

C.M. - P.M. Thursday, June 3, 1948

FLOODS

Word from Portland, Oregon. The Columbia River is still ~~critically~~ high; and it will remain so for a week or ~~so~~. ~~ten days~~. Tonight, thousands of soldiers and volunteers are manning a hundred and twenty-mile front of hastily improvised barriers and dykes, from Portland to the Pacific.

The danger is centered on the upper Columbia River which is nearly twelve feet above the flood stage. ~~on the Canadian line~~. Will it go higher? Will those improvised barriers of mattresses and sandbags hold the flood water? "It's touch and go", says Colonel Walsh, Portland District Engineer, as his men are fighting this new threat to metropolitan Portland. Every available man is out now, plugging the dykes, watching for overflows, and improvising barriers. Fighting, what Colonel Walsh terms, a relentless battle against the upper Columbia River and its tributary the Snake. And says the Colonel, "Will all the folks who were evacuated recently" -- ~~there is about~~ a hundred thousand of them in Oregon, Washington and Idaho, -- "Will they all please stay where they are and not try and go back home until the flood water ~~has~~ gone down".

PRESIDENT

President Truman leaves Washington ^{D.C.} tonight, on a nine-thousand mile trip to California, by way of Chicago, Omaha and Seattle. Now, this may be election year, and the President may be the Democratic candidate, but ~~the news from the~~ ^{the} White House ~~this trip is strictly non-political.~~ ^{continues to say that the trip is} ~~Because, says the White House, none of the Democratic National Committee is going along. Neither is the President~~ ^{will make no} making any public appearances under political auspices. For instance, ~~take Mr Truman's~~ ^{the} first engagement, at Chicago tomorrow night. ~~He speaks~~ ^{This will be} at a ceremony commemorating the hundredth anniversary of the entry of ~~the~~ Swedish pioneers into the middlewest. ~~His topic~~ ^{The Truman} ~~is~~ ^{there!} Aid for the Displaced Persons of Europe. ~~Any~~ ^{No} politics there? ~~Four guess is as good as nine.~~ However! the White House admits Mr Truman may make a few of those rear platform talks, in ~~the true American~~ ^{old time} campaign ~~tradition.~~ ^{style.}

Mr Truman will be accompanied by his White House secretarial staff and his National Defense Aides. Senator Scott Lewis, the Illinois Democrat, is going as far as

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Chicago, where he gets off, leaving Mr Truman to roll
roll westwards in the presidential train. ~~A miniature~~
~~White House on wheels.~~ Mr Truman's private car, we are
told, has rich green carpets, green-tinted windows, and a
bathroom -- fit for a president, ^{- as it should be.} The train, sixteen cars
long, ^{these} ~~with~~ a travelling office with stenographers and a
telephone switchboard. ^{Also a} A mobile radio station to keep
the President in touch with ^{Washington.} ~~the White House.~~ Every modern
convenience, ~~that would cost fifty dollars a day in a~~
~~swank hotel.~~

We also learn tonight that a few press and radio
men are going along with Mr Truman. A little party of
sixty or more, each man paying his own way. So, for the
newsmen, at least, the presidential trip to the west is
strictly non-political.

EISENHOWER (TO FOLLOW PRESIDENT)

Here's another political item. The magazine ~~PATHFINDER~~ publishes an interview with General Dwight Eisenhower, in which ~~Eisenhower~~ *the new head of Columbia Univ.* is pictured as saying he will never run for President on the Democratic ticket, because he is a Republican. And, says General Ike, he will support whoever the Republicans nominate.)

NIGHT SHOW
June 3, 1948.

~~GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:~~

PALESTINE - U.N.

Hopes for that U.N. truce in Palestine grow dimmer and dimmer. This afternoon at Lake Success, the Security Council opened its proceedings in a spirit of optimism, the delegates cheerful and smiling. But that mood vanished when the Arab and Jewish delegates got into a fiery argument. The Arabs denounced the Jewish objection that immigration of men of military age to Palestine be banned; the Arabs flatly refusing to open the road to Jerusalem to civilian traffic under any terms of truce.

"If the siege of Jerusalem is abandoned," shouted Arab Delegate Husseini, "that will be a net gain to the enemy". The hundred thousand Jews who are without food and water in the new City of Jerusalem, said he, are no worse off than the three hundred thousand Arabs who have been driven out of their homes by the Jews.

The Israeli representative termed the Arab statement "hostile and provocative". Then he scored the British

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announcement that it will stop the sending of men of military age from the Jewish camps on Cyprus. "The Jews," cried out the representative of Israel, "will never negotiate with anyone concerning the existence and full independence of the state of Israel."

Finally Council President El Khouri of Syria suggested that the Council ignore the clash of views until Count Bernadotte, the Council's mediator arranges that cease-fire order. Whereupon the Council adjourned until next week.

PALESTINE

Meanwhile, (Count ~~Folke~~ Bernadotte of Sweden is busy in the Middle East today, trying to arrange a truce between the Arabs and the Jews.) Today the United Nations' mediator flew to Cairo for a meeting with Premier Nokrashy Pasha. Then he took off for Amman, to see King Abdullah. From there he went to Beirut, then on to Tel Aviv. A busy day!

The Count told newsmen today ^{that} he expects it will take him about three days to arrange a definite cease-fire order. By that time, he hopes to have a staff of observers, supplied by various members of the United Nations, to see that both sides play ball.

~~Word from London is that twenty-five American Army Air Force officers are all ready to leave for Palestine, to help Count Bernadotte on his mission of peace. But our State Department says that their departure must wait until the United Nations Palestine Truce Commission makes an official request for them to go to the Holy Land.~~

Add Truce

While Count Bernadotte was talking with Mose Shertok, the Israel Foreign Minister, at Haifa, the Egyptian Air Force staged a heavy raid on Tel Aviv - the longest of the war. Bernadotte told newsmen that the Arab leaders had not reached a decision to cease fire, but he said he was still optimistic, and will carry on with the work.

PALESTINE

(Israel today called off its own voluntary cease-fire order in Palestine; the order its troops observed for a few hours yesterday. The word is that the Arabs kept on firing, so the Jews are now at it again.)

A report from Tel Aviv today tells of the Jews making a major attack at Jenin, north of Jerusalem, in the Valley of Jezreel. That's where Gideon routed the Midianites with three hundred men -- remember? The Bible tells us how "The Midianites and the Amalakites, and all the children of the East, lay along the valley like grasshoppers for multitude --- camels without number."

Gideon, as many of you will recall, divided his men into three companies. Giving each man a trumpet, a pitcher and a lamp, he stationed a hundred on each of three sides of the enemy's camp. At a given signal, the Israelites blew on their trumpets, ^{and} shattered their pitchers. Whereupon the noise terrified the invaders, so that they began to fight each other in panic, and ~~the~~

then fled, leaving victory to the Israelites.

And now, tonight, there is another battle in the Valley of Jezreel, where "Naboth had his vineyard." This time the soldiers of modern Israel, seeking to drive out the troops of Iraq who have moved into the plain. The Iraq force, ~~xxx~~ it is interesting to recall, comes from the same ancient region whence came the vast armies of Sennacharib and Nebuchadnezzar, with whom the Israelites of old fought so desperately.

~~The Iraqi army is said to have established a fortified area from which spearheads of ~~xxx~~ assault troops are attempting to reach the coast and cut the Jewish zone in Palestine, in two. Tel Aviv claims its ~~xxx~~ army is having some success, having driven the Iraqis from one location only four miles from the shore.~~

GERMANY

The news from the American Zone of Berlin tonight indicates that the Russians are expected to proclaim a Communist-dominated German government for their zone of Germany -- sometime this summer. This move by the Soviets is designed to off-set the Western Allies' decision to establish a government in their zones.

~~Recently, the Russians circulated a so-called "peoples' petition" in the Soviet zone of Berlin, a petition asking the Allied Control Council to pass a law unifying Germany. The Russians claim they have piled up twelve million signatures in ten days, and that they expect to have seventeen million by June thirtieth.~~

The Soviets are telling the German people that Russia will raise their standard of living and end the Soviet seizure of farms -- which apparently is a sore point with the Germans in the Russian zone.

Soviet occupation commander Marshal Sokolovsky, last night made a special appeal to the Christian and Liberal Democratic Parties - the anti-Communists. He urged them to support the move for a united Germany, promising

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FOREIGN AID

The House Appropriations Committee was in a slashing frame of mind today. The members cut fifty-three million dollars from the Administration's six-billion-five-hundred-million-dollar-global-foreign-aid program. The Committee also voted to spread the spending over a longer period -- fifteen instead of twelve months.

This means a reduction of around twenty-seven per cent on ^{our} ~~the~~ seven major ^{economic} ~~economic~~ and military aid projects. ~~Uncle Sam is undertaking in various parts of the world in Europe, the Middle East and the Orient.~~ Forty-five million dollars lopped off E.R.P. -- the Marshall Plan. (The Congressmen decided that the amount of food and farm equipment, and, non-essentials like tobacco, now ear-marked for the sixteen Marshall Plan countries, can be cut down. The ~~tobacco~~ crops in Europe look good.)

And, ^{the} ~~the~~ House committee wants our aid to China cut to the tune of sixty-three million dollars. Committee Chairman Taber, famed for his economy slashes, pointed out that the history of previous American aid to China is not

"very favorable." He urged the Administration to keep a tight check on whatever we do in China -- to see that our money is spent wisely.

~~Military Aid to Greece and Turkey also to be cut. The Committee justifying its proposal to save two hundred million there by asserting that the Greek Communists should be completely crushed by the Athens Government by the end of this summer.~~

Army Secretary Royall ~~is~~ opposed the Committee's suggestion of a cut of two hundred million dollars in our help to Greece and Turkey. ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ Although the tide in Greece has definitely turned against the Communists, he believes real results can only be obtained if the present program continues. Furthermore, he advised the Appropriations Committee that the war in Palestine makes this even more necessary; that we must continue supporting a stop-Communist program in Greece and Turkey. Turkey and Greece, freed of Communism, said Royall, would hold back the spread of Communism in the Middle East. But, the House Committee overruled him.

House Republican leaders expect the modified

bill to reach the floor of the House tomorrow -- to be passed quickly, in the form recommended by the Appropriations Committee. Then, on to the Senate.

~~E.R.P. Administrator Paul Hoffman, commenting on the House Committee's cutting down of the Administration's foreign aid programs, said: "The less money we have, the less recovery we get." And, word in Washington tonight is that if the House and the Senate back the fifty-three million dollar economies, Paul Hoffman and his staff will have to revise our whole European Aid Program.~~

ATOMIC STRIKE

Chairman Lilienthal of the Atomic Energy Commission today tried to head off the threatened strike at Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Lilienthal talking at length with A.F. of L. President William Green and representatives of the International Unions to which the laboratory workers belong.

Last night the workers refused a ten-cent-an-hour increase offered them by the Carbon Chemical Corporation, which operates Oak Ridge for the government.

Chairman Lilienthal told the Union leaders that the government will not interfere at this stage. The responsibility for settling the strike is up to the Company, he said. He also spoke of the Company's responsibility to push this country ahead in an atomic research, saying: "If we expect them to give us their best technical service, we cannot take away from them the elements of management on decisions of labor policy". This, after the Unions had urged the Atomic Energy Commission to step in and rule on the disputed contract.

After his talks with the labor leaders on how to settle the Oak Ridge wage dispute, Chairman Lilienthal told

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newsmen that any interruption of work on atomic energy would be serious. He added that he couldn't believe the men would strike.

"We'll have to keep the plant going," he said. He hailed Oak Ridge, where they manufacture radioactive isotopes, as preeminent in the field of atomic research -- nothing like it in the world.

RAISE

~~Here's some good~~ News for white collar workers.

In Detroit today, General Motors announced a four per cent pay raise for all salaried employees who earn less than six hundred dollars a month. In addition, they'll get a twenty-five dollars a quarter as a cost-of-living bonus. This following General Motors settlement with the C.I.O. United Auto Workers Union last week.

SNAILS

Here's a story ^{that} ~~which~~ sounds as if it had been cooked up by some imaginative writer of adventure fiction. We might title it, "Tropical Island Eaten by Giant Snails."

Captain W.F. Jennings, Assistant Chief of Naval Operations for Island Governments, today told a House Sub-Committee that the island of Guam is literally being eaten out of business by giant snails. The situation is out of hand, he says, ^{and} ^{simply} The Navy [^] cannot cope with the snails, [^] Which means that ten thousand acres of valuable arable land in Guam are in danger of being completely destroyed. ^{They are} ~~And these~~ [^] big snails - some ~~of them~~ weigh a pound and a quarter ^{-- and they} ~~-~~ [^] are alien immigrants from Africa.

^{African} ~~And~~ How did these giant [^] mollusks get to Guam?

The Navy says the Japanese soldiers brought them in their lunch baskets, the Japanese being ~~appreciative~~ appreciative eaters of snails; Their favorite dish. ^{Then} ~~But, as we know,~~ [^]

the Japanese left Guam, in a hurry: and they left their snails behind them. Our G.I's had plenty of good things to eat, ^{steaks}

ice cream, and Spam and so on, from home, so, they ignored the snails. Whereupon Nature went to work;

~~with considerable success.~~ ^{and now} So ~~now~~ Guam is overpopulated

with millions of ^{giant} ~~edible~~ snails. So many, complains Captain

Jennings, that they ^{are} ~~are~~ eating Uncle Sam's ^{right off the} ~~Navy out of~~

~~business~~ island.

Furthermore, he says we are not even safe here in

America, with all those snails piling up ~~on that~~ Pacific

island. He told a grizzly story, that might lead one to

imagine that these super-snails can think; that they are

planning fresh fields to plunder. Recently, relates the

Captain, the Navy decided to ship some scrap metal back home

from the islands. When they got around to loading the scrap,

they found the snails had piled up inches deep all over the

scrap. All ready for ^{the} ~~a~~ boat trip ^{to the U.S.A.} ~~as if they had heard we~~

~~have some good vegetables over here.~~ "What they would do to

vegetation in the United States we can only guess," remarked

the Captain to the House Sub-Committee ^{which is} ~~considering~~ Navy

appropriations.

And so, what are we going to do about it?

Well, the Navy, we hear, has tried everything, with a ~~an~~ crew of snail specialists leased from the Department of Agriculture and the National Research Council.

The House Committee learned today that some of the Navy's appropriation-dollars have been spent on sending an American scientist into the jungles of Africa; to find a snail-eater. Somebody having come up with the bright idea that if the snails came from Africa, there must be an anti-snail something-or-other on that continent.

Perhaps the simplest plan would be to do as they do in Japan -- and in Paris -- make them a popular dish. Nelson, let's dine on Escargo, at ~~The~~ ~~Stork Club~~ ~~tonight~~ ~~Stork Club~~ -- or should I say as usual, at The Automat?

PARAGUAY

early June 3, 1948 bc.

Paraguay is to have a new President. The old one going out at the point of a gun. The news from Asuncion tells of the forced resignation of President Morinigo, the fifty-year-old colorful ~~professional~~ ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ soldier and former War Minister who stepped into the presidency in Nineteen Forty. The Army put him in.

Morinigo, known as the Iron Man of Paraguay, has had plenty of trouble during his regime. Last March there was a revolution, organized by liberals and Communists. It ended only when Morinigo's troops stormed Concepcion, where the rebels had set up a counter-government. Although he won that round, apparently he never fully regained full authority over the country.

The news from Argentina, a neighbor of Paraguay has frequently told of minor revolutions. Usually when there was a news blackout in Asuncion. Last month two-hundred Paraguayans were said to have been arrested for plotting against the government, including an American ~~xxxx~~ cattle dealer, whose property was

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confiscated. Two opposition political leaders were assassinated -- allegedly by Morinigo supporters.

Now President Morinigo is quitting. He is said to have signed his resignation at two-thirty in the morning, virtually at pistol point. Pressure both from army and opposition leaders this time.

But Paraguay's change of presidents is to be carried out in constitutional manner. So says the ~~xxx~~ dispatch from Asuncion. The Chief Justice has been appointed Provisional President. To hold office until July, when Finance Minister Gonzalez will take over.

U.N. FINANCE

The House Foreign Affairs Committee today approved what is called an omnibus U.N. bill -- a bill that outlines our policy towards the United Nations. It also provides for a sixty-five million dollar loan to finance the building of the U.N. capitol overlooking New York's East River. This loan to be repaid, in annual installments, within thirty years -- at no interest.

Good news for American employees of the U.N. The House bill would exempt them from income tax. That's a privilege enjoyed by all U.N. employees, whatever their ^{nationality.} ~~nationality.~~

But, Americans in the U.N. service will be liable for Selective Service.