

F.I. - P.H. May 30, 1950. Tues.

1
The latest Red trial behind the Iron Curtain brings the noisiest accusation thus far against Western diplomatic officials. In Czechoslovakia thirteen defendants go on trial tomorrow, including three former deputies of Parliament - and tonight the charges against them were blasted by the Communist radio. The accusation alleges a plot to overthrow the Communist regime, and implicates a score of top-flight American, British and other Western diplomats - also newspaper correspondents.

The list is headed by a former American ambassador, Lawrence Steinhardt - who was killed last year in an airplane crash in Canada. The Reds claim the plot was on from Nineteen Forty Five to Nineteen Forty Eight - with Ambassador Steinhardt playing a prominent part in the undercover doings.

includes a list of former Brit & French
The list amounts to a veritable "who's who" of Western diplomats and newspaper correspondents who were stationed in Czechoslovakia.

Today's Red radio broadcast was only a

ambassadors and

CZECHOSLOVAKIA - LEAD STORY.....2

preliminary - and the accusations will be expanded in the gaudy proceedings of a big time Communist trial. With the usual confessions, of course.

BERLIN

There was a savage gun battle in the heart of Berlin today - with fusillades of bullets in the Potsdammer Platz, Berlin's Times Square. But this was no clash between forces of the east and west - following the big rally of Communist youth. There were four men in the uniform of the Polish army in a murderous fight with German Communist police.

Eye witnesses declare that the four, who seemed to be Polish soldiers, were coming from the Soviet sector - apparently trying to get over to the British side of the Potsdammer Platz. They were stopped by Communist policemen - whereupon their leader, who appeared to be a Polish officer, whipped out an automatic pistol and opened fire. A policeman fell wounded - while the other Reds jumped behind a pile of rubble, and started shooting. The Polish officer fell -- apparently killed. His companions tried to get away but were trapped. Two of them surrendered to the Red police -- while the remaining Pole was last seen running in the Soviet

3

sector.

The supposition is that the men in Polish uniform were trying to escape and take refuge on the western side - the gunfire in the Potsdammer Platz being another episode in the story of fugitives fleeing the Iron Curtain.

FOLLOW BERLIN

The latest - fist-fighting between groups of German youths, Communists and anti-communists. It happened at Helmstedt where youthful Reds were returning from the weekend rally in Berlin. They were in a bus displaying the Communist flag -- and the bus was seized and burned by young anti-Communists. Whereupon, there was fist-fighting all over the place -- until the police intervened.

WEATHER REPORTS

A lot of people in this country will sympathize with action taken today over in England. It happened at a town with a fine English name - Weston-Super-Mare, where - they're suing the weather man. Weston-Super-Mare, a sea-side resort, is outraged by the kind of weather the British Broadcasting Company predicts for weekends.

This past weekend, for example, the prophecy was - cold and rain, dismal and gloomy - everything to keep Londoners away from the beach. But what happened? A resort proprietor states: "We had twelve hours of unbroken sunshine on Sunday." Which is a lot of sunshine in England.

So they are going to court, asking for an injunction to stop ^{the} BBC from broadcasting bad weather reports. With which a lot of resort people over here will sympathize.

JAPAN

In Tokyo today three American Army men were pushed around by Communists, and ~~one~~ of them stoned. This - as an aftermath of the mix-up, in which a U. S. Army Memorial Day celebration was scheduled at the same time and same place as a Communist demonstration.

The Army had its way - and when crowds of Reds appeared for their mass meeting, they were told to come back after the Memorial Day observance was over. This caused no trouble - and, after the Americans had left the plaza of the Imperial Palace, the Communists came streaming in.

The disturbance arose when Red agitators were inflaming the crowd - and an American Captain and two G.I.'s were observing the proceedings. A Japanese interpreter was making notes for them, this aroused the anger of the Reds. A crowd milled around ~~with~~ the Americans - the captain's cap was knocked off and one of the G.I.'s was hit on the head with a stone. Whereupon Japanese and American military

JAPAN.....2

police intervened, and the uproar was quickly over.

Six Reds were arrested in the outbreak.

RACE

The Indianapolis ~~speed~~ race presents a winning bit of strategy - a case of reckoning with the elements. The prediction was - showers this afternoon. And it was known, of course, that rain would cause the five hundred mile grind to be stopped -- no chances to be taken with a wet track as the cars went speeding round and round.

Johnnie Parsons, the pint-sized racer, stayed well up in front all along -- then, when he saw the rain clouds coming over, he staged his bit of strategy - reckoning with the elements. He jumped in front, getting every bit of speed out of his racing car - so as to be in front when the rain stopped the race. Which would make him the winner. It worked okay -- when a downpour caused the five hundred mile grind to be halted at the three hundred and forty five mile mark. And Johnnie Parsons was in front.

They say, however, that he would probably have been the winner - even had the race gone the full

RACE.....2

distance. His bit of strategy had put him so far in front that, likely enough, he would have come out ahead -- even if there had been no rain at all.

POLITICS

If you live in a state where a senator is being elected this fall, you might keep an eye open for a -- mysteryman. If you happen to see somebody who looks inconspicuous and unobtrusive, a bit of a hayseed - he may be the secretary of the Senate and political adviser to the White House.

In the Presidential campaign two years ago, there was an exploit of soothsaying - by Senator Secretary Leslie Biffle, who forecast the election of President Truman - in startling contradiction to the public opinion polls. He did it - with chicken coops.

Leslie Biffle made himself up as a second class chicken farmer, and went around to country stores, rural barber shops and gasoline stations, where he started people talking politics - and listened a lot. Biffle - and his chicken coops.

So now the Washington word is that he's going out on the same kind of trip all over again - to study Democratic prospects in the Senate elections

next November. But this time he won't be disguised as a chicken farmer. There has been too much publicity about that, and he might be detected. He will use some other disguise - and he won't say what, naturally.

So you might be on the lookout for the Secretary of the Senate and political adviser to the White House. But don't watch for chicken coops; -

*Lee Biddle may be selling maps to the farmers
~~right now - a very hot market~~
this time - as I did many years ago. Or maybe
farm machinery.*

BOY

There's one Memorial Day^{story} which has been a perennial for years. (I myself, have repeated it more than once -- but there's especial reason to tell it all over again today.)

On the South Dakota prairie, for fifty-seven years, a railroad train, "old one hundred and seven," has stopped each Memorial Day - the conductor getting off and placing a wreath of flowers on an otherwise forgotten grave.

The grave of a boy who, standing on a hill, used to wave at the train - and the conductor waved back.

That began in 1889, then, after several years the boy was missing from the familiar hill. Instead, conductor Bill Chambers noticed - a grave. The boy had died. His parents had buried him, and moved away.

Thereafter Bill Chambers, each Memorial Day, stopped the train, and placed a wreath of flowers on the grave. He did it as long as he lived. Then his successor as conductor, his son-in-law Vincent Ford -

continued the tradition, year after year.

Such is the Memorial Day story told again and again. But today it didn't happen. A few weeks ago "old one hundred and seven" was taken off the run -- not enough business, a needless train abolished.

So, today, on the South Dakota prairie, an automobile went bumping to the hill beside the railroad track - and out stepped conductor Vincent Ford with a wreath of flowers. He climbed to the top of the hill, and there placed the wreath on the grave - faithful to the old tradition.

FLYING SAUCERS

expert is listening
P J hope Henry J. Taylor, the Flying Saucer
Flying saucers rise to a new height of the
in the news tonight
fantastic - a flying submarine! In Washington today

they made public a report handed in by airline pilot,
Captain William Sperry of Tulsa, Oklahoma.

9
He says that, last night, flying his big
passenger plane, ^{he} saw a strange object seven miles
west of Mount Vernon, Virginia. A flying saucer
that looked like what the pilot calls - "A
submarine with lights". The undersea craft of the
sky was flying at about seventy-five-hundred feet,
and circled the airliner twice, in the course of
which, it passed in front of the moon, and the
silhouette was clear. No wings - but shaped like a
submarine.

Today the airline officials point out that
Captain Sperry's plane was travelling between two and
three hundred miles an hour. So, in order to circle
that airliner twice, the flying submarine must have
been going mighty fast.

Henry?
I wonder what happened to it? Did it go back

FLYING SAUCERS.....2

to its other element, and take a dive into the ocean? Speeding tonight among the fishes in the depths of the sea? Strange - even for a flying saucer.

WOMEN

10
In Atlanta they have solved a sinister mystery - which seemed as if it might indicate a dreadful fate for the ladies. Disaster - for the womanhood of the south. The city health service made a survey by x-ray, numbers of people examined, and a study made of the x-ray photographs. Which disclosed a strange thing about the women. In a great number of cases, there were - lung spots. The x-ray pictures revealed what seemed to be spots of some sort of lung disease. Maybe a new kind of tuberculosis, and epidemic of consumption among the women - and they all might perish.

The puzzle was the more perplexing because in every x-ray picture there were two lung spots, and both were always in the same place - same latitude and longitude, which was a phenomenon hitherto unknown to medical science.

But now, the riddle has been solved, and here's the diagnosis: The lung spots that showed up on the x-ray plates were - falsies. As terrifying as

symptoms - as in other ways;- ~~they were~~ entirely false. So now, the womanhood of the south - can breathe easier. *such is the story of the girls and their lung spots.*

APES

At the Bronx Zoo, they~~are~~ trying to figure out a new kind of trap - to catch a family of apes. A family of - Gibbons, Anthrpoids of Southern Asia. They are on a small island in a lake -- and the ~~x~~ intention is to drain the lake. But first they have to get the Gibbons off the island, three of them -- George, Pansy and Junior. Which is not so easy. Those man-like apes are not so big, about three feet tall. But the Gibbon can be ferocious. A newspaper reporter had his clothes torn off by George, Pansy and Junior.

The keepers at the zoo resorted to traps, and these worked okay. The only trouble being - that, when Mr. or Mrs. Gibbon got into a trap and was caught, all ~~he~~^{or she} did was to devour the bait, the bananas, then open the door and get out. So, now the idea is to devise traps with unopenable doors.

Well, I never knew the Gibbon to be so ferocious. My recollection of the South Asian ~~Anthropoid~~^{is the way he walks - like a drunken sailor,} ~~is~~ his voice. Long quavering notes that

echo afar in the jungle. Recently, on our trip to the West Coast, we visited the great zoo at San Diego, and there the ladies of our party were beguiled by the weird song of the Gibbons. After which, during the trip, the whim would seize the ladies, and they would burst into the jungle call - and hoot like Gibbons. Could sound odd in some stately place.

Woo - oo - oo - woo - oo - oo ! That's
the cry of the Gibbon, Nelson !