

MOSCOW

L.J. - P+S. Thursday, March 24, 1949.

Another headline change in the Soviet setup -- Moscow announcing the removal of Marshal Bulganin as head of the Russian armed forces. This is the latest of a whole series of moves that began with the displacement of Molotov as Foreign Minister. The office of Minister of the armed forces is so important in Soviet Russia that the removal of Bulganin, announced tonight, is second only to that of Molotov.

As in the case of Molotov, Marshal Bulganin retains other important offices, continuing to be a ^{Vice} ~~Deputy~~ Premier and a member of the all-powerful politburo.

This Red Marshal is not an Army man who rose ~~in~~ in the military forces. More on the political side, he was the President of the Moscow Soviet before the war. His successor, though is strictly a military ~~figure~~ figure -- Marshal ~~Vassilevsky~~ Vassilevsky who distinguished himself in one of the great Red Army drives that broke through the German lines, during the war.

PENSIONS

The House of Representatives killed the Veterans Bill today - after bewildering uproar and complications.

The final vote was in keeping with the noisy and perplexing proceedings all along. It came as the result of a recount, a mistake having been made - then rectified.

From the beginning that multi billion dollar bill for pensions to be paid to veterans was a peculiar affair. It was introduced and pushed by Congressman Rankin of Miss., ^{and} there were many who called it - Rankin's revenge. ^{TR} The Miss^{issippi} Congressman had been a prominent and exceedingly vocal member of the committee on un-American activities; ^{when} The committee was attacked on grounds of unfairness to witnesses - also on charges of publicity seeking ^{and} in its exposures of the doings of the Reds. ^{Rankin was a favorite target.} President Truman ^{ing} added his voice to the criticism, ^{then;} and it was a question whether or not the committee on un-American activities would be continued in the new Congress. ^{TR} Well, it was - by a sort of compromise. This involved the dropping of

a couple of the more extreme committee members, and one of these was Rankin of ^{Mississippi.} A rule was passed whereby he was off the committee. *They played a trick to get him off.*

Rankin didn't say much about it at the time, but presently he came forward with ^{that} a bomb shell - ~~the~~ *his own* Veteran's Pension Bill. Benefits for veterans are always dynamite, [^] bonuses, pensions. The Truman administration ~~was~~ ~~xxxxxx~~ inevitably ^r was opposed to any such multi-billion dollar spending, which would throw the Truman budget completely out of kilter. But it's tough to oppose a ^{new} bill favoring the veterans, and the pension bomb shell was called Rankin's revenge for the way the White House democrats had maneuvered him off the committee on un-American activities

For days that Rankin bill has had the House of Representatives in a state of bedlam, shouting debate, angry recriminations, a bewilderment of amendments, a series of votes of the most contradictory kind. One minute the Congressman would take a vote that would kill the bill, the next minute they would vote to the

contrary, and keep the pension turmoil going.

Today brought the climax, the noise louder and the complications more intricate than ever. Amendments were adopted, amendments one after the other. These were so many and so varied that they amended the bill out of any resemblance to its original form. In fact, with all those amendments tacked on, nobody knew what the pension bill really meant - that confusing.

The end came, with a fine twist of new confusion, when a motion was made to send the bill back to the committee. That, in effect, would kill it - the pension proposal would never get out of the committee. ^{Which} ~~that~~ was clear, as Congressman Rankin himself admitted. ^{It} The motion to recommit was made by Congressman Olin Teague of Texas. He, himself, is a veteran, decorated with ^a ~~the~~ Purple Heart that he won in the second world war. So it was a decorated veteran who today introduced the ^{also} ~~reservation~~ reservation that would kill the pension bill.

The motion went to a vote, ^{and} was defeated - apparently. The margin was narrow, a majority of one

vote - two-hundred-and-nine to two-hundred-and-eight against sending back the bill. But then acting speaker McCormack ordered a recount. So the votes were tallied again, and there was a reversal. This time there was a majority in favor of killing the bill.

π Again it was a one vote margin - but the other way around. It was now two-hundred-and-eight to two-hundred-and-seven in favor of sending the multi-billion pension measure back to the committee. Which in effect puts an end to the whole matter. An end to what they call - Rankin's Revenge. But it created plenty of disturbance for days in Congress.

BROWDER

In the New York Red prosecution we have the unusual spectacle of a would-be witness begging defendants on trial to allow him to appear ^{on} their behalf, and give evidence to help them. He is Earl Browder, former General Secretary of the American Communist Party, who was deposed and tossed out three years ago, 1946. The eleven Red leaders who face the court are Communists big timers. And they all took part in the ousting of Browder, turning against him with bitter assaults. Chief among them Eugene Dennis, who took Browder's place as General Secretary. Browder owes them no kindness, but now -- lo -- he begs them to let him testify in their defense.

Browder argues that he could give pertinent evidence against one of the principal contentions of the prosecution. The government attorneys are charging that the American Reds returned to a revolutionary program when, in June of 1945, they changed from the war time Communist Association and reestablished the Communist

Party - which had been in abeyance during the war years when the United States was helping the Soviets against Nazi Germany. Browder was the General Secretary when the Party was revived - only to be tossed out later because he stood for a policy of American-Soviet cooperation. So now he says he's in the best position to tell what happened, and support the contention of the defense that the reestablishment of the Party did not mean a conspiracy against the government of the United States.

This plea of Browder is made in an open letter to the Communists leaders on trial. In this he denies a couple of rumors that have been going around. One that Browder would testify against the defendants, a government witness in the trial. Nothing to it, says he - he wants to give evidence in favor of the Red leaders. He likewise denies the report that he intends to enter the Roman Catholic church - as did Budenz, former managing editor of the Communist Daily Worker.

Today's move by Earl Browder raises interesting speculations. Is he trying to get back in the Communist Party as a Red chieftan? Is his plea today some kind of maneuver in an effort to regain his former position?

Just as interesting is the question - what will the Reds on trial do about it? Will they accept Browder's offer to testify in their behalf? Or will they reject the help of their former leader, who got in dutch with the World Communist Organization headed by Stalin -- the Browder they tossed out so isnomiously.

FOLLOW BROWDER

In the Red trial today, former Communist Editor Budenz testified that the change of party policy was at the dictation of the Ukrainian Foreign Minister -- Manuilsky, who as a Soviet representative to the United Nations, has ^{been} foremost in bitter anti-American propaganda. Budenz testified that the American Reds merely obeyed orders from Manuilsky, when they turned from war-time cooperation to a policy of -- get tough with the U.S.A.

Budenz related that in May of Nineteen Forty-five, when he was managing editor of the Daily Worker, he received a letter from the Daily Worker correspondent at the United Nations conference in San Francisco -- which was then being held. The correspondent reported to Budenz that Manuilsky, a Soviet delegate to the conference, was highly indignant because of the attitude of conciliation the American Communists were taking -- under the leadership of Earl Browder. This was followed by the restoration of the old-time Communist party and the eventual ousting of Browder.

All this at the dictation of Manuilsky.

In Washington today the Committee on Un-American activities declared that there were nearly eight hundred and twenty-five thousand American Communists and fellow travellers who, in time of war, will be what the Committee calls -- "spies, traitors, of saboteurs." The Committee says it has this information from J. Edgar Hoover, Director of the F.B.I. He is quoted as saying that there are seventy-four thousand members of the Communist Party, holding party cards -- and ten times as many stooges of the Reds ready to do work of treason for the Communist Party.

A TOMIC

The Atomic Energy Commission announces that there will be no new Atomic city in the Pocatello, Idaho, area - where great new plants are to be built for the development of Atomic power. The Commission has three towns on its hands already, Oakridge, Tenn.; Los Alamos, New Mexico; and Richlands, ^{at} the Hanford, Washington, project. Three are enough, and they don't want another.

In the Pocatello development, they ^{will} ~~will~~ have to put up a huge labor camp for construction workers. But, once the job of building is done, they hope that the neighboring Idaho communities will provide homes for the Atomic personnel - technicians and scientists largely. ~~There will be~~ two thousand of them.

That's a much smaller population than at the great Hanford project, for example - not to mention the atom city at Oakridge. But then the Pocatello plants will be limited to the production of engines of Atomic power - like Atomic ^{propulsion for} ~~engines to drive~~ ships. ~~of the Navy.~~

For this they'll use Atomic material turned out elsewhere -

the Hanford plant, for example, producing plutonium.

The Pocatello project, technically speaking, will make "reactors". That is the name the scientists give to contraptions that ^{will} harness the vast amounts of radio active energy, and turn ^{it} ~~this~~ into ^{industrial} ~~atomic~~ power.

BATTLESHIP

At San Francisco today at Hunter's Point Navy Yard, there was little fanfare and ceremony -- as the battleship IOWA was de-commissioned. That forty-five thousand ton giant is going to join what they call "The mothball fleet". The IOWA to be laid up, with her sixteen inch guns and her thousands of intricate machines covered ^{by} ~~with~~ a protective coating of rubber, spun glass and plastic.

The IOWA was the last of the super-battle wagons to remain on active service in the Pacific. In the Atlantic -- only the Missouri is left.

When Japan surrendered, the American fleet in the Pacific was the greatest aggregation of sea power the world had ever seen -- many times greater than anything before. ~~Today~~ That sea power was headed by seventeen ^{giant} ~~great~~ battleships ^{wagons.} Today six of the ~~seventeen~~ are in the Mothball Fleet on the West Coast, while eight are similarly laid up along the Atlantic. Two ~~are~~ were sunk as target ships and one, the Texas ~~is~~ has become a war-shrine down on the Gulf.

P That fate which has befallen all those mighty battleships is a reflection of new concepts of sea power -- the battleship counting for a lot less in this atomic era.

COHEN

Los Angeles news relates that the current scandal out here, the affair of racketeer Mickey Cohen, may result in a change for the better ⁱⁿ of the property law -- that among other things. They say that the present law may be changed in such a way as to prevent the seizure of homes to procure the payment of small debts. This following all the talk about the fact that a radio ~~job~~ shop-owner named Alfred Pearson acquired possession of the home of a sixty-three year old widow -- because ~~she~~ failed to pay a debt of a few dollars owed ~~to~~ to the radio dealer.

He, in turn, is the man who was beaten up, allegedly, by seven gangster henchmen of racketeer Mickey Cohen. ^{they} Just why ~~he~~ did it is something of a mystery -- although Los Angeles is ringing with the fact that the arrest of the Mickey Cohen hoodlums was suppressed by the intervention of high-ranking detectives. A captain and sergeant of detectives ~~have been~~ suspended. They are said to have told the

uniformed policemen who made the arrests to forget ~~it~~
about it all. Because the case was -- "too big".

Mr Mickey Cohen was locked up, now released
on a huge bail, of One Hundred Thousand Dollars. Today,
he was summoned to appear before a grand jury and
answer ~~the~~ questions -- he complaining that it is all
politics.

The whole thing would seem to be slightly
bewildering -- this mixture of an under-world--
political scandal, tangled ~~up~~ mysterious ^{ly} with the
business of the widow who lost her home -- which
now may bring about a change of the law to prevent
the seizure of homes for small debts.

BEER

Years ago ^a the Vice President of the United States made a ⁿ historical remark, when Tom Marshall said: "What this country needs is a good five cent cigar". To which some philosopher of the present day might add that the crying need of our own time is -- a nickle beer. Well, they have it -- in New York.

This news from the "Big Town" reaches all the way across the country, even to California -- telling how a bar-keeper named Sam Atkins is creating headlines by sewing a full-sized glass of beer, for five cents. It hasn't been easy, because the Breweries ~~now~~ advocate the standard price -- a dime. But Sam Atkins, a retired fireman, raised the slogan that a working man was entitled to a nickel glass of beer.

~~At first, the breweries tried to put a stop to it, two of them refusing to replenish Sam's rapidly diminishing stock - the five cent business being that good. While another raised the price on him, so that he could only sell the nickel beer at a loss.~~

LADY

Here's an astonishing, not to say a mystifying, news dispatch. It reads as follows: "Glendale, California, March 24. Sarah Marie Hyatt, twenty-three years old, explained today that she tore a parked car apart with her hands -- because its owner, after a fervent courtship gave her the brush-off."

Which must have been something to see - the Glendale lady rending the automobile limb from limb with her bare hands. Powerful reaction to a brush-off.

Ken, are the women that way out here?

LEWIS

The work stoppage of the coal miners will end next Monday, on schedule. This is officially announced by John L. Lewis, who today ordered them back to work. This in spite of the congressional okay given to James Boyd as Director of the U S Bureau of Mines. Lewis ordered the work stoppage as a protest against Boyd but it did no good.

TAFT-HARTLEY

A Congressional committee today voted in favor of the repeal of the Taft-Hartley law. The labor committee of the *H*ouse of Representatives put its okay on the proposal to end that much debated labor ^{*measure and*} ~~law, and substitute~~ substitute the old Waggner act with what are called - "improvements." This was a number one promise in the Truman election campaign, and the bill okayed today came from the *White H*ouse. The committee gave its approval without changing a comma. The vote, thirteen to ten - with one Southern democrat join⁽ing the Republican minority.