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4— Salem, Oregon, Tuesday, January 24, 1950

Mr. Truman's "Red Herring"

A jury in the federal district court in New York City,
after listening to evidence for a month, has found Alger
Hiss, one of a gallery of bright young left wing "liberals"
that influenced the New Deal, guilty of perjury in denying
the espionage stories of Whittaker Chambers that named
him as one of the high placed Soviet spies in the American
government. It stamps him a traitor to his country in
its critical hours.

Though Hiss was ultimately prosecuted vigorously, and
successfully under the Truman administration, the presi-
dent himself belittled the charges repeatedly. Two days
after Chambers told the house un-American committee
that Hiss had stolen state department secrets for him, and
confessed that he himself had been a communist engaged in
spying for Russia, Mr. Truman on Aug. 25, 1948, condemned
the investigation as a "red herring" designed to divert atten-
tion from the refusal of the republican 80th congress to enact
anti-inflation controls for which he had called a special ses-
sion.

The president also said that no congressional committee
would be given loyalty check records on any former or
present government employe. A week later as the special
session was about to adjourn, Mr. Truman returned to the
attack. He said the investigations were red herrings with
a strong odor and promised to prove during the presiden-
tial campaign just what they really were.

The investigation bogged down finally when Chambers
and Hiss each stuck to stories so utterly conflicting that
one of them had to be an extraordinary liar. The commit-
tee closed hearings and hoped the justice department would
bring perjury charges against someone.

Hiss then sued Chambers for \$75,000 on charges of slan-
der after the former spy had repeated on the radio his
committee testimony that Hiss was a communist, prelimi-
nary hearing of that suit obtained from Chambers new
documents which he said incriminated Hiss.

The committee issued a subpoena against Chambers de-
manding any other evidence he might have. On the night
of December 2, Chambers at his Maryland farm gave com-
mittee investigators the "pumpkin papers"—microfilms of
state department documents. They led ultimately to Hiss'
indictment and conviction. State department officials ad-
mitted on December 7 that the microfilm evidence indi-
cated that department codes probably had been broken by
foreign nations.

In the last week of December the president said he had
not changed his mind about the house investigation—"it
still was a red herring."

Chambers first told his story to Assistant Secretary of
State Adolf Berle in 1939 when the Stalin-Hitler pact on
Poland was signed, asking him to place it before FDR so
that Soviet spies could be removed. Nothing was done
about it and the microfilm spies remained in their jobs for
Chambers was characterized as a liar in the "highest cir-
cles." Other stories were investigated by the FBI and
still nothing was done, but Hiss was finally eased out by
Byrnes and made president of the Carnegie Peace Founda-
tion.

Hiss, according to Chambers, was not the only "red her-
ring." There were a lot of them who had wormed into
high places, particularly in the state department. How
much Hiss and the others influenced the failing FDR to
whom he was an adviser at Yalta, where world peace was
lost by concessions to Russia, will always be subject to
conjecture. And how much these "red herrings" were to
blame for our betrayal of China to the communists, and
our desertion of Chiang at Formosa is any one's guess.

Matthews as Johnson's Goat

How Defense Secretary Johnson must squirm as more
and more details are revealed of the disgraceful ousting of
Admiral Denfeld as chief of naval operations last October.

On the hot seat of public attention, however, is Johnson's
secretary of the navy, Francis P. Matthews of Nebraska.
Matthews is trying to get out from under charges made
that he is either "untruthful or incompetent." Those
charges were leveled by Senator McCarthy who quoted
Matthews' testimony that no commission had been given
Denfeld for a second term as chief of naval operations de-
spite the fact that McCarthy had a photographed copy of
such a commission. Matthews then discounted the com-
mission since Denfeld got it through "irregular channels."

McCarthy had raised the question whether Denfeld was
legally ousted and Admiral Sherman legally appointed to
succeed him. At the time of the ousting, it was not known
that Denfeld already had a commission to succeed him-
self. Matthews claimed the commission had been "irregu-
larly placed" in Denfeld's hands by the naval aide to Presi-
dent Truman. The president had signed the commission.
So had Matthews.

When McCarthy said Matthews was incompetent, the
description was about the same used by Matthews to
describe Denfeld. So, for "the good of the country," Den-
feld was bounced. Matthews had been in office but a
matter of months when the obnoxious episode affecting
Denfeld took place. Therefore, Matthews should not be
made to bear the brunt of all criticism that is deserving
to be heaped on those involved in the stinking mess around
the office of the chief of naval operations.

Because Matthews was Denfeld's immediate superior in
civilian capacity, Matthews happens to be the main target
of criticism. Senator McCarthy, however, should demand
an explanation from Defense Secretary Johnson who ap-
pears really responsible for the ousting. All indications
indicate that he persuaded President Truman to fire Den-
feld after the admiral said the navy was being slighted in
unification of the services. Then Johnson had Matthews
carry out the shameful assignment.

Johnson is to blame, not his administrative assistant,
Matthews.

Youngster Has False-Teeth Troubles

Seattle, Jan. 24 (AP)—Guiding a lively 3 1/2-year-old young-
ster through dinner is no picnic even under normal cir-
cumstances. Any parent knows that.

Which is why Mrs. E. L. Eoff is happy to report that son
Timothy doesn't make any fuss when she takes out or puts
in his false teeth.

The artificial chompers were installed as a temporary mea-
sure after dentists removed 14 of the youngster's 20 teeth.
A new set of his own should grow in within two or three
years.

BY BECK
Recollections



KRISS-KROSS

Lower Slobbovia,
Alias Crooked Finger

By CHRIS KOWITZ, Jr.

Think you had troubles during the recent snows? Then pity the
people who live in the Crooked Finger district, east of Silver
Falls park. They really learned the hard way what discomforts
Old Man Winter can bring.

In the first place, roads in that area, blanketed under a layer
of snow, became impassable. Bulldozers were dispatched to
the scene to scrape the snow off roads. The bulldozers set
their blades a bit too low and scraped off all the gravel as well.
Result: Mud.



Chris Kowitz, Jr.

One unfortunate chap got his car stuck along Bridge Creek
road, near Drake's crossing, just before the big snows came.
When the blizzards finally sub-
sided, he went to fetch his car
and found nothing but a 20-foot
snow drift. He hasn't seen any-
thing of the car for two weeks.
He fears that bulldozers, Cater-
pillars, trucks, etc., have been
driving right over his car all
the time, gradually crushing it to
pancake shape.

Another resident up Crooked
Finger way peered out of his
farm house window one morn-
ing and discovered a giant-sized
bulldozer sitting smack in the
middle of his strawberry field.
He still can't figure out how the
thing got there.

"It wouldn't be so bad," the
farmer said, "but the bulldozer
brought several hundred pounds
of rock in with it." The ma-
chine finally managed to
squeeze out of the field, but the
gravel remained behind.

In addition to all that, about
a dozen families in that terri-
tory were marooned for two
weeks.

MacKENZIE'S COLUMN

Reports From Red China Tell
Of Higher Prices and Taxes

By FRED HAMPSON

(For DeWitt MacKenzie, AP Foreign Affairs Analyst)

Hong Kong—Fresh reports filtering out of Red China tell
of more belt-tightening, higher prices and stiffer taxation.
Predictions of last summer are materializing into a winter
of woe for China's common man. Even the communist press and
radio have stopped trying to keep it secret.

Reports reaching the As-
sociated Press from the Yang-
tze Valley, site of such great
cities as Shanghai and Nan-
king, say large shops are get-
ting smaller and small shops are
disappearing. Communist pa-
pers carry daily notices of clo-
sures because of lack of business.
Doctors and hospitals are also
hard-hit. The American Mis-
sionary hospital and University
hospital affiliated with Gilling
college in Nanking are reported,
"selling their medical supplies
on the open market to pay their
staffs."



Fred Hampson

of officials there that north Chi-
na farmers are paying at least
20 per cent of their production
in taxes. He said it takes the
taxes of 30 farmers merely to
feed and clothe one soldier, ex-
clusive of ammunition. The ex-
pense has become a perplexing
problem because of the many na-
tionalist troops shifting over to
the Reds.

Nan said Russia had sent 300
miles of rails and 50 technicians
to help restore damaged rail-
roads.

Reports from both Nanking
and Shanghai say the Chinese
public is becoming increasingly
convinced that Chairman Mao
Tze-tung's main purpose on his
mission to Moscow was to get
quick relief and extensive eco-
nomic aid, including large cred-
its for railway rolling stock.

One source says, "so far as it
is felt, China has not received
much material help; the much-
publicized Russian-Manchurian
barter agreement of last year
has turned out to be only a local
arrangement."

Another report from Red Chi-
na says people are asking what
Moscow's price will be, "will
Mao's regime be asked to sacri-
fice its dominant position as the
leading communist government
of Asia and accept a secondary
role under the Kremlin?"

This source continues, "we
cannot answer now, but one
thing seems certain: There is a
large and influential group in
the communist central commit-
tee who by no means is subserv-
ient to Russia and will not
give up the paramount position
the Chinese Reds have won
through 20 years of struggle in
which Russia did not help."

PEARSON AND TRUMAN-BRYNES FEUD
President Truman's recent "do-as-he-damn-pleases"
crack at Jimmy Byrnes climaxed a long feud which has
been told in detail by Drew Pearson. Byrnes was among the
first to fly to Truman's side after FDR's death on April 12,
1945, later becoming his secretary of state.
But in March, 1946, Pearson told how this friendship
was fast cooling and how Truman wanted General Marshall
to become secretary of state. Then, on June 15, 1949, Pear-
son reported further inside details regarding the Tru-
man-Byrnes estrangement.
Byrnes then wrote Truman a letter, and Pearson, on
Dec. 17, 1949, quoted Truman as replying (in reference to
Byrnes' Dixiecratism): "I no longer know how Caesar felt when
he said 'Et Tu, Brute?' Whereupon Byrnes, according to
Pearson, wrote back, telling Truman, 'I am not a Brutus
and neither do I consider you to be a Caesar.'"

WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND
Powerful Officials Tried to
Block Crime Networks Probe

(Ed Note: Another of Drew Pearson's series of columns on
national crime networks and Costelloism.)

By DREW PEARSON

Washington—One year ago two justice department lawyers,
Max Goldschien and Drew O'Keefe, began studying a stack of
crime reports three feet high gathered from various cities of the
U.S.A. Thus, very slowly at first, began the current probe of the
nation's far-flung gambling networks.

Actually, the federal govern-
ment cannot in-
vestigate gam-
bling. It has the
power to inves-
tigate narcotics,
white slavery,
immigration vi-
olations and in-
come taxes, but
although the
public doesn't
realize it, these
are closely meshed with the
great gambling syndicates, until
the organized world of the na-
tion is now integrated and di-
vided in about the same way
that a railroad changes crews
and engines at division points.
Two powerful officials have
tried to block this investigation.
One was inside the U. S. Treas-
ury in Washington, the other
high up in the state of California.



Drew Pearson

One gambling house, the Club
Alabama, was even owned by
Lieut. S. A. Meek of the police
force.

Police Chief's Holdings
The police chief responsible
for keeping order in Fresno at
that time was blue-eyed, heavy-
set, likable Ray T. Wallace, who
received a salary from the city
of \$450 a month.

Not many people in Fresno
probably took the trouble to in-
vestigate Chief Wallace's prop-
erty holdings, though such in-
vestigation can be accomplished
merely by looking up the coun-
ty tax assessor's records. This
columnist did look up the re-
cords, and was surprised to find
that the police chief or his wife
owned some 16 ranches or par-
cels of land totaling 1,742 acres.

This does not include three
lots in the city of Fresno, two
ranches recently sold, a hotel
and restaurant on G street, and
the "OK Rubber Welders," a
tire-recapping establishment
that is owned in partnership
with Wallace's son.

These were some of the facts
confronting courageous Gordon
Dunn, the Stanford University
athlete, after he found himself
elected mayor of Fresno last
April. These facts also may
have been one reason why he
promptly fired Police Chief Wal-
lace and Lieutenant Meek, own-
er of the Club Alabama, and re-
buffed the proposals of his cam-
paign manager, Robert Franklin,
to open up the city.

Crackdowns Approved
Mayor Dunn also clamped
down on a long string of tawdry
hotels and houses in Fresno's
red-light district, and, in addi-
tion, cracked down on every
gambling club in Fresno. A
few citizens, who consider gam-
bling and houses of prostitution
proper ways of keeping migrant
workers' money in town, have
complained. But the vast ma-
jority highly approve.

Probably Mayor Dunn didn't
dream, at the time, how ramified
was the network of California's
underworld. Nor did he realize
that he was acting in advance
of one of the biggest narcotic
arrests in recent history. But
three months later, an Armenian
named Abe Davidson, speeding
up the central valley in the dead
of night, was caught with one
kilo of heroin, enough to last
the Fresno underworld for
months. He was driving so fast
that part of the heroin blew in-
to the back seat of his car and
had to be collected with a vacu-
um cleaner.

That midnight drive later
brought the arrest of Mobster
Joe Sica and 15 others, showing
how closely the world of nar-
cotics, prostitution and gam-
bling is knit together.
Still to be shown, however, is
the identity of the big boys who
give the protection near the top.
(Copyright 1950)

Diagonally across from the po-
lice station in downtown Fresno,
operated Joe Cannon's swank
gambling joint, the Plantation
Club. Not many of Fresno's
overwhelmingly law-abiding citi-
zens connected Cannon with any
outside mob, and ex-Police Chief
Ray T. Wallace, when asked why
he didn't close the Plantation
Club, naively replied that he

Never Saw Diploma
Detroit, Jan. 24 (AP)—One member of the suburban Grosse
Pointe high school graduating class never attended school
a day in his life and won't be able to receive his diploma
at graduation exercises next Thursday.
Karl Fredrickson, 17, was stricken in childhood with an
incurable disease. He never could go to classes but got his
high school education from a tutor.
The Detroit board of education ruled this fall that Karl
had completed graduation requirements and should have a
diploma.
But the plucky youth never will see it. He died last Oct. 3.

BY CLARE BARNES, JR.
White Collar Zoo



Efficiency Expert
POOR MAN'S PHILOSOPHER
Elderly People Feel More Fun
In Life Between 1900 and 1910

By HAL BOYLE

New York (AP)—Look backward 50 years—look forward 50
years—and which period would you rather live in?
The right answer to that lies in what kind of a world is being
made right now, from day to day and year to year.

But as the century rolls into its 50th year many elderly people

are doubtful that life today
holds as much
fun or security
as it did be-
tween 1900 and
1910. My moth-
er is one of
these.

"I think
young people
today have a
much harder
time of it than
we did when I was a girl," she
told me. This surprised me, as
it is more customary for her con-
temporaries to complain that
this is a lazy, pleasure-seeking
generation. I asked her why she
thought as she did. And her an-
swer surprised me even more.

"Well, we didn't have all the
labor-saving things around the
home that young wives do now,"
she said. "But I think we had
more real security. People in
those days didn't seem to have
so much trouble finding a place
to live, and I don't think they
had to worry so much about
what would happen next."

And she added placidly:
"I really feel sorry for the
young people today, and I
wouldn't want to trade places
with them at all."

Other people her age tell me
that they are sure they got a
bigger kick out of life than
young folks do now, because
they had more real zest for liv-
ing. They say they have found
the subway no real improvement
over the horse car. And they
are even more certain that pic-
nics and hayrides held more so-
cial enjoyment than an evening
at the movies.

"We used to entertain our-
selves," they say, "we didn't
look to others to entertain us so
much."

Some of this fun and feeling mothers loved as girls.

But in the world of 1950
America is a middle-aged giant,
even stronger in adulthood, but
realizing now the responsibility
of his power—and that he does-
n't stand alone.
Security in 1900 for the aver-
age American meant a home, a
job with opportunity for ad-
vancement, and a chance to edu-
cate his children. He had no
real fears of foreign armies in-
vading his homeland and held
only a vague contempt for Eu-
rope because it was always get-
ting mixed up in battles.

Today the age old insecurity
caused by poverty and unem-
ployment has been reduced in
the United States by a half cen-
tury of social progress unknown
before in history. But the new
insecurity created by two world
wars has increased tenfold. The
shadow of the atom bomb hangs
as heavily over the American
home as it does over the Rus-
sian.

It is hard to see how America
or the rest of the world, for we
are all knotted together in that
problem, will ever know real
security again until we learn, as
H. G. Wells said, that "our true
nationality is mankind."

If the goal is reached in 50
years, then the world of 2000
will be as much fun and as safe
to live in as that lost world our
mothers loved as girls.

Capital Journal
WANT-AD WONDERS
1500 BRITAINS WANTED
TO CLIMB TO SUCCESS!
A stepladder advertisement in the London
Times for an apprentice
tried to tell all the
bad features of the
work. But the \$30-a-
week job still seemed
so attractive that 1,500
young men applied!
Ancient Rome's "Si
Quid" notices were the
Want Ads of that time.
Your Ad Will Get Results, Too. Dial
Result Number 2 2406