

In Great Britain, the Conservatives have taken a beating -- in a two-day series of local elections. The voters -- picking members for the county councils. Everywhere, the Labor Party Socialists made gains, as compared with similar local contests in Nineteen Forty-Nine.

Outside of the London area, the issues were parochial, of the neighborhood variety -- though the national significance cannot be ignored. But in London and nearby Middlesex, both sides injected national issues into the local elections.

In London, the Socialists polled fifty-five percent of the popular vote, and elected ninety-two candidates to county council seats. The Conservatives -- thirty-seven. Last time, the two parties broke about even. In Middlesex, the conservatives won forty-six places to forty-one. But, last time -- they took sixty-seven to twenty-three. ~~THE~~

The Conservatives, themselves are not minimizing the swing. This afternoon, the London

Standard, Lord Beaverbrook's paper, states bluntly:

"The people have given a warning to the Tories."

And notes -- broken Conservative promises.

More austerity -- not less. More controls -- not fewer.

It would seem that the Churchill people simply found -- they couldn't keep their election promises, the British economic situation being what it is.

Conservative leader Henry Brooke says: "Our opponents have cashed in on the country's difficulties."

## POISON GAS

A town in Germany was a scene of terror today -- when a cloud of poison gas rolled over the place. Deadly, choking chlorine -- the kind the Germans used in the First World War. To the people, it might have seemed like retribution -- left over from long ago.

At Walsum in the Ruhr -- a cellulose plant used chlorine for bleaching. The supply -- kept in a huge tank, fifteen tons of liquid chlorine, the gas liquified by pressure. The tank, of heavy metal, -- kept in a special concrete structure - with walls three feet thick for protection.

Something caused an explosion, so violent - the metal was torn to shreds, the concrete walls blown out, massive slabs hurled as far as a block. And fifteen tons of liquid chlorine turned instantly into a greenish cloud -- which, blown by the breeze, rolled over the town of Walsum, with ~~its~~ population of thirty thousand.

There, hundreds of ~~xxx~~ people were gased, some injured critically. But wholesale horror was averted

by the police -- who gave warning that the cloud of chlorine was coming. Telling people to seal the doors of their homes -- to keep out the deadly fumes. Or to hurry to buildings that could be sealed. Five hundred taking refuge in the Town Hall -- until the murderous vapor blew away.

Yes, like a reminiscence of the First World War -- when the Germans let loose a cloud of ~~that~~ greenish gas to roll over the British lines. The beginning of chemical warfare. Frightful, though so futile <sup>that</sup> -- it wasn't used in the Second World conflict.



The Soviets are holding their economic conference in Moscow -- which is being boycotted by the countries of the West. Nevertheless, one of the speakers at the opening session today was an American -- Oliver Vicerey, an importer of San Francisco. Before he left, he said he was going, in spite of all disapproval, because he thought that world trade would help the cause of peace.

Today he told the Red Conference in Moscow that he was an "old-fashioned capitalist," and defended free enterprise.

(Arguing: "It inspires and promotes individual initiative, and produces and distributes consumer goods more equitably than any other system."

Strange doctrine, to be propounded in Moscow.)

## KOREA

The Korean Truce talks are in a state of suspended animation. Today, the Prisoner-of-War question was recessed -- talks called off indefinitely. But U. N. Spokesman, General Nuckols, explains: "This is not in the nature of a break-off of discussions."

<sup>He</sup> adds that the recess is for -- "constructive reasons". Word is that the purpose is to consult higher levels -- Washington and Moscow. The news dispatches seem to take it for granted that, on the Bed side in Korea, the final appeal <sup>will be</sup> -- to Soviet Russia.

(Supreme Commander General Ridgway makes, what is called "his most optimistic statement since the negotiations began." Visiting U. N. negotiators, he tells the newsmen: "I think we are making progress in the truce talks." Which hardly sounds like a jubilant cry of utter confidence. But it is optimistic - considering.)

On the warfront, affairs are so unwarlike that the chief item of news is - newspaper delivery. Today, more than five thousand copies of a weekly were passed

along - by the newsboys, who, in this case, were --  
cannon. American guns fired propaganda missiles into  
the Communist lines. Delivering to the Reds a paper  
called - "The Free World." On the front page -- a report  
of the armistice deadlock. The newsboy cannon will  
deliver the paper to the Reds -- every week.

COMMUNISTS

In Baltimore, six convicted Communists were given jail sentences today -- from two to five years. Found guilty of conspiracy, advocating the violent overthrow of the Government. The defendants are seeking release on bail -- pending an appeal.

## INVESTIGATION

Congress has voted an investigation of educational foundations -- looking into charges of Red influence. This would involve some of the greatest of the tax-free foundations, philanthropic and educational. There were angry charges that it would <sup>Mean</sup> ~~be~~/government inquisition, ~~in~~ education. But the House ordered the new investigation.



## APPROPRIATION

Congress has just slashed a bill providing funds for the State Department -- making a heavy cut. And -- approved of the provision that would keep money from being used to establish an Embassy at the Vatican. That is, until the Senate has had a chance to vote on the nomination of an Ambassador. Thus giving the Senate full control of President Truman's proposal to establish formal diplomatic relations with the Vatican in Rome.

A hot reception -- for the Judge, who takes the place of Attorney General McGrath and House-cleaner Newbold Morris. Both fired in the blazing fluror yesterday. In the hotting Washington news these days, objectives are being met just naturally, come to mind.



The new Attorney General and house cleaner, Judge James McGrannery, arrived in Washington today -- and promptly ran into a blast of Congressional fire. Denounced -- by Congressman Harold Veldt of Illinois, for his connection with that Amerasia case in Nineteen Forty-Six.

Judge McGrannery was an official in the Department of Justice -- when an investigation was made of the left wing magazine, which had a way of getting secret documents from the State Department. The charge is that there was a whitewash -- and today Congressman Veldt declared McGrannery did the whitewashing, in behalf of the Department of Justice.

A hot reception -- for the Judge, who takes the place of Attorney General McGrath and house-cleaner Newbold Morris. Both fired in the blazing flare-up yesterday. In reciting Washington news these days, adjectives expressing heat just naturally come to mine.

FOLLOW McGRANERY

The latest - ( the new Attorney General promptly puts the clean-up in the hands of J. Edgar Hoover, head of the F B I. After a conference at the White House, McGranery stated that he will call on Hoover to furnish him with all possible information about corruption in government. )

SUB PRECEDE POLITICS

(General Ike wins a victory in Iowa -- where the Republicans held their convention today.) Twenty six delegates chosen to the G O P National Convention.

(Eisenhower gets fourteen, Taft eight.

Four delegates - un-committed.) One of the latter, though, is known to favor Taft. (Quite a success for General Ike - Taft having believed that he had a decided edge in that state so typical of the Middle West -- Iowa.)



POLITICS

( Paris pictures General Eisenhower as putting final touches on a letter of resignation. This -- to be sent to President Truman and Secretary of Defense ~~Ex~~ Robert Lovett. General Ike -- laying down his ~~Ex~~ European Command. )

He has been conferring with his campaign manager, Senator Lodge of Massachusetts -- ~~xxx~~ <sup>now</sup> in Paris for a political planning session. The General and the Senator in a conference that lasted for six hours and fifteen minutes. They must have ~~xxx~~ talked plenty of politics.

( He does not want to miss the gubernatorial while trying for the Presidential! ) According to the principles -- of a bird in the hand ~~is worth two in the bush~~

All of which reminded the Governor of a story, today. About a small boy who was asked -- "What"

FOLLOW POLITICS

Tonight, our news about candidates for a Presidential nomination focuses on Governor Adlai Stevenson of Illinois. Or -- is he a candidate? Yes, he is -- but for what? That question comes to the ~~fix~~ foreground, with a Stevenson declaration today -- that he does not want write-in votes in the Illinois Primary.

The complication is -- that (Adlai Stevenson wants to run for Governor of Illinois again,) and will have to win the Democratic nomination in the forthcoming Primary. (His name <sup>is</sup> on the ballot for Governor.) So how about write-ins -- for President? Could a voter vote for Stevenson twice at the same time?

(He does <sup>not</sup> want to miss the Gubernatorial while trying for the Presidential!) According to the principle -- of a bird in the hand ~~is worth two in the bush~~ <sup>and so on.</sup>

All of which reminded the Governor of a story, today. About a small boy who was asked -- "What's

the difference between a King and a President?"

The small boy answered: "A King is the son of his father, but a President isn't."

Thus spake the Governor of the Sovereign State of Illinois, mentioned as a possible next President.

involved in some sort of attempted bribery. She said she was confused about it all -- and indignant. But, anyway, the bribery was out.

In addition to which Judge Ryan also dismissed one of the jury-men. The reason for this is not disclosed.

That subtracted two from the jury, which, however did not make so much difference, because there were several alternates attending the trial -- to take their places.

But that had to be diminished by one, because one of the jurors reported sick, leaving -- only eleven. And -- it looked as if the trial might blow up. But the sick juror reported for duty this afternoon, and the jury, of twelve, began its



COSTELLO

In New York, the Costello case went to the jury this afternoon, after a day of uproar -- in which the Judge dismissed the foreman of the jury. Or rather -- fore-lady. Mrs. Helen Louise Mason declares that Judge Sylvester Ryan intimated to her that she was involved in some sort of attempted bribery. She said she was confused about it all -- and indignant. But, anyway, the forelady was out.

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deliberations.

All, in the case of Frank Costello, alleged slot machine King, who refused to ~~XXXX~~ answer questions at the television crime hearing last year. Defying the Kefauver Committee -- Costello now on trial for contempt of the Senate.

... along the Gulf Coast, like Louisiana and Southern Alabama. Whosever, today, visits his home near New Orleans and Mobile, according to schedule.

In the New Orleans area, a man was blown along with the wreckage of his house, when he saw his fifteen year old daughter was flying through the air. He grabbed her - like a ballplayer making a catch.

at Mobile, a first hand story of the people caught in a twister. Vernon Dyer related "My wife and I were walking along a road, when we saw a tornado about two minutes before it hit. It looked like a dough shaped fog, and sounded like a dozen airplanes."

They were near a school, which had a couple of massive columns of brick and concrete near the

## TORNADO

Tonight, the weather man has a smile on his face - his predictions a success. The other night we heard how studies of tornadoes were being made to find a way to predict them. So, yesterday, the weather man made a prophecy. The bureau saying - tornadoes might be expected in several areas along the Gulf Coast, like Louisiana and Southern Alabama. Whereupon, today, twisters hit - near New Orleans and Mobile, according to schedule.

In the New Orleans area, a man was blown along with the wreckage of his house, when he saw his fifteen year old daughter come flying through the air. He grabbed her - like a ballplayer making a catch.

At Mobile, a first hand story of two people, caught in a twister. Vernon Dykes relates: "My wife and I were walking along a road, when we saw a tornado, about two minutes before it hit. It looked like a cone-shaped fog, and sounded like a dozen airplanes."

They were near a school, which had a couple of massive columns of brick and concrete near the



entrance. Husband and wife ducked behind one of these -  
for shelter.

"The roaring got louder and louder," says  
Vernon D<sup>^</sup>ykes, "and the wind began to whip around us  
faster and faster. Then I heard the school building  
ripping away-and, the next thing I knew, bricks and  
timbers were raining down on me and my wife."

When the blast of the wind let up, they found  
themselves covered with two feet of the wreckage of the  
school. <sup>^</sup> ~~But~~ <sup>they</sup> were able to get out, ~~scratched~~ <sup>scratched</sup> and  
bruised - their clothes torn to shreds.

STILLS

In the mountains of Kentucky, there's a moonshine mystery - how did an Army tank get itself turned into a bootleg still? That's one to puzzle the Professor of Military tactics at West Point!

In Clay County, two constables went raiding up in the hill country, and seized three stills. One, to their amazement, was operating in an Army tank.

Armored monster - intended to rumble against the enemy in war, with blasts of cannon and machine gun fire. But there it was, dripping corn liquor! - white mule! which can be about as powerful as blazing cannon and machine guns - *Jim told.*

The constables are still inquiring, but none of the mountaineers have come forward to tell - how they ever got an Army tank and turned it into a bootleg still.

A Military, moonshine mystery, *heh-heh!*

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