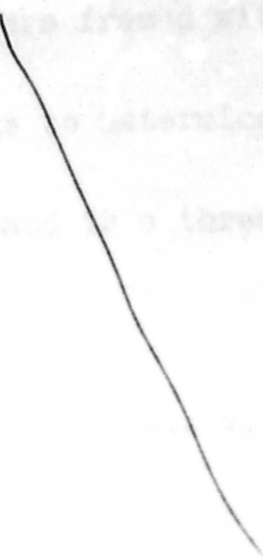


In the United Nations, the crucial deliberations on Palestine today began with a statement of the American position. At the Security Council, Lake Success, New York, American Delegate Austin presented the view of our government about what to do in the present crisis of terror and violence.

The American statement today was not decisive, and offered no definite plan. Our delegate, Warren Austin, opened the momentous debate in the Security Council by proposing that a committee of the Big Five should be formed, a committee representing Great Britain, the United States, Soviet Russia, France and China. The purpose would be to hold



big power consultations on the question of whether or not an international army of the United Nations should be sent into Palestine. There was no mention of whether or not American troops should go, or what kind of international army might be formed. Should ^{the} big powers send troops - which would include Soviet Russia? Or should the smaller nations provide the soldiers? Or should the U.N. recruit an international military force by enlistments?

The American ^{suggestion is that all} ~~declaration~~ that this now be discussed by a committee of the Big Five. Also - that the committee should renew negotiations with the Arab states and the Jewish Zionists - urge the Arab states, for example, not to encourage violence in Palestine. These proposals were framed within the usual formula - suggesting proceedings to determine whether or not the violence in the Holy Land is a threat to world peace.

The American statement today has the full approval of President Truman - so stated in a message from the

presidential yacht in the Caribbean. Mr. Truman, giving a full okay to the declaration made by American Delegate Austin, added, "The Palestine situation has been and is the deep concern of this government."

From behind the scenes at Lake Success, we hear that pressure is being brought upon the British to delay their departure. They are now scheduled to renounce control on May Fifteenth and have all British troops out by August First. The idea would be to have the British stay longer - while the U.N. makes up its mind about an international army, and what kind of affair that would be. ^RThe British in Palestine, of course, are in trouble ~~with~~ that grows deeper and deeper, with the constant increase of Arab attacks and Jewish retaliation. They are in the hottest kind of hot spot, and don't want to stay. ^RToday at Lake Success British Colonial Secretary ^RArthur Creech-Jones stated that the British are going to get out on schedule, and will not use British troops to enforce the partition in Palestine. He added, moreover, that ^{isn} the

United Nations, Britain will abstain from voting on the Palestine issue.

To emphasize the British point, the news from Jerusalem tells of a bombardment of British police headquarters, a bombardment of mortar shells. The area is closely guarded, a security zone that contains police headquarters, law courts and a hospital. British troops were holding maneuvers in street fighting, when the Zionists opened fire from a position in a fortified Jewish sector. Three mortar shells fell and burst. No casualties, though the maternity ward of the hospital was damaged. This ^{mortar} cannonade represents a climax ⁱⁿ the attacks on the British in Palestine.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Or about that.

(It's all over in Czechoslovakia. The Communists grabbed everything today, complete control.) The Czechs have ~~long~~ ^{long} been known for their devotion to modern liberalism, western freedom. The other Soviet satellites, one after another, installed Red dictatorships, Communist police states - Czechoslovakia alone retaining some semblance of constitutional government. But that's finished now. For days we've been hearing how the government at Prague had brokeⁿ up, the Reds applying increasing pressure, moving toward full Communist control - and today the job was completed in summary and overwhelming fashion.

The climax came toward the end of the day. In Czechoslovakia, local self-government, and plenty of it, has been exercised by mayors and town councils - and these are now put under control of the Communist Party. (The Red authorities at Prague sent an edict to all the mayors and town councils, commanding them to take orders from local Action Committees of the Communists.) So, with the Communist government

in power at Prague, all municipal government becomes Communist - which makes it a hundred per cent.

Opposition political parties are suppressed, and even the Social Democrats, ^{who} ~~which~~ have been playing with the Communists, were hit hard today - when their party headquarters was occupied by ^{the Reds,} ~~Communists~~. There were police raids all over the country - two hundred non-Communist political officials placed under arrest. Opposition newspapers and magazines put out of business - ^{and were} workers ordered to seize all ^{big industrial} factories.

In this Red ^{taking over} ~~seizure~~ of complete power today, there was one feature particularly vivid. All along the frontiers of Czechoslovakia, border patrols were reinforced and ordered to keep fugitives from slipping through, prevent members of the non-Communist opposition from getting out. Meaning - that Czechoslovakia is now sealed tight ^{behind} ~~by~~ the Iron Curtain.

All of which leaves one person to be heard from, President Benes, ^{long} a world exponent of political ~~liberalism~~ liberalism, ~~he is~~ the most influential single figure

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in Czechoslovakia. Today's dispatch from Prague states that the Communists received orders to go ahead - and never mind Benes.

R The national President today was silent, announcing that he would make a radio address to the Czechoslovak people tomorrow.

It remains to be seen what Benes, the great liberal, will have

to say about ^{*this*} final transformation of his country into a

Communist dictatorship, a Red police state, behind the

Iron Curtain.

In Los Angeles today, a group of Regional Directors urged C.I. O. President Phillip Murray to fire Harry Bridges as North Californian Director of the CIO.

The reason? ~~Harry likes Henry. That is~~ Harry Bridges ~~now~~ favors the ~~third party~~ of Henry Wallace ~~Party~~ ^{Parties -- all} in direct opposition to the CIO's national policy.

Five CIO union groups have signed a petition requesting Murray to drop Bridges, saying that since the Longshoreman's leader appears to be going contrary to the national program of the CIO, they - the Unions that is - do not feel he should continue to represent their national group.

~~has~~ ^{has} no comment from Bridge^s or from Murray, but according to labor information on the West Coast, the fight to oust the Longshoreman's leader who opposes the Marshall Plan and leans towards Wallace's third party, has reached fever pitch.

STEEL PRICES

This morning sixteen visits were paid in various cities of this nation. At each of sixteen shiny and impressive business offices, a caller appeared and went in conference with dignified and imposing ^{corporation executives.} gentlemen. All this was an affair of the F.B.I. and the steel industry.

Later ~~on~~ in the day the news was given out that President Truman, from his vacation yacht in the West Indies, had ordered an investigation of the boost in the price of steel - announced by the leading companies last week. The price of steel increased five dollars a ton - all along the line.

The Washington word is that the administration is gravely disturbed by the boost in so basic a commodity as steel, fearing that this may be a serious blow to the Truman drive against inflation - ~~issuing~~ leading, as it may, ~~taxes~~ to a new round of wage increases. So the question was raised - with sixteen major steel companies announcing a simultaneous price raise of five dollars a ton, might this not indicate collusion ^{and} price fixing? Might it not constitute a violation

of the Anti-Trust Laws? Hence the presidential action and the
order issued from down ^{there in} the Caribbean - directing the Attorney
General and the F.B.I. to make an investigation. Which
investigation began with ^{the} a round of visits this morning.

Night Show. Feb 24th 1948

L.T 1

RENTS.

(In Washington this evening, the Senate voted to extend national rent controls on housing until April Thirty, Nineteen-forty-Nine.) The present rent law to continue with slight modifications. Most important of these modifications in this temporary law approved by the Senate is the elimination of the clause providing ~~xxxx~~ criminal penalties - fines and imprisonment for violators. That is out. Those who break the new rent law being subject to civil damage suits when the bill becomes law. The Senate voted shortly after the House had rushed through a ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ stop-gap measure to continue the present law for one more month.

But this bill must be signed by the President before Monday to prevent a nationwide lifting of rent ceilings, when the present law is due to expire, and so the ~~xxxx~~ new bill for modified rent controls is being flown to the Carribbean where President Truman is on vacation.

WRIGHT PLANE

The final story about the world's first airplane, that famous original box kite aircraft of the Wright Brothers, features a theme old and familiar in the realm of romance and melodrama -- the unsigned will. Many a fiction story has been spun around the notion of somebody preparing a will, providing for one thing or another -- and then failing to sign it.

In the will that was probated, Orville Wright still was unreconciled in the old quarrel between the Wright Brothers and the Smithsonian Institution in Washington -- the Smithsonian people, in the past, having displayed another plane as the world's first aircraft, the Langley plane. Which was why, out of chagrin, the original Wright plane had been sent to the Kensington Museum, London, instead of being kept over here. During the years that followed, the Smithsonian retracted, and made amends for the slight inflicted on the Wright Brothers. So the question was -- had Orville Wright, after making the will now probated,

changed his mind? If so, it would have to be in writing -- according to the terms of the signed will. So was there anything in writing?

"A final will, unsigned, has been found by the administrators of the Orville Wright estate, directing the National Museum (which is run by Smithsonian) as the place he wished the plane to go.

So that settles it. Orville Wright, changing his mind about the old quarrel, had made out a new will,

So now action is to be prompt. The government in Washington is taking measures to bring back the first plane. Today Fred Kelly stated: "A committee, sent by President Truman, will arrive in Dayton tomorrow, to make preliminary arrangements." The original Wright plane will be returned home to the United States aboard an American aircraft carrier -- its homecoming a national ceremony." An historic celebration -- as a result of the unsigned will.

FLY-AWAY-PLANE.

FROM
~~At~~ Nome, Alaska, ~~we have a report of the case of~~ *of* ~~xx~~
the careless aviator. Cyrus ~~N~~ Seeds cranked up his private plane, forgetting that the throttle was wide open. The plane took off leaving a very surprised owner behind - with the crank handle in his hand, we presume.

With gasoline for two hours in its tanks, the little plane climbed to four thousand feet above Nome, and then began to stunt, zooming and turning in a manner exciting - and ~~xxxxxxxx~~ alarming - for those underneath, homes, schools and the business section of the city. Housewives left the dinner to burn to watch, and children ~~whooping with~~ *ed* delight [^] at the free aerial circus.

Finally Bill Muntz, the veteran bush pilot who is always in the news doing something daring to help his neighbors in that wild country, climbed into his plane with a shot gun - intending to shoot the runaway out of the sky. The fly-a-way plane must have heard Bill coming, because it ~~very~~ promptly sped away across the Bering

Straits in the general direction of Siberia, where the Russian anti-aircraft gunners were probably waiting to shoot it down on sight. Moral: don't crack your plane with the throttle open.

WALLACE

Another of those congressional inquiries, and another of those amusing sessions - with Henry Wallace giving his opinion of the Marshall Plan. The Third Party candidate for President is again it, as we all know. - And today, appearing before the Foreign Relations Committee of the House of Representatives, he repeated his contention that the European Aid Program would lead to war with Soviet Russia. He proposed a substitute - a ten year, fifty ^f million dollar scheme of American aid, to be administered by the United Nations, a sort of World New Deal. ^R These global economic notions were received in silence by the Committee and by the crowd of spectators, everybody cool and unresponsive except Senator Glen Taylor of Idaho, who last night accepted second place on the Third Party Ticket. Sitting at the other side of the table, the vice-presidential candidate beamed across at the presidential candidate - with ^{that} _^ Third Party smile.

The turn of the spectacular - and the laughs - were provided when the testimony got around to matters

presidential. This came about when Henry Wallace made recommendations for getting on peaceful terms with Soviet Russia.

He suggested that: -- "We should have some new faces in the executive branch of the government." That caused the Republicans on the Committee to beam. "We expect," said G.O.P. Congressman Smith of Wisconsin, "to achieve that result in November." To which Henry made a snappy comeback: "I thank you for your support, Sir," said he.

The Wallace idea that we should have a new president in November pleased everybody on the Committee except the Democrats - and the spectators roared with laughter.

Henry Wallace today was an affable witness, pleasant and smiling, except when submitted to one line of questioning. Democratic Congressman Sol Bloom of New York referred to the charge that the Wallace Third Party movement is tangled up with the Communists, Sol

Bloom asked: "What is the difference between your objectives and the Communist objectives?"

Henry got irritated. "I'm not familiar with the Communist objectives," he snapped.

And now, Nelson, with what are you familiar?