

ATOMIC

L.I. - P. & H. Monday, March 26, 1951.

Today ^{brought} ~~bring~~ new statements from the Argentine about Peron's atomic wonder. (Peron himself, gives a retort to the worldwide scepticism and ridicule that has greeted his weekend announcement - of a controlled atomic explosion. "I do not care" he says, "what they think in the United States or any other country." To which he adds that he made the announcement, not to the world, but to the Argentine people.

~~At the same time, New details are given as by,~~

The Austrian-born scientist, ^{Dr.} Ronald Richter, ~~He~~ says the Argentine Research Laboratory is on an island in a lake near the frontier of Chile, ^{- no doubt the big one called The Lake of Argentina} and there the atomic experiment was carried out last month, on February Sixteenth. He says the explosion made what he calls -- "an immense noise". [†] Yes [^] this "immense noise" was not heard by the people in the nearby town of San Carlos, six-and-a-half miles away. Sounds mighty strange, but ^{Dr.} Richter explains by saying it was all because the atomic explosion was controlled so well.

This angle brings interesting comment from

an American who, recently, was down in that part of Argentina - the town of San Carlos, next door to the research center on the island in the lake. Today at New Orleans, W. McFadden Duffy said the people of San Carlos took the atomic business on the island - as a joke.

There was little secrecy - the project, in fact, being advertised by a large billboard. The sign described the doings on the island in these words -- "a project of Juan and Eva Peron - pilot plant for atomic energy." So Peron's wife is in on it too, as you might expect - the blonde, beautiful Evita, who is like a Queen or an Empress in Argentina. So whenever the atomic wonders were mentioned, ~~in~~ the people of San Carlos - "just grinned."

The dispatches from Buenos Aires quote scientist Richter as saying: "Explosions are produced of the same kind ~~as~~ as those occurring in nova stars." Well, "Nova" means "new", and applies to stars that flash suddenly with a far greater brightness -

astronomers regarding these as exploding stars, like giant suns blowing up with unimaginable violence.

Today one prominent American astronomer said this Argentine talk of Nova stars sounds "just plain crazy". He said it would take billions of atomic bombs shot off at once to approximate the energy released by a Nova star blowing up - and such an explosion would destroy the earth in a twinkling of an eye.

American atomic scientists are inclined to ridicule the whole thing - but some are cautious. (For example, General Leslie Groves, head of the atomic bomb project during the war says: "I think it is a mistake to discredit any country without first knowing all there is to know about it."

(At Harvard Atomic Physicist Dr. Phillip Frank tells ^{about} what he calls a "very brilliant and gifted" European scientist ^(now) ~~was~~ in Argentina. Dr. Frank says that in Nineteen Thirty six he was at the University of Prague, and there got to know a physicist named Guido

Beck. In fact they collaborated on a book on mathematics and physics. When Hitler took over in Czechoslovakia, Guido Beck got out, and came to the United States where he taught at the University of Kansas for a year. Then he went down to the Argentine, becoming a professor in the University of Cordoba. Dr. Frank says that recently he has heard from Guido Beck, who told him he was engaged in Argentine atomic research.)

~~well,~~ To all this I can contribute an opinion given to me ~~over the weekend~~ by American atomic scientists. ~~They say they are~~ Making a mere guess, *they* ~~and~~ figure the Argentine story may be actually something like this:- Peron and Richter states ~~ix~~ that it was all done with a "thermotron". Nobody ever heard of a "thermotron" before, but "thermo" means heat. So it is done with high temperatures - which, in fact, was confirmed by Richter today. They don't use uranium, so what do they use? Well, Peron and Richter say they have the secret of the hydrogen bomb - and the

whole theory of the H-bomb revolves around a form of hydrogen called "Tritium". The idea is that, with immense heat, atoms of "Tritium" would unite to form another substance - and would release a vast amount of energy. So the American scientists ^{we consulted} ~~with whom I~~ ~~talked~~, thought that maybe "Tritium" was the stuff.

Today Richter was asked by newsmen - where did they get all the heat? That, he replied, is the secret. Well, the American scientists tell me that the Germans have found a way to produce enormous temperatures, ~~it~~ (They do it) with an electric arc, and this may be the source of the heat. ^{These American experts} ~~They~~ say they suppose that, by using the high temperatures of the electric arc on "Tritium" there might likely enough be a discharge of neutrons, particles of energy. But ^{this} ~~they~~ ~~thought~~ the release of ~~the~~ neutrons would be exceedingly small - and you would have to put far more energy into the electric arc than you'd ever get from the reaction.

(An old story, you have to put in a lot more than you get out.)

All a bit complicated, but it's one surmise made in high levels in American atomic circles on the subject of Peron's atomic mystery.

LA PRENSA - FOLLOW ATOMIC

Another dispatch from South America states that Dr. Alberto ~~Garcia~~ Paz has escaped from Argentina and is now safely in Uruguay - the Director of the great liberal newspaper, La Prensa, which has been suppressed by the Peron government. Orders had been given for the arrest of the Director of La Prensa. But he was able to get across the broad waters of the Rio De La Plata - to Uruguay.

The suppression of Argentina's historic journal of liberalism has created indignation in all the free countries, and the Peron crown^d must be astonished, if not disturbed, by the international reaction - not to mention the reaction inside Argentina. However, Peron's sensational atomic announcement steals the headlines from the affair of La Prensa -- and that may have been the reason for the timing. The atomic experiment is said to have been made nearly six weeks ago, but the news is only now given out by Peron -- just in time to counteract the suppression of La Prensa.

TRUMAN

This afternoon President Truman addressed the conference of Inter-American Foreign Ministers, which began in Washington today. He called on the Twenty Latin American republics to back the United States in resisting the aggressions of Communism -- and the indications are that this country will offer Eighty Million Dollars worth of armament to Latin America enabling the Southern Republics to build up their military strength.

DRAFT

The Chairman of the Armed Forces Committee of the House of Representatives says that we should be able to ~~be~~ stop the draft within eighteen months. Congressman Vinson of Georgia thinks it won't be needed after that time. He predicts that we will set up a universal military training program, ^{and} the ~~xxx~~ army will be able to dispense with the draft -- in eighteen months.

MACARTHUR

(The State Department has put in a complaint against General Douglas MacArthur - as a result of the statement by the Supreme Commander that he was willing to go into battlefield negotiations with the Communist Commander. This invitation to a parley was made without consultation - the State Department knowing ~~xxx~~ nothing about it. Which has irked a number of diplomatic officials, who are working at their own plans for bringing an end to the war in Korea.)

So now we hear that a protest has ~~gmm~~ gone to the White House and the Pentagon Building, the President and the Chiefs of the Armed Forces asked to curb General MacArthur. Make him stay out of the diplomatic field - stick to military matters. This, from the State Department, is said to be expressed in "fairly strong" words. It is not[†] known whether the complaint has been passed along to MacArthur in Tokyo.

FOLLOW MACARTHUR

The Supreme Commander today made his monthly report to the United Nations, and declared that the defeat of the Chinese Reds has exploded what MacArthur calls -- "the myth of invincibility of Communist military power." He says the Chinese losses have been among the bloodiest in modern times. And adds, "as these are from China's finest troops, it will be difficult to replace them."

KOREA

In Korea today United States armor and infantry mopped ~~am~~ up the last vestiges of serious resistance below the thirty-eighth parallel. North of Seoul, a force of American tanks ~~am~~ drove from Uijongbu and met a column of G I's pushing from Munsan. That amounted to a final sealing of the trap created by the paratroop landings last week - although it would seem that a large part of the Reds got out of the trap, fleeing as fast as they could to safety north of the Parallel.

On the central front, the Communists appear to have halted their retreat, as if perhaps for a ~~XXXXX~~ stand along the borderline. (No serious resistance was reported by our troops approaching the Parallel -- merely signs that the Reds are digging in.)

On the East the Free Koreans are thrusting north of the Border in a series of raids -- and made a hit and run landing on the coast forty miles north of the Parallel.

The gist of it all is that the week ~~am~~ begins

with virtually all of South Korea~~n~~ cleared of the
Reds - the territory of the South Korean Republic
liberated.

IRAN

Martial law is being extended in Iran, following a general strike called by the Communists in the Persian oil fields. In the southern part of the country where the great petroleum deposits are, strikers were rioting today, and shouting Red slogans. Word is that Communist agitators were sent to stir up the trouble, and several of these have been arrested.

PLANE

In London there is an insistent surmise that sabotage played a part in the disappearance of the big U S. Army transport plane, the Globemaster -- with fifty-three persons aboard. It is pointed out that the only sign of the plane is a luggage bag picked up at sea -- it was charred by fire, suggesting that a time bomb might have been placed in the luggage compartment of the Globemaster. A French Communist newspaper prints a report that the big plane was carrying a cargo of "atomic materials". But this is denied and ridiculed by a U S Air Force spokesman in London.

O'DWYER

In New York a Federal Grand Jury has indicted James J. Moran intimate friend of former Mayor O'Dwyer. Moran is charged with perjury. The same accusation is also made against a Brooklyn racketeer, Luis Weber, born in Cuba - and said to be head of the numbers game.

All this grows out of testimony before the Senate ~~in~~ crime investigating committee. Weber ^{swore} ~~said~~ that he didn't know Moran -- while Moran testified that Weber had called on him "possibly three times." So one of the two was obviously lying - and the charge today is that both committed perjury. Because evidence was given that Weber visited Moran frequently. When the latter was Deputy Fire Commissioner, during the O'Dwyer administration at City Hall. So the Grand Jury hands down ~~in~~ two indictments.

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Today the former Mayor ^{N.Y.} now Ambassador to Mexico, telegraphed the Crime Investigating Committee in Washington -- denying testimony that John Crane, President of the uniformed firemen's association, had given him ten thousand dollars as a campaign contribution

in Nineteen Forty-Nine. O'Dwyer calls this a "vicious lie." Crane, when he testified, also swore that he had given Moran fifty-five ~~th~~ thousand dollars - for political purposes and good will. Which Moran denies.

Meanwhile, former Mayor o'Dwyer was testifying before a Grand Jury in New York today. Reports are that the Federal Attorney has subpoenaed O'Dwyer's bank records - looking into his financial affairs.

CRIME INVESTIGATION


The Senate Crime Investigators heard evidence today from Attorney General McGrath and F B I Director J. Edgar Hoover. McGrath rejected complaints that the Department of Justice has failed to take action against Frank Costello, alleged boss of the gambling racket -- with the purpose of deporting Costello back to his native Italy. The Attorney General told the committee that there is no federal law under which deportation proceedings can be started against Costello. He is a naturalized citizen, and has never been convicted of any crime that would allow ^{the} Department of Justice to take action. Costello has been arrested at various times, both before and after he was naturalized. But he was convicted only once - for the act of carrying a concealed weapon. Which is not enough of a crime to warrant proceedings for deportation - not under the law. So said McGrath.

(Both the Attorney General and the head of the F B I spoke against the proposal to set up a permanent Congressional committee to investigate crime. They said

that this might create a "national police force" -- which would not be in accord with our democratic form of government.

~~Moreover,~~ ^P J. Edgar Hoover argued that the suppression of the underworld is the business of local communities -- a job to be done by the authorities in the cities where racketeering flourishes. He said that organized gambling can only exist through a tie-up with politics -- and, if local government took honest action against the gamblers, they would be out of business in forty-eight hours.

Both the Attorney General and the Director of the F B I told the committee that the criminal underworld is undermining local self-government in the United States.



FOLLOW CRIME INVESTIGATION

Later in the day the committee heard from the Federal Communications Commission. The Chairman of which states that the best way to curb the nationwide gambling racket is to outlaw the interstate transmission of all "betting odds and prices paid." Chairman Wayne Coy declared that the gamblers depend on this kind of information concerning sporting events, and said that all transmission of data pertaining to betting should be outlawed.

CAMBRIDGE

The British had their traditional boat race today - Oxford versus Cambridge. The classic event was to have been staged on Saturday, but the waters of the Thames were too rough. A gale was blowing, and the Oxford shell capsized - just as the race was beginning. Today, the water was quieter, though still a bit rough, and the crews tugged away at the oars along the four-and-a-quarter mile course.

There was especial interest in Oxford - an American angle. The coxswain of the shell ~~is~~ from the ancient university was George Carver of High^tstown, New Jersey, the first American ever to direct a crew in the historic race. So, today, the Stars and Stripes might have waved jubilantly.

But how did the race turn out? ^{oh} Cambridge won by twelve lengths -- one of the most lopsided victories ever scored in the classic. ^{Nelson -} Cambridge took the lead from the start, and ran away with the race!