

NIGHT SHOW
Feb. 25th

INDIA

(A new constitution for ancient India. A bill of rights promising justice, liberty, equality and fraternity to three-hundred-and-thirty-three-million people, regardless of caste, race, religion or sex. Freedom of conscience, freedom of worship -- even abolition of the caste system) - and protection for the minorities. Throw overboard the age old traditions. That's a large order. But such is the news from New Delhi, tonight, where Indian lawmakers announce the new constitution for Hindu India. India proclaimed a Sovereign Democratic Republic! with a federated government modelled on that of the United States of America! promising its subjects the same fundamental rights as enjoyed by our citizens. A high compliment to us!

This new constitution to outlaw untouchability; actually free some sixty million sub-caste, outcast Hindus and their descendants, from life-long

servitude in menial tasks.

The new constitution also provides for a parliament, with an upper house to be known as the Council of State, of two-hundred-and-fifty members. And, a lower house of five hundred members -- both men and women. With all representatives in both houses to be elected by universal suffrage -- the vote for all men and women over the age of twenty-one.

This new constitution was drawn up by a committee of seven Indian legal experts headed by Dr. B. D. Ambedkar, a graduate of Columbia University. It contains a directive calling on the New Delhi Government to provide a livelihood for all Indians, to improve the standard of living for the masses -- which is incredibly low -- and to provide, within ten years - free compulsory education for all children up to the age of fourteen.

Will it succeed, you ask? Will it do

all this? Can this new constitution be made to work in that ancient land of deep-rooted customs and prejudices? The law makers say they fully realize the difficulties. They know that a new India cannot be built in a day; but, they believe their new program of justice and liberty for all Indians can be made to work. "If it does work," says a spokesman in New Delhi tonight, "India will have gone a long way towards realizing the hopes of its martyred saint Mahatma Gandhi."

If so, then today will go down as a momentous one in the history of the world - India proclaimed a Sovereign Democratic Republic, with justice and liberty for all - new light for the ancient dim Light of Asia -- constitutional government to replace age-old bondage for three-hundred-and-thirty-three-million people.

PALESTINE

(At the Security Council of the ^{U.N.} ~~United Nations~~
this afternoon, the United States entered a formal
resolution embodying the proposals offered by American
Delegate Warren Austin yesterday. That is, (we are asking
for the creation of a special committee of the Big Five,
a committee to decide on the question of sending a
United Nations army to Palestine, ~~The American attitude
is that, ^{TP} legally, the Security Council cannot use
force in putting the partition plan into effect, but
can use force in maintaining order in Palestine if
the present violence and disorder constitute a threat to
the peace of the world. ^{TP} So the American delegation wants
the Big Five committee to decide first on the question
of a threat to peace, and, if so what to do about it?
Whether to send a United Nations army -- and what kind of
army?) ^{TP} Our delegation calls for this committee business
to be done in a hurry -- "as a matter of urgency."~~

The introduction of this American resolution followed
a declaration of a delegate from Egypt, Mahmoud Bey Fawzi
-- and ~~an ominous one it was -- the security~~
~~an analogous ^{TP} declaration it was~~ ~~council shocked.~~

(The Egyptian delegate) spoke quietly, but in a hard voice of defiance. He repeated the Moslem determination to fight against ~~the~~ Jewish state in Palestine. He said that if the United Nations should send military force to compel the partition, the Palestine Arabs would wage war against the international army -- and Arabs from the surrounding countries would rush to aid them. He insisted that thus far the Arab states have not intervened in the Battle of Palestine; but, he stated that they would. If the plan for partition is pushed to the limit, they will intervene -- he indicated. ^{And that} ~~has~~ raised the possible menace of the Arab states taking hostile action against a United Nations army sent to Palestine.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

They held ^{the} funeral of ~~the~~ freedom in Czechoslovakia today. They buried liberty in that country, with its long proud liberal tradition. The obsequies took two forms - the President and the students.

After the Red seizure of power yesterday, all that remained, in a formal sense, was to bring the President of the Republic into line, Benes, the long time liberal. According to the Czechoslovak Constitution, a new Cabinet has to be okayed by the President - to make things legal. The Reds like to have things legal, whenever they can; - so, would Benes give his okay to the new ~~and~~ ^{-dominated} Communist government? Last night his attitude was in doubt. (So what now - about Benes?

Today he yielded, Benes ^{gave} ~~his~~ ~~give~~ his presidential ^{assent} ~~assent~~ to the Red dictatorship of Communist Premier Gottwald. Benes - going through the formality that completes the transformation of Czechoslovakia into a police state behind the Iron Curtain.)

The student angle at today's funeral of freedom consisted of a mass demonstration by some fifteen hundred ^{young} men

and women from the university. In Prague, the University has been a traditional sanctuary of liberalism. In the old days, the students used to show their defiance of the Hapsburg

monarchy. During the Nazi conquest, they paraded their hostility to the Nazis - including the case of one demonstration in Nineteen Thirty-Nine, when the Hitler police opened fire and killed nine Czech students. So today they marched again - rallying once more in the cause of liberty. They were driven off by the Red police, beaten and shot.

We have a report from a United Press correspondent who witnessed the demonstration. The fifteen hundred students marched to the presidential palace - ~~massed~~ to appeal to *their* President ~~Benes~~. As they approached the palace, massed forces of Communist police appeared. First they tried to argue with the students, then advanced against them. The students began to sing, a massed chorus - the Czech national anthem. ^{TP} That halted the police momentarily, until the national hymn had ended - whereupon they drove against the ~~the~~ students, ~~thrusting~~ ~~them~~ ~~back~~. ~~The police drove a bus into their ranks and started~~ beating and clubbing. The students raised the ~~loud~~ shout,

"Seventeenth of November!" That was the day when the Nazi police fired on a demonstration of students and shot them down. But the cry did not work. Seventeenth-of-November or no Seventeenth-of-November, the Red police today opened fire, and students were shot. Word is that at least five were hit, although there is no accurate count of casualties, as the crushing of the student demonstration climaxed the funeral of freedom in Czechoslovakia today.

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Here's ~~an~~ American comment, on the Red coup, ~~in~~
~~Czechoslovakia - the Henry Wallace Third Party comment.~~
~~It emanates~~ from Senator Glen Taylor of Idaho, who is running for vice-president on the Wallace ticket. He blames the Communist ^(seizure of) ~~seizure of~~ Czechoslovakia on the United States. Poor Uncle Sam, always to blame! ~~But how is this country responsible for the way the Reds have turned Czechoslovakia into another Communist police state? What did we do?~~

The Idaho Senator's explanation is as follows: "Soviet Russia is scared to death and is simply trying to nail down her

borders against the aggressive foreign policy of the United States. "If Henry Wallace were president," he adds, "events would have taken a different turn in Czechoslovakia."

SOVIET PAINTERS

(In Soviet Russia, it's now artists, the painters, who are taking the Bolshevik rap.) The musicians having got theirs for not writing party-line music - the artists now ~~take~~ take it on the chin for not painting pictures with the right brand of politics. (A dispatch from Moscow tells of a two-day meeting held by twenty-five Russian painters, who beat their breasts, and ~~make~~ the usual kind of Soviet confession.) The musicians on the pan confess^{ed} the sin of being ~~unusually~~ bourgeois, decadent. And so do the artists, admitting that painting in Soviet Russia has become infected with what they call - "a spirit of decadence and bourgeois estheticism.") They admit, with abject repentance, that they have departed from the classical tradition. In other words, (they have been going modernist, painting futuristic pictures - which is not proletarian, not party-line.) Meaning, I suppose, that Stalin ^{just} doesn't like futuristic paintings.

Which would indicate that, in one respect, I'm like Stalin. I'm no totalitarian dictator, and I don't control the

fate of tens of millions of people. But, as for those cubist and surrealist pictures, I feel a deep sense of kinship -

just me and Stalin. ^{It} ~~However, on the other hand, from what I've~~

~~seen of the party-line brand of art, those politically correct~~

Soviet paintings remind me of ~~the~~ ^a style of lithographs mixed

with colored photographs. It's a tough choice to make,

between futurism and Soviet classicism - and, if it's one or

the other, I might have just to get along without art.

LYNCHING BILL

In Congress, a sub-committee today voted an anti-lynching bill. This, of course, touches upon matters of fundamental importance - like racial rights, civil liberties, local self-government, the Constitution. Volumes could be written on topics as noble as these, full of ideas to stir the American soul. So now Congress, the legislature of the people, is giving careful and venerable attention - the sub-committee approving of the anti-lynching bill today, after which the full committee is sure to do the same. Whereupon the bill will go to the floor of the House and then the Senate, for debate by the legislators of the nation.

~~Consider, my fellow citizens, the lofty issues~~

^{TP}
~~involved.~~ The sub-committee, which okayed the anti-lynching bill today, is controlled by the Republicans - who have, as well, a majority in the whole Congress. ~~They are animated by the spirit of Lincoln, inspired by dreams of the greater~~
~~emancipation.~~

The President has likewise come forth with proposals

~~for a greater emancipation, racial rights including an~~

for an
anti-lynching bill. Which has evoked a roar of protest from the South - with the threat of secession from the Democratic Party. The South is, likewise, animated by exalted motives - states rights, local self government, the Constitution.

~~Everything in all this is so elevated you can hardly reach high enough to touch it.~~

~~Today, the news tells of new Southern moves to bolt the Democratic Party, ~~in the presidential election.~~ Governor Fielding of Mississippi has already asked the legislature of his state to amend the election law so that the presidential electors of Mississippi will not have to support the official ~~Democratic~~ *party* candidate - President Truman, ~~that is.~~ And word from Richmond is that Governor Tuck of Virginia is scheduled to make a similar recommendation to the Virginia legislature ~~tomorrow.~~ The menace being - that the Southern states might switch their electoral votes away from the Truman ticket.~~

~~That~~ That is, unless the President and the leaders of the

Democratic Party backtrack, and withdraw from their stand for racial rights - including an anti-lynching bill.

So you see the point of the Republican action today - a sub-committee sending the anti-lynching bill on its way to the floor of Congress, where the Democratic leadership will ~~have~~ have to make up its mind to back-paddle or not to back-paddle. Which will be all the more difficult because of that other menace presented by the Henry Wallace Third Party, which threatens to take away Democratic votes. ~~If the~~ Democratic leadership supports the anti-lynching bill offered by the Republicans, the roar for Southern secession would grow louder. On the other hand, if they turn around and beat a retreat - it would be bad at the other end of the voting list. The dilemma might be painful indeed.

It would be cruel to suspect the ^{S.P.P.} ~~Republicans~~ of trying to increase the trouble in the ranks of their opponents. ~~Surely the Republicans would not~~ ^{Surely the Republicans would not} ~~and~~ exacerbate the Democratic disturbance. Especially in this presidential year - when it is more important than ever for

the loftiest of political motives to prevail, idealism one hundred per cent.

So let's not be cynics. Let's be as innocent as babes, and say - that, although today's Republican action in pushing an anti-lynching bill may embarrass the Democrats no end, it is not politics - it is pure idealism.

NEW YORK TO CAPETOWN

Senator Harry F. Byrd of Virginia will run for President -- not only be nominated, but run -- backed by the seceding southern Democrats. This prediction was made to me only a few minutes ago by one of the leading southern publishers, James G. Stahlman of the Nashville Banner, and former head of the American Publishers Association.

Mr. Stahlman says the revolt of the southern Democrats is a real thing, so real that, as he put it: "Harry S. Truman now has no chance whatever ~~of~~ of being re-elected."

The distinguished Tennessee publisher made this prognostication to me ^{late this afternoon} just before he stepped aboard a Pan American Airways Constellation, bound for South Africa.

Twenty prominent American newspaper publishers and editors left late this afternoon on a flight

that is another first. To inaugurate a direct passenger service between New York and Capetown without flying to Europe. From now on the flights each way will be made once a week. (The ~~publishers~~ ~~agents~~ ^{publishers} will go direct to the Azores; ^{then to} the capital of French West Africa, Dakar; ^{after that} on down to Accra, on the Gold Coast; from where they will fly inland to Leopoldville capital of the Belgian Congo. Then on to ^{Johannesburg} in the Transvaal; over Victoria Falls and down to Capetown, making the journey to South Africa and back in ten days and) accompanied by Juan Trippe their host, two Vice Presidents of Pan American, and the South African Minister to the U.S. Harry Andrews.

I happened to be officiating at this inaugural ceremony as I have on various other similar occasions. The South African Minister, by

the way, had gone out to the airport only intending to see the American publishers off. And without baggage , or anything, at the last minute, he decided to make the flight with them. To Africa and back, some twenty thousand miles of flying, without even a tooth brush.

POWER CURTAILMENT

The lights are dimming in California -- because of the power shortage. Word from San Francisco tonight is that the worst winter draught in history had made essential the drastic curtailment of electric power. No more outdoor lighting -- near blackouts in Northern and Central California. Everyone - industry, commercial uses generally, farmers and householders - to use ten per cent less power. Floodlights on outdoor sports to be cut by fifty percent.

This power reduction, which does not affect Southern California, which draws its power from the giant Hoover Dam on the Colorado River, to continue for five or six months. The word is that only prolific Autumn rains can end the crippling drought which threatens to turn the central and northern areas of the Golden State into a dust bowl. Until those rains come Californians who do not draw their power from the Hoover Dam must endure a brown-out after sundown

to conserve electric power; everyone to share the burden.

LOUISIANA

In Louisiana - the Long dynasty is in again. The earlier figures indicated that Earl K. Long, brother of the late Kingfish, was winning the election count down there, and the late figures ~~showed~~ show how impressive his victory is. It's a run-off election, ~~Earl K. Long, in the first battle of ballots, having come up in front without an absolute majority. So, according to Louisiana law, the two top candidates faced each other in a run-off election.~~ ^{and} This afternoon, Earl K. Long had a lead of two-hundred-and-twenty-one thousand to a-hundred-and-twenty-three thousand - a commanding margin of ninety-seven thousand votes. Since then, the later figures have been largely from rural parishes, where the brother of the late Kingfish is particularly strong. ^{all of} Which magnifies the victory that brings back the Long dynasty.

Long is right in more ways than one - for a long time has gone by since the days when Huey Long lorded it over Louisiana, with flagrant notoriety. The political machine he founded had no end of trouble and scandal. But the political

spirit of the Kingfish still walks on election day down in the land of the bayous.

This theme of Louisiana reminds me of an apology I have to make, an apology to a lake, a noble body of water down there near New Orleans. One of the many things that keeps a fellow humble in this news broadcast business is the way friends in the radio audience write in with corrections and reproaches - especially when ~~a fellow has~~^{you} kicked a word around, like a well known name. The corrections arrive in prose and verse, and that's no exaggeration. For example, here's poetic reproof from Leo Callahan from out near Wyandotte, Michigan. He writes in rhyme as follows:

"Kashmir may be your second home,
You may have trod the streets of Rome,
You've told of days in Bangalore,
And so I thought you knew the score.
But you lost my confidence, old man,
When you stumbled on Lake Pontchartrain."

Well, it would appear that I fell right into the lake - pronouncing it to rhyme with rain, when it should rhyme with

with man or fan. But, anyway, it brings another reminder of the amount of instruction, ~~amusing comment and interesting letters,~~ to be found in the morning's mail from the radio audience.

WORST DRESSED WOMAN

It's a long time since we had a story on this program about the Ten Best Dressed Women - so let's not have one tonight. It's the other way around - the Ten Worst Dressed Women. No, I didn't make the selection - I wouldn't know enough about it, and wouldn't have the courage anyway. In the news-business you need your eyes too much to take a chance of having them scratched out. But out in Hollywood, there's a hero. He's a dress designer and I suppose ^{he ought to} ~~not~~ know. Also, as a dress designer, he ^would have the courage of the publicity. So let's take a look at the ~~xxx~~ Ray Driscoll selection of the Worst Dressed Women in Hollywood.

High on the list is that singing star of the movies, who is marked down as follows:- "Deanna Durbin, because her clothes look like she won them at a raffle." Also - "Shirley Temple, because she dresses like a refugee from a nursery."

~~What does that mean - that Shirley, the one-time child star, still dresses too girlish? Or, that nineteen year old Shirley, who is now a mama, dresses in the nursery style of a mama?~~

WORST DRESSED WOMAN

Next we find - "Barbara Stanwyck, because she dresses with studied carelessness. But how careless can you get?"

And - Hedy Lamarr, "because she believes in ruffles, ruffles and more ruffles."

After which I hope the tempers of the ladies are not too ruffled.

At any rate here's Nelson Case to unruffle them.