



Yugoslavia: Cartoon Plot



International
Peter's Censor Banned King Mickey Mouse

Young Yugoslavia last week celebrated the 19th anniversary of the post-war union of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes. Present King of Yugoslavia is 14-year-old Peter II. Owing to Peter's age the country is under a regency headed by Prince Paul, cousin of the boy King's late father, King Alexander I, who was assassinated in France in 1934. Peter and Prince Paul's eldest son, 13-year-old Prince Alexander, are playmates.

It was this particular set-up in the ruling family that made **Walt Disney's Mickey Mouse** (PATHFINDER, Dec. 11) a political issue in the little kingdom last fortnight. Though popular everywhere abroad, Mickey was banned by the Yugoslavian censor as a "national peril." The ban ended a brief appearance in a daily comic strip in the newspaper *Politika*.

Titled "Mickey and His Double," this comic narrative involved the mythical kingdom of Medioka. The king of Medioka was Michael, who like Peter, was not yet of age. Heading the regency was Michael's scheming uncle, Duke Varlott. Mickey Mouse, a commoner looking exactly like Michael, substituted for the young monarch while the latter enjoyed playboy life. When Mickey (as king) became increasingly popular with the people of Medioka, Varlott started a military conspiracy to dispose of Michael. At this point the censor stepped in, forbidding the strip's continuation.

Mickey's downfall also threatened that of Hubert Harrison, New York *Times* Belgrade correspondent for 12 years. Like other correspondents, Harrison sent his newspaper an account of Mickey's downfall. When a London paper printed Harrison's story with its own comment about Regent Prince Paul being boy King Peter's cousin, Belgrade police blamed Harrison, claimed the story "offended against the interests of Yugoslavia," and ordered him to leave the country.

It was Harrison's second run-in with Belgrade's police. Last July he was ordered to leave the kingdom because of his full reports on the beating of priests and bishops during the struggle of the Orthodox Church to prevent ratification of the concordat with the Vatican (PATHFINDER, July 31). At that time protests by U. S. and British legations caused the expulsion order to be rescinded while Premier Milan Stoyadinovitch decorated Harrison with the order of St. Sava. Last week Harrison hoped strong protests by the same sources would again bring intervention in his behalf.