

DRAFT

22. - P. & G. Wed. Apr. 26, 1950.

There was a dramatic reversal in Congress today - by the chairman of the Armed Services Committee. Hitherto Congressman Vinson of Georgia has been opposed to an extension of the draft law. But now he changes around suddenly, and gives this reason - a "worsening of world conditions." So he comes out in favor of extending the draft for another two years - as desired by President Truman.

There have been no actual inductions under the law since January of Nineteen Forty-Nine. But the armed forces want to keep the draft on the books - so as to be able to act fast in an emergency.

PRIVATEER

Our embassy in Stockholm states that the airplane wheel picked up in the Baltic did come from a U. S. Navy Privateer plane - the wheel with a tire perforated by bullet holes apparently. The markings on the wheel were examined today by Sergeant Joseph Tordiff, attached to the embassy and familiar with all types of American aircraft. He deciphered a telltale sign on the wheel assembly, the letters PB-4-Y-Z. Which are the official designation of the Privateer type of plane. Add that to the perforations which seem to be bullet holes - and it looks like strong evidence.

A Swedish Navy man expressed the belief that the Privateer plunged into the Baltic at a point some sixty-three miles off Latvia - over which Communist-controlled country Moscow claims there was gunfire between Red fighters and an American B-29 bomber. Commander Stellan Hermelin, chief of the Swedish icebreaker service, bases his estimate on a study of winds and currents which would have drifted the

PRIVATEER.....2

floating wheel - and U. S. Navy men immediately state that the position would support the claim of our government that the unarmed patrol plane was shot down over open sea.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

The British Government has received a peace plan from Red Czechoslovakia - a sudden surprise, suggesting what is called - "A peace pact between the great powers." This - in accordance with a resolution passed by the Communist Parliament of Czechoslovakia.

The immediate reaction is - that it's nothing but another propaganda move. Why? Well, the peace plan includes a blast demanding that the Western Powers disarm and scrap their weapons - especially those atomic bombs. But nothing is said about the disarmament of Soviet Russia and the Red satellites.

(So the belief is that the proposal for a "Peace pact between the great powers" is a propaganda dodge to confuse things just before a conference of the Foreign Ministers of the Big Three, scheduled to meet in London soon.)

CHINESE SHIP

The Chinese Reds charge an American steamship with responsibility for a collision that sank a Chinese Vessel and caused the loss of seventy members of the crew. The Communist radio today stated that the American craft, the California Bear, was to blame - and was remiss in rescuing survivors.

The accident occurred in China waters, in a dense fog - and the skipper of the California Bear not only denies the charge of negligence, but tells of a nine-hour search over fifty square miles of the fog-bound sea. This resulted in the rescue of thirty-seven survivors of the Chinese vessel.

IRELAND

Dublin announces that the United States has rejected a proposal made by the Irish foreign office -- that the western countries under the Atlantic Pact bring about a settlement of the question of Ulster. Ireland was one of the nations invited to join the treaty powers, and replied -- "yes, on condition that the dispute about partition be ended simultaneously." Which would mean, of course, that North Ireland would be joined in some fashion to the Dublin regime - the state of mind in South Ireland being what it is.

To which the United States now replies with a rejection, stating that the North Atlantic Security Pact is not meant, in the words of the American answer -- "to provide a new forum to settle long-standing territorial disputes."

So that would seem to mean that the Emerald Isle will not join the treaty, the position of the Irish being that they will not participate in any line-up with Great Britain, so long as Ulster remains a part from the rest of Ireland.

BRITISH WEATHER

Over in Britain they are having fantastic spring weather - a tremendous blizzard, the heaviest snowfall the island has had in thirty-one years. London traffic is tied up, people unable to get in and out of town. At Seven Oaks, southeast of the metropolis, a garage roof collapsed under an enormous weight of snow, and buried thirty cars and trucks, damage, some sixty-thousand dollars.

BRITAIN

In London this afternoon, the Labor Government won out on two votes - the narrowest victories it had ever had. The questions concerned items in the new budget, a tax on gasoline and one on trucks. In each case the Labor majority was - five, the smallest ever.

INDONESIA

Revolt in the spice islands, rebellion on the fragrant isle of cloves. Flavor and savor of the kitchen - but it's a new batch of trouble for the Republic of Indonesia. Which, by the way, is a most astonishing nation, when you think about it. The East Indies, long ruled by the Dutch, thousands of islands - all the way from giant Borneo and Sumatra, and Java ^{alone} with forty million people, down the line of magnitude to tiny coral reefs. Islands and islands, no end of them - and over on the east are the Moluccas, the spice islands of long legend. One of these - Amboina, the isle of cloves.

The new Indonesian Republic has been having an epidemic of trouble founded in the very fact of that vast extent of islands.

The government, based on Java, has decreed a centralized regime, closely unified, but on the remoter islands there is a demand for local autonomy, more self-government. A week or so ago, the news told

of a revolt at Macassar, on weirdly-sh^{ed}ped, spider-shaped celebes. That was put down - only to be followed by today's news from the Moluccas.

A dispatch tells of a secession movement in the "spice islands," with a declaration of independence, the local council on the "isle of cloves" proclaiming, what it calls - the "Republic of South Molucca."

Amboina sends its defiance to Java, where the Indonesian government is said to be ready to dispatch fifteen thousand troops to put down the insurrection. Which may not be a task too easy.

There's a religious question involved - the ~~present~~ Indonesian Republic being Mohammedan, while most of the people of Amboina are Christian. In the long stream of history, beginning with the Portuguese voyages to the spice islands, the inhabitants of the "isle of cloves" were christianized. Moreover, they provided some of the best troops the Dutch used to recruit for their colonial army of the Indies. Crack military units - and the word is that well trained

colonial soldiers are joining the revolt.

All of which promises a lot of spicy doings
amid the fragrance of cloves.

COMMUNISTS

7
In the Communist investigation, the missing witness is still missing - John Huber, a former under-cover agent of the F.B.I. Last night at a committee hearing, he was to have appeared as a witness, ~~against Owen Lattimore, the Far Eastern expert~~ ~~accused of serving the Soviets.~~ But Huber failed to show up, and there were suspicions of possible - foul play.

Today Huber's wife stated that her husband phoned her twice this morning - saying that he had "blacked out" in Washington, and had come back to New York. The two sons of the couple say that Huber, who testified against the Reds last fall, has received a series of threats, and was attacked last Saturday night, receiving a knife cut in his hand.

ADD COMMUNISTS

The latest -- Huber tonight made another telephone call to his wife, ~~she~~ who quotes him as saying: "I am leaving town for a month. I need a rest." Which redoubles the mystery in the case of the missing witness, whose ~~disappearance~~ disappearance has thrown the investigation into no end of perplexity.

MARAGON

John Maragon stands to get as much as twenty years in prison - or, with a minimum sentence, he might get out in eight months. Maragon, the Greek-American of St. Louis, who was a hanger-on at the White House, friend and crony of Presidential Aide General Vaughn, and the principal figure in the affair of the deep freezers, which were sent as gifts to the most prominent people in the government. He told a Senate Committee that he had only one bank account, and had quit his job with a Chicago perfume company - before he went on a mission for the State Department to Greece.

Today the jury found that he was lying on both counts - convicting the one-time shoe-shine boy who rose to the society of the great in politics and government. Or, as his lawyer said at the trial - "A peanut vender among princes."

EXPLOSION

In Seattle - an explosion blew up an apartment house. Scores of people were at home, when a blast shattered the building into utter wreckage. The cause - an accumulation of leaking illuminating gas. The detonation so violent that one eyewitness declares the apartment house was lifted - "As though by a giant hand."

Whereupon, the search for bodies began - that always mournful task. But it was a flat failure - no bodies. Twenty were injured, ten seriously enough to go to the hospital - but no lives were lost. Which causes police captain Richard Mahoney to say: "I never saw such lucky people."

SUBMARINE

Having just returned East from amid submarine rumors on the West Coast, what did I run into today - on the New England newswire? A submarine rumor - which the Navy tonight denies. In Maine/^acivilian spotted what he thought was an undersea craft - strange, foreign. The Navy investigated, and the answer is - nothing to it - no sub.

SHRIMP

The squabble between the United States and Mexico, the battle of shrimp, becomes more complicated -- with an order by the Mexican government releasing five American boats. These were seized by the Mexican Navy, and taken to Tampico, on the ground that they were fishing inside Mexican territorial waters without a permit. All part of a fishing rush, following the discovery of great new beds of shrimp in waters of the Gulf of Mexico.

The release of the boats might seem to settle matters, but it doesn't -- because Mexico turns them loose on condition that each pay a fine of five-hundred-and-eighty dollars. But the word from Washington is that the U.S. State Department is not sure whether it will permit the fines to be paid -- because that might be considered a surrender in the battle of shrimp. ~~Maybe it would be more patriotic to fight the case -- although of course, the sixteen American fishermen in their shrimp boats would like to go home.~~

DOUKHOBORS

In British Columbia, the Doukhobors have attempted the worst outrage of all- in their mad career of house burning and parading nude. The news today tells how the arsonists set fire to a big community center, but that was nothing beside what the nudists tried to do to police constable Robert Kidd.

He was assailed by Doukhobor women - who, without any clothes on, seized him. So what do you think they tried to do? Strip the clothes off the constable - making him just ~~as nude~~ as they were.

Scarlet in the face, the outraged officer defended his clothes - but they actually succeeded in getting ^{part} ~~me~~ ~~of them~~ ~~like jacks~~ off.

The story would be painful to relate, had not others intervened and saved constable Robert Kidd from the utmost embarrassment. Imagine a Canadian policeman, like Adam without the fig-leaf, running down the line, ~~and~~ pursued by the nudist women of the Doukhobors.

FATIMA

In Paris, the head of the Mohammedan mosque spoke out today - Si Khaddour Ben Ghabrit. He said - there will be no Moslem ceremony for Princess Fatima of Iran and her American bridegroom, Vincent Lee Hillyer of California.

They have already been united by a civil wedding ceremony in Italy - but the sister of the Shah of Persia wants the religious ritual, according to the law of the prophet and the Koran. Which is not possible while her husband is a non-Moslem. But Vincent Lee Hillyer of California says he is renouncing Christianity - and becoming a Mohammedan.

Nevertheless
~~So~~ in Paris, which has a mosque for Mohammedans, Si Khaddour Ben Ghabrit speaks these words: "Even though Hillyer will be converted to the Moslem faith," We do not take his conversion seriously - since it is obviously a conversion for the occasion.

Resorting to the belief in Allah the merciful, so as to marry a princess of Persia - such is the theological opinion. To which Hillyer of California must echo - "Allah be merciful." *And now Nelson, salaam*

to you in my check!