

PROFITEERING

L. J. Annors. Tues, July 23, 1946

Wedding bells are ringing out in Washington tonight -- but the merry chimes are a bit cracked and have a sour note. The wedding bells are clanging, not so joyfully, in the Senate war profiteering investigation -- which is looking into the business affairs and political connections of the ~~Mid-Western Empire~~ of war contracts, the seventy-eight million dollar munitions empire built up by the Garsson Brothers.

The public has, of course, been sufficiently advertised about the Garsson wedding in New York -- when the daughter of Murray Garsson got married. The pictures have been the spectacular feature, newspapers printing elaborate photographs of the nuptial feast staged in a most sumptuous fashion at ^{the} swank Hotel Pierre. That ^{fairly} elegant social event was attended by a galaxy of notables -- headed by Congressman May, who has been called the "Guardian Angel" of the war contracts empire. Other guests enjoying the munificent hospitality were officials of the government and high ~~officers~~ officers of the Army. The pictures show them in the gay and festive postures

customary at a wedding celebration. It was disclosed today, by the way, that the photographs were made by a commercial cameraman, who snapped about fifty of them -- and later sold them to the bride at three dollars per copy.

But that was only one wedding -- there was still another. The Senate investigation today took notice of a second nuptial celebration -- this one in Washington. So the wedding bells are ringing out twice -- in the war profiteering inquiry. That other wedding party was given by Joseph Freeman, Washington Representative of the Munitions Empire -- who is accused of having tried to bribe a Senator. He got married, and threw a big party. And pictures were taken of that one too -- photographs produced at the Senate hearing today. The scenes they show are strikingly similar to those of the New York wedding. The guests were pretty much the same, the Government and the Army prominently represented -- participating in the dancing, the drinking of toasts, the cutting of the wedding cake.

The similarity of the official guests at the two parties, New York and Washington, was such that Senator Mead today remarked: "It looks as if the show went on the road."

The interest of the Senate Investigating Committee is not concerned with mere sentimental matters as loving hearts and wedded bliss. One point about the two weddings is this: the pictures ~~xxx xxxxx~~ show, with vivid certainty, the presence of officials and officers who have been ~~not~~ mentioned in the war contract business of the Garssons -- and who have denied that they had any particular acquaintance with the heads of the Munitions Empire. But they were at the weddings; which would seem to indicate some sort of acquaintance. -- Presumably they didn't crash the parties.

Still more important, is the angle of expense. The Garsson wedding celebration in New York is revealed to have cost more than fourteen hundred dollars. -- ~~quite a costly party~~ The Washington wedding seems to have been similarly expensive. Who actually

did the paying? Were the weddings charged off to war contracts -- charged off to costs in the production of munitions? This is not clear -- but, if so, they tax-payers did the paying, as they so often do. In other words, the weddings ~~were~~^a part of the cost of the war -- if the wedding bills were charged to the government.

Evidence before the Mead Committee today showed that, in the case of the Garsson wedding in New York, Congressman May's expenses were paid by Murray Garsson, the Congressman's hotel bill. And Garsson also paid the hotel bills for Army Officer guests -- a General and his wife, a Colonel, a Lieutenant Colonel and his wife. These items were part of the cost of the wedding.

Several high ranking officers were able to attend the nuptial celebration by procuring orders assigning them to temporary duty in New York, at the time of the Garsson party. They received regular money allowances for the fulfillment of these temporary duties.

~~For all of which the Army was criticized today by~~
~~Senator Mead~~ now demands that the
~~Senator Mead~~
officers be disciplined.

(TP) So that's what the wedding bells are saying tonight, as they ring with a slightly discordant clangor -- in addition to which we have testimony about the alleged attempt of the Garssons to tamper with the testimony of a former Secretary of theirs. She is) Mrs. Jean Bates, who gave the Mead Committee information about telephone communications between the Garsson office and various members of Congress, including Congressman May, she stated today that at the time she was first called by the Investigating Committee, Dr. Henry Garsson and Joseph Freeman of the Munitions Combine, asked her to be, what she today called -- "A little bit hazy." They wanted her to be a trifle forgetful about people she had seen at the Garsson offices. She said that Garsson and Freeman referred specifically to Albert Jacobson, former legal consultant to the wa. department. He, by the way, attended both weddings -- ~~shown~~ shown in

the pictures -- though he has declared that he had very little to do with the Garssons. The former secretary testified today that Garsson and Freeman asked her to be hazy about ever having seen Jacobson of the War Department in the Garsson offices.

To this she responded by saying that she had no intention of committing perjury, upon which they reassured her: "You wouldn't have to ~~perjure~~ ~~yourself~~ perjure yourself. All you would have to do is ~~to suggest the slightest bit of doubt,~~ ~~said they,~~ ~~according to her.~~

"They kind of played on my sympathies," she declares, and quotes them as having said, concerning themselves -- "You wouldn't want to see ~~two~~ two innocent men go to ~~jail~~ jail, would you?"

After which Freeman, in the words of the witness, "patted me on the arm and gave me a little chuck under the chin". Playing on her sympathies".

Meanwhile, Congressman May has nothing to say about the offer of the Mead Committee -- to

hold night sessions. The Congressman has been subpoenaed to give evidence, but can't be compelled to -- as long as Congress is in session. He has refused to appear, saying he's too busy. So now the Committee has offered to hold night sessions -- in case the Congressman is to busy during the day. The legislator from Kentucky has nothing to say about that.

prohibits ceiling prices on wheat and various other foodstuffs until August twenty-first, and provides for a de-control board to call off price restrictions whenever it appears to be good policy.

The House of Representatives passed the
 O P A revival today, okaying the compromise bill
 by a majority of two hundred and ten to a hundred
 and forty ~~two~~ ^{two}. ~~So that we put~~ ^{Putting} it up to the
 Senate - the Upper House ^{now} having to give its decision
 on the bill which would bring the O P A back to life
 again, though with restricted powers. The bill
 forbids ceiling prices on meat and various other
 foodstuffs until August twenty-first, and provides ^{for}
~~for~~ ^{a de-control} board to call off price restrictions whenever
~~that~~ ^{it} appears to be good policy.

PALESTINE

The question about Palestine today was this -- how would the bomb outrage in Jerusalem affect British politics in the Holy Land? There were immediate surmises that the blowing up of the King David Hotel in Jerusalem by Jewish Terrorists might cause an outright cancellation of the whole intention of permitting a hundred thousand Zionists into Palestine.

The British reaction is angry and bitter -- but in the London House of Commons today Prime Minister Attlee preserved a tone of moderation. He gave the latest figures of the ~~xxxxx~~ casualties. These are greater than had been supposed. In the bombing of the Hotel, forty-one persons are known to have been killed, and fifty-one are missing. It ~~is~~ is probably that most, if not all, the missing were killed -- buried under masses of debris.

The Prime Minister denounced the King David Hotel bombing as the worst of what he called -- "Many and horrible" outrages in Palestine during the past few months. But he said the British Government was not going

to be diverted by acts of violence from its search for a just and final solution. Which means, of course, the British Government will not be coerced by the violence, but also that it will not allow an inevitable resentment to check its efforts for a settlement.

The indignation expressed by Prime Minister Attlee is echoed in even stronger terms by responsible Jewish organizations -- Zionist leadership both in Palestine and over here. Moderate Jewish opinion expressed the greatest horror over the ferocious deed that took so many lives. And its a significant thing that in Palestine solemn funerals are being held not only by the British and Arabs for their dead, but also by the Jews for the Jewish victims in the explosion -- the terrorists having taken little account of the lives of their own people.

Fragmentary word from Jerusalem tells of Jewish extremists ~~xxxxx~~ arrested and of one having been killed. It's none too clear how much progress has been made in the investigation of the disaster, but the

~~xxxxxx~~ Fragmentary word from Jerusalem states that two Jewish terrorists, one killed and the other wounded, have been identified as members of the gang that blew up the hotel. With them was found a large stock of weapons. ^{TR} And here's the latest, the bombing was done by the Jewish underground organization - Irgun Zvai Leumi - which makes a full admission.

That terrorist group takes the sole responsibility for the bombing - and, in the form of a secret release, states that a warning had been given to the hotel telephone operator thirty minutes in advance. This warning was designed to avoid a **gf** great loss of life-- by telling the British to evacuate the hotel. So the Terrorists blame the British for the holocaust - because they didn't heed the warning.

BOLIVIA

The state of the revolution in Bolivia is none too clear. ~~The first word today told of measures to combat a possible source of opposition to the new regime the tin miners. Bolivia is, of course, one of the great tin countries, and the miners of that metal constitute a hardy and turbulent population of mountain workers, many of them direct descendants of the Incas.~~

~~Dispatches say that the chiefs of the revolution that overthrew and killed President Villarroel, have secured pledges of support from various labor unions, but it's otherwise with the tin miners. They are opposed to the leadership installed in power by the revolt, and the miners are reporting to be marching against the new government.~~

~~That's from the Bolivian capital, and it's accompanied by word from nearby Chile - the Chilean~~

~~Foreign Office~~ ^{of Chile} ~~stated~~ that a new revolution has broken out, ~~in Bolivia~~. This revolt, we are told, is being promoted by elements in the outbreak ~~which~~ that succeeded. Which would seem to indicate that the

forces of the revolution have already split and are having a conflict among themselves. A still later dispatch from Chile states that fighting is going on right now in the ^{Lofty Andean} capital city of LaPaz, and the new trouble is called "xx" a revolution within a revolution".

There is confused word from Paraguay - a report and a denial that the government of President Morinigio has resigned. Paraguay has a ~~xxx~~ dictatorship similar to the one overthrown in Bolivia, and has long been threatened by revolution. It would not be surprising if the Bolivian outbreak has political repercussions in Paraguay, and things may be happening in that South American republic, or rather ~~xxx~~ dictatorship.

PASTOR

At Bonner Springs, Kansas, today, the Reverend Paul Lambert, pastor of the Bonner Springs Baptist Church, asked the police to help him find his wife. She has vanished - and certainly no woman has ever found a more dramatic way to disappear. The story, as disclosed today, presents a climax of the unexpected - a scene in church.

Last Sunday at the Baptist Church in Bonner Springs, the Reverend Paul Lambert led the service as usual, the prayers and the hymns, - and then stepped to the pulpit for the sermon.

His wife was at the back of the church, standing. She listened intently as the pastor began to preach - then motioned to a boy, a son of the deacon. To him she handed a note. It was the custom at the church for people to give to the deacon's boy notices and announcements for the deacon to read after the Sunday sermon was over. The lad took the note, and the pastor's wife walked out of the church.

The sermon that day was vigorous and ample - a typical Baptist exhortation. When it was over, the pastor gave place to the Deacon - who began to read the notices and announcements, a special prayer meeting a gathering^{of} the Ladies' Aid Society at the house of Mrs. So and So. In the midst of this, the deacon's boy stepped up and handed his father the note entrusted to him.

The Deacon opened the envelope, and started to read the message. It was addressed to the congregation, and began as follows: "I am sorry it is necessary to write this, but I am doing so for the sake of Paul, the children and the church. I have", the Deacon read on "hindered the work done here in Bonner Springs by my jealousy for the past two years. A preacher," said the note, "cannot work with a jealous wife".

The Deacon paused - only now getting the drift of what he was reading. He glanced at the pastor, who was motionless, stunned. The congregation was silent and tense.

The Deacon, not knowing what else to do, resumed the reading of the message. "I seem not to be able to overcome my jealousy", it continued. "Paul's life has been miserable. The church is his whole life's ambition. I was probably never called by God as a pastor's wife." After which the message concluded: "When you read this I will be several hundred miles from here."

There were tense whispers in the congregation. The dumbfounded Deacon stood holding the note in his hand. The pastor arose, excused himself in shaking voice, and left the church.

Later on he said: "I never dreamed anything was wrong. The Deacon had read the letter halfway through before I realized it was my wife who had written it."

He started looking for her. She seems to have gone to Kansas City - then to Texas - wandering around. And today the pastor made an appeal to the police to search for her - search for the preacher's

wife, who condemning herself for jealousy, used her husband's sermon as the occasion for a ~~ix~~ dramatic disappearance.

And now Hugh, will you make
Your appearance.