

SUBSTITUTE FLOOD B.T. - P. & B. Tuesday, June 1, 1948.

The magnitude of the floods in the Pacific northwest is being matched by the measures of relief that are being taken - Washington tonight announcing that thirteen federal agencies have been ordered into action. Prominent in the thirteen is the Navy, which is resorting to its "mothball fleet". At Astoria, *— at the mouth of the Columbia —* Oregon, [^] is a swarm of navy boats, laid up during the postwar period - in mothballs, *they call it.* ~~as the saying goes.~~ Tonight a number of these craft are being hurried to flooded areas, where they will be ~~xxx~~ used to shelter thousands of the homeless.

As an example of the complicated developments of the flood, the Columbia River burst through a dyke near Woodland, Washington, today. Which, however, did not mean so much, because Woodland was already flooded, the Lewis River having poured a previous inundation ~~it~~ into the town -- inhabitants evacuated. So it was flood piled on flood - a graphic example of the fact that many streams are playing their part in the

disaster, the number one villain of which is the broad flood-swollen Columbia. The flood crest today came to Portland, with new inundation, the metropolis of Oregon beset by two rampaging rivers, the Columbia and the Willamette.

Told in human terms there are ninety thousand fugitives from the flood - the figure rising that high today when Army engineers ordered all residents ~~to get~~ out of the area along both sides of the Columbia River for a length of one hundred and twenty miles. That is, from the junction of the Sandy River to the mouth of ~~the~~ the Columbia.

SUBSTITUTE PALESTINE

In spite of the acceptance by both Israel and the Arabs the question of a truce in Palestine is about as undecided as ever tonight. We now hear that a full statement from the Arab states is not expected until tomorrow. (The Moslems announced this afternoon that they had agreed to the United Nations appeal for an Armistice, but the acceptance was in the form of a general "yes" with the qualifying condition that a full declaration was still to come.)

The question is, of course -- will that full declaration by the Arab states set forth conditions, ~~assumptions~~ assumptions, interpretations? This is all the more to a point, because the Jewish acceptance today did include - interpretations. These covered various points, the chief of which concerned Jerusalem. The government of Israel takes the U.N. armistice to mean that food supplies would be permitted to go to the Holy City -- to the besieged Jewish garrison in the newer section of Jerusalem, where the defending forces, cut off

and surrounded, are in danger of being starved out. In fact, Israel could hardly agree to a truce that would mean the starving out and surrender of the Jewish forces in Jerusalem. That would amount to a big victory for the Arabs. On the other hand, if provisions are allowed to go through - it would mean that the truce would accomplish exactly what Israel has been fighting for in bitter battle for days, trying to get through with convoys.

What attitude will the Arabs take? Likely enough their full statement, when it arrives, will set forth interpretations of a Moslem sort. So today's acceptance of the truce by both parties may turn into a battle of interpretations.

GREECE

The city of Athens, capital of Greece, is wondering about unexpected news today. The Communist guerrillas ^{who} have been conducting a Red civil war, ~~and~~ have suddenly offered to negotiate and make peace.

The people of Athens don't know what to make of it -- whether the Red guerrillas, facing defeat, really want to call off the civil war. Or -- whether it's a kind of propaganda maneuver. The government at Athens ^{declares} ~~that~~ that there will be no peace negotiations with the Communist rebels -- only surrender.

VOICE OF AMERICA

(That Voice of America scandal got around to a high spot today, when congressional committees heard testimony from the radio writer who concocted the lines that have raised such a rumpus. He is René Borgia, whose radio scripts, beamed to Latin-America, told the folks down there that New England was founded on hypocrisy, that Texas was founded in sin, and that the Quakers are a social problem in Pennsylvania. Not to mention some of the other choice bits of prose, which made lawmakers in Washington ^{writhe} ~~rise~~ and roar ~~witthit~~ that their states were insulted.)

~~(Previous to the more hilarious testimony, some sound background was given to the legislators by Assistant Secretary of State George V. Allen, who, after all the hullabaloo, was put in charge of American radio programs beamed to foreign parts. He explained that the Latin-American broadcasts were farmed out by the State Department to regular commercial radio, N.B.C. and Columbia - which networks had long been doing a similar job on their own. He pointed out, that these were not~~

first, ~~he appeared~~ before a Senate Committee, after which he repeated what he had to say to a Committee of the House of Representatives. A play-back, as they say in the movies.

(A native of Venezuela, he talked with an accent that provided considerable local color - and blamed everything on two N.B.C. officials,) under whose direction he worked. One, a Latin-America, the other - just American. He said that he merely wrote what he was told to. He claimed that he had to do it, on pain of being fired. He, himself, wanted to write scripts of another kind, but they wouldn't let him. (They wanted cheap programs, ^{the Senor} ~~he~~ ^{today} declared, "with silly comedy.")

"They killed all the many beautiful scenes I wrote," said ~~in~~ he sadly. "I objected to such cheap programs, when I could have written such beautiful programs. There is," he went on, "such a lack of culture on the part of all of those in charge of the program." **PS** Sounds like the ancient plaint of the writer, when the editor tosses out a story or two.

Whereupon René Borgia was questioned by the

legislators on some of the various twisters that have caused all the shouting. ^{Congressman} ~~Senator~~ Manasco of Alabama mentioned the ~~statement~~ ^{new} beamed to Latin-America that Alabama was a backward state - down in darkest Alabama. Borgia said he got that from John Gunther's book, "Inside the U.S.A." To which the radio echo responds: "There are things you can say in a book that you can't say on the air."

Another Senator asked about the script that pictured Brigham Young pioneering in Utah with a bottle of whiskey in one pocket and a plug of tobacco in another, although he never drank or chewed.

"It's in his biography," retorted the script writer from Venezuela. "I think it great praise. It showed vice could not conquer him."

~~Further questioning concerned~~ ^{And there were about} a radio picture given of naked Indian girls with feathered headdresses, running around in Wyoming. Senor Borgia replied delicately that the script he wrote had indicated that the Indian girls

in the feathered headdresses were nude only in part. So maybe they were out swimming in bathing suits, although ~~it's~~ it's hard to think of taking a dive into a crystal Wyoming pool while wearing an Indian feathered headdress.

Congressman Harvey of Indiana had harsh words for the Senor, because of a thing he wrote in one of those radio scripts. The passage ^{was} ~~is~~ as follows: "Politicians lead ^{to} ~~the~~ politics either with their tails between their legs, or as millionaires." A fine thing to have repeated in Congress! Borgia replied that the description was, in his words, "the usual thing in South America." Which is likely to get him in Dutch with his native Venezuela.

~~One comment made by the Senor today in his remarks to the legislators, ^{should} ~~who~~ really have had a place in those Latin-American scripts. Saying that he did not believe the programs would be taken seriously in South America, he added: "They have brains down there."~~

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News became hilarious when Congressman Monasco of Alabama, brandishing one of the offending scripts shouted: "This, said he, "describes Lafayette's visit to the capital of ~~the~~ Alabama and tells how he kissed the governor on both cheeks and caused the governor to lose his voice for two months. Why put that in?" demanded the Congressman.

From Senor Borgia's reply, it turned out that the Kiss of the great Lafayette, friend of liberty and the American Revolution, was intended to have some comic bearing on present day politics in Alabama. Back in ~~times~~ those historic days, Lafayette kissed the governor of Alabama on both cheeks, while today Alabama has Kissin' Jim Folsom. I don't quite fathom the complexities of humor, except that it is funny to mention Lafayette and Kissin' Jim in the same breath.

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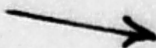
Yes, that would have been the exquisite touch in a program glorifying the U.S.A. thinking wistfully of South America and saying - "they have brains down there."

LAUNCH

The Navy this afternoon gave the figure of men missing in the capsizing of a launch last night off Norfolk -- twenty-one sailors and Marines. They are believed to have been lost when a boat ~~capsized~~ ^{turned over} with ninety aboard. Launches were taking Navy men from shore-leave at Norfolk to the ~~ix~~ aircraft carrier KEARSARGE, which has been ordered to the Mediterranean. There was rain and storm, but all the other launches made it in routine fashion -- except one that capsized for reasons unknown.

DRAFT

Congress is not going to put the draft bill on the shelf. This was announced late today by Senator Taft of Ohio. He told of a meeting with top Republican leaders in which they reaffirmed their intention of passing a two year draft bill before Congress adjourns, June Nineteenth. This decision puts an end to a lot of speculation that the whole business of a selective-service-measure might be put off indefinitely. Senator Taft says Republican leaders agreed that the draft bill is -- a "must" for quick action.



FOLLOW DRAFT

Another "must" for congress is a bill to admit two ~~hundred~~ hundred thousand misplaced persons during the next two years. Today's conference of Republican leaders decided to go ahead with the D P measure, and get action before adjournment. The Senate had already passed such a bill, though some final cleaⁿ-up work in the upper house is still needed. Senator Taft states that he has word that the Lower House of Congress will vote its own okay, as soon as the Senate has done with its own job.

PRIMARIES

Here are some late results ~~in~~ of voting in primary elections today. One set is from the south, where the only question at issue was - whether or not to support President Truman at the Democratic National ~~in~~ Convention. The figures from Alabama are saying - "no". ~~On~~ The first returns show an early lead taken by a slate of delegates pledged to bolt the convention, if a plank is adopted supporting President Truman's program of racial rights.

One other ~~new~~ result indicated is a turndown for Alabama Governor Folsom - Kissin' Jim, He is a candidate for delegate-at-large, and is trailing.

(In Maryland the Democrats today cast an uneventful vote in favor of nominating President Truman,) who gets the twenty Maryland delegates at the Philadelphia convention.

TRUMAN

The White House made a new effort today to convince everybody that the forthcoming presidential speech-making tour will be entirely non-political. The President is going to make a trans-continental train trip, during which he will deliver five major addresses, and will also make many of those rear platform appearances, so familiar in the history of American political campaigns. This, of course, is presidential year, the President is a candidate, and the Republicans are making noises a little short of ridicule. Non-political, say they - as non-political as the Dewey-Stassen battle in Oregon.

However, the White House announced today that President Truman, on the trans-continental trip, will be accompanied by nothing more than his immediate staff - no big time political magnificos. It had been expected that the presidential party would include some of the larger ~~personality~~ personalities of the Democratic Party, including National Chairman McGrath. But no, they won't go along - just to make ~~the~~ sure that everybody is convinced that it's entirely non-political.

ELIZABETH

The news from London tells us that an announcement is soon to be issued from Buckingham Palace, the residence of the King and Queen. The announcement will be set forth in words that are a traditional form with the British royal family - whose ways and manners were set so largely by Queen Victoria. That venerated sovereign was renowned for her great propriety, so much so that the term "Victorian" has come to mean all that is respectable and sedate. So the forthcoming announcement will be the height of propriety. It will say: "Her Royal Highness, Princess Elizabeth, is not undertaking any further engagements in the next few months."

The London story is that the Princess, herself, wanted the announcement made several weeks ago, when she returned from her visit to Paris. But she was persuaded to delay until after she had paid a visit to Wales - to receive the freedom of the City of Cardiff. This was a traditional matter of high policy, dating back long centuries - back to the time when the first King Edward sought to please the warlike

turbulent Welsh by making the heir to the crown - Prince of Wales. Elizabeth, being heiress to the crown, could not be named Prince of Wales - but still it's considered royal good policy to please the Welsh. So this week she was in Cardiff, receiving the Freedom of the City.

That being disposed of, Their Majesties can now go ahead and make the announcement:- "Her Royal Highness, Princess Elizabeth, is not undertaking any further engagements for the next few months." All of which might suggest an idea for the ladies over in this land of ours. For example, it would be most dignified to have the announcement made: "Mrs. Murphy is not undertaking any further engagements for the next few months."

And now Nelson - have you anything in mind for the next moment or so?