

BRITAIN

L.J. - P. & G. Monday, Oct. 24, 1949.

In the London House of Commons today, Prime Minister Attlee presented his budget slash - a program calling for a reduction of government spending by nearly Eight Hundred Million Dollars a year. In Britain they <sup>are</sup> calling it - super-austerity.

<sup>There</sup> means a huge decrease of imports. Britons will have to do without a lot of commodities brought in from abroad - although they've been doing without so many things already. Imports purchased with dollars will be cut to the tune of Four Hundred Million Dollars a year.

But the keenest attention is focused on that famous national health plan - socialized medicine. The other evening we had the forecast that the Labor Government, in its increasing predicament, would slash even that sacred item - one of the most debatable points in the Labor Party <sup>brand</sup> ~~variety~~ of Socialism. So what do we hear tonight? Under the new economy program, the British people will no longer get medical service absolutely free. They won't be able to go to the doctor

any time they like - for nothing. There'll be a charge -  
a charge of fourteen cents for a prescription from a  
doctor. <sup>Huh -</sup> That isn't much. But, the way the Socialized  
health program has been going, fourteen cents for each  
prescription a physician hands a patient, will bring <sup>in</sup> a  
total of Twenty-Eight Million Dollars a year.

As the Prime Minister today announced the  
program of super-austerity, the House of Commons was  
silent. Even the Labor Party members did not applaud.  
Yet it's being taken with resignation - because  
everybody knew <sup>it</sup> ~~what~~ was coming. To show that he <sup>is</sup> ~~is~~ dead  
~~in~~ earnest about his plan for economy, Attlee announced  
that he would demand a vote of confidence - a showdown  
Thursday night.

## FRANCE

This may sound like a mistake - the statement that in Paris today Premier Bidault was making political maneuvers. Last Friday, when this program left the air for the weekend, we were talking about Premier Rene Mayer. But then, a couple of days before that it was Premier Jules <sup>Molk.</sup> ~~Moch.~~ ~~(Pronunciation is now said to be Moka)~~

It's all a part of that swiftly changing kaleidoscope called French politics. In Paris during the past few days, one statesman after another had become premier, trying to establish a government -- failing in a hurry, and then stepping down.

So not it's Bidault, head of the popular Republicans, who has been premier before. He is having his try again, but the prophecy tonight is not optimistic. ~~The belief is growing in Paris that the~~

quarreling of the factions will prevent any ministry from being formed, and the only solution is an election.

This is an unpleasant alternative for the moderate French leaders, who all along have been afraid that a national election would only be to the advantage



# TIBET

A dispatch dateline<sup>2</sup> "Washington," on the press wires of the land late today, states that the United States may recognize the independence of Tibet.

*Also that*

~~the~~ American recognition might clear the way for giving aid to the secluded nation on the roof-of-the-world ----  
*aid* against the danger of red penetration from China.

All this develops from an inquiry made by the United Press at the State Department, where U.P.

correspondent Edward V. Roberts was given information

*in* what he calls - "guarded terms". He points to the fact that, during the visit my son and I made to

Lhasa, the capital of the Dalai Lama, we were

entrusted with ~~a~~ verbal messages to President Truman

and the State Department - an unofficial plea for

aid against the Red sweep, together with suggestions

of the kind of help we ~~could~~ <sup>might</sup> give. *R* I am not permitted

to disclose the details of this, but the dispatch today



points to various angles of American policy in the case of the secluded Himalayan land. Historically, the United States has long considered Tibet to be a province of China - though Great Britain has always regarded that isolated nation as independent. Hence the British for years - until recently when they pulled out of India - (were in touch with the Dalai

Lama and his government. While America never has tried to make contact with Lhasa. Nor has any other western power ever had a representative in the remote capitol of Tibet. We found only two foreign representatives there. One from Nepal, and one from India. There had been a Chinese mission in Lhasa, but the Tibetans sent them home - when we were on our way in.

Today our State Department officials admitted that we have always realized that the sovereignty of China over Tibet was what the news dispatch calls -

"something of a myth." The Dalai Lama, the Regent and all the heads of the Tibetan government are going to be much pleased when they hear that.

Tibet for years has affirmed its independence. This summer they emphasized it by sending the Chinese mission home. On our way in we used some of the same pack and riding animals in our caravan that the Chinese had used on their way out to India.

The strategic importance of the Roof-of-the-world is clear enough - bordering on the lands of Southern Asia, which are in peril of the Communist menace. The news recently has quoted London on the subject of deposits of uranium in Tibet - the material of the atomic bomb.

|| And today's Washington dispatch points to a further angle - the effect on the whole Buddhist world, which numbers so many millions and millions

of people in Asia. If the United States were to recognize the independence of Tibet, and possibly supply the government of the Dalai Lama with military aid, this might be a highly popular move among the Buddhists of Asia, whose good-will could mean a great deal in the present world crisis.



## TRUMAN

Today President Truman made what the news dispatch calls - "A careful diplomatic speech." He gave the address at the laying of the cornerstone for the headquarters they<sup>a</sup>re building for the United Nations. So he talked foreign policy, and that virtually had to include a mention of the atom bomb. It was the President's first public statement on the atomic problem since he announced that Soviet Russia had staged an atomic explosion, presumably a test bomb.

Today he called for a workable plan to outlaw the war-fare of the atom. The President insisted that the United States will continue to back the program for international control already presented - "Unless and until", as he phrased it, "a better and more effective plan is put forward."

His tone was firm but moderate, and deserving of the adjectives applied - "Careful, diplomatic."

## NAVY

There is no end of wonder over the question - what about Captain Crommelin? Will he be court-martialed because of the way he blew the lid off in the unification quarrel? The Secretary of the Navy said the Captain would be brought before a Naval court - to answer for violating regulations, when he handed to news agencies a letter written and endorsed by the top admirals. But in Washington there's plenty of talk - that there will never be any court-martial for Crommelin.

Today Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Denfeld, sent a message to the Captain, inviting him to submit a written statement in his defense, any explanation that he might wish to make. Is this a prelude to a trial? Or will it be followed by nothing more than a reprimand? There is no positive answer.

Meanwhile, Admiral Denfeld, himself, has no intention of resigning - so says tonight's dispatch, which denies rumors that the Admiral may step out of his own accord, or be asked to step out - as a result of the testimony he gave denouncing the way the unified command was operating.

## UNIFICATION

Here's a suggestion for straightening out the quarrel between the Armed Forces in the business of a unified command. Many an American has been wondering and pondering over that perplexity - how to get the Navy, the Air Force and the Army to come to agree <sup>ment</sup> on unification, and establish peace and harmony. Many an American has failed to think up a plausible answer.

So this comes from London, <sup>a</sup> proposal made by the London Times. It seems wonderfully 'simple. Today the London Times suggested <sup>s</sup> ~~that~~ <sup>our</sup> that Congress withhold funds from the Armed Forces - until they agree on unification. Just cut off the money from the Navy, the Air Force and the Army, until they come to an understanding with each other. That <sup>says the London Times,</sup> would bring ~~them~~ around to peace and harmony - in a hurry.

<sup>Now is that</sup> ~~That~~ venerable and stately British newspaper ~~is not~~ one to speak lightly. Its editorial points out that there is precedent for all this, that the American Congress has, in fact, done something of that sort before. A few weeks ago, Congress voted money in the Billion



Dollar program for arming the free nations of Europe - under the North Atlantic Security Pact. But in putting up the cash, the lawmakers made a condition, saying that all those dollars should be handed over to the countries of Western Europe, only after they had completed a plan for joint military action in case of aggression.

The result was immediate. The chiefs of staff of the free nations went to work and promptly drew up a joint defense plan, qualifying for the money. So, if the chiefs of staff across the ocean were persuaded - why, our own Navy, Air Force and Army might be convinced in the same way. Come to an agreement! - or the funds will be cut off! And who can say that the Times of London is wrong?

## RESCUE

~~Today~~ At Boxford, Massachusetts, an episode of the ultimate terror was related today - three people in an automobile, sinking in the water, which rose inch by inch inside the car. They were slowly submerged, until it was almost too late.

The three were Katherine Tracy and her aged parents. They were driving along, when the car swerved and plunged down a bank into Stevens Pond. There the automobile started to sink into the mud and water. They tried to get the doors open, but couldn't - the doors having been jammed by the impact of the fall. So they were trapped inside, and the water rose inch by inch - until it was covering their faces.

Today, they said it seemed like eternity - until finally there was a crashing. The glass was smashed, and a door was wrenched open. Two passing motorists, just in time to see what had happened, <sup>were</sup> doing a tough rescue job. Katherine Tracy and her parents were dragged out, and a minute later the automobile sank out of sight in the mud and water.

## BOY

At Syracuse, New York, today Ronald Closinski, thirteen years old, heard the glad news - the joyful news that went back to five months ago. He won the ball game.

On May Ninth, Ronnie was playing on his junior league team, and it was a hot game. Ronnie ~~he~~ stole a base. Ronnie did more than that. With a burst of speed, he stretched it, and stole two bases. But, when he slid into third, he collapsed & stricken by a rare disease angioma, a malady of the brain, which caused unconsciousness and a paralysis of arms and legs.

For months he remained in a coma, until now. He has been responding to treatment, and today at the Syracuse Memorial Hospital, they brought him out of the prolonged stupor. Then they were able to tell him that, because of his two stolen bases, his team won the game.



Oh yes, the doctors, gave him further information - that his paralysis will be cured. The full use of his arms and legs will be restored - and he will be able to play ball again.

## BETTE DAVIS

In Hollywood this afternoon, the husband of Bette Davis said he'd do anything to avoid the divorce for which the film star is suing. He'll even go to a psychiatrist and be psychoanalyzed - to overcome his violent temper.

William Grant Sherry is an artist who used to be a prizefighter, and if he was as violent and ferocious in the ring as in domestic life, he must have been a terror.

Today he said: "When I get mad, I lose<sup>^</sup><sub>^</sub> my mind. I suddenly swish everything off a table. I throw things. I have broken things in front of my wife that, in a normal mood, I couldn't break. Once," he goes on, "I smashed a chair to pieces. She's afraid that some day I'll break something over her head." To which he adds contritely, "It was hardly gentlemanly."

Apparently that's what Bette thought - especially at the prospect of having something broken over her head.

## LION FOLLOW-UP

The history of romance tells of many an exploit that an ardent lover has performed to win his lady fair. In South Africa, Daniel Esterhuyse won the hand of his bride - by milking a lioness. /

Today he told how the lovely girl's father had refused to permit the marriage, unless his prospective son-in-law proved his hardihood - in that very South African way. Esterhuyse is a radio officer on the South African Airways, not an animal trainer at all. Moreover, he had to select a lioness out in the wilds, roaming the velt. Maybe he didn't even know how to milk a cow - but here is what he did:-

"With the help of a couple of natives," he related today, "I set a trap in the den of the lioness. She fell into it, with front paws first. So I tied up her back legs and went to work." In that fashion, he milked the lioness - and won his bride.

Well, after an exploit like that, <sup>Nelson</sup> let's hope that she is nothing less than a perfect wife.