

LONDON

L.T.-DELCO. MONDAY, MAY 14, 1956. 14

(Given by Chas. Collingwood)

The debate on the "frogman" mystery began in the London House of Commons this evening, and promptly ran into a storm. With Prime Minister Eden - refusing to give Parliament any further information about the disappearance of Commander Lionel Crabb. "I deplore this debate and will say no more," the Prime Minister declared angrily - and sat down with a display ill temper.

That produced an uproar, with Labor Party M.Ps shouting protests. They had intended the debate as the occasion for getting full facts about the perplexing events that occurred while Bulganin and Khrushchev were on their visit to Britain.

[The debate began, ^{quietly} ~~appropriately~~ enough, with Labor Party Leader Gaitskill urging the Prime Minister to reveal all he could about the espionage attempt to seek under-water information about the Russian cruiser on which B. and K. ~~was~~ ~~seen~~ ~~to~~ ~~be~~ ~~involved~~. The reports were that British Intelligence had been involved, and one Labor Party member declared that American Intelligence had a hand in the affair.

Eden responded with a statement, in which he really said - he wouldn't say anything. ^{He argued that} There are reasons why a Prime Minister cannot talk publicly about the activities of the secret services. He declared that no government minister knew anything about the "frogman's mission." If the Cabinet had known, it would have cast inevitable doubt on the sincerity of their negotiations with Bulganin and Khrushchev.

It was at this point that the Prime Minister made his emotional declaration - that he would say nothing more.

The Labor Party immediately forced a vote on the issue, and the Conservative majority backed Eden's policy of silence. Which was upheld by a vote of three hundred and sixteen to two hundred and twenty-nine.

MOSCOW - ARMAMENT

Moscow announces - a huge reduction of military manpower. The Soviet armed forces - to be cut by one million, two hundred thousand men. They say they're disbanding sixty-three divisions and brigades and three Air Force divisions, which are now stationed in East Germany. In addition, the Red Navy will retire three hundred and seventy-five of its vessels.

This was announced in Moscow at a news conference held by the Soviet press chief. Who stated that the new cuts of military manpower will be in addition to a reduction of six hundred and forty thousand announced last year.

So how will the Soviet Army, after the cuts, compare with our own? In the numbers for manpower, apparently, it will be less. Recently, Harold Stassen, U.S. disarmament specialist, estimated that Russia had four million men under arms. He said the United States has two million, nine hundred thousand. The reduction, announced in Moscow, would give the Soviets two million, eight hundred thousand - about a hundred thousand men below the American figure.

The statement in Moscow challenges the Western powers - to follow suit. If they'll cut their armed forces, the Russians will consider still further reductions.

In Washington, there's immediate caution - about taking Moscow up on that. It is pointed out that it would be impossible to check on whether the Soviets actually make the manpower cuts that they announce. The White House reaction is that the Moscow statement would mean more - if the Russians were to accept President Eisenhower's proposals for "aerial inspection."

~~Administration officials declare that a cut in Soviet military manpower has been expected. Secretary of Defense Charles E. Wilson points out that Russia might merely be doing what we, ourselves, did three years ago, when American military manpower was reduced. ^{In} The "new look" policy - of emphasizing ^{and} new weapons ⁱⁿ air power. The Soviets may be doing that now.~~

SOVIETS

Soviet Russia has rejected the plan that French Premier Mollet is taking to Moscow. Today, Premier Bulganin spoke up in advance, and said the Moscow government would not consider the proposal to take simultaneous action on disarmament and German reunification. Which proposal - was okayed by the Nato powers.

In an interview with a French journalist, later broadcast by Radio Moscow, Bulganin said: "The problem of disarmament and the German problem - are two separate questions." He declared - ^a ~~the~~ disarmament settlement would be jeopardized, if tied in with German unification.

Tomorrow, Premier Mollet and Foreign Minister Pinneau fly to Moscow - where their main proposal has already been turned down.

WEST GERMANY

The West German government will continue payments for the upkeep of Allied troops on German soil. This assurance has been given personally by Chancellor Adenauer, who says he wants negotiations on the subject to be resumed.

West German Finance Minister Fritz Schaefer flatly refused to continue the payments, as provided in the German peace treaty. But, we hear, Chancellor Adenauer and Foreign Minister von Brentano overruled the refractory Finance Minister.

KOREA

This was election day in Korea. No count of the votes is in, yet - but I can tell you who was elected president.

Syngman Rhee, the eighty-one year old veteran - wins another term.

~~No doubt he would have, ^{too} in any case - but, in addition, fatality worked in his favor.~~

His chief rival died of a heart attack, while on a campaign tour. Another opponent, a former Communist, went into hiding - saying he was afraid of being assassinated. So that left the field fairly clear for Syngman Rhee.

~~The chief interest, in fact, was in the contest for vice-president - elected independently of the president.~~

~~Syngman Rhee's great age makes the vice-presidency all the more important.~~

The political campaign was hot, with outbreaks of rioting and violence. Yesterday, for example, there was a raging mob scene - one life lost, two persons injured. But the cause of the disturbance was an oddity - in the business of electioneering.

In Seoul, Syngman Rhee's Liberal Party called a meeting in a school yard, and the ~~meeting~~^{event} was billed as - "entertainment." A large crowd gathered for this campaign performance - a musical program.

In the school yard, they were listening to the music, having a good time, when a leader of Syngman Rhee's party interrupted the music, and began a political speech.

When the crowd heard that, they started for the exit. Pushing and jamming - to get out. They had come for music - not oratory.

But the gate of the school yard was locked, and there was a wild crush. People were that anxious to get away from the political speech.

I don't know much about the Koreans, but they seem to have good judgment, in that respect, anyway. Suppose that we Americans were to flee from political speeches with such enthusiasm - it might make politics less windy.

INTRODUCTION TO L.T. RECORDING

Tonight we have another recorded report, from Lowell Thomas - telling of strange affairs in the remote Himalayan kingdom of Nepal. At Katmandu, Lowell is in the middle of oriental fantasies.

L.T.RECORDING

In my last report I told about the downfall of the Ranas, hereditary Prime Ministers of Nepal, who had ruled here in the Himalayas for more than a hundred and fifty years, how they lost out in the revolt of 1951. At first, when King Tribhuvana fled to India it looked as if the Ranas might stage a come-back, but their friends, the British, were no longer in India and the Nepal feudal system was ripe for a fall. Until 1951 all authority in this hermit despotism passed from one Rana Prime Minister to another, the King a puppet, at times even a palace prisoner, the Ranas amassing great wealth, running the country solely in their own interest. That's the way they governed Nepal, this five hundred mile long country that adjoins Tibet on one side, India on the other, here in the Himalayas. Katmandu is their capital and here the Ranas built great palaces and they had hunting preserves in the mountains and down in the terra~~d~~ and they loaded their many wives and concubines with jewels. Their interest in women resulted in a virtual Rana caste system. It worked this way.

At the top the real aristocracy made up solely of those born of wives of Hindu caste, equal to their husbands. Children of other wives, of lower caste, remain second-class nobility. And then the children of concubines, thousands of them. They rank next. Only the first group holding absolute autocratic power. When King Tribhuvana fled to India he was welcomed by Nehru. Meanwhile, the Ranas tried to put his little grandson on the throne as another puppet. In the struggle for power the King won out and for five more years he reigned here in Katmandu. Upon his death, his son, Mahendra, took over power in a hurry. Since then I hear there have been Cabinet changes every eight or ten months, with Mahendra trying valiantly to wipe out graft and corruption. Not only did the Government of India strengthen his hand, but he began to get Point Four aid from Uncle Sam. In fact, since 1952 we have had a USOM, United States Operations Mission, here. It's headed by Paul Rose, an agricultural expert from Virginia. Under

him some thirty experts in agriculture, geology, education, and so on. In 1954, they had tremendous floods and our people sent relief, also the Indian Air Force made hundreds of drops to help the hill people who were cut off from the outside world by tremendous landslides. Since that time a few miles of roads have been built, a couple of bridges, but 99% of Nepal is still only accessible by trail.

There's one rather exciting American project under consideration here at the moment. Thirty-five miles southwest of Katmandu as the crow flies is the Rapti Valley. It covers an area of one thousand five hundred square miles. American engineers have drawn up plans for a Rapti Valley dam and hydro-electric plant and the key man in this is a remarkable American Negro who, I understand, right now is somewhere in the jungle, but if he comes in during coronation week I'm going to look him up and get his story. So far all I know about him is that he's six feet seven inches tall, was a track star in college in the States and then as a basketball player he toured

the world with the Harlem Globe Trotters.

Yes, Charlie, the world is full of unusual people, if you have time to look around for them. That's one of the reasons why now and then I like to get away from the studio on a jaunt like this.

So Long.

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COLLINGWOOD: And you always come up with unusual people,

Lowell!

ALABAMA

The Supreme Court refuses to intervene in the Aurtherine Lucy case. The University of Alabama made an appeal, asking the high tribunal to reverse the order of a lower court - which required the University to reinstate the Negro co-ed.

The Supreme Court refusal leaves the case a just where it was before. The University has expelled the co-ed - on the ground that she made baseless charges against University officials. Meanwhile, Aurtherine Lucy has gotten married. But she has declared - she'll seek readmission to the University in the future.

HOSPITAL

At Kingston, Ontario, they have solved - the mystery of the vanishing hospital patient.

At the Hotel Dieu Hospital last night, the doctor was operating on the victim of a traffic accident. Leonard Kearney, suffering from severe head injuries.

But then the operation was interrupted, when the lights went out - a power failure. All was in darkness for a few minutes. Then the lights went on again - and what did the surgeon see? Nobody on the operating table! The patient had vanished. Which certainly was enough to disconcert any surgeon in any hospital.

Today, they went to the Kearney home, and found Mrs. Kearney - who explained. She said - they told Kearney he would need twenty-five stitches for his head injuries, and would have to remain in the hospital.

"But," says Mrs. Kearney, "my husband had to go to work in the morning. He's a milk driver. So, when the lights went out, he sneaked out, and went over to the General Hospital.

They put the ~~six~~ stitches in his head and let him come home."

So Kearney could deliver the milk.