

The most significant bit of news about the trial and execution of Beria ~~was in the dispatches tonight~~ is in ~~the dispatches~~ the make up of the court which condemned the one time boss of the dread secret police. Together, with six of his top aides in the NVD.

Earlier dispatches mentioned Ivan Koniev, as chairman of the Central Commission of the Soviet Supreme Court. Later word identifies him as Marshall Koniev, the well known military commander. Koniev made a brilliant reputation as a tank commander in the Second World War, and is now the commander of the Soviet land army.

He was named to the Red Supreme Court for the especial purpose of presiding over the trial of Beria, and the other former big shots of the secret police.

Moreover, another member of the four man court which gave the verdict of "death" was a Soviet General of the Army, Moskalenko.

This is the first time in Soviet history that military commanders have sat in judgment over fallen top ranking Red officials, and it's taken to signify - that the army overthrew Beria and his forces in the secret police.

With Marshall Koniev presiding over the trial, of a general of the army having a place beside him among the judges,

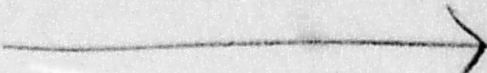
We have been hearing all along, that the struggle for power was, basicly between the Soviet army and the secret police. So now the picture of the trial confirms it.

The deadly legal proceedings began on December Eighteenth, five days ago. Beria and his associates confessing ~~RE~~ treason. Found guilty of ~~RE~~ plotting to seize power through the secret police. Beria ~~and~~ accused of conspiring with foreign capitalist agents all through his career - during the time when he was right-hand man to Stalin. Later - member of the ruling triumvirate in the Kremlin,

The verdict - death. The sentence - executed immediately. Beria and his followers were shot today.

The blood-thirsty ending had been expected. The only surprise -- that the ~~presiding~~ presiding Judge was Marshall Koniev, with another Army General on the board of four judges. Which would seem to indicate that the Army, the Red Marshalls, are riding high in Soviet Russia.

FRANCE

France has a new President, an unknown, a dark horse. Rene Coty, a seventy-one year old member of the right wing independent coalition. For days, the National Assembly had been unable to choose a President. One ballot after another was taken. Premier Laniel in the lead, followed by a Socialist leader. But neither could get anywhere, the whole thing in a rather preposterous deadlock, So the national Assembly did a familiar thing, going to a dark horse as a compromise. The veteran politician, Rene Coty, now President of France. 

ADD FRANCE

The result was taken with ill grace ~~but~~ by the left wingers, socialists and Communists -- who refused to join in hailing the new President.

## IRAN

Diplomatic relations ~~WERE~~ were re-established formally, today, between Iran and Great Britain. In the capital city of Teheran, a British charge d'affairs presented his credentials to the Iranian foreign minister. A full fledged ambassador - to arrive later. The Union Jack was hoisted above the British embassy, for the first time since diplomatic relations were severed more than a year ago.

Meanwhile, former Premier Mossadegh, who seized Anglo-Iranian oil, has been tried and sentenced to prison. The formal re-establishment of diplomatic relations - following immediately after.

Today's event was accompanied by rioting. Communist elements demonstrating against the return of British diplomats. Also - against the prison sentence imposed on Mossadegh. Police arrested twelve ring leaders - the disturbance quelled without much trouble.

SUB LEAD PRISONERS

At Pan Mun Jom, a sudden change in the plan for pro-Communist American prisoners to have a news conference. Earlier in the day, the word was that the renegade G I's had asked to meet the reporters, and tell them - why they preferred Communism. But, they changed their minds. Saying - no. So, a news conference will be held by a South Korean pro-Communist.

All of which follows a grotesque outbreak <sup>when a</sup> ~~oto etc.~~

~~This follows the grotesque outbreak when a~~

recording was broadcast giving those G I's a final statement, and urging them to return. They howled a chorus of Communist propoganda, staged a weird dance, raising an uproar of defiance. Their leader, private Richard Corden of East Providence, Rhode Island, led them in a chant.

"Do any Americans want to go home?" Corden shouted. "No"! the others roared.

Well, it all makes an ugly end - ~~To~~ the explanation business. It seemed absurd, when the Reds first asked the right to make explanations to anti-Communist prisoners who ~~we~~ refused to return to Communism. The Red explainers had a ridiculous time - defied and cursed by the anti-Communists.

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ But our side has fared no better, *except*

*that* The Anti-Communists who rejected repatriation were numbered in the tens of thousands. *And* only a tiny percentage paid any attention to the explainers. The pro-Communist



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prisoners numbered only a few thousand. A mere twenty-two of them Americans.

## GOLD

In London - Soviet gold. As predicted weeks ago more precious metal from Russia has begun to appear in Britain - and on the Continent. For the first time - in years.

The word is - a deal between banks. You don't think readily of - Communist banking. But, in Moscow, there is a financial institution - the Narodni Bank. Which figures in a seventy million dollar transaction involving gold. The Narodni Bank of Moscow, shipping that much bullion to the Bank of England. The Soviets getting - sterling credits in return.

All - to facilitate Soviet purchases in the sterling area. Paying for imports - with British pounds.

Reports are that Russia is short of foreign currency, especially sterling. Hence - the seventy million dollar deal. The first consignment of gold, shipped TO London three weeks ago - by plane. Soviet gold - appearing in Britain. Gold from Siberia. Gold from Kamchatka. Gold from the Lena River.

RADIOACTIVE

*The State of* North Carolina seems to be radioactive! So announced by a firm engaged in strip mining. "The deposits are 'hot' says mining engineer Nicholas Rochella.

Radioactive deposits found in ash county. Not ~~the~~ the usual uranium, but rare metals like thorium, *and* beryllium. Radio active ores - that may turn out to be the richest kind of strike.

The strip mining company has taken leases on fifty-five thousand acres of North Carolina land - also land in Virginia. They set out to look for iron ore and manganese, ~~and~~ and found - <sup>rare</sup> ~~these~~ metals that give off radiation.

## PRICES

The Department of Agriculture says - there's no evidence of profiteering by the beef packers. Four months ago, the Department started an investigation - in response to complaints that the decrease of prices for cattle was not reflected in the retail markets. The stock raisers were getting less - but the housewife not benefiting by the decline. The middleman - getting it.

The investigation shows that, in isolated cases, the retail price did not decline in due proportion. But, as for the beef packers, there was no profiteering. The Department of Agriculture stating: "Prices of retail beef, wholesale beef, and live cattle - generally ~~follow~~ follow parallel trends."

Meanwhile, the government reported a decrease in the cost of living for November. For the first time in eight months, prices were lower. The figure - three-tenths of one percent. The principal factor - a drop in food prices. Which declined one and four tenths percent in November.

## WATERFRONT

New York's waterfront election erupted into violence today - three longshoremen stabbed in a brawl in Brooklyn. They're in a hospital tonight. A series of battles broke out in the tough Brooklyn area - suppressed quickly by strong forces of police.

Twenty-two thousand longshoremen - in the two day election to decide between the old I L A and the new union formed by the American Federation <sup>— the A. F. of L.</sup> - having tossed out the I L A, on grounds of corruption and racketeering. Long Lines of dock workers going to collective bargaining polls under government supervision. With plenty of talk about intimidation- the labor racketeers trying to retain their control.

The balloting ends tonight. The final count - expected early tomorrow morning.

PILOT

A helicopter pilot had a wild adventure in the New Jersey sky. William J. Fox was making a test flight in a new type ~~of~~ copter. And, at an altitude of five thousand feet; the flying machine broke in two. The wreckage - plunging a mile to the ground.

The test pilot had a parachute, but he was tangled in the mass of broken metal, and couldn't get loose - not for half ~~an~~ a mile.

Down he plunged - in a frantic struggle to untangle himself. But he ~~got~~ <sup>finally did get</sup> loose. His parachute ~~opened~~ <sup>did in time,</sup> and he came down safely. - *survivor of a weird one,*

PRESENTS

*- that sounds like*  
Here's an exchange of Christmas presents <sup>^</sup> about

the most useless and futile in all the land. The presidents  
of the Universities of Maine and Idaho - sending each other  
gifts. The Maine prexy sending - a bag of potatoes!

The Idaho prexy responding with - a bag of potatoes!

*- and they are*  
Well, those are the two potato states <sup>^</sup> thoroughly

jealous of each other. Potatoes are what they need the least  
- thereby producing the height of useless futility. As if  
you and I were to send each other exactly the same thing -  
**sp** something which neither of us needs.

## CHRISTMAS

Another sign of that "new look" behind the Iron Curtain:- In Red Hungary, the word "Christmas" is being used this year. Previously - banned by the Communists. Much too christian - for the Marxian utopia!

In previous years, under Communism, the Holy Day was observed - under another name. Red publications called it - "the Feast of Father Winter." Or - "the Feast of the Fir Tree." But that's changed. In Budapest, today, newspapers are saying - "Christmas."

The "new look". Red Hungary going back to the pre-Communist way of celebrating. Christmas no longer banned.



## SANTA CLAUS

A Cornell professor tells us - that Santa Claus was born right here - in the U.S.A. Yes sir, he's American, even if his home is at the North Pole! Of course, the legend of St. Nicholas goes way back to the Middle Ages - in Europe. But the good Saint, as we know him, in his typical form ever here - originated right in this country. How do we know? Well, its vouched for by an erudite Cornell prof - who ought to know. Professor Charles W. Jones, gives us the following account of the birth of Santa Claus.

Back in Eighteen Nine, Washington Irving published his famous "Knickerbocker History." In which he told - of Christmas as celebrated by the early Dutch inhabitants of New York State - from the Spytten Dyvel to the Tappen Sea, and on up to Rhinebeck, and even to Amsterdam. He tells how St. Nick zipped down the chimneys of old Dutch houses at Poughkeepsie - maybe even at Pawling; - Tarrytown of course.! And how all the Dutch children hung their stockings by the fireplace.

Washington Irving's jolly tale of Christmas

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was quoted far and wide - so far and wide that it soon was taken as an old legend - brought over from Holland.

But here's the oddity: says the Cornell Professor:

"I made a search through records dating back before Washington Irving's "Knickerbocker History," and was unable to find a single mention of the Dutch Christmas observances described by the author. So he concludes that Washington Irving was the mid-wife -- or should we say, the literary obstetrician who presided at the birth of the roly-poly, laughing Santa who is the central figure of Christmas as we know it. Santa Claus a one hundred percent American!

On Prancer! On Blitzen! On Comet! on Mike!