

CHINA

L.J. - P.S. Thursday, Jan. 12, 1950

A statement was made today that Soviet Russia is grabbing ^a ~~northern province of China, seizing a~~ rich slice of Chinese territory. We have this from Secretary of State Acheson, who points out that the Soviets have already taken outer Mongolia from China, control Manchuria, and are absorbing inner Mongolia. Which may be considered outer provinces of the ancient land; - and, in addition, Soviet Russia is grabbing a province of China proper.

The Acheson statements were made in an address to the National Press Club in Washington - an address in which he was expected to defend our ^{present} ~~present~~ China policy against the attacks of the Republicans. He did all of that - saying, for example, that the Nationalist Government of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek had lost the confidence of the Chinese people, and could not be saved.

But, more particularly, he defended our official attitude on Formosa - arguing that, if we took over the defense of that island, the Chinese

CHINA...2

people would think we were acquiring Formosa.

Communist propaganda would certainly take that line.

11 *Then he made the*
~~That was the context of his~~ disclosure that the Soviets
are seizing a northern province of China. He did not
say what province, ~~it was~~, merely contending that the
Russian grab would arouse the wrath of the Chinese
people - and tend to turn them against Communism.

HAINAN

Battles are raging on the Island of Hainan. But there have been no landings by Red forces from the mainland. Such is the statement by Nationalist military authorities on Formosa - who deny a story printed in a Formosan newspaper. This publication stated today that Communist army troops had invaded Hainan and established a beachhead on the southwest coast - with the aid of guerrillas. The Nationalists insist there has been no invasion, but say there's fighting between their troops and Red insurgents - "In all directions."

JAPANESE COMMUNISTS

In Tokyo today the Japanese Communist party spoke out in open rebellion against the Cominform. Which means a Communist party revolt against the Soviets and Stalin.

This follows a blast by the Cominform, condemning the number two red leader in Japan - whose name is Nosaka. He was charged with being what the Cominform called -- "a servant of the American Imperialist occupiers of Japan."

That produced an uproar on the left in Tokyo. One top Japanese Communist spoke up, defended the Cominform and okayed the odium heaped on Nosaka. The party responded by expelling him.

The climax comes tonight with a ^{(formal} ~~statement~~ declaration by the Japanese Communist party, defying the Cominform, condemning its action, and saying, "comrade Nosaka has the complete confidence of the masses."

Which certainly sounds like Titoism.

The Japanese Communist party is not powerful or important - but it adds another group to the Red opposition to the Cominform, the Soviets and Stalin.

BRITISH SUBMARINE

Off the coast of southern England tonight, an epic of rescue has begun - an attempt to save men trapped in a sunken submarine. The first news was that five were saved when the sub took the plunge to the bottom. Men who had been on deck when the undersea craft was rammèd by a Dutch freighter. The latest is, ten more were picked up by the ship that did the damage.

But it would appear that some sixty were inside the submarine when she sank. The figures make a large total for a boat of one thousand and ninety tons. The London Admiralty explains that, in addition to a crew of fifty-two, there were eighteen deckyard workers aboard - who had gone along for the trip, when the sub left port for naval maneuvers.

You can imagine the efforts that are being made - the more so as the submarine, named the Truculent, was a famous craft, with a record of heroic exploits in the war in the Pacific.

The sinking took place in a fog twelve miles off the ~~east~~ coast of Kent, near the estuary of the River Thames. The water there is fifty-four feet deep -- which is not such a great depth for submarine rescue. And tonight a whole fleet of boats is gathered for the attempt. Chief among them is a submarine rescue ship, a new type, recently built, just put into action. The boat has all the latest equipment for diving, for getting men out, and for raising a sunken submarine. Tonight the Admiralty in London says it has what it calls -- "high hope". It will soon be dawn across the Atlantic - daybreak for what they hope will be an epic of rescue.

RESCUE

Today in mid-Atlantic the cry rang out - man overboard; or at least - the equivalent of that ancient cry of alarm at sea. The man overboard from the great aircraft carrier Midway, and there might have seemed little chance of making a rescue.

The Midway was hurrying across the Atlantic to join the Sixth Fleet, in the Mediterranean, and was taking on fuel from a destroyer - always a tricky operation. Something went wrong -- the breaking of a fuel line -- which hit boatswain's mate Robert Beasley of Schuyler, Virginia, and swept him overboard.

So there he was, swimming in mid-Atlantic, left speedily behind by the two fast vessels. Neither the Midway nor the destroyer turned around to pick him up. Nor was there any lowering of boats in the old-fashioned rescue. Yet the boatswain's mate was saved, within a mere few minutes.

How? By helicopter. Along with ~~a~~ squadrons of planes, the Midway had aboard one of those aircraft with big rotating blades, and it didn't take long for

RESCUE....2

~~the~~^{It} eggbeater to rise from the deck, go speeding to
the man overboard, hover down to the surface of the sea
- and pick him up.

So tonight boatswain's mate Robert Beasley of
Schuyler, Virginia, might well be saying - that
contraption may look like it was meant to beat eggs,
but it beats the band in picking a fellow out of the
deep drink.

COAL

President Truman is ignoring the Congressional clamor for a crack-down on John L. Lewis. To a White House news conference today, the President stated that he has no immediate intention of invoking the Taft-Hartley Law - which he opposes and wants repealed. He said there is no national emergency, and that he will not go Taft-Hartley unless the coal supply sinks low enough to be called a crisis.

COIN

I have all possible respect for the South, but this is going a little too far. I have a feeling for the romance of Dixieland - but there should be a limit to the picturesque. Today in Congress, Representative Wright Patman of Texas introduced a bill to create a couple of new coins - money that we have not had hitherto. Not officially. Not in the flesh - or, rather, in the metal.

Anyone traveling south of the Mason-Dixon Line is beguiled by that old expression - two-bits. So typically southern ^{— or western —} - meaning a quarter; four bits - half a dollar. But Congressman Patman wants to turn that romantic oddity into actual coins.

His bill today calls for the U. S. Treasury to mint a unit of currency called - a "bit". It would be worth twelve and a half cents - and think how that would complicate things when you tried to figure out your small change. But still worse, the Patman Bill provides also for the coining of a - "half bit."

Which would be worth six-and-a-quarter cents, and would

COIN.....2

drive the country crazy. *So let's not do it!*

~~No, not at all,~~ Let's keep those quaint

financial oddities where they belong - down south *and*

out west,
and in the realms of romance.

BOULDER CITY

There's a town in this country which is resisting self-government - and does not want the civic status to which any American community is entitled. Boulder City, Nevada was formed by the Federal Government, in connection with ^{1 Hoover Dam for a time called} the city ^{the city} - ^{consisting} of the personnel of that huge project for electrical power, irrigation and water supply. Right now, the town is under Federal control, with a status like that of Washington, the District of Columbia. So why should not Boulder City become a self-governing municipality - in the usual, normal way?

Well, the people don't want it ^{says} ~~according~~ to the Department of the Interior. An investigation was made by Dr. Henry Reining of the University of Southern California, and he says that a majority of the seven thousand residents are afraid of incorporating - under the state law. But why? Because they ^{are} ~~are~~ afraid of being deluged by liquor and gambling - gambling being legal in Nevada.

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BOULDER CITY...2

the investigator calls - "Moral and physical
cleanliness." Which the people want to maintain - and
they don't want Boulder City ^{out there at Hoover Dam} filled with the usual run
of saloons, gambling joints, roulette wheels, ^{and} crap
games. Which is what would happen under Nevada law, if
Boulder City ^{were to} exercises its American civic right, and
changed over to a self-governing municipality.

STUDENT

At Cleveland, Ohio today the police laid in ambush for a bank robber - member of a gang that held up the Superior Savings and Loan Company yesterday. They got away with thirty three thousand dollars, but one of the thieves was promptly caught. Moreover, the police got a line on another member of the gang, John Hux, to whose house they went. There they found seven thousand dollars of the loot. Hux was not home, and two detectives waited for his return - an ambush.

After a while, a man showed up, coming in through the front door. The two detectives stepped forward to grab him. But he turned to flee, reaching for his hip pocket. They opened fire, and killed him.

So who was it? Not the bandit John Hux at all - it was a college student, Louis Haddad, an under-graduate attending Cleveland College. But here's the story the police tell - the student had come to the house of the hold-up man to collect a percentage of the proceeds of the bank robbery.

They say he attended college by day, drove a

STUDENT...2

cab at night - and gave tips to the gang of thieves, providing them with information about places to rob. For this he received Ten Per Cent.

The bandit captured yesterday is quoted as saying about the college student: "He collected Ten Per Cent of my split after each robbery."

A curious twist in the world of crime - a Ten Percenter.

DOCTOR

Somewhere on Mount Olympus is an old fellow with a long beard. His name - Hippocrates. He was the father of medicine, and to him is attributed the Hippocratic oath which doctors take - the pledge to follow the highest ideals of medicine and service to humanity. So I wonder what Hippocrates is saying tonight, as he hears about this bit of news from Windsor, Ontario.

In a night club a patron collapsed with a sudden stroke of illness, and a doctor was called. The physician arrived, examined the patient, and pronounced him dead. Whereupon he took twenty-five dollars out of the patients pocket, as his fee - leaving a receipt for it. Just collecting his fee.

This case was brought to the attention of the authorities at Windsor, and today they refused to make public the doctor's name. But they called his brand of fee collecting - "Unscrupulous, despicable." Which are strong words, but ~~For sure~~ Hippocrates, up on Mount Olympus, ^{probably} is using language ^{stronger still!} ~~more powerful than that~~.

MARGARET

I'm afraid a lot of advanced thinkers with modern ideas are going to be startled, not to say shocked, by what Margaret Truman had to say today. The President's daughter not only propounded some old-fashioned ideas, but also gave some financial facts, which would seem to contradict an important point of social philosophy nowadays.

In New York, Margaret Truman was queried on the subject of - marriage. To which she might have replied - that's none of your business. But she was too polite and obliging. - ~~She~~ she said she has no matrimonial intentions at present, ~~she~~ too busy with her singing career. But, when the time does come for marriage, her suitor will have to get father's consent.

"He'll have to see my father in the traditional manner," said the President's daughter. "I certainly would want my family's consent, and I doubt if I'd attempt to marry anyone they'd disapprove of." Sounds mid-Victorian.

We are told that in time past father's consent

MARGARET....2

was necessary because women were dependent financially on their families - while, in these times it is different because so many women are economically independent. So what about the economics of Margaret Truman?"

Today she said that her income this season, earned by singing, will be between sixty and seventy-five thousand dollars - not so much less than father gets as President. Her fee for a concert is fifteen hundred dollars. For a radio broadcast - three thousand dollars.

Her total for the season will be twenty concerts and three broadcasts. Moreover, she expects to make some phonograph records, which will add an extra bundle of cash.

The young lady is financially independent all right - but she still thinks that father's consent is necessary.

Do you approve of such an old-fashioned idea, Nelson?