

SPAIN

P.M. - Sunoco. Wed., Feb. 27, 1946. (Franco, N.H.)

It was confirmed today that Washington has informed London and Paris that the United States is in favor of ousting the Franco regime in Spain. This has been rumored, reported by the United Press, and, denied. And now in Washington it is explained that the denials were the result of a confusion - - and such a diplomatic note was sent. Its receipt is acknowledged in London.

We hear that the American note is moderate in its proposals. A kind of "caretaker" government is suggested to replace Franco, a temporary administration that would hold free elections, the change to be made in such fashion that it would not touch off another spanish civil war.

A restoration of the <sup>Spanish</sup> monarchy is not advocated, Washington believing that this would not be a permanent solution in Spain - - but, even a come-back of the monarchy would be okay if it were a means of giving Spain a genuine chance to establish a democratic government.

Meanwhile, Franco has anticipated the French government in the matter of closing the border. The French announced that the frontier would be closed on March first, and today, the Franco regime did the closing from its own side - - beating the French to the gun by several days.

## ARGENTINA

It begins to look more and more, down in Argentina, as if Peron were losing out to the democratic liberals. Nationwide elections were held on Sunday, and the system of the Argentine election is to report the results a little at a time.

Scattered results from four provinces give liberal candidate Dr Tamborini nine thousand, three hundred and eighty nine.

Peron six thousand, two hundred and seven. The democratic liberal is leading by nearly two to one in three provinces. Peron is ahead in only one province - - and that by a narrow margin.

The figures are tiny, and the trend may be reversed.

But there is an anti-peron trend thus far - - as the world looks to the election that will decide whether the exceedingly important republic of Argentina is to have a liberal democratic government or some sort of fascist regime headed by colonel Peron, so often denounced as a fascist.

## INDIA

The British are facing another dilemma in India - - in the case of the leaders of <sup>that</sup> mutiny of the Indian Navy. After the surrender of the Naval insurgents, the British arrested three hundred and ninety six leaders - - including the central strike committee that directed the revolt of the sailors. They <sup>are</sup> are being held at a detention camp - - "pending investigation". Meaning, probably, that there will be trials for mutiny, the gravest kind of offence. If so, new disturbances are likely to break out - - the more so because of the attitude of the Indian nationalist party.

Today Nationalist leader Jawaharlal Nehru, intimated that the British Indian government had promised to go easy on the surrendering mutineers, and denounced any idea of punishing the leaders. At a press conference he declared that the British intend to terrorize the mutineers - - in spite of promises.

Nehru's attitude is that the sailors had a right to revolt against the British, but that the mutiny was inexpedient - - not good policy. In other words, while condemning the result as foolish, he regards it as nothing to be punished severely.

Today's British announcement seems to take the ticklish situation into account. It specifies that the leaders of mutiny are being

guarded by troops of the marahatta lightinfantry. That is, Indian troops - - one of the Indian complaints during the mutiny having been that British soldiers, white regiments, were used against the revolting sailors.

Also, today's bulletin declares that the mutiny leaders are being provided with what the bulletin called<sup>S</sup> "amenities and full ration."

CHINA

The news from Manchuria would seem to indicate that the red army is planning to stay in that province - - in spite of Soviet promises to move out. The story we have is from the United Press Correspondent, Reynolds Packard, who was one of the American newspapermen arrested by the red army in Manchuria - - later released.

Packard reports that the Soviet instead of moving soldiers out, have reinforced their garrison at Port Arthur with between thirty and forty thousand fresh troops - - sent in by sea. Packard notes that Russian officers in the capital city of Mukden have sent for their wives to join them, and the Russians have started painting and repairing houses in which they are billeted. All signs point to a long occupation.

The red army takes the attitude that its forces will stay in Manchuria as long as American troops remain in northern China.

I wonder - - do the Soviets think the Americans intend to hold possession of northern China?

From China we hear that American <sup>Geo.</sup> Ambassador, General Marshall, is to go to those northern provinces on an inspection tour. He'll be accompanied by a nationalist general and by the communist leader,

Chou-en-lai - - on a visit to Chinese communist headquarters in Manchuria.

Meanwhile, in China, the mass anti-soviet demonstrations continue - going into the sixth consecutive day. <sup>and</sup> ~~They are~~ being denounced by Chinese Communists, one red news release today stating;

"These fascist reactionaries have inherited their anti-soviet and anti-communist paraphernalia from the deceased Hitler and Mussolini."

VANDENBERG

A familiar question was echoed in Washington today - - what is Russia up to? The query was posed by Republican leader, Senator Vandenberg - - fresh from his experiences as a delegate to the U N O in London. The Senator stated that the principal puzzle at the gathering of the United Nations was - - the attitude of Soviet Russia. What do the Soviets want ? What are they after?

He referred to the harsh and acrimonious debates at the U N O, with the Soviet delegation hurling a barrage of charges against Great Britain. He said that it seemed at times as if the men from Moscow were more interested in creating friction than harmony.

Senator Vandenberg, voicing powerful opinion as republican leader in the Senate, declared that the peace of the world depends upon the establishment of some kind of understanding, some kind of

*working arrangement*  
~~modus vivendi~~ between western democratic liberalism and Soviet

communism. That is the prime essential for avoiding what the

Senator called - - "Unspeakable catastrophe in this atomic age, when decisive war may be waged in minutes, instead of years, and when the first casualty list may be the last."

Vandenberg declared that he thought it was possible for the western democrats<sup>cies</sup> and soviet communism to get along, if the United States is firm and determined. The Senator phrased the likelihood of American - Soviet understanding with a series of "ifs." "If the United States speaks as bluntly on all occasions as Russia does. If the United States just as vigorously sustains its own purposes and ideals upon all occasions as Russia does. If we abandon the miserable fiction, of ten encouraged by our own communist fellow travelers, that we somehow jeopardise the peace if our candor is as firm as Russia's always is."

And he summarized; "The situation calls for patience and goodwill - - but not for vacillation."



One of the historic transformations of Britain under Socialism is occurring this week - the nationalization of the Bank of England.

But it is happening so inconspicuously that you'd never guess it.

When the British have a revolution, they like to have it in such a quiet way as to be hardly <sup>To them - many of them -</sup> observed. It's vulgar to be conspicuous,

to attract attention, ~~don't you know.~~ So the Nationalization of the

Bank of England, the Old Lady of Threadneedle Street, is hardly

disturbing any of the ways, customs and peculiarities of that

venerable institution - and it has a lot of peculiarities :

The governor of the Bank is Lord Catto. - - will his Lordship be

ousted? Not at all. He'll stay right there at his desk - - and

so will the other four thousand employees of the Old Lady of

Threadneedle Street. There's a change in the board of directors,

that's all - - a change of ownership to the government.

One bank of England institution is the Beadle, who stands on

guard at the front door wearing red robes and a three cornered hat

in the style of Napoleon. Another, stationed next to the Beadle,

is a special constable who wears a Gold embroidered uniform and

a black silk top hat. Nationalization or socialism or what - - the

Beadle and the Constable will stay right there.

At the Bank of England they use a peculiar jargon, A receipt is

a - - "tally of sol." A payment is a - - "tally of pro." So if you get a receipt for a payment, you get a tally of sol for a tally of pro. No, they won't change that.

The Old Lady of Threadneedle Street, founded two-hundred-and-fifty-two years ago in the reign of William of Orange, had a scare in the seventenn hundreds - - when there was a cholera epidemic in London. And ever since, the Bank of England maintains a bottle of eighteenth century cholera mixture, keeping it handy, in case there's another epidemic.

The British love their traditions - - and, anyway, Lord Catto gave warning to the labor government when the decision was made to nationalize the Bank. "The Old Lady," said he, "is too old for a major operation." And I suppose London would consider it a major operation to remove the Beadle, the Constable and the bottle of cholera cure.

The Old Lady of Threadneedle Street, at the age of two hundred and fifty two, is really not the oldest bank in England. Two others in London are of greater antiquity - - hoare's bank and child's bank. Those English names ! The following, I hasten to emphasize, occurred at Child's bank - - where a director recently showed a vistor some

old entries in the books of the venerable institution. One entry recorded the heavy bank account maintained by Nell Gwynne, the renowned Lady-love of King Charles the second.

The visitor looked at the figures and remarked that - - it was a lot of money to make by such a scandalous and immoral life.

The Banker frowned with disapproval; "Sir," he replied with dignity, "the Lady was one of our clients!"

# FOOD

Americans are being asked to cut down the amount of food they consume - - cut it down of their own free will. To further this, a group of prominent personalities will meet with President Truman at the White House on Friday, a group headed by former President Hoover. The White House, in calling the conference, points out that the government of this country cannot, of its own efforts stop the spread of famine throughout the world. An aggressive campaign is needed to persuade <sup>all</sup> Americans to cut down their food consumption voluntarily - - to prevent world wide hunger.

## PRICES

From Washington we have the prediction that the new wage-price policy will result in a five per cent increase in the cost of living within the next year - - no more. This estimate was given the congressional committee by economic stabilizer Chester Bowles. Yesterday, another government official, Federal Reserve Chairman Eccles, suggested a higher figure. He said he thought the rise of prices during the next year would be ten per cent. To this Chester Bowles now replies - he doesn't think so. He doesn't think it will be more than half of that - - a five per cent increase in the cost of living.

POEM

It's bad enough to be ridiculed in prose, and when people start making fun of a fellow in verse as well - it's really sad. This morning the mail brought a lyric effusion from J. Harvey Burgess, Director of Public relations of the Office of Price Administration - Wilmington, Delaware. The poem celebrated the fact that the other night I was able to pronounce correctly the name of Sir Stafford Cripps - after having garbled it so lamentably four years ago.

Poet J. Harvey Burgess pictures it all in terms of a pugilistic battle between a man and a name. Recalling how I had been defeated by the British statesman's name just four years ago, he begins;

"Cautiously he faced his victor,

And his brow - a mask of woe.

He had tackled this opponent

Four long dreary years ago."

After which the stanzas go on describing the battle, and the lyrics come to the following triumphant conclusion;

"Once again they spar and circle,

Once again they come to grips.

Hear ye! Hear ye! Lowell Thomas

Has pronounced - Sir Stafford Cripps."

Thanks, Harvey for having the name rhyme with the word "grips" .

PEARL

Suppose you were to find a pearl in an oyster stew - what would you say? Well, I can tell you what one man said. He is Vernon Steele, veteran editor of a magazine called - "The Pacific Coast Musician."

In a restaurant he was eating an oyster stew, and lo and behold - he found a gleaming pearl, a gem an eighth of an inch in diameter.

He was astonished, as who wouldn't be? And here's what he remarked;

"I have been eating oyster stew for about fifty years, but I never thought I'd be lucky enough to find a pearl. I've often felt lucky

to find an oyster, " says he. And now let's reach out into the ether and see if we can locate H-James and get him to say salong for me.