

FOREIGN AID

C.I. - P.S. Tuesday, Nov-18, 1947.

In Washington, three key committees of the Senate and House are at work on the Presidential requirement for stop-gap aid to the free countries of Western Europe. They are preparing for action on the White House request for the five-hundred-and-ninety-seven-million dollar emergency relief bill to help France, Austria, and Italy.

Today, the Senate Appropriations Committee voted to investigate the question of American food supplies - how much can we spare? Committee Chairman, Senator Bridges of New Hampshire, declares that the Committee, in his words -- "will not be stampeded into action before we know where we're going."

He added that there would be public hearings for about two weeks, on the subject of how much food, coal and oil we can send -- "without short-changing our own people", in the Senator's words.

The latest is a statement by Senator Bridges, denouncing an agreement to send industrial plant equipment from the American and British zones of Germany to Soviet Russia and the Red satellites. Senator Bridges declares that the American and British authorities in the occupation have decided that an additional six-hundred-and-eighty-two plants in their zones shall be dismantled and sent to the world of Communism behind the Iron Curtain. What kind of reconstruction work for Western Europe is that, he demands. He says it's assinine!

The Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives heard testimony today from Congressmen who made personal inspection trips in Europe. One of these, Republican Congressman Dirksen of Illinois, spoke an impassioned plea for immediate and adequate aid. He said that Soviet Russia is, in his words -- "feverishly preparing for war." The present cold war, said he, could easily turn into a shooting

war. The ^{Mid-west} Republican Congressman emphasized that with an epigram - "the cold war is not very cold", said he. If we fail to give economic support to the free countries of western Europe, he argued, Stalin will take over - "Stalin will write the ticket", he declared. And he added that this would imperil western civilization. So, on the basis of what he and his colleagues beheld in Europe, the Illinois Congressman urged what he called - "decent, selective, adequate aid - having due regard for the ^{avail}ability of supplies and the capacity of our own country to produce."

In the matter of the controls that President Truman demanded last night, asking the power to ration food and restrict prices and wages, there is sure to be heavy debate with plenty of opposition. In reckoning the line the opposition will take, we can best refer to statements made by Senator Taft of Ohio last night - in his reply to the President's address to Congress. ^T~~yesterday~~ Senator Taft declared that the controls demanded, the White House power to ration and restrict,

would be, what the Senator called - "a step toward a complete totalitarian nation." In a scathing attack, Taft of Ohio characterized the presidential program in these words: "It means the setting up of a federal bureau with literally hundreds of thousands of employees and agents prying into the daily lives of millions of people. The President," said he, "is only trying to sugar-coat the pill - this is the O.P.A. This," Taft went on, "is the police state condemned by the President himself only a month ago."

All of which is to be kept in mind as a forecast of the opposition attitude in the great debate, when Congress takes up the controls ~~for~~ which President Truman recommended last night.

MARSHALL

In Chicago, tonight, addressing the Chicago Council of Foreign Affairs and the ~~Chicago~~ Chamber of Commerce, Secretary of State ~~George C.~~ Marshall accused Russia of deliberately blocking European recovery; and ~~that~~ the United States refuses to "stand by and watch the disintegration of the international community to which we belong."

He also issued
~~Our Secretary of State~~ *issuing* a stern warning to the Soviets, *at this* ~~in~~ his last public appearance before leaving for the meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers in London, ~~on November Twenty Fifth.~~

The Soviets, ~~asserted Marshall,~~ for some *said Gen. Marshall,* mysterious reason, have chosen to destroy American *- toward Russia - good will* good will, built up for them during the war; and now have goaded this country almost to "active resentment" against what he termed their "brazen and contemptuous foreign policy and propaganda."

~~Our Secretary of State~~ *He* used some of the strongest diplomatic language he has ever employed; ~~Marshall~~ accusing the Soviet union of obstructionism,

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and ^{he} soberly caution^{ed} Russia that her propaganda ^{is} ~~was~~ affecting the very stability of the world. ~~Adding~~ bluntly, ~~"It is time to call a halt to such inflationary practices."~~ He said he wished to state emphatically ^{that} ~~there~~ ^{is} ~~was~~ no truth whatsoever in the charges leveled against the United States by Soviet officials and Communist groups, who charged the United States with imperialistic design, aggressive purposes, and a desire to provoke a third world war.

~~What is the record? Secretary Marshall asked,~~
~~in making this categorical denial of these American~~
~~imperialism charges?~~ ^{Then he went on: -} "We have not annexed; we have not used the greatest military power and military resources ever assembled to acquire for the United States a special privileged position -- either political or economic." "While the ^{western} ~~(American)~~ democracies, Britain and the United States, have been reducing the area of their sovereignty, Russia has taken the opposite road." The Soviet Union considerably

expanding her frontiers, annexing territory, comprising an area of more than two-hundred-and-eighty-thousand square miles, and a population of twenty-two million people.

In a pointed reference to Vishinsky -- that master of villification -- and his fellow U.N. delegate Andre Gromyko -- Marshall told his audience that he assumed that most of their war-mongering charges against American newspapers and American individuals were intended for pure propaganda purposes. He said he would like to see more restraint than is sometimes exhibited in discussions of international issues and re-affirmed his pledge that the United States would extend economic help under the Marshall Plan to "every nation that pledges a generous effort to the common cause of European recovery."

Marshall said he had not found the slightest beam of light to explain why the Soviets have set out to destroy the valuable asset of American high regard and good will. "The people of this country are

COMMUNISTS

(In Italy, they're talking of -"the Battle of the Public Squares." That's what they're calling the nationwide series of outbreaks by the Communists, who are resorting to violence from one end of the new Italian republic to the other. ^{It's} ~~it's~~ an epidemic of Red mob action in the streets and plazas, ~~the~~ attacks against anti-Communist opponents and against the police - in the Battle of the Public Squares.

Today produced the most violent outbreak thus far - like a local insurrection. In the town of Corato, in southern Italy, a mob of Reds attacked and besieged the local police station, a mob blazing away with pistol, rifle and machinegun fire - that well armed. The police, besieged in their headquarters, could not have held out, but were able to telephone an alarm to the nearby city of Bari. They ^{barely} ~~were just~~ ~~able to~~ get the telephone call through - before the Communist insurrectos destroyed the telephone-telegraph headquarters.

As it was, a military column set out from Bari, the Ninth Infantry Division of the Italian Army, with light tanks and

armored cars, which ended that Battle of the Public Squares -- the armored attack being too much for the Communist mob.

In France today, a crew of an American merchant vessel joined the French Reds in the general strike at Marseilles. They sent a message to their Union over here, the National Maritime organization of the C.I.O., a cable addressed to President Joe Curran -- who is an anti-Communist and who recently won a resounding victory over the Red elements in the Maritime Union.

The Political slant of this American ship crew is indicated vividly in a proclamation of solidarity with the Communists of Marseilles. "We support your courageous fight against the imperialist Marshall Plan", say they, in joining the Red strike.

MEYERS

At a Congressional hearing in Washington today, the ladies among the spectators had a thrill -- a household thrill of a sort dear to the feminine instinct for the furnishings and fittings of home. The testimony concerned an apartment, fixed up in the latest style, at a cost of ten thousand dollars.

This occurred in the investigation of the complicated financial affairs of General Bennett Meyers, a top-ranker of ^{war-time} Air Force Procurement in Washington. The testimony was in line with what we've heard ~~about~~ before -- the charge that General Meyers was, in secret, the owner and head of an aircraft company ~~that was~~ doing war contract work -- and ~~was~~ getting his money out of the company in an undercover way. Today ^{the} a former company official who describes himself as having been ^{the} a dummy President, testified that one chunk of cash given to General Meyers had been used to pay for the decoration of the Meyers apartment in Washington -- a fancy place, the furnishing of which cost ten thousand dollars.

~~To substantiate this,~~ The Congressional Committee called a San Francisco decorator, Miss Nita Davis, who directed the job. That was when the ladies in the gallery grew interested. They noted that the witness was ^(smartly) ~~XXXXXX~~ turned out in a black suit and feathered beret. She said the ten thousand dollars ~~she~~ ~~got covered~~ the cost of the furniture and trimmings for the apartment -- all of a lush and expensive sort.

¶ The women spectators giggled and exclaimed, o-o-h and a-a-h -- as the witness described the sumptuous furnishings. The style of the beds, tables, chairs and sofas, said she, was -- "modern and English." She told of the carpets, the draperies, the paintings. ~~The ladies in the gallery approved.~~ ¶ She said the General had originally planned what she called a modest apartment, at a cost of about twenty-five hundred dollars. But later he decided on something, in her words, "a little more expensive." That was the ten thousand dollar job -- a little more expensive. That's what drew giggles from

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the ladies in the gallery -- they having that fine
and feminine understanding in matters of finance. →

Today in Washington, the police of our stately capitol, with its great arch^{ed} and dome, are looking for a ~~seventy~~xxx souvenir hunter who certainly did go the limit. He swiped the big bronze plaque^g from a door of the Chamber of the House of Representatives. Last night the ~~br~~onze plaque was in its usual place, where it had been for ninety years. But this morning ~~eyes~~^{eyes} ~~was~~ gaped - the plaque was missing. Somebody during the night had made off with the bulky souvenir, in spite of the fact that the capitol is closely guarded, and everybody emerging required to sign out.

The sculptured bronze was affixed on the door back in Eighteen Fifty-Seven, when the wing^{of the Capitol} allotted to the House of Representatives was first opened. I don't quite know what was in the minds of the architects and decorators of those days, when they thought up the picture on that plaque. Sculptured in bronze, it shows a snake emerging from the bullrushes. Maybe the bullrushes were intended to signify the "sticks,"

^{whence}
~~from which~~ many a Congressman emerged in those days - and still ^{does.}

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But why the snake? Could that have been meant as a reflection on some of our more bucolic lawmakers -- emerging from the sticks? On the other hand, the serpent flourished, as we all know, in the Garden of Eden -- but who ever called Congress a Garden of Eden?

TOJO

The news from Tokyo tells of the trial and sentencing of Kikuo Tojo, ~~who is~~ a brother of Tojo the war-lord. The name of Tojo is, of course, written black in the history of World War Two - war-time Premier Tojo having headed the government that launched the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor. That Number One Tojo is, right now, the principal defendant in the Japanese war crime trials - and now his brother has been tried and convicted.

9 Of what misdeed? What kind of war criminal is he? The news from Tokyo states that Kikuo Tojo, forty-nine year old younger brother of the Tojo of Pearl Harbor, has been given eighteen months in prison - for stealing a bag of food while riding in a street car.

From the Pearl Harbor crime of launching a war in the Pacific to the stealing of a bag of food in a street car - what a come-down for the sinister name of Tojo!

PIRATES

We hear of naval engagements in the Far East, with Chinese warships in battle;- though this has nothing to do with the big campaign out there, the fight against the Communists. The enemy, in these naval operations, is -

the pirate, the Chinese version of the buccaneer ^{sailing under} ~~the~~

^{the} skull and cross-bones.

China, from the dim days of ^{its} ~~the~~ celestial past, has been bedeviled by piracy - which, in these times of Far Eastern post-war troubles, has become such a menace that the Chiang Kai-shek government mustered modern maritime armament against the free-booters. Meaning - American armament. In the surplus Army supplies that were turned over to China, were a number of landing craft, armed with cannon and heavy machine guns, in addition to which the Chinese contributed some of their traditional sea-going craft, junks of the Orient - junks in which they installed motors and guns. In this way they formed an anti-pirate fleet - of landing-craft and armed motor junks.

The objective of the campaign was along the South China coast, a strategic area for piracy. Between the island of Hainan and the peninsula of Kweichow lies a strip of water that for long ages has been a paradise for pirates. That's typhoon territory, and the navigation rules are for junks to hug the coast, in fear of typhoons. ^{Which} ~~That~~ takes them to the strait between Hainan Island and Kweichow Peninsula - where the pirates lie in wait. The buccaneers are mostly from Hainan, ^{with} pirate strongholds ^{across} on Kweichow, from which they sally forth in their free-booting junks under the Chinese Jolly Roger.

So those are the waters in which the naval war against the pirates has been raging. The latest engagement was off the Southeast coast of Hainan, where the American-made landing craft and the fast motor junks encountered a pirate fleet, and sank five buccaneering ships. The effect of the modern armament was such that the few pirates who managed to escape and get to shore, spread the word that their junks had been sunk by battleships. Other similar naval battles have

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had similar results -- spreading terror among the pirates: - "the battleships are coming!"

The buccaneers are described as a fearsome lot, who commit atrocities but who also have a sense of humor, occasionally indulging in pirate jokes. One of these is described in the story of how the buccaneers made a rich haul, captured a junk crowded with wealthy Chinese who had ample stocks of money aboard.

The pirates, after stripping the passengers of their possessions, announced they had experienced a sudden turn of generosity. They displayed a sack of loot containing money wrapped up in packages of various sizes -- and said that one passenger, chosen by lot, would be allowed to reach into the sack and take whatever package of money he pleased. Whereupon, lots were drawn, and the lucky passenger stuck his hand into the sack, and selected a package of money.

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Naturally, he chose the largest -- only to find that the largest bundle of money when he opened it, consisted of bank notes of the smallest denomination. Whereupon, the pirates howled with laughter at this poetic justice -- punishment of the sin of greed.

I suppose that somewhere in the Confucian classics there's a suitable apothegm about the evils of greed, something to give the pirates a sense of being -- Confucian moralists.

And now, Nelson, Oh Tongue of Ivory, give us a Case-ian Confucian apothegm.