

RENT P. H. P. M. M., June 12th, 1950.

The Senate has voted a six month extension of Federal rent control. There was plenty of argument - including a one-man filibuster by Senator Kane of Washington. But that ended, then a Republican attempt to shel^{ve} a bill was defeated, and Federal rent extension was voted thirty-six to twenty-eight.

MAFFIA

The Senate crime investigators reveal that they are studying a New York legal case, in which the Sicilian terrorist society, the Maffia, is said to have been linked with the alleged king of gambling, Frank Costello. They say the case had to do with vice and narcotics.

This follows testimony of Harry Anslinger, chief of the Federal Narcotics Bureau, who said he believed that the Maffia, the so-called "black-hand", was the real power behind a ring dealing in narcotics, gambling and other forms of crime.

FISHING

There was grief and indignation at a Senate hearing today - on the subject of fishing. The question at issue was a regulation of the Post Office Department, classifying a fishing contest as - a lottery, a game of chance, gambling.

The note of grief emanated from Congressman Russell March of the State of Washington, who has introduced a bill to abolish that offending regulation. He shook his head sadly over the ignorance of the post office officials and said: "Anybody knows that fishing is a matter of skill-not chance." Right you are, Congressman, we're all aware that it's nothing but skill that causes a larger fish, instead of a smaller fish, to go after your particular ~~kind~~ of bait. And they're all wrong when they talk of - fisherman's luck.

The trumpet call of indignation was sounded by Max Chambers, President of the Chesapeake Bay Fishing Fair Association. He said the anglers down his way resent being classified as - "Gambler^s and criminals." As why shouldn't they - when they never ~~xxx~~ violate

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anything, except perhaps the truth.

So there you have the new philosophy of the modern Isaac Walton - fishing is all skill, and no gamble. Or would you call that a fish story?

AMERASIA

There is no light on the Amerasia mystery - although the central figure was questioned by a Senate committee today. Philip Jaffe, the wealthy New York greeting card manufacturer, who was editor of the left wing magazine, and was arrested - when a huge lot of stolen documents of the State Department were found in the Amerasia office. He was allowed to plead guilty, and got off by paying a twenty-five hundred dollar fine. Six were arrested in all, including State Department officials, one of whom was let off with a fine - while none of the others arrested were ever brought to trial. Hence the charge of cover-up and whitewash.

~~So~~ Philip Jaffe, ~~being questioned~~ refused to answer anything - on Constitutional grounds that he might incriminate himself. Which also went for the sixty-four dollar question - the greeting card manufacturer declining to say whether he is, or has ever been, a Communist. It was one long series of refusals to answer, and Jaffe was promptly threatened with a charge of contempt of Congress.

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We still don't know about
~~NEW MYSTERY ARISES IN THE QUESTION OF THAT~~

order to halt the prosecution of the Amerasia case -
so as not to offend Soviet Russia -

Over the weekend, a page from a diary was published, the diary of the late Secretary of Defense, James Forrestal, who was Secretary of the Navy at the time of the Amerasia case, Nineteen Forty-Five. The entry states that it was Forrestal who gave instructions to chief J. Edgar Hoover to delay - lest the Soviets be offended. But today J. Edgar Hoover denies this.

"At no time," he declares, "did Forrestal indicate to me a desire to stop or delay the case." He says the then Secretary of the Navy merely asked him to keep President Truman informed about the Amerasia affair.

The mystery goes on to New York, where a Federal Grand Jury has - run away. Acting on its own - looking into Amerasia. The Grand Jury has been considering matters of Communism for some time.

Proceeding - under the guidance of a Department of Justice prosecutor, as a Grand Jury is supposed to do.

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But, legally, it is possible for the jurors to act independently, and this they now have done - calling for Amerasia testimony. Today an assistant attorney hurried from Washington to New York, to confer with the Grand Jury - and, presumably, to present the attitude of the Department of Justice in the case.

But all that is concealed by secrecy - and we only know that today the Grand Jury called Max Yergan, former executive secretary of the Council on African Affairs. (That council has been denounced as subversive by the attorney general - and Yergan was ousted two years ago, after he had a dispute with the council chairman, singer Paul Robeson, often called a Communist.) Yergan testified in December, Nineteen Forty-Eight, before the Grand Jury which indicted Alger Hiss - and now he was called to give evidence again today.

The Grand Jury term expires three days from now, which gives little time for doing anything. But

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the jurors might hand down an indictment in the Amerasia case - or pass along a recommendation to the next Grand Jury, scheduled to carry on.

BRITAIN


A statement of major importance comes from London - and it explains a lot about the foreign policy of the British Labor Government. The declaration emanates from the British Labor Party, National Executive Committee, and explains why the London Government has been so cool toward plans for organizing western Europe.

The statement is that economic and political unity of western Europe is impossible - unless all the government's are Socialist. The Labor Party rejects the plan for pooling French and German coal and steel, unless those industries are nationalized. They are opposed, also, to the proposals for increasing the powers of the Council of Europe. Because, as things now stand, that organization of the west would be controlled by an anti-Socialist majority.

The declaration also cites the ties Great Britain has with other members of the Commonwealth, and argues that the London Government should not commit itself to anything in Europe which might interfere with

its obligations toward what used to be called - the
British Empire.

The Labor Party Socialists go on with opinion
on a suggestion that free western Europe should adopt
a neutral position between the United States and Soviet
Russia. This ^{the British Laborites} ~~is~~ rejected in strong terms; ~~the in a~~
statement declaring ^{that} western Europe's economic stability
and strategic defense depend on close cooperation with
the United States. Neutrality is impossible, because
Russia, ⁱⁿ the words of British labor - "recognizes no
alternative between slave and enemy."



ADD BRITAIN

Reactions are immediate - especially in Paris. A dispatch tonight quotes the French political leaders as expressing - dismay. A parliamentary authority on foreign affairs says it looks as if the British labor attitude would make an agreement impossible on the plan to pool coal and steel production. Another political figure interprets the statement as a disavowal of the idea of European unity.

JOURNALIST

There's mighty little illumination in the case of the British journalist, J_ohn Peet, B_erlin bureau manager for Reuters, the British news agency. His previous attitude had led to no suspicion, and it was a complete surprise to his colleagues today - when he announced that he was going over to the R_eds. He blasted the western powers, especially the United States as war mongers - and has been given a newspaper job in the Soviet sector of B_erlin.

He was married to a Viennese countess, who is suing him for a divorce - and she says she is amazed at his change-over to the world of Communism.

INSECTS

Fantasy from India, fantasy of insects. Almost incredible descriptions of a plague of locusts.

Swarming in black columns, almost solid and miles long.

Railroad passengers in Central India declare their train was, in their own words, "buffeted about." The train hit, and staggered almost - by two swarms of locusts, three and four miles long, and eighty feet thick.

They say the train had to - "tunnel through." That's the expression used - "tunnel through" the dense column for ten minutes - slithering on tracks made slippery by masses of insects under the wheels. The Government of India is sending jeeps, trucks and trains loaded with poison, in an effort to save the crops from utter destruction by the monster plague of locusts.

But, if you think that can only happen in fantastic India, let's take a look at Canadian New Brunswick - which is not supposed to be so fantastic. There today, railroad traffic slowed down to a crawl - because of swarms of caterpillars. Like a moving carpet,

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millions of caterpillars creeping over the railroad tracks - so thick that wheels could not get traction on the rails.

They had to spread sand on the tracks for half a mile ahead, and railroad crews walked ahead of the trains, sweeping off caterpillars - and strewing sand.

CAT

In Madrid, romantic Spain - the sensation of the flying cat. A widow, Senora Muñoz, has a domestic feline which flies with wings like a bird.

Actually, this is only the latest in a continuing story. Last week a man named Juan Priego began the sensation by exhibiting his own household cat, which has a pair of wings worthy of a swallow, if not an eagle. So he went into show business and yesterday, in Madrid, four thousand people paid two pesetas each to see the ~~cat~~^{cat} with wings.

However, Juan Priego's cat does not fly - and today the climax was capped by the winged feline which does. That, at least, is the story related by Senora Munoz and her neighbors - who tell of ~~cats~~^{pussy} soaring around the back yard, from one fence to another.

I don't know what is going on in romantic Madrid, but ~~it~~ looks bad for the birds, when the cats grow wings.

Magnani
~~ROSSINI~~

~~All this is accompanied by an equally~~

~~sentimental declaration from the direction of the~~
Here's a lurid bit of aftermath to

the Bergman-Rossellini romance. When that heart-throb hit the headlines, we also heard about an Italian actress, Anna Magnani (Mah-nyah-nee). Said to have been Rossellini's emotional interest, until the movie director met la Bergman. It all had the tone of - heartbreak. But Anna arrived in Paris today, saying - she survived.

This was expressed in the following statement issued by a spokesman for the Italian actress. "Anna," says the statement, "has completely overcome the sentimental crisis she suffered such a short while ago. Like a wounded lioness," proclaims the spokesman, "she hid herself and licked her wounds. *the statement goes on,* Today," ~~he concludes,~~ "the Rossellini episode is only a parenthesis, which has been closed."

Ah, those Latins - the wounded lioness closing the parenthesis.

FORTUNE TELLER

In Paris today - the trial of a woman fortune teller, who reads the future in the cards. Her name is Juliette Platat (Plah-tah), which sounds like the ace of spades coming down with a bang. But when Juliette Platat lays out a fortune with a deck of cards, the future is always foretold correctly - as demonstrated by the story she told on the witness stand today.

She was accused of whacking her husband over the head with a club - knocking him goggly-eyed. So why did she do it?

Well, she explained that two weeks ago, she laid ^{out} the cards, with all her fortune telling magic, and found the prediction - that her husband would suffer a head injury. But the days went by, and nothing happened to hubby's head.

You can guess the rest - anything to make a prophecy come true. — *even if it means conking your little man. That's what this French Juliette did, Wilson —*