

BIG FOUR

C.I. - P. & G. Monday, December 8, 1947.

After two weeks of discussions in London, the Big Four Foreign Ministers today finally agreed on something. They all consented to take up proposals made by British, French and Russians for the economic future of Germany. With Molotov repeating that the western nations are dividing Germany, especially the Ruhr; preparing the Ruhr as a strategic base for the purpose of establishing domination in Europe. He repeated his charges that the British and Americans are violating the Potsdam Agreement. Also that it is not right for the Big Four to modify the Potsdam Agreement, since that was made by the chiefs of state. Foreign Ministers, said Molotov, could not alter any decisions made by chiefs of state.

He also repeated the Soviet demand for ten billion dollars in reparations from Germany. However, he made a slight concession, the previous demand being that this sum must be awarded to Russia before attempting any general agreement. Today, he waived that part of the agreement.

FRANCE

(In France, the Communists today tried to call a strike of civil service workers and employees of the Paris subway, and failed. It was such a fizzle that at eleven this morning it was called off;) and in the meantime service in the sub way hadn't even slowed down. In Paris itself, buses continued to run even though the Communists were scattering nails all over the streets and boulevards.

So it looks as though the fight in France is not between workers and government, or workers and employers. It's between workers and Communists. Such successes as the Reds have had, have been due to intimidation of workers, who, it now develops, are reluctant to strike.

(The Schuman government today sent ten thousand troops, with tanks, into the coal fields, whereupon the miners who had been kept away from their jobs by Communist commando squads, streamed back to the pits. And the same is reported in the railroad strike at the port of St. Nazaire, and at Renn.)

~~As for the strike of civil servants which the Communists wanted so badly, one department issued a statement that the entire strike movement has been unjustified.~~

A week ago there were two million idle in France. Today this has dwindled to less than a million.

VATICAN

The Vatican is worried. Fearful lest differences between the two great powers, Russia and the U.S.A., may lead to a new conflict. A high dignitary of the Church says the general outlook for peace is not as good as it was a year ago. That the Pope and his counsellors fear Europe is being irrevocably divided.

Such is the report sent from Rome today by Virgil Pinkley, European head of the United Press.

ITALY FOLLOW VATICAN

The Pope today addressed an audience of some eight thousand young men in The Great Hall of Benediction. These young men are members of the Federation of Catholic Action. He told them that young Catholics must be prepared to exercise the greatest personal courage in self defense. They must always be ready, said the Pontiff, to defend the faith, public peace, and order and social progress in their country. Said the Pope: "Are you ready?" As with one voice, the eight thousand shouted, "Yes!"

Communists in Rome today announced a first step toward organizing a military force to implement the schemes of the Cominform, successor to the Comintern.

Present at the meeting was General Kovpak, Vice-President of the Ukraine. When one of the comrades suggested the organization of an international brigade such as the Communists had during the civil war in Spain, General Kovpak replied that Russia would be much in favor of that. Indeed it would be indispensable, said he.

PALESTINE

What about the Arabs and Jews today? We hear that one Joshua Globerman, a leader of Haganah, is the latest victim of an ambush. Globerman was driving, in a motor convoy with an armed escort, from Jerusalem to Tel Aviv, down the famous old Jaffa-Jerusalem Road. Becoming ~~im~~ impatient ~~xx~~ he drove ahead of the escort. At a crossroads he saw what was ahead, and tried to turn back. But a stream of machine gun bullets riddled him.

Globerman, we are told, was on his way to take over command of the Palestinian coastal plain between Tel Aviv and Petah Tikva, into which half the Jewish population of the Holy Land is crammed. The plan was for Haganah to replace British and Arab police who have been in control there.

Tomorrow a census of all young Jewish men and women, for possible military and police duty, will be taken. The Hebrew defense force wants seventy-five thousand more recruits.

In a late dispatch from Cairo, (a high Arab source) is quoted as saying that the Arabs in Palestine -- will attack in each area as it is evacuated by the British and handed over to the Jews.) The creation of a Jewish state.

The Arab "high command," as it terms itself, not waiting for final evacuation but attacking each place as the British evacuate.

Meanwhile, at Lake Success, Egypt and Lebanon tonight requested the U. N. Security Council to let them participate in the impending Council debate on the U. N. plan for the partition of the Holy Land. An interesting move which seems to reverse Arab statements previously made that the Arab block will take no part in the debate but engage in a Holy War.

The leaders of the seven Arab nations -- Prime Ministers, Foreign Ministers and other high officials, met today in Cairo. ~~Representatives of Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, Transjordan, Saudi Arabia and Yemen;~~ with the avowed purpose of canvassing the possibilities of starting a war to prevent the partitioning of Palestine,

Among them, of course, Amin El Huessini, former Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, who says the Arab peoples must draw the sword and put the pencil back in its case.

He added that he never felt more hopeful or more confident in all his life.

His arrival, we hear, created a sensation in the Egyptian capital. The story is that he was ^{not expected} Prime

Minister Samir el Rifai Pasha of Transjordan announced that his country's forces will be allied with the rest of the Arab world in defense of Palestine. Which may mean a good deal, since Transjordan has the best equipped, the best trained army of all states.

The session got under way with a dinner given by Azzam Pasha, Secretary General of the League.

From Baghdad came stories telling of the opening of recruiting centers in Iraq; this headed by the former Chief-of-Staff of the Iraqi army, Emir Zeyd, youngest brother of Emir Feisal, who created modern Iraq. Not to be confused with the Emir Feisal, chief delegate from Saudi Arabia to the United Nations, who also is expected to reach Cairo from the United States tomorrow.

FARLEY

One interesting topic of the day is the return of Jim Farley to public life - from which he retired seven years ago because he could no longer get along with F.D.R.

Sunny Jim's announcement of his return to politics does not include any admission that he will resume leadership. Specifically, he says he'll work for the election of President Truman next year, ■ just like ~~EVERYONE~~ everyone else in the Party.

~~Both the National and the New York State Democratic chairmanships are occupied at present, and there's no indication that either will step down for Jim Farley. But it is significant that he's to take part in a meeting of Democratic leaders in New York tomorrow. That means taking part in planning both the State and National Campaign.~~

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RETAKE

When this first meeting adjourned, the Secretary General of the Arab League announced that he had a message from King Ibn Saud, saying that his one wish now is to die at the head of his troops, fighting for Palestine. Azzam Pasha also quoted Ibn Saud as saying he would back the Arab League in any degree it considered necessary, even to the extent of cancelling those vast American oil concessions in his country, said to be the greatest oil reserve in the world.

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It was unofficially reported in London today that the British will end their Palestine mandate, May Fifteenth.

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alliance with them - or with Pinks, which was one of the
points on which Farley split with F.D.R.

PRICES

Officials of the Truman administration continue to hammer away at Congress on the need for wage and price controls. Marriner Eccles, Governor of the Federal Reserve Board, today told the Banking Committee of the House that if something is not done to control inflation the eventual reaction will be headed for serious trouble. Something must be done now, said Eccles.

But Congressman Wolcott of Michigan, Chairman of the Committee, objects to putting controls in the hands of the President once more. Meaning, of course, putting them in the hands of an army of government clerks. But there seems to be a tendency among Republicans, to ~~be~~ weaken in their resistance to these proposals. Even Senator Taft has said that it may be necessary to approve a certain amount of controls. Marriner Eccles ~~is~~ says all banks must be compelled to keep a special reserve fund in addition to their regular reserves. Which would reduce the amount of money they would be able to lend. With all of which the Secretary of the Treasury, by the way, does not agree.

Speaker Martin of the House announces that the
Republicans, next week, will offer a two-point program
to curb inflation.

STRIKE

That Chicago printers strike is spreading, eastward. In five cities so far -- strikes on twelve newspapers. A walkout was called today at Norristown, Pennsylvania.

Chicago ~~mx~~ newspapers have been carrying on without ~~mf~~ benefit of printers, reporting that ^{the} ~~the~~ circulation and advertising and publication schedule^s are nearly normal after two weeks of getting along without typeographers.

MURDERER

There is a strange killer abroad in San Francisco tonight -- one of the strangest criminals in all history ^{says the dispatch --} a character worthy of the pen of the late ~~Athena~~ Conan Doyle, who would certainly have Sherlock Holmes cope with the strange criminal.

Tonight, the radio cars are out looking for the man or woman who has just killed one of San Francisco's famous beauties -- a massive ~~cottage~~ garden camelia tree, known to tourists the ~~whole~~ world over -- and ~~destroyed~~ many other trees as well. ~~in the neighborhood.~~

This tree-killer, works at night sneaking into a garden or park, drilling a hole in the tree with expert knowledge. He fills the hole with salt or deadly chemicals which causes the tree to decay. Then, as if in a spleen of anger, he scars nearby trees with an ax or saw. An individual who must hate trees, working out his spite on ^{Nature's master piece,} ~~these beautiful adornments of nature.~~

WILD PARTY

From Redwood City, California, a strange story, a story that seems to belong to ~~yesterday, to the~~ *— whenever that was,* age of flaming youth, Deputies of Redwood City breaking up a wild beach party attended by ~~three~~ *several* hundred teen-agers, alleged to be drinking heavily and engaging in unbridled petting parties.

According to John S. Cowgill, ~~the~~ County Probation Officer, two of his deputies disguised themselves in blue-jeans and flannel shirts to attend what he described as a vast beach orgy at Dune's Beach where the deputies saw many unexpected things -- hundreds of bottles of wine, beer, and liquor, petting parties galore, on the beach and in the cars.

When the deputies attempted to arrest two offenders, they were attacked by a screaming mob of students, both male and female, who rescued the prisoners and then escaped. Then *an exciting* followed a scene, ~~that reads like the imagination of some popular~~ ~~fiction writer.~~ *There was a* sudden dash along the highways of some fifty cars, stripped hotrods, those

WILD PARTY - 2.

new menaces of the California roads, ancient jalopies and luxurious limousines, driving without lights at furious speeds, swirving, dashing along the roads, a solid phalanx of vehicles, against which the police were helpless. All the officers of the law could do was to take a few ~~automobile~~ numbers, ~~with the~~ intention ^{on} ~~of~~ identifying ^{some of} the teen-agers who participated in this ~~wild~~ party ^{on the dunes.}

Probation Officer Cowgill announced today that the suspects he catches up with will be held in detention while their parents are ~~being~~ questioned. "This problem cannot be shifted on our juvenile courts or the schools," says Cowgill. "It belongs squarely in the laps of the parents. They should know ~~within~~ ~~reason,~~ where their children are going, especially if they have the family cars."

~~Also~~ Cowgill ^{is set on finding} ~~has set in motion an investigation to~~ ~~find~~ out the source of intoxicants used by the teen-agers. ~~And so~~ There 's likely to be an aftermath to ^{the} ~~this wild~~ party at Dune's Beach. ~~with salutary results, one hopes.~~

PROPHECY

The other night on this program I told how five years ago, at the Advertising Club of New York, we had a gathering of prominent men, who each gave a forecast of events in this world. Each gave his opinion of things to come, and not one of us mentioned the atom. None of us prophets, five years ago, foresaw any hint of atomic developments soon to come - although, at that same hour, a crucial experiment leading to the atomic bomb was performed at Chicago. Well, I told that the other night as a joke on ourselves. So, what must I do tonight? Why plunge into prophecy again, make another forecast - and again it's the Ad Club of New York which incites this latest bit of crystal gazing.

That peerless organization is about to lay the cornerstone of a new building, to be its new home, and the plan is to seal a tube of predictions, various people contributing their ideas about the state of the world in the Year Two Thousand and Four. That will be the Hundredth Anniversary of the Advertising Club, when the tube of prophecy will be opened.

They've asked me to make my contribution to the forecast, and I guess I'll have to do it - in spite of my confession of how we failed to foresee the atomic era, when gazing into the crystal ball five years ago.

There's no discouraging a prophet! So, here goes:-

First of all, about that same atomic era. My guess is, that in Two Thousand and Four, the industries of the world will be run largely by atomic power. I think there'll be great atomic energy plants, from which electrical power will be transmitted to run factories and transportation. The amount of manual labor needed in this world will be much less, fewer workers in the old sense of the term - more and more people pushed up into the middle class to do greater numbers of highly skilled tasks in a more elaborate civilization.

On the political and social side, I feel that our present western system of political freedom will be increased and expanded, worldwide - and that the business of the world will still be based on private initiative, in collaboration

with unions of employees, much more highly developed than at present - all this regulated by a noble morality of social responsibility for the welfare of human beings.

In religion, I believe that Christianity will rise to new heights, in creating the moral tone for scientific, political and industrial advancement. I believe there will be far greater unity among the various branches of Christianity. I don't think this will come through any formal amalgamation, but through an understanding of how thoroughly alike they are in their fundamental beliefs - as compared, for example, with the tyranny and brutality of totalitarianism.

All this may seem optimistic, but I foresee a few blotches in the pretty picture too. Probably there won't be any jitterbugging, but likely enough there'll be something worse. Fashions will still be changing in a weird and wonderful way, and the hats the ladies wear will be still more peculiar. Marriage will still be classed as a pitched battle. Wives, even with all the wonderful new gadgets, will still burn the toast,

and husbands will be grouchy at breakfast.

And my final prophecy is this -- in Two Thousand and Four, the prophets will still be prophesying, and they'll be wrong, as usual.

Now what do you see in your crystal ball, Nelson.