

DISARMAMENT

L.T.-class. Thurs. Apr. 7th. 60.

A surprise move - by the Soviets at the Geneva Conference, today. Moscow Delegate Zorin - withdrawing what is called the "Khrushchev plan." That proposal for disarmament, complete and worldwide - in four years, on which the Soviets have been insisting - as a basis for discussion.

The Western powers - pressing their own idea. Calling - for disarmament in stages, with adequate controls. Both sides - pressing their own view.

Today the Russian delegate stated that, since neither side would budge from the stalemate, the best thing would be, to wipe the slate clean - start from scratch. Which meant, of course - dropping the Khrushchev plan.

This new Moscow move - received by the West with hesitant optimism. They don't quite know - what to make of it. Some - referring back to Khrushchev's declaration at the United Nations in New York, when, calling for wholesale disarmament in a hurry, he added - that, if the West wouldn't accept it, the Soviets would be willing to discuss a project less ambitious. Which could explain - the surprise move, today.

DeGAULLE

French President Charles DeGaulle, today made a statement which is decidedly newsworthy. And he made it -- in stately circumstance. ~~4~~ DeGaulle -- addressing a joint session of the British Parliament. The Lords and Commons -- joining to hear him. Something special -- indeed. Usually there is a joint session -- only when a sovereign addresses Parliament. ~~Britain going all out -- in paying honor to DeGaulle.~~

When he entered the stately hall of Westminster, he was greeted -- with a fanfare of trumpets. Then, facing the Lords and Commons, he spoke -- of the French atomic bomb, The test explosion recently -- in the Sahara desert.

So the newsworthy statement is this -- that France wants to go out of the atomic business, as soon as the agreement for the nuclear disarmament is reached.

"We'll be happy," said DeGaulle -- "to give up the tests."

CUBA

The Cuban Ambassador to the European office of the United Nations, in Geneva -- has quit his post, with a blast -- against the Castro government. Andres Vargas Gomez -- charging that Castro is trying to make Cuba a Soviet satellite. Previously, Vargas Gomez was head of the Economic Division of the Cuban State Department in Havana, Appointed -- to the Geneva post a month ago. Today, he said -- he took the job without any intention of resigning. But soon found -- that he would have to make Castro's statements, that he felt he could not make.

He worked for the Castro revolution in the overthrow of Dictator Batista, but now says that, while Batista was a tyrant, Castro is even worse.

SOUTH AFRICA

Police raids in South Africa - were on again, today.

Squads - invading the Negro section of Nyanga, outside Cape Town. Making - nearly two hundred arrests. The whole area - sealed off, to preserve secrecy. But reports tell - of more clubbing and whipping.

• The South African authorities continue to declare - that the police action is against what they call, "gangsters," who are keeping native Africans from going back to their jobs, by violence and threats. Obviously, they are trying to break the stay-home strike of African laborers, which is causing - heavy economic losses.

INFLUENCE

The House of Representatives, today, passed a law - against the peddling of influence by newly retired military officers, who take jobs - with defense contractors. The bill would require a court-martial - for any officer who takes a selling job in a defense industry, within two years after he retires. The measure - now goes to the Senate.

CIGARETTES

In Pittsburgh, today, a physician -- gave sworn testimony on the subject of lung cancer and cigarettes. The first time -- a doctor has made statements, under oath, on that much debated subject. His evidence -- given ⁱⁿ a suit for damages.

The plaintiff -- Otto Pritchard, a sixty-one year old cabinet maker, who contracted cancer of the lungs, and underwent surgery. He's trying to prove that the malady was caused -- by heavy smoking of a well-known brand of cigarettes. And he's suing the manufacturing company -- for a million-and-a-quarter.

The witness today was Dr. David Kramer, of New York -- who was Pritchard's physician. He testified -- concerning numerous patients -- with cancer of the lungs. Stating -- that in every case they were people who had smoked a pack or more of cigarettes a day.

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The attorney for the tobacco company asked him -- if non-smokers also had contracted that same malady. To which he replied -- that he was "under the impression that there had been such cases."

The doctor was asked -- if he considered himself an expert on the causes of cancer. He replied -- "No."

Several other physicians will be called upon to testify -- on this question, which causes endless argument.

HEIRESS

Here's a bit of comment on what the New York authorities may do -- concerning the marriage of Heiress Gamble Benedict and Andre Porumbeano. The bride -- legally a ward of the Court, which -- forbade her getting married. Porumbeanu also involved in legal difficulties in New York. The case -- in the jurisdiction of the Brooklyn District Attorney. So, today, the D.A. was asked -- what measures would he take?

"I'm not going to do anything about it," he replied. "I don't see any contempt action -- as far as Mr. Porumbeano is concerned. ^{Then he added:-} "As a wayward minor, Miss Benedict may have violated her probation. "If she were subsequently found in the State of New York," he went on, "Judge Warren could remand her to jail."

But -- could she be brought back to New York from some other state? District Attorney Edward Silver -- skeptical.

"I have grave doubts," he says, "that she could be extradited as a ward of the Court." Well, we hear that the runaway couple -- have no intention of coming anywhere near New York. After getting married at

~~H~~Andersonville, North Carolina, last night, they vanished.

Going -- to some unknown place. Today their friends declared ~~husband~~ -- they were safely ensconced in a hideaway;

~~Waiting~~ -- for ~~the~~ storm to blow over.

These friends add -- that Porumbeanu has been offered various jobs, and indications are that the headline romance may turn into a book and a movie.

Dick, do think
Well, ~~it's possible~~ a romantic couple must

eat?

PLAY

A new American play -- opened in London last night. So what have the critics to say?

Well, the first review comes from the author himself -- William Saroyan. ~~He's~~ ^{Saroyan} Always original, ~~and~~ gave his opinion of his drama in these words:

"This play will be a flop." ~~said Saroyan.~~

He was right about that -- according to the reviews that appeared in the London papers today.

The critic of the Daily Mail writes: "It is a baffling mixture of comic strip, modern allegory, soap-box and pulpit." **f** The reviewer of the Daily Express gives his opinion in these words: "There were times when I felt -- I was slowly drowning in a tub of golden syrup." ~~ifxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~

Which may not be -- such an unfavorable criticism. ^{And, what will the public say?} Rather beguiling -- "drowning in a tub of golden syrup." If -- one has to drown at all.