

L.T. P.& G. FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 1949.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

This evening is not the first time I've had reason to feel humiliated, mortified - but I don't think I've ever before been put to shame in such a spectacular way. Today the new issue of the Magazine Life came out with a large, handsome picture - and, when I saw it, I was so astonished and chagrined that I felt like crawling under the table.

It's a stately photograph of commencement exercises at Ohio Wesleyan - the ceremony that I attended recently, accompanying former President Herbert Hoover. We both were granted honorary degrees. The picture was snapped at the stately moment when that scholarly patriarch, Bishop Herbert Welch of New York, was addressing the New President of Ohio Wesleyan, Dr. Arthur Fleming. Both are shown standing, and you can see that noble words are being spoken - the usual way of orations at commencement exercises.

That's all very fine, inspiring even, but in

the middle of the picture you see former President Hoover, in the cap and gown of his honorary degree, witting with his head sunk on one hand - sound asleep. On the right hand side - yours truly in cap and gown, head on hand, sound asleep. On the left, Chancellor Burgsthaler of Ohio Wesleyan, in his academic costume - sound asleep. Bishop Welsh made a fine speech. I know - because I was there and heard part of it.

The photograph is a ridiculous classic - to accompany the one of J.P. Morgan with the midget on his knee or Sewell Avery of Montgomery Ward being carried out in his office chair by a couple of soldiers.

Well, I can only say it was a warm day, under a hot Ohio sun, and there were a lot of speeches. But I didn't think I had fallen asleep with such dreamy slumber. At least, I didn't know anybody was taking a picture at that moment. I can only say - I was in good company, with a former President of the United States and the Chancellor of a great university.

Maybe the colleges ought to follow the example

of the composer Haydn - in his surprise symphony. In the slow movement, with the music soft and low, there comes a sudden thundering drum beat. Apparently for no purpose at all - the surprise. Haydn, being asked about it, said - "To wake up the ladies."

So maybe at commencement exercises they should have a big drum, and hit it a tremendous thump every once in a while - to wake the people up during the speeches. Maybe even that wouldn't work. My wife tells me that once, at the Metropolitan Opera House, I slept during a performance at the opera Salome, by Richard Strauss - and that's one composer who certainly can make an orchestra raise Cain. In Salome, the drums thundered, the trumpets blared, and the trombones roared, but I slept on - so my wife says. So maybe at commencement exercises they'd better use cannon fire or air bombs - to wake 'em up.

SUBSTITUTE SENATE

A group of twenty-one Senators has asked President Truman for assurance that the United States will not recognize the Communist regime in China. The twenty-one are mostly Republicans, and a few Democrats. They tell the President that the Red victory in China represents in their words "a victory for international Communism". Which ~~is~~ will only be worse if we recognize the Red government.

SUBSTITUTE BERLIN

In Berlin the Soviets have rejected an American request - turning down what amounted to a test of the Red agreement to end the Berlin blockade. The Berlin strikers have now agreed to let trains of the western allies pass through - along the strikebound railroad. So American officials asked the Soviets to provide a locomotive and crew for an American train. But the answer is - no, request rejected.

COPLON

The testimony of Judy Coplon ended today with screams of protest, the former analyst of the Department of Justice yelling that she has been - framed. She said she was framed by Shapiro, the lawyer with whom she admitted ~~she~~ spend^{ing} a number of nights. She cried out that she may also have been framed by Gubitchev -- the Soviet engineer with whom she says she was in love. Her meetings with him -- romance, not espionage. But maybe Gubitchev, too, was in the conspiracy against her.

The final questions, addressed to her by the prosecution lawyer, brought^{from her} frantic outcries of being framed^{- framed} - by everybody. Her testimony ended with a scream -- "This case is so fishy it smells to high heaven."

TRUMAN

President Truman, late today, asked Congress for funds to launch - point four. That is, the fourth item in his inaugural address - calling for American help to build up the economies of under-developed countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. The amount of money mentioned in today's message from ~~the~~ the White House is - forty-five million dollars. This, for technical assistance to raise standards of living in under-developed areas and build up foreign markets for commerce.

POST OFFICE

also has
President Truman asked Congress for Post Office reformation - do something to get the national mailmen out of politics and red ink. He wants to have the postmasters selected under civil service - instead of by political appointment, as now. He also recommends a raise of postal rates, charging more for delivery of mail.

The post office, out of politics and red ink, sounds like the millenium. Seldom, indeed, has the national mail service been able to break even, and the job of postmaster has become almost synonymous for - political plum.

SUBSTITUTE KLAN

The F B I investigation of the Klu Klux Klan in Alabama brings word that in one case of hooded terrorism, a policeman stood watching. In another, a Deputy Sheriff was one of the ^{raiders,} ~~raiders,~~ in masks.

So say F B I agents as they began their inquiry --

~~xx~~ while tonight a flaming cross burned on the lawn of a Birmingham newspaper editor. Clarence Hanson of the Birmingham News has been ~~xxxxxxx~~ campaigning against the hooded mobs -- and now a warning in the form of the flaming symbol of the K.K.K.

SUBSTITUTE LEAD TRIBE

Tonight, an English blonde goes to assume her position as the Queen of the Black King of an African tribe. Born Ruth Williams, the girl from London is on her way to share the throne of the Chief of the Bámangwato tribe, in Bechuanaland, but she and her dusky king may have their troubles.

The story relates how the royal heir, Seretse Khama, was sent to be educated at Oxford; and, in England married Ruth Williams -- though this was opposed back in South Africa, by the regent of the tribe, named Tshekedi. He was against the white woman, and Tshekedi is a formidable potentate. A dozen years ago he got into trouble with the British when he ordered the flogging of two white men guilty of some infraction of tribal rules.

So now the news relates how Seretse Khama after marrying the white woman, has claimed his ancestral throne. He appeared before a conclave of warriors, six thousand ^{of them;} and so did the regent, Tshekedi. ~~So the regent addressed the warriors "I protest" he cried.~~

claim his throne. He left her at Capetown, temporarily, and proceeded to Bechuanaland - to his tribe.

A council of the Bamangwato warriors was called, and today's news tells how Six Thousand gathered in conclave. Before them appeared the royal heir, Seretse. Also - The Regent Tshekedi. Question - should Seretse and his white wife assume the throne.

The Regent ~~Tshekedi~~, addressed the warriors:-

"I protest," he cried, "that the white woman is not suitable for Seretse and the tribe. I will hand over the throne to him. But, if he brings his white wife, I will fight him to the end. "I am in control" he shouted "until the throne is handed over. The power and the tribe are mine."

Whereupon Seretse stepped forward, accepting the challenge. He called for a vote of the warriors, crying out: "Stand up, all those who will not accept my wife."

Among Six Thousand warriors, a number of figures arose - about Forty.

Then Seretse shouted: "Who wants me for chief, with my white wife, whom I refuse to give up?" Thousands leaped to their feet with yells of applause.

So the victory at the tribal conclave went to the royal heir and his white wife - and tonight she is on her way to join Seretse in assuming the throne. But the Regent, Tshedkedi, remains unreconciled, sombre, menacing - the black potentate who once ordered the flogging of two white men, and had them lashed with tribal whips.

SUBSTITUTE LEAD SWINDLER

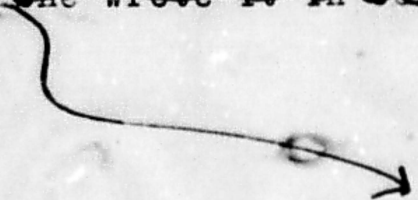
In Chicago, a melancholy downfall today - the arrest of Sigmund Engel, the seventy-three year old swindler of women. Melancholy indeed - he was tricked and trapped by a woman.

She is Mrs. Genevieve Perro, whose best friend is a sister-in-law of a police woman. A few days ago she was accosted by an elderly gentleman of elegant appearance who lavished ~~blatant~~ blandishments, and ~~ended~~ ended by proposing marriage. Mrs. Perro was suspicious -- and immediately thought of her friend, the sister-in-law of the ~~police~~ police woman. So she jollied the gay ~~deceiver~~ ^{then} deceiver along, got in touch with the police woman and they laid a snare.

Mrs. Perro permitted herself to be taken to dinner at an expensive night club. The check - seventy-five dollars. She accepted an invitation to elope and made a date to buy some luggage. So she met the false ~~romancer~~ romancer in a Chicago luggage store today -- and the policewoman was waiting, together with a big burly detective.

Engel was promptly identified by the Chicago widow whom he had swindled recently, with a promise of marriage. When she saw him, the widow yelled "you thing! " To which the seventy-three year old slicker responded with lofty disdain. "You are a nothing" he sneered, "a nothing".

The news of the melancholy downfall today came after the disclosure of a remarkable performance. In San Francisco Mrs. Vivian Huebler ^{told how} ~~disclosed that~~ she married Engel recently - and she is the co-author of a book about gigoloes. ~~She wrote it in collaboration with her daughter, etc.~~



SWINDLER

The news tells of another masterpiece to the discredit of Sigmund Engel, the Seventy-Three year old swindler of women. This time a woman telling how he got away with her jewels. Vivian Huebler of San Francisco, disclosed that when she married him recently he tried to take her real estate. Which is all the more remarkable because Mrs. Huebler is the co-author of a book about gigolos.

She wrote it in collaboration with her daughter, and they signed it -- Dottie and Vickie. Two experts on gigolos. They met Sigmund Engel six months ago, and maybe they never expected to run across a gigolo of seventy-three.

Today the story was told how he wined and dined mother and daughter. He called Dottie - "Little Mama." How sweet! He called Vickie - "Baby" or

sometimes he addressed the baby as - Venus. Little mama, baby Venus - that was the technique.

Another phase of the technique was described by the mother today in the following words: "He drank nothing but the best champagne. And every night he ate hot caviar on rye." To which she adds: "He seemed, if you'll pardon the expression, to be well heeled." He proposed marriage to Dottie, and they eloped to Reno - where the gentleman of champagne and hot caviar was wedded to the little mama.

Whereupon he started to apply the technique of getting the money, trying to persuade his bride to sell property of hers in San Francisco. But the little mama was too wise. Today she said: "I outsmarted him, and he didn't get any of my money".

Dottie and Vickie became suspicious when Vickie made inquiries at a hotel where "champagne - and - hot-caviar" said he had a suite of rooms. At the hotel they told baby Venus - they never heard of him.

Shortly afterward, the new husband

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disappeared - and then the co-authors of the book on
gigolos realized they had ~~run~~ across the champion
gigolo of them all - at Seventy-Three. Such is the
story of little mama, baby Venus and old boy
champagne - and-hot-caviar.

ATOMIC

In the Atomic investigation, Commissioner Lewis L. Strauss, takes sharp issue with Atomic scientist Robert Oppenheimer, so prominent in the development of the bomb.

The dispute concerns the shipment of radioactive isotopes to other countries, especially to those on the fringe of the Iron Curtain. The view of the Atomic Energy Commission was that explosive materials, like uranium two-three-five, should not be sent abroad - but, that the radioactive isotopes are non-explosive and therefore not vital.

The opinion of the majority was supported by Atomic scientist Oppenheimer ~~who~~ told a Congressional Committee that the ban on the export of Atomic materials was not to be taken literally. That view was challenged ~~in particular~~ today ^{by} Atomic Commissioner Strauss, saying to the Committee: "If public administrators, generally, were to construe laws other than literally, that would mean complete administrative disorder." He thinks a law should be taken for what it says; hence he remains opposed to the shipment of isotopes abroad.

BUS FOLLOW PICTURE

Yes, it's bad to fall asleep at the wrong time - as is also illustrated this evening by a story from Maryland. Eight miles north of Baltimore today, a big bus, crowded with passengers, ran off the highway, hit a concrete culvert, took a flying leap over a twenty foot stream, and made a landing on the opposite bank. A number of passengers were injured, but no lives were lost -- luckily.

The reason for the accident is explained by the driver. He says that, while at the wheel of the speeding bus, he simply - fell asleep. Even as Mr. Hoover and I fell asleep at Ohio Wesleyan.

z-z-z-z A bell - bong, bong. Wake up, Nelson -- you're on the air.