

HAVANA 1. T. De la - Mon, Feb, 24 - '58.

The fates - sure were against the big automobile race in Havana, today.

First, kidnapping of the star. The champion Fangio of Argentina - who was favored to win, abducted - in that sensational exploit by Fidel Castro's rebels against the regime of President Batista. Today, one hundred thousand people were at the race - track - the speed competition to be staged, in spite of the kidnapping of the champion, Fangio. ^P The start - scheduled for 2 o'clock. But, at that hour the announcement was made - Fangio released by the rebels. So the race was delayed - maybe Fangio would show up. They waited for an hour and a half, and then the Cuban rebels said in effect - April fool, they would release Fangio later on. Having made the false announcement of his release - merely to confuse those at the race track. ^P Then, finally, the auto race got going - but a jinx was there, still. Not Fidel Castro's rebels, this time - but the hand of fate. Bad luck - on the track. The cars were whirling around the track, when one skidded on an oil slick. Out of control - plunging into the crowd. Another car - hit the wreckage. Last reports show that at least five persons were killed. Eight injured. The race then called off. When a poll of the drivers showed - they didn't want to continue. ^P Today the search for Fangio - was one of the biggest in Cuban history. Thousands of Batista's police are hunting for him - in Havana, in the country. But - no use. The rebels - as clever in hiding the champion

auto racer, as they'd been in kidnapping him. Seizing him - at gun point in the lobby of the Hotel Lincoln, only five blocks from Batista's presidential palace.

Fangio - provided with a bodyguard, assigned by the Cuban government. But the

^{evidently} bodyguard couldn't do anything - in the face of ^{guns.} ~~pointed-pistols~~. The kidnapers -

harrying their captive to an automobile outside. In which - they went speeding away.

The purpose of Fidel Castro's rebels - to dramatize their cause against Batista.

And - spoil today's auto race as much as possible, by kidnapping the star. Which,

however, didn't seem to hurt the gate particularly. With one hundred thousand people,

at the track. But fatality intervened in the form of the disastrous accident.

The military government of Argentina - accepts the result of the weekend election, in good grace. The regime of President Aramburu, which overthrew Dictator Peron, pays all the courtesies - to the candidate backed by the supporters of Peron. The figures for the weekend election are not yet complete. But they show the radical, Dr. Arturo Frondisi, with a total of three million three hundred thousand votes. His moderate opponent, Dr. Ricardo Balbin - a little over two million. An overwhelming victory - for the candidate backed by the exiled Peron. Today provisional president Aramburu declared Frondisi - the freely elected President of Argentina. Sending his congratulations - to the 49 year old scholar. Inviting him to the Presidential Palace. One curious political twist is - that Frondisi was a long time opponent of Peron, when Peron was in power. But, in his election campaign, he promised an amnesty for all political prisoners. Including - the Peronists. Angling for the Peronista vote which he got. Supported also - by the Communists. But Frondisi disowned and disclaimed the Reds.

EISENHOWER

President Eisenhower, today called - for "courage and common sense,"
dealing - with the business recession. He spoke of what he called - "men of
little faith and little spirit." Urging the country - not to listen to them. Which was
an obvious dig at former President Harry Truman - who, on Saturday night, charged
the administration with leading the nation toward economic disaster. The President
spoke - in a surprise appearance before the National Food Conference ^{here} in Washington.
He had an appointment to appear at a breakfast given by the conference, today - but
had to beg off. Not able to get there - after a flight from Georgia to Phoenix
Arizona. Dropping Mrs. Eisenhower off - at an Arizona health resort. The food
conference officials were disappointed, ~~and~~ But the President made up for it
by coming into their meeting - the moment he got back to Washington.

SATELLITE

We haven't heard from the explorer for some time - that American satellite going round and round the earth in its appointed orbit. Twelve days ago one of its radio transmitters became silent, the battery running out, apparently. Now, however, to the astonishment of the scientists - the transmitter is again sending signals. Today, Dr. Henry Richter of California Institute of Technology stated: "The signals that flickered out nearly two weeks ago - are coming back to earth with reasonable strength." The scientists are unable to guess - why the radio went out, and it's now signalling again.

MISSILES

The United States and Britain have concluded an agreement - for setting up missile bases in Britain. Four of them - three in England, one in Scotland. Points from which rockets, with hydrogen bomb warheads, could reach most important targets in Soviet Russia, or the European satellites - in case - of Red attack.

Britain - to have a veto over the firing of the missiles, the atomic warheads - to remain in American hands, until needed. The type of rocket the fifteen hundred mile intermediate missile, the Air Force Thor. Which represents - an Air Force victory.

The Army - wanting to station its own Jupiter missiles in Britain. But the verdict in Washington is - that the Air Force Thor is more advanced. Today's agreement sure to stir up a political storm in Britain. The Labor Party - wanting to hold up on the missile bases, until another summit conference with Soviet Russia can be held.

FRANCE

France - putting a limit on the Anglo-American mediation business. The French government holding - that the two countries should confine themselves to arranging negotiations between France and Tunis. Then - let the French and the Tunisians, in conference - work out their own solution. Such, we hear, was what French Premier Gaillard and Foreign Minister Pineau - told American Diplomat Robert Murphy, today. Murphy, a troubleshooter for the State Department - being in Paris to get the Anglo-American mediation going. But not too far - say the French.

SYRIA

A huge ovation in Damascus, today, for Nasser of Egypt, ~~Now~~ - President of the new Arab republic of Egypt and Syria. Nasser making his first appearance - after the Syrians voted almost unanimously for a merger with Egypt under the leadership of Nasser. Huge crowds, ~~today~~ rearing and cheering in ancient Damascus, welcoming Nasser.

TIBET

There is a war still going on in Asia about which we hear nothing. No communiques, no war bulletins. But here in Washington today I learned that war continues in Central Asia - in Tibet. The Tibetans putting up a stubborn fight to keep from being overrun by the Chinese. The fighting heaviest in Kham, the eastern part of the Dalai Lamas realm.

If you would like to visit Tibet - you can do so tomorrow evening. A journey to Tibet is the next in our High Adventure series.

INVESTIGATION

In Washington, testimony from Thurmond Whiteside - the Miami lawyer,

mentioned in the noisy case of a television channel. Whiteside admitting to a

Congressional investigating committee - that he loaned nearly eight thousand dollars

to Richard Mack of the Federal Communications Commission. He stated, likewise,

that he asked Mack to vote for National Airlines - in granting Miami television

channel ten. Whiteside arguing - that there wasn't anything wrong in the loans of

money and the TV recommendation. Explaining that he and Mack were classmates at

the University of Florida. Close friends - ever since. The loans - a matter of long

time friendship. *All repaid - except \$250.00* Whiteside went on to say - that National Airlines wanted to employ

him to represent them in the television case. Offering him - a fee of ten thousand

dollars. Which he refused - but said he would talk to Mack, on a basis of friendship.

Declaring - that, later, he withdrew his precommendation, ~~then~~ when he learned of the

attitude assumed by Frank Katzenine, who was competing for the TV channel. Today,

he called Katzenine's action - "tantamount to blackmail." Nevertheless,

Commissioner Mack, in spite of the withdrawal of the request - voted in favor of the

airlines. Today, Whiteside hurled an angry denial at the ousted committee counsel,

Dr. Schwartz, ~~who~~ ^{had} called Whiteside - "fixer," ~~and~~ ^{is} saying - the loans

were a "pay-off."

Last week, right after he was taken ill - Sir Winston Churchill made a telephone call to an old friend. Pierre Jean Meatti - number one official along the Riviera, where Churchill resides. Sir Winston telling him - that he had pneumonia and pleurisy, ~~and~~ grumbling, "Pierre Jean, they're trying to keep me from smoking." "My friend," replied Pierre Jean, "you must do as they say. Then, when the doctors tell you that you are better, I shall personally bring you - the first cigar." Whereupon Sir Winston chuckled and said, "Wrap the cigar in the tri-color, red, white and blue." ~~Remember~~ The national colors of France - as well as the United States! So, today, what happened. The arrival in state - of Pierre Jean Meatti. Bringing to Churchill, a great big stogie, wrapped in the tri color, red, white and blue. Churchill - handing Pierre Jean one of his own perfectos. The two old friends - having a quiet smoke together. ^P Later on, the French official told newsmen how Churchill looked. "He has a beautiful pink complexion," said Pierre Jean. All of which is as good as the medical report from the doctors - if not better. The Churchill physicians declaring that Sir Winston is making a remarkable recovery from pneumonia and pleurisy, at the age of 83. The doctor uses medical terms, but I prefer the terminology of Pierre Jean. About - that "beautiful pink complexion," ^{is} ~~rather extraordinary~~ describe - the cherubic Winston Churchill.

HARVARD

Harvard alumni are setting something of a record. For being generous - also rich - the University making a campaign to raise funds asking for a mere eighty-two-million-five-hundred-thousand dollars. One third already contributed. Seven thousand gifts in all, including six more than a million. Forty-nine of more than one-hundred-thousand. Three-hundred-and-thirty-three more than ten thousand. Today Alexander White of New York, who heads the drive, said, "we believe this to be the largest amount ever raised by a college or a university during a fund raising campaign."

WEATHER

Canada still having the storms of winter in Montreal six to seven inches of snow added over the weekend to the huge drifts in the city. Montreal has had about 78 inches of snow so far this year; compared to 59 inches in the whole of last winter. The weather we've been having reflected even in the Antarctic where a Japanese expedition has moved out. Scientists of Japan, working on a geophysical year project, were installed on an island off the south polar continent. Seven technologists - intending to stay for the winter. But the weather became too bad - too much ice and snow, and too many roaring gales. So, today, the Japanese expedition was evacuated.

Wild is the wind - would seem to be the proper song to sing - a tune now nominated for an Oscar, as the best film song of this year. Composed by our old friend Dimitri Tiomkin who wrote the music for the Cinerama Search for Paradise. Wild is the Wind the right music for the weather.

HUSBAND

In Chicago, a husband who wanted to seem a hero in the eyes of his wife. Many a husband might wish the same. Don we all? But here's how not to do it. A truck driver charged with hiring a man to attack his wife. So that hubby could, at the perilous moment, dash in and save wifey. However, the scheme went haywire. The wife - attacked. The husband - coming to her rescue. But the accomplice - then gave the whole thing away. So, Don, hubby, instead of being wifey's hero, was locked up by the cops, for complicity in an attack. "My hero!" in reverse English.

HOUSES

At Oakland, California, two \$50,000 homes - are being torn down in a hurry. To keep them - from sliding off a cliff, and landing on top of other houses. All because of those heavy California rains, undermining a cliff - a hundred-and-fifty feet high. The houses on top slipping and sliding along more than six feet thus far. No way of stopping them. So imagine the people below - their dilemma, in danger of having two \$50,000 homes come tumbling down on their heads. So today, the city ordered the houses ripped apart, taken away before they drop off the edge of the cliff. The owners to be compensated.