

PRICE FREEZE

L.T.-P&G. TUESDAY, JAN. 23, 1951

A report from Washington tonight indicates that a general price freeze order will be issued Thursday. This to be followed in a few days by an over-all wage-freeze. This follows Senate confirmation of Eric Johnston's appointment tonight as Economic Stabilizer. Johnston will be sworn in tomorrow and plans immediately to give sweeping powers to Price Administrator Michael di Salle and the Wage Stabilization Board under Cyrus Ching.

CIVIL RIGHTS

President Truman, this evening set up a "Federal Commission on Internal Security and Individual Rights." The purpose of the nine-member Commission will be to supervise protection against treason and espionage -- and, at the same time, to guarantee civil rights and freedoms. The head of the Commission which will have access to the most secret Federal records -- Admiral Chester Nimitz, Commander of the Pacific Fleet in World War Two.

KOREA

For the third day in Western Korea, an Eighth Army task force swept forward this morning -- seizing Wonju, its airstrip, and the surrounding hills. The spearhead also pushed five miles north along the Central Korean highway -- further north than any thrust since Seoul fell.

And for the third day -- no enemy. That North Korean Corps reported "just north of Wonju" two days ago -- utterly vanished. Also the Chinese - gone - so it appears.

To the south east, the situation is more confused. Reports tell again of a bloody and indecisive battle on the central front. Also of large scale guerrilla fights far behind U N lines -- one report puts a Communist spearhead sixty miles behind the Front.

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The latest from Korea, A U N patrol this

morning destroyed thirteen small Red boats in an estuary forty miles south of Seoul. An Eighth Army communique says numerous craft were spotted in the estuary by Allied pilots. Their destruction seems to have thwarted a Communist landing attack on the flank of the western front.

AIR WAR

Late last night we had word of a giant air battle over the Yalu River - of seventy jet planes in a roaring thirty-minute dogfight, just south of the Manchurian border.

The news wire this afternoon brings us the full story - how the American commander used one of the oldest tricks in air warfare. Posting his fighter planes at great altitudes, then sending in a decoy at ground level to draw the enemy planes, a technique used by the great German Ace Richtofen in the First World War - perfected by our fliers against the Japs in the Pacific. Yesterday, the story goes, twenty-four thunderjets were sent to strafe airfields near the Yalu border - the decoy. Eight more planes took up position in the stratosphere - waiting for the Reds to stick out their necks. Quickly, the enemy ^{swallowed} ~~took~~ the bait. Thirty ^{or} ~~and~~ forty M.I.G.'s took off - streaked south from that "privileged sanctuary" in Manchuria.

Within seconds, the high flying jets screamed down on their tails. As one pilot put it, "I picked out the number three

man in the flight - my machine gun bullets went right into his jet exhaust - he burst into flames, exploded, a terrific flash."

It is not known how many enemy fighters were downed.

Four for sure, probably five - several more badly damaged.

Our own casualties - two planes damaged, but able to get

back safely to their bases. Our flyers put their victory

down to "team-work", flying in close formation. Which the

Reds failed to do.

Today we have General MacArthur's reply to the critics, those military experts back home who, in the newspapers and on the radio, never hesitate to point out the mistakes of strategy in the war.

This comes at an interview MacArthur gave to United Press Correspondent Ernest Hoberecht. The Supreme Commander will be seventy-one on Friday -- and it is a sort of birthday interview.

Explaining the recent American retreats, MacArthur points to the matter of -- enemy supplies. "The importance of a supply system," says he, "has been understood by every general in every important campaign in history." So that dictated a strategy, when Red China hurled its huge forces into the war -- and the UN Army made rapid withdrawals from North Korea. "Our strategy," says MacArthur, "is based on forcing the enemy to lengthen his line of supply into the areas where we can attack him."

At the Chinese-Korean border, the Communists

able to supply one million, five hundred thousand soldiers. But, as far south as Pyongyang, the Red supply line, under air attack, could support only six hundred thousand men in the front line. Below the thirty-eighth parallel, the figure becomes smaller. Finally, the Communist Army diminishes, until it is about the size of our own.

Such is MacArthur's reply -- and, he keeps in front of him the earliest recorded answer of a military commander to the critics at home. It hangs on the wall of his office in the Dai Ichi Building. I read it there on my way thru the Far East not long ago -- and discussed it with him. A century or so before the Christian era, the Roman Consul Aemilius Paulus, was assigned to command the war in Macedonia. Before he left, he issued a statement -- noting the way the civilians in Rome were always criticising the generals in the field. So Aemilius Paulus issued an invitation to the amateur experts, saying: "If, therefore, anyone thinks himself qualified to give advice, respecting the war

which I am to conduct, let him not refuse his assistance to the state. But -- let him come with me into Macedonia." It is almost the only thing that hangs on the wall of MacArthur's office.

O'DONNELL

Major General "Rosey" O'Donnell was cleared today of charges that he had urged the use of the A-bomb against the Chinese Reds in Korea. Following informal investigations, the Air Force Chief of Staff, General Vandenberg, said he was confident these reports were wrong - that O'Donnell had been "misquoted." (General Vandenberg also announced that "Rosey" O'Donnell will return from Washington to the command of the Fifteenth Air Force at the "urgent request of the Chief of the Strategic Air Command.")

At the same time, General Vandenberg warned members of the Air Force to be careful in any remarks made in public - "so that they will not be misinterpreted."

VIOLIN

One of the legends for long years has been -- the discovery of a Stradivarius. Somebody finding, in some unexpected place -- a priceless fiddle fashioned by the master violin maker of old. But you would never guess where the latest has been found -- in a hut in a bombed out village in Korea. A Stradivarius - picked up by GI's.

Korean

Today on the [^]battlefront, they were displaying an old, shabby violin, inside of which you can see in ancient writing the name -- Stradivarius. The story is that a GI was browsing around in the village of Sojong, south of Seoul, and wandered into a shattered Korean home. There, among the debris, he found the violin. He thought it odd, a fiddle in Korea -- and it passed from one GI to another, finally to Private Leon Winiger, of Mokane, Missouri. He noted the name inside -- Stradivarius.

Which raises a wondering question -- how did the handiwork of the great European violin maker find

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its way to a village in the Far East, Korea? Of course, it may not be a genuine Stradivarius. It is known that pupils of the master went on making violins back in the seventeenth century, and signed his name to them. But, even so it's an oddity - as a GI trophy of war, on the Korean battlefield.

U.N.

At Lake Success tonight the twelve-nation Asian-Arab Block announced that it would introduce a resolution to iron out difficulties over a "cease-fire" in Korea. The new Asian-Arab proposal will be introduced at tomorrow afternoon's session of the Political Committee - provided that sufficient support is obtained from other delegations.

BRITAIN

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In the House of Commons today, Prime Minister Attlee explained Britain's policy towards Red Chinese intervention in Korea. In answer to a question by Winston Churchill, Mr. Attlee explained that, at the present stage of the U.N. debate, his government is willing to denounce "Chinese Communist intervention in support of an aggressor." Attlee's choice of words is interesting - that Britain is not now ready to denounce the Chinese Reds as aggressors, but rather as "supporters of aggression." "We do not believe that the time has yet come to consider further measures"; said Mr. Attlee - "we have not lost hope of a negotiated settlement of the war."

Mr. Attlee also said that he was on his guard against any attempt to divide the British Commonwealth, the United States, and all other peace-loving nations.

In Paris, the French Government said today that the West "should go slow" on any measure to brand the Chinese - "aggressors." The French spokesman said it was "well worthwhile to study the new Peking proposals."

CHINA

From Washington comes word that the Senate this afternoon unanimously approved two resolutions, which call on the U.N. to brand Communist China an aggressor in Korea, and bar the Peking regime from a U.N. seat. A third proposal from Senator McFarland, which calls for immediate economic and military sanctions against Red China, has been referred to the Foreign Relations Committee.

Last week, the House overwhelmingly approved similar resolutions, calling for adoption by the U.N. of the U.S. "aggressor" proposal.

COMMUNIST

In London today an American citizen said something often ~~heard~~ spoken by immigrants on their way to America. He said: "I am going to start life all over again in the United States." He is Arden Perin, of New York, who, became a Communist and decided to go to the Red Utopia. He sold all his belongings -- and, with wife and child, started for the land of Stalin. That time, he^{also} said: "I am going to ~~xx~~ start life all over again in Soviet Russia."

But he was wrong about that. He was refused admission -- because he was a "deviationist." Which is Red lingo for one who doesn't stay close enough to ^{the} party line.

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Whereupon, still wanting to live under Communism, Perin and family went to Red Czechoslovakia to make their home. But he was arrested, and kept a prisoner for five weeks - then^{they} expelled him from the country. Today he arrived in London -- broke, also disillusioned. He said he was a Communist no longer,

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and then spoke that old familiar line: "I am going to start life all over again in the United States."

VOLCANO

In New Guinea, following Sunday's violent eruption which blew away the entire northern face of Mount Lamington, the Australian Government today closed, by proclamation, the area around the volcano. So remote is the volcano from civilization, that it has proved impossible to draw up official casualty lists. Reports tell of twenty villages destroyed, more than four thousand natives and white settlers dead or injured. In Port Moresby today a volcanologist warned that more eruptions are likely, also violent earth tremors.

Every plane in New Guinea has been commandeered to fly in blood plasma, food, blankets and clothing. A mercy ship too is on its way from Port Moresby, to the harbor nearest the stricken area.

ANNOUNCER

In Britain -- a surprise for the radio audience. A B.B.C. program was on the air -- and then came the astonishment.

It was a broadcast of Scottish Country Dancing music, the lilting refrain of the Highland Fling, the saucy measures of many an old Scottish favorite. Like - The Dashing White Sergeant. A fine program with all the gaiety of the skirling of the pipes and the swirling of the kilts.

Then, suddenly, a voice broke into the music, a voice repeating: "I've got to stop smoking, and drinking, and going out with girls." The effect in the broadcast of Scottish Country Music, was -- ~~amazing~~ sensational.

A minute or so later a B.B.C. announcer came on the air, and gave an awkward, embarrassed explanation. He said that a fellow announcer had been practising enunciation, repeating a sentence over and over again -- and, accidentally, his voice went on the air.

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Well, that sort of thing can happen, throwing
a wrong switch. But why, in practising enunciation,
was the British announcer using ~~those~~ those particular
words: "I've got to stop smoking, and drinking, and
going out with girls." Sure sounded odd in the middle
of a Highland Fling, *don't you think, Nelson?*