

DULLES

LT. - Deleo. Wed., Feb. 16, 1955.

Secretary of State John Foster Dulles made his declaration to the American public, tonight, on U.S. policy in the Formosa crisis. He said - our government is not committed, formally, to defend the off-shore islands of Quemoi and Matsu. But we would intervene - if the Chinese Reds should assail those islands as part of a campaign against Formosa. Which sticks to our main point, Formosa and the Pescadores. Leaving Quemoi and Matsu - merely in relation to the larger issue.

At the same time, the Secretary left an implication - that Red China might gain those off-shore islands as part of the overall settlement of the Formosa question. Which would seem to be in line with the British view - that Quemoi and Matsu are subjects for negotiation.

ROMANIANS

The siege of the Red Romanian Legation at Bern, Switzerland - ended on a note of high drama, today. The embattled anti-Communists gave up, when a priest entered the building - and released them from a vow.

They had been under siege for forty-one hours - after ~~they had seized~~ ^{seizing} the Legation. Killing - a Communist chauffeur, in the process. Apparently, there were six to begin with - in the anti-Communist band. But one was arrested, and two are believed to have been able to escape. Leaving three - although they bluffed that their number was greater.

Today, the Swiss Army was all set - ready to storm the building. The besieged anti-Communists had been informed - that they would not be sent back to Red Romania. Instead, they'd be tried in a Swiss court, under Swiss law. But they insisted - they'd fight to the death. Having - plenty of armament.

That was the situation, when the Police Commissioner of Bern, Kurt Kessi, addressed them with a final argument.

Standing outside the Legation building - and talking to them.

"I told the leader," relates the Police Commissioner, "that a fight was hopeless. He replied - they had sworn to their anti-Communist organization to die, if necessary. He said they had taken the oath - before God.

"I told the leader," continues the Commissioner, "that he would not break the oath - if a priest relieved him of it. He finally agreed to think it over - and at three P.M., he asked to see the priest.

Then it was that the authorities brought in Monsignor Sekinger, Pastor of the Trinity Church in Bern. ^{Who} he went into the Legation building, with what the police call, "exemplary courage." Inside, he was taken into a dim room, with curtains drawn. There, as an ecclesiastic, he released the anti-Communists from their vow to fight to the death. That was followed promptly - by the surrender.

Monsignor Sekinger - returning to his church.

The three prisoners - led off to jail. Their identity is not revealed. But, they are, undoubtedly, anti-Communist Romanians.

FRANCE

In Paris, Christian Pineau has accepted the task - of trying to form a new government. He's lining up a list of Ministers - ^{to put} ~~which he will place~~ before the National Assembly, on Friday.

He'll make the bid - with a full slate of Cabinet nominees. Which is in accordance with a new regulation - requiring a Premier-designate to select his Ministry, before seeking a parliamentary majority.

So, today, Pineau was consulting prominent politicians - offering them various ministerial posts. He wanted former Premier Mendes-France on the list - as a Vice-Premier. But Mendes-France declined, saying - he "wanted to remain apart from political life, for two or three months." Nevertheless, Pineau has the support of Mendes-France - the Premier who fell from power a couple of weeks ago. *P*The Popular Republican Party, predominantly Catholic, is backing Pineau - and he's offering a Vice-Premiership to former Foreign Minister Robert Schuman, a leader of the Popular Republicans. In addition,

Pineau can count on his own Party - the Socialists.

There's opposition to him by the Right Wing factions - including the followers of General Charles DeGaulle. The Communists are hostile - and extreme Right plus extreme Left, could beat Pineau. However, he expects a number of Conservative deputies to break Party ranks - and support him. That's Pineau's hope - in the showdown on Friday.

SECURITY

The Defense Department reveals - that, in the past eighteen months, four thousand defense plant workers have been suspended - on "security risk" accusations. About one-third of these have been cleared - and the workers are back on the job. The other two-thirds are being checked, as fast as possible.

Today, Wilbur Brucker, Counsel General for the Defense Department, told newsmen - that "more than a desirable number" of defense workers have been suspended. Too many.

So a new program is going into effect. The creation - of a "central office" in the Pentagon. A new kind of security board - to which all cases will be referred. Counsel Brucker says - there'll be an "over all, common sense approach". Eliminating unnecessary suspensions - cutting down the total number.

REPUBLICANS

The Republican Convention of Nineteen Fifty-Six will be held - at San Francisco. So decided by a Convention Sub-Committee - in a vote, sure to be okayed by the full G.O.P. National Committee, meeting in Washington tomorrow.

The Democrats have chosen Chicago. So this will be the first time that the two Parties will have their conventions in different cities, ~~ever~~ since Nineteen Forty. The custom has been to meet in the same city - for reasons of economy. But San Francisco made a strong bid - agreeing to match offers made by Chicago and Philadelphia. Putting up - a quarter of a million dollars toward Convention costs. And offering - a Convention Hall, rent free.

The date - Late - for a short campaign. August Twentieth. ~~There~~ still remains a question of state laws - requiring an early filing of candidates. But Republican Chairman Leonard Hall says that the states, which have such laws, will change them. They given have [^] assurances - to that effect.

CONGRESS

The House of Representatives voted a pay raise, today - for themselves. A hike - of ten thousand dollars a year. Right the legislators now, [^]~~they~~[^] get twelve thousand, five hundred - plus a twenty-five hundred dollar expense allowance. Today's vote would give them - twenty-five thousand dollars a year, both Senators and Congressmen.

The Vice-President and the Speaker of the House would also get a hike. And so ~~was~~ would the federal judges and the justices of the Supreme Court - in a bill, which now goes to the Senate.

The lawmakers were timid and bashful - about boosting their own pay. How would the voters take it? But their courage was bucked up, when the ^{Acting} Speaker, Congressman McCormack of Massachusetts, read a telegram from former President Truman. Who said - he was "heartily in favor" of the increase. Adding - that members of Congress are - "always underpaid."

So, with that strong encouragement, the Congressmen voted a pay hike, two hundred and ninety-three to one hundred and eighteen.

The chauffeur has a criminal record - beginning with a robbery conviction in Arizona, thirty years ago. Recently, he was meditating - bank robbery.

He also had ideas of - kidnapping. The police declare he once planned the abduction of Frank Costello, that notorious big shot of racketeering. Which would have been quite a kidnap - the abduction of Costello. But that notion was dropped.

He also planned - to kidnap Rubinstein. Going so far - as to enlist a confederate. But the project fell through. After which - the chauffeur mentioned his "interesting idea" to some underworld hoodlums. Who thought the idea of kidnapping Rubinstein "interesting" indeed - and took it up.

They^are the characters whom Scholz has named.

The theory being - that the murder of Rubinstein was a kidnap attempt, which was bungled. When - the shady financier fought back, and was strangled. Apparently, the would-be abductors

bound and gagged him. And then found ~~it was murder.~~ ~~he was murdered.~~

Today, Scholz was brought into court, and held on bail of twenty-five thousand dollars. Apparently, he's not eager for liberty. The police declaring - the underworld might, likely enough, try to wipe him out.

WHALE SHARK

Peru reports the capture of one of the largest fish - in all the ocean. A whale shark - thirty-five feet long. Of course - whales, themselves, are ~~very~~ much larger. But they're mammals, not fish. ~~But~~ The whale shark is a true fish - a kind of shark.

The giant, now reported, was harpooned by Peruvian whalers out in the Pacific - and was taken to shore. Put on display. One of the largest fish - ever to be reported.

The voyagers who made the trip on the raft Kon-Kiki, reported that they saw a whale shark in the ocean west of Peru. But this one, today, is the first ever caught off the Peruvian coast.

CHINESE

In Milwaukee, there's a court of law - perplexed by a Chinese puzzle. Gong Hong - suing Yep Lee. Evidence - a promisory note. Which Gong Hong says - Yep Lee signed. Gong says - "yep." But Yep says - "nope."

The question - the validity of a signature. So call in a hand-writing expert. But the signature is - in Chinese characters.

The court wanted to make a comparison. Having - Yep Lee sign his name. But don't think they just handed a fountain pen to Yep Lee - he wouldn't know what to do with a pen. Yep Lee can only write with a brush - in that ancient way of China. So a brush and ink were brought into court - writing materials fit for a Mandarin. With which Yep Lee wrote his name - as clever as all chop sticks.

So - were the two signatures in the same Chinese hand-writing? The court was baffled, and at last reports - was trying to find a Chinese hand-writing expert.

BEANS

At Keokuk, Iowa - they sure spilled the beans.

At Farmer Richard Ichelson's place, two crooks made off with sixty-two bushels of soybeans. Sheriff Harry ~~Burkhardt~~ De-la-hoyde and his deputy, Frank Anderson, made an investigation, and picked up the trail. A trail - of beans. Which they followed - for fifty-eight miles, along the highway.

It seems that the crooks, making off in a truck, had stowed their loot in such careless fashion - that beans kept leaking from the sacks.

The trail, on the highway, led all the way to Meyer, Illinois. The line of beans - ending, finally, at a store, where the loot had been sold. Descriptions were obtained,

Leading - to ~~a couple~~ ^{the} of arrests ^{Hugh.} of the robbers

12 who ~~they sure~~ spilled the beans.

BRITAIN - PLANES

The London government acknowledges - trouble with Britain's latest models of jet fighters and bombers. "Serious development troubles", are the words used.

An official statement names the "Hunter" and "Swift" fighters. And the "Victor" and "Vulcan" bombers. In the case of the "Swift", a supersonic jet plane - four models have been produced. Not one of them - acceptable. They simply didn't work right. A fourth model is now being tested - but they're not sure it will turn out any better.

(The production of the "Hunter" jet fighter is being continued - although ~~ixix~~ its jet engine stalls, under certain conditions, when the guns are fired. They hope to rectify that.

The production of the two types of jet bombers has been held up - following ~~accidents~~ accidents to models.)

The result, according to a government White Paper, is that the Royal Air Force, at the present moment, has to depend on old-fashioned jets. The only up-to-date fighter planes in the country are the squadron of American Sabrejets, based on Britain.