

L.J.-P. H. Monday, Nov. 28, 1949.

At the San Francisco trial of Harry Bridges today, the prosecution threw what it called -- its Sunday punch. This ~~is~~ in the person of big John Schomaker, one time business manager for the long-shoremen's union headed by Bridges. He testified that the defensant did commit perjury when, in naturalization proceedings, he swore that he never was a member of the Communist party. Schomaker declared that he himself delivered Communist party membership books to Bridges and saw him pay ~~ix~~ his dues more than once. He stated, moreover, that the San Francisco waterfront strike in Nineteen thirty-four was masterminded by the Communist party, which gave its orders to Harry Bridges. Testimony of the most positive sort -- given in spite of noisy objections by the lawyer for the defense.

WEATHER

The northwest is in for two more bad storms -- according to reports from out in the Pacific. There is a new center of bad weather two hundred and fifty miles out from the Queen Charlotte Islands, still another six hundred and fifty miles from Vancouver -- and, if they keep on developing, they will bring new havoc to pile on the storm damage over the weekend. The tempest across British Columbia and down through Washington and Oregon did a million dollars worth of harm, and caused the loss of more than a score of lives. Bad weather indeed.

CHUNGKING

In China, the Communists are closing in on Chungking, which the Nationalists intended to hold as their capital, confident, apparently, that the tide of Red conquest would not sweep so fast into the far interior. At last reports, the Communists were eight miles from Chungking, preparing to cross the Yangtze and march in - while the city is ^a~~the~~ scene of mass exodus and wild flight.

The crack of doom was signaled today, when Chiang Kai-Shek left the city that was his capital during the years when, as the all-powerful generalissimo, he waged ~~the~~ brave battle against Japan. Today Chiang Kai-Shek fled further inland, a hundred and seventy-five miles to the northwest, to the City of Chengtu, where the remnants of the Nationalists will try to hold out a while longer.

FAR EASTERN COMMINFORM

The Chinese Red radio confirms reports of the creation of a far eastern comminform. (~~This had been reported, and~~) Today the Communist broadcast told of a conference at Peking, under the auspices of a Red federation of trades unions. At this conference, they are setting up, what the Red radio calls, a prominent liaison bureau and secretariat. The purpose is to coordinate Communist activities in countries named as - "Malaya, Burma, Indo China, Indonesia, and the Philippines." In other words, a far eastern comminform - along the lines of the organization in Europe, which Moscow uses to control the satellite nations and Communist parties in other countries.

U.N.

At the U.N., our government today called for a revival of an old-time doctrine - the Open Door.

That's what we called our policy of times past - in opposing ~~the~~ attempts ^{of} for foreign powers to dismember China, seizing control of Chinese trade. We demanded Chinese independence, with full trade rights for every nation - the Open Door.

The application today is to the Red sweep in China, behind which stands Soviet Russia. The American delegation gives warning of what it calls - "A Russian attempt to dismember China." That is, seize control of parts of the ancient land - with the connivance of the Chinese Communist regime.

CHINA - SHIP

Another American vessel shot up by Chinese Nationalists - trying to enforce a blockade not recognized by the Western Powers. The American ship, Sir John Franklin, was near Shanghai, when it was hit by a ~~salvade~~ ~~of shells, the shooting done~~ apparently by gunboats of the Nationalists. The company owning the vessel has protested to the State Department in Washington, which has ordered an investigation.

TITO

In Europe, there's going to be another Red Trial, but this one will be different - (the other way around, the shoe on the other foot.) It will be a Red trial of Stalinists.

It's happening in the only place it could happen - Yugoslavia. Which will bring to a climax of melodrama the bitterly cold war between Soviet Russia and Red Marshal Tito (the puppet who rebelled against Moscow.) The defendants are former white Russians, most of whom accepted Soviet citizenship. The charges against them are of the usual Communist variety, featuring espionage and sabotage. Some of them will be put on trial Thursday - (and the indications are that most, if not all, will ^{be} implicated.)

In the previous big Red trials, it used to be Trotzkyites - condemned and executed. More recently, Titoists. But now, in the grim reversal, a Red court will try - Stalinists.

ATOMIC

From Washington, news that the Atomic Energy Commission has taken a long step for a realization of ^e ~~that familiar atomic~~ [^] dream ~~the power~~ of the atom ~~to be~~ harnessed by the industrial uses of the modern world.

It is disclosed that a new three and a half million dollar contraption, called ^a nuclear furnace, or reactor - is already under construction ^{near Arco} [^] in Idaho, ~~near the Town of Arco~~. Retiring Chairman Lilienthal hails it as - "The most important advance ever made in the peacetime application of atomic energy."

ST. PAULS

A dispatch from London states that the names of twenty-eight thousand Americans, on a roll of honor, will be placed in St. Paul's Cathedral - those Americans who gave their lives while based in Britain during the Second World War.

In St. Paul's they are constructing an American memorial chapel, with a fund of a hundred thousand pounds in donations, myriads of people contributing - from a penny to sixpence. The chapel will be ornamented with the insignia of the forty-eight states, and a special place will be given to that roll of honor with the twenty-eight thousand American names.

St. Paul's is, of course, the chief monument to the fame of Sir Christopher Wren, England's greatest architect. The cathedral was damaged by German bombs during the war, and the high altar has been reconstructed according to designs made by ^{Wren - designs} ~~Sir Christopher Wren~~ - never used, discarded at the time.

The American memorial chapel will be furnished with "oak stalls", like ornamental pews - and these will

ST. PAUL'S....2

be according to an original patternⁿ devised by Sir
Christopher Wren, who did so much to beautify London
two hundred and fifty years ago.

ST. PETERS

Word from the Vatican is that water has flooded the grotto under the cathedral of St. Peters, where they~~are~~ digging down into the traditional tomb of the Chief of the Apostles. The news has been telling how, below the largest church in the world, they have reached the ancient shrine built at the place where St. Peter is said to have been buried. (But now water has been seeping in at such a rate as to flood the excavation.)

Recent heavy rains are blamed for the excess of underground water, but it would appear that there always was a danger of flooding - the archeologists having discovered an ancient wall built centuries ago to keep the water out. It all goes back to the days of the Roman Empire, since which time the land has ^{been} built up with the debris of the ages - and on top of the ancient rubble now stands the grandeur of St. Peters, with its majestic dome.

RAILROAD ACCIDENT

Investigation is being made into that freak railroad accident at Gary, Indiana - where three persons were killed and two others badly injured, when they were sucked into a train speeding through the station. On a narrow platform, passengers were waiting to board a local train, which had just pulled in - and just then the express train came rushing through. It was forty-five minutes late, and some say it was going ninety miles an hour. So in that corridor between the two trains, a suction effect was set up, which drew people against the speeding cars. The platform was elevated, and they could not be drawn under - they were simply hit by parts of the cars.

To get some insight in the physics of the matter, I called up an airplane designer friend, Vincent Buranelli - an aviation engineer being familiar with such matters as air currents. He said that the front end of a fast moving train sweeps along a volume of air, and that creates a low pressure at the rear end of the train - air being pulled out. In the narrow corridor between

RAILROAD ACCIDENT.....2

the two trains, the suction would be all the greater. He said it might come to as high as six pounds to the square inch - and, to illustrate the power of suction, he pointed to an accident that happened at a jet plane base in California. A plane on the ground turned on the jet, which draws in air at a tremendous rate. The effect was so great that the driver of a truck ten feet away was sucked into the in-take of the jet engine. An example of the physics behind the freak accident at Gary, Indiana - caused by the suction of a speeding train.

DOG-SLED

This next comes from Cathedral Bluffs, Alaska - which is not much of a cathedral. Especially at this time of year - when the northern wilderness ^{is all} frozen desolation. A sort of championship event is on - a New England engineer, Cecil Moore, trying to make the longest dog-sled trip on record. He's mushing all the way from Alaska to Maine - ~~(and, along the route, is filing stories to the United Press.)~~ ^{he}

He has reached Cathedral Bluffs, but, instead of the glow of candles on a cathedral altar - it's the gleam of the eyes of wolves, ~~(the grim, gaunt wolves of the north. With the thermometer at ²⁰ ~~eighteen~~ below zero,~~ Cecil) Moore writes: "The grey, shaggy beasts follow my dog-team through the snow-covered wilderness. During the ^{several} long winter nights, their glittering eyes ring my camp fire - waiting and watching."

The wolves are watching the more intently, because one of the dogs in the team is, temporarily, a cripple. A couple of nights ago, he got into a fight

with another of the huskies, the way sled dogs will fight - and was bitten badly in the leg. So the wolves have their eyes on him, and the driver has to carry the dog on the sled, or he wouldn't last a minute, (if the wolves got at him.)

"I keep a rifle and a revolver within easy reach all the time," says Moore, as well he might - mushing on through ^{Alaska and} the Yukon, ~~territory~~, in his attempt to set a dog sled record.

PRINCESS

In London, the gossip today is about Princess Margaret's new dress - and the bets are that her Royal Highness will never wear it.

It's an ultra fashionable creation, straight from Paris, a present to Her Royal Highness from that headline French designer Christian Dior, who a couple of years ago rose to fame as the inventor of the new look. Right now, the inspiration of ~~Monsieur~~ Dior is for - the plunging neckline. And how he can make that neckline plunge! Into the gown for the Princess he put all his inspiration in that direction - and ~~Monsieur~~ Dior can go far in that direction.

Her Royal Highness was delighted - until mama saw the new dress. Proudly and gayly Margaret put it on, and showed it to her royal parents. Her Majesty the Queen took one look at the plunging neckline - and the roof nearly fell down.

The Parisian creation was immediately packed up and sent to the London royal dressmaker, and he was

told what to do - stitch up that neckline. Which he did - until the daring inspiration from Paris looked like one of these Nineteenth Century tall chokers that Queen Mother Mary wears.

so You'd think that ^{now} all would be okay. But, alas - during the delay caused by the alterations, copies of that gown appeared in dressmaker shops all over London. Which certainly was not cricket. In London, the clothes of the ladies of the royal family are under the strictest kind of protocol. When a queen or a princess goes to the royal dressmaker, (Norman Hartnell,) (she picks out something - and,) immediately, all sketches and patterns of the creation are destroyed. The royal gowns are never duplicated - to avoid any chance of a queen walking into a party and finding a mere dutchess or a variety ^{hall} girl wearing the same dress. But Paris doesn't seem to be so scrupulous about it, not so much tradition - and it looks as if half of London will wear Princess Margaret's new dress, but not the Princess.

PAN AMERICAN

^{Let's}
~~Now~~ stop a moment, and try to figure the odds on this. A Pan-American clipper took off today for San Juan, Puerto Rico, with a crew of five. The crew, as is the custom, was selected on the basis of hours flown by each man during the previous month. The five picked in that fashion, all turned out to be named Smith - none of them related. Well, Smith is a mighty common name. But how would you figure the odds on getting, by random selection, an airliner-crew of five -- every one ^a Smith?
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LADIES

In a Los Angeles police court, a Lithuanian countess appeared today. Her American married name is Mrs. Rella Fowler, but she was originally a countess with a Lithuanian name that I won't attempt to pronounce. - ~~since I do have occasional trouble with foreign names.~~

The charge against the countess - assault and battery. The victim - a blonde Hollywood model named Ariel Ames. ~~Which is~~ *a* pretty name - Ariel, the lovely spirit of Shakespearean dreams in "The Tempest." Today the Lithuanian countess told the judge that - "She lost her head." But Ariel - she nearly lost her hair.

It all came about on a boulevard in Hollywood, when the Lithuanian countess saw her estranged husband keep a date with Ariel, ~~and~~ ^{whereupon} she seized Ariel by her flowing golden tresses. Today in court Ariel said: "She dragged me to the ground by my hair!" It all happened so suddenly that Ariel was unable to get in a blow of her own - not a single scratch with her long, scarlet, perfectly manicured fingernails. *Bystanders declare that the husky red-headed Countess from Lithuania swung, slim, slender Ariel around by her hair, scattering handfuls of golden tresses!*

~~Well, in that fracas - if it had been~~

LADIES.....2

TR Well, in that process - if it had been Shakespeare's Ariel, she would have flitted away on the blowing breeze. But a mere mortal model couldn't do

that. So, while the countess lost her head, Ariel

nearly lost her hair. Any words of wisdom

from you, Nelson?