

SENATE

C.I.-R.G. Friday, May 19, 1950 Greenwich

The defeat was abysmal, the collapse ignominious - for the Truman racial rights bill in the Senate today. The vote marked a mere preliminary battle, and indicates that the Civil Rights Program, backed so strongly by the White House, has not a chance in the Number One showdown - if there is one. The issue today was not a question of passing the bill, but only of bringing it up - and voting to shut off debate, so as to prevent a Southern filibuster in that mere preliminary business.

A two-thirds majority was needed, sixty-four votes. But, when the test came, the administration forces got only fifty-two - - twelve short. The fiasco was partly because of the absence of Senators, but it showed only nineteen democrats joining thirty-three Republicans in the effort to put through the Civil Rights affair.

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On the opposite side were twenty-six Democrats, mostly Southerners, and nine Republicans.

These figures drew immediate taunts from the G.O.P. - jeers at the small number of Democrats who supported that measure the White House holds to ^{(be of} ~~be of~~ number one importance in the Truman Fair Deal program.

~~Administration leader, Senator Lucas, promises another try - but that seems doubtful. They were twelve votes shy today in the mere matter of bringing up the bill, so it seems utterly unlikely that they could muster the sixty-four votes necessary to pass it. All of which represents a hard blow to President Truman, who has made Civil Rights a major campaign issue.~~

ACHESON

Over in Europe, Secretary of State Acheson said good-bye today, with a farewell expressed in the words - "We're staying." ^{1 TP} Leaving for home, after the Big-Time conferences of the Big Three and the Atlantic Pact Nations, he served notice as positive and solemn as the English language could make it. "The United States," he declared, "has a continuing interest and stake in European affairs, which will not end with the termination of the European Recovery Program in nineteen fifty-two."

He said that, after the Marshall Plan, the United States will continue to extend support, economic and military, to the European democracies threatened by Soviet Russia. "The United States," he proclaimed, "is convinced that neither national independence nor Democratic evolution can exist within the network of

Soviet imperialism."

(This followed an announcement by the Foreign Ministers of the Big Three, that the Western powers will soon end their military government in Austria. They will name Civil High Commissioners, as in Germany - the Austrians of the Western Zone to run their own affairs, under the supervision of representatives of the Western powers.)

NAZIS

Today brings the address on the state of affairs in Germany - the report that was rejected by the Anti-Defamation League of B'Nai B'Rith. Some days ago, that Jewish organization, meeting in Cleveland, was to have heard Benjamin Bittenweisser, Assistant American High Commissioner for Germany, who had been invited to speak. But, when they saw the text of the statements to be made, the leaders of the Anti-Defamation League withdrew the invitation - disapproving of the things that Benjamin Bittenweisser was prepared to say. Today, however, that same address was made - before the Foreign Policy Association in New York. So what was it?


The Assistant High Commissioner states that Nazism has been liquidated in Germany! "Except for some fragments," declares Bittenweisser, →

"Nazism has been destroyed, never to rise again."

He admits there are many who will dispute this, and who will say that Anti-Nazi measures under the American Occupation have been weak and insufficient.

"This view," contends the Assistant High Commissioner, "is ill-founded and untenable."

He estimates that there are seven million former Nazis in Germany - many of them in public office and in high business positions. "The time has come," he argues, "to permit them to show that they have learned a lesson. It is neither possible nor desirable," he contends, "to try to keep seven million former Nazi party members outside the community - together with their dependents, probably twenty-five million people."




He concedes that Nationalism is rising in Germany again, but adds that Nationalism, in its proper sense represents what he calls - "Pride in one's country". Moreover, says he - We must treat Germany with patience and understanding.

Such is the report the Jewish organization refused to hear - in a dramatic rejection.

PANAY

Memories of bygone history were stirred by a statement in Toyko today - made by a former lieutenant of the Japanese Navy, who was a leader in the Bombing of the Panay,. Remember that U.S . gunboat sunk in the Yangtse in nineteen thirty seven - one of the spectacular events leading up to the war with J^apan? The Toyko government made profuse apologies - so sorry. But American indignation flared high - at the unprovoked sinking.

The story, printed today, is by a sq^uadron commander, who says - they thought the Panay was chinese. Invaders were advancing toward Nanking, and the Chinese were moving troops out of that city. The J^apanese Air Force was assailing evacuation boats - and mistook the Panay for one of these. So says the squadron leader in the attack, and he calls it - a "Terrible blunder."



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Well, it's a rather late date to have this explanation. But, in any case, it was a "Terrible blunder" for J-apan.

... returned home ... of the flying field ...
... Chief Petty Officer William Bell ... greeted by his wife and two sons. The ... of the ... was evident ... when the released prisoner and his wife ran together, and he hugged her so hard, that her hat flew off.

The lack of enthusiasm was manifested by the two boys, named Pat and Mike - three years and six months old. One was a little over a year old when his father left, the other not yet born. They sized up the family, at that time. Chief Petty Officer William ... Paddy ... for them, and their mother had thought that ... for the ...

FLIERS

At Long Beach, California, there was a meeting today - enthusiastic, and not so enthusiastic. The two American fliers, held prisoner for nineteen months by the Chinese Communists, returned home - and, at the flying field, Navy Chief Petty Officer William Smith was greeted by his wife and two sons. The enthusiasm of the reunion was evident -- when the released prisoner and his wife ran together, and he hugged her so hard, that her hat flew off.

The lack of enthusiasm was manifested by the two boys, named Pat and Mike - three years and nineteen months old. One was a little over a year old when his father left, the other not yet born. They stood staring glumly, at - that man. Chief Petty Officer Smith brought a Teddy bear for them, and their mother had taught them a song for the occasion.

"If I knew you were coming, I'd have baked a cake"

But not a peep out of them. They stared at the stranger with a stony expression - that man.

To make up for this lack of enthusiasm, there was a cheering crowd, while a Navy band blared away.

A rousing welcome, all the more joyful for Chief Petty Officer Smith and Marine Flier Sergeant Bender -

because, during their long imprisonment, they thought their own country had abandoned and forgotten them.

~~Today they denied they made any confession to the Chinese Communists, as stated by the Red Radio - any confession that they were on an aerial spy job when, actually, they lost their way, and flew over Communist territory. But they say they did make a statement - the contents to be divulged later.~~

ARSON

The police at Columbus, Ohio, say they have a lead in the case of the circus fire disaster at Hartford, Conn., nearly six years ago - when a hundred and sixty-nine lives were lost. The Big tent show of Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey caught fire while a packed crowd was watching the circus - and flame swept in one of the worst of horrors.

The lead at Columbus, Ohio, comes about in the following way:-The police have been questioning a group of three arsonists, guilty of setting fires. One - a fire bug sent to an insane asylum. Another - who burned a barn at the Ohio headquarters of the Mills Brothers Circus. The third arsonist of the trio admits that he set fires in Ohio - and he was a circus ^{man} working for the Ringling Brothers show at the time of the fire disaster in Hartford. He denies having

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had anything to do with that, but a Columbus police official says he thinks the suspect - "Had some part in it."

The Hartford fire was attributed to a carelessly tossed cigaret, and six circus employees, including two high officials, were sentenced to prison, on charges of negligence.

EXPLOSION

In Chicago, three women are in the hospital tonight, after a fantastic scene in a restaurant.

A woman's bowling league was holding a banquet, and the gaiety was at the climax, when the extraordinary thing happened.

They had a private dining room, decorated like a Christmas tree - the ornaments including a flock of toy balloons. These, filled with buoyant gas, swung overhead, attached to strings. In the midst of the gaiety, one of the ladies had the idea of hauling down a balloon, and the others followed suit. So, in a minute, they were batting the colored spheres around the table.

One balloon touched a lighted cigarette - and exploded. Which touched off a chain reaction, the other balloons blowing up, in quick succession.

A series of blasts - violent enough

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to blow out the windows of the private dining room
and shatter glass in the main part of the restaurant.

Five of the women bowlers had to be treated
for burns and shock - especially ~~the~~ shock.

WEDDING

This week-end we are, in a way, finishing up that trip to Tibet. You know how, after some event there are sometimes a few details to polish off. Well, this is one -- and here's how it happened.

When Lowell Jr. and I were in Lhasa, we were surprised to find that we might be able to get a radio message through to America. We have already told about that interesting lone Englishman, Reggie Fox. He lives there in Lhasa, with a Tibetan wife and children, ^{- the Dalai Lama's} ~~He is the~~ radio operator who sits

there on the Roof of the World, listening. And

then he reports each day to the ^{high monks and lay nobles --} ~~Dalai Lama~~ ^{tells}

^{telling them} ~~He~~ what is happening in the outside world -- the

world beyond the Himalayas which the Dalai Lama ^{and} almost all of his people have ~~has~~ never seen. ^{Reg} also has a weak transmitter

over which he said he would try to transmit a message

to America for us ^{-- reporting} ~~saying~~ that we at last were in

Lhasa. Whereupon Lowell Junior spoke up - said he had

[too, One he would]
a message ~~he'd~~ like to send. His message was to

a certain young lady in Greenwich, Connecticut. ~~His~~

a
message from Lhasa, which he never expected to get

It read!:-
through, ~~was~~ "Tell Tay Pryor that if I ever make
another trip to the Roof-of-the-world, I hope she'll
be along."

Well, his message was picked up, by ~~me~~
Charles Mellen, a radio ham in Boston, who relayed
it, ~~on~~, and the young lady got it.]

[And now, here we are in Greenwich for a
wedding at which I am to be best man.

It's a double celebration, for I ~~at last~~
have discarded my crutches so I can walk down the
aisle ~~and be~~ *as* best man to the partner of my Tibetan
journey, at his wedding to the girl who received that
message sent out over the Dalai Lama's radio.

One reason I am mentioning this is, that many of you have been writing, asking whether I have recovered. ~~And a~~ ^{As you in your letters have told} great many ~~tell~~ [^] me how ~~you~~ [^] prayed for me - after that accident - when I was being carried across the Tibetan Plateau and over those ~~to~~ mountains. I am sure all your prayers were a real help. It's hopeless for me to ~~try and~~ ^{attempt to} tell you how much ~~I~~ ^{| your thoughts and prayers were |} appreciated ~~your thoughts.~~ ~~So~~ That's why I am telling you that I have ~~at last been able~~ to put aside the crutches.

I may not walk up the aisle with quite as much ~~in~~ dignity as if I'd never been thrown by that horse on ^{that} high pass in the Himalayas; but, this is the final aftermath of our trip to the Land of Lost Horizon - a wedding.

PARIS POLICE

The city of Paris, today, had the all-time traffic jam. On the boulevards, the automobiles, buses and trucks piled up in the worst mix-up ever seen. So what was the trouble? ~~Here not the~~ ~~the~~ ^{The} traffic gendarmes on the job? They were - that was the trouble. The gendarmes engineered the champion traffic jam.

The paris police ^(are) ~~is~~ demanding higher wages - but can't go on strike. Which is forbidden by law. So it was worse than a strike. Today the gendarmes were on the job as usual, at street intersections - but made no attempt to regulate traffic. Instead they gave confusing directions. They halted automobiles, buses and trucks to tie up vehicles for miles. Those gendarmes played tricks with the traffic lights, making them go on and off in such fashion as to snarl everything in a bewildering maze.

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The boulevards were jammed solid. It took buses

In Paris where they love to honk horns
two hours to travel a mile. ~~You~~ ^{you} can imagine the

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din, the pandemonium of honking horns, ^{Nelson?} ~~In Paris~~

~~where they love to honk horns.~~