

LONDON

L.J. - R.H. Tuesday, Jan. 10, 1950.

In the middle of the night, London time, the labor government announced its decision, which is the same as rumor had been saying - February Twenty-third. That is the date for the General election.

Tonight's London dispatch gives us some of the background - a dispute within the labor party about when the big battle of ballots should be held. One faction, headed by Chancellor of the Exchequer Sir Stafford Cripps, thought the election should have been called ~~xxx~~ earlier -- last fall, right after the devaluation of the pound, but other opinion held that the test should be delayed as long as possible, until August - when a new parliament had to be chosen, according to law, so there was a compromise - February ~~ix~~ twenty-third.

The campaign, lasting for nearly six weeks, will be exciting -- the issue being that important. The labor government appeals to the voters for a mandate to continue its work of Socialism - while

Winston Churchill's Conservatives call upon the electorate to vote for a halt in the ever increasing nationalization of the welfare state. The Conservatives have a long way to go - the labor party now holding a parliamentary majority of three-hundred-and-ninety to one-~~xx~~-hundred-and-ninety-four. Which is a large handicap to overcome.

COAL

They~~are~~ calling the new coal mine labor trouble - mystery strikes. Today seventy-five thousand miners were out, and many coal pits in the middlewest were tied up - and nobody seems to know why. Apparently, they~~are~~ wildcat strikes - not ordered by the union. But nobody is saying just why the miners have walked out in such a hit-and-miss way - the strikes hitting in scattered places.

In the coal industry, officials express the belief that it's all in retaliation against companies that have filed charges with the National Labor Relations Board, and put in complaints against the union. Which may be the explanation of the - mystery strikes.

U.N.

At the Security Council of the United Nations this afternoon the place was packed with spectators, expecting fireworks. Nor were they disappointed -- ~~XXXX~~ there was a Soviet walkout.

At this present session of the council, the Moscow delegation has two head-aches -- China and Yugoslavia. They refuse to recognize the delegate sent by the Chinese Nationalists - and he, as it happens, is the council president for this month. Which office came to him by rotation, one country getting it, then another. Moscow is opposed also to Yugoslavia on the council, and refuses to recognize the delegation sent by Red Marshall Tito, who used to be a puppet - but isn't any more.

So the Moscow delegation had two reasons for walking out today - and took the stroll on the subject of China. No sooner had the council gathered in session, than Russian delegate Malik made a motion that the Chinese President of the council be tossed out. A ruling on that was made by the Chinese delegate himself,

who said there would have to be various preliminaries. ~~before the Soviet resolution could be put to a vote.~~
In this he was supported by the council, which took a vote. Whereupon Malik got up - and, followed by his deputy, stalked to the door, out into the rain and to his automobile.

A peculiar thing is this:- In the council decision, Malik was supported by only one member - the Yugoslav. The reason is that the rebellious Communist government of Yugoslavia has recognized the Chinese Reds - maybe hoping that they will turn out to be Titoists. Anyway, it was curious. The Russians want to throw out both the Chinese and the Yugoslavs, ~~and~~ and today the Yugoslavs supported them in the attempt to throw out the Chinese.

ACHESON

Secretary of State Acheson has begun his testimony on Formosa -- appearing today before the Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate. He stated that the island refuge of the Chinese Nationalists is not necessary to the American line of defense in the Pacific. This, he said, is based on Japan, Okinawa, and the Philippines - and, without Formosa our position out there is, what the secretary called - "impregnable."

Henry Lichenman, N.Y. Times far eastern expert, just back from China, told me today that it will cost the Chinese Reds a 100,000 lives to take Formosa if the Nationalists put up a real fight to hold it.

CHINA

Tonight at H_ong Kong another American steamship is getting ready to run the Nationalist blockade into Shanghai. This - as the previous vessel, the Flying Arrow, is lying off the mouth of the Yangtze and making reports, fixing up the damage caused by gunfire from a Nationalist war Vessel. Two American destroyers are standing by to give aid, and their officers declare that they will convoy the Flying Arrow to any place - except Red Shanghai.

The other Isbrandtsen vessel, which is getting ready for blockade running, is named - "Brooklyn Heights." Well, it would be odd to hear of "Brooklyn Heights" getting shot up, while trying to do business with the Reds.

FOLLOW CHINA

Meanwhile, there's a ship at Philadelphia being loaded with tanks and armored cars - and these are for Nationalist China. The military authorities in Washington say that the armament is part of a program of military aid ~~is~~ for China, which was enacted two years ago.

TIBET

A dispatch from London states that an agreement has been reached by Great Britain, India and the United States to preserve the autonomy of Tibet. Measures are to be taken, to keep the Roof-of-the-World free from domination by the Chinese Reds. We are not told just what these measures may be - and one can only wonder.

At the same time, ~~The~~ Dalai Lama, as ruler of Tibet, has informed Great Britain and the United States that he is sending ministers to London and

Washington. London says these Tibetan envoys will be received - but not as diplomatic missions in the usual sense, not as representatives of a fully independent sovereign state. The British don't want to go that far -- in the face of the claims of the Chinese Communists that Tibet belongs to China.

The Tibetans, ~~however~~ assert their complete freedom ~~as we~~ ^{from China.} were informed when we were in Lhasa.

They told us that their ancient connection with China had been broken long since - and was only a vague

sort of tie in the first place.

All of which takes us back to the days of the dragon throne - when the emperors of China asserted their claim to the sovereignty of Tibet. But then China used to claim sovereignty over the entire world. In their great era the Chinese thought themselves the only dominant and civilized people. They called China - the middle kingdom. Meaning - the center of the world. (In the same way the Greeks and Romans spoke of their home waters as - the Mediterranean Sea. We still have the name, which means literally - center of the earth.)

The celestial emperors of China established a superior position over many neighboring lands, like Korea, Indo-China, and also Tibet. (~~This was expressed in terms of tribute, the rulers of those lands sending gifts to the dragon throne. In fact the Chinese considered any foreign gift to be - tribute.~~) Even when the nations of Europe sent courtesy presents, these were taken to be tokens of homage and submission. (In

(this sense, the celestial emperor held the King of England, monarch of the British Empire, to be a subordinate potentate - paying tribute to China.)

Back in the Eighteenth Century, when the British were trying to establish trade relations, they sent a diplomatic mission headed by Lord Mac Cartney. He, as was customary, brought gifts of politeness, and these were paraded in China with inscriptions announcing that the presents were ~~the~~ tribute from the King of England. ^{But} The monarch ^{on the Dragon Throne} of the middle kingdom wanted no trade with the foreign barbarians, held their products in contempt, and refused to receive an ambassador.

~~All of which is featured in an amusing document of history, which is quoted with gusto in~~ philosopher Will Durant ⁱⁿ ~~his large tome, called~~ "Our oriental heritage," ^{tells how} The Manchu emperor, Chien Lung, gave the following reply to his Britanic ~~xxx~~ majesty King George III:

"I set no ~~xxx~~ value," wrote the emperor of

China to the King of England, "on objects strange and ingenious, and have no use for your country's manufactures. This, then, is my answer to your request to appoint a representative at my court. I have commanded your tribute envoys to leave in peace on their homeward journeys. It behoves you, o king, to respect my sentiments and to display even greater devotion and loyalty in future, so that, by perpetual submission to our throne, you may secure peace and prosperity for your country hereafter!" *How was that for putting King George III in his place?*

Proud words! - and how pathetic they sound

today.

Presents are still mighty important in Central Asia. We carried presents over the Himalayas to the Dalai Lama. From him there was no formal acceptance, no smile of thanks. The presents were expected. Then the day we left he sent presents to us - also to the natives who had come with us in our caravan.

MADAME CHIANG

A denial today was made - by Madame Chiang Kai-Shek. On her way back to China, she stopped in Chicago, and talked to newsmen. The wife of the once all-powerful generalissimo is leaving this country in circumstances very different from her arrival in the days right after the war² - when Chiang Kai-Shek was ranked as one of the top victors in the world's greatest conflict, and she ~~was~~ hailed and honored as China's first lady. Now she goes to rejoin her husband, after his fortunes have fallen so low.

She made her farewell address to America over the weekend - expressing the brave confidence that China would be liberated from the Reds. Today in Chicago she spoke about rumors that she has bought property in America - a ranch in Arizona, according to one report. This she denied in the following positive words: "I have not one inch of foreign property anywhere in any part of the world," said ~~the~~ Missimo, as they call her in China.

ITALY

In Italy, Premier De Gasperi is going to resign on Thursday - together with his entire cabinet. This does not mean any overthrow of the premier, (who has been in office for four years - an unusual^{ly} long time for European ministers.)

Today's dispatch from Rome states that it's all a maneuver intended to strengthen the De Gasperi government. Some while ago, the right wing Socialists withdrew from the cabinet, because of disagreements within their own party. But now they're ready to enter the ministry again, and De Gasperi wants to take them in with an all around change. So he will resign on Thursday - only to form a new government right away.

(There was a demonstration strike in North Italy today, in protest against the disturbances yesterday at the City of Modena - where six rioters were killed in attempts to seize factories. Today's demonstration strike was confined to industrial sections of northern Italy, and was only partly successful - a majority of employees quitting work in big factories, while smaller plants were little affected.)

ESCAPE

Among those celebrating the new year, is a new jail keeper at Hazard, Kentucky. Taylor Porter took office on the First of January, running the jail, and he has been finding everything okay - except that he's minus a couple of prisoners. Checking over the records, he found that Buster Fugate, held on a manslaughter charge, has been missing ever since December Third. Buster escaped, but nothing was ever said about it. Which is only a beginner.

Today the new jail keeper found that William Gamble vanished, a prisoner accused of breaking into a store. He hasn't been seen since November Twenty-Fifty, having escaped six weeks ago - nothing said.

I suppose that new prison warden feels he's lucky to find anybody at all locked up in his jail.

POPE

A report from Rome states that in a month or two, Pope Pius the Twelfth will name sixteen new cardinals. (~~This emanates from a news agency that is usually well versed in Vatican affairs.~~) Since the last consistory creating cardinals, in Nineteen Forty-Six, fifteen princes of the church have died - and it has been generally supposed that the vacancies would be filled this year, which is being celebrated as Holy Year. (~~This will happen, says the Rome report, in February or March - and the places to get new cardinals ~~xxx~~ include Paris, Ireland, Quebec, Boston and St. Louis.~~)

GIRLS

Off in the wintry mountains of Austria, thirty-six American girls are on a skiing trip - and they don't know they are the center of the latest international spy sensation. They are a large bevy of students from Smith College, who all day long were sliding down the snowy slopes, never surmising that they are imperialist agents plotting espionage against that innocent utopia behind the Iron Curtain.

Today we have a blast of Moscow propaganda, charging that this country has sent over a whole conspiracy of - student spies. They're described as being in the pay of the United States Army, and the Moscow radio says they're quartered in a hotel at Geneva, occupying two floors.

Inquiry was made at the hotel, where it was disclosed that the two floors are occupied by those thirty-six students from Smith College, who are putting in their junior year at the University of Geneva. An attempt was made to question the girls, but not one could be found. Because today they were all on a ski

GIRLS.....2

trip in the Austrian Alps. The dispatch adds discreetly that the thirty-six out skiing are accompanied by a chaperon. Well the Soviets might be right about her being a spy. Isn't that what a chaperon is?

BOY

At Shreveport, Louisiana, today, was enacted a kind of episode that arouses a suspense of fear and pity - a child falling down a deep well. It happened to a six year old negro boy, Phillip Ray Kemp - who toppled and tumbled into a well thirty feet deep, and three feet of water at the bottom. There was a frantic rush of rescue, and it took the fire department to get the boy out.

Was he alive? Was he injured? Well, there was only one thing he was worried about. When they brought him to the surface, the little negro boy said: "I ain't hurt, and I ain't scared, and I don't want to go to no hospital." So they sent him home.

WEATHER

Winter storms on the Pacific Coast - heavy weather extending all the way to the middlewest.

The far ~~■~~ western blizzard has moved into Minnesota and Iowa, with high winds and blowing snow. *While*

the Pacific northwest is due to get another blizzard - a new tempest of cold and snow blowing in from the Gulf of Alaska.

STANLEY

Now step up all you people who have been saying that the English have no sense of humor. Here's an item of news to prove how wrong you are. A dispatch from London tells about Lord Stanley of Alderley, former husband of Lady Sylvia Stanley who married Clark Gable a couple of weeks ago. Today Lord Stanley changed the name of his yacht. He used to call the boat "Sylvia", having christened it in sentimental tribute to her ladyship - who has now become Mrs. Clark Gable.

The new name by which Lord Stanley now calls his yacht is - the Gables. Which could sound like some ancient English country house. Or like - the Gables.

4
What ho, Nelson, I say, What ho?