

P.J. - Success. Dru. Oct. 14, 1938.

SPIES

76
In New York today Mr. Weston, Under-Secretary of State, pleaded guilty of espionage. The fact that it is possible to speak of Mr. Weston, Under-Secretary of State, is one of the curiosities of the big espionage trial that got going today.

Some while ago, the Immigration Department got a telephone call, with a voice asking for some passport blanks. "This is Mr. Weston", the voice explained. "I am ~~the~~ Under-Secretary of State."

There was no such official in the State Department, and moreover, an Under-Secretary wouldn't go ~~taxgetting~~ about getting passport blanks that way. Obviously, there was something phoney.

~~about it.~~ Did the Immigration Department suspect espionage?

Not at all. The whole passport blank business was so grotesque that the officials thought it was a gag, a practical joke.

Later on they found that it was indeed an espionage attempt - one of the clumsiest on record. They found that Mr. Weston,

47
the Under-Secretary, was really Guenther Gustave Rumrich, former United States Army sergeant who had deserted and was now connected with a spy gang. The passport blanks were wanted so that foreign

spies could be smuggled into the country on false papers.

Well, ^{his} a plea of guilty was the first thing that happened in court today, the government attorneys announcing that Guenther Gustave Rumrich, alias Mr. Weston, Under-Secretary of State, would be a government witness against the three others accused of espionage. The prisoners are all small fry, don't amount to much. The chiefs of the plot are safe in Germany.

The court business continued with the picking of jurors, and that ^{went on} ~~continued~~ all day.

CZECH

48

In Hungary today the ominous command was given - mobilization, ~~which is~~ usually a prelude to war. Hungary is mobilizing its ~~entire~~ army, against Czechoslovakia. *Five* classes are called to the colors - ready for a military storm across the Czech frontier. This makes it look as if a teapot war might break out, because of Hungarian claims of sections of Slovakia and Ruthenia. When the Hungarians broke off negotiations with the Czechs, they put in an appeal to the four Munich powers - Great Britain, France, Germany and Italy. But in making that appeal to diplomacy, the Hungarians reserved the right to take any action they might think necessary. So, under that proviso, they are taking action - mobilization, maybe to be followed by war.

However, there's likely to be heavy diplomatic pressure for peace, though the diplomatic situation seems tangled. Today, Hitler took a hand in the settlement of the Czech-Hungarian dispute. He had a conference with the Czech ambassador to Berlin, whom he told that the quarrel must be settled right away, and that Hungarian demands should be satisfied. With this the German announcement added ^S~~the note~~ - that the Czech Minister assured

Hitler that Czechoslovakia, or what's left of it, was loyal to Germany. The exact words are these: "Czechoslovakia will adopt a loyal attitude toward Germany." And that would indeed seem as if those recently bitter enemies are getting together - Germany and the Czechs.

The chief power that's backing Hungary seems to be Italy. The Hungarians are reported to have told the Duce that something decisive must be done right away - because the situation was grave -- the breaking point.

And now the news, Hungary mobilizes! This menacing move may be explained by the violent disturbances that are raging along the Czechoslovak-Hungarian border. Slovakia and Ruthenia in the grip of rioting and terror -- which the Czechs blame on the Hungarians.

CHINA

Far Eastern war news has a flash of surprising glitter tonight -- shell-fire and gold. A ~~Max~~ Japanese military dispatch tells how an artillery duel was raging along the Yangtse. Japanese troops were entrenched on a hillside, when among them landed a large caliber shell. It blew a huge^e crater, excavated a yawning hole in the hillside. And then the Japanese noticed something that glittered at the bottom of the shell-hole, a vein of rock uncovered, quartz, gold-bearing ore.

The Japanese claim that the Chinese shell has disclosed a valuable gold deposit. It's within the Japanese line, so they're going to work it -- wartime gold mining.

SPAIN

20
The bombing of cities took a new turn in Spain today, when Franco's war planes did some political timing. Left Wing Premier Negrin was making a radio speech, denouncing the non-intervention policy and demanding international justice for Barcelona. That's when the bombers came over and dropped their high explosive. - while the Barcelona Premier was on the air.

The City straightway went into hiding.
The radio station cut off the broadcast. It was interrupted for

half an hour, till the bombing was over. Then the ~~Premier's~~ ^{City came}

out from underground. And, the Premier's
radio address ~~continued~~ *was resumed.*

PALESTINE

The State Department has been deluged by telegrams from Jewish individuals and organizations asking the United States to intercede with the British government concerning Palestine. This flood of messages comes as a result of insistent rumors that London is planning to drop the cause of Zionism in the Holy Land, ^{which has been so costly,} and forbid any further immigration of Jews into that strife torn country.

51
Today a delegation of ^{American} Jewish leaders made an appeal to the ^{U.S.} State Department. They pointed out that among the Jewish people pioneering in Palestine, there were ten thousand from the United States, American citizens. Protect their rights - was the demand of the Jewish delegation. Further, they asked the United States government to urge Great Britain to stick to the Balfour Declaration and not abandon the cause of the Jewish homeland. ~~in Palestine.~~

The number of appeals like this is so great, the State Department finds it impossible to answer separately to each letter and telegram. So a blanket reply was issued today - a formal statement that the United States will keep an eye on the Palestine situation as it affects the American citizens in the Holy Land.

The State Department promises to be expressed in these.

The State Department promise is phrased in these words:- "To take all necessary measures for the protection of American rights and interests in Palestine."

BUDGET

Our old friend, the budget, has been pushed around a good deal in recent years, knocked out of balance and smeared with red, and now we hear that the budget is being shoved around some more by events abroad. President Roosevelt told the White House ^{correspondents} ~~press~~ today that he couldn't discuss next year's budget until he had time to make a study of national defense. ^{He said} We need more national defense because of the way things have been going in foreign countries.

52
1
For The recent war crisis put new emphasis on the United States Army and Navy; the money spent on those two weapons of defense ~~is~~ to be scaled up. The President said a copious survey is being made of the needs of the soldiers that march and the warships that sail the seas - new equipment, modernized battle machinery. Until he finds out how much the government will have to spend on the Army and Navy, he can't tell anything about next year's budget - how big it will be.

7
This comes after the conference the President had yesterday with Barney Baruch, financier and long time advisor in government matters. ^{Following which} Baruch told the newspaper men that American defense was pitifully inadequate, considering the mighty armaments

UTILITIES

There'll be no death struggle against the death sentence - at least so far as a number of big utilities companies are concerned. Chairman William Douglas of the Securities and Exchange Commission announced today that a whole series of Number One systems of utilities were reorganizing in accordance with the law - the law that abolishes holding companies, the death sentence. They're preparing reorganization plans to be submitted to the S.E.C. by December First.

This announcement was made right after President Roosevelt told the newspaper men that the death sentence of holding companies was really a health sentence for the utilities industry. Instead of the doctor killing, he's curing, is ^{his} ~~the~~ presidential attitude.

23
A

SPOKESMAN

The White House spokesman has vanished. Today President Roosevelt told the newspaper men that the spokesman ^{is} ~~was~~ no more. He had a brief life, that anonymous mouthpiece who gave out White House news. ~~He was~~ Born only last week, and ~~he~~ died today.

The President ~~Roosevelt~~ explains that he resorted to the ^{fiction} ~~device~~ of a spokesman because of the ticklish European situation.

Anything the President of the United States said about foreign affairs might cause ructions so he took refuge in anonymity.

Things he said ^{to} ~~must~~ be attributed to ^{that} ~~the~~ White House spokesman.

But now the war crisis is over, the diplomatic atmosphere ^{has} ~~is~~ cleared, and there's no further need of a spokesman so the President abolished him today.

COMMUNISTS

54

The Communists are out of the race. Of course, they ~~xxx~~ never were in the race, in the sense of having a chance to win the New York State election. But today they dropped out in every sense of the word -- withdrew ~~from~~ their ticket, which was headed by Israel Amter for Governor. What's the reason? Are the comrades growing discouraged? *No. sounds like* ~~not so, it's~~ a political maneuver. *π* A few days ago the Communist Party endorsed Governor Lehman and Judge Poletti, who head the Democratic ticket, -- endorsed them because Lehman and Poletti are supported by the ~~Communist~~ American Labor Party. And the Communists *then* announced that if Governor Lehman would accept their Communistic endorsement, ~~that~~ they would withdraw their ticket in his favor. Well, they withdrew their candidates today. That might seem to imply that Governor Lehman has accepted the Communist endorsement. But not at all. No sooner *did the news get out than* ~~was the Communist endorsement made public than~~

both Lehman and Poletti sent telegrams to the Communist Party saying -- "We reject your support." They declared they ~~didn't~~ *don't* want a single Communist vote. *Nevertheless the Communists appear to be for Lehman - not for Dewey.*

HUNTERS

25
This is the season when many a mighty nimrod cleans and oils his gun, fills his tank with Blue Sunoco, and starts for the woodlands - ready for the hunting season. But those of you whose Blue Sunoco takes you to the Adirondacks for deer shooting, had better heed the warning given out today by New York Conservation officials. Just as the deer shooting season is about to open, forest fires are raging in the Adirondacks. The woods are dry as tinder and the ground is covered with blankets of dry autumn leaves - and in many places flames are leaping high. The conservation officials said today that hunters must use - "extreme caution", if there is to be any deer season at all. They'll have to use the utmost care ~~about~~ starting new fires - ^{also - not go fooling around} ~~and look out for the present~~ _^ in the present fire stricken areas.

The superintendent of forest fire control said today:

"If things get too hot we'll ask Governor ^{the} ~~Schuman~~ to close the woods." And that would put the kibosh on the deer season, which opens tomorrow.

SCIENTIST

Suppose I told you a few things about a certain man, and then you tried to guess his profession and station in life!— In the Russian Army during the World War. Elected to the All-Russian Constituent Assembly during the Kerensky regime. Appointed Secretary of the Interior for Northern Russia. Then a fugitive, dodging Red partols along the shore of the Arctic Ocean. Caught, condemned to be shot in the Red terror. Saved when a high personality persuaded Lenin to countermand the execution.

Then

Now in the good graces of the Reds, he found the wife and children of his old patron Kerensky persecuted by the Communist Secret Police. *— Kerensky's family.* And he risked the Red ~~XXXX~~ terror again by ~~engineering~~ engineering their escape. Conducted them himself in a desperate get-away out of Red Russia.

Now what manner of man would you take that to be? I met him, getting an interview for the magazine COMMENTATOR, — an

~~interview on the subject of diet, the meat-vitamin-mineral diet,~~

Then and now

~~M.V.M. He is~~ a scientist of enimence, the notable bio-chemist

Dr. Boris Sokoloff. A scientist of adventure.

GOLDWYN

There's indignation in Hollywood, because somebody put one over on Sam Goldwyn. No, not in a business deal - that might be too difficult. ~~xxxxx~~ It's just another one of those Sam Goldwyn anecdotes, of which there are a million - the famous producer being a favorite figure for Hollywood stories.

Hollywood was astonished when the word flashed - Sam Goldwyn nominated to be rector of the University of Glasgow. And it was no Hollywood gag, because the word came from Glasgow, that learned Scottish city where the scholastic university is a monument of academic erudition. The news was relayed to Hollywood by the Goldwin representative in London. There could be no doubt of it - at Glasgow Sam Goldwyn was nominated as a candidate for the rectorship of the university.

It now turns out to be a Scottish gag. When names were entered for the rectorial nomination, several were proposed merely as jokes - by local Scottish humorists, and one of these was the name of the renowned ^{movie} magnate. So now Sam Goldwyn, hero of Hollywood anecdotes, figures in a Scottish story.

BOAT

One casualty in today's Florida storm is - a dream, a dream wrecked by the hurricane winds. It was a vision long cherished by a retired British Columbia newspaper publisher and a granddaughter of Robert E. Lee.

For years Captain Ernest Moy talked of making a magnificent voyage and so did his wife whose grandfather was the great General of the Confederacy. They'd go sailing and sailing - all around the world. They rigged up a fine boat, with a tall mast and spreading canvas - and this they said they'd sail on an eighty thousand mile *globe-girdling cruise.* ~~five year cruise around the world.~~ They raised anchor and put to sea, and in the course of time ~~and~~ wind arrived in Florida.

They were in harbor at St. Petersburg when the West Indian storm came howling. Last night the yawl broke her moorings and was swept by the tempest on a reef. And today she broke up, so that only ^{her} derelict hull remains. Wreck of a boat, wreck of a dream!

58 1/2 mention of Robert E. Lee. Commentator short of news.

GLASS EYE

59

In San Francisco, there's a lover of peace who has a glass eye. And the news today tells how the glass eyed peacemaker found himself in the morgue. Wendel Brabham saw four men fighting, and stepped in among them to make peace - he was knocked cold, so cold that when the ambulance came, he was still out, still unconscious. The doctor made the customary test of life or death, raised one eyelid and looked at the eye. He happened to pick Wendel's glass eye. The doc noted the glassy stare, the lifeless chill, and said - dead. With that glass-eye^d diagnoses, Wendel was taken to the morgue, and ~~later~~ there he woke up on a slab.

59 1/4

The path of a peacemaker is commonly hard, especially a peacemaker with a glass eye, *and so long until Monday.*