

FLORIDA PRIMARY D.J.P. Tues. May 2nd 1950.

Here is the latest in the Florida primary -- interesting, because of the bitter battle between Senator Claude Pepper, accused of having had pro-Communist associations. Pepper conducted a whirlwind campaign for Democratic re-nomination -- equivalent to election in Florida he backed the New Deal, the Fair Deal -- while his opponent, Congressman Smathers raised the Red issue all over the state.

The returns at this moment are only partial, but all evening figures showed Smathers, in the lead, Pepper running consistently behind. With more than one-quarter of precincts tabulated, the count was: one-hundred-and-eight thousand for Pepper and one-hundred-and-twenty-six thousand for Smathers, giving him a lead of eighteen thousand.

SOVIET

The state of public mind being what it is, a good deal of attention will be given to the prediction in the news today - that the Soviet empire of Communism will collapse "Within our lifetime." This emanates from Paul ~~E~~ Hoffman, former chief of the Marshall Plan, who made the statement before the United States Chamber of Commerce, meeting in Washington.

He based^S_A his prophesy of a sudden collapse of Soviet power, on two factors:- One, the less familiar of the two, concerned^S_A Russian economy. Paul Hoffman explained^S_A that the industrial system of ~~totalitarian~~^a ~~totalitarian~~ regime is - rigid. Under iron control, it ~~laks~~ lacks flexibility - will break rather than bend. "Rigidity builds up tension," says he, ^{he} ~~and~~_A adds - that Russian economy behind the iron curtain may appear to be smooth on the surface, "but, ~~whereas~~ the tension is growing."

The second factor is the simple fact that Stalin is not immortal. He's old, and must pass from

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the scene in a few years at most. Paul Hoffman points to the history of dictators - which often shows that, when the despot dies, there is a wild struggle for power, and a collapse. Which is to be noted in the history of Stalin's own rise, after the death of Lenin - when the Soviet went through murderous convulsions. The view of the former ^{Marshal} Plan chief is that much the same thing will happen upon the death of Stalin, and the collapse of the Red empire will be heralded by revolt of the satellites - like the revolt of Tito.

COMMUNISTS

Lattimore replies to Budenz - and exhausts the ^{vocabulary} ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ ² opprobrious epithets. He calls the former editor of the Communist Daily Worker -- a "paid informer and unscrupulous finger man".

Budenz, now a professor at Fordham University, testified that, in the Red party, Lattimore was regarded as a Communist, whose expert knowledge of Eastern Asia was in the service of the Communist cause. Which charges Lattimore today described as -- "pure moonshine or rather impure hog-wash". "They are," ~~XXXXXX~~ said he "the product of a twisted and malignant personality."

He declared that Budenz, as a Communist, had learned what he called "devious and implacable ~~in~~ techniques".

~~That~~ since he turned so bitterly against

the Red cause, Budenz has been engaged in what Lattimore described as -- "the commercial exploitation" of ~~the~~^(his) Communist past. "Paid informer!" cried the Far Eastern Expert.

But - who ~~paid~~^(pays) Budenz? Lattimore did not elucidate in his declaration to the Senate Committee today. So, during the recess, the news men asked him -- who pays Budenz to be an informer? "Well," replied Lattimore, "he is making a very good career of it, in his writings, lecturing, and so forth."

~~In his formal ~~in~~ declaration, Lattimore accused the one-time editor of the Daily Worker of having an unsavory past -- conduct that Lattimore ~~is~~ described as "offensive to accepted standards of decency and conventional behavior." Which applied apparently to the fact that Budenz as a Communist~~

CHRYSLER

New angry charges in the ~~xxxxxx~~ negotiations to end the Chrysler strike -- that gargantuan session of collective bargaining which has been establishing long distance records. Today the Chrysler company charged the auto workers union with backing down on verbal ~~xx~~ agreements -- and once again the charge is made that the union does not want to end the walkout.

This afternoon Herman Weckler, Vice President and General Manager of Chrysler, declared "apparently the U A W does not want to settle the strike. For days now, it has , not only haggled over words, but refused to stand by understandings ~~xxxxxxx~~ we had with them late Saturday night." ~~Which harks back to a previous company accusation that the union does not want the dispute to end, until a seven million dollar strike assessment has been used up.~~

On the union side a negotiator says:-

"this thing is a ~~right~~ nightmare. Bodies can take only so much, and that's all!" He was talking of a session of sixty-two hours of non-stop negotiation^s which was continuing ~~the~~ today.

MARAGON

John Maragon gets from eight months to two years. The Greek-American, former White House hanger-on, convicted of perjury in the investigation of salesmen of influence, -- might have been given a sentence of as much as twenty years. But the judge imposed the minimum - eight months to two years.

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GAMBLING

The gambling investigation, today, went into the business affairs of big time racing information firms. The largest of these -- The Continental News Service. Officials of that organization testified, that they did not sell racing information to bookmakers -- their customers being all highly respectable, according to the testimony.

There are twenty-four customers, from whom Continental took a total revenue last year of more than two-million, three-hundred-thousand dollars. They include great national news agencies, together with other concerns, some of which have been accused of supplying bookmakers with the fast tidings from the race tracks.

~~The witnesses today denied that Continental sold its racing service to the information company~~

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in Kansas City that was controlled by Gargotta, henchman of political big shot Charles Binaggio. This Kansas City outfit has been named prominently in the investigation of the headline murders of Binaggio and Gargotta.

Witnesses denied, moreover, that any part of Continental is owned by Frank Costello, often called the Boss of a nation-wide gambling racket. They denied control by any gambling element.

All of which testimony did not satisfy the Senate Investigating Committee -- Tobey of New Hampshire giving the opinion that Continental is a link in the distribution of news to illegal bookmakers. Making that service, what the Senators call, "an accessory before the fact". ~~To which the representatives of Continental responded by insisting that they were doing nothing illegal.~~

Then followed testimony given by officials of racing publications -- ~~in~~ including New York's Morning Telegraph and Daily Racing Form. They all spoke against the bill now being considered -- the measure to outlaw the interstate transmission of racing information. They said that, if such data could not be distributed legally it would be bootlegged and become a racket.

GRAZIANO

In Italy tonight sentence was passed on Marshall Graziani, Mussolini's top military commander, the General who was foremost in the conquest of Ethiopia. He was on trial for treason, because he continued his support of Mussolini, after the government of King Victor Emmanuel had surrendered to the western allies.

A jury of Italian Generals tried him, and sentenced Marshall Graziani to four months in prison. Technically he was condemned to nineteen years. But, he had already spent more than five years in jail, and more than thirteen years was cut off with a pardon. Leaving four months - for the last top-ranking figure to be tried for war crimes.

MILLIONAIRE

Boston reports the demise of one of the strangest of millionaires - an eighty-seven year old possessor of great wealth who died in an obscure rooming house. He never had a wife, and had no friends. All he thought of was money, cash, earnings, profits. Yet, he gave a million and a half to the Boston Public Library. -- but there was a special reason for that.

His name John De Ferrarri, ~~who~~^{he} began as a small boy with a basket of fruit, graduated to a pushcart and at sixteen had a horse and wagon selling fruit. His route took him through the financial district of Boston, and there he became obsessed by that fixed idea. He said all he wanted was -- "money, like those big bankers". He got it, too -- by becoming one of the shrewdest and ablest investors in Boston financial history.

He learned it in the public library, reading books on ~~fixes~~ finance, stocks, ^{(bonds,} ~~fixes)~~ and investments. So that was why in his later millionaire years, he tried to repay the public library, giving

it a million and a half. Which created a sensation -- the public never having heard of the unknown Croesus, who lived in a cheap apartment.

When the limelight of publicity hit him he didn't like it, and moved to a still cheaper rooming house, where he spent the rest of his days, ~~alone~~ alone and friendless, still investing, still making money.

LAKES

Today they named - the "Admiral of Duluth".

Which is the title traditionally bestowed on the skipper of the first ship to get through from the lower lakes into Lake Superior and the Port of Duluth. Meaning, that the grip of winter ice had ⁵ been ^(broken) ~~gone~~ in the narrow straits.

I have a telegram from Gerald Willman of the Lake Carriers Association, who says the frozen areas have been ^{unusually} ~~unsuccessfully~~ tough this year - Coast Guard ice breakers having a tough time smashing through. But he adds that the first ore ship of the year has traversed the locks of Sault Ste. Marie - while today, the first vessel got through, going the other way. ^{winning} ~~earned~~ for its captain the title of - "Admiral of the Port of Duluth for Nineteen Fifty".

BOBCAT

Outside of Newburgh, New York, the farmers were on a bobcat hunt today - after a wild feline attacked two boys. The younger escaped death by a narrow margin.

Two brothers, Mike and George Sanok, thirteen and six, were out with their two dogs - when the bobcat leaped at them from a tree. The dogs intervened, and I wish I could make this a story of - dogs rescue boys. But the feline fury gave battle with such rip-snorting rage that both canines ran away, their tails between their legs.

Whereupon the maddened bobcat sprang upon six year old George, and bore him to the ground, ripping, clawing and biting. The lad would have surely been killed - except for his brother. Thirteen year old Mike picked up a stick, and sailed into the bobcat, smiting with might and main until the infuriated animal wilted under the blows of the stick, and ~~ran scampering~~ *retreated* into a thicket. Whereupon Mike took his brother home - the six year old clawed and bitten on leg, hips and arm.

SIAM

When a king writes a song, that's news - and when a king of Siam contributes American swing for a Broadway show that should be a headline in the book of oddities. So much so that I asked producer Mike Todd about it.

Well, it shows how resourceful a play producer can be. Mike Todd told me that, several months ago, he saw a picture of the King of Siam on the cover of ^{Time}~~Life~~ Magazine, and read how the twenty-two year old monarch was born at Cambridge, Massachusetts, at the time when his father, Prince Mahidal, was studying medicine at Harvard. He was brought up in this country, and the article in ^{Time}~~Life~~ went on to say that he was quite a musician, who played the piano, the drums and the horn, and liked to conduct an orchestra. Moreover, that the King of Siam composed some songs.

Mike Todd, getting ready to bring out a new show, saw the possibilities, **B**ut how do you get a song

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from the King of Siam? Well, the producer sent a cable to His Majesty Phumiphom Aduldet at the Royal Palace in Bangkok. That simple - though a good deal of negotiating was needed.

But I wondered, what would a Broadway song by the King of Siam be like? I asked Mike Todd for a copy of the lyrics - which he sent me. So listen, Broadway and Tin Pan Alley. The title of one song is "Dream of You" - and here are a few lines:

"Please make my dreams come true," sings the young King of Siam.

"In wonderland of love with you
The rainbow gleams and roses bloom
You are the lovely bride and I the
happy groom."

Which reminds us that His Majesty of the tropical orient has just gotten married, so maybe the ditty was written for his bride.

Well, the temple bells are tinkling softly,
with
and sandalwood incense floating through the temple

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shrine - in the land of the white elephant. ^{7P} But the
King of Siam is a song writer on Broadway.

KANGAROO

Here's another of those kidnap stories - a child snatched. The abductor animated [^] by mother love. But this happened in the world of kangaroos - and what can you do with a kangaroo?

In Philadelphia, a baby kangaroo has been kidnapped by its aunt. The culprit and her sister both had babies last fall, which each kept in her pouch, kangaroo fashion. But today the younger of the two sisters was hopping around, sad and disconsolate - no baby at all. Whereupon it was discovered that the older sister had two young kangaroos in her pouch - having kidnapped baby nephew.

So there she was defiant and belligerent - angrily beating off the woebegone mother trying to get her baby back. In the world of human beings, there would be arrest and prosecution; - but ^{Nelson,} what can you do with a kangaroo.?