

27-79 Wed. Nov. 1st, 1950.

(22)

Word in New York tonight is that Oscar Collazo, one of the two assailants who tried to kill President Truman today, ~~was~~^{is} the Treasurer of the New York Branch of the Puerto Rican Nationalist Party. This outfit, called a "Junta" is described as a group operating in New York's huge Puerto Rican section. They are directed by Dr Pedro Campos, the Nationalist leader in Puerto Rico.

Collazo, who was wounded in the gunfight, and is in a Washington prison cell, declares "We came here for the purpose of shooting the President." His companion Torresola, by name, was killed by White House guards. On his body they found a letter signed by that Puerto Rican revolutionary leader, Campos, a letter urging him -- "to further the movement without hesitation of any kind." That is the phraseology of the letter.

So the assassination attempt in Washington ties in with the revolution that has been going on in

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Puerto Rico, staged by the Nationalist faction, a small fanatical group which demands immediate independence of the island. The revolt was put down with fighting and bloodshed in the past few days, and tonight's word from Puerto Rico is that the leader, Campos, is being held in custody by the police.

The crazy fanaticism of this outfit is shown by the attitude of Collazo's wife -- who tonight was picked up in New York, together with her fifteen-year-old daughter. As Secret Service men led them away, the fifteen-year-old girl tried to hide her face, but the mother said: "Don't be ashamed. Let them take your picture. We are fighting for an ideal."

The wife says her husband told her he was going back to Puerto Rico -- because they needed him there. He never mentioned -- going to Washington.

In New York today, shortly before the attempt on the life of President Truman, ~~in Washington,~~ there was a clumsy sort of bombing at the Puerto Rican

Consulate in New York -- a Nationalist fanatic tossing -- "Molotov cocktails," ~~That is,~~ bottles of gasoline with lighted fuses. ~~THESE~~ This, however, was a fiasco, and little damage was done.

The would-be assassination in Washington this afternoon was a mad-dog affair -- like a deed of demented fanaticism. Through crowds ^{the} on Pennsylvania Avenue sidewalk came two men, both dressed in natty blue suits. Nobody noticed them particularly, as they approached the entrance of Blair House, from opposite directions, ^{they approached.} The temporary home of the President is across from the White House and the door is on the street -- not like the White House, with its iron fence and spacious lawns.

A White House uniformed policeman, Donald Birdzell, was standing on guard when one of the assailants, Torresola, walked up to him, drew a German automatic pistol and opened fire. Birdzell fell, seriously wounded. Whereupon a Secret Service man and another

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uniformed guard ^(DASHED OUT) ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ of the sentry box on the sidewalk, shooting as they ran. The Puerto Rican dropped, shot dead. At the same time the other assailant, Collazo came forward, shooting -- and making a dash to the Blair House entrance. Two guards, Leslie Cofflet and Joseph Downs, intercepted him and both were hit. Downs, badly wounded. Coffelt -- fatally. He died a few hours later. But the two guards returned the fire, and cut Collazo down, at the foot of the Blair House doorstep. He was wounded, not critically. The fusillade caused a wild panic in the crowded street --with bystanders ducking for cover.

President Truman was inside having a nap after lunch -- due to start out in a few minutes for a ceremony at Arlington Cemetery, honoring the late British Field Marshall, Sir John Dill. As the first pistol shot reverberated, the President jumped up, ran to the window and looked out. Whereupon the guards yelled -- "get back." The President threw on his clothes hastily, and Mrs. Truman came running

in, wondering if he was hurt.

The calmest person in the whole affray was Harry Truman -- who, after hearing the account of the attempt to assassinate him, went right on with ^{his} ~~the~~ schedule of going to the ceremony at Arlington. ^{There} he carried on ~~as if~~ as if nothing had happened -- the only sign being that the ~~number of~~ secret service guards was redoubled.

The police began an immediate search for Puerto Ricans in Washington, the surmise being that others might have been involved in the plot to kill the President. It was found that the two wouldbe assassins came to Washington from New York on Monday, and an investigation is on among the New York Puerto Ricans. The revolutionary faction involved is said to be infiltrated with Communists; but the American Communist Party immediately disclaims all knowledge, and denounces today's attempt -- the hand of the Puerto Rican revolution reaching out against the President of the United States.

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Should be 5.

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~~However~~ In Puerto Rico tonight Governor Munoz
Marin declares that the Communists have been inciting
the Nationalist faction to violence. ~~The crime today~~
will be followed by a murder trial -- Federal authori-
ties in Washington state that Collazo will be tried
for the murder of the slain guard, Leslie Coffelt --
who gave his life in brave action by ^{the} Secret Service,
defending the President.

U.N.

The U.N. has re-elected Trygve Lie. In spite of the Russian threat to boycott the Secretary-General, the General Assembly went ahead and gave him another term of three years. The vote was forty-six to five, with only the Iron Curtain countries saying -- no. Which amounts to an overwhelming vote of confidence in Trygve Lie.

HOOVER

Former President Herbert Hoover calls for complete world disarmament -- one hundred percent. But he says before there can be any disarmament at all by this country -- peace will have to be made secure. Peace should come first, then disarmament.

The statement was made at a ceremony in which General Eisenhower presented to former President Hoover an award by the Military Order of Foreign Wars, honors for -- "outstanding citizenship." In accepting the award, Herbert Hoover called for ~~the~~ the outlawing of not only the atomic bomb but also chemical warfare, tanks, bombing planes and warships. That -- with a permanent Commission established in every country to see that disarmament agreements are carried out. The former President noted that Soviet Russia would never accept any such arrangement. So he warned that disarmament is feasible, only after peace is established, really and honestly.

KOREA

The news from Korea tells of hard fighting -- dominated by more and more evidence of Chinese Communists and by an appearance of Red air power. Typical of the battle today was the experience of the U. S. Twenty-fourth Infantry Division -- driving toward the Yalu River. ^P The troops of the Twenty-fourth Division were assailed by masses of North Koreans and Chinese Communists, in an assault that even included ^{cavalry -} ~~infantry~~ -- horse cavalry. Among ten thousand Reds was a mass of mounted soldiers who galloped to the attack in the way of cavalry charges of old -- and were cut down by gunfire. But the Reds had modern weapons too -- tanks going into action against the Americans. And -- air power. ^P The GI's of the Twenty-fourth had to undergo an aerial strafing attack, Red planes sweeping down with a hail of machinegun bullets. But that lasted only until American fighters came winging. Soon -- dogfights were waged in the Korean sky. Three Reds were shot down, Russian-built Yaks -- and one American plane was

lost. 8 other Red planes were destroyed on the ground.

The prominence of Chinese in the Korean fighting brought about a change of ~~the~~ languages today -- in propaganda. ^(Mobile) ~~fixed~~ radio stations and frontline loudspeakers, which can be heard for five miles, ~~and~~ are being used, calling the enemy to surrender. Hitherto, all these messages have been in the Korean language. But today the messages were given in Chinese -- echoing along the battlefield to persuade the Chinese troops to surrender or go home.

FOLLOW KOREA

In Washington Secretary of State Acheson today declared that the United States Government takes ~~what~~ ~~honest~~ "a serious view" of Chinese Communist ~~in~~ intervention in Korea. He said that General MacArthur is conducting a full investigation to tell how far the Reds of China have joined in the fighting.

One supposition is that they are trying to hold control of big ~~in~~ hydro-electric plants along the Yalu River. While -- another supposition is that ^{the} Chinese Communists are making a sort of gesture -- not ~~we~~ wanting to give the impression of doing nothing while the Korean Reds are being crushed completely.

Secretary Acheson also stated that the United States is concerned about the Red invasion of Tibet. He said the facts are none too clear, and the State Department is seeking more information.

ADD FOLLOW KOREA

The latest ~~the~~ ^T first Red war bulletin in the invasion of Tibet. The Chinese Communist radio announces the capture of the ~~Tibetan~~ city of Chando, where four thousand Tibetan troops are claimed to have been killed or captured. The prisoners ~~of the Red~~ include two Britishers -- so says that first Red

communique on Tibet. ^{TP} One of them is a young ex-R.A.F. radio man named Bob Ford. Bob, after the War, took a job as an assistant to Reg Fox. Fox, acting for the D. L.'s govt. sent him to remote Chando, his job to send daily or even hourly short wave reports to Lhasa. One of the last things Lowell Jr. and I did in Lhasa a year ago was chat with Ford, by radio. We did a lot of kidding -- about how close he was to the Reds -- and not to get caught. But -- it seems to have happened.

VATICAN

In Rome today the great square of St. Peter's was jammed with one of the greatest crowds ever assembled. Seven hundred thousand persons were there, as Pope Pius XII proclaimed the new dogma of the Roman Catholic Church -- the Assumption. The climax came, when the Pontiff spoke these words;-- "The immaculate Mother of God, Mary ever Virgin, when the course of her life on earth was finished,--was taken up body and soul into heaven."

As the last of these words rang out, a tremendous cheer arose from seven hundred thousand throats -- hailing the new dogma.

The historical background is this:-- The first mention of the Assumption is in the writings of Gregory of Tours, in the sixth century. But he speaks as if the belief had been general for a long time. Thereafter the doctrine was widespread -- as is illustrated by the various great paintings of the Assumption.

PEGASUS

In New Mexico today a posse was out hunting for -- Pegasus. Which sounds mighty classical -- Pegasus, the winged steed of Greek mythology, symbol for poetry and high-flying inspiration. ^{This however} It is not a case of poetry riding Pegasus; -- ^{-- it's an escaped/} ~~it's~~ convict astride the Homeric steed.

At New Mexico State Prison, Adolph Kappel, a trusty serving a life sentence, was sent to water the mules, one of which was -- Pegasus. They seem to be scholarly down there at ^{the} New Mexico Pena, giving a classical name to a bony old prison mule. Anyway, the next thing you know, the trusty had an impulse to escape, and went riding off on Pegasus -- last observed, as they disappeared into the Apache Canyon.

So a posse was formed, and went searching for the fugitive and the steed of poetry with long ears, whose lyrical refrain is "hee-haw."

And what is your refrains, Nelson?

BEAVERS

At Warrenton, Oregon, they have a lot of -- eager beavers. Which sounds okay -- those industrious people, who are always busy, trying hard. But Warrenton would prefer lazy loading beavers. The town is threatened with a flood, because of three dams thrown across the local river. You know, the dams that beavers build. The stream backed up and water came flooding through the streets. Today the City Water Superintendent said: "We have dynamited all three dams, but the beavers come right back."

So they are getting out more dynamite - because of those eager beavers.