

London tonight received a report from the British Ambassador to Trans-Jordania. He sends an official denial of the rumor that King Abdullah has declared war against the Jewish state in Palestine. The Ambassador likewise negatives another story - that Trans-Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq will ~~invade~~ invade Palestine by May First.

All of which follows a declaration by the British government that if soldiers from the Arab states should invade, they will be opposed by the British. That is, if they try it before the British mandate expires on May Fifteenth, eighteen days from now. After May Fifteenth when the British are out, the problem will be up to the United Nations.

So apparently all the excitement about the Arab states invading Palestine comes to nothing. For the time being, that is. As for their intention to intervene ultimately, that's another matter. In fact, the news tonight giving stronger indication than ever of the probability of this - soon.

A dispatch from Beirut states that the Lebanese Premier is going to Saudi Arabia to present to the Monarch Ibn Saud, the draft of an agreement, according to which Abdullah of Trans-Jordan will move into Palestine with his Arab legion. This agreement is understood to have been made by leaders of the Arab states at a recent meeting. We hear that the compact provides for a compromise on the question of whether or not Abdullah will get Palestine -- if and when the Moslem armies conquer the Holy Land from the Jewish Zionists. Other Moslem states frown on Abdullah's ~~xxx~~ ambition, and the new understanding forbids him to seize any Palestine territory. However there is a possibility for Abdullah - in a clause which states that an election, a plebiscite be held in Palestine, if and when the Moslem armies are able to take it. The people of the country, the Arabian majority - to decide whether or not they want to join up with Abdullah's kingdom.

~~Today in Tel Aviv, the stern gang etc.~~

~~with the Arabs - talk matters over with King Abdullah, prospective strong man. This was stated by a spokesman for the Jewish Agency, who laid down the provisos, however that there could be no such negotiations if Abdullah insisted on conditions in advance. But Abdullah has already declared for an independent Arab Palestine.~~

Today in Tel Aviv ~~extremist~~ the Extremist Jewish Stern Gang staged a ~~hi~~ holdup of Barclay's Bank and looted the vaults of a million dollars. The bank was guarded by soldiers of Haganah - that official Jewish militia having taken over in Tel Aviv, when the British moved out. The holdup men of the Stern Gang were disguised in Haganah ~~uniforms~~ uniforms and in this fashion they surprised the Haganah guards, held them up at the muzzles of guns - and got away with a million. Sounds like new trouble between ^{the} Zionist ~~ex~~ faction^s.

The final item from strife - torn Palestine tells of a stinging Arab defeat. Moslems ~~x~~ assailed a Jewish village, and set fire to a grove of

trees - to smoke out the villagers. But there were a lot of beehives in the grove, and the bees were smoke out. They swarmed up on the Arab assailants, who fled in dismay. ^{That} ~~It~~ ^{the} was a stinging ~~and~~ defeat, ~~all right~~.

that went into a night of session. There is a report of what progress they are making to settle the dispute over wages and working conditions that threatens to tie up the nation's oil refineries.

RAILROAD

In Chicago a session is being held tonight in negotiations to avert a railroad strike. All day long the representatives of the unions and companies were deadlocked. They adjourned for dinner, then went into a night session. There is no report of what progress they are making to settle the dispute over wages and working conditions that threatens to tie up the nation's railroad system.

DRAFT

The Senate has a plan for a draft - without universal military training. Actually, it's a compromise calling for a draft that would include features of universal military ~~training~~ training. The idea is to enact selective service for two classes of young men - between eighteen and nineteen-and-a-half on the one hand, and between nineteen-and-a-half through twenty-five on the other. (The younger of the two groups ^{to} ~~would~~ be drafted for one year and ^{to} ~~would~~ be divided up among three branches of the service, land, sea and air. They would not serve in foreign countries. The older draftees would serve for two years, all of them in the army, to be sent ~~wherever~~ wherever the Army needed them. This type of draft would call up three-hundred-and-fifty-one-thousand young men, each year.)

All of which was announced today by the Armed Forces Committee of the Senate, which stated that the compromise had been offered jointly by the Army, the Navy, and the Air Forces. The Committee voted a unanimous approval ^{of this as the} ~~as the~~ ~~best~~ best way to meet

the needs of the Armed Forces for manpower.

There is likely to be a fight on the subject - the House of Representatives having other ideas. The Armed Services Committee of the Lower House is in process of completing a bill of its own - which includes both a draft and universal military training.

It is a provision that none of the money shall be used to pay the salary of any member of a union which fails to sign in the non-Communist affidavit. This means the U.S. Bureau, the policy of the U.S. being against the taking of a non-Communist oath.

But there may be a change in that. However from Washington we have a report that Col. G. ... about to look down to his ... the non-Communist affidavit business.

AFFIDAVITS

A Congressional Committee began today what may turn out to be general action against labor unions ^{made up} of government employees, the leaders of which refuse to swear they are not Communists. The appropriations committee of the House, in passing a billion dollar bill for the Federal Security Agency, wrote in a proviso that none of the money shall be used to pay the salary of any member of a union which fails to hand in the non-Communist affidavits. This means the C.I.O. Unions. The policy of the C.I.O. being against the taking of a non-Communist oath.

But there may be a change in that, because from Washington we have a report that C.I.O. President Philip Murray is about to back down in his opposition to the non-Communist affidavit business.

STEEL

In the world of steel, the trend continues - cut prices and refuse to raise wages. This was begun the other day by U.S. Steel, which announced a price cut of twenty-five-million dollars per year; ^{at the same} ~~cut~~ ^{turning} down a wage demand by the union. So now Bethlehem Steel falls in line, with an announcement of a slash of ten million dollars a year in the price of its products - also rejecting wage demands.

The philosophy of it all is that lower prices have the same effect as higher wages - and are against inflation.

KNUDSEN

The death of William M. Knudsen, former President of General Motors and war-time production chief, calls attention to the way he began in life. A native of Denmark, he went into the bicycle business in Copenhagen, but gave that up to become an immigrant to America. In New York, he started out as a janitor, and then went to work as a mechanic - ^{at} ten dollars a week. He had mechanical gifts, and this country provided the opportunity - as is illustrated by the rise of Danish immigrant William S. Knudsen to high position in the Ford Company, President of General Motors, and America's Production Chief in war.

CHURCHES

A new move for the unification of christian churches has been agreed upon tentatively - as announced today. The plan was drawn up by a Chicago meeting of eight inter-church groups -- the Federal Council of Churches of Christ, the United Council of Church Women, and others. Representing forty-five million Protestants throughout the country, these inter-~~xxx~~ church groups have formed a plan to join forces in a new national council of churches. A two year program, to bring about a new degree of christian unity.

GLUCOSE

All day today there was a search for dangerous bottles of contaminated glucose. And the news tonight is that about fifty percent have been recovered.

All this is a medical matter, the glucose being a solution intended for ~~the~~ feeding into the veins of very sick people -- stuff for hospitals.

Somehow or other, something went wrong with a certain percentage of nearly three thousand bottles shipped from a laboratory in Berkeley, California, - glucose contaminated because of some fault in the process of shipment. So there was a hue and cry today in the world of medicine and hospitals, with the result that half of the bottles ~~have~~ have been recovered -- the search for the remainder is concentrated in the eastern southern states - hospitals there.

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CHINESE PIRATES

From China, news of trouble. Same old story - but this time it has nothing to do with Communists or the Chinese Red Army. The villains of the piece are of an older vintage, an antique race - Chinese pirates.

The word is that the river bandits of Shanghai have become so bold and successful that they now sail out in their sampans to meet incoming cargo ships, and openly demand a share of the cargo - ten per cent of the goods aboard the vessel. The pirates - making a regular business of it, on a percentage basis.

If there is any refusal, they may loot the ship then and there - ~~or they may~~ or they may take measures more indirect. Sometimes, if their demand of ten per cent is rejected, they lay in wait on shore, staging an ambush of the Shanghai waterfront - and beat up the officers and sailors of the offending vessels.

The Shanghai pirates have another clever trick. In their bandit boats they join the sampans that are in the business of transferring cargoes to shore. The pirate sampans load up - but, instead of proceeding to

the proper destination, they flee upstream with their loot, taking the merchandise to the lairs and haunts of the buccaneers.

Chinese pirates have a long and nefarious history, to which a new page is added now - bandits on a business basis, ten percent.

TAR AND FEATHERS

Like most patriotic citizens, I'm all for those old American customs - traditional ways and manners of the U.S.A.; **B**ut, things can go too far - as far as tar and feathers, for example. Yes, I know, it's an institution that was famous back in pioneer days, or even later - giving some objectionable individual a coat of tar and a decoration of feathers. But that's hardly proper in this modern America. - ~~Yet~~, it was about to happen today at Findlay Lake, New York. To make the matter still more shocking, they were out to tar and feather a ^{member of the town council,} ~~minister of the gospel.~~

~~the Reverend~~ Harold T. Grover ~~of the~~ ^{st. is one of the town fathers} ~~evangelical united brethren is a member of the town~~ ~~council~~ at Findlay Lake, where trouble arose over some question of evicting a tenant from an apartment building operated by ^{the eminent} ~~the Reverend~~ member of the Town Council. The citizens grew irate about it, and a crowd gathered - with a result reported as follows by the news dispatch. "The 'mob", says the Dispatch, "had gathered feathers and had built a fire with a kettle of tar over it - and was

chasing the ^{member of the Town Council,} ~~Minister~~ when the Deputies arrived."

~~was~~ The Deputies arrived ^{ing} in the nick of time to avert a most undignified revival of that old American custom - tar and feathers.

HARRIMAN

There was a solemn scene in Washington today at the swearing-in of the new Ambassador at-large,

~~to the nations collaborating in the Marshall Plan. It~~

^{It}_^ was an august occasion, as Averell Harriman took the oath. Presiding over the ceremony - the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. So you can imagine the solemnity - or can you?

The stateliness of the ritual began when Chief Justice Vinson discovered that he had forgotten to bring along a bible - and how can you administer an oath without a bible? So a hurry-up messenger was sent to a nearby hotel, where a bible was hastily procured - thanks be to ^{the}_^ Gideons.

Next - no American flag. The assembled newspaper and newsreel photographers insisted on having the stars and stripes in the background; so, attendants went scouting for a flag, and procured one. But the flag was on a staff too tall to stand up in the board room or the E.R.P. where the ceremony was held. There was a fast conference about that, until somebody solved the problem

by unscrewing a metal tip at the top of the flagpole.

So now they ^{unfurled} ~~stood up~~ the stars and

stripes, and the Chief Justice was ready to administer the

oath. - ^{Then another hitch - this time the} ~~the trouble now being about~~ Harriman's commission

as Ambassador-under-the-Marshall-Plan. ~~that~~ was missing.

~~too~~ They rushed a messenger over to the White House,

~~but the commission~~ ^{It} wasn't there. ~~They~~ ^{they} finally found it at

the State Department.

By now it was nearly eleven o'clock,

and the Supreme Court was scheduled to go into session

at eleven. Would the court wait, if the Chief Justice

was late? Not at all. ~~Mr.~~ Mr. Justice Vinson ~~remarked~~

^{that} his fellow jurists on the high tribunal would go right

ahead without him. - ~~Embarrassing~~ Embarrassing for the Chief Justice.

So Mr. Justice Vinson was in one awful hurry - so much so

that he didn't even take time to put on his black gown.

~~That was one thing that had not been forgotten, but the~~

~~Chief Justice~~ ^{He} didn't bother with it. ^{He just} ~~He~~ administered the

oath as fast as any oath had ever been administered, and

then took it on the run to the Supreme Court Building -

ADD HARRIMAN

And here's the latest -- just to complete the comedy. The Chief Justice did it all over again -- administered the oath ~~to~~ to Harriman ~~in~~ a second time. That was because one of the news reel photographers failed to get his camera focused -- and missed the ceremony the first time. So he asked that it be done all over again, and Chief Justice Vincent was kind enough to oblige. After the close of the session of the supreme court today, ~~the~~ the taking of the oath was re-enacted for one lone cameraman.

Headline from the world of music - the Metropolitan Opera is suing the Metropolitan Opera. That is, the Metropolitan opera Association of New York has brought legal action against the Metropolitan Opera Association of Chicago charging ^{that} the Chicago Musical Group has taken over that New York name so famous in operatic history. More technically, the New York Opera seeks an injunction to stop the use of a name so closely similar to its own.

I suppose you might call it plagiarism, a charge not unknown to musical history, the swiping of sweet tunes and stately melodies. As for names, There's the New York Philharmonic Orchestra, also the Berlin Philharmonic and the London Philharmonic. This country has the San Carlo Opera Company, named after the renowned San Carlo Opera House in Naples. So apparently it's all right, as between various nations, but it's different when it's New York and Chicago. ~~No doubt, because of that brotherly feeling between fellow Americans.~~

In any case, the New York Metropolitan

is suing the Chicago Metropolitan, the Chicago reply being that the name in question is a familiar dictionary word - metropolitan. I don't know how they'll argue this in court, but I suppose the legal forensic eloquence should

be sung. - ~~two lawyers warbling a duet~~, Just as you ^{are} ~~and~~

now about to sing!

~~I might warble,~~ Nelson, ~~if we could warble.~~