

B-36

GOOD EVENING:

L.H. - P.M. Tuesday, Aug. 23, 1949.

(Mr. Murrow gave to)

There were sharp, rough retorts today in the controversy over the B-36. The blunt language was uttered by Secretary of Defense Johnson, who used such terms as - "vicious," "fantastic", "malicious." He demanded an exposure of what he called, "an attempt to assassinate the reputations of public officials."

The Secretary of Defense, testifying before the Armed Services Committee in the House of Representatives, stated that his accusers have tried, in his words - "To torture three facts into a sinister relationship." The three facts are - that Louis Johnson was once a director in the Consolidated Vultee Corporation, which manufactures the B-36, that he raised funds for the Democratic Party in the Truman campaign last fall, and that he approved ~~of~~ an appropriation for the purchase of the Super-Bombers.

Today he declared that he became a Director of the Aircraft Manufacturing Concern - reluctantly. He says he did it at the request of the Late President Roosevelt in Nineteen Forty One, who was concerned

about bomber production.

As for Truman campaign funds for the election last fall, he denied that he received contributions as high as six and a half million dollars from Floyd Udlum, who controls Consolidated Vultee. He said that, in his recollection, Udlum made two contributions of Fifteen Hundred Dollars each, and that five or six other contributions were made through him.

Johnson stated that, after he became Secretary of Defense, the Air Force asked permission to buy thirty-six of the giant bombers, and he gave his approval on the advice of General Eisenhower and the Joint Chiefs-of-staff.

WHITE BOOK

Secretary of State Acheson ^{thought} ~~has just~~ issued
a denial that any part of the Widdemeyer Report
was suppressed in the White Book on China.

This has been rumored, but the secretary says
no. He explained that some parts of the Widdemeyer
Report were left out. A section on Korea for
example. But this was because the material was
not concerned with China. ~~Other parts were~~
~~trimmed, but merely to avoid~~

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pertaining to China was suppressed.

YUGOSLAVIA

Marshal Tito replies to Soviet Russia. He gives a formal answer to the diplomatic note, in which Moscow threatened to use what it called - "More effective measures." More drastic than mere complaints through the channels of diplomacy. The Soviets used harsh language, alleging the mistreatment of Russians inside Yugoslavia. So what now does Tito reply?

The Yugoslav note offers to send back to Russia all Soviet citizens, who may want to return - including those held on charges of espionage. Moreover, the Tito government suggests a settlement of all disputes with Moscow by means of diplomatic negotiations.

That has a conciliatory sound. But, at the same time, Tito defies any Soviet attempt to meddle with Yugoslav concerns. The note informs the Stalin regime in the following strong, decisive words. "Yugoslavia," says the communication, "is an independent and sovereign state. Its people are, under no condition, willing to allow anyone whatsoever to interfere with their internal affairs."

This news is accompanied by Yugoslav information

concerning the persons whose arrest was protested by
Moscow, and the Tito contention is reiterated - Soviet
spies.

ADD JUGOSLAVIA

Tonight there is a new entrant into the argument - the Greek Communist party. The Reds of Greece, conducting guerilla warfare, have been split by the Tito-Stalin brawl. Their leader General Markos has vanished - said to be a sympathizer with Tito.

Both Jugoslavia and Soviet Russia accuse each other of having turned against the Greek insurgents, and tonight the Communist party of Greece charges that Tito incited an attack by forces of the Athens Government against Red Guerillas. The statement is that the Jugoslavs asked for a drive to clear out insurgents from the railroad line between Jugoslavia and the port of Salonica, so that Tito might better be able to receive supplies from the United States.

The British continue to reply to criticism from the U.S. -- but in a more moderate, reasoned manner today. A spokesman for the Labor government gives warning of the bad effect, should there be a failure of the conference in Washington in September. Unless that financial, economic meeting succeeds, the world will be divided into three

camps, based on currency - the dollar, the pound sterling, and the Russian ruble.

Right now it is a two-way split, east and west and nobody wants the world still further divided -- into three. But that is what will happen, according to officials in London, unless the conference in Washington finds a way to help the British out of their economic troubles.

A labor government spokesman admitted tonight that the British delegation will have a weak case - economically. But a strong case - politically. That is, they will depend upon the world political situation to back up their economic arguments.

Today's reasonable tone in London is emphasized by the newspapers, which are deploring the violent and intemperate attack made on the United States by labor M.P. Tom O'Brien. In a shrill vituperating address, he cried out that Britain might prefer Communism instead of what he termed - "being kicked around by the unlettered pot-bellied monied magnates of the United States." London papers are

calling that "disgraceful." And are demanding an end to what they call -- "the mud-slinging between Britain and America."

FIVE PERCENTER

In the Washington affair of the Five Percenters, General Feldman was a star witness today. He's the suspended army quartermaster general accused of dealings with James V. Hunt, who represented business firms in getting government contracts. General Feldman, in a prepared statement to the Senate Investigating Committee, admitted that he had given Hunt, what the news dispatch calls - "A preview of army purchasing plans for Nineteen Forty-Eight." He gave the Five Percenter advance information about what the army planned to buy. But General Feldman today said, "there was nothing wrong about that." He declared the information he handed over had been published previously in at least one newspaper, and argued that Hunt had, therefore, derived no unfair advantage.

Later, the Committee produced various documents to show that General Feldman had written to a California purchasing agent saying that Hunt had, what the General called - "Ready entree to the White

House." Also, that Hunt drafted a cable, which the General signed (a cable to General MacArthur) asking the supreme commander in Japan to invite a California company to discuss the construction of plants to process powdered milk.

The investigating committee presented a picture of James V. Hunt as a Five Percenter who played both sides in the political game - Democratic and Republican. In the evidence offered today, was a letter that Hunt is said to have written shortly before the election last fall. In it he is quoted as saying that the Democrats in the government were "Very jittery," anticipating the worst. After which the letter went on to say - "If Dewey is elected, then I am in an even better position than before." An old game in Washington - playing both sides.

L.T.

Let's now switch to Lowell Thomas, speaking from Asia. Tonight he's in Tibet, on a trip to the Forbidden City of Lhasa. There is no radio in that Hermit Land, no way to broadcast from closed-in Tibet except by means of one of those new wonders of radio science. Lowell Thomas has taken with him the latest gadget for tape recording, and that enables him to send back broadcast material for this program.

So we'll be getting tape recordings along the route, and for a climax - a recorded broadcast from Lhasa, the mysterious realm of the Dalai Lama and the Buddhist monks, high in the land beyond the Himalayas. All transportation there is by caravans of yaks and mongol ponies, but these can serve the purpose of modern radio.

The broadcast we have from Lowell tonight was made when he arrived in India. Last night I told the story of how this fabulous Tibetan trip came about, and now Lowell gives details of his own. So now the account from Asia.

Now back to CBS in New York.

That was a recorded broadcast by Lowell Thomas from Calcutta..made as he told you..just before he set out for Lhasa...He is accompanied by his son Lowell Jr... In two or three weeks they will both be back in this country..unless they have trouble with the gear shift on a yak...meanwhile various guests will broadcast the news at this hour...Tomorrow it will be a gentleman known to most of you...several years ago he achieved considerable fame in the world of pugilism and literature...his name Gene Tunney. Nelson, you are a gentleman of great skill and I've always admired your ability to roll with a punch but I'm afraid it's better than even money that you won't come out for the second round tomorrow night.... As Lowell Thomas would say -- So Long Until Tomorrow.

CHINA

In China today, Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek flew from Formosa to Canton. He left his fortress island, which is expected to be an anti-Communist bastion, and arrived in the present Nationalist capital ~~fortress~~ to discuss a number one military problem - whether or not to make a desperate attempt to defend Canton against the sweep of the Chinese Red armies.

In the great South China port, Chiang Kai-Shek is also meeting a general - and a tiger. Today, Nationalist Commander Pai Chung-Hsi came to Canton with a live tiger. He also brought the news of an important victory, which was cheerful for the Nationalists, but the tiger seems to be the most joyful affair of all - as the China symbol of warlike ferocity.

The report is that the forces of General Pai Chung-Hsi defeated the Reds in the Province of Hunan, which has eased the threat to Canton. And, in the middle of the battle, they caught the tiger.

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As the cannon and machine guns were roaring, the
beast of prey from a nearby jungle got mixed in with
shell fire and shooting and probably was so scared
it was howling like a tabby cat. Anyway, the
soldiers in the battle captured the tiger, which the
general brought to Canton today as a token of his
victory - a good luck symbol of Chinese ferocity. So
now they have the tiger - and ^{they also have} Chiang Kai-Shek.

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