

L.T.-DELCO. WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7, 1957

(Given by Walter Cronkite - L.T. in New
Guinea)

GOOD EVENING:

The Senate a short while ago passed that highly controversial civil rights bill.

The action in itself was historic. It is the first piece of even similar legislation to get through the Senate in almost a century -- certainly since Reconstruction Days.

A filibuster had been avoided -- thanks to some amendments that many, including President Eisenhower, think have crippled the whole effect of the measure.

Even so, seventeen of the Southern Senators -- after getting their amendments through -- couldn't see their way clear to vote for the bill. The final vote was seventy-two to eighteen -- the eighteen were seventeen Southerners and Oregon's Senator Wayne Morse, whose reason was different than the

Southerners'. Morse, a strong Civil Rights advocate, said the bill raised false hopes. Five Southern votes for.**

Now the bill goes to the House, which is not expected to agree to the Senate's controversial jury trial amendment. And so then, the bill will go to a conference committee, between House and Senate members.

The speculation in Washington is that the Conference Committee, and finally both Houses, will accept the jury trial amendment. Then the big question -- will President Eisenhower approve or veto this historically significant but controversial Civil Rights Bill? The President at his news conference today, again indicated he does not like that jury trial proviso, and a veto has been strongly hinted.

DEFENSE SECRETARY

President Eisenhower's choice as the new Secretary of Defense - Neil McElroy of Cincinnati, new President of Procter and Gamble. But before McElroy takes over, there'll be a White House investigation, which all prospective Cabinet members must undergo. Then, the appointment must be considered by the Senate.

One of the first problems McElroy will have to face lies in the "conflict of interest law." Under which retiring Secretary Charles E. Wilson, former head of General Motors,

had to divest himself of a huge lot of securities, before taking office.

Reports are that Neil McElroy holds ten to twelve thousand shares of Procter and Gamble stock - and he is, moreover, a director of companies that have large military contracts. So he may have to get rid of blocks of securities.

As President of Procter and Gamble, he gets a salary of two hundred and eighty-five thousand dollars a year. As the Secretary of Defense, his pay would be - twenty-five thousand a year. Which certainly would be - quite a ~~salary~~ *wage cut.*

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DISARMAMENT

President Eisenhower spoke strongly, today, about the Western proposals at the Disarmament Conference in London. Calling them - "the greatest ray of hope that has arrived on this dark scene, since I've been in the White House."

He said he had the "utmost hope" that Soviet Russia will agree to the aerial-ground inspection plan - which would help relieve the world of fear of a surprise atomic attack.

1245

CIVIL RIGHTS

President Eisenhower came out more strongly than ever against the jury trial amendment to the Civil Rights Bill, prepared by the Senate. He called it "completely revolutionary" and "unfair." The proviso that would compel jury trials in racial cases of contempt of court. ~~In the type of case -~~ That, hitherto, had been decided by a judge.

But ~~and~~ meanwhile, in the Senate, the majority of the legislators were saying - that the bill was the best that could be passed.

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2:12

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There's quite a story in today's case of headline espionage - with the indictment of the highest ranking Soviet official ever accused of spying in the United States. To begin with, U.S. officials almost let him get away. Almost - sent him away.

On June Twenty-First, ^{IMMIGRATION} ~~Informant~~ officers arrested a Russian - on a charge of illegal entrance. ~~Crossing the Canadian border, surreptitiously - nine years ago.~~ The Russian, ~~since then~~ - operating a "photography" studio in Brooklyn. *He*

~~So he~~ was held for deportation proceedings - and sent along to a place of detention in Texas. In the normal course of things, he'd be sent back to Russia - ~~as he never was.~~ *and he nearly was.*

But, meanwhile, investigators were examining his "photography" studio. Also - the place where he lived. What they discovered included a short wave radio transmitter and other highly suspicious articles, including secret codes. Which caused a quick cancellation of the deportation proceedings.

Today, the suspect was identified as Colonel Rudolf

Ivanovich Abel, a chief of Soviet espionage. Accused - of sending secret military information to Russia. Conspiring - to enlist members of the U.S. Armed forces in an espionage network. Plotting - to set up a secret Soviet center in this country, in the event of war with Soviet Russia.

Among other incriminating bits of evidence that were found, was the name of Korotkov. Which name also appeared in the spy case of Mr. and Mrs. Jack and Myra Sobel and Jacob Albam - who have pleaded guilty. Alexander Korotkov - named as the boss in Moscow who directed the espionage.

In the spy case of still another married couple, now in Paris - Korotkov is named, again, in a similar way. Now, once more, in today's headline story.

The indictment charges that Intelligence Colonel Abel worked under the direction of that same mastermind in Moscow, Korotkov. The name - linking three spy cases together.

If convicted, under today's indictment, Abel might be ~~an~~ liable - to the death penalty. He is being brought to New York for trial.

KHRUSHCHEV

The top Communist - boss of them all - Nikita Khrushchev - got a cold reception in East Berlin tonight. The Communist authorities marched fifty thousand factory workers and government employees - to greet the visitor from the Kremlin. But the Red bosses couldn't make them applaud. The crowd stood silent, hostile - with hardly a cheer.

ATOMIC

Today's atomic explosion on the Nevada desert was unusual - for a couple of reasons.

One - because of a balloon, a blimp - which provided some strange fireworks.

As the fire-ball soared aloft - the balloon burst in a brilliant fire. And sank to earth - with a pyrotechnical display.

Later, the explanation came - that the blimp, with nobody aboard, was intended for some photographic purpose - equipped with magnesium flares. These - to provide illumination for picture-making.

But the plan went awry, because the shock of the atomic explosion smashed the front end of the blimp. Which took a dive to the ground - the magnesium flares burning brilliantly.

The second unusual feature ~~was~~ was a prayer meeting held by pacifists - outside the main gates of headquarters of the Atomic Energy Commission - thirty miles away from the

center of the blast. Yesterday, protesting against atomic tests, a group went into the prohibited area, and were arrested, Later, found guilty of trespassing - and given suspended sentences. Today, the protest went on - with a pacifist ■ prayer meeting, while the atomic device was being exploded.

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5:25

FLU

An outbreak of the Asiatic flu - at a U.S. air base in Newfoundland. Fifty service men - stricken. Public gatherings at the base - banned for the time being.

Nothing really alarming - the Asiatic flu being mild. The malady from across the Pacific struck the U.S. haval base at Argentia, recently. Proving to be - nothing serious.

OLIVER HARDY

Oliver Hardy - for whom things never seemed to go right - in those extremely funny films he made with Stan Laurel at least - Oliver Hardy is dead. The hefty comedian passed on today at his North Hollywood home - victim of the third in a series of strokes that began last fall. Hardy was 65 years old.

His partner in more than 200 movies - Stan Laurel - himself is ill - also having suffered a stroke two years ago. He is 67. Laurel and Hardy were friends to the last - and chief among a world of mourners tonight, is Stan Laurel.

INTRODUCTION TO L.T.

Tonight, Lowell Thomas tells about former battlefields - going back to the time when MacArthur was campaigning against the Japanese, in New Guinea.

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L.T.: - In my last broadcast I told you about arriving in New Guinea and then the first flight across the island, looking down on the Kokoda Trail. That was where one of the most desperate battles in all Australian history occurred, when the Japanese were making their first all conquering sweep through the South Pacific, right up to the gates of Australia. I am sure you remember how the Australians retreated over the Kokoda mountains, and how the lives of many of them were saved by the tribesmen. It was a desperate affair. Then we flew on over the Owen Stanley Range, past some of the highest peaks in New Guinea, some up to 13,000 feet. After which we dropped down to the shores of the Bismarck Sea, to Lae.

Then the second flight I made here in New Guinea was a short one, from Lae to Madang, up the Markham and Ramu Rivers - some of it dense jungle country and some of it vast cocoanut plantations. This is the land of copra.

In Madang, our host, John Gilmore, is sometimes referred to as the highest ranking Australian in the American Army. For forty years a resident of New Guinea and nearby New Britain, it is easy to understand how valuable he was to MacArthur, and why they quickly moved him from Captain to Colonel. He and his family have a famous inn and pub at Madang and coffee plantations in the Highlands.

His son, John, also played a vital role to our people out here in the Pacific, helping rescue airmen. They sing the praise of the American Marines. One chap tells me an anecdote how a father and son fought alongside the Marines in a brawl in one of the capital

cities.

John Gilmore, now a 38-year old New Guinea planter, thirteen years ago, when he was in his twenties met his first U.S. Marine only a few miles from here on the island of New Britain.

He and two other Australians, with a radio outfit, were in the jungle checking on the Japs. One day over their radio they heard some Americans calling for help and, a moment later, still on their radio, they heard a plane go into the sea. It was a U.S. Marine plane with a crew of three. When it hit the waves of the Bismarck Sea, the plane flipped over at such violence that the tail gunner was thrown right through the fusilage fabric, and rather badly cut up. The airmen got to New Britain on their life raft and were picked up by natives.

A week or so later the Marine tail gunner, a Corporal Betz from Michigan, was brought by natives to this secret Australian camp in the bus. The Marine was

covered with sores and half delirious. But, when he saw that John Gilmore was a Sergeant, the Marine insisted on standing up, saluting and say, "Corporal Bets of the U.S. Marines, reporting." And then he fell over.

Gilmore tells me that the Corporal, after he recovered his strength, joined them and, even stayed on in the jungle after the Australians had left New Britain. The Marine stayed there, helping organize the natives to fight against the Japs. His enthusiasm for the U.S. Marines goes back to that incident.

He told me another story that I will relate to you in my next broadcast. It has to do with a tall story that one of our airmen related when he returned home from the Pacific. A story that John Gilmore of New Guinea says, for the most part, just wasn't so.

BAHREIN

The island of Bahrein, in the Persian Gulf, is a rich center of oil production. But the news from Bahrein, today, has nothing to do with oil. Nothing - so modern. Instead - a weird, savage scene, like something out of the Middle Ages.

At Bahrein, each year, there's a rally of religious fanatics, on August Seventh - the anniversary of the death of Hussein, the great martyr of the Shia branch of Islam. A day - when religious enthusiasm runs wild, ~~always wild and as wild,~~
~~as ever today.~~

In a frenzied procession, ^{today,} fanatics lashed their backs with chains. Until their bare backs were a mass of bruises. Others slashed their foreheads with swords - the blood streaming.

Many fell - unconscious from the self torture.

There were doctors - on hand, to treat their injuries.

Strange doings - at a center of modern oil production.

FOOTNOTE

A footnote tonight on a fellow who watched his watch stolen, right under his startled gaze.

The fellow is Janos Kerek-Yarto. He's a Hungarian refugee, employed now in Waterloo, Iowa.

Well, Janos was sitting in his apartment this afternoon, stripped down a bit, like we all do when the weather gets as warm as it was today in Waterloo. His watch was on the bedside table.

And then it happened - a crow flew in the open window, plucked the watch from a table, and flew out again.

And, Joe, there is proof to the old legend -- indeed, time does fly.

This is Walter Cronkite saying for Lowell Thomas,
SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.