

RUSSIA C.I. - P. & G. Monday, Jan. 31, 1949.

(Trusler)

In Moscow diplomatic circles the belief today was that Stalin's new declaration will have little practical effect. The opinion among western ~~and~~ diplomats is that the Soviet premier was merely making another move in a peace offensive.

Stalin, in his statement to the International News Service said he was ~~not~~ willing to meet President Truman, but gave no indication that he would ~~not~~ agree with the previous Truman declaration -- that the American President would gladly meet Stalin in Washington.

As for the Berlin blockade, the Moscow Premier did not change the previous Soviet position. ~~He~~

~~said the ~~blockade~~ blockade would be lifted as if the Western Powers recinded their own regulations, and if they agreed to stop the formation of a West German state. Also a meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Big 4. ~~German state~~. To accept those terms would seem to mean a ~~backbone~~ backbone backdown by the West.~~

So diplomatic opinion in Moscow tonight is that, with Stalin ~~pressed~~ making peace-offensive

moves, both sides will go on consolidating their positions, as they have been doing all along.

Along this line, it is generally conceded ^{that} ~~that~~ ^{over the weekend} Moscow ~~has~~ scored a victory -- in the breakup of attempts to form a Scandinavian alliance.

Sweden, Norway and Denmark were seeking for a northern line-up among themselves. But that has come to naught -- because Sweden wanted a policy of ~~mutual~~ neutrality, while Norway and Denmark advocated a tie with the West. The latest news pictures the Soviets as now bringing pressure to bear on Norway -- trying to get that Scandinavian Kingdom to reject the western power alliance, ^{the} North Atlantic Defense Treaty.

Meanwhile, we hear that the terms of ~~that~~ ^{the} North Atlantic arrangement are likely to be made public soon. Just what is in that security pact is now a secret, and there is plenty of curiosity. During the week ~~the~~ Secretary of State Dean Acheson is scheduled to hold conferences with the Ambassadors

of Canada, and the five countries in the Western European Union. They will consider the question of lifting the secrecy from the terms of the pact, and decide on making them public.

~~It~~ - Stockholm ^{thought} hails the idea of a Truman - Stalin meeting. And suggests Sweden as the place. The U. N. is said to be thinking of acting a mediator - to arrange a parley between the Soviet Premier and the American President.

KOREA

Fighting in Korea. The news tells of a battle between the Reds in the North and troops of the government in the South. The Soviets organized their zone of occupation in Korea on a Communist basis., while the American authorities established a southern Korea state based on a free election.

So now we hear that Northern Reds have lunged forward in an invasion, and a full-scale battle is being fought. The Communists are said to be armed with -- American equipment.

CHINA

In China the Nationalist government has rejected the Communist demand for the arrest of China's former leaders, headed by Chiang Kai Shek. The Reds want them handed over before peace negotiations begin, but the new acting President of China says --- no. He declares that his regime is willing to negotiate on the basis of the conditions laid down by the Communists, but will not concede any of these conditions before negotiations begin. This, with emphasis on the condition demanding the arrest and handing over of leaders like Chiang Kai Shek, -- who, meanwhile, has fled from Nanking.

PALESTINE

The United States ~~today~~ has granted full recognition to Israel. Provisional recognition had already been accorded. Now the matter is ^{made} ~~complete~~ ~~with~~ formal ~~recognition~~ -- so announced by the White House today.

At the same time, American ~~recognition~~ ~~is~~ ~~extended~~ to the kingdom of Trans-Jordan. That Arab state, created under the ~~the~~ sponsorship of Great Britain, has not hitherto been ~~was~~ recognized by the United States. Now, however, we enter full diplomatic relations with Trans-Jordan and King Abdullah.

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From Tel Aviv, news that the Jewish government is considering a ~~proposal~~ proposal to declare Jerusalem to be the capitol of Israel. The government headed by ~~the~~ Prime Minister BenGurion having won a decisive election victory has appointed a committee of ~~four~~ four to deal with the move from Tel Aviv to the ancient city where Saul, David and Solomon

were biblical Kings of the Jewish nation.

Of course, the United Nations has planned to have Jerusalem and the Holy places made an international city. And right now, the Arabs of King Abdullah of Trans-Jordan are in control of the older Jerusalem, ~~as~~ the ancient section within the walls -- while Jewish forces are in possession of the new city, the more recent part of Jerusalem.

All of which would seem to complicate the project announced today, -- a transfer of the Jewish capital from Tel Aviv to ~~Jerusalem~~ *the Holy city.*

HOOVER

The statement was made in Washington today that taxation in this country has reached -- "the saturation point". The time has come when you can't get much more out of the average citizen. ^{TP} This -- from former President Hoover who today testified in behalf of President Truman's program for a reorganization of the Federal Government. ^{TP} Herbert Hoover, himself, headed the commission that has made recommendations which the White House wants to put into effect. (So now he explains to ~~the~~ a Congressional Committee that a great deal of money can be saved, if President Truman is given the authority to change the administrative set-up in Washington.) ~~"The economies would be considerable"~~ ^{TP} declared The former President, ~~and he argued the~~ ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ necessity of ~~such~~ economy by saying: "I believe this country has reached the saturation point by way of taxation".

NAVAJO

The latest ~~index~~ about the winter in the West. is the plight of a village of Navajo Indians in Arizona. A plane flying over spotted some writing in the snow, ^{which} ~~and it~~ spelled out the word - help. It turns out that the Navajo there, including children in an Indian school, have been isolated -- without food, for days. Starving and in need of medical help. So today, Army planes flew over and dropped provisions and medicine, and the news tonight ^{tells how the Air} ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Force tomorrow will drop a surgeon ~~as~~ by parachute -- in this emergency-aid to save an isolated village of the Navajos.

RAILROAD

I'm broadcasting from a lofty altitude in the snow-capped Sierras -- from Donner Pass, an historic gateway through the mountains into California. Seems remote from anywhere, but the news ^(wires reach?) ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ to remote places nowadays, and so ^{almost instantaneous, no matter where you are.} does radio -- ~~so~~ I have a microphone set up in the railroad station in the mountain town of Truckee, ^{high} the California Sierras.

The way I got out here is a story, a tale that features a familiar theme -- "lo how the mighty have fallen". In other words -- "behold how a big fish can get down among us little fishes".

Over the weekend, continuing this western broadcasting trip, I've been doing a lot of traveling - through areas where the headline story of the day is the weather, ^{continuing} ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ the snow and cold, this year's western drama of winter. Our party left Colorado Springs in two cars, and drove all the way to Salt Lake -- two days of rolling along. We were skirting to the south of the great

blizzard belt, the highways were surprisingly open and clear - even in the rugged grandeur of Glenwood Canyon, with its fabulous miles of towering cliffs right in upon us, as we drove.

After two days, several of us were fairly tired of the incessant ~~maxi~~ motoring - especially ~~as the train~~ on West through Utah and Nevada, ~~promised to be a tough assignment.~~ By train how much easier it would be!

That pleasant anticipation was borne out marvelously. Taking an eleven P.M. train out of salt Lake I never slept better. And no wonder. When we awoke next morning instead of being in California, we hadn't gone anywhere. Merely a few miles to nearby Ogden to be hooked on an eastern train that hadn't come through.

The trans-continental express out of Omaha was thirteen hours late. All night in Ogden! A half day more and we were still there. And that was nothing unusual we were told - for this winter. Deep

snow, ice, and abysmal cold across Nebraska, Wyoming, Utah and Nevada. Fifty-seven below at Carlin, Nevada. Sheep and cattle freezing and still standing - not toppling over in the deep snow.

It I was curious to see how the other passengers were taking it - train thirteen hours late. So I inquired around, and that brought me to the theme - "lo how the mighty have fallen". "Behold how the big fish can get right down here among us little fishes!" I found that one of the passengers thirteen hours late, was the President of the New York Central. Which gave the whole thing a certain quality of exhilaration; railroad President just as late as the rest of us. On his way to a meeting of the Association of American railroads in San Francisco, aboard other trains other railroad Presidents all equally late.

I found President Metzger of the mighty New York Central, traveling with another tycoon, Tom Wagner of the Budd Company, builders of railroad cars. And from these easterners I got some illumination

on one phase of this the worst winter the West has had in ~~the history~~ many long years.

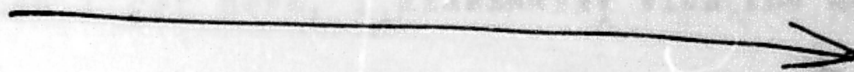
They explained that snow was bad, engulfing the tracks, but that extreme cold was worse. Cars running through constant below-zero-temperatures, picking up masses of ice, in the journals where ⁱⁿ the oily-waste-lubricated-axels there ~~was~~ always some moisture. ~~And that would~~ freeze ^{up.} Also, how in these prolonged low temperatures, the rails of the tracks grow brittle. Meaning constant repairs. And then the biggest problem of all - the human factor. All the mechanical mishaps because of the freezing weather has ^{ve} to be guarded against - by human beings. That means ^s maintenance crews, working ^{with} ~~in the severest~~ kind of ~~weather~~ with everything handicapped ^{of} the intense cold. So no wonder we were thirteen hours late -- all because of the savage winter weather west of Omaha. -- and east of Calif.

The President of the New York Central went on to pay a tribute to the western railroads. He says

they are doing a remarkable job in keeping the lines open at all. Performing mere-miracles, fighting the toughest weather battle American railroading has ever known.

All this he told me as our Southern Pacific train, finally started rolling across Nevada. On to Carlin where it recently had been down to Fifty-seven below.

And then at four A.M. we got off at a place appropriate to this cold-weather-saga of mine - Donner Pass! The name "Donner" derives from one of the most frightful disasters of winter and blizzard in the



history of the old west. ^W The story tells how back in the Eighteen Fifties, two brothers named Donner led a wagon train of emigrants bound for California, and they were caught in the Pass by a tremendous snowstorm. They lost their way. They huddled in their covered wagons, and most of them perished.

Today, Donner Pass is traversed by railroads, automobiles, and busses -- and is a favorite ^{resort} ~~XXXX~~ ^{western} for skiers, who ~~go sliding down a snowy mountain peak. I myself, had planned to do some skiing on this trip, with a stop at the Donner Pass, all the more appropriate in a story of winter and cold.~~

When I got here, I ^{joined up} ~~joined up~~ with the others ~~two~~ of our party, who had driven by car. They ~~too~~, had had their experiences. ~~They told of driving right past~~ The great hay-lift at Ely, Nevada, ~~where~~ ^{with} ~~great~~ Air Force ^(cargo) ~~transport~~ planes ~~were~~ ~~xx~~ taking off and coming in, minute after minute - flying box-cars on the job of dropping food to the starving livestock of the snowed-in country. ~~They drove past~~ miles of

Army trucks loaded with hay for the western ranges,
-- ^a reminding ^{er} ~~ing~~ them of great military convoys during
the war. ~~The~~ At one point in Nevada ~~they were~~
delayed by thousands of sheep pouring down the
road -- a huge flock extricated from the deep snows
of the ranges, now driven along the highway by

sheep herders with dogs, ~~and~~ covered chuck wagons.
*Tonite here in the ~~Donner~~ Donner-Tahoe country,
trucks are streaming by right outside my*

*how carrying TP
stock from
to
f.*
The news today gives us the latest round up
of damage. It is estimated that one hundred and
nineteen ^(thousand) ~~million~~ cattle and one-hundred-and-thirty-
four thousand sheep have been lost. Value, Nineteen-
million ~~and~~ six-hundred-thousand dollars. And that
is believed to be only part of the destruction of
livestock. Losses in agriculture -- ^a ~~one~~ hundred-
and-eight-million dollars. And the railroads are
estimated to have ~~lost~~ suffered cold weather damage
~~at~~ and a loss of revenue to the tune of Fifty
Million dollars.

Such are the ^(estimated) ~~estimates~~ as this program
goes on the air at Donner Pass -- ~~and~~ ~~xxxx~~ here where

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they have been having a winter of the severest kind
of cold, although it ^{is} ~~was different~~ ^{balmy enough} today. ^{and} Beyond

the pass ^{on} the slopes ~~are~~ steep down into the valleys
of California, where the weather today, ^{so Merle Jennings} ~~is reported~~
^{The So. Pac. tells me, is} mild and springlike. -- ~~although California, even~~

~~Los Angeles, has had some bitter winter this year.~~

~~Up here ^{at} in the top today, we seemed to have
a drift of the mild weather in the California
valleys -- bright bright sunshine and moderate
temperatures.~~

So maybe right here tonight ^{in the Donner Pass Country} we are having
a harbinger of better things in the blizzard-bound
areas -- maybe a promise of a milder spell to
break the rigor of the crisis of a wicked winter.

And now. to So. Calif. to
Ken Niles.