

L.J.K. Thurs. Jan. 7 - '54,

The President's appearance before Congress today was a shining success - as show business, as well as a political event. The box office - tops. The crowd so big that employees of congressmen had to ask for places in the press box. Standing room only - even for diplomats. Some of the members of the diplomatic corps had to stand - a thing previously unheard of.

As for applause - a smash hit. The President getting some small and some large bursts fifty bursts of applause, as he read his message to Congress - which lasted fifty-two minutes.

One member of the audience, however, failed to join in the handclapping, Soviet Ambassador Zarubin, who listened - and "sat on his hands", as they say in show business.

In the shining success, the stage management was first class. The Director - the President's old ~~fa~~ time friend, actor Robert Montgomery. Who achieved a masterpiece by having the lectern raised three inches, the stand holding

the manuscript, which the President read.

That bit of technique was important. With the lectern raised three inches, the President did not have to stoop over, and bend his head forward, as he read from the manuscript. ^{And} that kept the ~~stage~~ lights from shining on the presidential bald head.

The lights for newsreel and television were as glaring as ever - and Bob Montgomery noted that, if the President did bend his head forward, it would gleam like a mirror. So, the Presidential appearance was a shining success, except in that one - unshining way.

The reaction to the message on the State of the Union is favorable - from Democrats as well as Republicans. However, there's opposition on two points - opposition from Republicans as well as Democrats. The two points being - tax policy and farm policy.

Congressional advocates of lower taxes are deploring the presidential recommendation that corporation

taxes and excise taxes be kept at their present rates - not ~~not~~ reduced. And lawmakers from farming sections disapprove of the proposal for a flexible policy in supporting farm prices. Which could mean a lowering of price supports in some cases. Farm leaders in Congress spoke up immediately - in favor of retaining the President's rigid methods of sustaining farm prices.

There's applause, all around, for the Eisenhower promise to take strong action in maintaining our national economy. With measures - to check any serious kind of slump. "Economic preparedness" declared the President, "is fully as important to the nation as military preparedness."

BERLIN

In Berlin, no agreement on where the conference of Foreign Ministers shall be held. Today, the western commanders met with a Soviet representative, but adjourned merely announcing - that they'll have another meeting tomorrow.

The difference of opinion is between - East Berlin and West Berlin. We want the Foreign Ministers to meet in our section of the German capital. The Reds argue that West Berlin would not be secure for them, because of anti-Communist agitation. So they insist on - East Berlin.

ITALY

In Rome, the Italian President is being urged to name -- a left wing Premier. That is, a leader of the left wing faction of the Christian Democratic Party.

Today, President Einaudi conferred with politicians who included Socialists and Communists. And they advised - a cabinet that would include the ~~Soviet~~ Socialist outfit lined up with Communists. At the head of it, a left wing Christian Democrat.

This reflects the split in the Christian Democratic party. Badly divided -- with Conservative and radical wings.

Meanwhile, an ironical fact is coming to light in Rome. Namely - that the election ~~in~~ in June was actually won by Premier de Gasperi. According to Italian law, De Gasperi needed anything over fifty percent of the votes to win overwhelming control of the National Assembly. But his Christian Democratic party ran a little short of the fifty percent, and De Gasperi resigned - without considering the fact that many thousands of ballots were disputed. An

investigation has been going on, a re-count. Which now shows that De Gasperi actually did have more than fifty percent of the votes. Which should have given him a whopping parliamentary majority.

But nothing can be done about it now, and Italy is in political disorder. All - because of confusion in elections/ returns.

China

The State department issues a denial tonight- that U.S. policy toward the Chinese Reds is being reconsidered. There have been a lot of published reports intimating that the Eisenhower Administration may be changing its mind about recognizing Red China. The Chiang Kai Shek regime on Formosa to be discarded.

The denial is made by assistant Secretary of State, William Robertson , top adviser to secretary John Foster Dulles on far Eastern affairs. He says:

"There has been no change in our policy of non-recognition of Red China - and there is no ~~any~~ foundation, in fact, for reports that the ~~administration~~ administration is taking a "new look" at its policy.

He said that with plenty of emphasis, and added - that the statement applies with equal force to the policy of keeping Red China out of the U.N.

PRISONERS

Even the Communists are conceding that the prisoners-of-war will be released on January twenty third. This comes from the Chinese Red radio. Which, today, disclosed the latest - going on behind the scenes.

The Reds tell how they sent a strongly worded message to General Thimayya, the commander in charge of the prisoners. Demanding - that the release of the captives be delayed for eighty more days of "explanations." But the General from India replied that he must, according to agreement, turn the ~~prisoners~~ prisoners loose on schedule.

The Chinese radio seems to take it for granted that General Thimayya will carry out his intention. The Reds protest the release of the prisoners, but admit - it will probably happen.

PRISONER

Among the terrifying stories told by prisoners of war here's one - perhaps the weirdest of all. Chinese Reds - playing Russian roulette with a captive.

In London, Lieutenant Dennis Lankford, of the British Navy, returned home recently - and, today, he told what he had been through in a North Korean prison camp.

"Just before Christmas of Nineteen Fifty Two, Lieutenant Lankford related, "my captors thought of another psychological ~~■~~ weapon to drive me completely mad. They introduced me to -- Russian roulette.

He says the game was played by a Chinese officer, who spoke perfect English - and claimed he had been educated in England, at Cambridge.

"Each morning for a week" the Lieutenant goes on, "this Communist officer put one cartridge in his revolver and spun the chamber. Then he put the pistol to my forehead, and pulled the trigger. Each time, the pistol failed to fire."

The Naval officer says that the game of Russian

roulette continued, day after day, until a final day - when the Lieutenant was to be taken away.

Once again the Chinese officer put one cartridge in the revolver, and spun the chamber. This time he pointed the pistol at the ground, pulled the trigger - and a shot rang out.

"You've been lucky" said the Communist officer.

~~Chinese Reds playing Russian roulette - the Russian influence - maybe. But it sure sounds Communist - playing Russian roulette with a prisoner-of-war.~~

CRIMINA L

Yesterday the F.B.I. added a name to its list of "most wanted men". Chester Lee Davenport who has a long criminal record - as a cattle rustler in the southwest.

That was yesterday. Today - Davenport was arrested. Found - working on a dairy farm near Dixon, California. The F.B.I. grabbed him, after a local citizen had recognized the dairy farm worker from a photograph published in the Vallejo News Chronicle.

Placed on the list yesterday, put in jail today. Fast work!

SERGEANT

Heroism which sounds like war - at Fort Dix,
New Jersey. Where a sergeant gave his life, today to save
a Rookie.

Leonard Moran of South Boston, Massachusetts,
a veteran of battle in Korea, was giving instructions in
grenade throwing. Private John O'Callahan of New York City
hurled a ~~grenade~~ grenade - but it struck a parapet, and fell
back into the trench. The sergeant threw himself in front
of the rookie, and tried to kick the grenade away - but it
exploded.

CHURCH

At Cincinnati Ohio today the Reverend John W. Rawlings, pastor of the Lockland Baptist Church - called upon his congregation to defy an order issued by a court. He urges them - never to reinstate Mrs. Mary Randolph as a member of the church. Mrs. Randolph is accused of having "sinned." Is castigated as - a "gross sinner."

The fifty-one year old housewife was expelled from the Lockland Baptist Church - last summer. Action against her - taken by the pastor, the deacons, and the trustees. She went to court, claiming she was deprived of church membership - illegally. The court upheld her, and ordered her to be - reinstated. But the Pastor, the deacons and the trustees refused as they put it - refused to "extend the hand of fellowship." So now a meeting of the four thousand church members has been called - to uphold the stern action against sin. Uncompromising reprobation - of a "gross sinner."

So what did the lady do - to deserve all that?

Well, in the court proceedings, a witness testified that Mrs. Randolph said: "If ever there was a devil in the pulpit, there stands one." And, at that moment, the Reverend Mr. Rawlings was in the pulpit.

In addition to which, Mrs. Randolph was charged with uttering similar harsh words, not only about the pastor, but also about the deacons and the church trustees.

So that was the "sin" committed by the "gross sinner."

HUNTRESSES

The first all-woman safari landed in Hamburg today - on the way to darkest Africa. Ranging in age from twenty-seven to sixty, the lady nimrods bust into songs! "A hunting we will go, Yantiti, Yantiti"! A hunting we will go! Hi ho the Cheerio! They carolled.

Today's dispatch says: "They giggled like girl guides on a marshmallow toast." Saying what a thrill it would be to put on their "darling jungle suits," when they reach the land of the lion, the leopard, and the rhinoceros.

Mrs. Helen Halliwell of Ardsley-on-Hudson, New York says that, at home, she raises pheasants. But in Africa she hopes to bag a lion.

Mrs. Louise Schilling, who grows orchids in Honolulu wants to shoot a zebra. Of course shooting zebras is even less dangerous than picking orchids.

Mrs. Mary Whalen of Philadelphia says she promised her children she'd bring back - a "cat of some kind."

Before the first all-woman African safari left

New York, the mighty huntresses got a lot of presents - which included toy pistols, rubber tipped darts, and a cardboard target. In the baggage they are taking - a sewing machine. A hunting we will go. Yantiti, Yantiti Yo ho!

Diana, the Goddess of the Chase, must be laughing.

WEDDING

The much publicized romance in Scotland - ended in a wedding today. Maria Isabella Patino, heiress of a Bolivian tin mine millionaire - ~~was~~ united to her English suitor, James Goldsmith. The parents of the bride abandoned their opposition to the ~~match~~ match.

There was an illogical element in the storm raised by Papa Patino. His legal ground for stopping the marriage of his daughter was the fact that Maria Isabella was under age - only eighteen. He forgot that when he married the girl's mother, a former princess of the House of Bourbon - she was only eighteen.

The young couple eloped to Scotland because there - the legal age for a girl to marry is sixteen. Papa Patino ~~appears~~ appealed to the Scottish courts, arguing that his daughter usually lived in France, where a girl has to be twenty-one before she can marry without the consent of her parents.

Today, however, Papa Patino and Mama Patino changed their minds, and gave their permission. So the young couple came out of hiding, and entered the holy bonds of matrimony.

Mike, Love will find a way, even if it has to go to Scotland -- to find it.