

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

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Editorial Correspondence

New York City, N. Y., March 10—Everyone today is loudly acclaiming the trial of the Coplon-Gubitchev trial—Judy not allowed bail and confined in the House of Detention until she is sent to federal prison; and the "Mad-with-Love Russian" also in a prison cell until such time as this country can arrange for his deportation to his homeland, never to be allowed entrance into the U.S.A. again.

There is no doubt—no reasonable or unreasonable doubt—that these two defendants were guilty as charged, and deserved the 15-year sentences they received from Judge Ryan. And probably sending Gubitchev back to Russia instead of feeding and clothing him for a decade or more at Uncle Sam's expense is good sense—as well as good international policy.

But as your correspondent watched these two "little people" march out of the court room yesterday morning, escorted by their guards, we felt Judy really had a grievance.

We hold no brief for the gal. We believe she is hard as nails and only getting what she deserves.

But we believe Gubitchev is even harder, more dangerous. Is the guiltier of the two, and is really getting a break he in no sense deserves.

As the pair walked out there was a striking contrast between them—Judy, as usual kept up her chin physically, but anyone could see it was tough and go as to whether she could safely make it to the elevator. A matron and a U. S. marshal on either side, had a real load to carry. The girl was not only deadly pale, but had an expression of such complete despair and hopelessness on her face that it took a pretty seasoned veteran of the criminal courts, to feel NO sense of pity.

The tough little gnome from the Russian steppes, however, having just delivered an arrogant and insulting speech to the court (as per instructions, no doubt, from Moscow) had his head firmly on his square shoulders, a complacent expression of self-satisfaction and defiance on his chunky, pasty face, and strode along as if he could hardly restrain from breaking into the Kremlin goose-step.

As remarked at the close of the Hiss trial, in the enthusiasm of conviction there was no consideration whatever of just what and who had been responsible for the crime that brought it about.

There was no thought, for example, of Whittaker Chambers as Alger Hiss marched out of the federal court room, head held high, a doomed and ruined man.

There was no consideration of this former porcine chief editor of "Time" who had not only betrayed one country but two; who not only had been guilty of perjury once, but innumerable times; and who had in some fashion not yet revealed "PERSUADED" the man he termed "one of his best and closest friends," to take the treasonable and treacherous course which led to his friend's destruction.

There was no "destruction" for Whittaker Chambers. There was, and will be, no punishment. He is living in peace and quiet on his Maryland farm, with a well-paid job awaiting him anytime he wishes, and plenty of anonymous literary work to keep him in ready cash.

This, we agree, is no excuse for Alger Hiss. Hiss betrayed his country and his trust, the punishment he is going to get he deserves.

But there is no reason to believe Hiss went to Chambers, there is every reason to believe Chambers went to Hiss. It was not the young man working in the State Department, it was the young man working in the underground for a foreign and hostile power, who started this conspiracy which resulted in such a tragedy—tragedy for the victim, NOT the instigator.

What was true of Hiss is even more true of Judith Coplon. Whether she really "fell" for this little sawed-off and sinister Slovak romantically, we don't know. No one but Miss Coplon knows. We believe it likely even though what she thought was love undoubtedly turned to something less than that later on.

But romance or no romance, this much is certain. Miss Coplon did NOT go out to get Gubitchev; Gubitchev went out to get Miss Coplon. Just what his approach was we don't know, any more than we know the line Chambers used when he first contacted Alger Hiss, and urged him to hand over those secret U.S. documents.

But we do know—as certainly as anything in this crazy world can be known—that the INITIATIVE in both instances was taken by the two men who got off—or will get off—Scot free. One will live the rest of his life in his cherished native land, as he wishes; and very likely as a hero, for there is no doubt he gave valuable information to his country, and never deviated from the approved Communist line from the time of his arrest to his conviction. The other to be a prosperous and easy going citizen presumably in his own country, while the "dear friend" he "persuaded," serves his time in prison, and faces a future of shame and dishonor.

It "ain't" right! from the standpoint of exact, as well as poetic justice. But as Judge Ryan remarked when, after sentencing the Russian and then granting suspension, quote:

"Your punishment will now be in the hands of the Omnipotent Judge who one day will pass judgment upon us all: your treacherous actions toward the cause of peace will bring down on you the maledictions of mankind. You are now remanded."

In fact the court's remarks in passing sentence upon Gubitchev were so well expressed and pertinent, that they are worth quoting entire, as follows:

"Valentin A. Gubitchev, you have been convicted by verdict of a jury after a fair, impartial and public trial. You have had the protection of the laws of this country and you have enjoyed and had the benefit of privileges afforded to those accused of crime—privileges which are afforded to those accused of crime in few countries of the world."

"Before trial and until conviction you were at liberty on bail; you have had the services of counsel of your own choosing; throughout the pre-trial hearings there sat in court with you representatives of the embassy of your country, and during the trial there sat by your side and with your counsel a representative of your country, who was learned in the law."

"You came here as an emissary of peace; you were accepted among us in the role of a friend; you violated your oath of office to the secretariat of the United Nations of the world."

"By your actions you have been not only false to that oath, but you have betrayed the cause of peace. You stand convicted before the world of betrayal of all human mankind. You, it has been found, have by your acts attempted to destroy the hopes of millions, who would avoid war and establish peace among the peoples of the world."

"And you do that with arrogance and with a smile on your lips and on your face as you stand here before me for sentence and in defiance of all humanity."

"The Attorney General of the United States and the Secretary of State have recommended that this sentence be suspended and that you be sent out of the country. These officials state that they feel that the best interests of the United States of America and of its citizens will be served by following this course."

"The direction of international affairs is entrusted, by our laws and our Constitution, to these officials. It is beyond my province to question the reasons for or the wisdom of their recommendation."

"I shall accept it, and if arrangements are made for your immediate deportation, I shall bring you back at their request for sentence and at their request I shall suspend sentence on the day you are about to leave this country, provided that a marshal shall accompany you to the ship upon which you are to depart and keep you in custody until the ship shall leave our shores, you never to return."

Our only criticism of the above would be that "smile" on Gubitchev's arrogant visage, Gubitchev had his back to the court room so we could not see his face, but if he smiled ARROGANTLY, it was the first smile of that type of only three observed throughout the lengthy pre-hearing and trial.—R.W.R.

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Crosstown

by Roland Coe



"I'd like two dry McGinty's and two Coachmen on number twelve and a couple of seven-foot two tapered leaders."

In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

Sunday was election day in Russia, and the Moscow correspondents report that Prime Minister Joseph Stalin led millions of Russians to the polls to cast their ballots for members of the supreme soviet, which is the Soviet Union's parliament.

Pravda, the official newspaper of the communist party, prints a picture of Uncle Joe dropping his folded ballot into a locked ballot box in the Lenin district of Moscow.

RUSSIA, you see, differs from America in certain ways.

Our Harry, as everyone knows, can't vote in Washington. He has to fly back to Missouri in order to cast his ballot. We keep Washington politically sterile by not allowing anybody to vote there.

PS. Maybe that's the reason Washington is by long odds the most screwed-up of American cities.

ANYWAY, they do it differently in Russia. Uncle Joe is a native of Georgia, which is a little country down in the south-east corner of the Soviet Union, but he now lives in Moscow and they let him vote there.

He not only votes there, but he RUNS FOR OFFICE there. At Sunday's election, he was a candidate for membership in the Council of the Union, which is the upper house of the Russian parliament, or congress.

You know what?

By a strange coincidence, Uncle Joe WAS THE ONLY CANDIDATE IN HIS DISTRICT (the Lenin district of Moscow) for the job. Wouldn't that beat you? You'd think in a big city like Moscow there would be more than one person willing to take a stab at it.

Why, here in Oregon we have had FOUR REPUBLICANS running against Senator Morse, who is a member of the upper house of our congress.

THEY don't seem to do it that way in Russia. The presumption is, of course, that Uncle Joe is so popular among his people that nobody would think of running against him in his district.

I suppose that in time the historians will point out that in his later terms nobody in his party ran against our Mr. Roosevelt for the nomination for president. Come to think of it, nobody so far seems to be planning to run against our Harry for the democratic nomination in 1952.

You see there ARE similarities between the Russian and the American systems. That's a good thing. Nothing could be more important in the world right now than bringing things around to the point where the Russian system and the American system can get along together in the same world in peace.

ANOTHER odd thing happened at this Russian election.

When they went to print the ballots, they made the astounding discovery that for each job to be filled THERE WAS ONLY ONE CANDIDATE.

That is to say:

In the Council of the Union, which is the upper house of the supreme soviet, which is the congress of Russia, there are 671 seats and it turned out that there were exactly 671 candidates for the jobs—all of them members of the communist party, by the way.

In the Council of Nationalities, the lower house, the same thing happened. There are 631 seats in this lower house of the Russian parliament and at Sunday's election there were just

631 candidates for the jobs—all of them members of the communist party, by the way.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY CARDS

Send top of the morning greetings to all your friends and loved ones.

SWEM'S GREETING CARDS

President Forgets About Seasick Pills

With President Truman at Sea, Mar. 15—(U.P.)—President Truman forgot about his seasick pills today as he and his vacation party cruised in calm waters down Florida's east coast.

The high winds and waves that kept the party "horizontal" aboard the yacht Williamsburg for two days had disappeared.

Only occasional showers were expected to mar the placid, warm weather today. Sun permitting, the president planned to spend as much time as possible on deck.

The Williamsburg, in company with the escorting destroyer William C. Lawe, was scheduled to reach Key West at 8:30 a.m. tomorrow. Mr. Truman will go ashore two hours later to begin three weeks of rest and relaxation before flying back to Washington.

TO LIVE IN NORTHWEST

Fort Lewis, Wash., Mar. 15—(U.P.)—Maj. Gen. Harry J. Collins said today he planned to establish a permanent home in the Pacific northwest when he retires from the army.

has a long, long way to go before it can achieve the unity and the complete cooperation that already have been achieved in Russia. Here democrats still scratch and spit and squabble with each other like a bunch of tomcats every time there is an election for congress.

VIDEO IN BATHROOM
Barre, Mass. (U.P.)—A Boston man who moved to this middle-Massachusetts town and brought along his television set found there was only one spot where the set would work, his second-floor bathroom. That's where he hooked it up.

Dead line on Classified Ads: 5:30 p.m. for following day; 10 a.m. Monday, noon Saturday for Sunday & 11

TAKE MY MONEY

4 out of 5 who apply

TAKE IT!

