

CONFERENCE

171 - Willyz. Fri., Feb. 12 - '54,

The Foreign Ministers held two meetings today, morning and afternoon - the first ~~in~~ time they've got ^{them} together twice in one day.

At the morning session the topic was -- the Far East. Messrs Eden, Bidault and Dulles trying to get Molotov to give an answer to their suggestion -- that the Western Powers would be willing to meet with Red China on limited, specific subjects: - Korea - and Indo China. There was no agreement at that morning session -- Molotov still insisting on the original Russian demand. A five power global conference -- with the Chinese Reds included. However, the tone in Berlin is not pessimistic. The advice being - that an agreement may be yet be reached on proceedings in the Far East.

~~So say -- "informed sources."~~

At the afternoon session the topic was -- Austria. The western powers trying to get the Soviets to sign a treaty with independent Austria.

The plea was urged ardently by the Austrian Foreign Minister who came from Vienna and addressed the Foreign Ministers. (Leopold Figl called for restoration of the independence of his country, which has been a captive ever since Hitler seized Austria in Nineteen Thirty-Eight.) Molotov replied with a proposal -- that the Foreign Ministers of the Big Four draft a treaty within the next three months. *But he insisted that occupation troops must be kept in Austria until a peace treaty is signed with Germany. which would mean the Red Army in Austria indefinitely.*

How genuine this declaration was we can't tell. But we do know that Soviet Russia has blocked an Austrian treaty since the end of the war.

American Secretary of State Dulles answering the Soviet Foreign Minister, challenged Russia to sign an Austrian treaty - "here and now". He called the Soviet record in dealing with Austria - "a long and shabby story of delay, disillusion and lack of candor."

INDO CHINA

There's a bit of dramatic disagreement in the news about -- South Korean troops for ~~INDO~~ Indo China. Today, Syngman Rhee's government repeated the offer, saying -- they are willing to send a division of combat soldiers, ^{But} ~~fifteen thousand~~ ~~are~~ ~~veterans of the war in Korea to make this offer all the stronger~~ the South Korean government asked the United States -- for a commander. They want -- ~~GENERAL~~ General Van Fleet, ~~an~~ one-time boss of the Eighth Army, which fought the battle against the North Koreans and Chinese Reds. ~~Syngman Rhee's people say -- all they want from the United States is -- "the services of a great soldier." Van Fleet.~~

All of which would indicate that they mean -- business. But, here's the contradiction, from the French. They say they don't want the help of the South Koreans against the Communists of Indo China. Why not? Because, it might give Red China excuses for intervening directly in ^{Indo-China.} ~~Korea~~. This was

stated by the French Embassy in Washington -- and was later repeated in Paris.

The South Koreans retort -- they don't believe the Chinese Reds would attempt open intervention in Indo-China. But the French view is echoed in other parts of Asia -- in ~~the~~ Japan, in the Philippines, ^{(where} ~~XXXXXX~~ informed sources warn against the project of sending ~~the~~ South Korean division against the Reds in Indo China.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Air Force is running what it calls a limited air lift, to Indo China. U.S. planes flying supplies to bases where American technicians are doing a maintenance job on American built planes.

At the war front, ^{not much} ~~still no~~ news. All quiet, at Luang Prabang, ancient royal capital of the Kingdom of Laos. Several days ago, the ~~myth~~ supposition was that the Reds would launch a quick drive to seize the city -- Communist Army units being within a few miles of the ~~in~~ defenses of Luang

Prabang.

Today, however, French Union patrols reported -- they've lost contact with the enemy. The Reds, after their rapid advance, are not pressing their advantage. They may be having trouble with transport. The drive ^(appears) ~~XXXXXXXX~~ to be stalled -- at least for the time being.

HOUSING

President Eisenhower's housing program was placed before Congress today, and the emphasis is on -- own your home. The federal government -- *recommending* ~~advising~~ financial measures to encourage people to build homes, for better housing.

The program includes, "an experimental plan" to help low income families in the purchase of houses costing up to eight thousand dollars -- with *a small* ~~as little as~~ downpayment *about* of two hundred dollars. This, however, would be limited to families "displaced" by projects of slum clearance.

Such ~~as~~ are the highlights in a whole series of measures -- to improve housing in this country.

NEW YORK CENTRAL

Railroad news -- from Wall Street. A boom in the stock of New York Central -- when the market ^{opened today.} ~~opened today.~~ ^{For the first time in years the Stock Exchange was open} ~~opened today.~~ ^{on Lincoln's birthday.} Twenty thousand shares traded immediately and New York Central rose two and a half points.

All - the result of what we heard yesterday. A financial battle on -- for the control of ^{our} ~~the~~ second largest railroad. Financier Robert R. Young -- seeking to link up the New York Central with other lines and form a trans-continental system.

Yesterday, he hurled a challenge at the Board of Directors -- which he claimed was dominated by the House of Morgan. Saying -- he would appeal to the stockholders in a battle of proxies. He declared he had the ~~mm~~ support of ninety percent of the stock holders. "But" he added, "I'm fighting very powerful interests."

In Today there's a reply from the President of the New York Central, William White, who denies that the ~~mm~~ stockholders will back the program set forth by Young. He met the challenge to a battle of

proxies by saying, "it will be a bare-fisted fight.

We are neither push-overs nor ~~in~~ punching bags."

The issue will be decided on May Twenty-sixth when the annual meeting of stockholders will be held at Albany. Meanwhile, both sides are ^(said) ~~are~~ to be buying New York Central stock in the market. Hence the ~~XXXXX~~ Wall Street boom in shares of that railroad.

HUGHES - FOLLOW NEW YORK CENTRAL

The stock market has been having a busy time, likewise, with motion picture stocks -- R K O. That's because of a battle in which multi-millionaire Howard Hughes is the individual gladiator. He manages R K O, and stockholders are bringing charges -- that Howard Hughes wasted huge sums of company money by hiring a number of expensive actresses none of whom were ever used in a picture. *(Mismanagement they say.)* Hughes is appearing before the Board of Directors, ~~and has offered to buy the stock which he, at present does not own.~~ He ~~already has~~ ^{owns} one third of the shares and says he'd buy up the rest which would ^{be} more than twenty three million dollars. ~~which has produced~~ ^{Result --} a Wall Street boom in R K O.

LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY

President Eisenhower led in the celebration of Lincoln's birthday -- placing a wreath at the base of the magnificent Lincoln Monument in Washington. After which, the President started ~~in~~ for Georgia, where he'll do some weekend quail ~~in~~ hunting on the plantation of ~~the~~ Secretary of the Treasury George Humphrey.

The Washington ^b _^ observance was marked by the participation of the sons of Confederate veterans -- who, for the first time, joined in honoring Abraham Lincoln, the great adversary against whom their father's fought, those long years ago. The sons of the Confederate Veterans were invited by an organization of ^{the} Sons of Union Veterans.

At Duluth, Minnesota, the last ~~in~~ Union survivor of the Civil War exchanged messages of friendship with two of the last four living Confederates. Albert Woolson of Duluth celebrated his one hundred ~~and~~ seventh birthday yesterday. And today, the former drummer boy in the Union Army

was in communication with William Allen Lundy of Laurel Hill, Florida, and ~~he~~ with John Salling of Slant, Virginia. The former - one hundred and five years old. The latter -- one hundred and six.

They ^{sent} ~~had~~ telegrams to each other, the gist of which was -- old animosities are forgotten. *The Confederate veteran,* William Allen Lundy, putting it in these words: "Our sons, grandsons and great-grand-sons have fought side by side, to defend our country since the close of the Civil War".

On the political front, however, the war is still on. That is, the battle between Republicans and Democrats. Today, Republican orators ~~have~~ took the occasion to hurl fresh verbal cannonades in the campaign, leading up to the Congressional elections this coming autumn. Vice President Nixon, however, said the G O P should avoid what he calls: "Indiscriminate attacks" on the Democratic party, ^{because} President Eisenhower's administration must have some Democratic help in Congress.

Speaking at New Haven, Connecticut, the Vice President seemed to be lined up with President Eisenhower -- who, two days ago, expressed his disapproval of extreme ~~party~~ partisanship by the Republicans.

BABIES

At Montreal, the police have made an arrest -- charging a black market in babies. An attorney, Herman Buller, was taken into custody, the authorities declaring -- that he ~~is~~ master-minded a ring that shipped ~~one thousand~~ Canadian infants across the border. Selling them to American couples for adoption. They smuggled in more than one thousand -- and in some cases, got as much as three thousand dollars for a child. ^{PH} The ~~is~~ attorney was arrested, as he was about to board a Trans-Atlantic airliner -- on a trip to Europe.

SMUGGLE

At New York's Idlewild Airport, a young woman from Israel stepped off a plane -- a housewife from Tel Aviv. As she did so, customs agents arrested her, and then - two women inspectors searched her. They found, under her girdle -- one thousand carats of diamonds -- more than one hundred thousand dollars worth.

The lady, looked innocent. She said that in London, a stranger offered her one hundred dollars if she would deliver the treasure in diamonds to a stranger in New York. Customs officials looked skeptical.

They'd been tipped off in advance -- to a smuggling job.

GOLD

I'm in Salt Lake City tonight, and the western mountains out here are old time gold country -- the hunting grounds for many a prospector. So here's a news dispatch to make their eyes pop -- a prospector's dream. Gold in the streets -- shining yellow nuggets in the ~~streets~~ alleys.

The news is from Brazil, a town in the remote Matto Grosso, where they had a cloud burst, the torrential downpour of the tropics. The town was flooded. Then, when the deluge subsided -- gold. A nugget of two ~~ounces~~ ounces -- picked up near the center of the town. A citizen found a similar bit of gold in his back yard. And so -- all over the place.

The flood had washed nuggets down from somewhere in the hills. Nobody knows exactly where, but there'll be a lot of searching -- to find out where the gold came from.

FIRE

They had a fire at Ripley, Tennessee -- nothing much, only a small dwelling ablaze. But the volunteer firemen were on the job -- and ~~that~~ that makes it news. Any volunteer fire department battling the blaze can produce a comedy. At Ripley -- it was uproarious.

A fire truck, at the scene of the flames, got loose -- and went rolling down hill. It hit ~~Lennox~~ Lonnie Wells -- two ribs broken. Ben Conrad was able to get out of the way of the run away fire truck -- but incurred a sprained ankle while doing so.

Meanwhile, the worst of all, the most humiliating, was happening to fire chief John Kennedy and policeman Palmer Jones. They were standing a hundred feet away from the fire, when -- bang.

It seems there was a shotgun in the blazing house and it happened to be pointed exactly in the direction of the fire chief and the patrolman.

The heat ^{as effective} ~~was as good~~ as pulling the trigger, and both Kennedy and Jones were hit. The Firechief and the cop peppered with buck shot. Not injured badly -- except for their dignity.

And now back to New York - to Harry Marble.