

R.I. - P. + S. Friday, Nov. 28, 1947.

The government of France is mobilizing for Civil War. That, says tonight's late dispatch from Paris, is ~~the~~ virtually the situation as a conscript class of eighty thousand is called into the French Army.

~~Today, the cabinet of Premier Schuman summoned the first half of the military class of Nineteen~~
~~Forty-Six in the face of what appeared to be a Communist bid to seize power.)~~ This will give the French government a total of seven hundred thousand men under arms, and military forces are being disposed in such fashion as to forestall a Red revolution.

(The military authorities have moved two armored divisions into Versailles -- just outside of Paris.) So we are told, with added word that an armored Regiment has been moved from Germany to the area of Calais, another critical point. ~~The word is that~~ ^{R. Also --} the Commander-in-Chief of the French occupation forces in Germany, General Koenig, is ready to return to France on six hours' notice - to take charge of any military move that may be ~~needed~~ ^{needed} against the Red general strike.

One measure may be the mobilization into the army of tens of thousands of strikers - dock workers, ~~and~~ miners, railway men. This drastic measure is said to have been ~~examined~~ considered by the council of ministers, which met in emergency session today.

(Today, the number of strikers numbered ~~xxx~~ two million, and the economy of France is virtually paralyzed.) The Communists have formed a central strike committee to direct the Red battle against the government, and the word is that Thorez is on his way back from Moscow, Thorez, the number one boss of the French Communists. He went to Stalin's capital nearly a month ago for the Thirtieth anniversary of the Soviet revolution, and now is reported to be on his way back to Paris -- presumably to take command of the Communist forces for whatever they may help to.

~~In Italy, the Communist crisis is equally ominous, with a strange state of affairs in the great industrial city of Milan - a state of weird tranquility and quiet. Tonight ~~the~~ headquarters of the city government~~

ADD FRANCE

Late news from Paris. The striking workers are splitting up into two groups, one led by the Communists, the others by the anti-Communists; the latter calling themselves "the workers force", urging their followers to return to work, and insisting that the strikers are being politically exploited by the Communists. A split in the ranks of the French strikers, with a back to work movement gaining.

Adding to the drama the first blizzard of winter hit Paris tonight: swirling through the streets, driving people back into their homes. And perhaps reminding some of them that work is the best way to provide food and heat and keep Frenchman from fighting Frenchman.

In Italy, the Communist crisis is equally ominous, with a strange state of affairs in the great industrial city of Milan - a state of weird tranquility and quiet. Tonight headquarters of the city government

in Milan ~~are~~ occupied by Communists, and so is the government radio station. At the same time, the industrial metropolis has been placed officially under the control of the Army. - So the two forces face each other, with nothing happening -- nothing as yet.

(Today, ten thousand Communists, with bands of wartime Partisans, marched to the prefecture of Milan. They camped in the courtyard of the building. This was all done without opposition, ~~quietly~~ quietly. Then a little later, the Red mob, with equal quietude, entered the city headquarters and took over -- first having seized the government radio station.) They set up barbed wire barricades to defend their conquest, in response to which the police, the Carabinieri, set up barbed wire barricades of their own, -- ~~it~~ all in peace and quiet.

(From Rome, came an order putting Milan, the second largest city of Italy, under military control, in charge of the army, the Generals in command.) Still nothing happened. The Generals had a meeting, and ~~decided~~ ^{(decided} ~~to~~ ^{to} take ^{no} action, not for the moment at least -- because there

had been no violence, and they hoped the chill of night would drive the mob home.

That's the state of things in the great city of Milan tonight. It may be the beginning of the Communist revolution; but, it's all so quiet the news dispatch describes it as something like a dream.

ACHESON

In San Francisco tonight Dean Acheson former Undersecretary of State told members of the commonwealth club that skimping on the Marshall Plan would inevitably throw the reins of political and economic control of western Europe to the Communists. That while there is no guarantee of success for the program, on the other hand there is a "complete guarantee of failure if we do not make the effort". A shift of power of incalculable importance to the security and well being of the whole non-communist world - "the entire western Europe lost to another, and we say wrong, ideology with little hope of gaining it back again from this powerful and articulate Soviet Russia."

He insists we have enough grain to meet the export goal of five hundred and seventy million bushels, enough of everything, if we use it wisely. Either that or the prospect of the Soviets in complete control of Europe.

UN-PALESTINE

Today there was a dramatic duplication of scenes -- at Flushing, Long Island, and In Jerusalem. Wailing wall scenes -- at the United Nations and in The Holy City.

In the Assembly Hall of the U.N. while the critical debate on Palestine was going on, ten Zionists stood with their faces to the wall, reenacting the age old custom of payers at the wailing wall, where the Temple of Solomon once stood in the dim days of the Jewish past. In Jerusalem the ancient ceremony was a mass demonstration today, three thousand Jews gathering at the wailing wall and reciting day long prayers -- in response to a call from the Jewish leaders, who summoned all the people of Zion to pray for a favorable outcome of the decision at Flushing, Long Island.

The meeting of the U.N. was swamped by people who wanted to get in, and witness the final balloting to decide whether or not ^{the Uni} ~~the Uni~~ Nations would decree a Jewish state in Palestine. So many thronged that ten thousand had to ~~not~~ be turned away.

In the Assembly Hall the mood was tense, electric. There were demonstrations in the packed galleries. Arab speakers, calling upon the U.N. to reject a Jewish state, ~~were~~ ^{were} hissed. For the first time in the history of the U.N., the police had to ~~be~~ be called to keep order - ~~a~~ New York City policemen.

Thus it was, with the suspense drawing ~~on~~ out as the hour for the critical ballot drew near. Nobody could tell who would win out, whether the partition plan for Palestine would or would not get the necessary majority of two thirds. Some delegations didn't know what to do, and were trying frantically to communicate with their governments for instructions.

The hour for the vote was scheduled to be late this afternoon and was only an hour away. Then -- a ~~big~~ sudden surprise. The delegation for South American Columbia moved that the whole question be put off until next year, Whereupon France spoke up, also suggesting a postponement -- until tomorrow. That went to a vote and was carried. So the drama ended

inconclusively, with postponement -- until tomorrow, Saturday, when the U.N. will try again to come to a decision on the question of Palestine.

JAPANESE TRIAL

In Tokyo, it was disclosed today that Japan, just before the outbreak of the European war, made a major diplomatic move in an effort to turn the trend of events in combination against Soviet Russia. Tokyo, in a secret but impressive way, sought a Japanese - Nazi - Fascist alliance against the Soviets.

This was stated by the former Japanese Ambassador to Germany, Hiroshi Oshima, who is one of the defendants on trial in Tokyo as a war criminal. In Nineteen Thirty Nine, said he, the Japanese envoys to Italy, Russia, Poland, Sweden and ~~Switz~~ Switzerland met in Berlin, with the Japanese Ambassador there, and this conclave of Tokyo diplomats urged the governments of Nazi Germany and Mussolini's Italy to Join with Japan in a combination against Soviet Russia.

- If their insistence had been accepted, the course of history might well have been changed - but Hitler preferred to make that Nazi-Soviet pact with Stalin, and events turned out as we all now know.

AGHANISTAN

In the troubled problems of India, a statement was issued today designed to ease a new affair of nervous tension. (Afghanistan has massed a heavy force of troops on the border of Pakistan. That seems odd, because both the rugged kingdom and the new British dominion are Moslem - fanatically Mohammedan.

However, there's a strip of territory along the old northwest frontier, which Afghanistan claims) the local tribes there being about the same as the mountain clans on the Afghan side of the Kyber Pass. But, Pakistan is taking over the disputed strip of crags and peaks, ignoring the Afghan demand. So it looked as if the mobilization of Afghan troops at the border there was a threatening ~~xxx~~ warlike gesture.)

Today an explanation from the government at Kabul was made public, ~~no, the Afghan have no hostile intention. The reason for~~ ^{That} the massing of troops ~~is something else. The purpose~~ is to suppress a feud between two Afghan tribes.

~~Two years ago there was an outbreak of~~

Trouble between the Safis and Nuristanis, which tribes went on the warpath in the old Afghan way - a blood feud, the usual pasttime of the warlike tribes in the fierce lands that adjoin Kyber Pass. The Safis and Nuristanis assailed each other, shooting from behind rocks, sniping from ^{an} ~~a~~ bush ~~and then after a while, called off the feud. But now the tribal vendetta has broken out again, more fiercely than ever - with such a fury of sniping and ambushade that the Kabul Government has been impelled to intervene - sending a strong force of troops, ~~under the ~~unusual~~ command of the Minister of War himself, General Daud Khan.~~~~

Well, this explanation may seem plausible enough - to anyone who has been through ^{the} Kyber. ~~Pass.~~ The blood feuds among the tribes are a ferocious legend, and when two powerful clans really decide to have a good old fashioned ~~x~~ Afghan vendetta on a large scale, it might well call for military intervention.

MEYERS

There's to be an investigation of other wartime air force procurement officers - following ~~gh~~ the Grand Jury proceedings against General Bennett Meyers. This is announced by a sub-committee of the House of Representatives. The investigation of General Meyers was made by a Senate group; and now the lower House is taking a hand in the business of trying to find out what went on in the business of Air Force war-contracts.

The Chairman of the sub-committee, Congressman Bender of Ohio stated today that other procurement officers may be charged with gathering in cash while doling out war [^] - contracts. "Three or four others" ~~and~~ declares the Congressman.

He says the sub-committee of the Lower House began by getting on the ~~xxxxxxxx~~ trail of Air Force procurement officers who, after the war, were given fat jobs by aircraft companies with whom they had wartime dealings. The Congressman uses the ~~xxxx~~ following words - "very lucrative jobs under conditions

which did not seem too ^ahealthy."

But ~~h~~ the trail led further than that, the sub-committee finding indications that procurement officers not only got post-war jobs, but also fattened up their bank balance while still in the army. The Congressman speaks of what he calls "Three or four cases of unreasonable enrichment." There is to be a formal inquiry into that, hearings to open in the Middle of December - another war contract investigation, by the lower House this time.

BOY

-- In Chicago, ten year old Johnny Crowe got on to his feet and walked today. ~~He took only a few faltering steps, but they were his first in five years - and it was like a miracle in the world of medicine.~~

Johnny is a victim of a disease that has ~~never~~ before been cured, a rare malady that turns the muscles into stone, ~~with a gathering of calcium, until the whole body is slowly petrified.~~ Five years ago, Johnny's mother noticed that something was wrong with him, ~~a faltering step, difficulty in moving.~~ The doctors shook their heads. It was that rare dread malady, ~~for which there has never been a cure, - never had medical science been able to do anything to prevent the gradual turning into stone.~~

But at a Chicago hospital, ~~they did what they could, trying to remove the deposits of calcium from Johnny's muscles.~~ Nothing showed any signs of ~~any~~ working, operations, X-ray therapy - the malady was running its course. Johnny, growing rigid and helpless

in a hospital bed, would stay there until the end. So it seemed.

Then, with one new experiment after another, the ~~medix~~ medical scientists ^{tried} ~~reported to~~ vitamin E. ^{- a concentrated attack,} ~~Nobody ever suggested that vitamin E could have any effect for that mysterious disease. But~~ They were trying everything; and they tried that - and it worked. Johnny given heavy ⁵ ~~1~~ doses of Vitamin E, the ~~amuzks~~ doctors were amazed to note that his muscles were softening, their stony hardness was decreasing, and they were becoming flexible again.

Today, the dramatic proof came. Johnny was helped out of his bed, & and walked -- those few faltering steps. The doctors regard this as decisive, and say they are confident that within two years Johnny will be playing baseball with the other boys in the neighborhood.

YOUNG FARMER

At Chicago today twenty year old Donald Stolen of Carthage, Indiana had something to say about the prospects of farming as a career -- Donald making what will come as a startling revelation to the average city dweller. ^R The young farmer-winner of a 4-H Club Nineteen Forty-seven achievement award said that in his eleven years of farming he had ^S made a gross income of Sixty-two thousand, -three-hundred-and-thirty seven ^{dollars;} -- quite a tidy turnover for a boy going into business before he was ten. ~~Yes, and~~ ^{IP} although he has reinvested a lot of that money in livestock, Donald says he still has enough money to pay for his education, his ^{colly} fraternity and social activities, without working in his spare time. "I don't expect to make a million dollars farming", he says, "but, I'll make a comfortable living, and be my own boss." ^{and he adds!} "There's really no limit to what you can do on a farm if you have ambition."

Summing up his job this energetic young son of the soil remarks that it's easier to get on easy street by working eighteen hours a day behind

a plow than worrying your life away in the big city -
that is, worrying about your job. ~~that is.~~ ^{TR} Well Donald's life
will be a trifle easier after today. In addition
to his Four H Club trophy he won a ~~Two hundred dollar~~
scholarship to Purdue University where he's a freshman
in the College of Agriculture -- learning ~~new~~ more about
the science of ~~wrestling~~ wresting a living from the
good earth. Quite a change from the day when the
farmer's boy worked for a pittance and rarely finished
his education! - Over five thousand a year! for ten
years! and still not twenty-one and getting a college
education thrown in! That's what you call ploughing
a straight and profitable furrow in life.

Do you care to add anything to
that, Nelson?

RAGPICKER

In Paris today, police arrested a man of mystery, whom they call - the millionaire ragpicker. But this individual of gaudy reputation seemed neither disturbed nor downcast. As the gendarmes took him ^{to} face an official of justice, the millionaire ragpicker was jaunty with smiles and an air of bravado - and stopped to sign autographs. He was more like a Hollywood star surrounded by movie fans than a man of mystery charged with ominous war crimes.

He is a Rumanian, who began life in the realm of junk and rubbish, but his rise was so dizzy that the title of "millionaire" was added to the humbler epithet of ragpicker.

From rags ^S to riches, but the trouble is that the height of his glittering affluence was in Paris during the Nazi occupation. He is said to have had dealings with Hitler's Gestapo, which enabled him to make a fortune as a black market financier and a receiver of stolen goods. Public rumor credits him with a multitude of other misdemeanors, like ~~gun~~ gun running

and smuggling. All of which enabled the millionaire ragpicker to strut in glory as a mystery man of the German occupation.

But things were different when occupation ~~gm~~ turned into liberation. Things were black for the Nazi collaborators in France, and the millionaire ragpicker vanished. Thereafter, there was a long search for him, an international manhunt, the man of mystery more mysterious than ever - where was he? Recently he was located - in Germany, hiding in a camp for displaced persons in the American zones.

His return to Paris include^d peculiar episodes, like a nocturnal rendezvous with the police, more mysterious doings - which caused an abundance of talk and curiosity along the Boulevards. So, when the millionaire ragpicker ~~xxx~~ was finally taken into custody, Parisian sightseers flocked to get a glimpse of him. They crowded around, asking for autographs which the man of mystery wrote out for them like a Hollywood star.

His jaunty, smiling demeanor was such as to confirm rumors already circulating, rumors that he

would never be brought to trial, because of influence and connections in high places - new elements of mystery in the career of the millionaire ragpicker.

And now, Nelson, any mystery to be unraveled by you?