

C.I. - P. & S. Tuesday, Jan. 11, 1949.

Israel has taken the dispute with Great Britain into the Security Council. This afternoon the Israeli delegate made charges against the British in the shooting down of the British planes. He complained of what he called a "menacing attitude" by Britain, and declared that this might threaten the peace of the world.

~~At Tel Aviv today,~~ the Jewish argument is that the planes were over Jewish territory in the Negeb, and that they were cooperating with the Egyptian Air Force in reconnoitering the military positions of the Israeli forces. This, Israel argues, was aggressive action, and places the blame on the British.

~~On the British side,~~ London ~~issues~~, tonight, ~~issues~~ a gravely worded statement. Great Britain is, in the words of the statement - "fully reserving its position and its future action." The British feel that the situation in Palestine is getting dangerously out of ^{hand.} ~~control.~~ London says that the United Nations - "has been losing control over events in

Palestine." And adds: "Recent events constitute a grave threat to the stability and the peace of the whole Middle East."

CHINA

The top council of the Chinese national government demands an immediate end of the civil war. The Control Yuan, as it is called, asks for an ^a immediate peace conference with the Communists. The council, which consists of two hundred and twenty-three members, offers to resign in a body, if necessary for peace. The Control Yuan, moreover, advises a similar resignation by what it calls - "all men in power." Which, of course, would include the Generalissimo, Chiang Kai-shek. The advice to him is to step out, if that would help the agreement.

This follows reports that Chiang Kai-shek has ^{split} ~~left~~ with his top commanders - they, too, wanting him to resign. ~~And the news is accompanied by word indicating a disappearance of three army groups, which had been trapped for five weeks, a hundred and seventy miles northwest of Nanking. Today the Government admitted it has lost radio contact with the surrounded army groups, and the Communist radio said they had been wiped out.~~

CRUISER

Soviet Russia has agreed to return one of the American ships borrowed by the Russians during the war-- an eight thousand ton cruiser, the MILWAUKEE. It has pretty well passed from memory, but during the war we did turn over warships of our Navy to the Soviets. The MILWAUKEE was one, renamed the MURMANSK.

So now we're to get the MILWAUKEE-MURMANSK back, in return for which the Soviets ^{acquire} ~~got~~ a cruiser of the surrendered Italian Navy. The double transfer will take place at the Soviet port of Odessa, on the same day, some time between now and the first of March.

~~All of which is in accord with the clause of the Italian Peace Treaty, long kept secret - an Italian cruiser to be given to the Soviets in return for the sending back of our own American cruiser, the MILWAUKEE.~~

SOVIET FUGITIVE

Another headline fugitive from the Soviets - this one the director of a big production center in the ^{Red} ~~Soviet~~ zone of Germany. His name is Vinogradov, a non-Communist Russian official assigned as top director of nationalized industry at the German city of Chemnitz.

At Christmas time, Vinogradov happened to be in Berlin, in the Soviet ^{sector,} ~~zone,~~ when he received an order from the Red secret police - an order to return to Russia. So what did he do? He took the subway. He ducked down into Berlin's underground railway, and took a train from the Eastern Zone to the Western Zone - emerging from behind the Iron Curtain into free country. There he was granted sanctuary as a refugee, his present whereabouts not stated.

GUAM

From Guam, in the mid-Pacific, comes news of the triumph of a lie detector - in the brutal murder of Ruth Farnsworth, fiance' of a Sergeant of the Marines. Today the military authorities out there say they have a confession - as a result of a lie detector examination.

For weeks Guam had an intensive manhunt, virtually everybody on the island questioned - soldiers and civilians. Then they called upon Inspector Albert Riedel of the Berkeley, California, Police Department - he's an expert in the technique of the lie detector. He arrived at Guam fifteen days ago, with his equipment - the gadget that measures the blood-pressure-reactions of people being questioned. The military authorities at Guam told him that their manhunt had narrowed down to fifteen suspects, and these were put to the test. One after another they were submitted to the skillful questionings, ^α patterns of questions - with the needle of the lie detector registering their inward reactions.

When it was all over, the expert announced that the test pointed to three men - three negro soldiers of the Air Force, all attached to the Twelfth Ammunition Depot.

The latest is that one has broken down and confessed, implicating the other two - declaring that the vicious murder was committed by all three.

GEORGIA TRIAL

The Georgia lynch trial ends with an acquittal.

And the courtroom scene today featured a singular event - two men on the jury taking the stand as witnesses for the defense. This, we are told, was neither ^{il} legal nor without precedent, though it was unusual - jurors as witnesses in a case tried before them.

The proceedings were tensely dramatic. A negro woman took the stand, Mrs. Amy Mallard, widow of the victim of an alleged lynching. She told how she and her husband were driving along the road in their car, when men in hoods appeared, stopped them - and shot her husband to death. But she said she was able to recognize one of the men in the hoods, and pointed to the defendant - a young white man, William Howell. Then she broke into hysterical sobs, and collapsed on the witness stand.

That was the situation when character witnesses were called, local witnesses who knew William Howell - and who swore they would not believe he was one of the lynch mob,

even in spite of testimony given by the widow of the victim. Whereupon the defense lawyer sprang a surprise and called the two jurors. They are going to the stand, and joining the character witnesses. After this, the verdict could hardly have been a surprise, the jury deliberating only twenty minutes before saying --

NOT GUILTY!

SATIRA

We usually look to Hollywood for stories about agents, who take percentages from movie stars. But Chicago has a case which would strike a Hollywood agent green with envy. A Chicago night club operator is suing a dancer - this on the grounds of a contract the dancer signed.

The lady in question is Satira, who was in the headlines a couple of years ago when she shot and killed her boy friend aboard a yacht in Havana harbor. After a flamboyant kind of trial, she was given a term in prison - and pardoned later by the President of Cuba.

The night club operator, at whose place she had previously danced, appeared in the picture at the time. He made several trips to Havana, and acted as a sort of champion for the pistol-shooting Satira. Something like a knightly Sir Galahad rushing to a lady in distress. He says that he also helped in getting a pardon for her.

All of which led to a contract, in which Satira agreed that, upon going back to dancing, she would pay

the night club proprietor twenty-five per cent of her earnings for two years.

Satira says that fifteen thousand dollars of her earnings have been impounded, under the contract - and apparently she is willing to make a settlement of the claims of the night club owner - based on the help he gave her during her trial and imprisonment for the shooting. Something unusual in the history of contracts.

HANGING

From England a grim fantastic headline of crime -- the case of the woman who tried to become a man. At Manchester ~~there is~~ a convicted murderess ^{is} doomed to hang tomorrow -- forty-two year old Margaret Allen, who at one time underwent an operation to change her sex -- though it didn't work apparently. She ~~is~~ ^{was} convicted of killing an old woman, a sixty-eight year old fortune-teller -- the details of which crime, however, are eclipsed by the strange angle of her attempted change.

HAM

The news tells of a theft committed at the office of Senator Barkley, soon to be inaugurated as Vice-President of the United States. Which may sound like spies, the stealing of secret papers. But not at all. Senator Barkley's office was robbed of a ham, a great big eighteen-pound ham.

This is item Number One in the detection of a sneak thief, who has been working in the Capitol Building - and who went around to the offices of lawmakers at night, filching what he could. He took cigars, shoes, radio, and an electric razor - and that big Barkley ham. Which really belonged to the secretary ^{to} of the Senator, Mrs. Flo Bratten, who put the ham in the office refrigerator. When it was found missing - well, you can imagine the indignation of a lady, when somebody swipes eighteen pounds, the price of ham being what it is.

She reported the theft, and the crook was identified. The police went to his house and found a pair of shoes belonging to Senator Styles Bridges of New Hampshire, and a box of cigars taken from Senator Scott Lucas of Illinois.

The box half empty, the rogue having regaled himself with some fancy smoking.

The police also found the ham from the icebox of Senator Barkley - it was half eaten. Today they informed the secretary of the Senate that she could have it back - what's left of that second hand ham.

MISSISSIPPI

This being the time for government financial figures, federal and state, here's a tax report from Mississippi.

Last year the State Collected seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars in liquor taxes, that much on the sale of alcoholic

beverages in Mississippi. No, I haven't got the wrong state.

I'm aware that Mississippi has prohibition - dry. Down there

in Dixieland they simply ^{have a way of running} ~~know how to run~~ prohibition, and still

get a revenue from liquor sales - like having your cake and eating it.

The State has two laws, a Dry Law, and another which they call - the Black Market Tax Act. And there's no fooling -

not about the tax. The Mississippi bootleggers are so well trained, that they make no trouble about giving the figures for their liquor sales - the tax on which is ten per cent.

And some bootleggers are so obliging that, without being asked, they mail their checks - with ^{voluntary} statements of how much hooch they have sold. ^R All this information goes into the

Tax Office, while the prohibition enforcement agency,

presumably, is right on the job, sleuthing around to find out whether anybody is violating the Dry Law. The old story - the right hand not knowing what the left hand does.

The tax report of today shows that during the last quarter of Nineteen Forty-Eight, more than a hundred thousand dollars was collected each month. Which means that the sales reported came to a total of a million dollars a month.

Well, it's quite a system -- if it works. Everybody happy, so they say -- the Drys, the Wets, the Bootleggers, the Tax Collector. I wonder how they do it?

PLANE

Sounds like war news to talk of a plane shot down. But that is what happened in Tennessee late today -- to a champion aircraft, the small plane that won the midget transcontinental race, held in connection with the Big Air Show at Miami. The prize-winning pilot, S J Whitman of Oshkosh, Wisconsin, was on his way home, when he was shot down. He was flying at five hundred feet, when a bullet punctured the gas tank. The pilot says: "Gasoline fumes almost asphyxiated me, but I managed to land safely on a muddy field half a mile south of Spring Hill."

That was in the Tennessee Hills, famed in song and story for free and easy gunplay. Some ^{trigger-happy} mountaineer with a rifle must have thought he was an anti-aircraft battery.

WEATHER

The weather story tonight is illustrated by the plight of the town of Gordon, Nebraska - isolated for eight days, food and fuel supplies running low, a state of emergency declared. ~~The call for help is urgent,~~ and at last report snow-plow crews were cutting their way through towering drifts - trying to raise the blizzard-siege of the snowbound town of Gordon.

That whole section of northwestern Nebraska is a critical area, with Governor Val Peterson stating today that ~~EVERYTHING HUMANLY POSSIBLE~~ everything humanly possible will be done to aid beleaguered towns and farms. ~~THEXIXXEX~~ An air survey has been ordered, with farmers and ranchers instructed by radio to indicate what they need by making marks in the snow. Mark an X for food, two X's for medical help.

Today the wicked weather continued - freezing rain, sleet and snow. It snowed ^{again} in southern California, which brings a truly astonishing bit of news. In San Fernando Valley, a traditional paradise, eternal summer, the police ~~ARRESTEX~~

today arrested five young fellows for snowballing passing automobile drivers. When the first cop arrived, the merry rogues grabbed him, and rubbed his face with snow, before he was able to make the arrests.

In Los Angeles today, a mishap occurred to a woman, Rose Marolla, recently arrived from New York -- fleeing from that northern winter and seeking the perpetual warmth of southern California. She was riding on a street car in Los Angeles, when a snowball hit her and broke her nose. Nelson, that tragic incident happened within snowballing distance of your home town of Long Beach, California.