

STALIN

C.N. P. & S. Wednesday, Feb. 2, 1949. (Sacramento.)

There was a sharp bit of dialogue at the White House today. News men went hurrying to Presidential Secretary Ross and were asking the following question: Would President Truman meet Stalin at Kalinigrad, Odessa, Yalta, Poland or Czechoslovakia? They never did quite finish that query - because, before they were through Ross interrupted and snapped: "No comment, period. *That* ends the subject."

This was the first White House response to the newest declaration made by Stalin, suggesting a meeting with President Truman. No comment, period.

But then, later in the afternoon, there was plenty of comment - with periods, commas, and exclamation points.

This came from Secretary of ~~the~~ State Dean Acheson, who declared that Stalin's talk about a meeting with President Truman was, in the words of Acheson: "an international political ~~manoevre~~ manoeuvre." He said there was no point in any Truman-Stalin pow-wow. Or, as the news dispatch puts it: "He saw absolutely no use of the President of the United States travelling for the fourth time, half way around the world to meet with Stalin."

Which referred, of course, to the three previous meetings, Roosevelt-Stalin at Teheran and then at Yalta, followed by Truman-Stalin at Potsdam.

Dean Acheson placed emphasis on the crucial aspect -- Truman-Stalin, a two-way affair. He said that this nation will not discuss any matter with Soviet Russia without the participation of the other nations that are interested. We are lined up with the free countries of Europe, and they are interested - Great Britain, France, for^{an} example.

In London today the fear was expressed that a Truman-Stalin palaver might mean a two-way deal, leaving out the British. But now, our Secretary of State gives a most emphatic answer - that we are not going into any separate negotiation with the Soviets, nothing apart from our international colleagues. Like the members of the North Atlantic Security Pact which Norway will join. That decision announced today. Norway defying Soviet Russia by saying that Norway will line up with the West.

That ~~it~~ latest from Stalin has interesting aspects.

One - journalistic. We have three great American ^{news} agencies --
the Associated Press, the United Press and International
News Service. Each has, at one time or another, grabbed a Moscow
headline by getting a statement from Stalin.

Last week the International News Service procured a
Stalin declaration, saying that the Berlin blockade might be
lifted under certain conditions, and mentioning the possibility
of a meeting with President Truman. His remarks were taken as
just another Soviet move in a peace offensive, and President
Truman repeated what he has often said - that he would be pleased
to meet Stalin - if Stalin should visit Washington.

So now what have we? The INS having performed a
journalistic stunt, went ahead and followed it up by approaching
Stalin for another statement. So Stalin comes back again, giving
INS another headline.

He begins by saying. "I am grateful to Mr. Truman
for his invitation to come to Washington". To which the answer
would seem to be the President did not extend any invitation.
You ~~may~~ say to me that you will be glad to see me, if I should
make a trip to your home town. - That is hardly an invitation.

Not a pressing one, anyway.

But Stalin chooses to consider it an invitation, and says he can't make it, not to Washington - because of health. He puts it in these words: "My doctors have warned me against undertaking a long trip, particularly by sea or air."

Whereupon he extends an invitation to President Truman. He suggests that they meet at Kalinigrad, which is really the historic German port of Koenigsberg - East Prussia, now annexed by the Soviets. Or Odessa or Yalta, both in Russia. Or, if the President does not want to go into Soviet territory, Stalin suggests Poland or Czechoslovakia -- both behind the Iron Curtain, puppet satelites.

Stalin saying in effect - meet me in my own territory. All of which would seem to reduce the world crisis to talk about a meeting place.

Do I go to your house, or do you come to my house? Well, it's all a great world problem, and it reminds me of Mae West's old invitation-"come up and see me sometime."

RAILROADS

The threat of a railroad strike takes a new turn - with companies and unions putting the dispute in the hands of the Federal government. Today the news came that conferences had broken down -- deadlocked. But, at the same time, both sides united in asking for a Presidential Fact Finding Board to settle the argument.

This is without precedent. Since the National Railway Labor Act does not provide for that kind of government mediation the Companies and the Unions asked for it on their own. They have not agreed to accept the decision of Presidential Fact Finders, but a top Union spokesman today declared: "We are asking the Board to dispose of the dispute."

This ends the threat of an immediate railroad strike involving one million non-operating workers. The walkout might have occurred any time since January 17th, but the decision of the companies and unions today puts the danger off indefinitely.

PRICES

The Department of Agriculture states tonite that food prices are actually not high. Steaks and chops, bread and butter, really cost less than they did before the war. Which may sound strange after all the political agitation about prices. But that is what we are told by the Department of Agriculture, a branch of the Federal Government.

The official figures show that today the average family uses 21% of its income for the same amount of food that it bought with 23% of its income in the pre-war period -- 1933 to 1939. The reason is that average wages now are so much higher, as compared with those six years before the war, the depression period.

The Department of Agriculture notes that, while people focus their attention on high prices of food, they do not give equal notice to the high level of wages, which leads to the following statement: "Taken as a group, food consumers are better off than their protests indicate."

I shudder to think what some sour minded cynic may say about that -- remarking that, the election being over, the high prices of food may be less important than the maintenance of farm prices. But I am no cynic -- I am just a country boy.

Business is booming in the town of Broken Bow, Nebraska. That name "Broken Bow" might seem to indicate a place far off on the plains, old Indian country - which is exactly correct. Broken Bow is ordinarily, no vast commercial emporium, but there is a rush of trade right now -- customers pouring in.

They are farmers and ranchers out there on the great plains, snowbound for days.-- but now the roads have been broken open - which would seem to make everything okay, - but not at all. New storms and blizzards are expected - and they know it won't be long before they are isolated again on their farms and ranches all over again. So they have only a brief space during which to lay in supplies for a new seige, locked in, frozen in. And they are ~~hi~~ flocking to Broken Bow in wagons and tractors, to stock up with provisions for themselves and feed for their livestock. They are just about buying out the town.

The weatherwise plainsmen are saying that the only unusual thing about the blizzard was that it hit so early. They expect their big snows in February and March, and figure that ~~there~~ these will be along as usual - marooning them all over again. They're getting all set - to stand another seize of winter.

HOGAN

Tonite the doctors are saying that -- Ben Hogan will play golf again. He is lucky to be alive, after what are called "numerous fractures."

The shorty golfer, called Mighty Might, was in an automobile accident near El Paso, Texas. His car hit a Greyhound Bus, but when the crash came, Ben Hogan had thrown himself over in front of his wife who was in the seat next to him. He was trying to shield her. He was trying to sacrifice himself. But that actually saved him. Because the shattering impact hurled the motor of the car back, so that it crashed into the seat where Ben Hogan would have been sitting -- had he not swung over to save his wife. He has three broken ribs - not counting other fractures. But the doctors declared Bantam Ben, after a long recuperation, will be able to play golf again.

MUSICIANS

This next bit of news must be accompanied by music on the harp. Unfortunately, we have no harp here in the Studio, so you must imagine the elegy of tinkling notes on the most heavenly of musical instruments.

The dispatch is from Hollywood and tells that today a Jury found in favor of Joseph Weisenfreund. Joseph Weisenfreund is a brother of the Motion Picture Star Paul Muni. He is a musician and was sued for \$60,000 for punching another musician in the eye. The harmony was not so good. The fist fight was the more remarkable because it had to do with the music of the harp -- which placid lovely instrument should bring peace to the souls of men.

It seems that the two musicians were engaged in copying an orchestral score -- the part for the harp. Some argument arose, and it became so violent, like trumpets and piccolos, that Joseph Weisenfreund, brother of Paul Muni, socked the other musician in the eye. But the Jury today found that he was not the aggressor

in the battle -- the story of which I am telling to an imaginary accompaniment of the music of the harp.

Don't try any jokes by saying it must have been two harps -- it wasn't.

CALIFORNIA WATER

In Washington one of the oldest ideas is propounded as a new project to be undertaken by the government - the distillation of sea water. Under Secretary of the Interior Oscar Chapman, proposes that the Federal Government start experiments for using the ocean as ^a water supply. This - to overcome water shortages that threaten California.

He points out that Los Angeles, for example, is growing at such a rate that by Nineteen Sixty, the population will outstrip all present water supplies. Not to mention other areas of California, ~~which are~~ ^{that} desert now, ~~and~~ [^] could be turned into gardens - by irrigation.

The Under Secretary of the Interior notes that it might be possible to bring water down by tunnels from the Columbia River - but he points especially to the old rolling ^{there.} ocean. Such a vast amount of H-2-O, [^] Why have shortages of water when most of the surface of the earth is covered by the deep blue sea?

An ancient question and the answer is - salt. Well, the only way to get the salt ~~in~~ out seems to be by distillation, which is expensive. But the Under Secretary today points out that there could be valuable returns from the minerals of the

ocean - the salt, potassium, magnesium, and other chemicals.

He holds that the government should at least make a try, and start some experiments to see if a profitable ~~new~~ process could be found to get water from the sea. Something, not only for California, but for a lot more of this earth, where water is mighty scarce, and the ocean has so much of it.

RESCUE

From Medford, Oregon, the story of the rescue of a marooned flyer - but maybe he is not so completely delighted about being saved from the icy wilderness. John L. Krause of Antioch, California, was lost for five days at Fish Lake, a remote spot in ^{the} blizzard swept mountains of Northern Oregon - but maybe he looks back on that with some regret.

Last week Krause was flying in a small plane, trying to get around a mountain, when the carburetor ~~is~~ iced up. He had to make a forced landing and came down on the frozen surface of Fish Lake. The plane was damaged; - he was unhurt. But there he was, cast-away, in an isolated wilderness, amid all the cold and snow of this devastating winter. The story might easily have ended in a tragedy of the blizzard. But Krause, looking around, spied a cabin - to which he went. Nobody there, but he found the cabin stocked abundantly with food and plenty of wood for fuel. So all he had to do was ~~to~~ make himself comfortable -- which he did.

One day passed, then another - five days in all. He figured the chance of rescue was only slight and says: "I was getting ready to stay until summer."

However, ~~in~~ a passing pilot spotted the wrecked plane on the ground, and gave the word - which led to a magnificent exploit of rescue. The Army dropped a couple of paratroopers to render aid while parties broke through on the ground. They found Krause taking life easy - in that cabin stocked so well for dinner and supper. So amply provided with fire wood for keeping a roaring blaze burning.

But they rescued Krause, and brought him into Medford Oregon -- though, as far as I can see, it might have been just as well to stay - unrescued.

Today in Paris a suit for divorce was entered - with a discreetly worded complaint. Princess Aly Khan began suit against the son of ^{the} fabulous Aga Khan. The Princess is appealing for a Parisian divorce, following all the headlines about her husband and Movie actress Rita Hayworth ^{who} ~~They~~ are engaged to be married - following the divorce.

The Princess is a British heiress, the former Joan Yarde-Buller - and in court today she made charges. Asking for divorce, she presented her accusation. Was it angry, scandalous? Not at all. The wife of Aly Khan alleged that her husband had, in her own words: "shown a lack of consideration."

Both sides agreed to keep the name of Rita Hayworth out of the proceedings: The wife never naming her husband's fiancée. So Aly, in his romance with Rita, is merely accused of "a lack of consideration". Which would certainly seem to be the height of wifely discretion - and plenty of consideration.

LOVE

Well, we now have an answer to that greatest of all mysteries -- what is love? We know that it's what makes the world go round. Which is what the poets have said. But now along comes the scientists, giving us a psychological and psychiatric analysis of romance.

~~So what's the verdict? Not favorable at all -- it's~~
~~dark and lugubrious.~~ We sentimentalists have always associated the divine emotion with a lofty exaltation of the soul. But now science informs us that those rapturous ~~in~~ ecstasies are just an outbreak of a lot of neuroses. The hidden disturbances of the mind erupt, like a face breaking out ~~in pimples~~. That's love, according to the professors; - who always were an unromantic lot.

All this comes from a Hollywood psychiatrist, Dr. Henry Sager, who describes the trance of a moonlit enchantment in terms given by the news dispatch as follows: "You can be plodding along content with yourself and the world, blissfully ignoring your neuroses. Then, all of a sudden - wham! The "wham" is when you find that one and only.

~~So~~ Then what happens? "From there on," says the story,

"you are in a mess of insecurities, doubts, distrusts and unhappiness. All your neuroses come bouncing up to plague you."

I suppose
This new discovery might lead to a revision of the
No longer
ancient art of courtship. ~~Don't~~ talk any sentimental nonsense about eternal rapture and unending bliss. The proper thing, ~~is~~ to gaze into the eyes of the beautiful girl, sigh deeply, and say: "You stir my neuroses".

Of course, if you should be hopelessly out of date, you might murmur in that old fashioned way: "I'm crazy about you". *surely* The professor would agree with that. *Wouldn't*

you *Prof. Ken Niles?*