be interested to know how a top official gets fired. ~~The notification was a~~ A letter from Attorney General McGrath, Reading: "Sir - please be informed that your appointment ~~was made~~ as a special assistant to the Attorney General is hereby terminated, and your services as an employee of the Department of Justice shall cease at the close of business today." Just like that - no reason given.)

Later, a reporter asked Morris - did he intend to

reply to the McGrath letter, "as a matter of courtesy."

Morris looked around and asked, "as a matter of WHAT?"

So that ends one of the oddest episodes that government of ours has produced in a long time. Actually, the House

Cleaner got into trouble with just about everybody. Including

Congress - (where there's a large element that ^{wanted} ~~would like~~ to

scalp McGrath. But Newbold Morris appeared before a ~~Congressional~~

Congressional Committee, ^{that was and talked} ~~looking into some Chinese tanker~~

~~deals, in which his ^{own} law firm was involved. And he bawled the~~

~~Senators out to a fare thee well, talking~~ about their

"diseased minds" and - "character assassinations."

So, the reaction in Congress was no wailing or gnashing of teeth because of the ouster of Morris. Administration

opponents were in a quandary - assailing both Truman and

McGrath, but shedding no tears over the ⁱⁿ House Cleaner.) ~~He~~

He /sure had a brief term, the New York Republican leader, who took

over the campaign against corruption in ^{the Democratic} government. Some said

it would be - a thankless task. ~~and~~, It sure was!

But that was only Act One., - the first knockout.

Act Two came (at a White House news conference, ~~where~~ the reporters, of course, were full of questions about the firing of the House Cleaner. But the President, blocking questions, remarked in an off-hand way - that McGrath was out. The

Attorney General had resigned. ^(said) H.S.T. ~~_____~~ that, in a way,

he too

~~he~~ was like Newbold Morris. The first he knew about the

firing of the House Cleaner, was when ^{on a news ticker.} he saw it ~~_____~~

Then, shortly afterward, the Attorney General handed in his

resignation. So that was the double action (McGrath fired

Morris! and then resigned.) *It seems actually that the President fired McGrath.*

The President added that he has named Judge J.P.

McGranery of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania - to be the

new Attorney General.) Moreover, ~~M~~ Judge Mc Granery will take

over the campaign against corruption in government, making him-

the new House Cleaner. So he succeeds both McGrath and

Morris - ^{two} ~~these~~ heroes of the ^{is} ~~the~~ double knockout.

STRIKE

A telephone strike now threatens - in addition to the telegraph walkout already on. Today, in Detroit, the C.I.O.

Telephone
Union held a meeting to discuss wage demands and lay plans for a possible strike on April Seventh, four days from now.

In New York, the talks between the steel industry and the Union collapsed today - and a strike next Wednesday seems inevitable. Unless - President Truman is able to head it off by seizing the steel mills, a move which industry will fight in court. Or - by invoking the injunction provisions of the Taft-Hartley Law.

JULIANA

There was an embarrassing moment, today, when Queen Juliana of the Netherlands made her appearance before Congress. All - pointing to an awkward angle, when the ruling sovereign is a ^(Queen.) ~~man~~ Her husband - a mere Prince consort. He tags along behind, and may get lost in the crowd - as happened today.

Her Majesty received a standing ovation from the joint session, when she entered. Prince Bernhard, trailing along, wasn't recognized; ~~at all. He didn't get a sign,~~ until he had taken ~~his~~ his seat. Then ~~he was recognized~~ and the members of Congress had to get up all over again, ~~and give him a hand.~~ The Prince also got up - to receive the applause. Yes, embarrassing - but it can happen, when wifie is the sovereign, and hubby is one of her subjects.

Juliana, addressing Congress, spoke her gratitude for American aid given to the Netherlands. She also made it clear that she thinks it would be wise for this country to give more aid to Europe. In the form of that bill for seven billion, nine hundred million dollars.

CRASH

A Lieutenant Colonel of the Air Force lost his life today in the crash of a B-29 in Kansas. Or rather - he gave his life. The Superfortress was disabled, with twelve aboard. The pilot ordered - bail out. ^{But} the senior officer aboard was Colonel Thomas Roberts, of Woodside, Long Island - an instructor. He out-ranked the pilot, and ordered him to bail out - the Lieutenant Colonel, himself, taking the controls. They ~~they~~ all came down safely - except one, who bailed out too late, ^{and} ~~and~~ the Lieutenant Colonel, who stuck to the plane too long. Senior officer, with all the privileges - including that of sacrificing himself.

MOSCOW

Soviet Russia has broken diplomatic relations with - Cuba. That sort of thing would sound serious if the nation of the West were a major power, Cuba not so important. But it's interesting.

Actually the Soviet Ambassador to Washington, Panyunskin, has also been Minister to Cuba. But last week two Soviet Couriers tried to land in Cuba - and turned back because the Cuban authorities insisted on inspecting their baggage. Moscow protests, and today Soviet-Cuban relations were broken.

TUNISIA

The situation in Tunisia is reported the more dangerous - because of "palace intrigues." Reminding us that the Bey of Tunis has the kind of court we call oriental, and palace intrigues are a favorite feature in Eastern legend.

The other night we heard how ^(that) ~~the~~ nominal sovereign, Sidi Mohammed Al-Amin Pasha, gave in - after the French arrested the Nationalist Premier, and threatened to depose the Bey himself. He appointed a moderate Premier - who, however, has trouble forming a ministry. Two politicians who had accepted, have now backed out - in fear of terrorism. Also - because of palace intrigues.

The palace is at Carthage. There, near the ruins of that city so famous in the days of old, the Bey has his summer residence - into which he moved today. So that's the scene of intrigues, which the ancient Carthaginians would have understood with ease.

The Bey of Tunis - beset ^{by} ~~by~~ scheming in his

family. His eldest son, Prince Chedli, and his daughter, Princess Zakia - both taking a hand in the ~~the~~ affair of the Ministry. Prince Chedli tied in with Nationalists, hostile to France. And - trying to get some of his Nationalist associates into the new Cabinet.

Princess Zakia merely wants to get her husband, Mohammed Ben Salem, into the Ministry. Sounds familiar even in these United States - wifie pushing the interests of hubby. But the husband of Princess Zakia was a member of the Nationalist Cabinet ousted by the French last week, when they arrested the Tunisian Premier. So he won't be acceptable to France. But what does that matter to a Princess who wants her husband to be a Minister of the government?

All in an international situation - terrorism mixed with palace intrigue.

KOREAN

At Brandon, Mississippi, today, the Howard family received an adopted son. A South Korean, Kyun Kui Lee, who takes the place of Corporal Wayne Howard, until the Corporal comes home from the warfront.

Some while ago, Wayne Howard, in a letter to his parents, told of a friend of his - in the South Korean Army. Who had lost a leg, in battle against the Reds. The Corporal happened to remark that Kyun Kui Lee wanted to become a doctor, and dreamed of studying medicine in the United States.

Wayne Howard, Sr., got busy about that, and so did the Lions Club at Brandon. Result, Kyun Kui Lee arrived at the Mississippi town today. All he had was the clothing he wore, Army fatigues. And - an exquisitely painted Korean vase, a present for Mrs. Howard.

So now the Corporal's Korean comrade becomes a medical student, and Howard, Sr., says: "He's going to be our son, until Wayne comes home."

SPEAKER OF THE YEAR

Dr. Wayne C. Eubank, President of the University of New Mexico, sends me a wire from Albuquerque. As spokesman for Tau Kappa Alpha, the national oratorical fraternity, he says the following are to receive the Speaker of the Year Award: In the field of national affairs, Secretary of State Dean Acheson; in the field of religion, Dr. Lewis Hadley, a Presbyterian Minister in Hollywood; business and commerce, Former Price Administrator Mike DiSalle, and in the educational world, Dr. William Birgance of Wabash College. American orators today crowned with laurel.

Do you think it would be difficult to pick Miss America in a Beauty Contest at Atlantic City? Surely that's child's play compared with selecting a Speaker of the Year. Personally my choice would be H.V. Kaltenborn. I understand he has an anniversary today. Just thirty years ago H.V. delivered his first broadcast. Of course we all do our first broadcasting

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when we are babies. But H.V. wasn't exactly a babe in arms thirty years ago. Infact, Nelson I can't picture H.V. Kaltenborn ever having been a baby. The indestructibe, tireless, never-at-a-loss for a word - Hans V Kaltenborn just back from Africa and still going strong. I hope I can help him celebrate his Fiftieth anniversary on the air.