

MERCY KILLING

L.J. - P.S. Monday, Feb. 20, 1950.

At Manchester, New Hampshire, the big trial began today, but it looks as if there will be no clear-cut test in court of that angle which arouses most of the interest - mercy killing. The report has been that the defense of Dr. Hermann Sander will be that Mrs. Abbie Borroto died of cancer, and not from the air bubbles injected by the doctor. The contention to be - that he did this, to ease the patient's ~~pain~~ pain, and not as a mercy killing.

That prediction seemed more likely than ever, after the proceedings today - a selection of jurors. <sup>52</sup> ~~Five~~ out of <sup>nine - six</sup> ~~star~~ chosen thus far, are Catholics. Which is to be explained by the fact that eighty-five per cent of the people of Manchester are Catholics. The point to be noted is, that the defense ~~the~~ attorneys, made no attempt to challenge, on the grounds of religion, <sup>They</sup> ~~and~~ approved all the Catholic jurors - although the Church of Rome is strongly on record as being opposed to the whole principle of mercy killings, euthanasia~~s~~ - the taking of human life in cases of incurable illness.

X This attitude by the defense ~~toward the jury~~  
question is interpreted as meaning that the lawyers of Dr.

Sander will not bring forward the question of Euthanasia, ~~seek~~

MA ~~will~~ NOT seek  
to justify mercy killings.

Yet, that question is the reason for the huge  
interest the trial ~~at Manchester~~ has aroused. The town <sup>OF MANCHESTER</sup> is  
crowded with reporters and photographers, assigned by news  
agencies and by newspapers far and wide, including four London  
papers. They are expected to spend a total of fifteen hundred  
dollars a day for transmitting stories. Western Union has  
installed a battery of telegraph machines in the courthouse  
basement, and expects to send two hundred thousand words a  
day -- which <sup>would</sup> ~~will~~ almost equal the record set by the  
Hauptmann trial, when two hundred and fifty thousand words  
a day went over the wires.





VOGELER

The Red trial in Budapest ended ~~easy~~ today, with that same strange note of - confession. The Communist prosecution demanded the death penalty for all the defendants - five Hungarians, and the British and American telephone executives, Edgar Sanders and Robert Vogeler. Both of these former managers of International Telephone and Telegraph Company had already confessed, and today they made pleas of mercy ~~based on their confessions.~~

The tone of the whole thing sounds bewildering to us over here, as is usual in the case of show window trials behind the Iron curtain. ~~The American, Robert Vogeler, was kept incommunicado, not permitted to see even the American Minister - not to mention the New York lawyer, Morris Ernst, so prominent in the defense of civil liberty cases, who wanted to go to Hungary in the defense of the tele phone executive.~~ Our State Department denounced the spy trial as an outrage, and warned that an espionage confession might be wrung from Vogeler by coercion, mistreatment, or drugs.

The forecast of confession was borne out over the weekend, and today Robert Vogeler made a plea to the Red court, repeating his admission of guilt. Speaking in a low voice, he said that he had been well treated by the Red police, and had made his confession of espionage and sabotage freely and without pressure. He said he repented what he did - "especially," he added, "as I was sent by a big country, America, to a small one, Hungary, to undermine the work of reconstruction. I know," he went on, "that I have to suffer punishment, and I hope the court will consider my request for a mild sentence."

The Red court will pronounce the sentence later - in this latest case which deepens the puzzle of those Iron Curtain confessions.

## YACHT

In the Mediterranean Sea a United States Destroyer tonight towed a big yacht <sup>to the port of Tripoli,</sup> -- but could not give any explanation of the mystery. The yacht, named the IMPERIA, was found drifting on the sea in good condition -- but with nobody aboard. The abandoned vessel has been identified as a craft owned by a Greek citizen of Athens. But that is as far as the information goes. There is no explanation of why the IMPERIA was abandoned by her crew. As the affair stands tonight, it looks like another mystery of a deserted ship.

# CHINA

Troubles are reported in Red China -- rice riots.

Famine and disorders ~~are reported in~~ the province of Hunan; ~~xxx~~ where hunger-stricken people <sup>are</sup> said to have stormed supplies of rice being held for the Chinese Red Army. At the same time, the Communists in Canton, are taking drastic measures to prevent a further collapse of currency -- after the Communist dollar hit an all-time low. Which recalls that a spiral of currency-inflation was a spectacular feature in the collapse of the regime of Chian-Kai-Shek



## LANDING

Today at Scottsboro, Alabama, praise was being heaped upon an ambulance driver - who last night saved two men in an airplane, from a probable fatal crash. Frank Crenshaw is a pilot himself, and he knew what to do - when people on the ground became aware of a plane, circling and circling, unable to spot the flying field in the darkness of a cloudy night. Frank Crenshaw remembered that five years ago, an Army pilot was caught in that same predicament at Scottsboro, and was killed when he couldn't find the airfield.

So Frank put in a quick call at the local drug store, where Druggist Charlie Hodges is also a pilot - and the two thereupon ran a fast mobilization of automobiles. By telephone, they ~~gathered~~ collected a score of motorists, and led a procession ~~of automobiles~~ to the airport, where they arranged the cars so that a score of bright headlights flooded the flying field - lighting ~~up~~ it brilliantly. Moreover, Frank, the amb<sup>u</sup>ulance driver, and Charlie, the druggist, played the spotlight of one car on the "wind sock", the gadget showing

the way the wind was blowing.

The rest of the story is easy to guess. The two flyers lost in k darkness and fog, saw the glimmer of light below, came down to the illuminated field - and, with even the direction of the wind spotted for them, they made a safe landing. Whereupon Frank and Charlie led their procession of automobiles back home.

## NEW YORK POLITICS

In the politics of New York State, this election year ~~will~~<sup>we</sup> see coming forward a large figure, at the same time dignified and genial, with a majestic bald head, boomed for the governorship on the Democratic ticket, former Postmaster General James A. Farley. Today in the rural areas up-state, Democratic leaders were pushing a boom to nominate the political wizard who had so much to do with making Franklin D. Roosevelt president. Jim Farley hasn't been saying anything, but his close friends declare that he would accept - if he could get the nomination without too much of a battle.

However, there's a move, concentrated in New York City, to name Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr., son of the late President - ~~who swept his way to Congress in such high style.~~

In fact, one purpose of the Farley boom is to check the F.D.R. Junior boom. So the possibilities of a fight for the nomination are lively - if it should turn into a battle between Jim Farley and Franklin D. Roosevelt, with the Junior tacked onto the latter name.

## SUBSTITUTE COAL

The coal strike goes into new legal complications with a decision tonight -- citing United Mine Workers for contempt of court. This latest emanates from Federal Judge Keech, who previously had issued a Taft-Hartley injunction, ordering the Union to call off the strike, and send the miners back to their jobs. Union Leader John L. Lewis, in obedience, issued an order -- commanding only the diggers to return to work. But the miners, defying both the injunction and the order from Lewis -- are still out on strike. ¶ So this afternoon the Government asked the Court to declare the Union in contempt, and Judge Keech promptly did so. The citation does not mention John L. Lewis at all, <sup>and</sup> this may or may not indicate a belief that Lewis was genuinely sincere in his instructions, calling off the strike. ¶ Just what will happen now is doubtful -- the whole thing being in such a tangle. There seems no way for a Federal Judge to compel some four hundred thousand miners to dig coal -- but the Court can impose a huge fine on the Union -- as Judge Goldsberg did, when he levied a penalty of more than a million dollars, which the United

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## OPERATION

The Supreme Court has before it one of the strangest cases in its long history of strange cases - an ex-G.I. today appealing for damages because Army surgeons left a big towel in his abdomen after an operation. Former Sergeant Arthur Jefferson of Joppa, Maryland, declares that during the war, ~~in~~ Nineteen Forty-Five, he underwent an operation at the Army hospital, Fort Belvoir, ~~Mississippi~~ <sup>Maryland, ~~Virginia~~</sup>, and was discharged. But he didn't feel right - and no wonder. Eight months later, he had a second operation, and the doctors took out of his abdomen a towel thirty inches long and eighteen inches wide - which the Army surgeons had accidentally left inside, when they sewed him up.

~~Such is the story told by the former Sergeant, and he sued the Government for a hundred thousand dollars damages. <sup>Which</sup> ~~but this~~ was denied by lower courts on technical grounds, - So now the Supreme Court will puzzle over the case of the former Sergeant and the large towel left inside of him.~~

"A dozen baboon families," said the letter, "live in terror and <sup>absement</sup> under the tyrannical rule of a gigantic king baboon, thrice the size of the tallest subject."

This communication attracted no end of attention, and the zoo was bombarded by letters and telephone calls from believers in democracy - who protested against the dictatorship among the baboons.

All of which brought pain and distress to the keeper of the zoo, a mild mannered, benevolent Frenchman who, himself, has a fervor for democracy. But, in his opinion, the right<sup>s</sup> of man should be confined to the human race. He claims that liberty, fraternity and equality won't work among the baboons, <sup>he</sup> has, in fact, a certain regard for the political system of the baboons. <sup>"The baboons,"</sup> ~~he~~ he declares, "have a social organization much more remarkable than human beings. The king," he explains, "wins his position by beating up the second strongest male, and then <sup>he</sup> takes four wives."

He points out that, according to baboon politics, the Chief protects the social system in times of danger, and he gives an example. <sup>"The other day,"</sup> he relates,



"a large, ferocious looking dog broke into the compound of the baboons. Whereupon the Chief immediately took the front position, at the head of the other males, while the females screamed and urged him on. When the big fierce dog saw the Chief advancing at the head of the baboon warriors, he turned tail and ran - scared! So the keeper of the zoo concludes: "The totalitarian system is best for the baboons."

After hearing all that, the news reporters went to interview THE CHIEF. They found the giant king of the baboons perched on a rock, with two of his wives scratching his back. Upon being questioned, the Chief said, nothing. The baboon way of saying - no comment.

All of which provides a new political controversy for Parisians to talk about - as they sip their apertifs on the boulevard. With a toast, now and then I suppose, a French version of - Hail to the Chief of the baboons!  
Hail to you, Nelson!