

Today in Washington it was announced that President Truman has granted Christmas pardons to one-thousand-~~ix~~-five-hundred-and-twenty-three men who violated the Selective Service Act by refusing to serve their country in World War Two. These <sup>pardons,</sup> ~~pardons,~~ however, <sup>were</sup> only given after careful consideration by the President's Amnesty Board which has reviewed each case on its merits.

Among those pardoned, and this restores their full political and civil rights, are a number of ~~XXXXX~~ conscientious objectors; some are Japanese-Americans, and, others, who through "ignorance, carelessness or honest misunderstanding"---those ~~who~~ are the words---"refused to fulfill their obligations" to their country.

The President's Amnesty Board <sup>said no to</sup> ~~refused~~ the suggestion of a general amnesty to all violators of the Selective Service Board. That is, there are to be <sup>no</sup> ~~be~~ pardons for willful draft dodgers. Careful consideration, yes. And, pardons in a number of special

PRESIDENTIAL PARDONS - 2

cases; so <sup>those who are pardoned</sup> ~~these men~~ may be reunited with their ~~friends~~  
friends and families for Christmas.

SUBSTITUTE LEAD PANAMA.

( This afternoon the government in Washington announced that we are abandoning military bases on the soil of the Republic of Panama. This follows the Panamanian rejection last night of a treaty that would have enabled this country to maintain bases for the defense of the Panama Canal.) The Panamanian legislature voted - no. So now the United States Government ~~XXXXXXXX~~ announces that the refusal is accepted, and the Army has been ordered to evacuate immediately all of its bases within the boundaries of the Republic of Panama.

The official statement is cold and formal in tone. The news of the ~~XXXX~~ turndown aroused a storm in Washington today - angry dismay in military and congressional circles. The statement was made that the defense of ~~XXXXXXXX~~ the canal will be weakened - the army put in a bad spot.

( Our own American Canal Zone, a strip ten miles wide, is insufficient for defense under conditions of modern war -- insufficient for necessary air bases.) This

is the more so because most of the ten mile wide canal  
zone, is covered with dense tropical jungle, which  
makes the construction of flying fields ~~difficult~~ difficult  
and expensive. Hence the need of bases on Panamanian soil  
for the defense of the Canal.



## PANAMA

One word from Panama blew up a storm in Washington today. The word was - no. The legislature of Panama turns down the agreement for American bases to protect the Panama Canal. That happened last night, and today military authorities in Washington declared that the refusal puts the United States Army in a bad spot.

The Panama Canal Zone, a strip ten miles wide, is insufficient for defense under conditions of modern war - insufficient for needed air bases. This is the more so because most of the ten mile wide Canal Zone is covered with dense tropical jungle, which makes the construction of flying fields exceedingly difficult and expensive. So we need bases on Panamanian soil, but Panama says -- no.

The Republic down there on the Isthmus, is, in a way, a by-product of the Canal - formed in the course of the maneuvering that led to the construction of the great water-way back in the days of President Teddy Roosevelt.

At that time, we pledged ourselves to protect the Panamanian Republic - and, at the same time, we were

granted the right to establish bases on Panamanian soil. We are still pledged to defend the Republic, but shortly before World War Two we gave up the right to the bases. That was the doing of the late Franklin D. Roosevelt, and today Congressman Engel of Michigan described the F.D.R. action as "A grand gesture."

Then, when the war came on and Panama Canal defense was in the headlines, an agreement with Panama was made whereby we were permitted to build wartime bases on Panamanian soil. A number of these were constructed - including one major flying field. The war over, the Army planned to retain fourteen of these, and Panama was asked to consent. After plenty of negotiation, a treaty to that effect was okayed by the Panamanian government - and now the surprise, disappointment and chagrin.

~~Why~~ Why has the Panamanian Assembly rejected the treaty? There's plenty of talk in Washington about that. Ultra-Nationalistic students are blamed, super-heated Latin-American patriots, who are said to have threatened

Panamanian legislators with death if they voted to grant to the United States the right to the bases. Another explanation is that there is a feud on between the Panamanian President and his Cabinet on one side, and the Legislature on the other. One Washington surmise is that the Panamanians may have ideas of getting more money out of the deal. Nor is there any lack of that familiar mention - Communist. In Congressional circles there was a tendency today to cite<sup>2</sup> anti-American agitation conducted by the Reds, Communism sniping at the United States.

~~So~~ What's to be done about it? Our Ambassador to Panama, Brigadier General Hines, who happens to be in Washington, was called to the White House for a conference with President Truman. ~~He emerged, declaring that the trouble will be straightened out, and an~~  
~~XXXXXXXXX arrangement for the Canal defense bases would~~  
~~eventually be made. That's the coolheaded view in the~~  
~~national capital.~~

~~But, on the other hand,~~ <sup>R</sup>Members of Congress

~~can~~  
declared today that ~~without an agreement for the defense~~  
~~base~~ <sup>now</sup> Congress would be exceedingly reluctant to vote  
money to improve the Panama Canal. Right now, Congress  
is considering a proposal to spend two-billion,-five  
hundred million dollars to turn the canal into a sea  
level waterway - instead of the present system of locks.  
A two-and-a-half billion dollar American investment down  
there would have a considerable financial meaning for the  
Panamanians - ~~x~~ and they might not like to see the bundles  
of cash go flying away.

Moreover, (there's Congressional talk of building  
a new Canal.) That has often been discussed - a second  
~~xxx~~ waterway from the Atlantic to the Pacific, a waterway  
somewhere other than Panama. Members of Congress ~~pin~~  
pointed out today that, if another ~~xxxx~~ Canal were  
built, the Panama Canal would take second place, would  
be a mere stand-by -- with a shift of business and money  
that would not at all please the Panamanians.

There is mention of a waterway across Columbian  
Territory - the Republic of Columbia holding a strip on



the other side of the Isthmus. And, of course, ~~any~~  
mention of a new canal <sup>always</sup> features - Nicaragua. ~~All of which~~  
goes back to an interesting page in history, the story  
of that Panama got the canal in the first place, because  
of a postage stamp. Conversely, Nicaragua lost the  
Canal - because of that same postage stamp.

Back in the early years of this century, when  
plans for an American waterway between the two oceans  
were taking shape, there was a great Panama - Nicaragua  
debate. Each project had its eloquent advocates. Across  
Panama the way was shorter, but more mountainous. <sup>old.</sup> ~~But~~ The  
Nicaraguan route was longer but had the advantage of a  
river and <sup>a</sup> big lake.

The issue is said to have been decided by a  
famous individual of those times, Bunau-Varilla - who  
represented the old French Panama Canal Company, which  
had fallen down on the job, and wanted to sell its  
canal rights to the United States for a fat fee.  
Bunau-Varilla won his victory, when the government of  
Nicaragua put out a new issue of postage stamps. Trying

to dramatize post office matters a bit, they issued a new stamp on which was the picture of an erupting volcano.

This the Representative of the French Panama Company immediately ~~is~~ seized upon, and in the Congress of the United States a Nicaraguan postage stamp was displayed - showing the volcano, ~~in~~ in most melodramatic eruption. The argument was trumpeted that, if Nicaragua had volcanos, an American Canal would be in danger of the terrifying eruptions. So the rights of the French Company were purchased by the United States - and Panama got the Canal.

~~Well, that page of history might be turned back,~~

According to some congressional talk in Washington today,

Nicaragua - ~~without volcanic postage stamps this time,~~

~~we hope~~ <sup>the</sup> <sup>(after all - one)</sup> ~~might~~ get a canal that would rank as number one.

<sup>all</sup> because the Legislature of Panama has ~~is~~ turned down

the ~~x~~ treaty for canal defense bases.

## SPECULATORS

The battle of the speculators rises to a new belligerent headlines today - with Presidential candidate Harold Stassen delivering a cannondade against those lists the government is issuing Republican Stassen declares that the lists of operators in the grain markets constitute what he calls - "A shower of irrelevant statistics." The purpose of the long series of names is, according to Stassen, to confuse and distract the public.

Harold Stassen, himself, started the whole thing, by intimating that Administration officials speculated in food at a time when they knew that huge purchases by the government were about to be made -- purchases that were certain to boost prices. That was followed by Congressional action, which brought forward Edwin ~~Ruxix~~ Pauley, special assistant to Army Secretary Royall. Pauley admitted that he had speculated heavily in the grain market - but that was before he took his present government post.

The next thing was the appearance of the lists - Secretary of Agriculture Anderson, at the demand of

Congress, making public a whole string of names of people who have been operating in commodities.

The first installment was published yesterday, and failed to produce any volcanic uproar. Among all the varigated names, there was only one Administration Official -- that same Edwin Pauley. Secretary Anderson, hinting that no other Administration Officials were involved, said the lists would speak for themselves.

~~Well, they didn't do much speaking yesterday.~~

~~So~~ Today ~~Har~~ Harold Stassen comes back with a blast of scorn - why all the lists? He says the administration, instead of printing all those names, should give a ~~at~~ quick one ~~word~~ word answer - yes or no. Did any officials of the administration speculate in foodstuffs just before the government did a lot of heavy buying in February and March, ~~N~~nineteen Forty Seven? And did such speculating officials make huge profits with the steep rise of prices that followed the government ~~pur~~ purchases?

The answer, as we are now getting it, is to be

found by studying the series of lists -- the names on which are scheduled to number as many as fifteen thousand. Meaning - you read fifteen thousand names. Or rather, the newsman does it for you. An answer of yes or no would save time - not to mention eyesight.

## PALESTINE

The news from Palestine tells of a grim gun battle - at a funeral, an exchange of shots over an open grave. In the cemetery of the Mount of Olives, they were holding the funeral of Robert Stern, A Jewish-British news correspondent who was killed by Arabs on Sunday. As the body was being lowered, the gunfight broke out - Arab snipers ~~xxx~~ shooting from nearby buildings, a police patrol replying with rifle fire, and members of the Jewish Army, Haganah, joining in the battle over the open grave.

There are reports of scattered violence from other parts of the Holy Land, the news dispatch noting that there is no Christmas truce in the Arab-Jewish feud though why there should be a Christmas truce in such a thoroughly non-Christian conflict, is none too clear. Anyway, there's new cause for disturbance - with the arrival of new shiploads of ~~illegal~~ Zionist immigrants, these being seized by the British.

## CHOLERA

From out of the East, comes news to point a moral - that the demon of plague is greater than a King. In more modern terminology, the quarantine against cholera applies to the Crown Prince of Trans-Jordan.

The cholera plague that raged in Egypt some weeks ago has spread to Syria - and the frontier between Syria and the Lebanon is closed by a ~~1~~ rigid quarantine. This, as it happens, was the time for a Royal visit - a visit to the Lebanon by Prince Talal, Crown Prince of ~~the~~ Trans-Jordan, heir to the throne of King Abdullah. He passed through a part of Syria, ~~where the cholera has~~ ~~been broken~~ and arrived at the border of the Lebanon. There ~~x~~ he was stopped and medical authorities told him he would have to abide by the quarantine rule - which meant that he would have to wait for three days at the Frontier.

This aroused the ire of the Crown Prince of Trans-Jordan. He called it - a humiliation. But the doctors were obdurate, and the heir to the Crown of King Abdullah departed in an angry huff, returning to

Syria and calling off his visit to the Lebanon.

This may not mean anything much, ~~RE~~ except for the ~~h~~ injury to the Royal feelings - although it might create some ill will between King Abdullah's government and the Republic of the Lebanon, both of which, as Arab states, are lined up against the establishment of a Jewish nation in Palestine. <sup>R</sup> It would be odd if the Palestine situation were affected, but ~~THE~~ Royal sensibilities can be touchy, even in the face of such obvious wisdom <sup>W</sup> that the demon of the plague is ~~greater~~ greater than a King.



RESCUE

Over in England, <sup>- in</sup> Liverpool, John O'Brien was working in an excavation twenty feet deep, when the sides of the big hole caved in - and O'Brien was about to be buried under tons of sand and stone. Just as this doom was collapsing upon him, a fellow workman, with remarkable quickness of wit, seized a long hose, and threw it down to O'Brien - just as the sand and stone buried him deep. ¶ Whereupon policemen and firemen did a fast job of digging - following down the line of hose.

It took them <sup>two</sup> hours to reach O'Brien. <sup>When</sup> his head <sup>appeared out</sup> of the rubble O'Brien exclaimed blithly: - <sup>As my mate</sup> ~~there~~ <sup>are</sup> ~~you~~ mates!" He had been breathing through the hose all the time. And he certainly owed plenty of thanks to that particular mate who threw it to him.

~~And now Nelson, hello there mate!~~

NIMITZ

In San Diego, California tonight, Admiral Nimitz took up his new duties as a baby sitter! Not a highly paid job, but an important one.

The former Commander in Chief of the World's greatest battle fleet, tonight is sitting up with his seventeen ~~xxx~~ month old grandson, Jimmy Lay, ~~xx~~ while Jimmy's mother is in San Diego hospital, awaiting a visit from the stork.

After he had been at his post only a few hours the great Admiral decided that baby sitting is no sinecure. "These kids scramble around a lot these days" said the Admiral of the Philippine Sea. "Almost too much for an old sea dog like me - but he continued - I've been well-briefed and believe I can make the grade."

And now let's hear from a more experienced baby ~~sitting~~ sitter - who also happens to be an old sea dog -- meaning you ~~strat~~ <sup>- Commander</sup> Nelson Case.