

ALASKA L/1.-176 Wed. Feb. 27-'52.

(The latest this evening is a Senate ~~EM~~ vote that all but kills any chance of Alaska becoming a State this year. The same goes for Hawaii,) the vote was close - forty-five to forty-four, the Senate deciding to send the question back to a committee, for further consideration there.

The bill, thus delayed, would have made Alaska ~~fix~~ the forty-ninth state. The committee is instructed to consider an alternative - to give the great northern territory the status of a "commonwealth". Which would be something new. A constitutional amendment would be necessary to provide any such thing as commonwealth status - less than a state, but more than a territory.

The arguments against Alaskan statehood were -- that the territory is not ready to be admitted into the Union, that the people up there have not shown clearly that they are for it, and that Alaska is too far away from the United States, anyway.

A late dispatch from Tokyo states that Japan has just signed an agreement granting military bases to the United States for the defense of the Japanese islands. This is stated with the treaty signed by the U.S. and Japan.

The question of Hawaii remains to be considered - but, after today's delay on Alaska, the islands are not likely to get statehood this year either. Maybe they, too, will be considered in the light of their commonwealth idea. In any case, there is unlikely to be any action this year -- to bring in a forty-ninth or a fiftieth state. ~~OK~~, ~~XX~~ American commonwealth of Alaska, or of Hawaii.

JAPAN

A late dispatch from Tokyo states that Japan has just signed an agreement granting military bases to the United States for the defense of the Japanese Islands. This in accord with the treaty signed by the U S A and Japan.

TANKERS

In Washington, the charge is made that a firm, headed by former Congressman Casey of Massachusetts, saved nearly a-million-and-a-half in taxes - by using a Panamanian Corporation. They say that the Casey concern, through an American corporation acquired surplus tankers from the government, and then leased these to a Panamanian Corporation, which they formed. Finances so juggled that the American Corporation showed no profit - while the Panamanian Corporation, which made the money, was immune from U.S. taxation.

At a congressional hearing, today, a lawyer for the Casey people told how he gave legal advice for avoiding taxes. All quite legal, said he - in the tanker deals whereby ex-Congressman Casey and his partners made nearly three-and-a-half-million on an original investment of little more than a hundred thousand dollars.

EXPORT

The Department of Commerce has fired its chief export licensing officer - and the case may be presented before a federal grand jury. The official, Henry G. Bennett of Alexandria, Virginia, exercised authority in licensing the export of scarce and strategic materials. There are a number of these - which may not be shipped out of the country, except by special permission.

Bennett is said to have issued licenses to export tin - which metal is in short supply. Granting permits to a New York exporter, for shipments of tin to Venezuela. After which, declare investigators, his wife deposited a large check from the New York ~~exp~~ exporter. They say the ousted official admits that he received twenty-five hundred dollars.

NIEMOELLER

At Florida Southern College, a member of the faculty declares that indignant students have no reason for complaint against Dr. Martin Niemoeller, the German Lutheran Church leader. Dr. Niemoeller gave two lectures in which he discussed his trip, recently, to Soviet Russia - observing religious conditions in the land of Stalin. What he had to say is now being denounced as - anti-American.

More than a hundred students, including campus leaders and war veterans, have signed a petition, demanding an apology from the college officials - who required them to attend the addresses by Dr. Niemoeller. They denounce what they call - " a group who, under the banner~~hood~~ of brotherhood, preach criticism of our country, its form of government, and religion, within this country."

To which a reply is given by college Vice President Dr. Charles Thrift, who declares that - nothing in the lectures given by the German Lutheran leader, "could^l justly be termed anti-American."

KOREA

The Korea truce ~~xxx~~ talks have reached another point -- of major crisis. (Today the U N delegation served what sounds like an ultimatum. They told the Reds that they would never agree to force prisoners-of-war to go back to the Communists - any prisoner exchange would have to be on a voluntary basis.) And - they'd never have Soviet Russia serving as an alleged neutral in the supervision of an armistice.

The Reds replied that they were equally determined in their demands, and that led to the ~~interview~~ following statement from the U N side: "When an unshakeable position is opposed by an unshakeable position the only possible result is a stalemate." So declared an American negotiator.

In Tokyo - an official reply to Chinese Red charges that the Allies have resorted to "germ warfare." The Communists have been broadcasting weird accusations - that U S planes had been dropping insects infected with bubonic plague and cholera, to spread epidemics among the Reds.

The reply from the American high command in Tokyo is - that these nonsensical charges are made to cover the real reason for epidemics among the Communists. The real causes are - unsanitary conditions, bad medical service. And -- "great ~~gm~~ quantities of contaminated bandages."

This information is actually ~~fr~~ from Red sources, which have told of infected bandages being sent to doctors in the front lines - thereby spreading disease. Moreover, the Communists have also complained of contaminated foodstuffs - which could also explain an outbreak of epidemics.

EGYPT

From both London and Cairo we have dispatches about Anglo-Egyptian negotiations, which are to begin Saturday. There's no contradiction - but a large difference in tone. London is a lot less impressive about it than Cairo.

Today British officials confirmed, for the first time, that there will be talks in Cairo on the subject of that Suez Canal dispute. They say the conversations will only be "exploratory." Actual negotiations will not begin until later - when and if, London is not sending any diplomatic mission, and on the British side - there'll only be Ambassador to Egypt Sir Ralph Stevenson.

But, in Cairo, Premier Aly Maher Pasha is going into the talks in a most impressive way. He'll be backed up by six committees, each headed by a prominent Egyptian diplomatic official. (A military committee, a ~~xxx~~ political committee, a legal and technical committee, a frontiers' committee, and a public relations committee - all that in meeting the

British Ambassador, who'll be by his lonesome self.

London and Cairo seem to have different ideas about the magnitude and importance of those conversations beginning Saturday.

although there was, perhaps, one factor a little awkward.

Her Majesty presented the Victoria Cross to Private William Speakman, who distinguished himself with valor in Korea. The citation was read by the Lord Chamberlain, the Earl of Clarendon, who stood beside the Queen. He related how private Speakman had led more than ten charges against the Red Army, until seriously wounded. The Queen then ^{presented} ~~presented~~ the Victoria Cross, Britain's highest war decoration ^{awarded} ~~awarded~~ on the battle of the soldier by Elizabeth.

Private Speakman stands six-foot-six. The Queen stood on a dais, raised above the floor. He, ~~was~~ Private Speakman, V.C. - ~~viewed~~ over her. ~~the~~ ~~lady~~ ~~being~~ ~~quite~~. All a bit awkward - ~~and~~ ~~the~~ ~~circumstances~~ ~~was~~ ~~so~~ ~~unusual~~ ~~and~~

QUEEN

Today, Queen Elizabeth the Second performed the first public function of her new reign - granting a Victoria Cross and creating thirty-seven belted Knights. The scene had all that royal pomp and dignity - although there was, perhaps, one factor a little awkward.

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Private Speakman stands - six-foot-six. The Queen stood on a dias, raised above the floor! But, even so, Private Speakman, V.C. - towered over her. Her Majesty being petite. All a bit awkward - especially as the big ^{six-foot-sixer} ~~six-foot-sixer~~ was so bashful and

embarrassed, he could hardly talk.

The ritual got around to a more normal royal style - in the creation of the Knights. Each of the thirty-seven knelt before the Queen, who touched each on the left shoulder with a ceremonial sword. They came in "mister" and left "sir". Sir Tom, Sir Dick, and Sir Harry.

HOOF AND MOUTH

Canada's outbreak of ~~the~~ hoof and mouth disease is an epidemic among cattle. But, - there's a manhunt. The Royal Canadian Mounted police have been ordered to locate a roving farm hand, a German immigrant named Willie Bruntjen. Suspected -- of having been the carrier who brought the hoof and mouth disease to the farms ~~■~~ at Regina.

He might have carried it over from Europe - all unknown to himself. That malady among livestock ~~■■■■■~~ rarely affects human beings, but the infection can be carried in clothing or shoes. The German immigrant worked briefly on a farm at Regina, and the outbreak of the hoof and mouth disease was detected shortly afterward. He has left -- presumably drifting from farm to farm as a worker. He may be spreading the livestock malady -- the authorities want to check. Hence the manhunt.

MOON

At Monterey, California, the inventor of the Victor Talking Machine decries plans announced by the "Little Man's Chowder and Marching Society" of Berkeley. They said they wanted to acquire real estate on the moon, through the United Nations. But the inventor says he owns the moon.

Alexander Victor, eighty-four year old inventor, declares that he acquired legal possession as the result of a "contact" with the moon two years ago. He doesn't go into detail about this "Lunear Contact." But he says, in all seriousness apparently, that he is the owner of the moon.

DETECTIVE

California gives us a detective story, with a tale of crooks - as fantastic as any we've had in a long time. Today at Beverly Hills, the police arrested a four - man gang, charged with scheming to rob three jewelry salesmen of six hundred thousand dollars' worth of gems. The money - to finance an expedition to seek buried treasure in Mexico. The Chief of the gang - described as a son-in-law of a multi-millionaire business man in Mexico.

The detective story begins with a couple of homes robbed in Beverly Hills. Detective sergeant R.W. Borders assigned to the case, and he did some brilliant sleuthing. Posing as an ex-convict, a gunman recently paroled from prison in Colorado, he managed to get in with the burglars. Their leader - Robert Lord, a son-in-law of W O Jenkins, one of the richest men in Mexico. They say that Lord "put the finger" on wealthy friends of his - for his pals to rob.

But now the crooks were planning an expedition

into Mexico -- where, according to information they had, a "ton of gold" was buried in the lands of the Yaqui Indians, southern part of the Mexican state of Sonora. Their scheme was to procure a plane armed with machine guns, cannon and handgrenades - which they'd need in getting the gold, a million, eight hundred dollars' worth. They'd dig up the treasure, and fly back to the United States - in what would be like a raid in war.

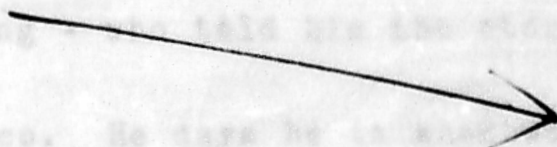
But they needed money to finance their blood and thunder expedition. So they plotted a robbery - having spotted three jewelry salesmen in possession of six hundred thousand dollars' worth of gems.

In the jewel hold-up, a prominent part was to be played by Borders, the alleged gunman, really a detective. He was to go to the jewelry salesmen, posing as an agent of the F B I, and question them about diamond smuggling. Then the others of the gang would step in, and complete the hold-up. The detective, posing as a crook, was to pose as an F B I man - which

ADD DETECTIVES

certainly was doubling in brass.

Today, all those complications ended -
with the arrest of that ingenious, if not fantastic,
band of crooks.



ADD DETECTIVES

The latest- Robert Lord, now called a wealthy importer, declares that he was a dupe of the others in the gang - who told him the story of treasure in Mexico. He says he is shocked at the crimes they committed and were planning.

Sir Thomas was asked about the state of American culture, in general, but refused to answer. On a previous visit, his remarks aroused the ire of the Federation of Women's Clubs. So now he says: "I will incur the wrath of the women, not in my present condition of isolation."

Well, in the realm of cultural criticism, there are many grounds for judgment. But, I don't know of any better. I had the opinion of Sir Thomas...

BEECHAM

The famous British symphony conductor, Sir Thomas Beecham, has - Sciatica. Which might not seem important, save that Sir Thomas Judges aesthetics and art - by his sciatica.

He's in Hollywood at the moment, and gives his opinion of motion picture music, saying: "Most of it has nothing to do with the story in the film. It's just noise, loud, ^{and} silly." And ^{he} adds: "Motion picture music is even more painful than my sciatica."

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Well, in the realm of cultural criticism, there are many grounds for judgment. But, I don't know of any better, ^{Nelson} -/than the sciatica of Sir Thomas Beecham.