

J. EDGAR HOOVER

W.P.S. Mon. Mar. 27, 1950

Washington today had ^{the} star performance. The *(Los Angeles, Calif.)*

leading actor [^] ~~being~~ a celebrity who rarely makes an appearance ~~at~~ a public congressional hearing. J. Edgar Hoover, Chief of the F B I ~~who when he testifies before a committee, nearly always does it in a secret conference, as befits so secretive an agency as the Federal Bureau of Investigation. But today, J. Edgar~~ ^{today} ~~gave~~ gave his testimony under the kleig lights -- *at a* public hearing with a capacity audience and big time news coverage.

The part he played was equally striking - speaking out in the strongest opposition to any idea of turning over to Congress -- those loyalty files. He gave dramatic reasons for not doing so, and intimated that he would resign if those F B I reports were handed over.

He said that, to do so, would smear innocent people -- who have been investigated for loaylty, just as a matter of course. Moreover, it would enable Soviet Russia to obtain important information about

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top ranking American political and industrial figures. He explained that the Reds are looking for secret facts about top personalities -- and the F B I has an abundance of such secret facts. ¶ But the most dramatic part of all was J Edgar Hoover's declaration that "if the F B I reports ⁱⁿ ~~and~~ the loyalty files were handed over to Congress it might be worth the lives of American secret agents. Meaning of course that we have sources of information in the Communist world, sources of information on record in those F B I reports - and if this got out, ^(OUR OWN) ~~XXXXXXXX~~ agents would be subject of to Soviet vengeance.

Whereupon J. Edgar Hoover said that ~~in his~~ words he wants: "no part" of any investigation agency ^{that has} ~~the~~ not the authority to decide on what it should make public and what it should keep secret; a clear intimation of -- resignation. ¶ In all this, the Chief of the F B I was joined by his superior, Attorney General McGrath, both saying, however, that the whole thing was up to President Truman. It is

believed that the President will join them -- in a flat rejection, [^]That he will refuse to disclose the loyalty files, on which Senator McCarthy has been basing all those charges that he has been making.

LATTIMORE

In the Communist uproar, the angriest denials thus far are aroused by the disclosure of the identity of the personage accused by Senator McCarthy of Wisconsin as the top Soviet spy. Owen ~~L~~ Lattimore, expert on Far Eastern affairs, is the one whose ^{name}~~identity~~ has been kept so ~~strictly~~ closely concealed that we've been having to speak of the case of the "unknown Red." Actually, the secret was known to news men and was given out over the weekend by radio columnist ~~Brew~~ Pearson.

Owen Lattimore is now in Afghanistan, on a mission for the United Nations, and the denials emanate from his lawyers and family, ^{— and his many friends —} ~~and~~ wrathful demands that Senator McCarthy retract the accusation, ~~and~~ ^{They} declare that Lattimore is a stern anti-Communist, and that, moreover, he has had little to do with the State Department. Senator McCarthy, of course, claims that the Far Eastern expert has had more connection with our diplomatic headquarters than the State Department will admit..

a top figure at Johns Hopkins Univ.,
Owen Lattimore, ^r has written copiously for

a long time about affairs in Eastern Asia, particularly

the war between Chiang Kai Shek and the Chinese Reds.
He was an advisor to the Generalsissimo.
At times he has spoken favorably of the Chinese Communists
which is not so unusual, there having been a lot of
talk about the Reds in China being merely "agrarian
reformers", not rampant Communists of the Stalinist
variety; ~~With this as~~ one of those ideas which
did not hurt the Reds ^a ~~one~~ bit, ~~but it has not~~ ^{and didn't} worked
out so well for our side.

FOLLOW BOONER *Letter to E*

The latest is a blast from Senator Styles Bridges of New Hampshire, who charges that there is in the State Department a "master spy." The New Hampshire Republican declares that American foreign policy has been wrecked because of this alleged Red agent of espionage who has been aiding the world communist movement. Styles Bridges describes him in these words: (Longer than any other man he has been a key functionary in the State Department. To which the Senator adds: "Stalin is no super man, he had help from inside our ranks.") Whereupon the Senator demanded that Secretary of State Dean Acheson be called and questioned, ~~on the subject.~~

WEATHER

I'm broadcasting from Los Angeles tonight, starting another news trip in the West. Last year, about this time, ^{out this was} I was [^] doing the same thing -- and the trip took us right in the middle of those great blizzards, which were the big news for weeks. This time too, the fortunes of travel gave us a look at the strange weather over the weekend -- the vast circular storm, which blew from the western mountains, extended from Canada to the southern states -- one vast ^{cyclone} ~~storm~~ featuring dust and including freaks of various kinds.

Yesterday, aboard the Santa Fe we rolled along through Kansas and saw the violent gale whipping up the top soil of the farm lands. Mile after mile of this as the black tempest had its origin on one farm after another, the dust accumulating in the wind to bring about the worst of gritty clouds ~~over~~ since the disastrous days in the Nineteen Thirties -- those dust bowl days.

Then, after the dust, we ran into a blizzard.

^{By then}
^
We were travelling south in New Mexico, where the desert begins, and there was a snow storm. ~~blizzard~~

~~swirl of white flakes driven by high winds. At~~

At Albuquerque we ~~saw~~ the odd sight of snow storm and sunshine at the same time -- a freak of the local blizzard. -- ~~which, in itself, was a freak, on the desert.~~

This morning, in California, it was cold and gloomy, with heavy low-hanging clouds. But, as the train went speeding through the mountains the Coast lived up to its old tradition -- bright sunshine and balmy breezes in Los Angeles.

All of which was ^{not exactly a} duplication of the weather adventure of last year, ^{when we were making our way} ~~by car and train thru the deep snows in Donner Pass.~~ ~~automobile through these blizzards.~~ But, just by way of coincidence, we did have the experience of riding through that ^{is} vast weekend storm, which blew things down in places, and looked like ^a ~~the~~ threat of the dust bowl all over again.

~~Old timers are saying it was as bad as back in the thirties, but it didn't last long -- some crops were hit hard, like oats, but the word is that the wheat was up high enough to hold the soil, the~~

Lives were lost at various places -- and there were pitiful tragedies. In Kansas, a man and wife, refugees from Poland, were killed when their automobile crashed in the blinding dust. They leave four orphans. South of Kansas City two boys disappeared in the black tempest, and today it was found -- that they were killed by a falling tree.

In the middlewest, after a night of comparative quiet, gales were blowing again today -- kicking up new clouds of dust. Though the storm is not as violent as it was over the weekend.

In Minnesota, it's -- forest fire. There ~~the~~ ^{the} storm is a blizzard -- the snow helping to control the flames, while the wind whips the fire on. The burning woodlands threatened to destroy the town of International Falls. Fire broke out at one end of the business district -- but then the snow of the blizzard lent a helping hand. The fire chief says: "If it hadn't been for the ^{unusually} ~~weather~~ heavy snow on the roof-tops, we would have had fires all over town.

The same sort of story in New Mexico, fifteen thousand acres of timber on fire in the Carson National Forest. The weekend storm picked up small fires and turned them into tempests of flame.

But here in Southern California - the traditional sunshine.

SUB END WEATHER

Today the storm still blew, around and round in one enormous circle - a cyclone reaching from the great plains almost to the Atlantic Coast, and from the Canadian border to the Gulf of Mexico. The weather bureau attributes it all to a low pressure area in the middle of the continent, and called that low pressure area a record breaker, ~~for magnitude and~~ ~~storm.~~ ^P The dust was blowing in the middlewest again today, while blizzards ^{howled} ~~blew~~ to the north and thunder storms shook the Ohio Valley. Some areas were bombarded by hail, a deluge of hail stones the size of walnuts. In the south the wind screamed along at a hundred miles an hour, doing heavy damage. At Jackson, Mississippi, a fertilizer plant was blown to the ground, and huge vats of sulphuric acid were overturned -- with ~~the~~ danger from ~~the~~ that burning stuff called vitriol.

CALIFORNIA GAMBLING

California newspapers today were blazoned with big headlines -- ~~which certainly gave the readers something to look at.~~ The gist was -- horseracing outlawed as unconstitutional. Well, horseracing is big business here ~~in~~ on the Pacific Coast, as it is in other places too. So the idea was rather startling -- the notion that the swanky, plushy race tracks might be put out of business by law. For the horserace people it would be -- a revolution. However, here are the facts. ^RThe California district court of appeals has ruled that one section of the State racing law is unconstitutional, a section by which the legislature named a racing board, and gave it the authority to decide where and when race tracks should be allowed to operate. The court decides that the legislature had no right to delegate this power. (~~That is, the lawmakers, under the state constitution, could not give the Board the right to name the conditions for the tracks to operate.~~)

Today, one of the three judges who handed down

the ruling, gives the opinion that the decision does not invalidate the State racing law, but only that one section of it. Anyway, the decision will have to go to the higher state courts -- and today's headline has little immediate meaning for the horse race people and the running of the thoroughbreds.

BRITAIN

It is grim - the way the majority of the British Labor party is being reduced down toward zero. Tonight they have a majority of a mere three -- over the non-Socialist parties. They came out of the election with six, and it was remarked at the time that many of the Labor M P's were veterans of advanced years, and that the ordinary loss ^{via} ~~of~~ mortality threatened to wipe out the Labor majority altogether. Yesterday the Labor member from Brighouse and Spendborough died -- the second in ten days. In addition -- one Labor resignation. So three from six leaves three. The inexorable mathematics, ~~And~~ tonight Britain faces a stranger political situation than ever. [⌞] No London government can actually govern with a majority of three -- and then, suppose the Labor membership were reduced further by death, sickness or resignation? Winston Churchill's Conservatives might find themselves to be the majority party -- by mere default. ~~Nobody seems to want a new general election -- but how can they go on like~~

U N

The Soviets are continuing their walkouts from the U N.; Boycotting two more branches. ~~at the~~ ~~Exxtoksy.~~ In the Human Rights commission and in the Commission for Transport and Communications it was the same old story -- the Red delegates demanding the expulsion of the Chinese, the Nationalist representatives. When this was refused -- out they walked.

CHINA

Nationalist China claims a big victory ~~from~~
on the island of Hainan -- where the Communists are
said to have made a landing attempt, putting three
waves of troops ashore on the beach. The invasion
forces were annihilated, ~~claiming~~^{say} the Nationalists.

JUGOSLAVIA

A bulletin from Yugoslavia -- Tito got elected. The Red Marshal may be at bitter feud with Stalin -- but he knows how to run an election as well as the Soviets themselves. ~~But then,~~ So did Hitler and Mussolini -- both masters of the totalitarian farce of the voters going to the polls to express the will of the people. Today's dispatch from Belgrade indicates that the Tito slate of candidates won by a majority of about ninety-nine percent. Of course there were no other candidates to vote for, in that one party election. But they say that the people of Yugoslavia did cast their virtually unanimous ballots with a bit more enthusiasm because of Marshal Tito's loud defiance of Stalin.

The Yugoslav government charges election day violence -- but not on the part of the voters. The Tito government ^{claims} ~~charges~~ that yesterday, fusilades were fired across the border from Red Roumania, that faithful puppet. (~~The Stalinists of Roumania,~~
apparently, ~~are~~ trying to signify that they would

PLANE

It's ~~There's~~ an old phrase, saying that somebody had "a brush with death," ^{and} ~~but~~ it certainly was ^{true} ~~the case~~ at Concord, California today -- so close a brush that one wheel of a speeding airplane slashed a hole in the top of an automobile.

It was a case of an automobile fooling around at an airport. The car, with a confused driver, rolled out onto the field -- the driver so confused that he cut across an air-strip -- where the plane was taking off, ~~and was only a few yards ahead.~~ The pilot was a physician -- Doctor Charles Gray of Berkeley -- in a rented plane with one passenger. He was speeding for a take-off when right in front dashed that automobile. Well, if the ^{good} Doctor is as good at operating on patients as he is at ~~man~~ operating an airplane, he's ^{okay,} ~~an excellent~~ ^W ~~class~~ ~~medico~~. To avoid a collision which probably would have killed himself, his passenger, and the confused motorist -- he ^{made the plane} ~~just took a~~ jump, kicking ^{it} ~~his~~ plane into the air, for that brush with death. He was barely ^{able} ~~about~~ to

make it, one wheel of the under carriage ripping
through the top of the automobile, ^{as it hopped over.} -- The plane
thereupon coming down on the other side for a ground
loop. -- noboby hurt -- except the motorist was
more confused than ever I suppose.

1/2 Nelson - welcome to California --
Your old home state,