

The British have exploded - their first hydrogen bomb. A brief announcement in London -- telling of a nuclear device tested presumably at ~~that~~ Christmas Island, in the Far Pacific. The announcement does not mention an - H-bomb. But official sources in London say - that's what it was.

The explosion took place -at a high altitude. The H-bomb -- dropped by a jet plane, away up in the sub-stratosphere. The explosion staged at such great height - so the radio active - fall-out would not contaminate the lower atmosphere.

No further details are given - little more than the fact that the world ~~now~~ now has three hydrogen bomb powers. Britain - in addition to the United States and Soviet Russia.

FOLLOW BRITAIN ATOMIC

The U S Weather Bureau at Hawaii reports - the weather "just about perfect" in the Christmas Island area. Perfect - for today's hydrogen bomb explosion. At high altitude - light northwesterly winds. Which would carry the fall-out away - from any populated section. The wind, as well as the height - minimizing danger.

BRITAIN-SUEZ

Britain announces - measures to circumvent Egyptian control of the Suez Canal. Prime Minister MacMillan telling the House of Commons, today, that he has appointed a production expert, who will supervise the building of oil tankers and pipelines. To reduce - Britain's dependence on the waterway dominated by Nasser.

Sir Mathew Slattery - war-time expert on aircraft production. Mr Now - the head of a big ship-and-plane company.

The Prime Minister said the new project includes the construction of ~~the~~ a number of "super-tankers". Able to operate economically around the Cape of Good Hope. Bypassing -- the Suez Canal.

All this transpired as Parliament opened a two-day debate on Suez.

FRANCE SUEZ

France is taking the Suez Canal issue to the United Nations. Premier Mollet announcing in Paris, tonight that his government will protest against the decision to use the great waterway - ~~in~~ on Egyptian terms.

ISRAEL

Word from Jerusalem, Israel, is - that the sending of a "test ship" to the Suez Canal is not likely to happen right away. Israel - still holding talks on the subject with various countries.

In fact, Premier Ben Gurion's advisers, we hear, are divided on the question of timing. Some thinking- it would be better to delay for a while, and let the Egyptians cool off.

Cairo newspapers, meanwhile, are screaming against the statement made by American Secretary of State Dulles yesterday, when he said the United States would not oppose Israel's test, Israel's right of navigation through the Suez Canal. Today, President Eisenhower said much the same thing. But added - that the use of force would be "reprehensible."

EGYPTIAN PILOT

A tip to what's going on in international affairs - when a plane landed at Vienna, today, a Russian jet fighter - a Mig. The pilot - an Egyptian. Who had lost his way - while flying in Czechoslovakia. Straying into Austria - and making an emergency landing at the Vienna airport.

At first, he said - he was nothing more than a civilian. In Czechoslovakia - by invitation from an aero-club. Doing some flying - just for sport. Which was an odd thing to do - in a Mig jet fighter. But, later, the Egyptian admitted - he was an Egyptian air force pilot, sent to Red Czechoslovakia - for training in jets.

Another sign of collaboration - between the Communist world and Egypt.

ITALY

In Rome, a prospective Premier has taken up the task - of trying to form a new government. Senator Zoli - President of the Christian Democrat party, Lining up - a ministry of Christian-Democrats. Which, he hopes - will get the needed support in the Italian Parliament. Bringing to an end - a ten-day political ~~xxxx~~ crisis.

If Zoli succeeds, his government will be merely a stop-gap affair. To run things - until ^{Italy has} nation-wide elections in the spring.

LABORATORY EXPLOSION

There was an explosion at the Brook Haven National Laboratory, today. - That center of atomic research, out on Long Island, eighty miles from New York. Only minor damage done to the laboratory. But a research technician - severely burned.

Richard Johnson was making chemical experiments with uranium. The blast - resulting, apparently, from a leak in his laboratory equipment. His injury - described as "severe chemical burns."

The Brook Haven Laboratory is dedicated to atoms for peace research. Delving - into secrets of the structure of the atom.

EISENHOWER-BUDGET

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The President repeats what he said ~~last~~ last night in his radio television appearance. When he warned that Congress would be taking what he called - "a fearful gamble." If it made heavy cuts - in money for national defense.

At his news conference today, the President was told of reports that a congressional committee is planning to slash two billion, five hundred million ~~dollars~~ from the money he wants for the armed forces. He replied: "I don't see how they can do it."

^{he}
And added: "If they're going to trifle with adequate defense on that basis - now, we're going to be in trouble somewhere along the line."

The President - continuing his defense of the record breaking budget. Especially - the military budget.

SOIL BANK

In Congress, the economy bloc - scored one of its biggest victories, today. The House of Representatives - voting to kill the administration soil bank program, After subsidies are paid to the farmers on this year's crops.

Less than twenty-four hours after President Eisenhower's radio-television appeal, the House voted one hundred-and-ninety-two to one-hundred-and-eighty-seven, To toss out - the billion dollar soil bank, →

ADD SOIL BANK

The Senate continued the economy drive - by voting to slash the budget money for the U S information Agency. Cutting that - by all of thirty seven percent.

BECK

Senate investigators declare - it looks as if the money, which Teamster President Dave Beck took from his union, was "stolen rather than borrowed." Beck admits - he took three hundred thousand dollars of union funds, and says it was a loan. So on what grounds ~~he~~ do the investigators claim - it was "stolen?"

Today, one witness was A.M. Burke, Vice President of the Occidental Life Insurance Company of Los Angeles. Which handles - Teamster Insurance. Burke testifying - that in Nineteen Fifty-one, the Union President borrowed two hundred and seventy three thousand dollars from the insurance company. And, in doing so - submitted a statement about his personal finances. The statement - gave no indication that Beck owed money to the Union. Which would have been the case - if the three hundred thousand ~~dollars~~ he took had been a loan.

This leads committee counsel Robert Kennedy to reason as follows: Beck did not list any such ~~known~~ loan on his financial statement. "It would therefore appear" says

Kennedy, "that the money was stolen, ~~is~~ rather than borrowed."

Other testimony today indicated that Union President Beck bought some property near the Los Angeles Teamsters Building. Buying it quietly - for twenty five thousand dollars. Later, selling it to the union for thirty thousand.

RACKETS WITNESSES

At Ellensburg, Washington, today a subpoena ^{with} ~~is~~ served finally and legally on Norman Gessert. Called as a witness, before the Senate Rackets investigation - to give evidence about the Teamsters Union and the financial affairs of union President Dave Beck. Gessert - a cousin of Mrs. Beck.

On Monday, Gessert was handed a subpoena - but that was one of those funny blunders. The document, served on May Thirteenth, summoned him to appear before the rackets investigation committee - on May Eighth. The subpoena invalid - and a laugh. Today, legal, and ~~not~~ exciting.

Gessert - spotted at a motel. Where he was registered - under the name of Peterson. He made a dash for his car, and drove off. A couple of Deputy U.S. Marshals - in hot pursuit. An automobile chase - through the city. Gessert - finally arrested for speeding.

He denied his identity - giving still another name. Saying - he was a former Washington football player, Jack Stackpool. But, in the end - admitted ^{who he was.} ~~he was~~ →

And was handed - the subpoena.

Three other prospective witnesses - cannot be located. One - Dave Beck Jr., son of the Teamsters President.

SUB BILLY GRAHAM

The biggest religious revival effort in American history was off to a huge start - in New York, tonight. Twenty thousand people jamming Madison Square Garden to hear Billy Graham. Who is trying to light a "religious prairie fire" - to sweep the nation.

The star evangelist of our time dwelled on the evils of our jittery civilization. He said: "Our generation is filled with nervous tension, a revolt against all restraints and a terrible gnawing fear. We have become a nation of pill-takers. We take tranquilizing drugs to keep us steady during the daytime and sleeping pills to put us asleep at night, with hundreds of aspirins thrown in between."

His prescription - religious faith.

EISENHOWER LEE

General Ike - today - beat a strategic retreat.

Withdrawing - from the attack on Robert E. Lee.

At his news conference, the President was asked about that far-famed criticism of the battle of Gettysburg - made by himself and British Field Marshal Montgomery. The Generalship of both commanders, union and confederate - belittled. Both Meade and Lee - disparaged. Which raised an uproar - in the South - where it's okay to take a crack at Meade or any other Yankee General. But don't you dare say anything unfavorable - about Robert E. Lee.

Today, General Ike's retreat was as masterly as any of that Eisenhower strategy in World War Two. He told newsmen he considers the great confederate commander - one of the "four top Americans of the past." He noted that in his White House office there are only four pictures. One of them - the Stately, white bearded Robert E. Lee. The other three? George Washington, Benhamin Franklin and Abraham Lincoln.

The President added: "Anybody who tried to put me in any other relation with Lee - is mistaken." General Ike - retreating to a more favorable position.

MAYFLOWER

The poor old Mayflower the second - in more trouble. Another storm? No - just the opposite. No wind at all. The sailing ship - becalmed.

That replica of the far-famed vessel of the Pilgrim Fathers - has been having endless trouble. Unfavorable winds - driving the Mayflower Second far off its course. Now - no wind - well, at first blowing - in the wrong direction. Then - not blowing - from any direction.

Today, her famous Captain Skipper, Alan Villiers, reported by radio. Saying - the Mayflower Second was at a standstill at a point about midway between the Canary Islands and the West Indies. A long long way - from Plymouth Rock.

BOY

At London, Ontario, they've located the sixteen year old boy - who walked off, not waiting for any thanks - or saying who he was.

Yesterday, thirteen year old Carmen Clark was riding her bike across Blackfriar Bridge - when a freak accident occurred. A pedal caught against one side of the bridge, tossing her over the railing. Clutching a girder as she fell, she managing to hang high above the water of Canada's Thames.

That was when the boy - came dashing to the rescue. Taking hold of her - trying to pull her up. He couldn't. So he climbed over - to get a better hold. But the girl now lost her grip - and fell, plunging into the river. Whereupon the boy dove in too - caught her as she was sinking, swam with her to the bank, saw she was all right - and then left.

The girl knew him - by sight. That was all.

But a search was made, and today they found him.

Clare Longnad, his name - a high school student in
London, Ontario. Stout lad.

CIRCUMS

There is a Circumnavigators banquet in New York tonight. The guest of honor, Major General Old, commander of the Fifteenth Air Force - the man who led that recent flight of three B-fifty-two jet stratofortresses on the first non-stop flight around the world.

The circumnavigators award of merit to be presented to General Old. I was with General Old the other day at an around the world fliers reunion in Dayton, Ohio and he told me an anecdote about this jet flight. They planned to make it in forty-five hours and sixteen minutes. How long did it take them to circumnavigate the globe by air? Forty-five hours and Nineteen minutes! and General Curtis "Iron Pants" LeMay, over all head of our Strategic Air Command, Henry, chided them for being three minutes late - on a flight around the world. And that's the kind of world we're living in.

END

Announcer:

And now Lowell Thomas recalls.

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It is curious - how last year's news can sound like ancient history. Something remote and inconsequential. A year ago today, there was a political headline. Governor Harriman of New York - announcing himself as an "active" Presidential candidate for the Democratic nomination. Previously Harriman had been coy, but now he was going - all out. His goal - the White House. Just a year ago! But doesn't it sound like ancient history? And,

Solong until tomorrow.