

SUB LEAD

Thurs. Nov. 30 - '50, C.T. P. 48

Events in the British House of Commons today made a dramatic sequence. First, came the news of President Truman's atom bomb declaration. Whereupon, Prime Minister Attlee, in the middle of a debate, called opposition leader Winston Churchill outside for a conference.

Then, shortly afterward, Attlee told the Commons that he had sent a message to Washington, suggesting a meeting with President Truman. The Prime Minister was still speaking when a reply came from Washington -- President Truman inviting Clement Attlee to our national capital, so a Truman-Attlee conference will be held -- soon.

In London, there is a rumor that the Prime Minister is flying to Washington tonight - as Great Britain and all Europe are thrown into a furore of excitement by the Truman atom bomb statement.

Today's atomic bomb headline ~~has~~ flashed
 around the world ^{and} ~~in sensational style~~ made such a
 stir of excitement that the number one task tonight is
 to see what President Truman actually said. So, in the
 familiar phrase - let's look at the record. ^{In this case a} ~~That is, a~~
 stenographic transcript of the proceedings at the White
 House news conference today.

The proceedings began with a Presidential
 statement - that the United States will not abandon
 Korea. "We are fighting in Korea for our own national
 security and survival" said the President - and he
 called for a swift increase of our own military strength.

This formal statement did not mention anything
 atomic. That came later, in the usual exchange of
 questions and answers between the newsmen and the
 President. So here's the stenographic record, as given
 to us by the United Press. It is to be noted that in
 this dramatic dialogue, the Truman answers are always
 given in the third person. Under the rules, a President's
 replies ^s are never quoted in the first person. The

pronoun is "he". Not -- "I".

The interview had come to a point where the President told the reporters that the matter of striking at the Chinese Reds in Manchuria was up to the United Nations to decide. He said we will take the necessary military steps - then the following question and answer.

Question: "Will that include the atomic bomb?"

Answer: "He answered that that includes every weapon we have."

Question: "Mr. President, you said 'every weapon we have'. Does that mean there is active consideration of the use of the atomic bomb?"

Answer: "He said there has always been active consideration of its use. He said he does not want to see it used. He added that it is a terrible weapon, and should not be used on innocent men, women and children, who have nothing to do with this military aggression - that happens when it is used."

Question: "Mr President, I wonder if we could retrace that reference to the atomic bomb? Did we

understand you clearly -- that the use of the atom bomb is under active consideration?"

Answer: "He said that it has always been. It is one of our weapons."

Question: "Mr. President, you said this depends on United Nations' action. Does that mean that we would not use the atomic bomb, except on United Nations' authorization?"

Answer: "Mr. Truman said 'No.' It does not mean that at all. Action against Communist China depends on the action of the United Nations. The military commander in the field will have charge of the use of weapons, as he always has". So replied the President.

This dramatic dialogue on the atomic bomb was put on the newswires at once, and flashed around the world. It created so much excitement that there was prompt clarification. Three hours after the news conference, the White House put out an explanation. A statement as follows: "The President wants to make it certain that there is no misinterpretation of his

answers to questions at his press conference today about the use of the atomic bomb. Naturally," the explanation goes on, "there has been consideration of this subject since the outbreak of hostilities in Korea, just as there is consideration of the use of all military weapons, whenever our forces are in combat.

"However, says the statement, it should be emphasized that, by law, only the President can authorize the use of the atom bomb, and no such authorization has been given. In brief," ~~the statement~~ declaration concludes, ^{the} ~~the~~ replies to questions at today's press conference do not represent any change in this situation.

That gives an answer to an immediate question that was raised - Is General MacArthur authorized to use the atomic bomb, whenever he sees fit? The answer is -- no. He would have to receive specific orders from the President.

There might seem to be one turn of uncertainty -- about the status of the United Nations in any use of the atomic bomb. The President said that action in the

TRUMAN.....5

Korean War depends on the United Nations. But he didn't include the atomic bomb in that. So the intimation would seem to be that it is up to the U.N. to decide the general course of action, but for our own command to decide upon the weapons.

The emphasis tonight, I think, should be ~~pin~~ placed on the White House explanation - that the use of the atomic bomb has always been under consideration, as it naturally would be, just as one would suppose. And, on these explanatory words: "Today's press conference does not represent any change in this situation."

So maybe it was nothing to create an uproar - but it sure did. The countries ~~x~~ of western Europe were excited and frightened - since they might be targets for Soviet atom bombs. ~~In London, Prime Minister~~ ~~Atlee and opposition leader Winston Churchill had an~~ ~~emergency conference on the atomic furore.~~ ~~There ^{is followed} ~~is~~~~ ~~the news~~ ~~even a London rumor~~ that Prime Minister Atlee is flying to Washington tonight.

Right now the nations are ~~nothing~~ that

subsequent explanation - nothing it, as we are over here.

Presumably it will help to calm the jitters.

In the Security Council of the U N tonight, Soviet Russia cast three vetoes, not one -- against the western power resolution ordering the Chinese Reds out of Korea. The resolution was considered in two parts, then as a whole.-- Soviet delegate Malik vetoed all three.

This followed the defeat of two Soviet resolutions, calling on the American army to withdraw from Korea. The votes against the Red proposals were -- nine to one. The figures were the same for the adoption of each of the three western power resolutions, nine to one. But, in each case, the one lone Russian vote amounted to a veto.

Of course, it was expected that the Soviets would block and obstruct the resolution ordering the Chinese Communists out of Korea - and presumably, the matter will now be taken before the General Assembly of the U N which has no veto.

U N proceedings today were disturbed by a ~~left~~ leftist demonstration - led by Paul Robeson,

Junior, son of the negro singer, so often identified with Communist causes. A group of one hundred and fifty had a sort of sit-down strike in the main corridor of headquarters at Lake Success -- singing anti-war songs and displaying leftist banners. They wanted to be received by some official of the United Nations, and vowed they'd stay there until they were. But they were not received, and finally went home.

They hissed Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, a member of the U N delegation. She passed them and said to them: "I have no sympathy for this group. All of you had better go home." This was answered by a hostile demonstration for the former First Lady - who has long been known for her support of various youth groups.

KOREA

In Korea, the Battle to hold the line has begun. The U.S. First Cavalry, mechanized, started the defensive engagement, which will decide whether the army of the U.N. can hold a line across North Korea, the narrow waistline of the peninsula. The First Cavalry, kept in reserve, ^{is in} ~~went into~~ ^{right now} action against hosts of Reds ~~that are~~ ³ swarming down the central range of mountains - down through the gap that was left when Free Korean divisions collapsed. The huge forces of Communists are trying to cut around behind the line that is being established north of Pyongyang, the captured Red Capital, the First Cavalry is battling to check them - and, at last reports, they were holding back the Red tide.

During the night, that has just ended in Korea, the American Second Division fought its way out of the Red encirclement. The Second, far to the front, took the brunt of the Red assault, and was gravely threatened -- but now has made its way to the new line of defence. Other American divisions are in that line, having →

~~withdrawn~~ → together with British and Turkish allies.

The Marines holding the strategic Chosin Reservoir are threatened with encirclement communication cut. The leathernecks ~~are~~ fighting off heavy attacks, are cutting down waves of Reds. It is estimated that three hundred thousand Chinese Communists are in the battle to break the new defence line - outnumbering our forces by three to one.

On the other side of the peninsula, the picture is reported to be strikingly different - U.N. Forces advancing. But that only illustrates the general strategic picture - the U.N. army lined across the peninsula, when the masses of Chinese came down through the central range of mountains, *- cutting the U.N. Army* ~~and cutting~~ into two segments.

So now, in the east -- we hear of U.N. advances. While, in the West the Reds are trying to smash the new defence line.

The war in the air gives us news that seems like a miracle - a blinded Navy flyer steering a course to his carrier, and making a safe landing on the deck, although his vision was temporarily blotted out, and he could see not a thing.

Ensign Edward Jackson of Memphis, Tennessee, a jet flyer, was winging along near the ground when his plane struck a cable strung by the Reds as a sort of aerial booby trap. The impact shattered his windshield, and the flying glass cut the pilot's face so badly that he was blinded by streaming blood.

So there he was at the controls, unable to see- and flying at jet speed velocity, but he was in radio contact with his wing man Ensign Dayl Crowe of Oklahoma City, and the wing man gave him guidance -- with radio messages directing him in the operation of the controls. That way, the two pilots, flying close together, returned to their carrier - the Philippine Sea. But how could the blinded flyer land on the carrier deck.

Well, his wing man guided him into a position to make the run for a landing. Whereupon the signal officer aboard the carrier took over -- Lieutenant L. K. Brustle of Pelican Rapids, Minnesota. By radio the signal officer gave the blinded pilot radio landing guidance that brought his jet plane safely on to the deck.

Tonight Ensign Jackson says that he could not see a thing as he landed, was in complete darkness -- until a Navy surgeon cleared the clot of blood from his eyes - and he was able to see again.

TRUMAN -- MACARTHUR

President Truman came today, to the vigorous defence of General Douglas MacArthur -- giving a denial of reports that MacArthur launched his offensive last week without consulting the top national command in Washington. He said that, all along, there were day-by-day discussions between Tokyo and Washington, with full understanding and agreement on what they hoped would be an offensive to end the Korean War.

This applies, in particular, to an outcry in Europe - where newspapers have accused MacArthur of exceeding his authority. The President said - nothing of the kind.

He rejected, likewise, Republican statements that Secretary of State Acheson has been "sniping" at MacArthur, trying to get the General removed from his command. There is not a word of truth to it - the President said angrily.

He decried a tendency to criticize MacArthur, which he described in the following words: "That is a fine case of being for a man when ^{he} is up, and kicking

him when things don't go right," said the President.

Yes, that's the way it was - the loudest of cheers when those Inchon landings were sweeping to brilliant success. Then, a sudden change to sour remarks - when there is a setback.

TAX

A bill for an excess profit's tax was okayed today by the Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives - ^a₁ tax that would take from corporations three-quarters of their gains during the Korean War. This, it is estimated, would raise an additional three billion and four hundred million dollars for the prosecution of the war.

This bill, for an excess profits tax of seventy-five percent, contains provisions that make it less drastic than the one President Truman asked for. Tomorrow the measure goes to the floor of the House, and administration leaders hope to send it to the Senate on Wednesday of next week.

HEADACHES

London reports a boom at Britain's first clinic for headaches. Which comes under the heading of war news. The Labor Government, with all that socialized medicine, has a clinic for the familiar pain in the dome - and, during the past few days ~~there~~ there has been a rush of patients. Well, that Korean situation is a headache.

The chief of the clinic is Doctor Neville Leyton, ^{who} ~~said to be one of the few headache specialists~~ and he points to the old medical idea that worry can cause a throbbing of the cranium. He says the migraine headache is ~~of three kinds: One~~ due to glandular trouble; ~~The second because of an allergy;~~ ~~the~~ ^{or} ~~third is mental, and can be brought on by~~ worry - like the war news headache.

So Here's a prescription from the doctor - telling how to ease the shock of the headlines. Take your newspaper, and assume a comfortable, relaxed position - then read along through the war news. Which may be bad, but is usually not as alarming as the headlines.

HEADACHES.....2

~~Any practical news man/can elaborate on that - knowing how headlines have to be short and blunt. They can be a lot more alarming than the full story, with details, qualifications, the if's and but's.~~

Today gives a good example, when you may see a front page streamer in big type, shouting: "U.S. may use atomic bomb in Korean War." But, when you read the body of the story, you find that President Truman merely said that the use of the A-bomb has been under consideration for some time, and he hopes it will not be necessary.

That is one way to minimize war news headache, *Nelson.*