

SUB LEAD L.J.-P. & G. Wednesday, Dec. 28, 1949.

Governor Dewey of New York makes a formal and final denial that he has any intention of running for the Presidency again. He had previously stated the same thing -- but rumors will persist. There were reports that, while he had no intention of trying for the Republican nomination in Nineteen Fifty-two, he might wait until Nineteen Fifty-six or even Nineteen Sixty -- and then have another try for the White House. Tom Dewey -- being ~~much~~ young enough to wait for six or ten years. So the statement to a news conference at Albany this evening was intended to spike that new line of rumor.

Governor Dewey said: "My statement applies to Nineteen Fifty-two, Nineteen Fifty-six and Nineteen Sixty -- if I live that long."

He intimated that he would like to retain a position of influence in the ^(Republican) ~~Republican~~ party -- as the standard bearer in the last two presidential elections. But he would give no hint of whether or not

he might run for Governor of New York again --

saying he preferred to discuss that angle at a later date.

COAL

In Washington, the coalmine operators made an appeal today against John L. Lewis and the United Mine Workers -- asking the National Labor Relations Board to get a court order. They want to make Lewis put the soft coal miners back on the job, five days a week. The operators declare that the present three-day week, decreed by Lewis, is a menace to the industry and has brought some coal companies to what the complaint calls -- "Close to bankruptcy."

The appeal to the labor board indicts John L. Lewis with powerful words. The bushy browed union leader is, himself, a man of powerful words -- and that's part of the indictment. The coal owers make the following accusation -- "Ruthless, monopolistic tactics, childish name-calling, and Shakespearean caprice." However, I don't think they'll hurt John L. Lewis's feelings by calling him -- Shakespearean.

INDONESIA

The news today brought a procession of nations granting immediate recognition to the Indonesian Republic -- the independence of which was affirmed only yesterday, by the signature of Queen Juliana of Holland. Prominent in the parade of recognition was the United States, and President Truman immediately named an ambassador. He is Merle Cochran, hitherto our emissary to Pakistan -- who has been a member of the U. N. Commission on Indonesia. He did such good work in the negotiations that the Indonesians themselves asked for him as American ambassador.

Today President Truman said the settlement in the former Dutch Indies was what he called -- "One of the most outstanding successes in the United Nations." And he congratulated Merle Cochran for his part in it -- naming him ambassador.

SUB PRISONER

At Vienna this evening Israel Jacobsen told of the ordeal he endured while a prisoner for two weeks in Red Hungary. Head of a Jewish Relief Agency, he was arrested on a charge of espionage - and tonight he is pale and shaky still from ~~the~~ what he went through. The Red police questioned him for twenty hours a day, with glaring lights beating into his face - a nightmare of inquisition. Which, together with ~~xxxxxx~~ hunger, put him into such a ~~xx~~ daze that he doesn't quite know what he may have done - may have signed.

He was released only after he signed statements that he had been well treated -- and, so far as he knows, none of the documents was a confession. But he cannot be ^(sure) ~~xxxx~~ cannot remember -- if he signed a confession or not.

He thinks the charge of espionage must have been a case of mistaken identity. "There are other people named Jacobsen" says he, and adds, "I was the wrong one."

CHINA

News from China tells of bitter battle continuing in the far western province of Sinkiang -- the Nationalist Army retreating under the cover of stubborn rear guard actions.

In south China, ~~the~~ Nationalists warplanes have smashed a "junk" invasion fleet. The Reds assembled hundreds of junks for amphibious operations against the Island of Hainan -- but ~~there~~[✓] were blasted in air raids. Which delays any possible invasion of Hainan for at least a month. So say the Nationalists.

(A curiosity of Communist preparation for amphibious warfare ⁵~~is~~_^ related by the Nanking Bureau Manager of the United Press, Chang Kuo-Sin, who made his way out of Red China. He says a hundred and eighty thousand troops have been mobilized for an attack on Formosa, which island is the present seat of what is left of the Nationalist Government.) ^{Red}_^ Troops are being specially trained for amphibious warfare, and one angle is -- training against sea-sickness.

The U P correspondent cables: "An effort is

made to turn soldiers into good sailors through a device intended to make them immune to seasickness. The device, "the correspondent goes on , "consists of nets supported on high poles. Small groups of soldiers climb into the nets, which are then rocked like a ship -- in order to accustom them to the motion of the sea."

Sounds like an odd, ingenious Chinese version of some of the western ways of military science -- picture of nets full of soldiers hanging from bamboo poles, shaken in such a way as to imitate the rolling of a ship in a storm.

PHILIPPINES

A late bulletin tells of a violent earthquake at Manila. The shocks began less than an hour ago and the early hasty dispatches picture a scene of panic. Office buildings in downtown Manila ~~xxxx~~ rocked crazily back and forth for a whole minute. Walls gave out cracking noises. It isn't clear what damage was done. That will have to wait for later dispatches.

NEW YEAR

We know that midnight on Saturday will mark the end of the year Nineteen Forty Nine -- but will it also signalize the end of the first half of the Twentieth Century? In the news this has usually been taken for granted -- but there seems to be a dispute, in Washington -- that capital city of disputes.

One view is that the celebration of the end of the half century is premature, and should not be held until a year from now -- the close of Nineteen Fifty. Which opinion is supported by lofty authorities -- the U. S. Naval Observatory, and the calendar expert of the Interstate Commerce Commission. The argument is based on the fact that, when the Gregorian Calendar was established several centuries ago, it made no provision for a year -- Zero. But started right in with -- one A. D. Figure it out for yourself, and you'll see the logic of assuming that the end of the half century should be the end of Nineteen Fifty.

This, however, is ridiculed by such

authorities as the Library of Congress and the Astrophysical Department of the Smithsonian Institution -- they contending it is only plain good sense to begin a new century or half century with a round figure - Hundred, or Fifty.

The same argument was wrangled back in Nineteen Hundred, the question -- when did the Twentieth Century actually begin? The advocates of the round figure had their way -- and it's the same this year. (There may be first class mathematical reasons for saying this is not the end of the half century. But, just the same, the news is filling up with all sorts of summaries and digests of the most important events in the first half of the Twentieth Century.)

RITA

I've been noting with astonishment, if not awe, the wild headlines about Rita's baby. The news wires have been devoting no end of space to this blessed, if not cosmic, event! - all a bit puzzling. Rita Hayworth is a movie star no doubt, and Aly is the son of the Aga Khan, fabulously wealthy head of ~~the~~ *the lesser* ~~sects~~ *- Moslems* ~~who~~ *who* a sects of Moslems in India, ~~whose followers~~ *he's that holy.* drink his bath water. So the followers might also get excited about Rita's baby; - but it does seem a bit exaggerated over here among Americans, who don't usually drink bath water.

So I, for one have not been going into ecstacies. But I must be wrong, seeing how New York newspapers this afternoon spread themselves with front page banner headlines, hailing the glad tidings ^{*that*} it's a girl. Her name is Jasmine, which is Persian, but also sufficiently American - *W Daisy,* *Buttercup,* ~~Rose~~ *Rose,* Violet, *Lily,* ~~Jasmine~~ Jasmine.

In cheering the advent of Princess Jasmine, the news accounts go into elaborate details about the

condition of the mother, the father, the doctor and even the hotel keeper. Everything - including glamorous reminiscences of the marriage of Rita and Aly seven months and one day ago. Princess Jasmine was born seven weeks ahead of time - a premature birth. Which Aly explained today, saying to a newsman: "I told you that premature babies run in my family."

But, anyway, it's the big news of the day, if not of the year, or the century. ~~And the only thing lacking was a few shepherds and three kings.~~

QUIRINO

The Philippine Islands, which were educated in self-government by the United States, are following the American example in still another way -- headlines about a venerable statesman taking a much younger bride. Over here seventy-two year old Vice-President Barkley wedded a comely widow -- and fifty-nine year old Mayor O'Dwyer of New York espoused a good looking fashion stylist of thirty. At Manila, the newspapers have been featuring reports that fifty-nine year old President Quirino is going to marry a twenty-two year old opera star, the Philippine soprano Conchita Gaston, who has been singing in New York.

Today the President was asked about this, and did not give an outright unambiguous denial. The elder statesman gave no hint that he might actually marry the young black-eyed beauty -- but merely did a side step.

He said to the newsmen: "How do you know what is in my heart?"

How, indeed? How can you know what's in

QUIRINO...2

the heart of the fifty-nine year old Filipino
president, when he gazes at a twenty-two year old
opera soprano?

MISS AMERICA

Today the word is -- that it was all right for Miss America to get married. Which she did last night. Winner of the prize for pulchritude this year, Jacque Mercer of Arizona made a contract with the beauty contest people -- engagements for her to make a tour as Miss America. So there were expressions of consternation, when suddenly, down in Arizona, she married her school days sweetheart, Donald Cook. The committee said this was a violation of contract -- because how could she appear as Miss America, while married?

But there was a change of mind today -- in a statement issued by Miss Leonore Slaughter, director of the Miss America Pageant. She said: "There are no rules, nor is there anything in the contract, that says Miss America must remain a miss." So the marriage seems to have made a hit.

The more so, as the board of directors of the pageant sends its best wishes to the bride, Miss America, and adds: "We know she will live up to all

the commitments and responsibilities of her title."

Which pleasing phraseology should certainly win a medal -- as a prize statement of Nineteen Forty-Nine.

BULL

Things were bullish today in Manheim, Pennsylvania, where a sixteen hundred pound bull broke out of a pen and went on a rampage - terrorizing the whole neighborhood. At first matters were rather playful, with El Torro galloping around among peoples' houses, looking in the windows, and snorting loudly - which astonished a number of housewives.

Then tragedy reared its dark head, when the bull spotted three year old Judy Martin playing in the back yard of her home - and Judy was wearing a bright red dress. It's an old story about the red flag and the bull, and the raging animal charged Judy. A man in the neighborhood, seeing the desperate peril, ran to the aid of the little child. But it was no use - the bull tossed them both over a fence, Judy and the rescuer. Both - more frightened than hurt.

Next came an old^{er} boy on a bicycle, and the bull started after him. But his father was able to chase the animal away, and the sixteen hundred pounder now galloped into the local hotel - the American

BULL...2

House. The panic in the lobby was such as to frighten even the bull, which turned back and went charging into another building nearby.

This was the climax - with the bull ambling into the courtroom of Justice of the Peace L. W. Musser, who was trying an assault and battery case. It looked like some more assault and battery as the bull cast an eye on the justice of the peace. But the police intervened, with such an uproar that El Torro, afraid of being arrested no doubt, made his escape - and went parading down the street. There he was finally captured - lassoed. The name of the thoroughfare on which this happened was - Ferdinand Street. Bringing to an appropriate end today's version of Ferdinand the Bull.

14 Ah well, Nelson, will you bring this to an appropriate conclusion?