

SUB LEAD COUNTERFEITING

C.T. - P+L Friday, Dec. 5, 1940.

There is a nationwide counterfeit warning tonight -- the disclosure of a new false money gang. Recent news has told of a counterfeit mob operating in New York; but that isn't the only one. Tonight's news tells of another outfit manufacturing bad money in Chicago - phoney cash that has been appearing in widely separated areas, all the way out to the Pacific Coast.

The Secret Service reports that two passers of the Chicago counterfeit are under arrest, but the government detectives have not yet been able to find the plant where it is made - and, until the printing machinery has been seized, the output ~~is~~ may continue.

The Secret Service estimates that the ~~is~~ amount in the hands of the public might run into "millions of dollars". The workmanship is described as excellent, close copies of real money. There are differences between ^{the} New York and Chicago varieties, but they have this in ~~is~~ common - they are ten and twenty dollar bills.

ESPIONAGE

A new break in that famous espionage case.

A late story from Washington informs us that (Whittaker Chambers has brought forward several hundred copies of secret documents stolen from the State Department by the Red underground.)

Chambers is ~~of course~~ ^{the} Senior Editor of Time Magazine, who made sensational charges of red espionage in the government. (He accused Alger Hiss, a former official of the State Department, and is now being sued by Hiss to the tune of Seventy-five thousand dollars for libel.)

The story, as given out, by the committee on un-American Activities tonight, is that the secret documents were copied on microfilm and concealed on a farm owned by Whittaker Chambers at Westminster, Maryland. The (committee investigator, Robert Stribling, tells how Chambers took him to the farm house, ^{where he lives,} and led him to a dried pumpkin. He lifted the cap off the pumpkin and took from the hollow space inside - rolls of microfilm.)

These were hurried to Washington - where at last reports, they were still being reproduced. (The microfilm is shown to include all sorts of secret documents of the State Department)- like confidential communications between the Secretary of State and American Ambassadors. The committee states that this is the final conclusive proof of red ~~espionage~~ espionage in the State Department. The clinching evidence - out of the pumpkin's mouth.

Here is^a/still later angle. Alger Hiss, accused by Whittaker Chambers, has just stated that his lawyers found out about the microfilm copies of secret documents - and that he passed the word along to the Congressional committee.

GUIDED MISSILES

Here's a vision, which sounds like fantasy, in the ~~raz~~ realm of the push-button war.

It emanates from General McNarney, head of the aerial material command - who ordinarily isn't a dreamer. General MacHarney said today that ~~the~~ Pushbutton war is not just around the corner, and then went on to predict - guided missiles navigating by the stars.

The General pointed out that the problem is accuracy. How to guide the guided missile correctly to a distant target. "The promising solution" he said seems to be automatic celestial navigation."

The missile would carry a gadget^t that would sight the stars. "An automatic celestial navigation system" he explains, "would do the job of a skipper on a sailing vessel."

Which raises a startling vision of flying atomic bombs guided by the stars.

MILITARY BUDGET

In Washington today, the high brass was told to keep quiet - this time on the subject of the military budget. President Truman has ~~xx~~ sent sharp orders, which today were passed around by defense Secretary Forrestal to the Army, Navy and Air Force.

The President has limited the Defense Budget to fifteen billion dollars, which the top command thinks is - not enough. Especially flying officers, *who say this is the air age - and they* ~~who~~ want that seventy group Air Force;

While the fifteen billion dollar budget will not permit more than fifty or fifty-one groups.

The high brass has not been protesting out loud in public. But their private complaints have been leaking out - accidentally or deliberately. Complaints - that the fifteen billions are not enough ~~in~~ for adequate national defense.

Hence today's presidential order - stop talking about the budget.

SUBSTITUTE MICHAELANGELO

A United States Navy cruiser is to bring a statue to this country -- a sculpture by Michaelangelo. A replica, a smaller version of the giant eighteen foot David, being brought here on loan -- to be placed on exhibition at the National Gallery in Washington.

Michaelangelo's David, the larger version, was an astonishing exploit. The story is told how in Florence they had a huge block of marble, odd in shape; and wanted something done with it -- though its form was such as to be a problem for a sculptor. An earlier master tried his hand at the job, but gave it up. So the huge chunk of marble lay for forty years -- a harder task than ever, because it was partly carved.

Then Michaelangelo took the matter in hand -- and solved the problem of the cramped and twisted mass of marble -- carving it into the colossal David. In doing this, he fashioned the replica, which will now be seen in Washington.

TRUMAN

The latest from Washington -- President Truman and Margaret playing the ~~prima~~ piano. In a father and daughter duet they rattled off something good and old-fashioned -- the Jenny Lind Polka.

This is the headline from the dinner given by the

National Press Club tonight -- a father-daughter ~~duet~~ *duet and a father-daughter banquet.* ~~banquet~~ Hitherto the Press Club has had its affairs

for fathers and sons, but some fathers complained -- having only daughters, like President Truman for example. So they were the chief guests at tonight's celebration, and headlined the occasion with a musical outbreak. Daughter Margaret is of course a singer, but she can play the piano too and did tonight along with the President.

WEATHER

Here's a new kind of business, a private weather bureau, a company in Boston that sells information and predictions of rain and shine, storm and snow. Of course, the government weather bureau does that too - but the private concern performs a special job.

There are two partners, John Wallace and James Mazza, and their identity gives a clue to the whole thing. John Wallace was a major in the Air Force during the war, a meteorologist who worked on the great problem of the elements that confronted D-Day invasion of France.

Also on the weather predictions for the flight that carried the atomic^c_^ bomb to Hiroshima.

James Mazza was a sergeant whose experience was in the north; setting up wartime weather stations in Labrador and Baffin Island.

After the war was over, the former major and the former sergeant were confronted by the problem familiar to many an ex-G.I. in the service, they had

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been trained in a lot of specialized knowledge, had acquired a skill. So what to do about it?

They got together and set up in business in Boston as weather merchants, going around selling their product. They contracted to provide more details, more specialized information than is contained in the regular reports of the weather bureau.

They got business from the Long Island Railroad which, last year, was caught by a blizzard, train service badly impeded - storm warning not far enough in advance. Another customer is a contractor, who gets an advance notice of any sudden freeze - which would spoil newly-poured concrete. A candy company wants warning of heat waves, because chocolates can't be packed when the thermometer hits eighty. The two former Air Force weather sharks got a job from a New England yachtsman, who was out to win a sailing race. He paid them to predict the direction and the velocity of the wind off Marblehead. He won the race.

~~In their Boston office, the two merchants of~~

BORDERLINE

In a Canadian law court, a decision was given today in what certainly is - a borderline case. Marcel Machabee was found guilty of violating the foreign exchange regulations of Canada. The technicalities were a bit abstruse, but the borderline aspect is graphic and dramatic.

Marcel operates a grocery store situated right smack on the boundary between Canada and the United States. The borderline runs right through the middle of Marcel's grocery store. When Marcel stands behind his counter, he is in Canada-while the customers across the counter ^{are} in the United States. So Marcel, in passing out the daily groceries, really does an export business. Which also provides possibilities of foreign exchange violations-Canadian and American money.

Today Marcel was given his choice of a year in jail or a seven hundred dollar fine - a fine that would eat up considerable profit of that borderline grocery store.

BOOM

Here's a warning - that the boom may be about over. It emanates from a Harvard economist, Professor Snider. He tells businessmen to get ready for a recession. This, he advises, does not seem to be imminent, not right away. But the present boom, based on inflation, is about over, and a slump may come - which conservative business men should be prepared for. So says the professor.

SHOOTING

A wild shooting affray in a bus in Tennessee - because of the segregation issue. A negro sat down beside a white man, and they got into an argument - the white man demanding that the negro leave the seat. The segregation issue came to a climax, when both drew pistols, and started shooting. Their aim was wild and they succeeded in hitting other passengers mostly--in a frantic scene of terror aboard the rolling bus. The white man was wounded, and so were five other people. Tonight both gun-fighters are in jail.

COSTA RICA

An explanation is given today of a remarkable phenomenon - a nation abolishing its army. The country - Costa Rica, Central America. Then the decree to end the army is the more surprising because the present government took power as a result of a recent armed revolution, throwing out the previous President and putting in a new one.

Today President Figueres remarked that the military force which placed him in power consists of ordinary citizens who took up arms to overthrow a militarist regime, supported by Communists. So it's only natural for this army of civilians to go home when the war is over. Like the American citizens G.I's after victory in the Second World War, - so says the new President of Costa Rica.

He does not believe that the small central American Republic needs an army - the National Police Force will be sufficient. Moreover, he says that an army is dangerous - the way things usually go in Latin America. "Why," he asks, "Should professional military

cliques arrogate to themselves the right to nullify the will of the people as expressed at the polls?" Furthermore, an army is expensive - and the money saved will go into public schools and education.

Costa Rica, in the mountains of Central America, has long been known as the most enlightened of Latin-American Republics, and now produces what certainly is a novelty in this post war world - the army abolished.

FOLLOW COSTA RICA

In other parts of Central America things are not so serene, as is indicated by late news of aerial gunfire against California boats out tuna-fishing.

Three tuna-boats were looking for game fish seventeen miles off the coast of Nicaragua, when a plane flew over and machine-gunned them. Nobody hurt apparently, but plenty of excitement.

THE Skippers figured, what undoubtedly was the truth -- that the Nicaraguan plane mistook them for vessels of revolutionists. They broke out their American flags in a hurry, whereupon the plane flew off - after making the mistake of figuring that the tuna fishermen were on their way to land insurgents on the coast of Nicaragua.

SUBSTITUTE LEAD CHINA

The latest from China states that the Nationalist Government has thrown one hundred and fifty thousand fresh troops into the battle sound of Suchow -- the great railroad center, which surrendered to the Chinese Red Army. (Word from Nanking is that nearly a million soldiers are in desperate battle, as the Reds try to drive to the Yangtse -- the Nanking-Shanghai Riverline.)

CHINA

In China, the fall of Suchow is ~~still not~~ admitted by the Nationalist government, ~~but~~ The Red claim of the capture of the big railroad center is ~~probably~~ true, enough. However, the Chiang Kai-shek Regime announces military successes against the Communists driving south from Suchow - against Nanking.

The Generalissimo is reported to be rushing troops from distant parts of China, even from far off Sinkiang, the Chinese wild west - forces to defend the line from Nanking to Shanghai. That riverline of the Yangtze - is now the decisive war front.

In Washington, Madame Chiang Kai-Shek made her plea today - visiting Secretary of State Marshall at the Walter Reed Hospital, where the secretary is having a medical check up. They had a long talk, more than three-and-a-half hours - with the wife of the China's war-leader presenting her argument for all out American aid against the Reds.

What was the result? Madame Chiang Kai-Shek says - "Encouraging." Then talking to newsmen, she qualified

that by adding: "I would like to see anybody who has seen General Marshall, who has not been encouraged."

U. N.

The United Nations have prolonged the life of, the little assembly, the small version of the general assembly, authorized to meet at any time and consider any question. The purpose of the little assembly is to do something about the Soviet veto, which so often deadlocks the Security Council. The Soviets are bitterly opposed to the idea, and today in Paris all six Red votes were cast against; - the others in favor.

AIRLIFT

The Berlin airlift gives us the latest thing in aviation - jet propelled snowplows. One difficulty of winter - time-flying comes when blizzards bury the airbase-runways deep under drifts of white. But the airlift has found the answer - jet aviation.

They mount a jet fighter plane on a truck, and drive along with the jet engine going - so that the blast from the exhaust hits the snow on the runway. One feature of jet is the immensely high temperature of the exhaust and the tremendous force with which the gases are driven - the power that can propel a plane at ^{near} supersonic speed. So you can imagine what happens to the snow-bank on a runway, when hit by the fiery drive of jet.

Today one Air Force officer said: "Let 'er snow, these gadgets will melt or blow away the snow and dry the runways all in one operation. They'll do it, he added, "as fast as the trucks can drive up and down."

CHEWING GUM

The new puppet regime in the Soviet sector of Berlin is on the job with prompt action, making laws. This became evident when today a German newspaper reporter was stopped by a policeman in the Soviet zone. What was his offence? He was chewing gum.

The Red policeman told him sternly: "Chewing gum is American. It is now against the law here."

The Berlin crisis is focused on that new puppet administration in the Soviet zone, and its first decrees are directed against American influences -- one edict being against chewing gum. I don't know that munching jaws are the typical symbol of our American culture, but the Reds appear to think so.

And, ^{now} Nelson, you tell us about something typically American.