

LOWELL THOMAS - CBS. FROM WASHINGTON, D.C.

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GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

The Geneva Conference gets under way in the home of lost causes and broken promises. The members, meeting in the old Palace of The League of Nations. It was there that the nations of the League turned down Haile Selassie's plea for help against Mussolini. There, Hitler's delegate walked out after denouncing the League as a debating society. There, Japan ignored protests against the invasion of Manchuria.

Now, statesmen from nineteen nations will meet in the Palace of the League to discuss Korea and Indo-China.

The free world, hoping that it can do better this time than it did in the days of the Rome-Berlin Axis. At least, that's the hope, as the talks get under way next Monday.

DULLES

Today, in Paris, the Big Three Foreign Ministers agreed on a note to the Soviet Union - concerning that fantastic Soviet bid to join NATO. Dulles, Eden and Bidault, agreeing on how to answer the Kremlin. No details about the note - because the Ministers want the NATO Council to approve it, before it goes to Moscow.

The three Ministers also discussed their common approach to the Geneva Conference. A spokesman for the three, declares that there are no important differences. The main issue being, what to do if the Reds offer a Korea-style armistice in Indo-China. Britain and France, said to be favorable to such a proposal. America, opposed, because it would not mean a permanent peace for Indo-China. That's the major problem before Dulles, Eden and Bidault, as they prepare to meet the Iron Curtain country representative on Monday.

AIRLIFT

The American airlift between France and Indo-China, will not fly across India. In spite of the fact that the shortest route is by way of the sub-continent. Nehru refuses to permit it, so Globemasters will be detoured to avoid India.

An Air Force spokesman in Wiesbaden, Germany, was asked - what if one of the planes had trouble near Indian territory. He answered, "I think India would permit us to land in case of emergency." And in New Delhi, the Indian government states that such planes would be permitted to land according to the merits of the individual case.

The Nehru decision is condemned by many members of Congress. Particularly by Senator Knowland, who says Nehru is like a man who cuts a fire hose across his lawn when his neighbor's house is on fire.

INDO-CHINA

In Indo-China, a man-made rainstorm. French planes, sowing the clouds around Dien Bien Phu with dry ice. Returning pilots say they produced a storm which spread across twenty-five miles, and lasted two hours.

The French, attempting to wash out the Red attack on Dien Bien Phu. Weather experts in Hanoi are said to be skeptical. But, the pilots declare that their planes were shaken up so badly by the storm - that they had to turn out of its path.

WAR GAMES

Tomorrow, war games will get under way near Fort Bragg, North Carolina. The exercise, to include the most modern weapons, superbombs, guided missiles, germ warfare, psychological warfare, and so on. The Army calls it "The most important field exercise ever staged in military history." More than one hundred thousand servicemen, to be used in making the war games as realistic as possible.

HEARING

I am in Washington to-night, where the day's headline feature in Congress turned out to be a good show, but, like the first act of a play, working up to a climax, then the curtain comes down - just as the climax approaches. So let's analyze it a bit, as a drama critic might.

This new Congressional production begins, as a popular hit. Millions, today, took it in, or a part of it, on television and radio. Here in Washington, where I am tonight, the hearing was, of course, the talk of the town.

Everybody attended who could get in for the melodrama, the title of which might be - The Army and Joe.

The act began with a General on the witness stand. Another witness, Assistant Secretary of State Walter Bedell Smith. That famous General Bedell Smith, of World War Two. The Secretary of the Army made his entrance, as a number one star. High dignitaries of military affairs. But the real character in the background of all this, was a private soldier, a common G.I. I don't suppose the U.S. Army has ever before had a Private in the Infantry, the subject of half as much controversy, headlines, and all around hullabaloo.

G. David Schine, a military policeman at an Army base in Georgia, when last heard from. Schine, today, was long miles away from the Senate Committee room, but he was present all the time in spirit. The whole structure was like

that of having a play revolve around a character who never appears on the stage. But they talk about him, no end. Schine, a former member of the team of Schine and Cohn, which began the ructions that led up to the McCarthy-Army feud.

The story of charge and counter-charge is well known. It developed, today - hour after hour. Not much of it new, but a great deal, to build up a picture of how persistently Senator McCarthy and Committee Counsellor Cohn tried to get a break for Schine in the Army. Endless requests, to have him commissioned an officer. Then, to be granted special treatment, as a Private. One feature of the show business on television, was the picture of McCarthy and Cohn sitting next to each other. The T.V. camera swung over to them repeatedly - showing the Senator and the Chief Counsellor exchanging remarks, in quick brief conferences. Cohn, by the way, looking like a college boy - more than a formidable McCarthy lieutenant in the Senator's war with the Army. It was particularly interesting to look at them, after testimony was given - that McCarthy had said, he didn't want Schine back. Go ahead and draft him, Schine is a nuisance. But - don't tell Cohn what the Senator said.

The session ended today, with Secretary Stevens, as a witness, making a declaration of his position, and flatly denying statements made by Senator McCarthy. Somebody, obviously, telling falsehoods.

McCarthy, for example - declaring that Stevens asked him to let the Army alone, and investigate the Navy and Air Force. Stevens - to provide him with information. The Army Secretary - denying that in the strongest terms.

In the dramatic structure, the appearance of Stevens would, logically, lead to a climax at the end of act one. The personal clash - between the two warring protagonists. According to Senate Committee rules, the Senator will cross-question the Army Secretary - and McCarthy can be a devastating cross-examiner. But the session, today, closed - just before that thrilling climax came up. The act ending, on the note of - " To be continued tomorrow. "

HOUSING

Apartment house builders were able to get backing from the government - for million dollar loans. And, they put up only a few thousand dollars themselves. So charged today by Senator Capehart, Chairman of the Senate Banking Committee. Capehart cited one case in which a builder put up one thousand dollars, for which he received a loan of four and a half million dollars! The Senator mentioned a number of similar cases. And he said they were typical of what he termed, "the unsound business practices" that went on in the apartment building program during and after World War Two.

Contractors have been charged with reaping around half a billion dollars. Senator Capehart says these contractors may be "black-listed" to prevent similar abuses in the future.

I had an unexpected pleasure this afternoon - sharing the platform at Constitution Hall with President Eisenhower. I mention this because I want to tell you something about the President in which you will all be interested. After my speech there was a Marine Color Guard pageant, and then President Eisenhower arrived. He had just flown up from Augusta, Georgia, and he looked rested, seemed completely relaxed, spoke without a note, and I never heard him more eloquent -- more effective. It was a patriotic, inspirational speech on Americanism -- our system of government founded on a religious basis, in contrast to the tyrannical system of our enemies who deny that there is a God.

I wish it had been on radio and T.V. and that all of you could have heard and seen him this afternoon. One question he asked was this:- How can a society like ours, in which all men are equal, stand against a dictatorial ruthless enemy who threatens the peace of the world? In answer, he quoted Woodrow Wilson -- that "the highest form of efficiency is the spontaneous cooperation of a free people." Then he spoke of the importance of national morale. For instance, he said he thought the singing of "America the Beautiful," or something similar, should be done more often, just to remind us that we do have the spirit, the belief, in ourselves and our country, and a determination that can't be whipped by anything or anybody.

Here is one direct quote, a paragraph that every American should hear:- "If any of you would allow your imagination to travel around the world," said President Eisenhower, "you would find that still in the control of the part of the world we call independent, outside the Iron Curtain, there is a great preponderance of the world's material resources, a great preponderance of human beings, a great intellectual capacity - particularly in certain centers, a great culture, as well as great scientific advancement. In the aggregate, resources so overwhelming as compared to the Iron Curtain countries, that you sometimes wonder why we grow tense, why we are ever fearful." Then he added: "That brings me back again to my one single thought:- We instinctively fear a power that is in the hands of a single dictatorial group or person. How do we combat that power? Again I say by a spiritual unity among ourselves that is indestructible - that is a unity among ourselves as individuals, and among the nations that we are proud to call friends."

My own role at the D.A.R. Convention was to respond to the presentation of an award to Cinerama for the best patriotic picture. The first time such an award has ever been made by the 180,000 members of this intensely patriotic national organization.

I don't know whether it was coincidence or not, but it was "The America The Beautiful" Cinerama sequence

that inspired the D.A.R. to make this award, the first of its kind ever made. I wondered whether the President had this in mind when he made his subsequent reference to "America The Beautiful." So far as I know he has not seen Cinerama, the new medium which alone was responsible for the revolution now going on in the motion picture world.

RED AGENTS

Today, three members of the Soviet Secret Police surrendered to American authorities in Bonne, Germany. A Russian Captain and two East Germans.

The three are giving our authorities information about Red espionage. But the sensational thing about the episode - is the weapons they brought with them. Electrically operated pistols - which can discharge poisonous pellets.

The Red pistols, so sensational that our High Commission issued a special statement about them. According to the statement, the pistols are just over four inches long. Each has three barrels, one above the other. The trigger fires each barrel separately - by closing the circuit of a battery housed in the grip. The pistols, using three types of ammunition - steel pellets, poison pellets, and small lead pellets for stunning a victim. Their principal value - the fact that they are virtually silent. No louder than a snap of the fingers. The High Commission statement adds, accurate up to twenty-five feet.

NEW JERSEY

In New Jersey, the echo is - bingo. The State Control Commission deluged, with applications for licenses to operate bingo games. Also - raffles. New Jersey voters went to the polls and legalized the game so familiar in church affairs and other charities. And, a mere twenty-four hours afterward, a bingo game was in operation at a Catholic church in Garfield.

In the election campaign, the churches were split. Many Protestant against, many Catholic in favor - of bingo. Many civic, fraternal and welfare groups campaigned - to make the sport legal. Hence, a rush for applications. Now it seems to be bingo, all over the place - in New Jersey.