

WILSON

L.S. - P. 4. 2.

Dec. 21 - '50, Thurs,

today

At the White House, Charles E. Wilson ~~was~~
~~the oath today~~ ^{was} sworn in as Director of the office
of Defense mobilization. Supreme Court Justice
Vinson presided and President Truman offered
congratulations.

The sixty-four year old production expert
gives up the presidency of General Electric, ^a hundred-
and-fifty-thousand ^{dollars} a year, ~~and takes a post paying~~
~~twenty-two thousand, five hundred.~~ ^{to} But he becomes the
second most ~~powerful~~ powerful individual in the United
States, next only to ^{the} President ~~Truman~~ - completely
in ~~control~~ control of a vast program for building American
armed power. Charles E. Wilson is familiar with that
sort of job -- having been Vice ~~Chairman~~ Chairman of the
War Production Board during the Second World War.

Today he announced his choice of Assistants:-
General Lucius Clay, former American Commander in
Berlin, and Sidney Weinberg, who served on the War
Production Board in World War Two.

EMERGENCY POWERS

The Senate has passed the bill to give the President emergency war powers - the measure rushed through today with little opposition.

But it was a different story in the House of Representatives - where action on the emergency bill could not be had. Because so many congressmen have gone home for Christmas. It took them three hours to round up a bare majority in the house - and by that time the leaders had agreed that the emergency powers bill would have to wait until after January First.

Mrs. Sabersberg continued, what he called "not a single criticism."

The vote to confirm her was overwhelming - her supporters including Senator McCarthy of Wisconsin, the nation's number one debater of Reds in Government. The vote was made by a roll call, and the result was only a couple of votes in the negative. One of these was largely of North Dakota, who announced that he will vote against all the emergency powers.

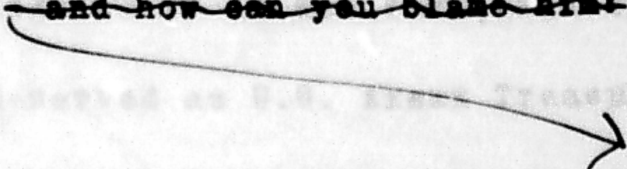
ROSENBERG

The Senate confirms Mrs. Anna Rosenberg as assistant Secretary of Defense - which completes the clearing of the new York woman of charges of pro-Communism. Evidence was given that she once belonged to the John Reed Clubs - listed as a Red outfit. She denied this, and said it was a case of -- mistaken identity. Which was confirmed, when the F B I found another Anna Rosenberg, who admitted that she had been a member of the John Reed Clubs. Today Senator Byrd of Virginia told his colleagues that the F B I files on Mrs. Rosenberg contained, what he called -- "not one single criticism."

(The vote to confirm her was overwhelming - her supporters including Senator McCarthy of Wisconsin, the nation's number one denouncer of Reds in Government.) The ~~same~~ decision was made by a voice vote, and the newsmen heard only a couple of voices in the negative saying "no." One of these was Langer of North Dakota, who has ~~an~~ announced that he will vote against all Presidential nominations, no matter what. Because says

the Senator, nobody from North Dakota has been appointed to an important federal office in sixty-one years. So he's mad, ~~and how can you blame him?~~

Two North Dakotians have served as U.S. Treasury Secretaries but I don't know if these would be considered as top federal appointments.



FOLLOW ROSENBERG

Here's North Dakotan reaction to this.

A reminder that a nephew of Senator Langer is a member of the U.S. Customs court in New York, and that two North Dakotans have served as U.S. ~~xxxxx~~ Treasurers, but I don't know if these would be ~~xxxxx~~ considered -- top federal appointments.

ROBINSON

Hollywood actor Edward G. Robinson gave testimony today -- that he ~~is~~ is not a Communist and never has been one, nor does he have sympathy ~~for~~ for the Reds. In Washington he told the committee on Un-American Activities that, for years, there have been insinuations reflecting on his loyalty. So he wanted to clear his position - by taking an anti-Communist oath.

General Eisenhower's West European Defense Army will be training together within the next few weeks. Which undoubtedly includes American troops.

The White House makes no reference to the address by former President Hoover last night - contending that no additional American soldiers or money should be sent to Western Europe, until the countries there have demonstrated their will and intention to defend themselves. But the administration says that Secretary Acheson, at a news conference tomorrow, will reject the statement by the former President - that the war in Europe is lost. And so

TRUMAN

Secretary of State Acheson reported to President Truman today - on the result of the conferences in Brussels. The President states that the Acheson report is entirely satisfactory, and that the Atlantic Pact nations - "mean business". He adds that the protection of western Europe is vital to the security of the United States, and says that units of General Eisenhower's West European Defense army will be training together within the next few weeks. Which undoubtedly includes American troops.

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GERMANY

Today the Chancellor of Germany went up Concession Hill. That's the name the Germans give to a summit at the city of Bonn. In the books it is called - Petersburg Mountain. So why Concession Hill?

Well, on the summit stands the headquarters of the high commission of the Western Powers. Time after time, Chancellor Adenauer has gone up there for conferences, and each time he ~~has~~ has won - concessions. All in the process of restoring conquered western Germany to the status of an ~~independent~~ independent power.

Today, the Chancellor met the western high commissioners to discuss the question of west German troops for the European defense Army commanded by General Eisenhower. Which is little more than a paper army - and the bets were that ^{this time} Adenauer would get richer concessions than ever, on Concession Hill.

(He talked matters over with High Commissioner John McCloy of the United States, Sir Ivone Kirkpatrick of Great Britain, and Andre Francois Poncet

{ of France. The proceedings were a secret, but everybody knows the price the Chancellor asked for West German participation in European defense. He wants full military equality. (Meaning, German divisions, armed with tanks and artillery - instead of mere combat teams of infantry alone, as has been proposed.) Moreover, he's bargaining for the final ~~independent~~ independence of West Germany, with an end to the status of conquered country.

The West German socialists are said to agree to negotiations on that basis. Recently, they won two local election victories over the Christian Democrats, led by Chancellor Adenauer. The Socialists campaigned against a rearmament of western Germany. But they did that on the ground that there must be full equality for the West Germans. So now, they've indicated that they will not oppose rearmament - if the Chancellor wins equality. If he gets that concession - on Concession Hill.

ADD GERMANY

Later ^{came a news} ~~news~~ dispatch that reads: "The

western Allies today offered increased independence to Western Germany, and declared they are willing to consider any ~~any~~ concession the Germans may demand as a price for furnishing troops for General Eisenhower's defense army." In other words, concessions on Concession Hill.

KOREA

In Korea, the lull continues at the beachhead -- which is growing ~~xx~~ smaller and smaller. Today, American troops blew up the last bridge leading to the Hungnam point of embarkation. The Reds made one small attack, which ran against barbed wire defenses, and was broken by gunfire. The ring of steel and fire hurled by naval and land guns ~~xxx~~ has been too much for the enemy to get through.

It was confirmed in Tokyo today, that the Communists have used - "gas grenades." But these don't seem to be anything so ~~xxx~~ alarming. American technicians explain that the stuff cannot be called "poison gas" in the ordinary sense. The grenades were filled with smoke that acted like tear gas, and caused soldiers to sneeze and cough. The Communist intention - to cause confusion and make them betray their positions. Not much harm done.

WELLS

Senator Knowland of California made public tonight a memorandum said to have been written by war-time Under Secretary of State Sumner Wells to Earl Browder, then head of the American Communist party. The document belittles the power of Communism in China, and states: "This government has, in fact, ~~not~~ viewed with ~~any~~ skepticism many alarmist accounts of the 'serious menace' of Communism in China.

All of which reflects the war-time alliance with Soviet Russia -- and the belief, held by some people, that the Chinese Reds were innocent agrarian ~~and~~ reformers.

STALIN'S BIRTHDAY

Today brings a strange oddity in the celebration of Stalin's birthday. The Red Dictator is now seventy-one and last year, on his seventieth birthday, the Reds fell all over themselves in kowtowing, flattering and hailing. They paid birthday honors, as if to a divinity. But this year, there's a curious contrast - and we can only wonder why.

The contrast is not in the satellite countries. The Red puppets whooped it up with birthday adulation. (In the Soviet zone of Germany, the newspapers today gave over their front pages to pictures and praise of Stalin. The wall of one large building in Red Berlin is marked from top to bottom with huge painted letters that spell out the sacred name. Today loud speakers blared, street agitators howled, and Red parades went marching - with pictures of Stalin the size of a billboard. So the birthday in the satellite countries - was normal.)

The strange difference was in Russia, where the Moscow newspapers today did not even mention the

STALIN'S BIRTHDAY - 2

birthday of Stalin. They printed plenty about him, covering their front pages with fulsome articles and hymns of praise. They related that Stalin has been elected a deputy of local Soviets at Kiev and Baku -- all accompanied by adoring expressions.

But the nearest thing to the mention of a birthday was an article in the Moscow literary gazette, which described in extravagant verbiage, the Stalin birthday celebration -- of last year. The homage of a year ago was repeated, but that was all -- no indication that the Lord of the Reds might be having another birthday.

Sounds mighty strange. Of course, it might be that the master of Soviet Russia didn't want a lot of hullabaloo all over again. Or - could it be that Stalin doesn't want to advertise the fact that he's going on into his seventies? Maybe, like certain ladies, he isn't ~~as~~ having anymore birthdays.

ECONOMIC

General Motors has ended the four day ban on the sale of its Nineteen Fifty-One models - and agrees to sell the autos at Nineteen Fifty prices, as requested by the government. General Motors halted the sale of new cars as a protest -- but now gives in.

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RAILROADS

The railroad wage dispute -- settled. In Washington today, an agreement was made, ending an argument that has been going on for twenty-one months. Three hundred thousand operating railway workers get wage increases, and accept a three-year contract -- with a "no strike clause." This ends the danger of a major tie-up of railroads in the present crisis - although the wage increase is likely to bring a rise of passenger and freight rates.

TRAIN WRECK

Today's report on a train wreck in Canada pictures a lucky escape from frightful disaster - the plunging of crowded passenger cars into the icy waters of the Ottawa River. The train jumped the tracks on a bridge - and over it might have gone, into the frosty water below.

"The Maple Leaf" was running from Toronto to Montreal, and aboard were three hundred Christmas vacationers. The bridge is twenty-six miles west of Montreal, and the train ran onto the span at forty miles an hour. Something went wrong with the baggage car, a cracked bearing - and the car jumped the tracks. That ~~the~~ threw the others off -- sixteen crashing and bouncing along on the floor of the bridge.

Luckily, the cars were thrown toward the inside, not the outside - else they would have toppled over, coaches full of passengers plunging into the frosty river - for a ghastly horror. As it was, the plunging cars twisted the rails, and ripped the ties for hundreds of feet. They gouged out huge

chunks of the floor of the bridge, and six coaches dug in so deeply they were up to their windows.

Casualties? That's the remarkable part of it.

Two persons were injured. A newspaperman was bruised a bit, not badly - and in the club car hot water shot out from a coffee urn, and scalded an attendant, for a minor injury.

A spectacular Christmas time accident, but no tragedy.

From Macy's in New York, a gag that sounds as if it might be an old one. But I never heard it before. The photographic Department at Macy's reports an order from a woman, who asked them to reproduce a color photograph of her deceased husband - but with his hat off.

They said - sure. And asked - what was the color of his hair? To which the lady replied: "Take his hat off and you'll find out."

Rebeck - what's under your hat?

CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Now is the time when there's a laugh in many a department store - over curious gifts that people buy for Christmas. Neiman-Marcus in Dallas, reports a customer in Iowa, who ordered an electric blanket for his pet lion. Filene's in Boston tells of a gentleman who walked in, carrying a dog under his arm, a Pomeranian, ^{and} he said he wanted to buy a Christmas gift for his wife, and asked for an umbrella - to match the exact color of the pooch. Matching dog and umbrella.

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"Take his hat off and you'll find out."

~~Take his hat off~~
Nelson - what's under your hat tonight?