



THE NIXONS RETURN—Sen. Richard Nixon, the vice president-elect, and Mrs. Nixon reply to cries of greeting at the Washington airport as they arrived from California. Mrs. Nixon's bouquet, a "V" for the vote victory, was given her a moment before by their plane stewardess.

Ike Plans Legislation Programs

WASHINGTON (AP)—President-elect Eisenhower today was reported planning a conference, before going to Korea, with GOP legislative leaders in an effort to line up a Republican program for early action in Congress.

Sen. Robert A. Taft of Ohio said over the week end he expects to meet with Eisenhower "on the legislative program" before the general takes off on a Korea inspection trip—possibly late this month.

The statement indicated not only that the President-elect wants his party to be ready to move with the legislative ball as soon as he is inaugurated Jan. 20, but also that Taft has no intention of giving up his leadership role in the Senate.

Taft has headed the Senate Republican Policy Committee—the top GOP job on his side of the Capitol—and it has been the general assumption that Rep. Joseph Martin of Massachusetts would become speaker of the House, as he was in the Republican 80th Congress of 1947-48.

But friends have been talking about booming Rep. Charles W. Halleck of Indiana, majority leader of the 80th Congress, for the speakership. Halleck was an Eisenhower supporter before the Chicago Republican National Convention while Martin preferred Gen. Douglas MacArthur.

If Eisenhower elects to take a hard line in any field that might develop between Martin and Halleck, his relation with the congressional leadership may be tested even before his inauguration.

Train Escapes Sabotage Try

PUSAN, Korea (AP)—The South Korean Transportation Ministry said an American train narrowly escaped being derailed Sunday night when Communist guerrillas blew up a rail section between Pusan and Samtanjung.

The train sped north just a few minutes before the Reds blew out a section of the track and clashed for several hours with Korean police and railway guards, the ministry said.

One policeman was wounded. The track was repaired and in operation within two hours.

RUSSIAN UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. (AP)—Mexican Delegate Luciano Joublane-Rivas will deliver a half-hour speech in Russian in the U.N. Budget Committee today.

The stunt is aimed at getting Russian support for a proposal that Spanish be made a working language of the U.N. Economic and Social Council.

Obscure Painter Forges Old Masters

LUEBECK, Germany (AP)—An obscure German refugee painter has kicked over the easel for scores of Europe's art experts.

Lothar Malskat, who publicly fooled West German art authorities with his fake medieval church murals, made a clean breast to police.

"Conscience" drove him, he said, to startle art lovers with the disclosure that the murals on St. Mary's Church in Luebeck were not of 1270 A. D. origin but his own 1930 work.

"The St. Mary's murals, believed uncovered by war-time bomb damage to the church and then 'restored,' actually are faces of German movie actresses, friends and relatives of the little painter.

What made it worse for art experts and patrons was that the 'restoration' at St. Mary's was unveiled in the presence of West German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer himself.

Malskat, who is 39, says he has produced hundreds of fake 'old masters.'

"They wanted names," he said. "I gave names to them: Rembrandt, Rembrandt, Gauguin, Diego, Corot and others. They should have read 'Malskat.'"

Nervous art gallery men in important European cities are culling their stocks to make sure some of Malskat's masterful 'old masters' are not in their establishments.

Only the refugee knows how many he turned out.

The palette was washed clean when Malskat quarreled with his employer, Dietrich Fey, 40. He claims the fake restorations and other phony pieces were done at Fey's order.

Fey has not answered the charges formally, but his attorney issued a statement saying Malskat lied and that he would be sued for libel.

Of the St. Mary's murals unveiled at the 700th anniversary of the old church, Malskat relates: "There was nothing left of Middle Ages paintings on the walls. So I borrowed books and copied portraits of German film actresses, some of friends and relatives, and others from historic pictures—including one of Genghis Khan."

Art critics soberly inspected them and pronounced them genuine. But something got under Malskat's skin. He says it was Fey.

"He gave me only scraps of what I earned with my work," Malskat said. "While he was being slapped on the back by Chancellor Adenauer at the church I was sitting in a back room among the laborers, drinking a bottle of beer."

"At first fake reproductions were fun, and it kept me in money too. Art dealers wanted to see big names."

"I don't care if I go to jail. I want to see Fey there too, and some of those art dealers who knew perfectly well they were buying fakes cheaply and selling them to foreign collectors for fortunes."

He said that he and Fey also perpetrated a fake restoration in 1937 on a 13th century painting

which German art writers praised as original masterpieces "by our brilliant ancestors."

Malskat comes from Koebigsberg, East Prussia, taken over by the Russians in the last war and renamed Kaliningrad. He says he was almost born in 1938 when he painted a turkey in

a mural. A Hamburg professor pointed out that the arrival of turkeys in Europe from the new world postdated the paintings by a couple of centuries, but the Nazis wanted to avoid a scandal and invented a story that the Vikings brought them over.

"I had seen some scratches on the wall which looked as if they might have been a turkey and painted it," he explained.

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