

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Here's another Cabinet appointment - Ezra T. Benson, Secretary of Agriculture. So announced at Eisenhower headquarters today. And there are points of especial interest. In the name, Ezra T. Benson, the middle initial "T" stands for - Taft. Ezra Taft Benson. He's a distant relation of the Ohio Senator, going about six generations back. Also he was a Taft supporter. Tonight, Senator Taft said that this is the only one of his recommendations for posts in the Cabinet - that has been followed. He suggested Benson.

(The name of Ezra T. Benson will be unfamiliar to most - but not in Utah. The coming Secretary of Agriculture is one of the Twelve Apostles of the Church of Latter Day Saints. He's the first Mormon ever to be named to a presidential Cabinet,) although many have been high in the government - Reed Smoot, Rueben J. Clark, and others. He has long been associated with farm cooperatives. When he was named a member of the

Governing Board of the Mormon Church, he was Executive Secretary of the National Council of Farmers' Cooperatives. Early this year, he was elected Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the American Institute of Cooperation - a farm organization.

This appointment leaves only three remaining Cabinet posts to be filled - Secretary of Labor, Secretary of Commerce, and Postmaster General. The names for these are likely to come along soon - the President-elect assembling his Cabinet promptly.

There was another appointment today - though not to the Cabinet. Governor Sherman Adams of New Hampshire to be - Assistant to the President. This is a post created by President Truman - to ease the chief executive of some of his heavy burdens. The Truman presidential assistant has been Dr. John Steelman, specializing in the field of labor relations. Actually, the duties involved are fairly indefinite.

Sherman Adams was the Eisenhower campaign chief-of-staff - and traveled with the General on

those long drawn out whistle stop tours. So now he will carry on in much the same way, as chief adviser to the new President.

(The General had a conference, today, with the Vice-President-elect. Senator Nixon told him - he'd like to take over some "administrative duties" in addition to the Vice-President's regular job of presiding over the Senate. General Eisenhower did not make any commitment on that plan, says Nixon, but said he wanted the Vice-President to take an active part in putting through the legislative program of the new administration.)

President-elect Eisenhower went to the United Nations

Just a social visit.
today - though not on affairs of state. ~~He didn't go to~~

~~conference in international questions~~ just a social visit -

renewing old acquaintance with some, getting acquainted with

others and looking over the UN Building, that lofty, modern

structure, even at New York's east side. ~~He was impressed~~ -

and puzzled, though not by the complications of international

politics. ~~These were simple compared with the murals~~ In the

spectacular meeting hall of the General Assembly, the walls are

covered with pictures - and it's modern art. They tell an

inspiring story - but in a modern way. The General gazed with

eyes of amazement - and perplexity. He stared at one series of

ultra-modern murals, and asked: "Tell me, which is the front end?"

Well, that's modern art. Sometimes you can't tell

right from left, or top from bottom.

U.N.

(In the U.N., Soviet Russia rejects that Indian compromise - turns it down flat.) This evening, Vishinsky blasted the proposal for a way out of the truce deadlock in Korea.

And - took a surprisingly hostile attitude toward India (The New Delhi government has been trying to take a middle position - leaning toward the Russians, many have thought. But Vishinsky denounces that Indian compromise as a deception against all principles.)

Which turns things upside down at the U.N. The U.S. delegation objected to the proposal - which had the support of Britain and the British Commonwealth. Over the weekend, the disagreement brought a sharp split between Britain and the United States. (~~Earlier in the day, the report was feverish efforts were being made to bring about a British-American agreement on the Indian compromise.~~ ^{that}) But now - Soviet Russia kicks the whole thing out of the window, with a heavy foot. Which would seem to put an end to India's effort ~~for~~ for a truce in Korea.

JAPAN

A late Bulletin - just in from Tokyo, states that an American Air Force Sergeant has been charged with plotting to sell military secrets to the enemy. Still another Sergeant is implicated, and has been arrested. No details. An Air Force bulletin. That's all so far.

INDO-CHINA

In French Indo-China, they are saying - another Verdun.

Today, the Communist army began the siege of - Na-san. One hundred and seventeen miles west of the capital city of Hanoi, Na-san is an ancient stronghold - history going back for centuries. Now a fortified area - with all the armament of modern war - including a vital airstrip. The Reds, having surged across the Black River, must capture Na-San - if they^are to drive on Hanoi.

~~In the First World War, Verdun, a powerful fortress, had something of the same relation to Paris. The French rallied to the cry - they shall not pass! And the Germans of the Kaiser - did not pass. So now that same slogan is being repeated in Indo-China, as the Reds besiege a new "Verdun" out there.~~

Troops, munitions and armament are being flown into Na-san, and the French are vowing - they shall not pass!

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

That fantastic trial in Czechoslovakia brought forward an American citizen today - according to Red radio reports of the weird proceedings. Oscar Langer, a native of Slovakia, who came to the United States and was naturalized - then, after the Second World War, went back to his homeland and became an official of the Slovak Communist Party.

His testimony today repeated that keynote which dominates the purge of the satellite country. Langer declared that, in Slovakia, he met a Dr. Winterstein, head of the Czech Zionist organization. The Zionist put him in touch with Slansky, then the Secretary General of the Czech Communist Party - now on trial as a traitor. Slansky is accused of having played a part in Jewish conspiracy against the Red government. So the gist of today's testimony by the alleged American citizen was that he joined in the Zionist plot.

KENYA

At Nairobi, Kenya, East Africa - a grim trial began today. The chief defendant - Jomo Kenyata, called "the Burning Spear." Charged - with directing the murderous campaign of the Mau-Mau terrorists.

The Burning Spear, educated in England, is the head of a political organization called the "African Union," with one hundred thousand members. One offshoot of which, say the British, is the murderous Mau-Mau.

The trial begins against a sinister background of new violence - a clash in which twenty natives were killed. Members of the Kikuyu tribe, stronghold of the Mau-Mau, gathered for a meeting at a jungle village. A party of African police, with British officers, tried to break it up. The tribesmen answered with a barbaric chant, which grew louder and wilder - and the frenzied mob advanced against the police. Who, to intimidate them, fired at the ground. But, chanting their barbaric song, the tribesmen came on, until the policemen, to save themselves, fired into the crowd. Scores of prisoners were rounded up - in the jungle village.

PRESS CENTER

We have an announcement of a project - that is much needed. A Press Center - in New York. Hard to believe, but this great focus of world news has no place where journalists can foregather and exchange ideas. San Francisco and Washington may have their famous press clubs. *And of course London, Paris - even Hongkong.* New York may have meeting places for engineers, insurance people, and what-not. But - no press center.

The new project is being launched by the Overseas Press Club - as a memorial for correspondents who lost their lives in the Second World War, a long list. In World War Two, the casualties among news reporters were greater than in any *branch of combat service - that is other,* a larger percentage killed. The memorial to them takes a form they would applaud - a living creation for the advancement of journalism.

Here's one angle that comes to mind:- In our presidential election, correspondents of British newspapers went all out - in predicting the election of Governor Stevenson. So the London papers virtually had Stevenson in the White House.

Their correspondents adopted the anti-Eisenhower argument -
surrender to Taft, McCarthyism, ^{and so on.} isolationism, Which caused
British papers to take an alarming view of that Eisenhower
landslide. It left them - astonished and dismayed. Which didn't
help British-American relations.

Now, I suspect the British journalists over here would
not have been so badly off base - if they had associated more
with American reporters. Suppose, at a press center, they had
exchanged views with newsmen from all over the country. Mighty
few of these would have gone out on a limb - the way the
British journalists did.

Which points up the value of a New York Press Center.

If you would like to play a part
in creating this just send your check
- ~~or~~ however you want to do it - in my
care here at CBS in New York and I
will pass it along - anything from
say \$1 to \$100,000.

The Federal Parole Board denies the plea of Alger Hiss. Which means, apparently, that Hiss will have to serve the remainder of his prison term.

The former State Department official, convicted of perjury when he denied Red espionage, was given - five years. Of this, he has now served nearly two years - twenty months. And - was ~~eligible~~ eligible for a parole. In the federal penitentiary at Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, Hiss has been working - as a prison clerk. His conduct has been excellent, and he is described as - a "model prisoner."

(~~When his appeal for parole came to the five member board in Washington, the Chairman, Dr. George Killinger, went to the Lewisburg prison and interviewed Hiss personally. Beyond that, we know little, if anything - the parole board keeping its proceedings a secret.~~) In today's decision, the Chairman merely states that the denial is based, on what he calls - "careful consideration of the official record."

Substitute PLANE

A dispatch from Alaska states that the wreck of an airplane has been sighted - believed to be the C one twenty four Globe Master, which disappeared with fifty-two service men aboard. A search plane sighted the wreckage near Cape Clear, the western tip of Montague Island in the Gulf of Alaska. It may be another Air Force transport missing for ten days - that's a possibility. Tonight, Coast Guard Cutters are beating their way through stormy seas - to investigate at Cape Clear.

CHURCH

At Wilson, New York, the Exley Methodist Church has a fund of more than Six Thousand Dollars - to pay off a debt on the church building. That's the report on a novel plan of money-raising devised by the Pastor, the Reverend Walter Kingsley.

Months ago, the church had nine hundred dollars in the till - only a fraction of the debt. So the pastor distributed the cash among the parishioners - ten dollars each. Asking each - to invest the money, and bring back the profit, if any.

Yesterday was the day - and, at Sunday Service, a financial reckoning was held. Showing - a profit of more than five thousand dollars on the original nine hundred.

Some of the parishioners had invested in seed - planting this, turning over to the Church the proceeds of the harvest. The Reverend Kingsley, himself, did that.

Mrs. Glenn Stimson laid out her ten dollars in materials for sewing. She made ninety-nine aprons, among other things, for a profit of one hundred and eighty-one dollars and fifty cents.

The Principal of the Local High School, Ernest Tarr, advertised lily bulbs in a magazine - was flooded with orders, and made one hundred and fifty dollars.

Some of the parishioners did so well with projects for the church - they plan to continue them as personal sidelines of their own.

The Exley Methodist Church, meanwhile, is paying off the debt.

HUNTERS

Here's the tops - in deer-hunting stories. Could be a bleak tragedy, nimrods shooting each other simultaneously - father and son. But they are both getting well - which makes it an absurd classic of the Northern Woods.

Deer-hunting season has opened in Wisconsin, and out went Frank Thunder and his son, Gordon Thunder. Looked bad for the twelve point bucks - *The 2 Thunders, father and son,* ~~with~~ all that thunder. *They* were stalking through the forest at Black River Falls, and were some yards apart - when a deer made a dash, right between them. Each Thunder whipped up his gun, and fired. They *both* missed the deer, and hit each other!

The deer just kept on going, *Nelson.* ~~after that~~ ~~marksmanship. Which would have been perfect in~~ ~~a duel.~~