

ISRAEL

C.I. - P. & G. Tuesday, Dec. 13, 1949.

There was a tense session of the Jewish Parliament at Tel Aviv today - a tense session and dramatic announcement. Facing the legislators of the Knesset, Premier Ben-Gurion proclaimed - Jerusalem, capital of Israel. Such is Israel's answer to the decision of the United Nations to internationalize the Holy City.

Premier Ben-Gurion declared that Jerusalem has actually been the Jewish capital all the time - during the long centuries of exile. For two thousand years of Roman, Byzantine, Arab, Christian and Turkish rule, the Jewish nation always maintained the claim to its ancient capital. So Ben-Gurion argued, and announced that the Government of Israel <sup>will now move</sup> ~~was moving~~ from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem - the new city, the venerable old city within the walls <sup>still</sup> being in the possession of the Hashamite Arabs of Trans-Jordan.

Today's dispatch from Tel Aviv states that some of the members of the government of Israel opposed action so drastic - arguing that the matter

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might as well be delayed, because the decision of the United Nations could never go into effect anyway. But the more decisive counsel prevailed, and tonight the Parliament of Israel adjourned, with the announcement that its next meeting will be held in Jerusalem.

There is a housing problem in the place...  
overcrowded with employees of the Jewish government...  
anything that has a real effect is in vain. There...  
is a water shortage of 200 million gallons...  
in the semi-arid country. The state of Israel has...  
made plans for a new pipeline, which will go into...  
operation in May. However, the Jewish-controlled...  
part of Jerusalem is surrounded on three sides by...  
Arabs - the Moslems holding the old city, within...  
the walls. As the position of security is...  
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there is only one thing to be said in favor of moving...  
the government of Israel to Jerusalem, and that is...

## SUB ISRAEL

Late news from Palestine pictures the task the government of Israel faces in moving its capital from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. Actually, the moving job has been going on for some time -- and running into no end of difficulties.

There is a housing problem -- the place over-crowded with employees of the Jewish government. Anything that has a roof over it is welcome. There is a water shortage -- ~~not~~ as old as the ~~next~~ ages in the semi-desert country. The state of Israel has made plans for a new pipeline, which may go into operation in May. Moreover, the Jewish-controlled part of Jerusalem is surrounded on three sides by Arabs -- the Moslems holding the old city, within the walls. So the problem of security is <sup>acute</sup> ~~acute~~ -- in a capital so dangerously situated. In fact, there is only one thing to be said in favor of moving the government of Israel to Jerusalem, and that is -- ancient tradition.

In his proclamation today Premier Ben-Gurion

declared that Jerusalem has actually been the capital all the time -- during the long centuries of exile. For two thousand years of Roman, Byzantine, Arab, Christian and Turkish rule, the Jewish nation always maintained the claim to its ancient capital. So Ben-Gurion argued.

There are immediate repercussions in the United Nations. The Foreign Minister of Iraq asks the General Assembly, go right ahead and draft a detailed program for an international government of Jerusalem. Furthermore, he suggests that the spectacular defiance of Israel today be placed before the Security Council.

~~drop water~~

## BULGARIA

In Bulgaria today, the Red trial was played out to a grim grotesque end - a degrading farce. The prosecutor, having screamed for death sentences, hanging, the verdicts of doom are to be pronounced later this week - while today the prisoners were allowed to have their final say. One by one, they repeated pleas of guilty, accusing themselves, confessing all over again. The former chairman of the Bulgarian trade commission to Moscow went into hysterics of self accusation, self abasement, screaming: "I am guilty. I deeply repent. I beg for clemency."

But what about Kostov - former number-two bulgar Communist, who created Iron <sup>C</sup>urtain sensation by refusing to confess? Did he break <sup>down</sup> ~~out~~ at the last minute - in the <sup>act</sup> ~~fact~~ of hanging? Did he cry out that he was guilty, and beg for clemency?

Today the case of Kostov produced just about the most revolting parody ever witnessed in a Red trial. His lawyer addressed the Communist court - and that attorney for the defense was eloquent - and long

winded. For an hour and a quarter he made a passionate speech. Defending his client? Not at all. He accused his client. For a whole hour and a quarter, he shouted that Kostov was guilty, his guilt proved. He virtually repeated the diatribe of the Red prosecutor and called upon his client to confess.

Kostov, once the virtual Red ruler of Communist Bulgaria, listened with impassive calm <sup>today</sup> as his own lawyer damned him, loudly and at such length. Then he, himself, arose to have his say. He spoke in a low, worn out voice - a hoarse whisper. But there was nothing feeble in what he said. Once again he denied, once again he refused to confess and rejected the charges against him. "I have never worked for foreign intelligence, and I've never been a police informer," he insisted, - in that same hoarse whisper. And he refused to ask for mercy.

Kostov really never did have his say. Before he was through talking, he was drowned out by hisses and the jeering mockery of the crowd in the courtroom, a mob of hand-picked Reds.

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All along those Communist courtroom ~~travesties~~ travesties have been a mockery - ever since Stalin began them in the judicial slaughter of his enemies a dozen years ago. But none have exceeded the monstrosity of today's end of the Red trial in Bulgaria.

## FRANCE

The French foreign minister states that Poland is building up a big Red spy trial of three French citizens. Seventeen in all have been arrested, and three will go to trial next week.

One of the prisoners has "confessed", and foreign minister Schuman today poured ridicule on the alleged "confession." He told all this to the French National Assembly, and said the Paris Government would seek to protect its own citizens in this newest Red trial.



## LONDON

London is having wartime all over again - in the form of a blackout. Wildcat strikes have tied up the power plants - walkouts that were spreading today. In the whole area of greater London, the consumption of electricity was cut by twenty per cent, and in four suburban areas of London there is a complete blackout tonight - as in wartime.

## CENSUS

There was an uproar today in a Congressional Committee - because of the plan to have the Nineteen Fifty census include the gathering of information about family incomes. This is being denounced in Congress as an invasion of privacy and a waste of money.

The leader in the chorus of complaint is Republican Congressman Rich of Pennsylvania, who suggests that more useful information could be obtained if a mental test were given to everybody in the government.

Today, at the committee hearing, the congress<sup>man</sup> had it out with the solicitor for the Commerce Department. He argued that the facts about salaries and earnings could be had from the Income Tax Bureau, and said it was only a duplication of effort and a waste of money to have the census takers get the figures all over again.

~~To which the spokesman for the Department of Commerce replied - it would cost more money to go through the mountains of records in the Tax Collector's office.~~

## INCOME

The administration is asking Congress for action in behalf of low income families, such as cannot earn enough to make ends meet. Action - in the form of more unemployment compensation, a higher minimum wage, and a hike of Social Security.

The demand was presented today by Secretary of Labor Maurice Tobin, appearing before a joint sub-committee of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

## TRANSPORTATION

The Secretary of Commerce gives a report on how various agencies of the government are working against each other - at cross purposes. Which is an example of the kind of thing the Hoover Commission wants to correct - the group headed by former President Hoover having laid the greatest of emphasis on the way a number of government agencies can be working along the same line with such confusion that they actually checkmate each other.

Secretary of Commerce Charles Sawyer points to Federal activities in the realm of transportation - in which the government spends nearly a billion dollars a year. He notes that money may be <sup>o</sup>ured out to help one kind of transportation - and this can be to the disadvantage of another kind of transportation, which the government is also trying to help. He points out, for example, the subsidies given to airlines, boosting air travel. But the airlines are in competition with the railroads, which are in the red - and other quantities of money are spent to help them. Two

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separate Federal agencies are on the job, one doing one thing, the other doing the opposite thing.

So the Secretary of Commerce in a report to President Truman, proposes that all government ~~XXXXXX~~ activities along the line of transportation be unified, in a single department; - ~~establish~~ one ~~single~~ bureau to deal with all problems of transportation.

## BRIDGES

In the San Francisco trial of Harry Bridges

-- more testimony to prove that the boss of the West Coast longshoremen was a member of the Communist

party. Bridges is on trial for swearing that he

was never -- a charge of perjury. Today a former

Communist, a negro named Manning Johnson, testified

that Harry Bridges was one of a group of top ranking

Reds who attended a meeting of the National Committee

of the Communist Party in San Francisco in 1936.

"I voted to re-elect Bridges to the national committee" says Johnson.

And so the parade of witnesses goes on.

## WATER

Three days from now, you'll be able to tell by looking, if a man has done his bit in the celebration of - "waterless Friday." This city has called upon the people to minimize the use of water, particularly on that day - so as to ease the shortage. For example, Water Commissioner Stephen Carney has asked people to do without baths, or at least minimize the water used for bathing on that dry and arid day. But, of course, you could hardly tell if somebody has gone without a bath - just by looking. The Commissioner, however, is clever - he calls on men to go without shaving. Which can be seen at a glance - the whiskers on the face. So the gentlemen of New York will be under scrutiny this "waterless Friday" - with nods of approval for jaws that are dark and scrubby.

There has been a favorable break of weather - a night and a day of warm, drizzling rain. Which means that the snows have been melting rapidly in the section of the New York City water supply. Unusual weather at the approach of Christmas - when the snows

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are likely to stay on frozen ground all winter.

The reservoirs are up  $\epsilon$  for the first time since June. In twenty-four hours, over a <sup>6</sup>million gallons went pouring down in the burbling streams. But the drought and the shortage have been so severe, that, in spite of the good break in weather, the reservoirs are still at only a little more than one-third ~~of~~ capacity.

So the routine for saving goes on, with "waterless Fridays" to dramatize the situation - as will be seen three days from now, when thousands of ordinarily well shaved New Yorkers <sup>appear with</sup> ~~will look as if~~ ~~whiskers rampant.~~ ~~somebody abolished razors.~~ ~~Or~~ ~~see the city fathers~~ hope.



## PLANE

Tonight in California ~~xx~~ Robert <sup>Bryant</sup> ~~Bryant~~ is back to normal -- after an ~~xxx~~ ordeal that makes it seem a miracle that he survived. Last week, on Wednesday, <sup>Bryant</sup> ~~Bryant~~ crashed in a plane in the mountains of Ventura County -- and as time went on, there seemed to be little hope that he might still be alive.

He is a radar technician, and was in a small plane equipped with radar, when he flew into a mountain with the sinister name of Devil's heart. There was an air search, day after day, without any result until the wreckage of the plane was sighted yesterday. Then a search ~~xxx~~ party, making its way to the scene, found a trail of footprints leading away from the wreck -- but soon the footprints were lost in the snow.

Today another rescue party was on its way through the wild country, when they spotted what looked like a scarecrow. "Y<sup>o</sup>u sure look good to me " said the scarecrow to the rescue party. It was Robert ~~xxxxx~~ Bryant, after a week of wandering through

mountain snows. But he was none the worse except for  
hunger and sore feet -- after an ordeal in which  
it seemed as if he must certainly have frozen to  
death.

Henry Schmitt, a construction engineer, who knows how  
to pay a debt of gratitude.

When the war in the Pacific broke out, Henry  
Schmitt was on a construction job at Wake Island - and  
was among the prisoners seized by the Japanese. He was  
taken to Japan, and imprisoned at the Osaka wharves  
where the captives of war were initially housed.

One day Henry Schmitt, tormented by hunger,  
was digging into a pile of refuse, picking out orange  
peelings, and eating them. A shipyard worker was  
visited by him, and slipped him a ball of rice.  
Another day this happened again - and repeatedly. The  
deck laborer was a man of a certain kind - the  
American prisoner. Today Henry Schmitt thinks the  
debt was paid in full of gratitude to the man who  
was starving.

## GRATITUDE

At Greybull, Wyoming, they are awaiting the arrival of a Japanese school boy - sixteen year old Haruo Kasai, son of a shipyard worker at Osaka. He's on his way from Japan to receive a gift of thanks from Henry Schmidt, a construction engineer, who knows how to pay a debt of gratitude.

When the war in the Pacific broke out, Henry Schmidt was on a construction job at Wake Island - and was among the prisoners seized by the Japanese. He was taken to Japan, and imprisoned at the Osaka shipyards - where the captives of war were virtually starved.

One day Henry Schmidt, tortured by hunger, was digging into a pile of refuse, picking out orange peelings, and eating them. A shipyard worker saw him, sidled up to him, and slipped him a ball of rice. Another day this happened again - and repeatedly. The dock laborer made it a habit to smuggle food to the American prisoner. Today Henry Schmidt said: "He deprived his own family of rations to feed me, when I was starving."

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The two got to talking, the shipyard<sup>d</sup> workers telling about his family - especially about his nine year old son. Henry Schmidt told him: "If I ever get back home alive, I'll bring your son to the States and have him educated."

So that's what's happening now. The boy, Haruo Kasai, having arrived at high school age, is on his way to Wyoming - where, at Greybull, he'll be received by Henry Schmidt and his wife. They have arranged to put him into high school at Greybull - which will be followed by a college education in Henry Schmidt's own profession of engineering.

A handsome reward for a few balls of rice - but it was at a time when every grain of that rice was a treasure.

## AUTOMOBILE

In the movies, an old-time favorite feature is - the wild automobile chase, the madcap dash of cars and a shooting of guns. In the world of movies, likewise, one of the best known names is - "Skouras", three brothers who hail from the ancient land of Greece. So now we find an automobile chase fit for any film feature -- occurring in the Skouras family, the younger generation. In <sup>AN</sup>Connecticut, near Darien, the police of three towns were in frantic pursuit of Dionysia Skouras, a daughter of the movie clan.

According to the cops, Dionysia was speeding, when officer Gerald Allen, in a police car, started after her. It took him six mighty swift miles to catch up. He stopped her, went over to her car, and was talking to her. You know, the usual bawling out, while giving a ticket.

But Dionysia was not in any mood to listen patiently. She suddenly started the car, and drove off at a fast clip - dragging the officer along. Patrolman Gerald Allen says he was dragged for twenty feet - not

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injured, except for an almost fatal injury to his dignity.

He went limping back to his police car, and sent out a radio warning. Whereupon the police far and wide were out to catch Dionysia - and there is said to have been an eighty mile an hour chase for fifteen miles, with shooting - bullets aimed at the tires of the fugitive car. One bullet punctured a rear tire, while another hit Dionysia in the hand. Ending an automobile chase that could be incorporated in a Hollywood masterpiece - especially the dragging of the cop, don't you think, Nelson?