


UNIFICATION

L. J. P. G. Friday, Oct. 21, 1949

The unification inquiry ended today - and final testimony was imposing, though not so violent and rambunctious as previously. Today's first witness was Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson, who denied that he was out to scuttle the Navy. But he made it plain that there is no intention of reviving the project of that Sixty Thousand ton super-carrier, on which the Navy had set its heart.

Other witnesses were wartime Army Commander General Marshall and former President Herbert Hoover, whose commission for federal reform had a great deal to do with the project of establishing a unified command for the Armed Forces. Both made a plea for an end to all the squabbling and bickering.

Ex-President Hoover was inclined to be optimistic, thinking that the explosion of the quarrel might have the benefit of blowing off steam. Taking a philosophic view, he pointed out that unification has been in operating for less than four months. And he added: 

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"It takes a year for newly wedded couples to get used to each other." But alas, ^{alas} Mr. Hoover, some wedded couples never do get used to each other. /

STRIKE

The government has ordered a reduction in railroad operations - because of the coal strike. The two big walkouts, coal and steel, have been impeding industrial operations in various ways - and now the shortage of fuel necessitates a cut in railroad service. This is the first measure taken by the Federal authorities in the coal strike - and it remains to be seen what else will follow.

COMMUNISTS

The Eleven Communist leaders were sentenced today. Ten of them got Five Years each in prison. One - Three Years. Federal Judge Medina imposed the lesser sentence on Robert Thompson, New York State Chairman for the Communist Party, because of his good war record.

In court, the Red leaders, convicted of conspiracy to bring about a Communist revolution, were given their final say. One by one, they rose, and propounded the usual Communist arguments. Then they were led away, while a crowd of sympathizers cheered and sang.

AMTORG

In Washington this afternoon, an indictment was handed down against - Amtorg. That's the Soviet trade agency - which now is charged with violating the law that requires the registration of foreign agents. The Department of Justice contends that Amtorg is really a clearing house for information sent on to Moscow - virtually an adjunct to the Russian Intelligence Service. Five officials were arrested today - named in the indictment.

ATOMIC

From a Norwegian atomic scientist we have the statement that the publication of American atomic secrets helped the Soviets ~~to~~ develop an atomic bomb - ~~do~~ *it* ahead of time - saving Russia ^{some} two years of research.

Gunnar Randers is head of Norway's Institute of Atomic Studies, and he pointed to the Smyth Report.

That book, published in Nineteen Forty-Five, told the story of the creation of the bomb by the United States, and today the number one atomic physicist of Norway declared: "Scientists everywhere," said he, "believe that the publication of the Smyth Report saved us all - including Russia - at least a couple of years."

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

In Red Czechoslovakia, the Roman Catholic Church maintains its unbending stand - in spite of terrorism and repressive laws. The news today tells of a secret meeting of bishops, who drafted a statement circulated among Czechoslovak priests. The bishops tell the priests that, if they support Communist attempts to take over the church, they will be sinning against their faith - and they are warned not to accept money the Red regime is offering as salary to clergymen.

FRANCE

In Paris, Premier Rene Mayer assumed office yesterday, and today threatened to resign. To run a government he has to have the collaboration of the French socialist party, and today the socialists were so badly split that nobody knows what they'll do. The new premier told them that, if they don't decide to join his government by tomorrow - he'll resign.

BRITAIN

The news from London is that the Labor Government is going to cut expenses - wholesale. The details are kept secret, but the report is that the Attlee cabinet intends to lop off about a Billion Dollars of the budget. The new economy program will be presented to the British public by the Prime Minister himself, on Monday night.

All of which
will mean more austerity. The news dispatch calls it - super-austerity. There'll be cuts in government spending for food, and gasoline supplies will be reduced. Less tobacco for the public, less money spent on public works, and even the health plan will be affected. That's the most touchy part of all, since British socialists appear to consider the program of socialized medicine something sacred. But the word is that, in cutting expenses *to the tune of* a Billion dollars, the Labor Government will give the health program a cut.

STYLES

We ^{are} having a run of British opinions about America - ^{as has been true before} and some are unfavorable. Nothing new about that. It goes all the way back to Charles Dickens - who wrote scathing accounts of these United States - but still remained America's favorite author. *Rudyard Kipling also wrote in the same vein.*

Then there was the author Mrs. Trollope who came over ~~here~~ from England, and just hated our country.

~~So~~ Now, after more than a Hundred Years, an American publishing house has ^{turned} ~~got~~ out a new edition of Mrs. Trollope's book - which makes entertaining reading, with its ridicule and scorn for everything American.

A century ago, the one thing that griped those British critics was the great American habit of expectoration. Those were the mighty tobacco chewing days, when this country might well have been symbolized by the spittoon and the stream of tobacco juice. The visiting British authors could never quite get used to that. They were re-gusted, as Amos and Andy would say.

Curiously enough, the Americans raised their noses at one habit of those English visitors. They said,

with an air of superior refinement, that an Englishman would ~~put~~ ^{expectorate} in his handkerchief, and put it in his pocket. Well, I guess it's just how you look at things.

~~But~~ Anyway ~~the~~ ^{our} tobacco chewing days are a thing of the past; but our English cousins still find reason to find fault with us.

Which can be baffling sometimes - as today, for example, when the news wire brings British comment on women's clothes in America.

Over in London, style expert Mrs. Margaret Lenz tells of a trip to the United States and was she horrified; she says she bought a ten dollar dress, and it came apart at the seams, the buttons fell off, and the hem raveled off, trailing bits of cotton. I wonder where she bought that dress: ~~ladies, speak up, and name your favorite store~~

The London fashion expert continues with a statement that puzzles me no end. "We found," says she, "that there were three current dresses popular in the States, and almost every American woman wears one of

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them. Consequently, they look like a flock of sheep."

Well, let's pass over the flock of sheep, and go on to those "Three current dresses." Only three styles - which American women are wearing right now.

I'll have to let you ladies decide on that one, but to me it looks as if there were three hundred styles.

~~Most of them mighty good to look at don't you think~~

~~so, Nelson?~~

DRUNK

~~On a street~~ ^{Canada,} In Toronto, there's a store with
~~that reads:-~~
a sign in the window - Alcoholics Anonymous. Today,
a wobbly citizen came staggering along, took a look at
the sign - and started throwing rocks at it. Stones
went crashing through the window.

Later, in police court, he was found guilty -
Drunk and disorderly! Instead of throwing rocks at
Alcoholics Anonymous he should have walked right in.

BETTE DAVIS

Another headline divorce in Hollywood.

Bette Davis, this time -- with a touch of tense drama for which that emotional actress is famous.

This evening at Santa Ana, just before the court house closed for the night - in came Bette Davis asking for a court order to restrain her husband from inflicting bodily harm upon her. That was all the more dramatic, because her husband, William Grant Sherry, is an artist who used to be a prize fighter. They had separated - only yesterday - adding swiftness to the climax.

Bette Davis, suing for divorce, was ending her fourth marriage, and the charge she made was one famous in Hollywood: "extreme mental cruelty". Well, the cruelty would be extreme, if not mental, if a lady were to incur bodily harm inflicted by an ex-prizefighter husband.

CONGRESS

Congress has gone home, and the newsmen are taking stock of events and oddities during the recent session. In the round-up of curiosities, one thing struck my eye. In the debate on the repeal of the tax on oleomargarine, Congressman Reid Murray of Wisconsin delivered an oration against oleo, and in praise of butter - of which his own state is a great producer.

To prove his point, he referred to China, and said: "Chinese children never get any butter, and they have slant eyes. Do you want our children," thundered the Congressman, "to have slant eyes?"

Well, I don't like to contradict a legislator, but I can give some testimony of my own. We of course are just back from Tibet, where butter is one of the things they have most of - yak butter. The Tibetans just about live on yak vutter and yak buttered tea - and we, ourselves, had our share of that peculiar combination of food and drink. Yet, I can state from personal experience - that the Tibetans have

slant eyes, like the Chinese. But, of course, the Congressman might argue back and say - that's because it's yak butter, not made from Wisconsin cow's milk.

FOLLOW CONGRESS

This reference to Tibet brings a reminiscence of that fantastic land of Buddhist monasteries. We visited some of the greatest of these, and the sights and sounds were amazing. The Tibetans have not only yak butter, but also what must be the deepest singing voices in the world. Sometimes it's tenor or falsetto; other times, a sub-basement basso profundo. To illustrate, here's a part of a recorded broadcast that we made while we were on the Roof of the world. You will hear Lowell Junior's voice - but more especially you will hear some of the lamas -- their voices direct from the great Monastery in Lhasa.