

England's Public Morals Council Studies Jokes

London, Mar. 30—(U.P.)—Ever hear the one about the traveling salesman and the farmer's daughter? Or the one about the plumber who blundered into the bathroom while madam was in the tub?

Well, the public morality council has. Both of them and a lot besides. A sizable mound of slightly or not so slightly off color jokes lay before the members when they met to take up a new subject.

Fresh from its triumph over the sale of contraceptives in slot machines, the council tackled what it considers the increasing use of such jokes on the radio, in the movies, and especially on the stage.

Right off the council ran into a snag. Its own members couldn't agree on what makes a joke dirty. Most of those on the table before the council had panicked audiences in the west end, drawing neither boo nor hiss.

So **Awful** about the kind of jokes the council would ban, one of the members mentioned with

a shudder the one about the traveling salesman. Although he said it was so awful he could not bear to repeat it, an informed source said that when it was read to the council members, a couple of guffaws slipped out. Same with the plumber joke.

The trouble is, said George Tomlinson, secretary of the council, that British audiences rather appreciate what he called "honest vulgarity." So, apparently, do some of his council members.

But on other fronts where public morals are threatened, the council reported one brilliant success, one part success and one miss.

Nudity Prevails

As a result of its efforts, Tomlinson said, almost every local council in Britain has banned the sale of contraceptives from slot machines. The church took up the campaign after the council had pointed out that adolescents were among the patrons.

Nudity still prevails on the British stage. But the council believes producers are making a genuine effort to make the naked ladies look "artistic." The council would like to have the lord chamberlain, who is the stage censor, amend a ruling that permits a woman to stand unclothed in a spotlight provided she does not move a muscle.

But they have small hopes. The lord chamberlain is responsible only to the king, and no one had figured out how to get King George to visit the Windmill theater to see what his subjects really look like and at

Tourists Startled
The council's only real failure is in prostitution. Hundreds of prostitutes patrol the west end streets night and day, startling tourists who imagine that sort of thing is a Parisian monopoly.

Tomlinson points out that police can arrest a prostitute only if she is "annoying" a man. And it takes a great deal to annoy the epigrammatic British gent, especially if the girl is good looking.

Destitute Tentmaker Gets Home, Money

New York, Mar. 30—(U.P.)—An unemployed tentmaker, who had lived with his wife and five children in a 1934 jalopy since their arrival from California two weeks ago, had a home, money, clothes and the offer of a job today.

New Yorkers came to his aid after William J. O'Brien's reversal of the "Grapes of Wrath" story was revealed yesterday in newspapers. O'Brien received \$75 for appearing on a radio disc jockey show. Gifts poured into the lower East Side parking lot where the family had been living.

O'Brien said he would discuss the offer of a job with living quarters thrown in with a Kingston, N. Y., tent and awning maker Sunday. Until then the family will live in a three-room cabin which O'Brien rented in New Jersey.

Communists Capture Nationalist Town

Hong Kong, Mar. 30—(U.P.)—The communist news agency reported today the capture of Si-chang, last base of organized nationalist resistance on the Chinese mainland.

The nationalists fled to Si-chang in southeast Siang province on the approaches to Burma and Tibet last December after the fall of Chengtu, 220 miles to the northeast.

The communist agency said Gen. Hu Tsung-nan, who directed nationalist guerrilla operations from Si-chang, fled by plane to Hainan island and his troops are being pursued to the east.

The red forces had to cross rugged country inhabited by savage Lolo tribesmen to reach Si-chang. It is one of China's westernmost cities and nestles among the foothills of the Himalayas.

Lawton Will Succeed Pace as Budget Head

Key West, Fla., Mar. 30—(U.P.)—Frederick J. Lawton, a veteran of nearly 30 years government service, will succeed Frank Pace Jr. as director of the budget bureau, White House sources reported yesterday.

Pace was scheduled for elevation in the immediate future to secretary of the army, succeeding Gordon Gray who will quit federal services shortly to become president of the University of North Carolina.

Repairs Sought for Warm Springs Cutoff

Madras, Ore., Mar. 30—(U.P.)—The Central Oregon Chamber of Commerce voted unanimously last night to ask the Oregon state highway commission to speed up winter damage repairs on the Warm Springs cutoff highway. The highway has been closed to logging and lumber trucks until repairs to damages done during last winter's sub-freezing weather can be completed.

The "FRENCHMAN" says
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Photo of French actor Nevaire from recent picture, 'The Frenchman'. Copyright 1949, 1949 by Philip H. Haines, Simon and Schuster, publishers.

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