

LEAD L.T.K. Tues. Nov. 17 - '53.

The^t big event in Washington, this afternoon, was tense with drama. The Committee ^{hearing} ~~meeting~~ amounted to an answer to President Truman's radio-television appearance last night. In which he explained that Harry Dexter White was kept on the job of the Monetary Fund, so that charges of espionage against him could be investigated all the better.

A reply was made by A^ttorney General Brownell - but, more especially, by head of the F.B.I., J. Edgar Hoover. The galleries were packed, and there were bursts of applause, when emphatic statements were made.

HOOVER

According to J. Edgar Hoover the appointment of White to that International Monetary Fund - hampered the FBI in an attempt to keep an eye on him!

The head of the ~~ME~~ FBI made a surprise appearance before the Internal Security Sub-Committee. In J. Edgar Hoover's words, the ~~MFBI~~ was "not a party to any agreement" to keep Harry Dexter White in the Monetary Fund. And that was his reply to the Truman claim that the government kept White in his job so he could be watched.

The head of the F.B.I. testified that he talked with former Attorney General Tom Clark on February 21, 1946, telling him it would be unwise to have White as ~~ME~~our Director of the Monetary Fund. That was after White had been confirmed by the Senate, but before he actually took over his duties. The F.B.I. chief added that the next day he had a conference with Clark and Fred Vinson, then secretary of the Treasury, and ~~they~~ told him ----

Clark, Vinson and ^{the then} Secretary of State Byrnes would see Mr. Truman about Harry Dexter White; And ~~that they~~ ~~would~~ suggest three alternatives to the President.

Either dismiss White without any statement, Or ~~simply~~ tell him that the President wanted him to resign, Or finally, the President could sign the Commission, and instruct the Attorney General to continue the investigation of White. J. Edgar Hoover himself had no voice in the decision. As he put it to the Subcommittee, "I was at the meeting to furnish facts, which I did." And ^{then} the head of the FBI added: "I was not present in any discussions with the President concerning this matter."

^{J. Edgar} According to Hoover's testimony, ^{Atty. Gen.} Clark told

him a few days later that he had seen the President -

and that an effort would be made to remove White. But

~~Edgar Hoover~~ ^{Atty. Gen.} noted that Clark was doubtful that this could be

done. Moreover, ^{J. Edgar said} ~~Hoover stated~~ Clark declared at that

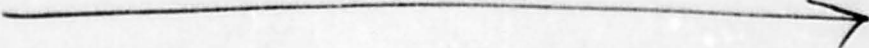
time that the President wanted White surrounded by

loyal men - wanted continual surveillance kept up.

Then says J. Edgar

~~According to~~ Hoover: "I stated that if that was the desire, we would continue the investigation."

But the head of the FBI insisted that his organization ~~never~~ ^{*that Harry Dexter*} agreed to ~~the~~ White appointment.

^{*he said today -*} "At no time," ~~he stated~~ "was the FBI a party to an agreement to promote Harry Dexter White, - and at no time did the FBI give its approval to such an agreement." 

ADD HOOVER

Also that the F.B.I. had nothing to do with the fact that White was surrounded by men who were not good security risks.

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BROWNELL - FOLLOW HOOVER

~~And what about~~ *And what about* *He said today that he*
~~Attorney General Brownell~~ *Attorney General Brownell* never intended to
imply that former President Truman was disloyal. The

in the present administration
Attorney General was asked about this point when he
this afternoon
testified before the Senate Internal Security Sub-
Committee. Senator McClellan of Arkansas asked

Brownell whether he would accuse Mr. Truman of ~~being~~
"stupidity" or "laxity". To this Brownell answered
"I use the word 'blindness'."

Brownell did accuse the former president of
being unwilling to face the fact of Red espionage in
our government.

He mentioned three letters from J. Edgar
Hoover to General Harry Vaughan, then Mr. Truman's
Military Aide. The three letters, describing Harry
Dexter White's connection with Soviet espionage in
Washington. One of the letters had not been referred
to before. Until now, it has been labeled "Top
Secret." Brownell has taken it off the de-classified
list. And to the Sub-Committee he revealed its
contents. The letter was dated November 8, 1945. In

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it, the head of the F.B.I. ~~HE~~ mentioned a number of persons suspected of helping the Soviets ~~to~~ obtain secret documents.

Among the names - Harry Dexter White.

According to the ~~Hoover letter~~ ^{letter by the head of the F.B.I.,} documents were

furnished to ^{one} Gregory Silvermaster, who had them photographed and then turned the film over to a courier of the espionage ring

The Attorney General brought up a point in connection with the grand jury investigation - which reported that there was not enough evidence to bring Harry Dexter White to trial. A good deal has been made of this - and, today, Brownell gave an explanation. He said that there was decisive evidence against White, but, it could not be presented to the Grand Jury - because of its character. It was - wire tapped. And, according to law, wire tapped evidence could not be used, legally.

The Attorney General stated that this was a great handicap to the F.B.I. in combating espionage - and ^{he} urged that, legislation be enacted, permitting wire tapped evidence

to be used. He also proposed a legal change, which would keep accused Communists from taking refuge under the Fifth Amendment, refusing to answer - because of self incrimination.

Altogether, it was a dramatic day - in the big uproar.

PEACE CONFERENCE

The Reds reject the American scheme for a compromise on the Korean peace conference. So stated today by the Peiping radio.

Our suggestion was to let ~~the~~ neutrals attend that conference ~~the~~ after it started. But only if the belligerents could not reach an agreement. Or else after the Korean problem had been settled, and other issues in Asia were brought up.

To this proposal, Mao Tse Tung says through his radio - no.

of the "explanation period." Our Secretary of State answers that no re-examination is necessary. Because the Truce Agreement already provides for the status of prisoners after the deadline. And we will insist on that provision - freedom for all prisoners in the countries of their choice.

DULLES

America will insist that all un-repatriated prisoners be liberated by January twenty-second. This was stated by Secretary of State Dulles at his weekly news conference. Dulles noted that the Truce Agreement provides for the freeing of prisoners who refuse to go home - they^{are} to be freed in the country of their choice. The Truce Agreement put a time limit - one hundred twenty days, provided that no other decision was taken by a Peace Conference.

Dulles did not say that no political conference will be held. But he did say that if the Reds make such a conference impossible - then the prisoners will be free to choose their point of liberation. In other words, Korean prisoners may stay in South Korea. And Chinese prisoners will be allowed to go to Formosa - if they prefer Chiang Kai Shek's regime to that of Mao Tse Tung.

The Dulles statement is described as a rebuff to the Indian Prime Minister. Nehru has declared that the prisoner question should be re-examined at the end

PRISONERS

At Pan Mun Jom, the Reds are still stalling. And the Indian Command charges them with violating the rules of the Repatriation Program. The Indian accusation, following Communist demands, that selected groups of prisoners be brought out to face their "explainers." General Thimayya told the Reds that no selection would be made - either to interview all the prisoners in the compounds, or none. UN observers declare that the Reds are trying to throw the blame for their failure onto the Neutral Commission. Meaning, that their "explanations" have been a failure. And so they want to make it appear that the Neutral Commission can't control the prisoners.

General Thimayya states that he expects a violent Communist protest - when he produces the Allied prisoners for their interviews. He expects the Reds to ask why he can't bring out Communist prisoners - if he can bring out the Allied prisoners.

~~SUB-STACKS~~

BOX CAR

That tragic air accident at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, was caused when one plane in the formation went out of control. The formation - composed of twelve "flying boxcars." The planes were supposed to drop eight hundred paratroopers during the training exercises. Those up ahead had dropped their ^{men} ~~paratroopers~~ - when one plane nosed over - and began to smash through the area of ^{all those} ~~area~~ billowing ~~paratroopers~~

Here's how Jumpmaster Sergeant Jessie Errington, of Newport News, Virginia, describes his experience in the stricken plane: "I heard something hit the top of the plane - and little pieces of glass fell down all over us."

Sergeant Errington's men began to jump as the alarm bell rang. / ^{He} Says ~~Errington~~! "The plane tilted to one side and I stood in the door a moment to see that everybody was out."

Then the Sergeant jumped and came down safely.

BOX CAR - 2

The careening plane knocked down nine paratroopers as they dangled from their chutes. The pilot of the plane, is credited with saving others. ~~by veering the plane away from them~~

Sergeant Errington says of the pilot: "He gave his life to give me and the crew time to get out. ^{And} ~~He~~ undoubtedly saved many more lives by veering the plane away from the men

jumping out of the planes ahead." ^{PP} Six of the crew were killed when the

~~plane~~ "Flying Boxcar" crashed, ~~killing~~

more men. ~~although the pilot was killed~~

~~just another training maneuver~~

MOUNT EVEREST

Three of the heads of the Mt. Everest climbing party are coming to this country. I learn this direct from Sir Edwin Herbert, President of the Alpine Club of London. Sir Edmund Hillary is coming in person. Ford Hicks of the National Lecture Bureau in Chicago is handling all the ~~personal~~ personal appearances. And it promises to be quite a show, and not the usual lecture sort of thing, because three of the Everest climbers will take turns in telling the story from the platform, along with pictures of that historic event, Man's conquest of the last Pole.

At the same time that these three Everest climbers are here, their book will be launched by Elliott Macrae and his associates of Dutton. And, shortly after, the Mt. Everest motion picture will be presented to the theatres of the country. But first will come the visit of Hillary and his colleagues, to tell the story in person.

From Sir Edwin Herbert I learned something that I wasn't fully aware of; How it was mere chance that enabled

Hillary and Tensing to reach the summit. That is, the members of the expedition worked in relays, and one by one exhausted themselves in what seemed to be a superhuman task of getting the personnel and equipment up to the South Col, a thing that other Everest expeditions believed was impossible. — *to get the entire expedition up that high.*

From Sir Edwin I learned that even Colonel Hunt, who is forty-two years old, climbed higher than twenty-eight thousand feet, *with aid of his oxygen* and could have made the summit, had he not sacrificed himself making it necessary for two fresh climbers *It simply worked out by chance that* to do the final dash. Hillary and Tensing ~~was~~ happened to be the two ready for this.

In other words, all the high climbers should deserve equal credit, and Hillary and Tensing just became symbols for the party. Of course their names will go ringing down in history, *— Hillary knighted, Tensing buried under honors,* and the others, in time, will be forgotten.

That's just one of those quirks of fate.

— o — o —
But now, from towering Everest, let's go on to another mountaineering story - and don't think I'm joking.

Scientists are going to the top of a lofty peak - in a rowboat.
That's right - rowboat.

This mountain summit can be reached only once a year - and, then, for only about four hours. Interesting place; - now the goal for Dr. Yale Dawson of the Hancock Foundation for Scientific Research.

Off the West coast of Mexico, there's a great mountain rising from the deep floor of the Pacific. Three topmost points are near the surface. Submerged, except when the tides are just right. Which ~~depends~~ depends on the exact position of the moon and sun. Once a year, the tide goes down so low that the three pinnacles of the mountain-top are above water - for about four hours. Emerging, like huge rocks.

That will be next Thursday, when the scientists will land on those rocks - in a rowboat.

Their purpose - to collect seaweed. Which, they say, is of a type that lies between marine vegetation of the mid-Pacific and the kind found along the coast of North America.

Mike, a mountain top that can only be reached in a row^{boat}.