

CHINA

P.I. - P. & S. Friday, Nov. 26, 1948.

China news is telling us that (Madam Chiang Kai-Shek is ^{again heading this way -} ~~coming on a trip to this country~~ - to appeal for American aid against the Red surge.) That being in the headlines, a suggestion was made to President Truman today that he invite the lady's husband, the Generalissimo himself to come to Washington and present China's case.

This pm proposal was made by Congressman Sol Bloom, ~~of New York~~, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee for the House. ^{The N.Y. Congressman} ~~He~~ had a talk with the President, and the answer was no enthusiastic acceptance. Mr. Truman replied that he thought Chiang Kai Shek could not afford to leave China at a critical time like this.

(Madame Chiang, when she arrives, is not likely to get any large promises of all-out aid to the Nationalist government.)

This was indicated today ~~xx~~ by Secretary of State Marshall, who said that the question was being weighed carefully - how much can we afford to do to

help the Generalissimo against the advancing Communists. He made it plain that this country is going to proceed cautiously about getting too deeply involved in China.

SUB LEAD JAPAN

The Army announces that General MacArthur has full control of the news concerning the execution of the Japanese war criminals, headed by Tojo. That statement has just been made by Army Secretary Royall, who declares that the Supreme Commander in Tokyo has complete authority over all details including publication^{of} the news.

Over in Tokyo a late bulletin, just in, states that no communique will be issued today. Today, that is in Tokyo - which means tomorrow over here. This is taken to indicate merely that the executions of the warlords ~~has~~ have not yet been carried out.

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JAPAN

~~In Tokyo, General MacArthur's~~
~~headquarters have taken over the publication of all~~
~~news concerning the execution of the Ja. se was~~
~~originals, headed by Tojo.~~ MacArthur is imposing the
most extreme secrecy on the hangings -- concealing
the time and the circumstances. It has been learned
in Tokyo that four gallows have been erected at the
Sugamo prison; but little else is known. The execu-
tions are to be held in secret; ~~and~~ no newsmen
present -- according to the decree at MacArthur's
headquarters.

The regular newsmen in Tokyo are
protesting, as are the news agencies in this country.
They want to have reporters witness the hangings, and
present the news in the usual way. They argue that
this is in the public interest, and refer to the
family and friends of American soldiers who died in
battle against Japan.

This appeal has been rejected -- in a
statement made by General Walton Walker, Commander

of the Eighth Army, who is carrying out the executions General Walker refers back to the Nuremberg hangings, the stories and pictures of which were so gruesome.

"I think," says General Walker, "That the pictures and publicity given to the Nuremberg executions were a grave mistake." ^{Gen. apparently} MacArthur does not want to repeat the Nuremberg experience -- with its angles of horror.

Well, no matter how great and how necessary the justice may be, hanging is ^{a grim} ~~not a proper~~ ceremony -- ~~though it is~~ a ritual that has been enacted ^{often since the fall of Germany and Japan;} ~~going on~~ steadily for more than three years. Today, for example, fourteen more former Nazis were hanged in Germany. I suppose that some sardonic philosopher might find in these operations of post-war justice a final bitter argument against war. He might say that, nowadays, ^{one part of the aftermath of war is!} ~~the meaning of war is this~~ If you lose you hang, if you win, you become a hangman. which is pretty savage reasoning, like a lot of other reasoning in these happy times of ours.

ATOMIC

The public, we hear, is not to get the official report on the atom bomb tests at Bikini. The report was prepared by a board of scientists, and then was edited for publication. Tonight the document is in the hands of President Truman, but a late bulletin from Washington states that it will be withheld -- on the recommendation of Secretary of Defense Forrestal.

VENEZUELA

A late report tells of a flare of fighting in Venezuela after the apparently peaceful overthrow of President Gallegos. The Army took over in what seemed to be one of the quietest of revolutions. Power ~~was~~ seized by a military junta which named a new ministry - without a shot.

But ~~as~~ now we hear of gun fire in the streets of the capital city of Caracas, and of clashes in various parts of Venezuela. They say the Republican civil guard has remained faithful to the deposed President, and is putting up a fight.

This news of resistance to the military ~~group~~ coup d'etat emanates from neighboring Colombia - and if the reports are true, it means that the new military regime is clamping down on news, hiding the goings on in ~~the~~ Venezuela.

MARSHALL PLAN

~~A late bulletin from Washington~~
~~states that~~ President Truman has ordered a speed up
of Marshall plan aid for the reconstruction of
western Europe. These instructions have been
sent in a letter to Paul Hoffman, Administrator of
Economic Cooperation. Congress appropriated four
billion dollars, which was scheduled to have been
spent in Europe by June thirtieth, nineteen forty-
nine. The president now orders the date ~~to be~~
advanced - the sum to be expended by April second.

FAINTING

A weird high school story-a strange, dangerous fad among the pupils. At Ava, Illinois, an epidemic of self-induced fainting. The pupils found a way of going into fits or unconsciousness, and were doing this as something smart--a craze.

They call the fainting spell- a "Red-Out." Because, as they explain - "Everything goes red just before you pass out." *Accompanied by* ~~They had~~ weird hallucinations. Some ~~of them~~ *dreaming of being* chased by monsters.

They practiced the "Red-Out" in secret. And most of them who went in for the fad seemed to have been girls. A professor of psychology at Northwestern University *says it's* ~~stated today that it was~~ a form of "Group Hysteria." The ones ~~who~~ *practicing* it *getting* ~~got~~ a lot of interest and attention from the others--vanity causing the thing to become an epidemic.

Today the high school principal announced that if any pupil hereafter is caught playing

"Red-Out" he or she will be expelled from school - at once. This decree followed a full disclosure of the secret practice of self-induced fainting-the whole thing climaxed by terrifying scenes.

In a locker room, one girl was playing "Red-Out" while other pupils watched. She went into the usual faint, and then they tried to revive her-but she didn't revive. She lay there unconscious. The others were frightened, and one girl ran to the high school principal and gave the alarm. A doctor was called, and he administered medical stimulants, while the other pupils watched. But, even with medical treatment, it was hard to revive the girl. She was in a coma for two hours-and then, when she became conscious, she went into a wild hysteria, moaning and screaming.

Her sobbing and shrieking were such that the girl who had given the alarm ~~she~~ kneeled over and fell into a faint. ^{and} It took the doctor a couple of hours to revive her. ^{ff} The scene, ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~are~~ ^{are} told,

was a lesson to the crowd of pupils, scaring them into an understanding of the dangers of playing "Red-Out."

PATTERSON

Mystery is compounded in the affairs of the late Mrs. Eleanor Patterson, owner and publisher of the Washington-Times-Herald -- famous as "Cissy" Patterson. Late news today tells of a million dollar check, found in the belongings of Charles E. Porter, one-time treasurer of the Times-Herald, who plunged to death out of a hotel window last September.

The case of Porter has been a strange one all along. Cissy Patterson made a will that left the Washington Times-Herald to the top executives of that paper -- and her daughter is now suing to break the will. Porter, the Times-Herald treasurer, would have been one of the heirs, as a top executive -- save for the fact that he quit the employ of the paper shortly before the death of Mrs. Patterson. which left him out.

Today's information was given by the custodian of Porter's property, who states that in the belongings left by the former newspaper treasurer

was a cancelled check, made out to Porter, for the amount of one million dollars. The indications are that the check for a cool million was signed by Mrs. Patterson.

In addition, the papers left by Porter indicate that he intended to write a book, or an article, about Cissy Patterson. There are thirty typewritten pages headed "First Chapter of Memoirs." And there are hundreds of memoranda and newspaper clippings about the late woman publisher, connecting her with such famous people as President Franklin D. Roosevelt, President Truman, Winston Churchill, Secretary of State Marshall, Union leader John L. Lewis.

Porter had with him three suitcases full of this material at the time he plunged to death from the hotel window at Clarksburg, West Virginia.-- All a mystery which is becoming increasingly complicated.

SUBSTITUTE BENNY

There is a decision tonight in a battle of radio, a conflict in which the spoils of war are jokes, tunes, gags, horseplay and Jack Benny. For weeks it has been the talk of radio that the Columbia Broadcasting System and the National Broadcasting Company have been engaged in a contest for ^{the Jack} ~~the Jack~~ Benny show. In fact, the tug-o'-war has been on a broader scale - C B S and N B C battling it out for a whole series of headline radio features. But the Benny extravaganza has been the recent critical issue. Now the decision - Columbia wins.

Jack Benny leaves his spot on NBC and goes to CBS - beginning January second.

JESSE JONES

In New York today, Jesse Jones testified -- but not about that poker game. The Texas oil millionaire, who was a cabinet member during the Franklin D. Roosevelt new deal, gave evidence in a law trial concerning Arabian oil. And his being there was connected with -- that poker game.

Jesse Jones tried to avoid appearing in court, his lawyers saying that he was in no physical shape to do so -- heart condition. But the other side presented evidence to show that the seventy-four year old Texas oil man, while making the plea of illness, had played in a high stake poker game that lasted until two a.m. It was further indicated that, in one hand Jesse Jones held a straight, and bet four thousand dollars on it, only to find that he was up against four of a kind. The contention was that you're okay to appear in court if your heart is good enough to stand a shock like that!

Now, Nelson, how about something from you to sooth our jangled nerves?

WHOPPER

We have a preview tonight of a false and fraudulent event to be held on New Years eve - the annual contest of the Liars Club of Burlington, Wisconsin. An advance account is given by United Press Washington Correspondent Harman Nichols, an eminent member of the prevaricating brotherhood who comes forth with ~~who presents~~ a selection of whoppers, considered as front runners for the prize. All of which is of special interest to this program, because of that old Tall Story Club we used to have - ~~and today, as Grand~~ ^{and of which this Wisconsin Liars Club is an offshoot.} ~~As the ex-Grand~~ ^{today} Giraffe, of that mendacious fraternity, I cast a critical eye ~~over this advance selection of prize~~ ^{over this advance selection of} ~~on the list of big lies~~ ^{possible prize-winning lies.}

One attracted immediate notice - an ultra-modern whopper, the Tall Story keeping abreast with the Times. Michael Ahern of Dorchester, Massachusetts, relates that on the night of the Louis-Wolcott championship fight, he went around to the local saloon to watch the television. On the screen, Louis and Wolcott were battling away, when Michael Ahern got into an argument with the fellow next to him at the bar.

~~was~~ They started swinging at each other with such mighty punches that, on the screen, Louis and Wolcott stopped fighting, and turned to watch the bar room brawl. On the screen, the champion and challenger just stood there, gazing in admiration. When order was restored the television boxing bout was resumed. Michael Ahern says she met Joe Louis later on, and the Champ ~~xxx~~ congratulated him for the best fight he had ever seen - much better than the one interrupted on the television screen.

Yes, the tall story is keeping up with the times - and here's another based on a topic of the day. I have it from ~~/~~ Cartoonist H. T. Webster, creator of Casper Milquetoast, the timid soul. Webby showed me a ~~xxx~~ clipping from some out of town newspaper, a story about that famous horse race - Citation, all by himself. No other thoroughbred ~~was~~ entered, ~~and it~~ ~~was~~ a one horse race. The newspaper clipping stated that Casper Milquetoast bet on Citation. Never before had the Timid Soul ventured to risk a gamble, but now,

since there was only one horse in the race, he mustered up enough courage ^{to} ~~and~~ ^{that} bet Citation ~~but~~ would win. H. T. Webster told me, however, that the story was inaccurate. Because the Timid Soul bet on Citation, not to win, but to place!

B.S. If any homebody should not know the meaning of the expression "to place" - just let her ask her husband about it. Or address an Ivory wrapper to Nelson here and ask him to explain. And in our evening race with the clock Nelson I'm giving it to you - on the nose.