

L.T. - P&G - MONDAY, May 5, 1953

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

At Panmunjom, the truce talks appear to be bogging down. The Reds, spinning out the discussions in a fashion which has become so familiar to us by now.

The talks have not been broken off. But, our chief delegate, General Harrison's latest comment was:- "We have been negotiating about nine days now. And up to the moment, I have nothing to indicate that the Communists really desire an armistice."

At the last meeting, North Korean General Nam II brought up a number of trivial questions. General Harrison patiently answered each, point by point: But still General Nam II would not come to an agreement. In particular, he refused to accept Pakistan as a neutral nation to handle the prisoner question. He refused, even though he himself had suggested Pakistan to our delegates.

So, at the moment, it again looks as if the Reds are not too anxious for an argument. But General

Harrison has not called off the talks. Right now he's back at the tent in Panmunjom where the tenth meeting is going on.

## INDO-CHINA

Meanwhile, in Indo-China, more Communist success. The Red forces still driving on toward the border of Thailand. And threatening to split Laos in two.

It now appears that the siege of Luang Prabang was a feint - or so it seems. For, instead of attacking the city, the Reds have swung southward, driving forward toward Thailand, a much more important goal.

Thailand itself is appealing to our country for help. The request made by her Ambassador to Secretary of State Dulles. The Ambassador declared that Thailand will defend her border against the Reds, and he asks us to send quickly, to help in that defense. Afterward, he described Secretary Dulles as favorable to the appeal. Said the Ambassador:- "He understands the danger."



KOREA - WAR

In Korea, the siege of the strategic North Korean port of Wonsan goes on. The siege, <sup>now</sup> almost three years long, is the longest in the history of the American Navy. The idea being to keep men and supplies from funneling through Wonsan down to the battle zone.

So today, ships and planes from our Task Force 77 ~~Seventy Seven~~ moved in to blast Wonsan. ~~The Leader~~ <sup>by</sup> the ~~great~~ battleship NEW JERSEY. A naval communique states that explosions and fires could be seen far out at sea, as the bombardment went on. The NEW JERSEY hit an observation post and ammunition bunkers, <sup>with her</sup> ~~her great~~ sixteen inch guns, ~~pouring~~ shells into military targets. ~~The NEW JERSEY smashed these targets. And set off secondary explosions described as~~ "tremendous."

## AID PROGRAM

President Eisenhower asks Congress for close to six billion dollars for foreign aid. In asking for this amount, Mr. Eisenhower slashed almost two billion from the program submitted by former President Truman.

In a special message to Congress the President points out that this is a dangerous time, when we cannot be sure/<sup>of</sup> what it's to be - peace or war in the future. He argues that this country must therefore do all it can to help unify and strengthen its allies.

Most of the money is intended for Western Europe. But the President also wants us to support our friends in the Far East; and, elsewhere.

All this was explained more fully to the House and Senate Foreign Relations Committees. Speaking to the Committees - Secretary of State Dulles, Defense Secretary Wilson, and Mutual Security Administrator Stassen, each took up a particular point, to elaborate. The

Secretary of State noted that we must strengthen the forces of Chiang Kai-shek on Formosa. He <sup>(pointed out)</sup> ~~noted~~ that this would give hope to the enslaved people of Asia. Secretary Dulles added that we also ~~are~~ intend to support democratic regimes elsewhere in the Far East - notably in the Philippines and in Japan. Wilson and Stassen concentrated their remarks on Indo-China. The Mutual Security Administrator stated that we would relieve France of about forty per cent of the cost of defending that area. The Defense Secretary added that the French must have more aid, or else the Reds will overwhelm Indo-China. Said he: "Every effort is being made to see that the French forces fighting Communism in Indo-China will not suffer for lack of equipment."

The ~~Eisenhower~~ Eisenhower program is stated in general terms. That is, the President has not yet asked for specific appropriations. These will be drawn up in the light of further international developments. But at any rate, the President is asking Congress to okay his general program right now.



## RED MIG

Three years ago, the Allies could have had a Soviet Mig for <sup>a mere</sup> ten thousand dollars. So stated by the magazine AVIATION WEEK. This, in reference to the recent offer by General Mark Clark. General Clark, offering one hundred thousand dollars to the first Communist who flies a Jet plane to one of our bases.

Now, AVIATION WEEK reveals that in Nineteen Fifty, a Czech pilot offered to deliver a Mig to the West for ten thousand dollars. He also demanded political asylum. The magazine describes him as a former flyer for the German Air Force. Then a civilian employee at a Russian base in East Germany.

The Czech pilot's offer was rejected. No names are mentioned, but AVIATION WEEK says that one of our top Air Force generals rejected the offer. And so the Czech pilot, who was willing to fly a Red Jet to the West, stayed where he was.

<sup>So —</sup>  
~~The episode means — that~~ we could have had a Mig for just one-tenth of the sum which General Clark is now

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offering. Some one muffed it - by turning down the proposition.



## TIDELANDS OIL

The Senate okays President Eisenhower's Tidelands Oil Bill. This, after a long and loud attempt to stop it by the opponents of the bill.

Which ~~this~~ means that the Senate <sup>would</sup> give states on the coast, a title to the ocean floor - as far out to sea as their boundaries extend. <sup>Same</sup> ~~This comes to more than~~ ten miles for Texas and West Florida; ~~and~~ three miles for ~~the~~ other states. All oil and gas resources of these areas <sup>to</sup> ~~will~~ belong to the states concerned.

The House and the Senate have now each approved a tidelands bill; - ~~although in~~ somewhat different versions. <sup>near</sup> ~~It's~~ the third time ~~that~~ they have come ~~to this much~~ agreement. Former President Truman twice vetoed the bill. But President Eisenhower promised in the campaign that he would sign the Tidelands Oil Bill. So it looks as if the bill <sup>soon</sup> ~~will~~ become <sup>law</sup>. ~~law, very soon.~~

## FLOODS

Floods still raging in the South. Some four hundred persons are reported homeless. With crop damage around two million dollars. The Louisiana strawberry harvest destroyed.

In the North, heavy rains in New York, causing millions of dollars in damage, lost time, and interrupted production. Spring planting delayed throughout the state.

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The same story comes from farther North; Anchorage, Alaska, floods caused by giant ice packs; one ice pack twelve miles long; wider than Grand Coulee Dam; causing water to back up over hundreds of square miles.

Still farther North, on the Tanana River, the Air Force blasted the ice with aerial bombs.

## HEMINGWAY

Ernest Hemingway winning the Pulitzer Prize, for Literature, was no surprise. It's odd that he never won it before. Ever since the 'Twenties, Hemingway has been the old master of the American novel. In Nineteen Twenty-Nine, he published his famous World War One story, - "A Farewell to Arms." In Nineteen Forty, came "For Whom the Bell Tolls," an epic account of the Spanish Civil War. The critics called both of these "masterpieces."

But it was only last year that Ernest Hemingway wrote a prize-winning book. This one, "The Old Man and the Sea" - a simple story about a Cuban fisherman. Simple - but written in a philosophical way - the Old Man of the story becoming a symbol of all who strive toward a goal.

"The Old Man and the Sea" was published first of all in LIFE MAGAZINE; <sup>then</sup> ~~as a~~ book, brought out by Scribners. The critics gave it high praise. And now "The Old Man and the Sea" wins one of the top honors - this year's Pulitzer Prize for Literature.

In Madison, Wisconsin - a discussion about the Civil War. The discussion caused by an old cannon that stands on the grounds of Camp Randall. The inhabitants of Madison have always regarded the cannon as a veteran of the Battle of Shiloh.

Recently, it was suggested that the cannon be returned to Tennessee. The proposal stirred up much controversy in Madison.

But now we hear - that the cannon was never at Shiloh at all. A foundry mark shows it was not made a year after Shiloh.

So for there's no point in carrying the gun to a battle site where it never was fired. Memories of the Civil War revived at Madison, Wisconsin.



## ELEPHANT

Here's a story about the city Dog Catcher who rounded up - an elephant! According to a dispatch from Batesville, Arkansas, the pachyderm escaped from a circus - and said circus owner didn't even know he was minus one elephant. A citizen of Batesville, looking out of his window must have thought he'd suddenly been transported to Nairobi. For there was a sure 'nuf elephant grazing in his back yard. Although grazing is hardly the word for an elephant.

Now there was a situation! What would you have done? This clear thinking Batesville citizen thought it over - and telephoned one Frank Crowell, the local Dog Catcher. A Dog Catcher to take charge of an elephant! Anyhow, the Dog Catcher was all man. Frank Crowell said okay! "My wife was frightened, and didn't want me to go after it," he said later. "But I told her that would be the biggest thing I'd ever done in this important civic post." Did he take a powerful gun? Not Frank! He merely took a stick. And he marched up to the elephant, poked him in the ribs, and

said, "Hey, come with me!" And the refugee from the circus meekly allowed the Dog Catcher to escort him back to the circus. And that seems to be the end of the story.

I think the least the citizens of Batesville can do is promote Frank from Dog Catcher to Mayor!

## "MAD MAJOR"

The "Mad Major" terrifies London. Major Christopher Draper got the title of "Mad Major" during World War One. That was when he used to fly over the German lines, and then swoop down to within a few feet of the trenches - to fire his pistol at the enemy.

Today Major Draper proved that the title "Mad Major" really belongs to him. He took a plane up from a flying club, flew in over the British capital, and then along the Thames, zooming his plane under fifteen bridges.

A dispatch from the British capital, describes thousands of people watching and screaming as the "Mad Major" did all this. It happened to be the warmest day of the year in London, so great crowds were out on the bridges and along the Thames. And Major Draper had a vast audience as he did his stunts along the Thames.

At Westminster Bridge, he failed to go under on his first try. But he wheeled, came back and under the bridge he went, almost hitting a ship as he did so.

And then on he sped, skimming under all the Thames bridges for a space of some seven miles. Waterloo, London Bridge, and so on.

Afterward, the "Mad Major" said he might still be going except that the wind was against him. "I didn't want to take any unnecessary risks," said he! Of the whole trip, he remarked - "I say, I never had a moment's anxiety, you know. There was plenty of room under the lowest bridge."

At the end of the flight, Major Draper brought his plane back to the Country Club from where he had started; stepped out nonchalantly, and went home.

However, this doesn't quite end the incident for the "Mad Major." According to British law, a pilot must stay at least one thousand feet above ground obstacles. The penalty for breaking the law, six months in jail, and a fine of more than five hundred dollars. So he now faces prosecution by the authorities. The "Mad Major" enjoying himself for ninety



minutes in the air - now faces the prospect of being a  
kiwi behind the bars at Bow Street, or Wormwood Scrubs  
or some other Inn run by John Bull, where you look out  
through iron bars. Nelson, jolly what?