

England's Voters Eye East Snarl

By BELMAN MORIN

LONDON, (AP)—The Londoner turns toward his radio and says bitterly, "well, should we get the news and see how many British have been shot tonight?"

A metropolitan newspaper sarcastically warns its readers that British Honduras probably will be the next possession to flame with revolt and demand independence.

People talk of the "vogue for twisting the British lion's tail."

They are bitter and angry. This anger can have a profound effect on the national elections next week helping Winston Churchill and the Conservatives as it adds to criticism of the Labor government and its foreign policy.

Most political observers both in and out of the government believe that will be the result of events in the Middle East.

ISSUES

When parliament was dissolved and the election date was set, Britain was concerned mainly with such domestic issues as rising

prices, shortages, the present and expected dollar deficit, and inflation—the economic position in general. Foreign affairs were a secondary issue to the average Briton.

As the campaign began to move Churchill did his powerful best to make foreign affairs a matter of primary concern in the election. He loosed his oratorical thunder bolts at every milestone in the loss of British prestige since 1945.

He accused the Labor government of bungling in Iran, of failure to foresee the direction of events there, and of inability to handle them.

His success, however, was limited. All political diads and indicators showed that, until the last few days, people were mainly concerned with wages, prices, food, housing, and the like, and that although smarting with humiliation

over the Iranian case, their feelings were checked somewhat by the question that Foreign Secy. Herbert Morrison flung at the conservatives:

QUESTIONS

Would you have gone to war? At the same time, the Labor campaign shot — "whose hand would you rather have on the trigger: Churchill's or Attlee's?" undoubtedly had its effect. There

was considerable fear that Churchill might pursue a line of policy that would lead the country into another war.

Without events in Egypt that feeling probably would have counterbalanced dismay over Britain's diminished prestige.

But this latest attempt to twist the lion's tail has changed the complexion of popular sentiment radically. It is an emotional reaction and therefore difficult for

Labor spokesmen to counter.

The government immediately reacted in Egypt with a "strong line," moving in troops and announcing they would meet force with force. People are asking why force did not meet force in Iran.

The government, observers say, now is doing what Churchill said should have been done earlier. The net result appears to have been to give the Conservative campaign a strong forward push.

It came at a critical point in the election battle. The nation votes next Thursday, and while Conservatives appear to be holding the advantage, election experts agreed the heat of the campaign would not come until the last few days and that the final decisive blows probably would not be struck before then.

Hence, the reaction evident here to the flareup in Egypt could

easily start a tide running that would sweep the Conservatives into office.

Their contention all along has been that they have the experience and managerial know-how to administer successfully where the socialists failed.

That argument will carry more weight with an angry people stung to the quick by still another indignity.

60 Rescued From Blazes

ST. LOUIS, (AP)—An estimated 60 persons were rescued early today when a fire swept the top-story of a crowded Negro tenement just north of the downtown area.

Police Sgt. Jesse J. Miller, who made the estimate, said about 25 of those taken out by firemen were children. They were led down a fire escape and a ladder.

Only one person was reported injured. Mrs. Johnnie Boyd, 42, suffered a possible broken right leg. Police said she jumped from the ladder while leaving the building.

No damage estimate was available.

Firemen said the fire apparently started in a trash bin on the top story of the three-floor brick building.

Family Alone Too Much?

ASTORIA, (AP)—People nowadays live too far away from their in-laws. It makes the modern-day family too much alone. That is the view of Melvin L. Murphy.

Murphy, executive director for the Health Assoc. of Oregon, said here in a lecture on family life, that it used to be a young family had the close support of the in-laws who had a genuine concern and interest in the individuals and the family welfare.

But that was when the average distance between families and in-laws was 20 miles. Now, he said, the average distance from either set of in-laws is 200 miles.

Murphy said too that there is a changing attitude toward old age which results in adults becoming almost dangerously independent rather than too dependent.

Airliner Blaze Causes Stir

LONDON, (AP)—A fire on a four-engine airliner inbound from New York sent London airport into a state of full emergency today. The plane landed safely.

The airliner was a strato-cruiser of the British Overseas Airways Corp., carrying 14 passengers.

A message from the pilot a few minutes before it was due to land said "believe fire on board." Other planes in the area were ordered to circle until the imperiled aircraft could get down. Fire engines dashed out to meet it. The plane came down with one engine stopped. A BOAC spokesman said the blaze, confined to this engine, had burned through an exhaust pipe and melted some of the cowling. The fire went out just before the plane hit the landing strip.

ROSE QUEEN SIGNED

HOLLYWOOD, (AP)—The queen of the 1951 Portland, Rose festival has been signed to a movie contract. Columbia pictures announced yesterday that Gloria Krieger, the blonde 18-year-old singer who ruled over the latest rose festival, had been signed for a contract that could run seven years if options are picked up.

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