

EISENHOWER

L.T.-K. Wed., March 3, 1954

The White House news conference, today, was the biggest that President Eisenhower ever faced. Reporters - piling in. The reason - obvious. It was the first chance they had to question the President - since the noisy clash between Senator Joe McCarthy and the United States Army.

The President read a prepared statement on the subject, and then questions were asked. The net result - a presidential blast fired at the Wisconsin Senator. Not such a violent blast, not atomic! - but, a reasonable, moderate, retort. McCarthy's name, never mentioned - ^{although} ~~but~~ it was implicit all the time.

Today
The President spoke strongly against, what he called - "disregard of the standards of fair play." He insisted that Administration witnesses, appearing before Congressional committees, must be - "treated fairly."

The President decried any notion that high officers in the Army might be coddling ~~the~~ Communists, and he took special pains to praise General Zwicker - who was handled so

roughly by McCarthy at a hearing. The President said emphatically - that Army officers must be treated with "respect and courtesy." ^P At the same time, ~~the President~~ ^{he} admitted that the Army ^{did make} ~~made~~ what he called, "serious errors" in handling the ^t case of the Army dentist, Major Peress, who was granted an honorable discharge - soon after ~~the~~ ^{McCarthy} Senator ^{excoriated} him as a "Fifth Amendment Communist." The Major - refusing to answer the sixty-four dollar question.

Today's presidential statement, in the McCarthy-Army row, was followed by a quick retort from the Senator. Who told a news conference that he will continue to "expose" anyone, including high Army generals, if they are "aiding the Communist Party." He said that Peress, the Army dentist, appears to have been what he called - "a sacred cow of certain Army brass."

McCarthy added that his quarrel with the Administration is a "silly tempest in a teapot."

So that was one clash between the President and the

Senator today; - and, there was another, *On* the subject of -
Scott McLeod, Security Chief at the State Department. McLeod,
a former F.B.I. man, is a close friend of McCarthy's - and,
recently, he was deprived of his power to hire and fire. A
sort of - demotion. *P*This was denounced by the Senator, and
today the President replied. He said, in effect, *that* the McLeod
affair was - none of McCarthy's business. Declaring - that
~~that~~ it's up to the State Department to decide about any
authority conferred on its own officials. It's not the
Senator's - responsibility.

To this McCarthy replies that it is the "duty" of
his Committee to investigate reorganizations in the government.
So he intends to look into the case of his friend, Scott McLeod,
whose authority as the State Department Security Chief, has been
reduced.

TAX

The tax writers of Congress, today, voted a large reduction of "sales taxes." Applying to such commodities as jewelry, furs, cosmetics, entertainment tickets, sporting goods. This - in defiance of the White House.

Right at the
~~At the very~~ same time, President Eisenhower was repeating - that he's against the proposed cuts in excise taxes, Telling his news conference - that the reductions would cost the Treasury nearly a billion dollars a year. And ^{that} the U.S. Treasury cannot afford to lose that much money.

(Reporters asked him - would he veto a bill to make the cuts of "sales taxes?" The President replied - he couldn't tell whether he'd veto a bill before he knew exactly what was in it. The proposal, of course, having to go through Congress, and take final form.)

SHOOTING

The four Puerto Rican terrorists were indicted in Washington today - fast action before a grand jury. Testimony was presented - in proceedings of only an hour and forty-five minutes.

There was a note of irony, in the appearance of - Attorney Leo Rover. Quite a coincidence - that he should figure in this case.

Three years ago, Leo Rover was attorney for Oscar Collazo, one of the two terrorists who tried to assassinate President Truman. Attorney Rover - named by the court to act as Collazo's lawyer. The defendant - sentenced to death, a White House guard having been killed in the assassination attempt. Attorney Rover carried the case right to the top, and the death sentence was commuted to life imprisonment by President Truman.

Now, after the shooting in Congress on Monday - Leo Rover is in this new affair of Puerto Rican terrorists. But this time - the other way around.

In the time between the two cases, he was named U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia - appointed after the election of President Eisenhower. So now he's ^{the} ~~the~~ prosecutor - who, today, presented the evidence to the grand jury.

One of those reversals - not uncommon in life and law. Defense attorney then - prosecutor now.

Word about Congressman Bentley, meanwhile, continues to be favorable. Today, the legislator who sustained the greatest injury in the shooting, was taken off the "critical list." The ~~numbers~~ doctors declare he is not yet out of danger, but is coming around better than expected.

E The United Press has a dispatch from Puerto Rico, stating that the shooting ~~up~~ in Congress was only part of a plot of much greater scope. Later to be followed by the assassination of President Eisenhower, Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, and F.B.I. Chief J. Edgar Hoover. (Also - *Luis* Governor Munoz Marin of Puerto Rico, who is now in Washington - expressing Puerto Rican detestation of the terrorists.

The dispatch states that, according to inside information in Puerto Rico, the crackpot leaders of the fanatical ~~Nationalists~~ "Nationalists" had notions of overthrowing the government of the United States by the murder of its leaders.))

LONDON

Ambassador to

The U.S. ~~Embassy in~~ London is to have a new home - moving into "Winfield House." Which is a magnificent place - built by the Woolworth heiress, Barbara Hutton. Now - Mrs. Porfirio Rubirosa.

Winfield House is in the heart of downtown London. Built - in Nineteen Thirty-Six, *and worth more than* ~~at a cost estimated as high as~~ *a million* ~~eight hundred thousand~~ dollars. It's a three-story mansion, Georgian style - surrounded by thirteen acres of high priced London ~~and~~ real estate. There are five thousand trees and shrubs - on the spacious lawns.

Eight years ago, Barbara Hutton presented Winfield House to the U.S. Embassy, ~~as a new home for the American Ambassador~~. But the place was turned over, temporarily, to the U.S. Air Force - to be used as an officers' club. Now - the original plan goes into effect. Ambassador Winthrop Aldrich to move into Winfield House, after some renovation and repair.

(During recent years, the Ambassador's residence has been ~~a much less pretentious place~~ at Prince's Gate,

facing Hyde Park. ~~It was~~ Built - by J. Pierpont Morgan,
years ago. The renowned financier - presenting it to the
United States Government. Winfield House is a lot more
pretentious than Prince's Gate - Barbara Hutton, of the Five-and
Ten, out-doing J.P. Morgan.)

KENYA

In East Africa, the British have been negotiating - with the Mau Mau. Today, the Governor General of Kenya, Sir Evelyn Baring, disclosed that peace talks have been going on with the terrorist ~~organization~~ organization. The method of the negotiations as weird as any you might expect of Darkest Africa. The Governor General explaining - that the peace talks are through the medium of "General China", the number two chief of the blood curdling secret society. Having been captured - he was under a death sentence.

~~(The original leader of the Mau Mau, ^{was} Jomo Kenyatta, "the Burning Spear;" but, he was caught - and sent to prison. The Mau Mau - passing on to new leadership. The number one man called "General Russia." Possibly - because of Communist connections. As for "General China", number two - it may be that he got his name because, in World War Two, he served with a British unit in Burma. Anyway, he was caught, convicted of multiple murders, and condemned to hang.)~~

But, in questioning "General China", British

authorities got the impression that the Mau Mau wanted - a truce. They inquired about this, and "General China" offered to get in touch with ^{his} ^{friends} terrorists in the jungle.

They took him secretly from a Nairobi jail, and he communicated with other Mau Mau leaders. Correspondence - by means of jungle "post offices." Often holes in trees - where letters were left. "General China" taken to these cleverly hidden post offices.

In that way, meetings were arranged, under a flag of truce - "bush meetings" deep in the jungle. "General China" together with British security officers, holding parleys - with top chiefs of the Mau Mau.

The understanding is that the prospect looks favorable for some sort of a settlement. One definite result is that "General China" has been rewarded - his death sentence commuted to one of imprisonment.

AFRICA

The African land of Nigeria is having a wave of inflation, and the complaint is - the high cost of brides.
Not bribes - brides.
^ Which came up, today, in the Eastern Assembly of that British African colony.

The British have established parliamentary government in Nigeria, and there's one woman member, Mrs. Margaret Epko. She - declaring that the cost of wives has gone so high, many tribesmen can't ~~stand~~ afford to get married. Unable - to dig up the "Bride Price", as it's called in Nigeria.

The reason is that many Nigerians have been serving in the British Army, in the Near East and Southern Asia. They save their pay, and come back to their tribes with lots of money. So, when they seek a wife, her family raises the ante. The result - inflation of the "Bride Price."

Today an Assembly member, W. Abengowe, declared:
"Some of our mothers were married for less than ten pounds. But, today, in certain areas, the 'Bride Price' is between

two hundred and three hundred pounds."

That is, as much as eight hundred dollars - which is a lot of money for a bride in Nigeria. Or - anywhere else.

HOLLYWOOD

Hollywood was gazing today at an odd spectacle - a big sign pulled through the sky by an airplane. On the sign, two words - "Lank Rivers." A name that Hollywood has been seeing for some time.

It is the latest in a weird advertising campaign. A year ago, on Sunset Boulevard, a big signboard appeared, and on it in huge letters - "Lank Rivers." Recently, that same name - inserted as a large Ad, in motion picture trade papers.

Hollywood was puzzled for a while, but then the word got ~~around~~ around - it was an actor trying to break into the movies. He figured there was nothing like advertising - and wanted to make his name known to studio producers and the public.

~~Actually~~ ^{It} ^{seems to} Nobody knows who he really is. Described as a young business man from Phoenix, Arizona, who has an idea that he'd go great in the films. His real name - kept secret. He says if it were known, it might hurt his business in Phoenix. Lank Rivers - to be his motion picture name.

Sounds Western; - and, he aspires to be a star of the horse opera

Today, with his adopted name in the sky over

Hollywood, he said - he's not interested in anything picayune.

He insists on beginning - as a top flight star.

"I'm asking for one hundred thousand dollars a picture," he says. "If they won't give me stardom, I'm not

interested." *Huh! Wonder who'll be interested?*

*Anyhow he's a young man full of
high flown ideas - this Lank Rivers.*

WIFE

At Mays Landing, New Jersey, a young woman faced the court. Willie May Baker - charged with stabbing a man several months ago. She knifed Charles Foreman in the neck, injuring him severely. So, today, the judge was all set - ready to impose the sentence.

But Willie May Baker's lawyer came forward with an argument that halted the course of justice. Attorney Milton Freed handed the judge - a marriage certificate. Showing - Willie May Baker married to Charles Foreman, the man she stabbed

So all the judge could do was - to suspend sentence. ^{What did} ^{say?} ~~The attorney for the defense remarking -~~ "Love has triumphed, I hope!" ^{That} ^{was his comment, Mike.}

~~To which the echo responds "I hope"~~
To which the echo responds -
"I hope!"