

BULGARIA P.J. - P. & H. Thursday, Feb. 10, 1949. Reno, Nev.

From Bulgaria the same ^{kind} ~~know~~ of news that we have been having from Hungary - in the trial of Cardinal Mindszenty. But in Bulgaria it is a case of Protestant, not Catholic. ^P The Red government announces that it is bringing to trial fifteen leading ministers of the United Evangelical Church -- which includes Congregational, Baptist and ~~Methodist~~ Methodist. The charges the Bulgarian Communists are bringing against them sound like a duplicate of the accusations against the Hungarian Cardinal -- plotting against the Red regime, black marketing, and espionage on behalf of Americans and British. ^P Their trial is scheduled for the end of this month when apparently, we will have the Cardinal Mindszenty case all over again, but Protestant this time.

The Communists versus Christianity.

In Washington, meanwhile, President Truman issued an angry denunciation of the conviction of the Hungarian ecclesiastic, calling it -- infamous. He said the State Department is ~~xxx~~ studying the

question of whether or not the conviction violates the clause in the Hungarian peace treaty guaranteeing religious freedom -- But the United States government is not planning to break off diplomatic relations with Hungary.

LOYALTY

A ~~late~~ dispatch from Washington states that a loyalty board has cleared William Remington, the employee of the Department of Commerce, who was accused by Elizabeth Bentley. In the espionage sensations of last summer, the former woman Communist who admitted having been a Soviet agent testified that Remington had been connected with Red spy work. But now he is cleared by the Presidential loyalty review board -- found not guilty.

TRUMAN

President Truman is in a battle with democratic leaders in Congress over tax increases.

The President stated today that income taxes must be boosted at once, in accordance with the presidential demand of Four billion dollars more in taxes. But, there is prompt opposition ^{from}

Senator George of ^{Georgia} ~~Georgia~~, Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and Congressman Doughton of South

Carolina who has a similar position in the Lower House,

^{They} speak ~~promptly~~ against immediate congressional action to ~~increase~~ hike income taxes.

GRAIN

The grain markets have ~~re~~ponded to government buying. Prices ~~have~~ were higher, rising steadily today on the Chicago Board of Trade. This was the direct result of the Federal move into the market - the government making large purchases to sustain prices, and also to procure wheat and corn for shipment abroad under the Marshall Plan. So the nose-dive of grain prices has been checked.

LEAD WEATHER

A new storm swept from the Pacific toward northern California today, and still another tempest is brewing in the Aleutians -- with prospects of wind, rain and snow in the high mountains this weekend.

WEATHER

In the weather story, the much be-deviled West might well be saying: If it isn't one thing, it's another. After the blizzard and the big snow, now comes the danger of flood. Warmer temperatures have come in from the Pacific Coast, and there is a possibility of a fast thaw lasting long enough to release oceans of water from the melting of the snow.

Today in Washington, Chief of Army Engineers, Lieutenant General Raymond Wheeler, told a Senate Committee that the West is in danger of severe and wide-spread floods, and said the Army engineers are prepared to meet this new emergency -- of inundation. Large federal funds are available -- funds allocated for the crisis of the blizzard. They now may be used for relief, if the deluge develops.

In the State of Washington, two cities are partly flooded -- Walla Walla and Dayton. Mild temperatures, heavy rains and the melting of giant ~~XXXXX~~ snowdrifts ~~has~~ sent rivers over their banks; ~~and~~ water is pouring down highways. Only a couple

of days ago, the crisis was one of highways blocked by snow. But now in that part of Washington the roads are turned into muddy swirling streams.

Here in Reno where I am tonight, the weather is mild, a thaw. Only several days ago, Reno was almost isolated by the tremendous snows -- these now are melting rapidly. Just below my hotel window - between the Mapes and Riverside Hotels - the Truckee River is showing signs of rising in flood - a fast moving stream running and rippling swiftly along. The Truckee up in the Sierra Nevada - and has the same name as the town in Donner Pass from where I was broadcasting for a week. I know the kind of snow that piled in white immensity up at Donner Pass, and what a good fast thaw would do to it can be imagined in terms of deluge.

There is one place, however, still snowbound -- Rawlins, Wyoming. The amount of snow that piled up there will take a lot of thawing even to open the highways -- fifty feet deep in places. Today, plans were made to take out six-hundred-and-fifty-stranded railroad

passengers, by air.

And the air route is being used likewise to fly food to the people of the town. They have just about run out of provisions after being marooned for days. There seems no immediate prospect of getting the roads opened, thaw or no thaw. They are that badly blocked by snowdrifts up to fifty feet.

Today begins one of the most interesting of projects with a world-wide incalculable of liberal democracy. The American Field Service is developing a program for international scholarships -- the drive starting in seventeen cities, on this the 10th day of February.

The American Field Service is an organization of volunteer ambulance drivers who served in both world wars, and its purpose is to raise seven-hundred-and-fifty-thousand-dollars to provide scholarships for five hundred students from foreign lands. The students to be brought from all over the world to study in America and to live in American homes during school vacations.

Fifty-six colleges and schools are cooperating. I myself, though undeserving, have been named Honorary Chairman. Like so many others I feel that this is one of the fine effective ways of spreading liberal democratic ideas -- by bringing students from all over the world to become familiar with the American way of life. This under the egis of the American Field Service, gallant,

battlefront fellows who went in to save lives, not to
take them, the volunteer ambulance drivers of both
World Wars.

MITCHUM

Bright and early this morning, the he-man idol of the ~~shhhyx~~ bobby-soxers began the day in jail, with a mop. Robert Mitchum, the fabulously paid movie star ~~was~~ ^{— in stir —} put to work, scrubbing prison floors.

Mitchum was taking it all philosophically, and seemed determined to be a model prisoner -- patiently performing the regular chores in jail.

He is not such a dapper figure - not in dungaree pants and blue denim shirt as ill-fitting as a jail costume is likely to be. Today, with resignation he said: "They dunked my other clothes".

Whereupon the warden explained the dunking of the expensive apparel that Mitchum wore when he entered. It is the custom, with prisoners brought in on narcotic charges to dip their belongings in a chemical solution. "Sometimes" declared the Warden, "they soak marihuana into their clothes and later chew on the cloth."/

In the section of the jail for women, ~~no~~

is the blond starlet Lila Leeds who was arrested along with Mitchum in the marihuana party. She today told her story -- how she began smoking reefers. Her account is a simple, ~~and~~ vivid example of what happens in a certain kind of high life. Instructive ~~and~~ ^{tas - a} warning.

She says it all began about a year ago when her hopes of becoming a starlet ~~seemed~~ to wane. "I was coming home from a drinking party" she relates, "when one of the girls started telling me how she got high on -- tea." That being an addict's name for marihuana. "She asked me, Lila Leeds goes on, "if I'd like to try some?" So ^{Lila} ~~she~~ did; -- and that began her trouble. As for the effect, she says "I felt just as if I had been drinking. I felt very ~~xxxx~~ relaxed, and relieved of all my woes."

Soon she was buying marihuana from local Hollywood dope peddlers. "I don't know what possessed me" she said today. "The Devil", I guess. "In the weeks that followed it became easier and easier to

stay home and get high -- rather than go out and get drunk."

Just tells
~~Yes, quite~~ a picture of life in certain

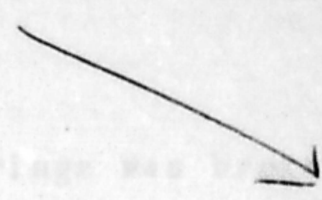
circles.

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SPY

The sensational disclosure made by General Douglas MacArthur introduces a headline character of spy melodrama. ^{It tells} ~~Telling~~ how Soviet espionage in Tokyo kept Moscow informed of the most confidential plans of Japan, ^{And it} ~~the MacArthur report~~ features a master spy.

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and established the closest kind of relations with Prince Kono²e who three times was the Premier of Japan. Sorge had the German Ambassador under his thumb. While Ozaki twisted the Tokyo Premier around his finger. What could be more wonderful for Soviet espionage? ¹⁷ Sorge is described as a figure of the most flamboyant kind of fiction. He was an arrogant swash-buckling roisterer, who drank hard, and swaggered around in revelry and romance. He had two wives, one in Russia, the other a school teacher in the United States. A check-up of his romances disclosed the names of thirty women in Tokyo, right up to the top circles of Japan and of Nazis in the Far East. He used romance for espionage, ^{but} never let out a hint that might cause suspicion. He roistered and he drank but he never talked.

This greatest of all spy rings was broken up in Nineteen Forty-four toward the end of the war -- and not because of any slip ~~by~~ by the master-mind Sorge. The trouble came when a Japanese Communist

named Ritsu developed a grudge against a Japanese woman who was in the espionage group. He was not, but he knew that she was -- and tipped off the Tokyo police. The woman communist was arrested, and under questioning, broke down and told everything she knew. That resulted in the seizure of the ~~old~~ whole gang of Red spies, -- some sent to prison, others executed. Sorge and Ozaki -- were hanged.

The story ends with two curious ^{twisters} ~~disasters~~. What happened to the squealer, Ritsu? After the surrender of Japan, he became a top leader of the ~~Japanese~~ Communist party ~~in Japan~~. And what became of the spy-ring-members who were sent to prison? Immediately after the occupation, the American authorities released political prisoners. And among these were the ~~experts~~ espionage experts whom Sorge had trained and directed. They have since disappeared -- and presumably are again on the Soviet espionage job. The Army document states that they are probably in the words of the report: "Secretly busy with their trade at this very

moment, in the capitols of the world."

The report includes a whole series of sensational disclosures including the identification of an American member of the spy ring -- an American woman author prominent for books and articles on the Far East. A British member is named ~~as~~ also, a writer, a journalist. These two are charged with taking a leading part in operating the Soviet propoganda line that the Chinese Communists were merely agricultural reformers. What the Army report calls - "the hoax that the Chinese Communists were not really Communists at all, but only agrarian revolutionists innocent of any Soviet connection."

INDIA

In India today sentences were pronounced for the murder of Mahatma Gandhi. For the scene of justice and condemnation, the Dominion of India chose one of the most famous places in the fabulous land of Hindustan - the great Red Fort at Delhi.

I myself have stood time and gazing with awe at those immense walls and battlements of red sandstone, built by the Emperor Akbar, greatest of the magnificent Moguls of old. The Red Fort was built to enclose a royal city - the Diwan, for example, where you still see exquisite lattice work of alabaster studded inlaid with turquoise, jasper and lapislazuli, through which the ladies of the royal harem once gazed.

A monument for history, that Red Fort. And in a court room there ~~Nine~~ nine prisoners ~~they~~ faced a Judge. These nine were accused in the conspiracy to assassinate Mahatma Gandhi, shot down as he held evening prayers, more than a year ago. Of the nine, two today were sentenced to death. One, the actual assassin named Godse -- who confessed the crime ,

freely saying that he had shot Ghandi because of the Mahatma's efforts to stop Hindu war ~~is~~ against the Moslems. The second sentence of death was pronounced on a school teacher named Apte, found to have been the brains in the ~~the~~ conspiracy ^{The plot was} hatched by Hindu fanatics mad with rage against the Moslems, because of the massacre of Hindus in Mohammedan territory.

Seven of the nine defendants were given life sentences, in prison -- including one who tried to kill Ghandi with a bomb, the day before the assassination was ~~was~~ actually accomplished.

Two were set free. One being Savarkar, long time President of the Mahasabha, ~~an~~ ^{the} extremist Hindu organization. The other - a conspirator who gave state's evidence.

Ghandi, ~~he~~ himself, in his dying moment, forgave his murderer, and signified that he did not wish him to be punished, Ghandi, the world advocate of non-violence. But the new Hindu nation, which he

did so much to create, has decided otherwise - ~~and~~
 decreeing the death penalty, ^{for} ~~and~~ the killer and the
 brains in the conspiracy that took the life of India's
 Mahatma and Saint. Such was the verdict in the Red
 Fort at Delhi today - the one time ~~imperial~~ royal city
 that has witnessed so many scenes and strange
 drama.

Out in India I was told how the great mogul,
 Akbar, who built the Red Fort, caught a would-be
 assassin stealing into the royal bedroom to murder
 him -- some false courtier or member of Akbar's
 own family. The great mogul, a physical giant, seized
 him, carried him to the top of the lofty battlement,
 kissed him on both cheeks, and ^(hurled) ~~threw~~ him to his
 death into the Jumma River below. So now the Red
 Fort, in this twentieth century, ~~is~~ ^{is} once gainⁱ the
 scene of another act in the long drama of India.

And now from Hindustan to Hollywood --
 to you Ken.