

SUBSTITUTE BRITISH ELECTION

E.J. P.G. Feb. 23 '50 Thurs.

It looks like a Labor Party victory - although more than half of the results will have to wait until tomorrow. The count tonight will be limited to two-hundred-and-sixty-six of the seats in Parliament, out of more than six hundred. The decision on the other three hundred and fifty-nine ~~will~~ will be announced tomorrow afternoon.

I
The figures thus far give the Labor party ~~three~~ *four* million ~~four~~ *five* hundred and ~~eighty~~ *81* thousand votes. The Conservatives - ~~three~~ *four* million, ~~and ten~~ *and ten* hundred and ~~eighty~~ *one* thousand. Labor majority - ~~nearly~~ *more than* half a million. The Liberals are running poorly - the Communists nowhere.

In terms of parliamentary seats, labor has one-hundred-and-~~eighty~~ *forty-six* thus far. The Conservatives - ~~sixty-six~~ *eighty-four*.

However, most of the returns tonight are from districts ~~where~~ normally pro-labor, while tomorrow will bring the figures from the farm areas, where the Conservatives are strong. Earlier in the

evening Winston Churchill's party admitted that the results tonight would show the Labor government Socialists in the lead - but they expected that to be overcome by a flood of Conservatives votes in the count tomorrow.

2
1

This angle is emphasized by the situation of top-ranking political personalities tonight. Most of the Labor Ministers, headed by Prime Minister Clement Attlee, have been re-elected, though several have lost out. As for the big-time Conservatives, like Winston Churchill himself and Anthony Eden - they won't know how the vote went in their own districts until tomorrow. Which emphasizes the facts that tonight's results are mostly from areas devoted to the Labor Party. Conservative strongholds to be heard from tomorrow.

However, a late bulletin from London states that "in early results Winston Churchill's Conservatives were not taking from the Laborites the Parliamentary seats they need to overturn the Labor party's top-

heavy majority. Generally speaking," the dispatch goes on, "the men who held seats in the previous House of Commons were getting re-elected."

If that analysis is correct, it would seem that the Labor Party is holding its own well enough to come out with a majority in Parliament - re-electing) ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ enough of its own people to keep control. The key to the whole thing is the fact that the Conservatives, to win out, would have to take away from Labor a whole lot of districts - in which Labor tonight is holding firm. The vote is largely from Labor strongholds, but some of these ^{the} Conservatives would have to carry - to win.

London streets were jammed tonight, with huge crowds listening to the announcement of the returns with cheers from the partisans of one side or the other as favorable returns came in.

FOLLOW BRITISH ELECTIONS

Whenever there's an election, there are always likely to be election bets - and the British do love to lay a wager. So here's the champion - an election bet that covers a lot of other territory.

This afternoon in London, a citizen, dead serious, walked into a bookmaking establishment, laid down a one pound note, and placed a wager that will bring ten thousand pounds - if he wins. He bet that - the Conservatives would win the election; that Winston Churchill would be the next prime minister; that the horse "Cromwell" would win the grand national; that the horse "China Verdict" would win the Lincolnshire Handicap; that Cambridge University would win the eight-oar boat race against Oxford; that the Chelsea football team would win the association soccer cup; and that Canada would win the ice hockey championship of the world.

When all that was figured out, the odds were ten thousand to one.

HUNGARY

Red Hungary demands that the United States and Great Britain reduce their diplomatic staffs - and it looks as if Red Hungary might have its way. All that - and more. Earlier in the week, the United States broke diplomatic relations altogether with Communist Bulgaria - on grounds that apply, just as well, to the Reds of Hungary. The mere so - after the trial and conviction of the American telephone executive, Robert Voegler. So now they want the American diplomatic staff over there to be reduced. Likely enough, it will be reduced all the way to zero - with a break of diplomatic relations.

ERITREA

5
In east Africa, the sternest kind of military law. In the former Italian colony of Eritrea - soldiers ordered to "shoot on sight." This follows an outbreak of savage rioting in the capital city of Asmara, where enraged mobs assailed Moslems. Thirty-seven persons killed - including two shot down by the police, in the suppression of savage outbreaks against Mohammedans.

The political destiny of the former Italian colony is to be decided by the United Nations - and the situation is complex. Eritrea is next door to Ethiopia, which is a Christian kingdom - although it has a considerable element of Mohammedans. Eritrea, likewise, has a religious mixture -- native Christians and Moslems. The former want - union with Ethiopia. The latter - an independent Eritrea. In addition, there's a third group - terrorists who assail the Italian population, left over from the long time possession of the country by Italy.

For weeks, there have been disturbances -

which now have turned into savage war. ~~between the~~
~~native Christians and the Mohammedans.~~

The military forces on the scene are -
British and American. The British, assigned to keep
order, have two thousand troops in Eritrea. The
Americans - two hundred soldiers, who are on the job
for the air-rescue service run by the U.S. Air Force.
Tonight those G.I.'s are aiding in the patrol of
east African streets.

CHRISTOFFEL

In Washington, a federal jury this afternoon convicted Harold Christoffel, the former Milwaukee union leader, tried for perjury. He was head of the auto workers local at the time of the Allis-Chalmers strike - that long and bitter labor trouble which impeded American war preparation during the time before Soviet Russia was in the war.

Questioned by a Congressional Committee, Christoffel swore that he was not a Communist, and never had any close ties with Communism. He was put on trial for that, and convicted - in Nineteen Forty-Eight. But the Supreme Court set aside ~~the~~ verdict, on ~~the~~ technical grounds. So he was prosecuted again, and again has been convicted - found guilty of perjury.

REDS

Interesting disclosures - in the testimony of Matthew Cvetic, the agent of the F.B.I. who rose high in the Communist Party, ⁱⁿ western Pennsylvania. Testifying before the committee on un-American ~~activities~~ activities today, he told how he attended the meeting of the Red executive committee.- when Earl Browder was tossed out. That was back in Nineteen-Forty-Six, when Browder had been for years the General Secretary of the party, boss of the American Reds. But he was denounced by the French Communist Duclos, which was the signal to the comrades over here - and out went Browder.

The witness today, telling how he was present at the meeting, explains that Duclos was the spokesman for the international Communist organization directed by Soviet Russia. The complaint against Browder was that he advocated - "Non-violent" methods. So his downfall meant a return to the orthodox, original doctrine of Red revolution.

Today the F.B.I. agent gave a vividly dramatic indication of what the attitude of American

Communists would be - in case of war between Soviet Russia and the United States. He was telling about Steve Nelson, often denounced as Red leader in western Pennsylvania, and said that Nelson referred to the Soviets as "we" and to the United States as - "The enemy." Which interesting terminology came to a climax when the news broke that Soviet Russia had the atomic bomb. According to the witness, Steve Nelson was overjoyed, and shouted: "We have the atom bomb now, and the enemy won't be in such a hurry to start a war."

Peculiar dialogue - for western Pennsylvania.

CIVIL RIGHTS

18
This afternoon the House of Representatives passed a civil rights bill - which is a defeat for the White House. It's a diluted measure, watered down, without means of enforcement - no teeth. After a prolonged battle, which dragged on and on last night, a coalition of Republicans and Southern Democrats won control today, rejected the Truman bill for fair employment practices, and passed a substitute - proposed by Republican Congressman McConnel of Pennsylvania.

Under the administration measure, police authority would have been provided - to enable the government to enforce racial rights. The bill that went through today would set up a "fair employment practices commission," but with next to no power to enforce anything. It would investigate cases, merely, and make recommendations to abolish discrimination. Advocates of the substitute defend it as - "Educational". Opponents call it - "fraud," "sham, and hypocrisy."

Even so, the toothless bill may have trouble

CIVIL RIGHTS.....2

**in the Senate, and be killed by a southern filibuster -
the Senate being the place where the southerners have
their best chance.**

COAL

9
The coal shortage has caused declarations of "emergency" in nine states -- headed by New York, where Governor Dewey is imposing dictatorial controls on coal distribution, as authorized by the State Legislature. Other states far and wide are adopting similar emergency measures -- as the case of the embittered strike grinds through the Federal court that issued the injunction -- which the miners have defied.

TRIAL

In the "mercy killing" trial at Manchester, New Hampshire, the court proceedings today made the line of defense clearer than ever. The lawyers for Dr. Hermann Sander will contend that Mrs. Abbie Borrote, in the last stages of cancer, had already died - when the doctor administered an injection of air.

One witness today was the president of the medical staff of the hospital, where the event occurred - and the questioning was technical. But it backed up the belief that the defense will be - no "mercy killing" at all.

Are you fed up hearing about flying saucers?

Many people are. One eminent American newspaper editor wrote an eloquent prayer in which he implored the Almighty to keep editors and radio people from ^{ever} ~~making~~ mentioning flying saucers again.

R But, Ralph Daigh, one of the editors of True Magazine tells me the flying saucer story has stepped up their circulation. And he adds that True now has an article by a naval scientist, a commander McLaughlin, who gives further ^{specific} information about ~~them~~.

~~flying saucer mystery. Furthermore this naval officer~~

~~on active duty gives us something specific. He~~

~~This one he vouches for: it was tells of a flying saucer concerning which he says~~

~~he can state the following as definite: it was~~

~~xxx~~ elliptical in shape; about ^a ~~one~~ hundred-and-five

feet in diameter; flying at the rate of five miles

per second; ~~altered its course,~~ and so on and so on.

Editor Daigh also tells me that in Tucson, Arizona
the newspapers of that fair city give details ~~it~~
about another one ~~of these~~ seen recently. Maybe so.

^{And}
^ Maybe we are making 'em ourselves, right in this
country. ~~If~~ we are naturally ^{we'd keep it all on} ~~it would be kept on~~

the Q.T. ^{TP} ~~And~~ From here on I think I'll do what

I can to answer the ⁺ Washington editor's prayer

-- unless I see one myself. Or, if ^{you} ~~I~~ do, don't

keep it a secret.

FINLAND

In Finland, they've solved the mystery of the bombing of ^{their} Parliament Building. The explosion occurred shortly before the recent election, and little doubt was felt - Communists. The outrage coincided with a demonstration the Reds were holding against the reelection of Conservative President Paasikivi.

But now the bomb-thrower turns out to be a former lieutenant of the Finnish Army, who today confessed - and told why he did it. His name is Gustaf - and that's why he did it. He says that on the government radio at Helsinki, the programs have been using the name of Gustaf. And he objected. Why? Because he always hated the name. His parents christened him Gustaf, and he had to grow up that way - although he didn't like it. Everybody calls him - Gustaf. Which makes him angry all the time. Then, when the radio featured the name Gustaf - that was too much. So, as a protest, he tried to blow up the Parliament Building.

They thought it was Communists, but it was only - Gustaf. Poor old Gus.

SHEEP

In Australia, they've solved the mystery of - the sheep with gold teeth. At first, it seemed as if Mary's little lamb had gone to a fancy dentist.

In Melbourne, Jim Keller bought a sheep, and then was astonished to note that its teeth were - a glittering gold. He thought at first somebody was fooling him, but found it to be the real thing - teeth gilded with the precious metal.

Jim thought the animal, back on the grazing grounds, must have been eating gold - so he traced the sheep to the farm it had come from. There he discovered that others of the flock had the same kind of yellow gleam - and treasure must be near. His neighbors heard about it, and they staged a rush to the place - preparing to stake out claims.

Actually, there was gold in them thar Australian hills, but a mining company was already on the scene - had been, in fact, producing gold there for a long time. Whereupon the scientists explained the whole phenomenon by saying that minute particles of

SHEEP.....3

metal had got into the grass on which the sheep were grazing - covering their teeth with a thin layer of gold, which by the constant chewing was kept polished and shining.

Well, the legend of ancient Greece tells of the ram with the golden fleece. But Australia has its sheep with golden teeth.

2/4 And now Nelson - if your false teeth are in place - —