

TAFT

P. J. - P. S. Monday, Dec. 22, 1947.

Senator Taft is going in person before the voters of the Middle-West and West to explain his position on high prices, and his differences with President Truman regarding the return of government controls. The Senate leader will speak first in President Truman's home state. Next Monday, December Twenty-Ninth, he is to speak at Kansas City, and on the following day, Tuesday, at St. Louis. And, he may go from there into the South-West before Congress convenes again. In February, Mr. Taft will speak in Illinois and Minneapolis, Omaha, Denver, and other points West.

One important thing is that this time he will be speaking as an avowed candidate for the Presidential nomination. Though a substantial portion of his speeches will be devoted to domestic affairs, which means principally inflation and high prices, Senator Taft also will discuss foreign policy and tell the people of the West why he thinks Mr. Truman is asking too much when he wants seventeen billion dollars to finance the Marshall Plan.

LIST

Secretary of Agriculture Anderson made public his much mooted list of people who have been speculating on the food markets. As a sensation, it is ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ ^{it} pretty much, of ~~a fizzle~~. The only really ^{well known} ~~celebrated~~ name on it is that of Edwin W. Pauley, Special Assistant to the Secretary of the Army. On October Thirty-First of this year, Pauley held three hundred thousand bushels of oat futures, the same quantity of cotton seed oil futures, as well as two hundred and forty thousand bushels of oats.

And Secretary Anderson added that he was sure that there were no other government employees on that list except Pauley.

As for the rest of them, the names are principally those of business firms, companies, corporations and partnerships. With the exception of a few milling and food processing companies, national advertisers, these names are known only in their home towns. ~~There are, for instance,~~
~~General Mills, Quaker~~ ^{Quaker} ~~Oats, Pillsbury Flour, Ralston Purina,~~

~~Washburn-Crosby, and General Foods. Lehman Brothers of New York, are also on the list, as well as Daniel F. Rice of Chicago, whose trading privileges the Department of Agriculture had suspended for an alleged attempt to corner the rye market in Nineteen Forty-Four.~~

Some ~~of them~~ are shown to have been in the market for ^{entirely} ~~perfectly~~ legitimate purposes. As, for instance, milling firms who held a lot of wheat which they intended to turn into flour. To protect themselves from a loss over a period of several months, they hedge by selling short wheat futures. So, if the price of wheat goes down they lose money on the flour but make it up on the futures.

Altogether, that list over which so much fuss has been made, ^{seems to be} ~~is~~ nothing to raise ^{anyone's} ~~your~~ blood pressure. ~~or mine.~~

~~Scrambling cohorts of reporters filled Secretary Anderson's office this morning to get that list, and now that we have it the answer is - so what?-~~

U.N. ARRESTS

In New York, today, Uncle Sam arrested a second foreign newspaper man accredited to the headquarters of the United Nations at Lake Success -- the reporter arrested while Secretary General Trygve Lie was formally protesting the arrest of the first newspaper man, a Greek journalist held by the immigration authorities as a Communist alien.

The news of the arrest of the second newspaper man, Syed Hasn, representing THE PEOPLE'S AGE of Bombay, India, was revealed when the United Nations Correspondents Association received a telegram from Hasn asking them to intervene against the infringement of his press rights. And so the Association called a meeting to consider the two cases.

Meanwhile, Trygve Lie has asked for prompt consideration by the U. S. Immigration authorities of his protest against the arrest of the first journalist, who, according to the State Department, concealed the fact that he was a Communist when he entered the United States last June to cover the United Nations for two Greek newspapers.

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Hasn -- the man from Bombay -- is alleged to have violated a student's visa by working as a newspaper man at the U. N.

ITALY

Hopeful news from Rome. (Word of the adoption of Italy's new Constitution by the National Assembly.)

An important historic event, for this is the first new Constitution for Italy in a hundred years. (And in it the monarchy is legally and finally abolished.)

The vote in favor of the Constitution was overwhelming, four-hundred-and-fifty-three to sixty-two. It was passed amid jubilation and cheers.

The voice of the presiding officer shook with emotion as he announced the vote with the words, "Long live the Italian democratic republic, peaceful and independent!" And a chorus of deputies answered with the words, "Long live the Republic of Italy!"

The entire assemblage of one thousand spectators rose to its feet in applause. Among them our Ambassador Dunn. With the envoys of Great Britain, France, and Russia, too, joining in the demonstration.

(The great bell of the palace pealed out its approval, and outside the palace, floodlights and electric candles illuminated the thousands of Romans.)

who stood in the streets cheering.) Only sixty-two people in all that multitude kept silent. They were the sixty-two who had voted No -- diehard monarchists and others who still clung to their affection for the House of Savoy.

It will be peculiarly fitting for the new Constitution to begin its life ^{with} the New ~~Year~~ ^{Year.} For January First, Nineteen Forty-eight will be the Hundredth Anniversary of the Italian revolution, the day when the people of Italy made their first concerted attempt to throw off the yoke of the Hapsburgs.

The stories from Rome are full of a joyful note. The adoption of that Constitution brought out loud and almost unanimous expressions of unity. The new Constitution guarantees freedom of religion, freedom for labor, autonomy of regional governments, and, for the first time in history, equal rights for Italian women.

This should be a happy Christmas in Italy, for a change. After a year of trials, tribulations and

anxieties, the people of the Appenine peninsula and of Sicily, find themselves suddenly blessed with internal peace -- for the time at least. First of all, the nationwide strike of food workers is at an end, with employers and union leaders settling their differences. The settlement is only temporary, but at least it will relieve millions of the fear of a hungry Christmas. Then, again, the worst of the general strikes in Sicily was called off, after violence and gun-play, in many parts of the island.

ELECTION

~~well~~ They held a municipal election in Moscow today, and who do you think was elected unanimously? You'd never guess, so I'll tell you. Premier Josef Stalin, elected to the Moscow City Soviet, - that's the city government - by the unanimous vote ~~of~~ of all the one-thousand-six-hundred-and-seventeen voters registered in his district.

And -- just to make sure of a majority, so the Moscow radio announces -- five-hundred-and-five people in other areas recorded their votes in Stalin's district just to do him honor. And some even wrote Christmas wishes of love, gratitude, and greetings to Josef Stalin in electing him representative of ten precincts of the city of Moscow. A sweeping victory for Josef Stalin in the Moscow municipal elections -- with five hundred and five votes from people not registered. That's a majority, that is.

SUPREME COURT

Seldom, if ever, has a sovereign state been so scathingly rebuked as was Illinois today -- by the Supreme Court of the United States. Each of the nine high judges agreed that Illinois justice had been blind indeed in the case of one Tony Marino, sentenced for life for a crime that he may not have committed. Not only the Trial Court in Illinois is at fault, says the Supreme Court, but also the Illinois Parole Board.

~~What's the story?~~ Tony Marino came to the United States from Italy in Nineteen Twenty-four, when he was sixteen. When he was eighteen a policeman picked him up on suspicion of having murdered a seventy-seven-year old man. From the moment he was arrested, say the ^{United States} Supreme Court justices, ^{in a decision handed down today,} the Illinois authorities never gave Tony even the shadow of his Constitutional rights. The police held him incommunicado and refused him any access to a lawyer.

When he came up for trial, ^{Tony,} we are told, was plainly railroaded. He spoke no English at the time, and there was no

official court interpreter. The policeman who arrested him served as interpreter, professed to translate the defendant's words to the court and the court's words to the defendant.

The cop told Tony that he had pleaded guilty to first degree murder, and had waived his right to a jury trial. ^{Whereupon} The judge, whose name is not revealed in the story today, sentenced him to life imprisonment. Tony protested that he had not pleaded guilty. His Honor just banged his gavel and ordered him removed from the court.

That was in April, Nineteen Twenty-Five. ~~For all~~
^{And for} ~~these~~ twenty-two years Tony Marino has been at the Joliet Penitentiary, ~~serving time for a crime that he may not have committed.~~ He had no friends, no resources. ^{But,} Last spring he appealed to the Winnebago ^{County} Court at Rockford, Illinois; his ^{was} appeal [^] denied. A month later he wrote to the Illinois Parole Board, which also turned him down.

Tony Marino obtained the attention of the Supreme Court, not through a lawyer but through a letter written by a fellow

prisoner, explaining his case. The justices read that letter carefully and checked up with the Illinois records. ^{And today} ~~The~~ ^{they} ~~decision~~ ^{their decision} handed down ~~today was~~ as caustic as it ~~was~~ ^{is} unanimous.

[¶] Justice ~~Wiley~~ Rutledge, who wrote a separate opinion, used these words: " The trouble with Illinois is not that it offers no procedure, but that it offers too many, making them so intricate and ineffective that ⁱⁿ ~~any~~ practical effect they amount to none." He described the Illinois system as a merry-go-round which gets a petitioner nowhere. And he recommended that the Supreme Court dispense with its rigid rules whenever Illinois cases come up, so that justice may be done to other people who may be in the same plight as Marino.

[¶] The State of Illinois, incidentally, confesses error in the ^{Tony} Marino case and consents to its being reopened. The County Court at Rockford, Illinois, ^{to} ~~will~~ have a choice between granting a new trial or setting Tony Marino free.

AIRPLANE SAFETY

From Australia, tonight, comes news of a startling invention -- an apparatus that successfully deals with the danger of fire in an airplane in flight -- a new system that detects and controls fires.

The new fire-fighting device of particular interest to air line operators actually detects the fire, issues a warning signal to the pilot and instantly cuts off all gas and oil supply to the engine nearest flames -- doubtless the engine where the fire originated.

But it does more than that. This device automatically releases extinguisher fluids which douse the fire -- and still more, in case of a crash landing, when the pilot may be forgetful, the robot fire extinguisher goes into action itself, cutting off the fuel and oil and saturating the entire plane with fire extinguishing chemicals.

If it's as good as all that, the inventor should make a fortune, for millions of people will fly with an increased sense of safety.

CRIMES OF 1947

An insurance company in Hartford, Connecticut, has compiled a list of the curious malefactions on which it has had to pay off during the past twelve months. The most daring offender of the year is that fellow who stole that twenty-ton bridge at Gooding, Iowa. Another thief who refused to bother with trifles is the man who stole a long brick wall in front of a house at Del Mar, California. Compared to him, the chap who got away with a telephone pole at Palm City, California, is just a piker.

At Ionia, Michigan, a bandit tried to rob a garage. The garage attendant kicked him out and thought he had seen the last of him. But two hours later the intruder came back with a revolver, took two hundred dollars away from the garage proprietor, with these words of admonition: "This'll teach you to treat people better."

But the most embarrassed crook of Nineteen Forty-seven was the holdup man who stopped a motor car in Philadelphia and took the driver's wallet. But, while

he was doing that, what irony! His own wallet dropped out of his pocket -- dropped into that car. And -- it contained the holdup man's identification card -- which much pleased the Philadelphia cops.

~~The most patient scoundrel on the list is the man who tunnelled under the fence of a coal yard at Atlantic City, New Jersey, and made off with ten tons of coal, lump by lump -- ten tons!~~

Probably the most unusual victim is the woman in Los Angeles who was driving her car and put out her hand to signal a left turn. Along came a greedy person who snatched a three-thousand-dollar diamond ring off her fingers.

~~The most candid malefactors were a couple of yeggs who worked on a safe in a florist shop in Philadelphia, tried for hours to open it, but in vain. They left behind them this note: "Congratulations, you have a very good safe."~~

The most astonished victim is the one who fell asleep in a movie. He had hidden his money in his shoes,

and when he woke up he was minus forty-five dollars.

He said he never felt it when those bills were spirited

away, and, ~~at that~~ he's a ticklish man.

And now Nelson — what if
anything are you included about?