

L.T. - DELCO. TUESDAY, SEPT. 3, 1957.

(Bc. given by W. Cronkite, L.T. in Alaska)

DISARMAMENT

President Eisenhower has put the question of disarmament - in the lap of the Russians. Mr. Eisenhower, telling his news conference - he doesn't see how any constructive step could be taken now - by the delegates of the West, in London. As Mr. Eisenhower phrased it, "something must happen on the other side." Adding, he's not very optimistic that the Kremlin will come up with a new formula - or suddenly turn around, and become agreeable.

Meanwhile in London, the delegates of Britain, France and America, are prepared for the collapse of the Disarmament Conference. And they're sure, that if it comes - the result will be a major propaganda attack by the Soviets.

CONFERENCE

At his news conference today, President Eisenhower repeated - he's tremendously disappointed in the Eighty-Fifth Congress. He acknowledges that a number of the measures he proposed - did get passed on Capitol Hill. For example, the Eisenhower Doctrine for the Middle East, and the Civil Rights Bill. But he adds, a number of important measures were pigeon-holed at this session. He didn't get what he wanted in the way of emergency grain supports, flood insurance, or increased postal rates. And most important of all, in the President's view - Congress rebuffed him by cutting foreign aid too much.

During the news conference, Mr. Eisenhower seemed in good humor. And newsmen who were there say - the President may be disappointed, but he's not at all disheartened. He's glad he got as much as he did from the Eighty-Fifth Congress - and he hopes to get more from the Eighty-Sixth.

STADIUM

At the University of Chicago, they're tearing down part of the athletic stadium - and they had to call in a team of atomic scientists for help. The reason - the building in Stagg Field - is the place where the atomic age was born, fifteen years ago.

It was at Stagg Field that the late Enrico Fermi first triggered a nuclear reaction - on December Second, Nineteen Forty-Two.

Later, the atomic pile was transferred to the Argonne Laboratory in nearby Lemont. The building, of course, remained radioactive - but it was no hazard, as long as the walls were standing.

But when Chicago University decided to pull down the building, and use the area for tennis courts - there was some danger of contaminating the atmosphere. So scientists from Argonne, were called in to help. Today, they carried away most of the radioactive material. And the University is putting an end to one of the historic

spots in America - the west stand of Stagg Field - where
the atomic age began.

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KNOWLAND

Senator William Knowland opens a political tour of California - that will cover six weeks. The Senator made his first appearance in Redding, today. He's got some seventy more appearances on his schedule - that will take him up and down the state, from one end to the other.

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EISENHOWER

President Eisenhower and the First Lady are all set to leave on their holiday tomorrow morning. They'll fly from Washington to Newport, Rhode Island - where they'll be guests at our naval base there.

Mr. Eisenhower will have to take some work along with him - a number of bills he hasn't had a chance to act on. This includes the Civil Rights Bill.

Today the presidential wrist got a good work-out, as Mr. Eisenhower signed a raft of measures sent to him by Congress. The most important - the bill to protect the secret files of the F.B.I. We've heard a lot about this bill - because it was batted around in the House and the Senate. The lawmakers, trying to agree on how to minimize the Supreme Court ruling - that a defendant had a right to examine material in F.B.I. files - if it was evidence against him by a government witness.

Capitol Hill gets around this by saying - a judge may withhold any evidence not relevant to the trial in

his court. The only thing the prosecution must produce - is direct, formal accusations, made by a government witness.

With the President's signature, this bill now becomes law.

Since the Communist revolution, the U.S.S.R. has gone in for no way of name-changing - all over the Soviet rep. Names like "Leningrad", "Stalingrad", and so on. Well, some districts called themselves after Khrushchev and Kaganovich. And now they think they made a mistake. We are told that these twenty districts - are not going to be caught by another shift in the power alignment of the Soviet leaders. The new names, are politically harmless for example, "Volga", "Soviet", and "Russia". We don't know just which districts are involved, but the idea is something like this - a district is

SOVIET

A dispatch from Moscow states that the cities of the Soviet Union - are going in for new names. More than twenty districts throughout the country - to be known under different titles. The reason - these districts were once called after Molotov and Kagonovich - the disgraced opponents of Khrushchev.

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Leningrad, once called "Molotov" - would be called "Volga" from now on. And there won't be any change in the future - because the Volga is a lot more permanent in Russia - than Molotov is.

CAR

In Branford, Connecticut, they're calling the new car designed by Father Alfred Juliano - "a safety expert's dream." Father Juliano says he wanted to produce an automobile - that would give the maximum of protection in case of accident. He built the streamlined body of laminated fibre-glass - that will bounce back, if it's dented less than four inches. He put hydraulic shock absorbers on both bumpers. He made the seats reversible. He put four steel bars in the roof - to prevent it from caving in, if the car should overturn. And he fitted his creation with six airplane lights.

The designer says his car should run for a lifetime - without a breakdown, or even major repairs. He'd like to see it in mass production, but there's one catch. An automobile of the Juliano model - would cost around fifteen thousand dollars.

HENDERSON

Our Under Secretary of State is on his way back to Washington - after a tour of the Middle East. Loy Henderson, holding last minute talks with the Turkish Prime Minister in Istanbul. Then, leaving by plane - to report to President Eisenhower.

As Henderson left, there was more sabre-rattling in the two main trouble spots of the Middle East - Syria and Egypt. In Damascus, the Syrian Foreign Minister launched a bitter attack on Lebanon - because that country is accepting help from America, under the terms of the Eisenhower Doctrine. And in Cairo, the Egyptian Foreign Minister boasted that his country has doubled its air strength - since the Suez crisis. He told the National Assembly - Egypt is now ready to meet any big scale assault from the air - by the Western imperialists.

DESEGREGATION

The Governor of Arkansas declares he sent the National Guard into Little Rock - to prevent violence at Central High School. Governor Orville Faubus saying he's not trying to prevent desegregation. But he is trying to prevent bloodshed. He points out that he did not interfere when the town of Ozark integrated Negro students into a formerly all-White school. According to the Governor, Little Rock is a completely different situation - because he has reports of both Whites and Negroes buying guns and knives - preparing for a big fight.

Tonight, two hundred and fifty Guardsmen and State Troopers are on duty at Central High. They moved in, and blocked off the streets leading to the school. They set up squad cars at key points. And they came prepared for trouble - armed with rifles, pistols, bayonets, clubs, and tear gas shells.

Today a crowd of more than three hundred watched -

as the children arrived for school. There was some jeering - and one member of the crowd paraded around, waving a Confederate flag, until a Guardsman ordered him to put it away.

There was no violence, perhaps because no Negroes turned up for classes at Central High. Fifteen of them had registered to go to school with a thousand White students. They got a federal court order - defending their right to attend the school. But they didn't appear today - when the doors were opened.

The commander of the troops, Adjutant General Sherman Clinger, told newsmen - he'll keep his men where they are until Governor Faubus orders them to leave.

In Washington, President Eisenhower announced that Attorney General Brownell is watching the Little Rock situation very carefully. Brownell, to talk to the federal judge who handed down the desegregation order -

and then decide whether the federal government should
take any action under the Civil Rights law.

INTRODUCTION TO L.T.

We've been able to get through to Alaska, the Elmendorf Air Force Base - to have Lowell Thomas give us a report on the tragic death of Peter Freuchen. The Scandinavian geographer and explorer, who gained nationwide fame on the Sixty-Four Thousand Dollar Question.

Lowell Thomas, on an expedition to the Arctic, took along a group of polar veterans. Peter Freuchen - one of them. So now - Lowell Thomas coming in from the Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska.

ALASKA

Peter Freuchen.

L.T.:-

Hello Everybody:

I'm broadcasting from the toll center of Alaska,

Almost the only topic of conversation up here today has been the sudden, dramatic passing of our Viking companion, Peter Freuchen. While we were at breakfast here at Elmendorf Air Force Base, General Ken Gibson, in command of the base came in. Also Admiral Ira Hobbs who is naval commandant of The Alaskan Sea Frontier. The Admiral who, because of the weather, is unable to get to his own headquarters over on Kodiak Island. They sat with us and listened spellbound, as Arctic explorers Donald MacMillan and Bernt Balchen told stories of the adventures of Peter Freuchen.

I too had known him for years, around The Explorers Club, in New York, where with his beard, his

wooden leg, his gaiety and his breezy style he was easily the most colorful amid men who are all colorful. But Admiral MacMillan and Colonel Balchen had known him and lived with him on the Greenland Icecap. And I wish you all could have been listening in!

Peter Freuchen, as you perhaps have heard a few hours ago, here at Elmendorf Field, suddenly spun round on his peg leg, keeled over and never regained consciousness. His young wife, Dagmar, who I believe is just half his age - Peter was seventy-two - has asked us to drop his ashes over Thule, the great Arctic airbase in Greenland, which was given its name, Thule, by Freuchen - named that, long ago - forty or more years ago - when he was associated in Greenland with the eminent Danish ethnologist and explorer, Knud Rasmussen.

Thule, as you will recall, was a mythical place in antiquity, which the Phoenecians said was at the end of the world, the place where you would fall off into space,

if you ever got there. Later it was thought to be somewhere to the north, in Europe - Scotland, at one time then Iceland, and finally Freuchen put the name on the map. It was where he spent many long years living among the Polar Eskimo, whom he knew better than anyone.

It was a heart-shaped place, a bay on the northwest coast of Greenland. The Eskimo called it Umanak. Then for years it had the name North Star Bay, for The North Star, a British vessel, that on an expedition in 1850, was the first to spend a winter with the Polar Eskimo. The North Star was taking part in the dramatic search for Sir John Franklin and his party, who were never found.

Peter Freuchen, who went there first in 1906 - so he told me only yesterday - changed the name to Thule - today, as you know, is our largest Arctic air base. So it will be appropriate to take Peter Freuchen's ashes and drop them over Thule.

FOLLOW RECORDING

Thank you, Lowell, and it seems altogether fitting
- that the ashes of Peter Freuchen should be strewn over
Thule, which he named, for the ancient symbol of the
ultimate north.

MISSILE

The Soviet claim to have perfected an ~~intercontinental~~ intercontinental missile - should not be taken too seriously. So says President Eisenhower. The President, speaking at his news conference - calling the Russian report, "most evasive." Mr. Eisenhower pointing out that many Russian claims in the past have been unreliable - and that this one really doesn't say very much. All we have is the boast - that Soviet scientists can hit targets anywhere in the world. Still no word about the scientific basis of the claim. Mr. Eisenhower added - whether the Soviet missile is a reality or not - it will be a long time before Khrushchev can get it into mass production. And until then, in the President's opinion, the major weapon is the intermediate bomber.

CRASH

That train wreck in Jamaica - was caused by a defective wheel. The train, en route to Kingston from Montego Bay. The engine, flying along - when it hit a curve. And it went off the rails - with the cars behind, piled up in a mass of wreckage. The death toll, around two hundred. Many more, injured.

One of the passengers says she saw how it happened. Pauline Donald came out of the wreck unscathed. She told newsmen that, as the train went around the curve - she saw fire flashing from the wheel. It began to slip - and then flew off. After that - disaster. Tonight rescue squads are still searching for bodies.

FREUCHEN

Peter Freuchen was one of the last of the great Arctic explorers. When he was twenty, he left the University of Copenhagen - to sail as an ordinary seaman, on his first expedition to the North Polar regions. After that, he gave his life to filling in the maps of the Arctic and Antarctic. He was honored by great scientific institutions - like the Royal Danish Geographic Society. And he was awarded the Danish Order of Merit.

He went to Alaska this time, with an expedition headed by Lowell Thomas - and including other famous explorers like Bernt Balchen, Sir Hubert Wilkins, and Donald B. MacMillan. For Peter Freuchen, it was his last Arctic expedition. He died suddenly, following that heart attack in Anchorage, Alaska.