

TUNISIA

L.T.-DELCO.

Thurs. Feb. 12 - '58,

The French government will not negotiate with Tunisia - unless pressure on French troops is relaxed. So stated by Foreign Minister Pineau in Paris, today.

The "pressure on French troops" exasperating, indeed, for the Paris government. Sixteen thousand French soldiers in Tunisia, blockaded - with food running short. The Tunisian government announcing - that no ~~provisions~~ provisions would be allowed to reach French garrisons in their ~~own~~ quarters at various places. Tunisian President Bourguiba declaring - that the removal of French soldiers from Tunisia would solve the food problem.

Meanwhile, the State Department in Washington comes out with an angry reaction - to Soviet propaganda statements, That the United States was implicated in the bombing of a Tunisian village by French planes. Spokesman Lincoln White calling this - an "outrageous" lie. Saying the malicious accusation casts a lot of doubt on friendly Russian talk of late.

INDIA

In India, the Finance Minister of the Nehru government has resigned. T. T. Krishnamachari, victim of a financial scandal. Independent India - having an experience not uncommon in other democratic lands. Charges of graft and corruption - in official circles.

The government-owned life insurance company - purchasing securities, which resulted in a heavy loss. The claim being that the shares were purchased really, to help a stock market speculator in Calcutta.

The Minister of Finance - not involved in any direct way. But Krishnamachari admits - that he was responsible for what went on in his department.

STALIN

Moscow produces another chapter - in the down-grading of Stalin. This one - an article in an official magazine, commemorating the first anniversary of the Red Army.

A Soviet Marshal writes - that the great Stalin purges in the Nineteen Thirties weakened the Red army - in the Second World War. Citing - the execution of Marshal Tukachevsky, together ~~with~~ with other commanders and many officers lower in rank. Shot - when Stalin exterminated opposition.

So, when Hitler attacked Soviet Russia - many top ranking posts in the Red Army were held by officers without sufficient experience.

Another post-mortem kick - for Joe.

BRITAIN

The British cabinet met in London, ~~xx~~ today - in gloomy mood. Prime Minister MacMillan returns - tomorrow - from a Commonwealth tour, and, lo, the bad ~~xx~~ news he has to face!! The Conservatives had expected they'd lose the Rochdale bi-election. Having won it from the Labor Party, in Nineteen Fifty Five - by a small majority. A labor ^{(victory} ~~xxx~~ - okay. But the Conservatives never dreamed they'd lose - to the Liberals. The Liberal Party having been virtually defunct in Britain - for many years. Hitherto - a mere splinter party.

But the figures from Rochdale, as added up today, are as follows. Labor - twenty-two thousand votes. The Liberal candidate - seventeen-thousand votes. Conservatives - less than ten thousand.

So, tonight, British Conservatives are gloomy. While the Liberals hitherto underdogs, way down at the bottom, are predicting - a great Liberal revival.

BRITISH ROCKET

The London government reveals - that the British are developing a ballistic missile. Which can be fired - from underground. Launching site of the rocket - below the surface of the earth. Sounds miraculous - but it's disclosed in an official "white paper" outlining British prospects in the missile field.

No technical details are given. We're informed merely - that Britain is ~~xxx~~ developing a rocket called "more advanced" than the corresponding American intermediate range missiles. "More advanced" would certainly seem to be the right words. The British ballistic missile - to be fired from underground.

ATOMIC

Here's a story of - the Crazy Greek. Who wrote a letter to the Atomic Research Laboratory in Berkeley, California, back in Nineteen Fifty One. Nick Christofilos, an electrical engineer employed by an elevator company - making a few suggestions about an atom smasher under construction.

The scientists at Berkeley read the letter, didn't think much of it, and wrote a reply - telling Nick of some incorrect assumptions he had made. Upon which - Nick wrote another letter. The scientists - not paying any attention this time. They ~~was~~ merely said, "the Crazy Greek" - and stuck the letter in the files.

A year or so went by, and an announcement was issued - by the Brookhaven Atomic Laboratory, Long Island. Telling of the discovery of a principle called "strong ^{*fusion*} ~~focus~~ Facilitating, the construction of a thirty billion volt atom smasher.

Whereupon, they got a letter - from Nick, saying: "I discovered 'strong fusion' a year ago." Nick adding - he had a patent on the discovery.

An investigation followed - unearthing Nick's letter filed away out in California. He was right. So they gave him official credit. Also - ten thousand dollars for a license on his patent.

The story of the "Crazy Greek" was told at a hearing of the Congressional committee on Atomic Energy, today. Related - by Dr. George Green, Senior physicist at Brookhaven.

Somebody asked - "whatever happened to Nick?"

"We hired him", replied the Professor. So crazy - they gave him a job!

CUBA

A New York Federal Grand Jury has indicted a former President of Cuba - Carlos Prío Socarras. Together - with eight other Cubans now in the United States. Charged - with plotting a military expedition to overthrow the government of Cuban President Batista.

The indictment alleges - they planned to ship men and armament to Cuba to attack the Batista government and assassinate its officials.

INVESTIGATION

The ousted counsel of a Congressional sub-committee - gave testimony today. Dr. Bernard Schwartz - answering a subpoena requiring him to answer questions about the investigation, which he formerly headed. Previously as Committee counsel, he had interrogated witnesses. Now, himself - interrogated.

He dropped a bombshell - by stating that a member of the Federal Communications Commission received money from a lawyer connected with an airline. The airline - granted a television channel. F C C Commissioner Richard Mack - receiving two-thousand-six-hundred-and-fifty dollars.

Schwartz declared that Mack admitted this in an interview - which was wire tapped. Herbert Watchell, a sub-committee investigator who quit when Schwartz was fired, testified that he arranged for a wire - recording of the interview with Mack. The F C C Commissioner declaring - that he received the money, as a loan. Which he had paid back- in

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part. But he was vague - about the repayments.

The committee states that the F C C Commissioner will be given a full opportunity - to present his own case.

Here's later word - the F B I ordered to investigate the charges against Richard Mack. The order issued - by the Attorney General.

Dr. Schwartz was also questioned about accusations he made - that the sub-committee was trying to "whitewash" his investigation. And that a "White House clique" had influenced the decisions made by regulatory agencies of the government.

The ousted counsel said he wouldn't give testimony about these aspects ~~xx~~ at present. But he stated that former Governor Dewey of New York refused - when asked to hand over records, Regarding - a reported one-hundred-and-fifty-thousand dollars fee received by ~~the Dewey law~~ ^{his law} firm from an airline in ~~xx~~ a civil aeronautics case.

ANTARCTIC

Down in Antarctica - another delay for the British expedition. Which is on the last lap - of a journey all the way across the South Polar continent. But that last lap is like a nightmare - for the adventurers headed by Dr. Vivian Fuchs.

Now With six hundred miles to go, they^a are in a region of treacherous crevasses. Canyons in the polar ice - of ten masked by a covering of snow. *Snow bridges that conceal the caverns below.* Two of their snow-cats - falling into a crevasse.

Trouble - hoisting them out.

So, now, a new delay - caused by one of the weirdest of polar phenomena. A "white-out" - with fantastic delusions. The "white-out", a unique - *familiar to most of us who ski* - optical phenomenon_^ - caused by light reflecting back and forth. Between - a surface of snow and an overcast of low hanging clouds. In the freakish light, you see things in a distorted way - with delusions. Walking along, you may not be able to see your feet - and you can't judge distances.

The British Antarctic expedition, coming to
a halt - in a "white-out".

CAPITAL

Here's a proposal to move the capital of the United States - move it out of Washington. The suggestion made by Senator Murray of Montana. Chairman of a committee - dealing with local conditions in Washington. Traffic problems - freeway construction. Difficulties increasing in Washington.

So the gentleman from Montana thinks - the seat of the government should be moved out West. Where there's more room - and the climate is better.

What part of the West? *Montana - where there's nothing but room.* ~~You guessed it - Montana.~~

"If Washington," declares the Senator, "can no longer handle traffic - then I shall offer a bill to move the capital to Montana, amid the Rockies."

What's the reaction to this?

Applause - from Senator Bennett of Utah.

But - with a qualification. "If we do go to the trouble ~~xx~~ of moving the capital out West", he argues, "it would be a mistake to settle for anything

less than the very best location. Which is, of course, said he, "Utah."

Applause also - from Congressman Maillard of California. He says the capital should be moved West - to California. Denver, Colorado, has often been mentioned as the perfect place. In the East the ideal place might be the Poconos. Lots of room. Delightful climate - cool summers.

Other western and eastern legislators name their own states, and so - the capital no doubt will remain in Washington.

TELEPHONE

This next bit of news fills me with such enthusiasm - that I feel like telephoning Paris. Putting in - a phone call to an ^{ocia} ~~association~~ over there, expressing - heartfelt sympathy with its aims, purposes, and ideals. Name of the group? The "Association of Victims of the Telephone."

There's a brotherhood - that many an American would like to join. Those of us - who are plagued by telephone calls. You hardly get any time to rest. When, ^{tingle} tingle-ing-ling - there goes the telephone!! So let's give our backing to an angry protest - made by the French "association of victims of the telephone". Which is defying - an order issued by the French government. Infamous order, I'd say - for a special tax to be levied on people with unlisted phone numbers. Those who minimize the nuisance of a telephone - by ~~not~~ not having their numbers in the telephone book.

A tax - of thirty-six hundred francs a year.

(Not so much in American money - but it's the principle

in The Merchant of Venice.
of the thing, As Shylock said - when he demanded ~~in~~
the pound of flesh.

The "Association of Victims of the telephone" argue that it's your privilege to keep your telephone number a secret, if you want to. (How right they are! Of course, a cynic might ask - if you find ~~in~~ the telephone such a nuisance, why have One? But that's too logical - to make sense.)

WEATHER

News from Dixieland - Yankee confetti. They don't like the Yankees, but find the confetti - a wonder. White flakes - coming down from the sky. In some places, so far south - they never saw snow before. Children delighted - with heavy snows in the deepest of the deep south. "Yankee confetti" way down south in Dixie.

Everybody seems happy about ~~xx~~ it - except the Northern tourists. ~~xxx~~ Vacationing in the South - to escape exactly that sort of thing.

COLLISION

Between runs down mountain today, on Greek Peak, here near Cortland, Greek Peak by the way, as you would expect, is near Homer, and right next door to Virgil - at any rate, between runs, skiers told me more stories about the big storm that dumped so much snow on Central and Northern New York.

There's the one about collisions on the roads, in the storm. At one spot, seven cars piling up, one into the other. A State trooper was rushed to the rescue, but the blizzard was so terrific, Don, he couldn't see a thing, and only knew he had arrived at the scene when his car crashed into the others.

BOTTLES

Today, another bottle popped - in the home of the Hermann family, at Seaford, Long Island. The latest - in a bottle popping mystery.

A police laboratory at Mineola has been investigating but finds no rational explanation of why, in the last ten days, tops of bottles in the Hermann home have been popping. Bottles of shaving lotions, mouth wash, and so on - all flipping their lids. Even the atomic experts at the Brookhaven laboratories are stumped.

Today the bottle that popped - was a bottle of ~~xxx~~ holy water. Maybe they'd better consult the Bishop.