

PANAMA

L.I. - P. G. Tuesday, Nov. 22, 1949.

A strange, melodramatic situation developed suddenly in Panama tonight - when the deposed President appeared before the National Assembly.

This last weekend there was a coup d'etat in Panama - the Army ousting President Chanis, who signed a resignation. The military chiefs then installed another President.

Today, in the National Assembly there was a violent angry debate over the revolutionary action by the Army - and this evening, in walked the deposed President, Chanis. Some supposed that he was coming to repeat his resignation and offer it formally to the legislature. But no, it was the other way around. He made an address, and began by saying: "I have come to the Assembly because I still consider ~~my~~ myself to be the constitutional President." He went on to tell of the military plot to overthrow him and said his resignation had been forced by the coercion of the Army - "most brutal coercion." And he summarized it all by announcing: "In the presence of the Assembly ~~as~~ I withdraw my resignation."

Whereupon, amid a riot of cheering, the legislature voted him back into office -- and then, in a body, escorted Chanis down the main street of Panama City. Taking him to the presidential palace - "where" declared one deputy, "we may ~~xxx~~ all be massacred."

While all this was going on the army, which is "the national police" was occupying strategic points in the city. Mobile squads fanned out from the military barracks -- the ~~gm~~ army taking measures to enforce the ouster of Chanis and keep its own President in office. There were rumors of a popular uprising in support of Chanis - and the latest tells of troops firing into crowds that thronged to accompany the national assembly. as the deputies escorted Chanis to the ~~px~~ palace.

COLOMBIA

In the Republic of Colombia, the Liberal Party has called a general strike - the latest in the political turmoil bedeviling that South American country. The Liberal Party summons the people to join in the walkout as a protest against what it calls - "Dictatorship." And - "election farce."

All this refers to the fact that the conservative president of Colombia, in the face of chronic disorder, suspended civil rights and put the nation under virtual martial law. Then - called an election which is to be held next Sunday. The voting, say the Liberals, will be fraudulent.

In calling a general strike, they urge their followers to abstain from violence. But it looks as if Colombia, this weekend, will have a tumultuous election, to say the least.

BRIDGES

Lively ructions at the San Francisco trial of Harry Bridges. It would seem that noise and disturbances are inevitable when Communism is at issue in a courtroom. All along, ever since proceedings began, the defense attorney for Bridges has been wrangling with the Judge - in a way to remind one of the uproar that was raised by the defense lawyers in the trial of the eleven communist leaders in New York.

Today brought the climax, with Attorney Vincent Halliman accusing the Judge of prejudice. "You personally hate ~~me~~ me" cried the Irish lawyer to Federal Judge George B. Harris. His Honor stood it as long as he could and then took action - most drastic. He found Halliman guilty, of contempt of court, sentenced him to six months in the county jail, and ordered ⁽the trial to be delayed until Bridges could ~~get himself another lawyer. Which certainly was putting the quietus on an obstreperous attorney.~~

But things, as turned out were not as bad as

that. Halliman's law partner interceded with his honor,
and finally judge Harris relented - a little, declaring
that the sentence of six months in the county jail
stands, ^{but now} ~~is~~ delayed ~~is~~ until the end of the trial - allow-
ing Bridges to keep his lawyer, and ordering the
proceedings to continue, on promise of good behavior.

BOMB

A late story gives us a report that the United States has developed a small atom bomb, such as could be used in battle to support the infantry - a "baby" atom bomb.

This comes from London and is attributed to sources at the military headquarters of the western power alliance in France. The correspondent says that the baby bomb weighs no more than two hundred and fifty pounds. And he adds: "Enough of these bombs have been made to ensure that the front ~~ixx~~ line of western European defense could be adequately protected at the start of another war".

TRUMAN

President Truman today came out in favor of "world revolution." But not the kind the Reds think about. He pointed to the American farmers and the way they produce bumper crops in this country year after year, by the use of new methods, new techniques. The American farmer has achieved an agricultural revolution - and that's the kind the President would like to see spread around the world.

He was addressing a conference of the food and agriculture organization of the U.N., and gave the warning that there can be no such thing as enduring world peace, if much of the world is afflicted with mass hunger. The cure, said he, is for backward nations to adopt modern ways of getting more and more out of the land. He offered American help - give other countries the benefit of the skill and the know-how developed by the farmers over here. And thus bring about - an agricultural world revolution.

PHILIPPINES

In the Philippines, trouble flared up suddenly today, and tonight two large scale battles were being fought between the Philippine constabulary and large forces of Hukbalahaps. That is, the Huks, peasant rebels led by Communists. One big fight is at a place called Obando, twenty-five miles north of Manila. The other - at Batangas, sixty miles south of Manila. Batangas is a political stronghold of the unsuccessful candidate in the recent Philippine election, Jose ~~W~~ Laurel - who was puppet president under the Japanese occupation.

~~(The election was a close contest, bitterly fought, with a record-breaking amount of election day violence, and)~~ today's flare-up seems to be an aftermath of the political campaign. ~~(There was a prelude over the weekend, when parties of rebel Huks raided three police armories and seized weapons.)~~ They seem to have plenty of armament, the Huks fighting with machine guns and trench mortars in the battles today.

WARD

The State Department says it has received word that American Consul General Angus Ward is being tried in Communist Manchuria - put on trial before a Red court. Hitherto, the charge against the Consul and four members of his staff has been the beating of a Chinese employee who demanded back pay, but today's news from the Red side mentions - two Chinese employees. All of which is dismissed by our Government as - a "trumped-up charge."

It is believed that the trial before the Red court in Mukden is merely for the purpose of putting indignities upon Consul General Angus Ward, after which he will be ordered out of Communist China - "in disgrace." In other words, the whole thing looks like a trick to cause Americans to "lose face." That's one of the oldest twisters of the Far East - the importance of "face," the misfortune of "losing face."

Well, Communists may be Marxian and modern, but out in China they still seem to go along in the same old Oriental way.

HUNGARY - FOLLOW CHINA

In Hungary, the Reds announce the American they seized has - "confessed." How the Communists love those confessions! Last night we heard how Robert Voegler was arrested as he was on his way out of Hungary, ~~Eastern~~ ~~European Manager of the International Telephone and Telegraph Company.~~ Now he's accused of what the Reds call - "Sabotage and espionage." And has - "confessed."

Along with Voegler, they've arrested the British manager of the Budapest office of I.T.T. - Edgar Sanders. Also a Hungarian official of that firm. They've all - "confessed." So say the Communists.

PALESTINE

Today in Palestine the final curtain closed on a bitter tragedy of the guerrilla war between Jews and British a couple of years ago. In a courtroom at Tel Aviv, sentence was passed on Isser Be-Eri, who formerly was intelligence chief of Haganah, the Zionist underground Army. He was tried for ordering the execution of an officer of Haganah - shot as a spy. But the doomed man was entirely innocent.

The story is one that goes deep into the ills of secret organizations dedicated to conspiracy and clandestine warfare. There is always a fear of spies and traitors in the ranks of the hidden Army - and the intelligence service of Haganah discovered that Meier Tubiansky had delivered to the British a list of Jewish users of electricity in Jerusalem. That list, they declared, would pin-point Jewish targets for British artillery. Tubiansky had served in Haganah for twenty-two years. But he was arrested, tried by court-martial, and shot - all on the same day.

Then later the truth came out. He had given the British the list - on orders from the authorities at Tel Aviv. The prime minister of Israel, Ben-Gurion, called the execution - "A tragic mistake." And the vindication was completed in the courtroom at Tel Aviv today. The Haganah intelligence officer was sentenced for the "Tragic mistake" - sentenced to one day in prison.

PLANE

The air tragedy in Sweden ends on a note of utter pathos - the wail of an eleven year old boy, the only survivor of twenty-nine Jewish refugee children. In the fog-bound and rain-soaked forest, two Swedish lumberjacks of a rescue party heard the boy crying. They fought their way through a thicket, and found the wreckage of the plane. The boy was safe in a section of the tail - a French-speaking lad from North Africa.

For two days he had gone through a ghastly ordeal - in the bleak chilled northern forest. But, and warmth, he was normal in an hour -- the given food [^] and [^] resilience of childhood.

BRIDE

The news has told of beauty contests of so many kinds that it might seem hard to think of a new variety. But here's one - though it's old in Sweden. In the towns and villages of the Scandinavian north, they select a Lucia bride, who presides over the season of Christmas. So now, in a nationwide contest over here, they ~~are~~ *are* picking an American girl of Swedish ancestry to be flown to Stockholm - as the American Lucia bride.

Four attendants will accompany her - Lucia bridesmaids, I suppose. And, wearing a white robe and a crown of lighted candles, she'll play her part in the ancient festivities. The "bride" part of it appears to be nominal, theoretical - she doesn't have to marry anybody.

It all goes back to the legends in the north, which tell how in ancient days, the Holy Lucia, Saint Lucy, sailed along the coast of Sweden distributing food to hungry people during a famine. This good Saint Lucia was quite a traveler, being also partness of the fishermen of Sicily. An echo of which appears in the

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popular Neapolitan song - Santa Lucia (Lu-cher-a)

so it's all quite international, and the more so now -

with America contributing a Lucia bride *with her crown of lighted candles.*

TOWN

In Bradley, Illinois, the town fathers are in a predicament - they're in a fix brought upon themselves. Recently, they put out a list of properties to be sold for taxes - and a number of these were bought. You know, purchasers picking up various lots on tax liens. Then the sad mistake was discovered - the unfortunate error. Somehow, the lot on which the town hall stands was included in those that were sold - and now the buyer has appeared, demanding his property. At last reports, village President Clarence Lock was saying - he was afraid that the civic fathers might lose their own town hall, *that it was a legal sale.*

HOLLYWOOD

We all realize that controversies between Great Britain and the United States are deplorable - and what could be worse than a war of women? So now we have a British-American battle of glamour girls.

There's British criticism of that style of Hollywood art which features the girl, instead of the clothes. The uproar was begun by Lady ^{Nancy} Astor, who herself started out as an American, and was quite a glamour girl - *and in fact one of the 3 top glamour girls.* Making acid remarks about American movies which are all dressed up with a lack of dresses, her ladyship called those Hollywood beauties - "Wretched." Hard words; - those "wretched" starlets. *She was a beautiful girl. The best of her day.*

In Hollywood today the conflict of unfriendly adjectives was taken up by Dorothy Lamour. "All of a sudden," says she, "it's the style for a lot of ill-assorted characters to make verbal assaults on screen glamour girls." So, in the battle of words, Lady Astor says - "Wretched." While Dorothy Lamour talks about "Ill-assorted characters." Now, ladies!

~~Dorothy used to be famous for wearing a sarong~~

- but not the ^{full} ~~many~~ yards ^{use} of cloth they use for that article of apparel in the islands of the Indies.

"Why," explains Dorothy, "I donated several of my sarongs to museums, who said they wanted them to add to the cultural level of their community." ^{TP} Not much sarong, but a lot of culture. ~~of a sort.~~

Over in England, the war of words is taken up by London show girls, who are irked no end by a report from a New York night club impresario. He said he crossed the Atlantic to engage some British beauties, but couldn't find any. The show girls over there are all knockkneed he claims. So here's the scornful retort from a London lovely named Bunty Graham. "Why," says Bunty, "we had beautiful women in this country while the Indians were pitching their tepees in the colonies - I mean Broadway," Bunty exclaims disdainfully. ~~And another~~ London show girl, Terry Morley, is equally disdainful about the beauties of Broadway and Hollywood. "They wouldn't be bad for a company touring the Provinces," sneers Terry.

Well, if the British and Americans would say only nice things about each other, and if the ladies would say only nice thanks about each other, wouldn't it be a wonderful world.

CORRECTION

I've a letter here, asking for a correction of a story we had on this program the other evening -- and I hasten to comply and apologize. The news told of a high school incident, a teacher paddling a sixteen-year old pupil - the girl who got spanked. The dateline we had for the story was Sharon, Pennsylvania - and the letter I have is from the Sharon School superintendent, C. M. Musser. *Mr. Musser* ~~did not answer. He wants it known~~ *He states* that the affair of the spanking actually occurred at the Hickory Township High School -- not in Sharon, ~~at all~~.

To this the school superintendent at Sharon adds a further complaint: "Your amused description of the affair was also regrettable," he writes, "and I am sure, if you understood the untiring efforts school people all over the country exert to establish good teacher-pupil relationships, you would refrain from reporting an occurrence of this kind as if it were an entertaining anecdote."

Now that's a point well taken, but what can you do when comedy insists on inserting itself into the most

solemn events? For example, that imp which tickles the funnybone is on the job right now. The affair of the girl who got spanked happened at the Hickory High School, and how can you miss the appropriateness of ^{that, Mr. Messer?} ~~it~~ How can you keep from remembering that old song of school days:

"Reading and writing and 'rithmetic,

Taught to the tune of a hickory stick."

It happened, not at Sharon, but at Hickory.

~~We now know this thanks to Mr. Messer~~

~~Mr. Case,~~

Anyhow, Mr. Messer didn't muss her, Mr. Case.