

LT.-P.G. Man. June 8-53,

WHITEHOUSE DINNER

There was an amazing party at the White House tonight. Amazing - partly because of the list of distinguished guests. Also - ^{- because of} ~~about~~ the secrecy of the whole thing. Newsmen were not told a thing about it, until twenty minutes before the party sat down at the dinner table. The guests included Former President Herbert Hoover, ^{and} ~~and~~ General Douglas MacArthur, the former Supreme Commander in Tokyo, Cardinal Spellman of New York and Secretary of State John Foster Dulles. Together with other members of the cabinet and a selection of top industrial executives.

There was immediate speculation - what the meaning of it all could be. Such a meeting of top ranking figures - just as an armistice in Korea is to be signed apparently. No news interviews permitted, no newspaper photographs. The reporters - kept away from the guests as they entered and departed. WhiteHouse Press Secretary Jim Haggerty - insisted that - it was

WHITE HOUSE DINNER - page 2

just a private party, entirely social, no political significance. ^{Oh-} But the newsmen sure are guessing!

[^]
And no wonder.

KOREA - TRUCE

There's another meeting at Panmunjom, where the negotiators are taking up, what are called, "administrative matters." After the agreement on the prisoner-of-war issue, no prominent point of dispute seems to be left, and all they have to do is arrange for the final signing of an armistice. The ceremony - to be staged in the truce tents. Signatures to be appended by Allied Commander General Mark Clark, and by the Red high command.

There still remains an adjustment of an armistice line - but that seems to be just a matter of details. The line was agreed on, a year and a half ago. The war front- as it then stood. In the year and a half, it has changed but little. Both sides occupying the same positions - with only a few yards of difference at a few places. So the assumption is - there won't be much difficulty about those minor adjustments.

KOREA - WAR

On the eve of what appears to be an armistice, the Reds made an air raid on Seoul. It's ^{morning} ~~night~~ over there now - and, after darkness, nine Communist airplanes came over, and dropped some fifteen bombs. ~~There were~~ Several South Koreans killed - and Seoul went into a panic. It was a hit-and-run raid of ^{military} ~~no~~ consequence, and some observers in Seoul think it was a blow struck at the South Korean opposition to an armistice. A demonstration of warning to Syngman Rhee and his people. Telling them - they'd better take the truce.

Meanwhile, fighting continues at the stronghold known as Luke-~~the-Geok's~~ Castle, where South Korean troops made repeated counter-attacks ^{today,} ~~to~~ win back a couple of positions ^{captured} ~~back~~ by the Reds.

The news about Luke-~~the-Geok's~~ Castle tells of an armored force led by George Patton. ~~It~~ Sounds familiar - Patton's tanks. Reminiscent of World War Two - when General George Patton commanded those armored forces that slashed through Nazi lines. In Korea - his son, Captain George Patton.

Commanding a company of tanks, of the One Hundred and Fortieth Battalion. He took them to the support of the South Koreans, in a forty mile dash through rocky mountain country.

Following in his father's footsteps, Or rather, in the old man's tank treads.

SYNGMAN RHEE

South Korean opposition to the truce terms was modified today - in a statement by Syngman Rhee. The South Korean President maintained his position, that the compromise is unacceptable, and said the South Koreans would fight, even if they had to go it alone. But, along with defiance, he took a tone of conciliation. Warning the South Koreans - about making demonstrations against the armistice. Said Rhee:- "We should not pursue attitudes which might make our foreign friends resent us" then he went on - "Even though our allies take different views from ours we should not forget how much we owe them."

So South Korean opposition would seem to boil down to this - they refuse to accept the armistice terms, but will confine themselves to verbal protest.

KENYA

In East Africa, the government of Kenya has outlawed the "African Union." That's the outfit with a hundred thousand members, closely tied in with the Mau Mau. The first President of the African Union was Jomo Kenyata, the "Burning Spear." He was convicted of organizing the Mau Mau terrorists, and sent to prison. Right now, two of the most wanted ~~and~~ leaders of the Mau Mau, are prominent members of the African Union. ~~Which is called - a "cover" for the Mau Mau murder campaign.~~

So today, the colonial government of Kenya ordered the suppression of the political organization, which is the largest in British African territories.

SUBSTITUTE ITALY

The latest returns from the Italian election indicate that the prospect is doubtful for - Premier de Gasperi and his coalition of moderate parties. The predictions have been that the extreme Right, the Monarchists and neo-Fascists, would score large gains, at the expense of the Christian Democrats. Which seems to be borne out.

It had been supposed that a large vote would help de Gasperi, and the turn-out was - huge. In spite of bad weather both voting days, yesterday and today, ninety-four per cent of the electorate cast ballots, compared with ninety-two per cent, five years ago. But that enormous vote might well have acted in favor of the extreme Right Wing parties.

The first returns today, ~~showed~~ eighty-seven from North Italy, showed thousand, the Christian Democrats taking nearly fifty-eight and a half per cent. Which looked mighty encouraging for them. But, later, the picture was changed by figures from southern Italy - where the Monarchists and neo-Fascists are strong. So that out of a total of seven hundred

strong. So that, out of a total of seven hundred and eight thousand, Premier de Gasperi had a little more than forty-eight per cent. ^{He's} ~~They've~~ got to have more than fifty per cent to keep a firm hold on the Italian parliament. That seems doubtful with the extreme Right Wingers claiming that they're getting three times the vote they were given in the last election.

The Communist coalition is hardly mentioned in tonight's dispatch. The headline being - the gains made by the extreme conservatives.

Follow ITALIAN ELECTION

The late figures have been fluctuating. With the popular vote at one million two hundred thousand, de Gasperi had a shade over fifty percent. But, later, when the figure climbed to something over three million, the Government Coalition had a shade less than forty-eight percent. The final result won't be known until tomorrow.

FRANCE

In Paris, tonight, Georges Bidault is trying to form a ministry. In the long drawn out political crisis, one politician after another has failed to get a majority in the National Assembly. Now Bidault^{tries it -} head of the Catholic Republican Party - an ex-Premier, prominent in ministries ever since the Second World War.

We hear that Bidault will present to the National Assembly a financial program something like that offered by Mendes-France. That financier failed to get a majority, but his ideas have made an impression on the public. So Bidault will use a number of them - and appear before the Assembly on Wednesday.

SPIES

Two former G.I's were given prison sentences today for participating in a Red spy ring. Kurt Ponger and his brother-in-law Otto Verber, both born in Austria. Ponger was decorated for bravery, while serving with U.S. forces in the Second World War.

The two former G.I's were in Vienna, studying under the G.I. Bill of Rights - when they were arrested by the U.S. military police. They were sent back to the United States for trial in Washington, and pleaded guilty. Today Ponger was given five to fifteen years. Verber, three and a half to ten years.

BURMA

The scene of this next story is - Burma. The hero and heroine - members of the Burmese Communist Party. So how does the soulful swain pop the question?

The answer is disclosed in documents captured from the Reds. One, a set of rules for courtship and marriage. According to the formula prescribed by the Party, the Burmese Communist takes a soulful gaze into his loved one's eyes, and murmurs: "I'm deeply impressed by your qualities as a faithful and energetic member of the Party, and I wish to wage the Party struggle together with you."

So they go on waging the Party struggle forever after.

DOOLITTLE

I've come across a new Jimmy Doolittle anecdote.

In a book, just out, called "The Amazing Mr. Doolittle," by Quentin Reynolds. He tells of the time when the future Lieutenant General was demonstrating American planes in Europe. Then a young stunt flyer - and what a madcap he was!

In Budapest, Jimmy was being shown around by a son of Admiral Horthy, the Hungarian dictator - who pointed out the many bridges across the Danube.

"Could you fly under those?" demanded young Horthy.

"Sure," Jimmy Doolittle replied. So, in a brief time, he was doing it.

People stood gaping - as the plane went skimming down the Danube, under one ^{low} bridge after another, in dare-devil acrobatics.

But there was one who did not appreciate - the British Minister. He sent a note to the American envoy at Budapest, beginning as follows: "I would do little to belittle Doolittle. But"

He said that American mad-cap would cause difficulties by breaking his neck. So, would Doolittle kindly do less.

Don't miss this life of the greatest airman of them all, the unbelievable true story of the irrepressible, the indefatigable, the nationally invaluable, the indestructible -- put in all the adjectives you can think of and they'll not be adequate to describe the man Author Reynolds calls "The Amazing Mr. Doolittle."

SUPREME COURT

The Supreme Court rules that, in the District of Columbia, restaurants are required to serve Negroes. The decision upholds an old law, passed in Eighteen Seventy-Three - which has been almost forgotten. Three years ^aago, [^]Washington restaurant refused to serve three Negroes - who went to court, citing that long neglected statute. The lower courts upheld them - and so does the Supreme Court now.

But the court delayed a decision on five cases, challenging - racial segregation in public schools. The Justices asked the lawyers to present further arguments on several questions - most of these pertaining to the Fourteenth Amendment. This procedure was unusual, and indicates the importance of the question of segregation to the schools.

NEW YORK

In New York, Governor Dewey today opened public hearings on waterfront racketeering. Seeking a way - to crush gangster control along the docks. The hearing was picketed by a crowd of longshoremen, voicing a Union protest against action by the State. Governor Dewey was booed by the pickets, and Dewey ~~called~~ called it - "a little silly."

ROPE

Here's a long story, though I'll tell it briefly.

The length consists of - rope. A Congressional sub-committee has discovered eight thousand, two hundred miles of rope, hidden away in government warehouses. No need for it - useless.

All that rope was purchased during World War Two.

Why? Nobody knows. Officials couldn't figure what to do with it, so they just put it out of sight.

~~("It is now seven years later," says Congressman Bender of Ohio, "and there are still sixty-three hundred miles of this apparently undesirable rope in warehouses at Marietta, Pennsylvania, and another nineteen hundred miles of the same stuff in California.")~~

The Republicans are saying that this is a heritage left to them by the Democratic administration. Perhaps on the theory - give a man enough rope and he'll hang himself.

^{thousand}
Eight ~~thousand~~ two hundred miles of it, 'That's enough to hang the

entire population of the country. *I'd like about a mile of that surplus rope for a couple of ski tows!*

RIO GRANDE

Way down past the "heart of Texas" there was water in the Rio Grande today. Not much, just a trickle. At Laredo, Texas, a tiny stream, two or three inches deep, came flowing down the dusty bed of the famous river.

Last week, at Laredo, the Rio Grande went dry - for the first time in recorded history.