

Mar. 21 - Wed. '51

(Soviet Russia hands us a formal refusal to return ^{our} six hundred and seventy lend-lease ships.) Vessels turned over to the Reds under war-time agreement that they should be given back when no longer needed for war purposes. Negotiations for a settlement of Soviet lend-lease have been going on for the past half dozen years, getting nowhere. Last month secretary of State Dean Acheson sent a note demanding the Six hundred and ~~xxx~~ seventy ships -- "immediately" saying the vessels were necessary to the defense of the United States.

Moscow says - no. The Soviet note declares that the United States does not need those lend-lease ships, and furthermore charges that we promised to sell them to the Russians. ~~Well~~ Well, we did - on condition that a satisfactory settlement ~~xx~~ of lend-lease should be made promptly. So, we don't get the ships.

KOREA

Among all the war bulletins today, the one that sounds like the most ^{important} comes from Washington -- where Secretary of State Dean Acheson declared that General Douglas MacArthur has the authority to cross the Thirty-Eighth Parallel. The S_ecretary said this in response to a question at a news conference; but he refused to say that the U N forces would cross that borderline. This problem, he explained, is being considered by General MacArthur, together with other military leaders and the U N. But MacArthur has the authority to cross the line.

(In Korea, the Reds have pulled back behind the parallel. That's definite tonight, and it is clear that this is what they have been intending all along, during their continuous retreat.) American troops captured a great Red base at Chun Chon, the last important point left to the Communists below the Parallel. There was no resistance. U.S. tanks rumbled in, without firing a shot. A handful of Reds remained in Chun Chon, Chinese and North Koreans, they

surrendered promptly -- seemed relieved.

Same story all along the line, the U N forces advancing against little opposition. They were described today as establishing holding positions within eight and a half miles of the Parallel - while patrol parties pushed ahead. It's a good guess that advance parties have crossed the line.

Tokyo, meanwhile is buzzing with rumors that a new turn of affairs is at hand, either military or political -- possibly negotiations for an armistice. But there is no official comment about that.

ATOMIC

Word from Washington - that the tests at Eniwetok Atoll this spring may include an underground atomic explosion.) ~~Yesterday we heard that a bomb blast would be set off to see what damage there would be to various kinds of structures, buildings. So they~~ ~~may~~ bury a bomb, and explode it under ground ^{to} studying the effect of an atomic land-mine.

Also - we hear that a British atomic bomb may be tested out there, in the far Pacific. The word is that a British ^{"A"} bomb has just been developed, and they are looking for a place to try it out. There are great proving grounds out in Australia, but that's a long distance away, ~~and has~~ ^{with} no atomic installations. While Eniwetok is fully equipped -- as also is the atomic testing ground in Nevada. So the British bomb might be tried out at either place. →

ARGENTINA

The newspaper uproar in Argentina came to a climax today, when a Congressional ^{in Buenos Aires} committee ordered the formal suppression of the great liberal newspaper - La Prensa. And also ordered the arrest of the newspaper's editor and publisher, Alberto Gainza Paz. He is to be taken into custody for fifteen days - on a charge of contempt of congress.

La Prensa, with its liberal tradition has long ~~XXXX~~ been at odds with the authoritarian government of Peron - and the action by the Peron regime aroused indignation around the world. Today in Washington Secretary of ^{State Acheson} ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ said our own government is deeply concerned by the suppression of the great liberal newspaper of Argentina.

CRIME INVESTIGATION

In the crime investigation, today, an affair of the highest politics appeared - the Democratic National Convention of Nineteen Thirty-Two, which nominated Franklin Delano Roosevelt for the presidency. The witness, once again, was Frank Costello, alleged lord of the underworld. Under questioning Costello stated that he attended the Nineteen Thirty-two convention, and ^{that} Jimmy Hines was there - then one of the most powerful leaders of Tammany Hall. Later on, Jimmy Hines was convicted of political corruption and sent to prison - prosecuted by Tom Dewey, then a young District Attorney, now Governor of New York.

In the Nineteen Thirty-two convention, Tammany was bitterly opposed to Franklin Delano Roosevelt, and tried to block his nomination. So, had Costello anything to do with that? He said he was not at the convention with Jimmy Hines. It "just happened", ~~and~~ that he and Hines were both there at the same time. And Costello denied that he had played any part in the Tammany drive to block Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Once again Costello defied the committee by ^{(refusing} ~~refusing~~ to answer that Sixty-four dollar question of the Crime investigation -- how much money has the alleged slot machine king? What's his financial standing? He gave an outright refusal to reply directly, and was obscure and evasive with other questions that might bear on that issue.

Another witness today was Bert Stand, once an important leader in Tammany Hall, now at feud with that organization. He ridiculed ^{the} testimony given yesterday by Ambassador O'Dwyer, ^{in which} ~~the~~ the former Mayor of New York ^{stated} ~~stating~~ that he had fought Tammany and the Costello influence. Stand declared that O'Dwyer was really the head of Tammany Hall during the time when Costello, according to O'Dwyer, was dominant and ~~is~~ sinister. He said O'Dwyer fought the Tammany leadership only so that he, himself, could control that organization.

The proceedings this afternoon produced a bombshell, when the President of the New York Firemen's Association, John P. Crane took the witness stand. He swore that he personally gave O'Dwyer Ten thousand as a campaign contribution ~~from~~ from the firemen. This was in flat contradiction to testimony by O'Dwyer -- that he had never received money from Crane. Moreover, Crane testified that he presented Thirty-five hundred dollars to James J. Moran, O'Dwyer Lieutenant and intimate friend. ^{Also} ~~Furthermore that~~ Thirty-five hundred had been contributed voluntarily to Governor ~~the~~ Dewey's campaign for Presidential nomination in Nineteen Forty-Eight -- at the time when ~~the~~ Dewey was battling in the Oregon primary. Crane is now under indictment, on a charge of embezzling huge sums of money from the treasury of the association of which he is president.

Governor Dewey, meanwhile, refuses to testify before the Crime Investigators Committee. Today he explained that he had offered to appear and give his views on the connection between the underworld and politics -- ~~is~~ based on his experience as a racket

(The new investigation of Communism in Hollywood got off to a quiet start in Washington today - with movie headliner Larry Parks, star of the Jolson story, admitting freely that he was a member of the Communist party from Nineteen Forty-One to Nineteen Forty-Five.)

He was the first ~~xx~~ of some forty Hollywood figures called upon to testify before the Committee on Un-American Activities -- and he was a willing witness, ~~that is~~ on the subject of his own past. He said he came from an old line Protestant American family. And, when he was twenty five he got around to the belief that the Communists were the most liberal party in the United States. In Hollywood, he was recruited, and ~~xxx~~ joined. He said he attended ten to fifteen meetings, then drifted out - not finding the party what he thought it would be. He protested his loyalty to this country, and said he believed his testimony today might well end his career as a ~~xxxx~~ motion picture star -- his admission of having been

a Communist. But he had decided to tell the truth about himself -- and that was that.

~~Larry Parks, however, was not so ready to testify about other Hollywood communists. He pleaded with the committee -- that he did not want to mention names.~~ When questioned about party members with whom he had ~~xxxx~~ associated when a Communist, his memory was decidedly vague. The committee is considering what to do about his reluctance to name names.

The session today was in remarkable contrast to previous hearings on Hollywood Communism a couple of years ago - when there were stormy scenes of movie top notchers refusing to answer the Sixty-four dollar question -- to which Larry Parks replied so readily today. That former hearing was a good deal of a circus, with klieg lights, motion picture cameras and television. But today's affair was mild and drab, without any show business at all.

We hear the committee decided on this, figuring that, if they tried any spectacular circus

they would be accused of trying to compete with that
smash hit on television, the ^{Kefauver} crime hearings in New
York. Also - they suspected that motion picture actor's
might try to practice their art in front of the
television camera. So it was a mousey little hole-
in-the-wall proceeding. ^{Stewart Granger and Wendell}
~~Wendell~~

Cory, two top Hollywood stars are sitting
with ~~beside~~ me in my Sun V. studio. They may
not appreciate that last remark. →

ADD HOLLYWOOD

(Later in the day Howard DaSilva, actor of stage and screen, refused to answer the Sixty-four Dollar question.) He was followed by Actress Gail Sondergaard, who likewise refused to reply to the query - was she a Communist.

COOK

In Oklahoma City, sentence was imposed today on Billy Cook, an ex-convict who pleaded guilty of murdering a family of ^{six.} ~~five~~ Federal Judge Chandler sentenced him to life imprisonment at Alcatraz -- refraining from imposing the death penalty on the ground that Cook is insane. Not "sufficient mental capacity", in the words of the Judge. The prison sentence is such that Cook can never be paroled or pardoned -- a life term without any possibility of being released. In fact he gets a combination of prison terms amounting to 300 years. →

CAPTAIN KIDD

Along the Jersey coast there's a place called Shipbottom which is an appropriate name for this bit of news. It's on an island with a lot of marshes; -- and near Shipbottom, a boy was poling for turtles. Along he went poking a stick down into the swamp, digging out a turtle now and then -- until, presently, he fished up something else. A brass plate, inscribed with the name of Captain Kidd, that fabulous pirate of legendary treasure.

The boy took the plate to Charles Fackler, a collector of local historical items, who today described the find. On the brass plate the engraved words are clear to read "William Kidd, Master"; The ship master of old who turned pirate. At each corner of the plate there is a hole, which makes it seem as if it were once fastened to a chest. The supposition is that the boy, poling for turtles, may have dislodged the plate from an ancient, rotting chest - the sea chest of a sailor, or maybe a treasure chest.

However, past experience does not seem to

encourage any treasure hunt at Shipbottom. Legend connects the place with Captain Kidd, and during the past two hundred and fifty years the seekers of pirate gold have dug up nearly every foot of the island -- but never a sign of those pieces-of-eight supposed to have been looted from the galleons ~~in~~ on the Spanish Main.

LOG

You'd hardly believe it could happen in this country of ours -- two people living in a log. But that's the news from Missouri -- a man and wife in their sixties making their home, during the winter, in the hollowed out end of a huge sycamore log.

~~From Missouri about~~
~~it all comes under the heading of the strange~~
~~kind of life you can find in the river bottoms. For~~

^{TR} For ten years William Hurt and his wife existed by fishing along the Mississippi, nomads dwelling in a tent, gaining a livelihood from the river. Then, last winter the fisherman broke his leg, and they were so destitute they had to sell their tent.

They knew of a huge trunk of a sycamore tree which long ago had drifted down stream and gone aground. The stump end had rotted out inside, leaving a sort of cavern in the log, about four feet high. It is there they made their home with a couple of blankets and a pot and pan for cooking the fish they had caught in the river.

the other day
But ~~for~~ a couple of passersby spied them,

and the county relief authorities picked them up, taking them to a hospital - where today they are in good shape, after living all winter in a log.

Here's some more war news - but of a different kind. It is about household arguments, and gives rules for domestic battles. The authority on this subject is a lady with an impressive name -- Hatfield, reminiscent of the old Hatfield-McCoy feuds in Kentucky. In fact blonde and beautiful Toni Terry Hatfield is a member of that old gun-toting, feuding, fighting family.

About the feuding that goes on in the sacred precincts of the home, ~~but~~ she speaks with a learned air. "There is nothing like a good fight with your man," says she.

Then she gives the rules for women to observe in domestic battles. Number One:-- if you feel you must call him names use such terms as "brute" or "beast". That will stimulate his ego. But never make such remarks as "you bald headed ape" because that will hurt his pride.

Rule Number Two:~ If you are going to ~~at~~ scrap, make it fast and furious. Don't let it drag.⁶
Number Three! Don't throw things. Number four:~ Don't

threaten to go home to mother! Number five:- Cry,
if you feel like it, ~~But~~ save the weeping until the
battle is over.

I don't want to broadcast radio propaganda
to promote more domestic battles, but the lady of the
Hatfield feuding['] clan says they are a good thing -- if
conducted according to rules. Watch out tomtite, N - , when
you go home to the Little Woman. She may take this
advice seriously.