

RJ-RG. Tues. Mar. 14, 1950.

SUBSTITUTE LEAD

The guessing game has started -- about Gubitchev. The surprise today was startling -- the convicted spy refusing to accept freedom and go back to Russia. ~~It was~~ So mystifying -- ~~that~~ all we can do is grasp at surmises.

One thought, ~~which~~ immediately comes to mind, is that Gubitchev might prefer to stay in this country -- even though in prison. Other Soviet citizens have gone to great lengths in avoiding a return to a Communist Utopia. But this would really be the height of determination -- Gubitchev being under a jail sentence of fifteen years for espionage.

Tonight newsmen took the guessing game to the circles of the U.N. -- and there the speculation is that Gubitchev, refusing to go through the formalities to send him back, might be acting on orders from Moscow. That is, the Soviets might be using him as a pawn -- in the battle of propaganda. When the State Department intervened, to get the sentence suspended, the remark was made -- that the Soviets might like to have Gubitchev imprisoned over here,

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so that he could be represented as a martyr. In U.N. circles it is noted that the Soviet Embassy representative, who was Gubitchev's interpreter during his trial, has visited him several times in prison. ~~xxxxxxx Gubitchev~~

~~was placed with the most important cases passed by the Soviet court~~
And may be he was passing along instructions from Moscow -- about what to do today.

But this guessing game is futile. All we know is what happened today -- when the critical angle was decided. After the trial, conviction and ^{suspended-} sentence, Gubitchev's lawyer made motions for an appeal to the higher courts. But the Judge pointed out that, if he appealed, the sentence could hardly be suspended. Suppose the higher courts should confirm the conviction -- well, that would seem to unsuspend the sentence. So Gubitchev was required to drop the moves for an appeal.

Today it was believed he would do just that -- when his lawyer, Abraham Pamerantz, appeared in court. But instead, there was a sudden change -- the lawyer declaring

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that Gubitchev insisted on fighting his case through the higher courts -- and ^{he} asks to be released on bail meanwhile. It would, of course, take some time to push the appeal -- and Gubitchev will stay in this country. On bail -- or in jail. The Judge said he would decide later on about the question of bail.

This certainly puts
~~Wolfe's story~~ a peculiar twister *to* the story of how Judith Coplon and the Soviet Engineer were tried and found guilty on the charge that she conspired with him in a spy job of transmitting secret information from the Department of Justice. After the Judge suspended sentence on Gubitchev, the word was that he would go back to Russia, ~~sailing March twentieth aboard a liner under the flag of Red Poland.~~ But that's all in a tangle tonight -- with Gubitchev refusing to drop the appeal, the technicality that would permit him to escape a fifteen year prison term and return to the land of Stalin.

UKRAINE

In London - the revelation of a diplomatic secret.

It is disclosed that the ~~GENERAL~~ government of Great Britain has been trying to-establish diplomatic relations with - the Ukraine. Well, we all know that the Ukraine is an independent republic - and in the United Nations has a vote, as a sovereign state should have. So has White Russia - under that famous wartime agreement, whereby the Soviets have three votes, actually, in the U.N. ~~The~~ ^J Moscow argument all along has been that the Soviet Union is made up of independent republics - sixteen, in fact. But Moscow ^{was} ~~is~~ modest enough not to try to seat them all in the United Nations. Under that sort of system, the United States would be entitled to forty-eight votes - one for each of the states. So Moscow ^(was) ~~is~~ content with merely three - Russia proper, the Ukraine, and White Russia, as independent republics.

From all of which the London government drew a logical deduction - that it would only be proper to ^{begin} ~~establish~~

diplomatic relations with both the Ukraine and White Russia.

So they started out with the former - and suggested to Moscow that it would be nice to establish a British legation at Kiev, the Ukrainian capital, and have diplomatic dealings with the independent government there.

Well, never has a ~~diplomatic~~ suggestion met with such a cold response. No reply at all - only a frosty silence.

In fact, the lack of enthusiasm in Moscow was such that the British never did try to extend the idea to White Russia.

Those two republics are so independent, - that the British Ambassador at Moscow is not even allowed to visit the two respective capitals, Kiev and Minsk.

All this went on in the secret channels of diplomacy, to be revealed today by proceedings in Parliament - telling of one of the flatest failures in the history of statecraft.

CHRISTOFFEL

In Washington, Harold Christoffel has been sentenced to a prison term of from two to six years -- ^{the} former Union official found guilty of committing perjury when he told a Congressional Committee, under oath, that he was not a Communist. (Christoffel was the President of the Milwaukee Local of the Auto Workers Union, CIO -- during the time of the Allis Chalmers strike. That was a long and bitter labor conflict during the time when the United States was arming for war, ^{a strike that} ~~and~~ impeded ^{our} defense preparation during the period before Soviet Russia was in the war.)

(~~Christoffel was convicted at a former trial, but the verdict was thrown out by the Supreme Court, on technical grounds. The second trial has been dragging for a long time, and now ends with another verdict of guilty, and a sentence of two to six years.~~)

COMMUNISTS

An utter and absolute denial was entered in Washington today, by Miss Dorothy Kenyon, former U.S. representative to the United Nations, who has been named by Senator McCarthy in his charges of pro-Communism. She told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that she is not, and has never been, a Communist - or a fellow-traveler. (The Wisconsin Senator named Miss Kenyon as a member of Communist Front organizations. Today she told the Committee she had never heard of most of them on the list, and said she had joined groups which seemed to be working for good causes - but that she had always quit any organization at once, if it showed signs of being under Communist control.)

This followed a further naming of names by Senator McCarthy - four names. John Stewart Service, State Department diplomat now in ~~the~~ India, whom the Senator called "a known collaborator with Communists." Dr. Harlow Shapley, the harvard astronomer who is a member of ~~the~~ a United States commission connected with the U.N. Dr. Frederick Schuman,

of Williams College, who once delivered a lecture on diplomacy at the State Department. And Gustavo Duran, who once worked for the State Department - the only one, by the way, whom Senator McCarthy calls outright - a Communist.

These accusations are countered by immediate denials from all concerned.

GUAY

Albert Guay

In Quebec - Albert Guay found guilty of murder!

In the metropolis of French Canada, a French-speaking jury deliberated only twenty minutes today - before returning a verdict of guilty against a defendant accused of the hideous crime of planting a bomb aboard a crowded airliner to murder his wife - and twenty-two lives were lost.

The verdict of guilty means only one penalty - hanging, which is mandatory, and the judge immediately set the date of execution - June Twenty-Third.

MOUNTIES

Extra

At Ottawa, capital of Canada, the Board of Trade began a campaign today - to get some horses for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Members of that famous outfit are on duty in Ottawa - and you'd think a Mounty would be on a horse. But not at all - ^{not} on duty at Parliament Hill.

Which can be disappointing to some - the Ottawa Board of Trade saying: "The Americans come along, and ask to see a Mounty." So, to please the Americans at least, Ottawa is trying to get a few of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police on horseback.

PRISONER

Extra

In the Canadian province of Saskatchewan - a manhunt, which came to an ~~ignominious~~^{ignominious} end. At the town of Regina, the alarm was sent out last night - prisoner escaped! One of the jailbirds was missing, and the police were alerted throughout the southern part of Saskatchewan. Radio cars were mobilized, and they got out the bloodhounds to pick up the trail.

The manhunt fever was on - when, in the jail, they found the prisoner. He was asleep in a cell - in which he had been duly locked up. The trouble was that he had been put in the wrong cell - and the right one was found empty. The result - much embarrassment. Even the bloodhounds let out ^a ~~extra~~ yelp in disgust.

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REPRIVE

A curious problem of the law develops in Ohio -
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where Governor Lausche granted a reprieve to a convict under
sentence of death, delaying the execution for sixty days.
The reason for this was the interposition of, what is called -
the "Court of Last Resort." That's a sort of investigating
committee run by Argosy Magazine, and the members include
Mystery Writer Erle Stanley Gardner, Criminologist Dr.
Lemoyne ~~St~~ Snyder, *Famed* ~~New York~~ Private Detective Raymond Schindler,
and Magazine Publisher Harry Steeger.

They decided that there was some doubt about the
correctness of the death ~~sentence~~ sentence in Ohio - *and* persuaded
the Governor to stay the execution at the last minute. The
Governor says he acted for what he calls - his own "peace of
mind."

This has aroused protests from Ohio judges,
prosecutors, parole board members - who state there is no
doubt that the prisoner is guilty of the murder of a Cleveland

grocer during a robbery. So today, Governor Lausche summoned the "Court of Last Resort" to appear before the State Pardon and Patrol Board and show what evidence they may have to indicate that the prisoner might be innocent.

All of which is a peculiar twist, as the Governor himself explains. "There is an interesting question here," says he, "as to what extent a self constituted group, offering to insure the administration of justice, should substitute itself for the duly recognized and constituted authorities."

CHILD ACTRESS

In Hollywood today, the police ~~entered~~^{ended} a frantic search - in a kidnap scare. The child film actress, Lora Lee Michel, vanished from her home - and the fear was that abductors had carried away the nine year old star, holding her for ransom. But today she was found at nearby Burbank, in the home of a minister. She said she ran away - because she was hungry. ~~And all she wanted was a glass of~~^{And she begged for} milk, glasses and glasses of milk.

This is the latest in the ~~legal~~ troubles revolving around Lora Lee, who earns a hundred dollars a day in the movies - ~~with~~^{following} court battles between her mother and her foster mother, who has charge of her. The accusation was that the small actress was kept hungry, starved - so that she would remain small enough to play in pictures in infantile roles.

Last night, a Hollywood taxi driver spotted the nine year old girl on Sunset Boulevard - barefooted, wearing pajamas, and crying. The driver picked her up - and, in tears, she told him she had to get away. "I've lost ten pounds in the

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last month," she said - and asked the taximan to take her to the home of the Reverend Alfred Sundstrum, the father of one of her playmates.

So that, today, was the solution of what looked like a kidnap mystery, the ^{hungry} little film star saying: "I never want to be in the movies again."

TRUMAN

It would be a great thing for medical science and suffering humanity -- to have a sure cure for an agonizing malady demonstrated in the most stately circumstance and under august auspices. And that opportunity came during the present vacation cruise of President Truman -- who right now is voyaging in Southern waters aboard the yacht Williamsburg. ¶ When they started out, they hoped for fair weather and calm seas -- the ocean like a mirror. But they ran into stormy winds and high-running waves, the presidential yacht rolling and plunging.

¶ That was where Brigadier General Wallace Graham came in, the White House physician. He ^{had} brought along some pills -- to cure seasickness. So there you see the magnificent opportunity. ¶ For long ages mankind has endured the agony of the malady of green-around-the-gills. ^{And} wouldn't it be wonderful if, once and for all, the final cure for seasickness were to be demonstrated

on so stately a voyage? The patient -- the President of the United States.

So what have we to report tonight? When the weather grew rough, the White House physician passed around the pills -- which were duly swallowed.

But, just the same,

~~the~~ ^{champions} virtually everybody aboard the presidential yacht grew greener and greener around the gills --

and took to their cabins. The President today ^{was} ~~is~~ feeling a bit better -- and able to swallow a bit of breakfast.

~~But~~ that was because the sea had become calmer. ~~The~~

The champion patient is General Vaughn, that famous White House aide who has been in various comic scrapes.

He is described in one word -- "prostrate." *And now Nelson, who is always alert - never prostrate.*

(So tonight, unfortunately, I cannot report that the pills worked -- and ~~is~~ kept President Truman and his party from getting seasick.)