

L.T. - P&G. THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1949.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Admiral Denfeld is - out. The Chief of Naval Operations ~~is~~ removed from his post without ceremony. He is not resigning, with an exchange of complimentary letters. He is simply ordered off to some other duty.

This was announced by President Truman tonight, who stated that the ousting of Admiral Denfeld was at the request of Secretary of the Navy Matthews. The Secretary, in a letter, said the present situation was, in his words - "utterly impossible." He <sup>added -</sup> ~~said~~: "I find it increasingly difficult to work with him." So the Chief of Naval Operations has to go, Matthews asking the ~~President~~ President for authority to transfer the Admiral to other duties and select a new Chief of Naval Operations. The ousting was so unceremonious that Admiral Denfeld first learned about it from an aide who saw it on a news wire.

Of course, the reports have been insistent that there

would be a shake-up in the Navy command - following the savage attacks made by the Admiral against the present unified command and against Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson. Admiral Denfeld participated in these, testifying before the Congressional Committee that made an investigation. So it is not such a surprise - except for the summary dismissal ~~that~~ with such a lack of the usual formalities.

There is likely to be an uproar, especially from Navy friends in Congress. This afternoon, a Republican leader, Congressman <sup>(Ahrends)</sup> ~~Ahrends~~ of Illinois, demanded an investigation of what he called - "a despicable move to oust Admiral Denfeld." Well, the move has been made, and if not despicable, it certainly was decisive.

The latest news pictures high ranking naval officers hurrying to Admiral Denfeld to express their sympathy. Two veteran admirals are described as - "weeping openly."

## SUBSTITUTE LEAD

The shouts of rage in the Navy, because of the ousting of Admiral Denfeld, are illustrated by news tonight that sounds remarkable indeed -- something from the world of religion. Here's a Washington dispatch stating that the Right Reverend Maurice Sheehy, of the Catholic University has wired to Secretary of the Navy Matthews, urging his resignation -- because of the leading part the Secretary ~~has taken~~ <sup>took</sup> in the firing of the Chief of Naval Operations. The Catholic educator denounces the dismissal of Admiral Denfeld as -- "a heinous crime against this country and against national security." But what has a clergyman to do in the headline argument. The answer is simple -- he is a former Naval chaplain. <sup>Paloo</sup> He is a close friend of Secretary Matthews, who is a prominent ~~Catholic~~ <sup>(CATHOLIC)</sup> layman -- <sup>and</sup> a Father Sheehy makes the charge that Matthews was appointed to his post because Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson insisted

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insisted on a Catholic. Why? "To further his (Johnson's) political <sup>(ambition)</sup> ~~interests~~, charges the Catholic priest. Well, <sup>when</sup> ~~if~~ a clergyman, a former Navy chaplain, gets that hot about it, you can imagine the wrath and indignation of Admiral Denfeld's colleagues in the Fleet.

The Chief of Naval Operations was removed without ceremony -- no resignation with an exchange of compliments. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Secretary Matthews informed President Truman that the situation was impossible -- after the way Admiral Denfeld joined other high Naval officers in savage attacks against the <sup>(unified comment)</sup> ~~and against Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson~~. It was a case of either one or the other going -- the Secretary or the Admiral. The ousting was so unceremonious that Admiral Denfeld first learned about it from an aide, who saw it on a newswire. Then immediately there was a procession of high naval officers hurrying to the dismissed Chief of Naval operations, and offering their

sympathy. Two Veteran Admirals are pictured as -- "openly in tears."

There is anger in Congress ~~too~~, with charges of ~~high handed action~~ <sup>an</sup> of insult to the Armed Services Committee of the House of Representatives. It is pointed out that, when Admiral Denfeld testified before the Committee, Secretary of Defense Johnson promised that there would be ~~no~~ <sup>no</sup> reprisals. But now ~~he~~ <sup>the Admiral</sup> is being penalized for what he told Congress. That is the view of a number of legislators, like Congressman George Bates of Massachusetts, member of the Committee, who tonight stated: "a great issue is involved here -- the issue of whether Congress has the right to get the truth." We asked Denfeld and other officers," he goes on, "to talk frankly and sincerely and promised they would not be punished for doing so."

<sup>But</sup> ~~And~~ who now, is to succeed Admiral Denfeld? The reports are unanimous -- that it will be Admiral Forest

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Sherman, <sup>at present</sup> ~~now~~ Commander of the Fleet in the Mediterranean.

In World War Two Admiral Sherman was in command of the aircraft carrier WASP, which was sunk off the Solomon Islands.

But it would seem that this appointment may not soothe

the anger of the Navy one bit. Admiral Sherman has been

in sympathy with unification, <sup>and</sup> many in the <sup>Navy</sup> ~~Government~~ con-

sider him -- pro-Air Force. In the recent quarrel,

Admiral Sherman did not join <sup>(other Naval)</sup> ~~with the Navy~~ officers ~~in their~~

~~arguments~~ against the Air Force. And tonight's dispatch

passes along the explanation that Admiral Sherman was

kept away from the Congressional hearing, because he was

not <sup>†</sup> enough in sympathy with the attacks the other Admirals

were making. So his appointment as Chief of Naval Opera-

tions might only increase the opposition.


## STRIKE

President Truman says he may invoke the Taft-Hartley Law to deal with the coal and steel strike. That is, if necessary. However, the President added that he did not believe the giant walkout has caused a national emergency - not yet. The Truman Administration has been loud in denunciation of the Taft-Hartley Law, but may resort to that much condemned measure if necessary.

## BRITAIN

This afternoon in London, the Labor Government received its vote of confidence in the House of Commons - thereby sustaining Prime Minister Attlee in his new plan for cutting down government spending, a program of -"super-austerity".

In the debate today, Conservative leader Winston Churchill blasted Labor Party Socialism with a cannonade of hard words, calling the ministers of the government - "financial, moral and mental bankrupts." But the Labor Party had its usual majority - more than that, in fact. The figures don't count. Three hundred and thirty-seven to five - the Conservatives refusing to vote.





ADD BRITAIN

But in <sup>a</sup> ~~the~~ previous vote, the Churchill opposi-  
tion, mustered a count of two-hundred-and-twenty-two -- the  
largest ever cast against the present Labor Government,  
the previous maximum having been two-hundred-and-twelve.

## FRANCE

In Paris Premier Bidault won a ~~sweeping~~ victory tonight -- and France at last has a government, after three weeks of political crisis. Bidault, head of the Popular Republicans, succeeded in lining up a ministry which got three hundred and sixty-seven votes in the National Assembly -- three hundred and eleven were needed to win. ~~There were only one hundred and eighty-three against the new premier, Communists and fellow-travellers.~~

~~The <sup>partisans</sup> ~~passions~~ of General Charles De Gaulle obtained from voting. So a new government of Premier Bidault goes in with a solid majority.~~

ESPIONAGE

A new sensation broke in Red Czechoslovakia today, when the Communist government there accused the French Military Attache of espionage - atomic espionage. Together with an assistant of his, the Attache is being expelled, ordered to leave the country in twelve hours.

The accusation is made in a diplomatic note of protest to the government at Paris. - a communication stating that Colonel Georges Helliot procured nine pounds of uranium ore from Czechoslovak mines, and sent some of this atomic material to France in a diplomatic pouch from the French Embassy. He is said to have been gathering information about the uranium deposits of Czechoslovakia and the mining that is going on - operations that are carefully concealed by the Reds. The nine pounds of uranium ore <sup>were procured as a sample.</sup> ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

~~summary~~

The Red authorities claim that the French Military Attache worked in collusion with Czechoslovak citizens, who have been arrested. They are said to have made full confessions-

a new chapter in the history of confessions behind the Iron Curtain. This time - atomic espionage. <sup>P</sup>Well, the uranium mines of Czechoslovakia, Bohemia, have long been famous. The first discovery of radio activity was made by the French chemist Becquerel, experimenting with pitchblend - which was uranium ore from Bohemia. In the discovery of radium, Professor and Madame Curie used that same material from those mines in Czechoslovakia. More recently, the news has featured ~~radio~~ Red activities at <sup>the</sup> uranium mines, stories of how ~~thousands~~ thousands of Germans have been forced, as slave labor, to mine the ore. The area kept so secret that it is patrolled, not only by swarms of armed guards, but also by patrols of jet fighter planes in the sky.

The expulsion of the French Military Attache today comes as a climax to a whole series of charges made by the Czechoslovak Reds - charges of spy work by American diplomatic officials. Only yesterday our Secretary of State, Dean Acheson, issued a blistering denial - followed now by the accusation of atomic espionage against France.

## REFUGEES

A dispatch from Tacoma, Washington, tells of a fantastic outbreak of terror. The story may sound incredible, but you must take into consideration the fear, the unreasoning dread instilled into people by the totalitarian tyrannies in Europe.

Dr. and Mrs. Harry Johnson have a farm near Tacoma, and there they installed a family of displaced persons, Latvians -- fugitives from the despotism of the Soviets, which has engulfed their country. They spent four years in German concentration camps, where the memory of the horror of Hitler is fresh. Then over here - to a farm in the State of Washington.

Today Mrs. Johnson told how she found the refugee husband and wife in a state of tense agitation. The wife was sobbing and shaking. The husband was pacing the floor, and in his hand he clutched a note. Mrs. Johnson, astonished, asked what was wrong? He showed her the note, and on it was written - "Kill, Thursday."

Mrs. Johnson felt like laughing, only the scene

was too pitiful for laughter. Today she explained: "We were stopping delivery on our local newspaper, and had left a note for the delivery boy, a note reading - Kill Thursday. The refugees saw the note, and checked up on the word "kill" in their English-Latvian dictionary. Which told them it meant - "make dead, take life away." They thought-execution.

"They both were convinced," says Mrs. Johnson, "that they were going to be murdered on Thursday."

Just a case of American slang misunderstood - but it was like the shadow of the horror abroad reaching over to a farm in our own Pacific northwest."

## ALASKA

From Alaska comes news that sounds like - a great disillusion. They've been having a wild gold boom, which seems to be turning into dust and ashes - instead of the yellow metal. The <sup>(stampede is on</sup> ~~news is on~~ <sup>)</sup> at a place with a name that sounds altogether like Alaska - Fishwheel, <sup>^</sup> on the Yukon. There gold nuggets were found in the river sand, glittering signs of a bonanza. So the gold rush <sup>(started,</sup> ~~was~~ <sup>)</sup> prospectors, old-time sourdoughs, and tenderfoot greenhorns from the States. Fishwheel has turned into boom-town, treasure hunters camping everywhere, a string of tents running for miles along the Yukon.

From the first, however, the Government Department of Mines in Alaska gave little encouragement, refusing to endorse the reported gold strike as giving even a reasonable gambling chance. But that did not deter the <sup>(swarm of prospectors,</sup> ~~stampede~~ <sup>)</sup>, lured by <sup>(reports</sup> ~~the stories~~ <sup>)</sup> of nuggets - and by the sight of the glittering gold displayed around Fishwheel.

Today the story is peculiar, with old-timers <sup>)</sup> of ~~them~~ <sup>^</sup>





they said they had found. They have been faking up a gold rush, he thinks.

Well, if that sort of thing should turn out to be true, it would be something new in the history of stampedes for gold - local characters faking the discovery of nuggets, to make a profit from a boom.

## CONTRACT

In this country there's one husband, at least, who is able to boss his wife around - part of the time, that is. He is Movie Director Nicholas Ray, and she is Film Actress Gloria Grahame. Hubby is turning out a picture, and wifie has been engaged to star in it. So she had to sign a contract, the terms of which were dictated by Producer Robert Lord. He's a married man - and he knows.

The contract provides that from nine A.M. to six P.M., Director Nicholas Ray is to be the complete boss over his actress wife. Gloria Grahame signed a document which reads:-  
"I hereby agree that my husband shall be entitled to direct, control, advise, instruct, and even command, my actions."

Another clause forbids the Missus to do any of the following things - "nag, cajole, tease, or ~~anything~~ in any other feminine fashion seek to distract or influence him."

Happy man - for nine hours a day. But what happens after six P.M? Wifie is then permitted - to nag, tease and cajole. Well, the teasing and cajoling may be all right, but

that other little wifely habit - that's what makes a man want to take a dive in a tankful of cyanide of potassium.

Which a fellow did do, by the way - over in England.

## FOLLOW CONTRACT

In London, there's a chemical factory which uses potassium cyanide, and has a vat full of that deadliest of poisons. The owner of the plant, Edwin Johnson, had often warned his employees that a mere drop would kill instantly. So he should have been more careful. But today he slipped, and fell head first into the vat - forty gallons of cyanide of potassium, three feet deep. But, as he tumbled, he clamped his mouth tightly shut, and closed his eyes - going in face first. He was submerged for a moment, scrambled out, and doused his face with water. Then - drove home in his automobile.

He says his clothes were nearly eaten away, and the upholstery of the car was rapidly fading, from the power of the poison.

DOUGLAS

We seem to hear an echo of the old toast - "the ladies, God bless 'em." We have, not only wives, but also daughters - and you can prove that by the United States Ambassador to Great Britain.

Today Ambassador Douglas had occasion to make a remark about his daughter Sharman - who has been hitting the social and romantic headlines in London. She is a close friend of Princess Margaret, and the gossip in society columns has been featuring Sharman and Margaret as rivals - in captivating a dozen or so of Britain's most eligible young bachelors, titled noblemen of the realm. I don't know how the rivalry in romance of an Ambassador's daughter and a royal Princess might affect affairs of diplomacy. But it could bewilder papa.

Ambassador Douglas was in Manchester today, making some important declarations on foreign policy. He explained that his wife and daughter had been unable to accompany him, and added with a sigh: "My daughter is quite beyond me. There is little I can say about her."

Which sounds like an echo of the muttering of many a father down through the history of family life. **But,** nevertheless, let's grit our teeth and say - "the ladies, God bless 'em." *What do you say, Nelson?*

ENGEL

The trial of the aged heart-breaker, Sigmund Engel, is on in Chicago, with new wonders of testimony about the way the seventy-two year old lover wooed and won so many ladies - and took their money, according to the prosecution.

Today a woman friend of one of the brides he is supposed to have married, related how the romantic Sept<sup>th</sup>agenarian avoided the wedding night - because, said he, the bedroom was not trimmed with blue satin. He explained that the bedroom in his palatial, if not mythical, mansion in California was a dream of blue and satin.

Engel is also giving out autographs. One of these requested by a girl today, was signed - "Sigmund Engel, lover of a thousand and one women."

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Any comment, Nelson x