

EISENHOWER L.T.-K. Thurs. Dec. 24 - '53.

President Eisenhower, in his Christmas message, calls for a world unity of peoples - through friendship. The President spoke a prayer, asking for divine aid - to strengthen us.

"Strengthen us," he said, in understanding ourselves ~~is~~ and others. Strengthen our concern for brotherhood. Strengthen our efforts to forge abroad ~~is~~ those lines of friendship, which must one day encircle the world - if its people^s are to survive and live in peace."

Such is the prayer of the President of the United States.

POPE

At the Vatican, today, ~~xx~~ Pope Pius the Twelfth gave his annual Christmas message. From a pontifical throne, he addressed the peoples of the world. But what he said ^{this time} was more than an expression of Yule[^] tide piety. ~~The~~ Pope summoned the nations of western Europe - to form a political union. That same historic idea - a United States of Europe.

He pointed out that much evil of mankind is because of the divisions among nations - a bad condition that should be remedied.

"This" declared the Pontiff, "can and should be done in Europe - by forming a continental union of the peoples. Different, indeed, but geographically and historically bound together. The time," declared Pope Pius, "seems mature - for the idea to become reality."

CHRISTMAS-MOSCOW

Here's a surprise -- a Merry Christmas from Moscow.

A Soviet broadcast to the West as mild and gentle as the cooing of the dove of peace itself. Speaking glowingly of what the Moscow radio calls, "the cooperation between the United States and Soviet Russia, in an effort to save the peace."

BERIA

World opinion is almost unanimous - following the execution of Beria. Almost unanimous - that the Russian army may be moving into control.

The graphic sign was - Marshal Konev one of the best known military commanders, presiding over the trial of the one time member of the Kremlin triumvirate. And another army General ~~was~~ among the judges who ~~had~~ condemned the one time head of the secret police and his N V D henchmen. Nothing like that ever before happened in Soviet history; - military men judging a former high government official and his aides.

So now the capitals of the western ~~NE~~ world ~~NE~~ are confronted with a question. Suppose the Soviet army does take control - what then? Presumably, they might not be so fanatical about Marxism doctrine and world revolution - as the zealous Communists. But military commanders are known

to have an eye for conquest. So what would the change mean, if it came about - from the Bolshevik mind to the military mind? A question that might be answered this coming year.

TIBET

In India, Prime Minister Nehru denies that the Chinese Communists are massing troops in Tibet.

In the New Delhi Parliament, Nehru was asked about reports that there was a concentration of Communists across the Tibetan border - threatening India. He replied that the Chinese have actually decreased the number of their troops in Tibet. That's the word he has. They've been pulling soldiers out from the Himalayan land, because of difficulties in feeding them. Tibet being - a bleak, sparse plateau, lying at an altitude of twelve thousand feet.

Also the report is that the Young Dalai Lama refused to allow the Red Flag to be flown from his fabulous lofty palace, the Potala.

ISLANDS

Uncle Sam has handed over to Japan - a group of islands. Official ceremony - in Tokyo today. The U.S. Ambassador and the Japanese Foreign Minister - signing the transfer of ~~those islands.~~

The Amami Oshima Group - in the Ryukyu chain, which extends from southern Japan to Formosa. The Amami Oshima Islands are the northern Ryukus, nearest to Japan. They were seized in the Second World War - and the Japanese peace treaty called for us to give them back.

^{also}
We've promised to return the rest of the Ruykyus, including that number one island - Okinawa. But we won't fulfill that pledge right away - especially in the case of Okinawa, which is ^{an} a number one ^{Far Eastern} fortress. We'll hold possession, as long as the peril and the tension in Asia remain. So announced by Secretary ~~of~~ of State Dulles - as we hand back Amami Oshima.

PRISONERS

The ugliest Christmas in the world is at Pan Mun Jom
- where the twenty two renegade Americans had a yuletide
feast. ~~XX~~ The
Communist North Koreans gave them a big spread, and they
did a lot of singing. But - no Christmas carols. ~~They~~ They
chanted the Communist "Internationale" and the Red marching
song, "Solidarity forever!"

The twenty-two pro-Communist Americans were in a
new stockade today - to which they were moved at the end
of the period for "explanations". They marched out of their
old place, past Indian guards - and, if anyone had wanted
to change his mind, he could have spoken the word to the
Indian guards. That would have taken him right out, on his
way home. But not one showed the slightest indication
of seeking repatriation.

That "explanation" business was a Communist idea
to start with - and the Reds made a ridiculous failure.
Maybe it was a poor idea for us to adopt that "explanation"

procedure. With appeals to the twenty-two, arguments, loud ~~speakers~~ speakers blaring. Only to be received with - rejection and insult. The whole thing - a sorry farce.

Today, the dignified thing was said by Mrs. Portia

Howe - the mother who went to Japan and wanted to go on to Pan Man Jom, to plead with her son. But this was not permitted. She's back at home ~~in~~ in Minneapolis, and today *she* stated:

"Any time my son wants ~~to~~ to reconsider and come home, he's welcome. He's a son who has disgraced himself, but he certainly can come home any time he wants to. I think he eventually will."

But it would be an odd home-coming for any of the renegades. Mrs. Howe says that, in Japan, she received a letter saying - her son would come home. But - as a conquering Red hero, coming to Soviet America.

MOROCCO

There was a deadly bomb explosion at Casablanca, French Morocco today. Nineteen ~~persons~~ killed, when a home-made missile burst in the central market. Crowded - like any market place in an oriental city. The ~~act~~ doing of - terrorists in the agitation against French rule. The worst act of violence in months.

New Zealand greeted Queen Elizabeth today

with sailors collapsing all over the place. A review was held at the Auckland Naval Base. Sailors marching - sailors lined up. Including - the Women's Royal Navy service, Parading before Her Majesty.

Well, it was the hottest day of the year in New Zealand - a scorcher. Fourteen sailors and eight of the Navy girls ~~WERE~~ ~~WERE~~ overcome by the heat.

~~That's~~ Christmas time, down ~~HEF~~ below the Equator.

I remember spending a Xmas in Adelaide, So. Aust., when the thermometer stood at 100 in the shade.

Tragic news from New Zealand. The more tragic because it connects with Christmas, and the visit of Queen Elizabeth. A train with hundreds of passengers aboard, bound for Auckland, plunging into a wild mountain river.

It happened among the steep and rugged mountains at the lower tip of the North Island. There, a railroad trestle crosses the Rangitiki River, a large stream which foams and plunges - pouring from an altitude of nine thousand feet on down to the sea. The train - carrying people on their way home to Auckland for Christmas or to see the Queen. ^RWhen locomotive and passenger cars rolled out onto the trestle, the structure gave way. Weakened, apparently, by a tremendous rainstorm - a cloudburst. There was a sickening swing and sway, as the trestle buckled and fell the train toppling into the river. Only a few passengers in the last car managed to scramble ^{to} ~~the~~ safety, as the collapse occurred.

the death list may run as high
It is believe ~~that at least a hundred lives were~~

165, but the figure is not sure. Rescuers were immediately reported hurrying from distant points to the wild mountain gorge - where that train wreck lies in the river. One of the worst of rail disasters.

WATERFRONT

The A F of L does not concede that the I L A won the waterfront election in New York.

Actually, the result is far from conclusive. Out of nearly seventeen thousand ballots, the I L A seems to have a small majority. But the figure for that majority is odd, a most familiar figure - fourteen-hundred-and-ninety-two. But there are a lot of disputed ballots - forty-five hundred. These are being checked - and those disputed ballots might possibly change the verdict.

The union sponsored by the A F of L is highly encouraged by the large vote it got. If it does lose the election it will appeal to the National Labor Relations Board. Demanding - that the I L A be thrown out as a representative of the dock workers; because of corruption and gangsterism.

Moreover, A F of L President, Goerge Meany, declares that the I L A used methods of terrorism. In this election "many" says he, "were forced to vote under threats of personal assault".

In Chicago, Edison Dick has learned, much to his surprise, ^{that} he has a copy of a newspaper worth - ten thousand dollars. The date - October ninth, sixteen twenty-one. A London news sheet, published the year after ~~the~~ the Pilgrim Fathers landed at Plymouth Rock.

He tells how, back in Nineteen Thirty-Six, he was in a London bookshop, and saw the old paper among a lot of odds and ends. He bought it, but doesn't remember what he paid for it. Now, an expert identified ^s it as - "one of the greatest of rarities."

The paper, three-hundred-and-twenty-two years old, ~~gives~~ gives an account of events in ~~the~~ the Thirty Years War, which ~~was~~ was then raging in Germany. ~~An~~ An Austrian town captured, the French Arm^y besieging still another place. Back, in the days when Europe rang with the names of the warrior Swedish King, Gustavus Adolphus. And - the fabulous general Wallenstein.

MONEY

They had a green C hristmas at a town in Illinois. No, not green snow. That other green - which you spend in stores, especially at Christmas time. Money - money showering all over the place at Maple Park.

A passenger train came speeding through, and a mail sack dropped off. It happened to be filled with currency, twenty-six thousand dollars' worth of ten and twenty dollar bills. The sack broke open, and all that paper money w as promptly sucked under the train, and then spread down the tracks.

People started to gather it up - when along came crack Northwestern streamliner, the City of San Francisco. With a whirl of air currents - it sent the money flying through the air in all directions. A blizzard of tens and twentys. Nice blizzard if you're ever caught in one.

Maple Park prides itself on its honesty - and , at last reports, the citizens had collected almost all of the twenty-six thousand dollars. Handing the cash in - at the post office.

Which was like history repeating itself.

Because three years ago, the same thing happened at Maple Park - a money bag falling from a train and breaking open. That time, it was thirty thousand dollars. All handed over then too - all but a mere ten bucks. Nobody knows what happened to that ten spot. Maybe a squirrel got it.

PUP

At Carlsbad, New Mexico, they've rescued Wimpy, the Pup - trapped for ten days at the bottom of a well shaft. So, you might suppose that Wimpy, tonight, is back with his five year old mistress - Teresa Curtis. But, not at all. The pup is elsewhere.

The news has been telling how little Teresa dropped Wimpy down the well, and they couldn't get him out - in spite of ~~the~~ efforts of the fire department, the Boy Scouts, everybody in the neighborhood. The pup was kept alive by food dropped down to him. - ~~but there was~~ Wimpy *down* *there* at the bottom of the well.

The rescue was accomplished by W. W. Burr, a veteran of the Navy. Who used a sea anchor. That's a sort of bucket made of cloth, for steadying the motion of small boats. He put some bread and milk in the cloth bucket, and lowered it by a rope. So Wimpy crawled into the sea bucket to get at the bread and milk, and was hauled up.

POP-2

Little Teresa was delighted, but her father said to the former sailor: You can have the pup. We've got a yardful of dogs already."

Which is a happy ending - because the one time Jack Tar has three small youngsters. Today, Mike, they were rejoicing - much delight over their Christmas present - Wimpy the pump. Now Mike!