

I.I.

P.I. - Suroco. Tuesday, April 23, 1946.

At the Security Council this afternoon, Gromyko did not walk out - but he did the next thing to ^{it.} ~~that~~. Once again he announced he would take no further part in discussions of Iran - boycotting the Security Council on that issue. In his previous boycott, several weeks ago, he dramatized his point by taking the stroll that was publicized so much in pictures, [^] newspapers and newsreels. This time he kept his ~~in~~ chair - boycotting, while remaining present.

All of which is another way of saying that Soviet Russia took another defeat today, ⁱⁿ ~~with~~ a vote late this afternoon. All through the session, Gromyko battled with his usual tenacity and stubborn ^{verbiage.} ~~statements.~~ The question, of course, was - whether or not the Security Council should remove the Soviet-Iranian dispute from its agenda. Both the ~~Soviets~~ and Iran ^{have} ~~asked~~ for it to be removed, and Gromyko declared that a refusal by the Council might be followed by, what he

called - "regretable consequences." Those were strong words, Old diplomatic phraseology for something drastic - "serious consequences" or "regrettable consequences" being a standard parlance.

The case against ~~the~~ the Soviets was led by American Delegate S.ettinius, who argued that it was the duty of the Council to stick by its decision to keep an eye on the Iranian situation. In the debate, the question was asked - what kind of agreement had been made between the Soviets and Iran? In the background was a suspicion that maybe Iran had concluded the agreement under compulsion - not exactly of its own free will. ~~(Anyway, the contention was that the United Nations should abide by ^{their} previous decision to ask whether or not the Soviets ~~kept~~ ^{will keep} their promise to evacuate Red Army troops from Iran by May Sixth - and be sure they ~~are~~ really out by that date.~~

Gromyko opposed that, by making it a point of Soviet veracity. Didn't they believe that Moscow was telling the truth? Along with that bitter question, he made mention of the possibility of - "regrettable consequences."

The ~~farxxxxxxxx~~ vote was on a sort of compromise proposal made by the French delegate, a proposal that the Soviet-Iranian dispute be taken off the agenda, and let the Secretary General of the United Nations be commissioned to give a report on the matter of Red Army troops in Iran. The idea was ~~supported~~ supported by three votes, France, Soviet Russia and Poland. The other eight members of the Council voted No. Whereupon Gromyko, taking another defeat, announced another boycott.

Late this afternoon the Council adjourned until Thursday, when it will take up the case of Franco Spain.

BURNES

Secretary of State Byrnes quoted an old hymn today, saying that he was, in the words of the hymn "standing in need of prayer." This as he departed for the meeting of Foreign Ministers to Paris - proceeding by air, with Senators Connally of Texas and Vandenberg of Michigan.

In London today, a meeting of dominion Prime Ministers began. We are told the consensus of

opinion at the conference is that any expansion of the Soviets in the Mediterranean must be checked. This, of course, applies to Moscow ambitions for control of the Dardanelles and for the acquisition of Mediterranean territory - like former Italian possessions in the Aegean Islands and in North Africa.

This would appear to shape up one of the critical issues that Secretary Byrnes and the American delegation will have to face, Soviet ideas of pushing into the Mediterranean. The Secretary of State declared that he had no idea when he would return.

Meaning - no idea of how long the ~~conference~~^{meeting} of Foreign Ministers would last in its effort to arrange for a general peace conference. "Standing in need of prayer", as the Secretary remarked.

CHINA

In China, the headquarters of American Ambassador General Marshall gives the facts - in the Communist charge that American Army flyers had been assailing the forces of the Chinese Reds. A plane was shot down by the Peds, and an investigation shows that the pilot was a Chinese flyer. The plane was an American made P-51 Fighter, belonging to the Chinese Air Force. The Chinese have a number of such planes - Lend-Lease. They are supposed to have the U.S. Army markings painted over with Chinese markings. This has been done, but in some cases the Chinese markings have rubbed off, and the star of the American Air Force remains. This was the case with the plane that was shot down - giving the impression of an American attack on the Communists.

The report from General Marshall's headquarters demands that the Chinese mark their American-made plane with their own Chinese insignia - in permanent fashion.

PHILIPPINES

~~First~~ First election returns from ~~the~~ the Philippines shows ~~that~~ Brigadier General Manuel Roxas in the lead. In the balloting yesterday, he ran against President Osmena, who became head of the Philippine government after the death of war-time President Quezon.

The first returns give Roxas three thousand, four hundred and eighty-six votes against one thousand, two hundred and fifty-one for Osmena - a mere fraction of the returns. It is pointed out that no count has come in from the provinces that are known to be strongly for Osmena - so today's partial count means little.

The general belief has been that President Osmena would win out against General Roxas, who has been violently accused of collaborating with the Japs. He held office in the puppet government set up by the Japs - which he explains by saying he did so to help gain food for the people and to aid the patriotic forces in secret.

The tenseness of yesterday's Philippine election is illustrated by the final following statement in tonight's dispatch from Manila. It reads: "Roxas was resting in a secret hideaway ringed by bodyguards armed with everything from pistols to jeep-mounted machine guns. The location of the house was kept secret and the windows were tightly shuttered."

MUSSOLINI

The story from Italy about the stealing of the body of Mussolini is involved in mystery, strange and gruesome. To begin with, the burial place of the one-time Duce was supposed to have been a deep official secret.

P It was little less than a year ago that the fallen Black Shirt Dictator, now a fugitive trying to get to Nazi Germany, was captured and killed by a band of Italian partisans. His body, thereupon, was ~~hanged~~ ^{hung} up by the heels in the City of Milan, together with that of his sweetheart, Clara Petacci, who had perished with him. After which the city authorities of Milan took precautions to bury Mussolini, secretly. He was interred at an undisclosed place in a public cemetery. His grave ~~was~~ unmarked, as was that of Clara Petacci nearby - and nothing was to be seen save plain flat ground.

Yet now, notwithstanding all the secrecy and unmarked anonymity, the body of Mussolini has been

stolen - dug up and taken away last night. ~~This was~~^{So}
announced today ~~in~~ Milan, with the further statement
that the grave robbers left behind a note - a weird crazy
kind of message. It reads: "Finally, Oh Duce, you are
with us. We will surround you with roses, but the perfume
of your virtues will be stronger than the roses." Signed-
"The Democratic Fascists."

It sounds like some horrible mockery, but there
may be fanatics who think ^{up} that sort of gruesome nonsense.
The Italian authorities are inclined to think that the
grave robbers were crack-pot Fascists - who were
anticipating the celebration of the liberation of Milan.
The execution of Mussolini, a little less than a year
ago, coincided with the partisan uprising that shook off
the collapsing Fascist yoke. The anniversary will be
observed in north Italy, and one supposition is that
Fascist fanatics believed the celebrating partisans
might seize the body of Mussolini - so they took it away.

Nor are the Italian authorities unmindful of the possibility that the grave robbing may have been done by the partisans, themselves - leaving the crack-pot note as a disguise. In any case, the police are searching for *— the body of Benito Mussolini —* what amounts to a grizzly trophy - in an episode so ghoulish and creepy that it's hard to explain.

Meanwhile, ~~they're having in Milan a violent riot in a prison - three thousand convicts seizing the jail and holding twenty-five guards as hostages. The revolting prisoners got hold of supplies and weapons, and fought off the police in a ~~seizure~~ of the jail. Three persons killed and twenty-seven injured thus far - after sixty hours of battle.~~

The latest is, negotiations are going on for a surrender. Many of the convicts were partisan fighters in the guerrilla war against the Nazis. Having been sentenced to prison for ~~political~~ *ordinary* crimes, they demand that

JUSTICE

Washington is buzzing with speculation about a successor to Chief Justice ~~Harlan Fiske~~ Stone, who for so long was a great figure in the American scene of liberty and law. The Chief Justice appeared to be fine and fit in court yesterday - giving a dissenting opinion in a case before the high tribunal. ^{They} ~~He~~ fell ill suddenly. ~~and~~ The end came last night.

It's really a matter of two successors. First - the naming of a new Chief Justice. Secondly - ~~and~~ appointment to fill the place on the court left vacant by Harlan Fiske Stone. ~~that is~~ - The President is likely to elevate one of the present Associate Justices to top rank; ~~He's virtually certain to do that,~~ and the names most frequently mentioned are those of Justice Jackson, now the American prosecutor at the Nuremberg trial of Nazi war criminals, ~~and - Associate~~ Justice Reed, a long time liberal.

As for filling the new vacant place on the court, the surmises are that President Truman will name a Republican. Right now there is only one Republican on the high tribunal, Associate Justice Burton - and he was appointed by President Truman. It is a tradition of political wisdom to have both parties represented proportionately on the Supreme Court. - ^{And this} leading to the belief that ^{our present} ~~the~~ Democratic President will name a Republican.

~~The President~~ ^{Mr. Truman,} because of the death of Chief Justice Stone, is cutting short his voyage at sea with a naval task force [^] on maneuvers. Aboard the aircraft carrier Franklin D. Roosevelt, President Truman is returning to Washington for the funeral. ~~of the Chief~~

~~Justice TP~~ News dispatches told today of a bit of action the President witnessed before starting back - an attack ~~on~~ warships by robot planes. This was an event of central importance in the ~~game~~ ^{maneuvers} - planes without

ROBBERY

★ The British police are making the first peace-time use of radar -- in an effort to stop a gang of jewel robbers. Resorting to that war-time miracle, radar, might seem to be drastic, but the robbery was one of the most sensational. ¶ Thieves broke into the castle of Colonel ^{John Jacob} Astor, of the American millionaire Astors -- and got away with a treasure of jewels and antiques. In the castle, twenty miles from London, Colonel Astor has a two thousand piece collection -- priceless -- and the robbers took their pick of the very best -- showing an expert knowledge of jewels and historic objects of art. ¶ This is so evident that the British authorities suspect the connivance of a crooked art dealer or perhaps a wealthy unscrupulous collector -- so fanatic about jewels and art that he would go in for underworld robbery. ¶ One London newspaper mentions a surmise of what it called ^{s "an} ~~an~~ eccentric American collector." ¶ There were five in the gang. And it is believed they are trying to get from the island of

ROBBERY - 2

Britain to the Continent. All ships are being closely watched, and it is thought that they might try to escape across the Channel in a small boat or an airplane. Hence Radar is on the job -- that miracle means of ^{picking out} ~~tracking with~~ boat ~~and~~ plane in black night or blinding fog. //

KILLING

A strange drama of contradiction comes to light in the case of a sensational murder at Woonsocket, Rhode Island, today. The man killed was John F. Letendre, prominent in Rhode Island politics and in the affairs of the Narragansette Race Track. The police, upon looking into the affairs of the victim, present the following paradox.

In Nineteen Forty-Four, Letendre ran for mayor of Woonsocket, and was defeated after a campaign that amounted to a crusade against gamblers. In most scathing terms he denounced gambling conditions. He charged the police with corruption. He declared that gamblers and gangsters had threatened his life. This fitted in with his prominence in church matters, and presented a picture of civic righteousness on a crusade.

TP He was one of the organizers of the Narraganset Race Track, and ^{had been a} director of that fashionable

institution. And now, the police declare that he himself was deeply involved in gambling. They say he ~~bet~~ ^{bet} as much as ten thousand dollars a day on horse races, and had an interest in a Florida gambling house, an exclusive casino in Miami, on which he took profits of two hundred thousand dollars in one season - ~~the~~ winter before last. This past winter, say the police, his gambling take down there was not so good, because a syndicate of rival gamblers cut sharply into his profits.

All of which introduces into the murder story a theme of gambler feuding.

To support this, the police point out the mode of murder at Woonsocket today - the seeming of a professional job carried out skillfully by hired assassins. The one-time candidate for mayor was driving in his station wagon when he was blocked off. Then a

from a black sedan
 gunman stepped ~~to~~ and fired three shots with deadly
 precision. ^{TR} The Rhode Island police have turned ~~back~~
 their investigation to Florida - seeking ~~gambling racket~~
 gambler-racketeer motives in the slaying of the
 crusader against gambling, who himself appears to
 have been ^{deep} ~~in~~ in that racket.

SONG

It's a little late to tell stories about people who, in countries occupied by the Nazis, managed to keep hidden away from the henchmen of Hitler. But here's one so curious that it merits a place on the roster of high comedy. It was told in London today by Alfred Gray, an English musician and conductor of a band^{s.}

He was in Holland when the Nazi tide swept upon that country. In Amsterdam he hid away in a house, cleverly concealed by a Dutch family. There he remained until the end of the war, and the Nazis never suspected. He was even able to make money, earn profits - cashing in.

He wrote several songs. These were in German, ditties to appeal to the taste of the Nazis. One ~~of~~ ~~these~~ ^{was} called "Ach Fraulein Gretchen." Another "Mein Herr, Der Baron." The music was smuggled out and published - with a phoney name as composer. The songs made a hit with the Germans, and soon the

SONG - 2

Nazis in Holland were singing - "Ach Fraulein Gretchen" and -- "Mein Herr, ^rDr Baron." Songs written by the hidden Englishman.

The sale of the music brought royalties, which came in handy for the purchase of ration cards, and supplies in the black market. So Alfred Gray and the family concealing him lived well -- Nazi money supporting them.

One night Alfred Gray heard somebody outside whistling, whistling the tune of "Mein Herr, Der Baron." Gray thought - it must be a German, his songs having been so successful among the Nazis. Then he heard somebody shut up the German who was whistling, as if silence were intended.

He made a quick surmise -- a correct surmise. The Nazis were staging a surprise raid. He warned the Dutch family, and ducked away into a hiding place -- so that, when the Germans came stomping in, they found nothing. And all they could do was go on whistling -

"Mein Herr, Der Baron." *And now, in Hugh's absence we have a new Sun Oil Barn. - San Pardo.*

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