

P. J. - Delco. Mon. May 9th. '55

Two Congressional Committees, Senate and House, announce - investigations of the tangled polio vaccination program.

Today, Senator Magnuson of Washington, chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee, said: "Congressional action in the muddled situation is mandatory. The Banking Committee of the House will again question Dr. Leonard Scheele, U.S. Surgeon General. Dr. Scheele testified last Friday. But, since then, the government ordered the anti-polio vaccination program - to be halted.

A check, today, shows that a great majority of the states are heeding the government recommendation - for a delay while the stocks of the Salk vaccine are "double-checked." Michigan, however, has refused - flatly.

Far and wide there are expressions of confidence in the vaccine - with plenty of grumbling about the state of confusion.

ADD VACCINE

A three-man committee, representing the governors of states, had a conference with federal officials in Washington, today. After which - they stated their confidence in the Salk polio vaccine.

the administration, which suggested a hike for the five hundred thousand employees of the National Post Office, but - of not more than seven and six-tenths per cent.

So the President might veto today's bill. Which, however, *unless since it has been* passed by more than the two-thirds majority necessary to override a veto.

The measure now goes to the Senate - where it is virtually certain to be passed.

The House of Representatives, today, voted approval of a compromise bill - to give ~~the~~ postal workers a pay raise. Averaging - eight and eight-tenths per cent. This is opposed by the administration, which advocated ^d a hike for the five hundred thousand employees of the National Post Office. ~~But~~ - of not more than seven and six-tenths per cent.

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AUSTRIA

A treaty for Austrian independence will be signed on Sunday. That's the word from French Foreign Minister Pinay.

Who says - the Western Foreign Ministers will meet with Soviet Foreign Minister Molotov in Vienna, on Saturday. Formal treaty signing - Sunday.

Tonight, a negotiating session ended - with broad agreement on all important questions. Only minor matters - to be smoothed out. Soviet Russia has yielded on various points, and agreed - to sign.

Premier U Nu of Burma will visit the United States in the summer. Invited - by President Eisenhower. The announcement - made simultaneously, today, in Rangoon and Washington.

In February, Secretary of State John Foster Dulles visited Rangoon, and extended the invitation. The Premier accepted, and today stated his plans.)

He'll fly, with stops in Israel, Egypt, Yugoslavia, and Britain. In Washington, he'll make a three-day visit of state, as guest of the President.

Returning home, he'll travel by way of the Pacific. Stopping off in Tokyo - as a guest of the Japanese government.

In Japan, a riot - at Fujiyama. An angry demonstration - against Americans. A crowd of three thousand Japanese shouting: "Protect Fujiyama!"

So what do the Americans intend to do to the sacred mountain? Carry it off to Chicago or Kalamazoo? Well, it's not quite that serious.

The U.S. Army in Japan is holding artillery practice among the foothills. The mere reverberation of canon fire considered - a desecration. Indicating - the religious reverence in which the Japanese hold Fujiyama.

In the demonstration, today, the crowd included farmers and laborers. Communists, of course - always ready for any kind of trouble. And more surprisingly - members of the Tokyo Parliament, adherents of Premier Hatoyama's own democratic party. Shouting - against the profanation of sacred Fujiyama.

JAPANESE GIRLS

In history, there's an old expression - "The scars of war." Today, this has an exceedingly literal meaning. Twenty-five Japanese girls - arriving in New York. To go into a hospital - and have "the scars of war" removed from their faces.

They were burned and disfigured, at Hiroshima - by radiation from the atomic bomb. Now - to have plastic surgery at the Mt. Sinai Hospital. All - at American expense.

But what about - mental scars of war? Well, today, twenty-four year old Michiko Soko said:

"The Japanese Navy struck the first blow in the last war. We suffered at Hiroshima. We took terrible destruction. But we should have repentance - instead of hate."

Which sounds like a healing - of mental scars.

ATOMIC

In a few days, there will be an atomic explosion - under water, in the Pacific Ocean. A small one - testing a nuclear device which could be used against submarine attack.

This will not be in the Far Pacific. But - near our own shores. Several hundred miles off the West Coast of the United States.

The official announcement gives assurance there's no danger either to the mainland, or to any island. Nor will there be any damage to - the fishing industry. The Scripps Institute of Oceanography has ascertained that there are no food fish in the area of the forthcoming small atomic explosion.

STATEHOOD

It looks bad for Alaska and Hawaii, so far as statehood is concerned. The House of Representatives, today, voted approval of a rule - barring all amendments from the bill. Which, it is believed, will ruin all chance of getting any statehood measure through, during the present session of Congress.

There had been moves to split the bill, and consider the cases of Alaska and Hawaii separately. Which would have improved the chances of getting approval for one or the other. But the "no amendment" rules - blocks that!

In New York, today, a thousand workmen were on the job of constructing the huge new twenty million dollar Coliseum at Columbus Circle. Concrete was being poured into forms on the second floor. When, suddenly - there was a thundering roar. The second floor collapsed. Steel and wet concrete, pouring down onto the first floor. Workmen - trapped. Comrades - hurrying to the rescue.

Then, six minutes later, the first floor collapsed - and the whole thing plunged into the basement. Fifty workmen - *injured* ~~caught~~ under tons of twisted steel and wet concrete.

At last reports, there were ten badly injured. Others hurt, but not so seriously. No deaths reported immediately - but one man is missing.

STRIKE

The Louisville and Nashville Railroad strike is ending. Over the weekend - round-the-clock negotiations. Today - an arbitration agreement. The company and the unions pledging - to accept the decision of a neutral referee. The strike - one of the longest, lasting for fifty-seven days. With - bitterness and violence. Tying up - railroad service in many parts of the South.

Now, twenty-five thousand strikers, members of ten unions, will return to work. Railroad operations, on the Louisville and Nashville - to be resumed on Wednesday.

a tycoon who is a real titan.

MONTGOMERY WARD

Sewell Avery has resigned - that veteran warrior in the realm of big business. Chairman of the Board of Montgomery Ward - ever since Nineteen Thirty-one.

It was early last month that Sewell Avery won the biggest victory of his career - when he defeated financial wizard Louis Wolfson. Coming out on top - in a knock down, drag out battle for the control of Montgomery Ward.

Now, following that victory, the eighty-two year old Sewell Avery resigns - as Chairman of the Board of Montgomery

Ward. *Retiring - undefeated - at 82.
A tycoon who is a real titan.*

At Cleveland, Ohio, an appeal by Dr. Samuel Sheppard has been rejected. The thirty-one year old Osteopath - convicted of the murder of his wife, and sentenced to prison. His lawyers argued that new evidence had been discovered. But Judge Edward Blythin rules that the alleged new evidence was "still in the realm of theory."

This news follows a presentation of a flag, in Washington. The flag that Admiral Peary carried to the North Pole - now placed on exhibition at the National Geographical Society. A gift from Mrs. Peary - who is ninety-one years old.

The flag - strangely tattered. Pieces - cut from it. Peary - having deposited bits of it at various places in the Far North.

In May, Nineteen hundred, Peary reached a Cape on the northern shore of Greenland, the northernmost point of land on this earth. He built a cairn of stones, in which he placed

From the Far North, an obituary notice - telling of the death of Odaq, the eskimo. The last survivor of the party that accompanied Admiral Peary - on his dash to the North Pole.

A few weeks ago, the death of Matt Henson, the negro, who was with Peary on that memorable day. Matt Henson was eighty-eight. So how old was Odaq? Nobody knows. The eskimo are not as careful, keeping track of their ages as we are. But, from his looks, Odaq was - truly an ancient.

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In May, Nineteen Hundred, Peary reached a Cape on the northern shore of Greenland, the northernmost point of land on this earth. He built a cairn of stones, in which he placed

two pieces cut from the flag.

During his expedition of Nineteen Six, he deposited another bit of the flag at a point, the farthest north ever achieved by man up to that time. Later that year, he left a fourth piece of the flag in a cairn at Cape Columbia. A fifth piece, shortly afterward, at Cape Stallworthy.

Then, on the expedition of Nineteen Nine, came the climax. A sixth cutting of the flag, placed at the North Pole, itself. This time - a long diagonal strip.

Some of these bits of the Peary flag have been recovered by subsequent explorers. Others, will never be found - having vanished in the drift of ice.

I recall Adm. Donald Mac Millan telling me that he retrieved one of these.

— an incident that

Here's a dog story, ~~and it~~ happened - at a most appropriate place.

~~Last night,~~ *on* an estate at Wayne, New Jersey, there was an oil explosion in a shed. The fire - spreading to the caretaker's cottage, where Mrs. Lloyd Hayes was asleep, with her two children. The alarm - given by Major, a collie. The dog - barking like mad, and scratching with his forepaws, at the cottage door. Mother and children - getting out, just in time.

The estate was the home of the late Albert Payson Terhune, famous writer of dog stories. Whose favorite hero was a Scotch collie. Albert Payson Terhune would have appreciated this bit of news from his old home - the exploit of a collie.

In Hollywood, today, actor Robert Mitchum, sued a magazine - for a million dollars. Claiming - the magazine, "Confidential," held him up to ridicule. Well, a million dollar's worth of ridicule seems like a lot. So let's take note of what the publication said.

In Hollywood, actor Charles Laughton and producer Paul Gregory threw a party - to celebrate the completion of the picture "Night of the Hunter." The festivities were in full swing, when Mitchum appeared. According to the magazine, he had stripped off his clothes, and walked in - like Adam minus the fig leaf. Going to a table, he grabbed a bottle of ketchup - and doused himself with the contents.

Then, smeared all over with ketchup, the actor announced: "This is a masquerade party, isn't it? Well, I'm a hamburger."

Whereupon actor Charles Laughton intervened, and had the man disguised as a hamburger, removed from the room.

That's what the magazine said, and Mitchum claims the

story was - "completely and entirely false and untrue."

Defaming, and holding him up to ridicule. A million dollars'

worth of ridicule. *In the nude! - doused with ketchup! - I'm a hamburger! What, no mustard? That kind of a hamburger would only go with a buy! If you'll pardon the pun.*

Titles

In London, there's a sort of barometer, ~~which~~ ^{that} tells - of economic affairs in the U.S.A. the office - of Debrett's Peerage.

There they get letters from Americans, who think they may be the rightful heirs to a British title, or to a coat-of-arms of ancient nobility. When times are good in America, the stream of inquiries increases - to a flood. Declining to a mere trickle - when there's an economic slump.

Right now, the trans-atlantic mail at the office of Debrett's, is heavy. The barometer - indicating a boom.

Most Americans, who think they belong in the British House of Lords, are deluded - of course. But a surprisingly large number of people are eligible to display a coat-of-arms. In Britain - a quarter of a million. Not counting many others - who decorate themselves, with no right whatever.

That's the sore point at the office of Debrett's Peerage. They think - there should be a law. Well, there is, but it's much too mild. An offender, falsely sporting a

coat-of-arms -- can be brought before the ancient Court of Chivalry. Which, however, can only impose a small fine.

Back in the old days, it was different. The penalty might even be - off with his head. Which actually happened in Fifteen Forty-Seven -- to the Earl of Surrey. That nobleman was tried and beheaded - for adopting a coat-of-arms to which he was not entitled. The Earl assuming -- emblems of royalty.

Well, it's all a part of the old legend at Debrett's Peerage. Where they can even tell you how business is in the U.S.A. by the number of Americans who have a hunch they have royal blood - or should have a title.

Hugh - if you had your choice of titles - what would it be?