

STATEHOOD P.J.-T.R.G. Tuesday, March 7, 1950.

The House of Representatives voted today to admit Hawaii into the union as a state. Last Friday the House did the same thing in the case of Alaska - voting for the vast northern territory as the forty-ninth state. So Hawaii now would be - the fiftieth state. Both bills for admission into the union will have to pass the Senate - which, two years ago, turned down a proposal passed in the House to admit Hawaii. Statehood for Alaska has never been voted before - and it remains to be seen what the Senate will do in the case of the proposed forty-ninth and fiftieth states.

WEATHER

Wild weather in the west - with gales up to sixty miles an hour. In the North, the wind is mixed with snow. Further South - with dust. Howling blizzards in the Dakotas, miles upon miles of power-lines ripped down - and transportation blocked by huge drifts. In Kansas - the snow is mixed with dust. Which must be a murky, smudgy thing to see. No glistening of white ✓ in a snowstorm combined with dust storm.

The ominous part of it is - a menace of dust bowl conditions. The Southwest reports the sun blotted by the dusky clouds - and the fear is expressed that, if rains do not come, the dry top soil will provide material for a repetition of the dust bowl nightmare a few years ago.

On the dried out prairies, there is fire too - with a blazing of grass and brushwood. It takes a high wind to send flames racing - and you can imagine what it's like in a gale up to sixty miles an hour. The news tells fantastic stories of how

WEATHER....2

grass fires are sweeping across the prairies, going so fast that the flames ^{even} fail to scorch ^{the} fence posts as they pass. The speed of rushing flames, added to the swirl of dust - while, in the North, the blizzard roars.

ADD WEATHER

The latest -- a dispatch from Oklahoma saying that tonight the town of Pawhuska has almost been surrounded by a raging prairie fire. The flames advanced on a twenty nine mile front, driving terrified cattle in wild flight. A hundred thousand acres have already been burned over in that section - where the racing flames whipped on by the wind have almost surrounded an Oklahoma town.

COAL

3
President Truman today asked Congress to legislate an investigation of the coal industry. This carries out a white house suggestion during the recent strike - that an inquiry should be made into the deep seated causes of the chronic labor trouble in the coal fields. The President asked Congress to establish a commission to make a study of coal resources, technical developments, labor conditions, and markets.

The coal companies respond immediately with - an objection. They say that it's the union that should be investigated - ^{not} ~~not~~ the industry.

COPLON.

The verdict is - "guilty" in the espionage trial of Judith Coplon, former analyst of the Department of Justice, and Valentin Gubitchev, the Soviet engineer. The jury deliberated for nearly six-hours-and-a-half, and then returned the verdict - convicting the former government girl and the Russian - who is the first Soviet citizen ever to be tried in this country on a spy charge. Both liable to long terms of prison - federal judge Sylvester Ryan *will* pronounce ~~the~~ sentence on Thursday. In addition to which Judith Coplon is already under a prison sentence for a possible ten years, after having been tried individually for stealing government secrets.

4

Today in court, both took their conviction calmly. The defense was that their clandestine meetings were, not for spy work, but for romance - a love affair. But, though they sat at the same defendant's table, they never looked at each other - as they were found guilty. Which was the same as all through the trial - never looking at each other.

BULGARIA

The Red trial in Bulgaria brings what was only to be expected - Michael Shipkov testifying that the document, which our State Department published over the weekend is false. He says he wrote it in the hope of getting to America.

Thus the former translator at the American legation disavows the description of the horror and atrocity inflicted on him to break him down and make him confess what the Reds wanted him to say. When he left the legation, he asked that the document be published, if he were caught, put on trial, and made to confess all over again. Which has happened - and, after the physical and psychological torture he went through before, it is not surprising that today he went into elaborate detail, explaining how well the Communist Police ^{have} treated him _^ while getting him to confess to espionage directed by American Minister Heath.

BRITAIN

In the London Parliament today, Winston Churchill demanded that the Labor Government postpone the nationalization of iron and steel - that major measure of Socialism which was passed by the House of Commons and is to go into effect January First.

Churchill called upon the Labor Government to postpone the whole thing until nine months after the next election. The Labor cabinet immediately rejected this - and told the Conservatives to press for a vote, if they want to.

The belief in London is, that Churchill's Conservatives actually do not want to overthrow the Labor Government - which is holding power by such a thin majority. Because that would bring about a new election - which the Conservatives, themselves, do not want right away.

FUCHS

Moscow takes its first public notice of the London trial and conviction of Dr. Klaus Fuchs - third-ranking British atomic scientist. Tonight a week after Fuchs was sentenced to prison as a red spy, Soviet news agency, TASS, makes mention of the case - with a denial that Fuchs did any spying for Soviet Russia. The TASS dispatch says: "Fuchs is unknown to the Soviet Government, and no agents of the Soviet Union had any connection with him."

In his statement to the _____, the Atomic scientist testified that he had given secret data repeatedly to an agent, who was not Russian. But he said he knew this agent would transmit the material to the Soviets. Could it be that Moscow really did not know about it - or are the Soviets just washing their hands of the whole Fuchs affair?

FRENCH PRESIDENT

Great Britain welcomed the President of France today - and there was nothing austere about it, so far as the ceremony went. King George and Queen *Elizabeth* ~~Man~~ were at the railroad station to receive President and Madame Auriol, and then there was a procession through London streets - the two chiefs of state riding in the royal coach, ~~and~~ escorted by the household cavalry in their resplendent uniforms. Crowds lined the streets, enjoying the pageant, as King and President rode to Buckingham Palace.

There was only one thing to dim the glittering spectacle. British austerity might be lifted in honor of neighboring France, but they couldn't do anything about the London fog - and the royal and presidential pageant was enacted in an old-time p^r easouper.

I got lost in a London peassouper once - within a 100 yds. of Buckingham Palace. It would be embarrassing if that happened to the President of France!

BELGIUM

In Belgium - fighting of a strange sort. Battles with black paint and brushes, the rioters dabbing and smearing each other.

This comes about in the political campaign preceding the election, next weekend, to sound out popular opinion about the return of King Leopold. The Social Christian Party is in favor, while the Socialists oppose - and both sides are waging a campaign of placards and posters, putting up signs of their own, and obliterating opposition signs by smearing them with black paint.

Today a detachment of Leopold's supporters, in automobiles, raided a section along Avenue Franklin D. Roosevelt, a fashionable boulevard in Brussels named after the late American President. They got busy with their own posters, and with black paint for opposition placards. A gang of Socialists was waiting for them, and charged to the attack grabbing paint and brushes. So the battle raged not only with the usual weapons of fists and sticks, but ~~also~~ also

with a smearing of black - making the contestants look like imps out of Hades. The Socialists, becoming really vindictive, played the dirty trick of painting the windshields of their opponents' automobiles. Driving can be difficult - with your windshield painted black.

BLACK WIDOW

Tonight a drug ^{was} ~~is~~ being flown to Florida in the most urgent haste, to aid an Air Force officer - bitten by a spider. At Banana River, Major Ralph Suggs of Goodman, Missouri, lies with swellings, pain and fever, after having been stung by that most poisonous of all spiders - the black widow.

At Banana River they are building a great testing range for guided missiles - and yesterday he was bitten in the head by an insect. At first he thought it the sting of some ordinary bug, but soon he was showing the grave symptoms of black widow poisoning. That venomous, evil spider, with markings of black and yellow, is a native of equatorial regions, and Banana River is semi-tropical. - But even so, the black widow is rare in Florida.

Yes, there was the Major, a victim of that spider - and no antidote was available. The nearest place to procure a remedy was at Atlanta, Georgia. Hence the rush tonight, with an Air Force plane carrying to Banana River a supply of anti-venom, to counteract the poison of the black widow.

DOPE PEDDLER

0

At Toronto, the police made a big-time arrest for drug peddling - seizing Ambrose Johnston with forty-six ounces of heroin in his possession. The punishment inflicted for selling narcotics is severe, and things looked grim and stern for the dealer in dope as he was taken ~~today~~ ^{today} to court to face justice.

While waiting to appear before the judge, Ambrose Johnston was among some other offenders. Most of them - arrested on the charge of "drunk and disorderly". So, the next thing you know, the dope merchant sneaked into a line of drunks, and went staggering along to face his honor. He stood there with a bleary look. The judge made a few remarks on the virtues of temperance, and Ambrose Johnston promised to be sober thereafter. The judge imposed a fine of ten dollars, which he paid, and out he went.

Tonight the cops in the case have red faces, and, they're seeing red, as they start all over again to track down the drug peddler.

DRIVERS

In a Detroit court today, traffic judge George Murphy said sternly: "In my fourteen years on the bench, I've never heard of anything like this." The judge was right - and I'll bet that none of you folks ever heard of anything like it either.

A motorist named Ben Stone was driving along the street, coming to a traffic light - when another automobile cut around in front of him, and stopped, as the light changed. Ben Stone didn't like it, and he did the thing so familiar in the world of automobiling. He jumped out of his car and stalked over to the other - to tell the driver what he thought of him.

But in the other car, James Preston, was in no mood to listen. He locked the doors of his car and rolled up the windows - leaving Ben Stone to talk to the empty air. That made Ben mad, and he jumped up on the hood of the automobile - where at least Preston would see him, as he shouted.

Just then the light changed, and Preston stepped on the gas, driving at a fast clip - and

DRIVERS..... 2

there was Ben Stone perched on the hood of the car,
still shouting. Louder than ever now. He couldn't
get off, and ^{he} took a howling ride for twelve blocks
- until the police finally were attracted by the
strange scene. They stopped the car, and charged
Preston with - reckless driving. As for Ben Stone,
well it was - ^a ~~the~~ strangest ride ~~of a lifetime.~~
would you ^{say} Nelson!

2
1/4