

P.J. - P+8. Tuesday, Oct. 21, 1947.

The congressional investigation of Communism in Hollywood went into an uproar today - with sensational testimony, cheering and shouting, a lawyer tossed out into the street, another nearly tossed out. ^P With prominent actors, directors and screen writers in a turmoil - ^{-- quite} ~~it was~~ a feast for the movie goers.

Those of us who go to motion pictures regularly, must have wondered at the charge that the Communists are constantly trying to sneak Red propaganda into ^{our} film features. ^{How?} ^{How} ~~How~~ ^{do you do} ^{it?} The answer was given today, with rich detail, by John Charles Moffitt, a Hollywood screen writer.

^P Testifying before the Committee on Un-American Activities, he told how he and his wife, in Nineteen Thirty-Seven, joined the Anti-Nazi League/ - they simply didn't like Nazis. He related how shortly afterward they were invited to attend a meeting, which had included some of the most prominent writers and directors of movieland. "I was shocked," Moffitt stated today, "when we were addressed as- "We Communists." In addition to

which the film writers of the Party ^{called} ~~addressed~~ each other as -
"comrade." Moffitt's wife resigned immediately, while he stayed
in for six weeks - "to see how they worked," as he said today.
He soon found out.

Today he quoted a number one Communist screen writer
as giving the following instructions to fellow writers: he
warned them not to try to turn a whole feature picture into
Communist propaganda. They must be more subtle than that.
"Get five minutes of the Party line in every picture," ^{said he.} ~~the~~
~~instructions contained with the command~~ ^{And he told them to} to get the Communist
propaganda into the most expensive scenes, the ones that cost
the most to make. Because the front office ^{would} ~~will~~ be less likely
to throw out the expensive scenes, with the Party line angles,
after they had been filmed. The writers were further told to
insert the Red propaganda in lines to be spoken by some well
known star, like Gary Cooper - giving the Communist ^{doctrine} ~~propaganda~~
more effect.

But how do you insert the Party line in a film

feature? This way:- John Charles Moffitt today quoted that leading Communist film writer, as addressing the following to a group of Hollywood actors and actresses of Reddish inclination. "It is your duty," said he, "to further the class struggle by your acting. If you were dressed in white flannels and standing on the steps of a country club, do your best to look a snob, to appear decadent." In other words, give a nasty picture of Americans who might go to a country club. That was one angle; and here's another. "If you appear on a tenement street," ~~commented~~ *added* the Communist writer, "do your best to look shabby, the victim of society." That is, give an impression of downtrodden workers in this country.

Moffitt stated that these Party line angles are usually cut out by the motion picture producers, but occasionally they get through. He told of one that did get through - an ugly scene written in by a Communist writer, a scene showing a banker refusing a loan to a former G.I.

~~How perfect the Party line is observed by Hollywood~~

Communists was illustrated in ^{Further} ~~still another bit of~~ testimony.

Moffitt told how he worked on a movie script with still another Communist writer. This was at the time of the Hitler-Stalin pact, when the Soviets were supporting the Nazis. This Communist writer's efforts were to carry on propaganda against Lend-Lease and against the late President Roosevelt as a war mongerer.

This testimony was applauded loudly by the spectators who attended the hearing, and they gave an ovation to veteran film actor Adolphe Menjou - whose ~~testimony~~ opened the hearing. The suave, dapper Menjou⁴ kept the audience in an uproar of laughter, as he hurled barbs at the Reds of Hollywood. He called Communism - "an oriental tyranny." He said the Communists over here were not a political party, but a conspiracy to overthrow the government - which should be outlawed. Adolphe Menjou jibed about accusations of witch-hunting. "Well," said ~~himself~~ he suavely, "I'm a witch-hunter ^{if} ~~the~~ the witches are Communists, I'm a Red-baiter."

The applause of the spectators for Adolphe Menjou continued on to Rupert Hughes, veteran author of best sellers. Rupert Hughes told the Congressional Committee that a little while ago he was paid five thousand dollars for writing a plot of an anti-Communist film feature, but later was told that the motion picture could not be produced, the Company giving the following reason:- "the Communists would put stink pots in every theatre in the country."

IN all of this, names were named, a whole lot of them, one after another, a list of Hollywood writers, directors and actors accused of trying to put Party line Communism into the American motion pictures. ^R The uproar occurred when a lawyer ^{seen} repreting a group of accused movie people, tried to shout his way into the proceedings. As he yelled, pandemonium broke out, above which a voice from the gallery roared, "Throw the bum out!" Which was promptly done. Two policemen grabbed the lawyer, and rushed him out of the building, right out into the street. A few minutes later, another defense lawyer got

into a wrangle with the Committee, and ~~he~~ started shouting - ;
but he subsided quickly when he saw the police coming his way.
About to be tossed out, he sat down, red faced and muttering.

The culminating sensation was a story of how a
Hollywood literary agent worked a scheme for getting an American
military secret into the hands of the Soviets. Film W^Riter
John Charles Noffitt ~~xxxx~~ testified that this top flight
salesman, Hollywood representative of one of the most important
literary agents of the country, got hold of a pilot who was
doing test flight work on the Army ~~secret~~ supersonic plane,
the XS-1. ~~This is~~ a number one military secret, a fabulously
speedy jet plane ~~which was~~ designed to fly at fifteen hundred
miles an hour, twice the speed of sound. Rumors are that, in
one test flight after another the XS-1 has broken all records
and approached the speed of sound. ^{TP} The pilot in question
flew the supersonic XS-1 on its first twenty test flights
at the Murdock Dry Lake in California. ^{The account given} ~~The story told~~ today ^{was}
~~is~~ that the Hollywood literary agent suggested to the

supersonic test pilot that he had a great story, which should be written. Other Hollywood Reds joined in the persuasion, to which the pilot answered - that any such story would have to be censored by the Army. So the literary agent and his pals responded - that was all right, the pilot should first write the story, let them see if it was okay; ~~and~~ then it could be censored by the Army. Which he did, giving an account of the supersonic test flights on which he had worked.

Screen ~~W~~riter John Charles Moffitt testified today that the article, disclosing military secrets, was immediately relayed by the literary agent to Communist headquarters in New York - without any Army censorship, of course.

The latest - a blast from Senator Pepper of Florida, denouncing the investigation of Hollywood Communism as Fascist. The Florida Senator advises witnesses called by the Committee to refuse to answer questions.

The Army confirms this but says it was not serious at all.

FOLLOW HOLLYWOOD

The latest tonight is a sensational story about those Army supersonic developments. Today, a forty-four ton bomber, with eight jet engines, made its first flight -- a success. The details are kept secret, but we hear that the speed performance of the great bomber was close to the realm of miracle.

BRAZIL

Brazil today made a formal diplomatic break with Soviet Russia. That was brewing for several days, and is now official. It was only about two years ago that the government at Rio established formal relations with Moscow, as a result of wartime alliance. But all that is now at an end, ambassadors of the two countries withdrawn, the United States taking charge of the Brazilian Embassy in the Soviet capital.

~~The reason for the diplomatic break is - Moscow insults, a scurrilous anti-Brazilian campaign in the Soviet press, because of the diplomatic support the biggest of the Latin-American republics has given to the United States. In particular, Soviet propaganda which compared Brazilian President Dutra with Hitler. Well, in the Moscow diatribe, our own President Truman was called a Hitler - and our American Ambassador to the Kremlin issued a vigorous protest. Brazil goes a hundred per cent - and breaks off diplomatic relations, which would seem to indicate that a lot of importance is attached to name-calling these days.~~

FOREST FIRE

Northern New England is menaced by the worst outbreaks of forest fires in its history -- giant woodland blazes raging through the drought-parched forests, defying all efforts to quell them. A hundred fires burning fiercely, from Maine to Connecticut, from Claremont, New Hampshire, to Cape Cod. In the State of Maine, ~~a~~ grave emergency. Scores of farm houses and summer cottages destroyed, the National Guard called out to fight the fires and prevent looting.

Last night one huge fire raced along a six-mile front to threaten the textile city of Biddeford, Maine. Then, dramatically, when the roaring flames were less than a mile from the city, the wind changed and blew it out to sea.

Tonight, the towns of Kennebunk and Kennebunkport are in ~~grave~~ danger, a vast forest fire eating through the woods and leaping across fields at a speed of twenty-miles-an-hour. Kennebunkport police appealing for every-

one available to give a hand to save the town. Police Chief Patrick Brady went to one section of the town to direct the fire fighting. While he was there, his own house ~~was~~ burned to the ground. Red Cross officials in Portland, Maine have organized a flying squad carrying medical supplies, food, clothing and blankets to the burning area.

Lydia Bailey,
Kenneth Roberts, author of Northwest Passage and many other books dealing with New England relates tonight that from his window, "The entire horizon is red with roaring flames." ^{SPEAKING} ~~saying~~ from his Kennebunkport home, Roberts told reporters that caravans of people are fleeing with their clothes and household goods. Children returning home from school to find their houses burned. The fire providing an almost unbelievable spectacle -- the flames moving swiftly through the upper branches of trees, the ground fire following ten minutes behind the flaming tree-tops.

Latest news from Kennebunk, broadcast over the radio from Portland, Maine, the speaker a Kennebunkport

selectman, "The fire is completely out of hand. We need help urgently, before the entire town is gone. Everyone with any kind of fire-fighting equipment, please come."

Meanwhile, in New York State, Governor Thomas Dewey has banned all hunting and has ordered all state-owned land closed to the public, because of the numerous outbreaks of forest fires.

PARLIAMENT

Today in London, Parliament opened - and at the right-hand of the King, sat his daughter, Princess Elizabeth. ~~Which, in this western republic of ours, may not seem of such headline importance - but in Britain, with its traditions of royalty, the place given to the Princess was of eloquent significance. Until now, Elizabeth, soon to marry, has had the rank of heir-presumptive. However, the place at the right-hand of the King on his throne is always reserved for the heir-apparent. The last time anybody sat at the right hand of ~~the~~ a British King in royal state it was the Prince of Wales, when he was heir-apparent, that same Prince of Wales who became Edward the Eighth and bowed out in the royal romance and abdication.~~

Princess Elizabeth ranks are mere heir-presumptive because of the technical assumption that the King and Queen might yet have a son, who would be the heir-apparent. But this now is not expected, as was made evident according to royal etiquette today -- when Princess Elizabeth took her place at the right hand of her father.

The opening of Parliament had its traditional splendor of medieval scarlet and gold. Britain in a desperate economic crisis, but I suppose they have the scarlet and gold anyway, so they might as well use it. So how did the Princess comport herself in all the pomp and circumstance -- taking for the first time the place of heir-apparent to the British crown? We are told that she was not so much at ease not so placid and queenly as her mother. Well, what young woman is at twenty-one?

~~The Queen sat on the throne at the left of the King, her train dropping in a graceful curve, her hands quietly in her lap, regal and stately, yet comfortable, as a queen should be -- even on a stiff-backed royal throne, which was not built for comfort.~~

~~The Princess, perched on the edge of a chair of oak and plush, looked nervous, fingering a string of pearls she wore around her neck and staring straight ahead. You know how it is at a big occasion, when you're twenty-one.~~

The King, when he read the speech from the throne,

spoke slowly, with occasional hesitation - the way of one who has overcome the habit of stammering. The news dispatch from London states, "he seemed to time his phrases like a musician, his left foot beating a slow measure on the red carpet." ~~Which reminds me of something~~ I hear recently from an English friend - that King E George, in conquering the stammering he had, was aided by an Italian voice teacher who once had trained the voice of Caruso - the maestro applying the vocal methods of music. That fits the picture of the monarch timing his phrases like a musician - working the down beat with his foot.

This address from the throne was in accordance with the curious political situation in Britain today - royal sovereign and Labor government. George the Sixth used ~~such monarchial phraseology as - "my government" and "my people"~~ But what he proclaimed in that medieval way was Labor Government Socialism. He announced the nationalization of the British gas industry during the coming year, and proclaimed new curbs to be imposed on

the House of Lords. The fast waving powers of the peers of the realm, still further to be diminished. This is regarded as a victory for the Left Wing of the Labor Party, which had demanded that something be done to prevent the Lords from delaying Socialist legislation.

~~All this promulgated by the King in a royal address from the throne - while Queen Elizabeth listened in regal comfort, and the Princess, making her debut in the place occupied by the heir-apparent, fidgety and nervous.~~

KING FOLLOW PARLIAMENT

This program seems to have become so royal, that we might as well finish it on a note of kingly majesty. A dispatch from London states that, at long last, they have found the iron pants of Henry the Eighth. For centuries, the lower half of that monarch's favorite suit of armor had been missing, and the masters of heraldry and court antiquities had hunted everywhere;- but in vain.

It was known that the iron pants of Henry the Eighth existed somewhere. That King of many wives was, in his vigorous years, a ^{bold} ~~foremost~~ knight ⁱⁿ ~~of the~~ tournaments of those days - tilting in full armor against other champions of the shield and lance. He was known to have ^{had} a favorite suit of armor, and in the Tower of London the upper half of this was preserved, but where was the lower half? His Majesty, the King, would never have tilted in a tournament without his iron pants.

Well, they've now been found, so says a dispatch from London today - found in an old ^{castle} ~~castle~~ in ^{Scribblesby} ~~Scribblesby~~ Court, in Lincolnshire. ^{Scribblesby} Court has turrets, battlements and

a moat, - also a ghost, no doubt. ^{And} In its dim castle halls,
the steel trousers of Henry the Eighth have been found. Why

had they escaped notice for so long? The reason is simple.

The metal breeches of the Blue Beard King
~~The iron pants of Henry the Eighth~~ were found attached to the

upper half of another suit of armor - a less distinguished

upper half, which had been worn by a mere duke or earl.

A long time ago, in the dim past, somebody mixed up the armor

and fastened the royal half to an upper half of an inferior

^{and} rank ~~is~~ station.

But now tonight, the complete royal armor stands

in the Tower of London, and the measurements show Henry the

Eighth to have cut a fine figure in his vigorous years -

not like the familiar picture we have of him. His armor shows

him to have stood a tall six feet with a muscular thirty-four

Henry the Eighth with a wasp waist?!
inch waist. We get our usual idea from a portrait by Holbein,

which shows the royal Bluebeard in his later years - fat,

bloated.

All of which is being noted, as Old England,

Labor government, Socialism and all, sends us the
dispatch - that they have found the iron pants of Henry
the Eighth. And now, Nelson - what have you on tonight?
I mean on your mind?

U.N.

The General Assembly of the United Nations has voted to set up watch-dog commission to patrol in the Balkans. Soviet opposition was bitter, but late this afternoon the question was put to a vote, -- and it came out forty to six, in favor of the watch-dog commission to patrol the northern border of Greece and keep a lookout for Red aggression by the Communist puppets.

POULTRY

On the wrangling question of poultryless Thursday, the whole business has been put up to President Truman's food committee for decision. This was announced late this afternoon by a poultry spokesman, and Chairman Luckman, the food conservation chief, states that the committee will meet tomorrow to decide on whether or not to continue Thursday as a day to go without poultry.