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GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

( The Soviets agree to a preliminary meeting of the Big Four. This to draw up an agenda and lay the groundwork for a conference of Foreign Ministers in Paris late this spring.) Andre Gromyko, Stalin's Deputy Minister, today met with the British, French and American Ambassadors - handed them Russia's formal acceptance to the western invitation. These preliminary meetings also to be held in Paris, will begin Monday. With Gromyko for Russia and Phillip Jessup for the United States.

In Bonn today, it was revealed that America, Britain and France are now ready to go ahead with plans for granting self-government to Western Germany. This decision comes in a memorandum sent by the three western high commissioners to Chancellor Konrad Adenauer. Negotiations which will eventually give Western Germany, full political independence, may begin right away - before any decision about the ticklish rearmament question.

In Washington today, General Marshall spoke out before the House Armed Service Committee in ~~the~~ bluntest terms. <sup>Marshall</sup> Our Defense Secretary said he is shocked to find <sup>a</sup> Congressional swing~~ing~~ against rapid mobilization - "although" <sup>as he put it the</sup> ~~the~~ "problems confronting us are as ~~in~~ grave as ever."

Only two months ago, Marshall said, he was being criticized for not ordering full mobilization at once - for not asking for an army of five or six million men. "Today the atmosphere is quite different", he told the House Committee. "Now the question is not how much more do we need, but why do we have to have so much?"

General Marshall said that this rapid swing <sup>as he put it: -</sup> is no new experience. "The United States traditionally has armed and disarmed." Carried out its defense <sup>the Secretary described it: -</sup> program, ~~as he put it,~~ "in fits and starts". Then ~~he~~ ~~Defense Secretary~~ also put in a strong plea for an eighteen year old draft -- without strings. Reminding the committee that since he first testified about

universal military training a month ago, the Korean situation had not changed. <sup>As he said!</sup> - "We still have not made good our manpower deficiencies in the Far East," ~~was how General Marshall put it.~~

and a British Commonwealth Air Brigade, the Chinese and North Korean Regt. This along a line stretching from Yongju, thirty-seven miles east of Seoul, to the eastern mountains. U.S. Marines, in the center of the front, ran into the stiffest enemy resistance. In bitter hand-to-hand fighting with machine-guns, grenades and rifles, they drove off a Chinese counter-attack, then seized the strategic hills overlooking and outflanking Hoengsong. The Marines also cut the vital highway between that point of the Red line and Yongju. This was done to indicate a general Chinese withdrawal from the Hoengsong area after the poisoning and heavy casualties which they took at the hands of the Marines.

The greatest gain of the day was by Seoul.

## KOREA

( In Central Korea today, U N forces kept up their non-stop offensive-battling forward ) up to three and a half miles along a fifty mile front. Altogether, ( eight U.S. and South Korean divisions, and a British Commonwealth ~~mix~~ brigade, hit the Chinese and North Korean Reds. ) This along a line stretching from Yongdu, thirty-seven miles east of Seoul, to the eastern mountains. U.S. Marines, in the center of the front, ran into the stiffest enemy resistance. In bitter hand-to-hand fighting with ~~mx~~ bayonets, grenades and rifles, they drove off a Chinese counter-attack, then seized the strategic hills overlooking and outflanking Hoengsong. The Marines also cut the vital highway between that anchor point of the Red line and Yongdu. Late word seems to indicate a general Chinese withdrawal from the Hoengsong area after the pounding and heavy casualties ~~which they took~~ at the hands of the Marines.

The greatest gain of the day was by South

Koreans, who pushed forward nearly four miles, to capture Hill Four Hundred and Twenty Six.

At the eastern end of this same central front, a tank column and supporting infantry from the U.S. Seventh Division this afternoon pushed forward to a point twenty-nine miles below the Thirty-Eighth Parallel - then fell back to the U N line at ~~xxxx~~ dusk.

*The latest tells of stiffening Red resistance all along the line.*

JET

(Another <sup>air</sup> ~~jet~~ battle between jets is reported in the war news - and this might seem to tie in with stories that the Chinese Reds are prepared to throw in a considerable force of the Russian-built M I G 15s.)  
~~But~~ Once again, the story of the battle of jets is much the same - the Communists getting the worst of it, though there was no wholesale shooting down of planes.

Four American F-80 Shooting Stars of the Fifty-First Fighter-Interceptor Wing were flying at about thirty thousand feet when they sighted four M I G 15s, and swung around to engage ~~max~~ them. But before they could, eight more enemy jets roared down on the F-80s from a higher altitude, coming down out of the sun - the old strategy of using the blinding solar brilliance as a sort of hiding place. There was a ten-minute dog fight between four American ~~jets~~ <sup>jets,</sup> and twelve enemies. Three of the Red planes were damaged but no American plane was hit.

As an example of the fighting style in a

battle of jets, here's the account of Captain Howard Curran of Platte, Kansas: "In the mix-up," says he "I lined up on the tail of one of the M I G's and hit him with several bursts of my machine gun. I could see my hits flashing on his fuselage, and then he pulled out and headed for home."

( Captain Leon Grisham of Albany, Georgia, describes his own victory as follows: "I hit one of them just back of his canopy, and could see several pieces fly off. The plane started to smoke, where I hit it, and then started down in the direction of the Yalu River."

)  
In the case of the other enemy jet that was damaged, the story is much the same. In fact, the battles of jet planes reported thus far in the Korean War follow pretty much the same pattern.



There was a ten minute dogfight between four American and eighteen enemy jets. One of the Red planes was downed, two others damaged, but no American planes were hit.

As an example of the fighting style in a

## EXPORTS

The government clamps a strict new licensing system on all ~~xx~~ exports going behind the Iron Curtain. From tomorrow everything destined for Communist countries in eastern Europe must have a license from the Commerce Department. Heretofore there has been a complete ban on all shipments of arms, munitions and strategic materials - also all products scarce in this country. But the new regulations embrace such non-strategic items as toothbrushes, powder puffs, lipsticks and socks. The Commerce Department screening all requests, to make sure ~~that~~ "the national interest" will not suffer if the goods go to the Soviets or their satellites.

The railroads disclosed tonight the following today's wage agreement they will ask the Government for new rate increases.

## RAILROADS

In Washington today, the railroads and fifteen railways signed a new wage agreement. This gives a million shop and terminal workers an hourly pay increase of - twelve-and-a-half cents. News of today's settlement comes from the White House, and follows all-night long negotiations in the office of President Truman's assistant, John R. Steelman. The new wage formula, effective February First of this year, has an escalator clause. This takes care of any increase in the cost of living, and will be adjusted every three months.

Today's settlement affects only "non-operating unions - that is workers at the ~~xxx~~ railroad shops and terminals. The Big Four "operating" unions are not included. Those Big Four brotherhoods remain deadlocked in the wage dispute, which led to the recent wildcat railroad.

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PRESIDENT

At his press conference today, President Truman dismissed the Labor Policy Committee's ~~mass~~ mass walkout from the Mobilization Program with the words: "not very serious."

Mr. Truman said he considered the Labor Unions' boycott - "just a disagreement - not a strike against the government." The President also voiced complete confidence in defense mobilizer Charles E. Wilson, prime target of the union leaders' wrath — whom they accuse of "big business bias." →

FOLLOW PRESIDENT

Economic Stabilizer Eric Johnston tonight exempted from the ten percent wage ceiling all cost of living escalator clauses which were in effect before January Twenty-Fifth. This move is taken as a gesture to pacify the irate labor leaders who yesterday walked out of the whole defense mobilization program.

**DISALLE**

Price Stabilizer Michael DiSalle tonight told automobile manufacturers they may boost prices of their new models by three-and-a-half percent, effective tomorrow. DiSalle emphasized that this move is purely -- "an interim one -- for sixty days". That meanwhile he will try to work out permanent price control regulations. The price hike applies only to automobiles and not to such equipment as radios and heaters.

The report issued by the Senate Investigating Committee, featured the part played by the Mafia, the historic organization of criminals on the island of Sicily, saying - the Mafia is a controlling element in the operation of the crime syndicate. So today I called an old-time Italian detective, Mike Fiachetti, who years ago, was in command of the anti-blackhand squad of the New York police. I asked him - what did he know about the Mafia in the underworld of the present day.

## LUCIANO

In Italy today, Lucky Luciano, former underworld boss, demanded that he be allowed to return to the United States to answer charges made yesterday by the Senate Crime Investigating Committee. The deported mobster denies the statement that he is a sort of arbiter between two big crime syndicates, ~~and~~ based on New York and Chicago -- playing the referee in cases of dispute between underworld empires. Today he said: "They deported me. Now let them import me back to answer the charges."

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He replied it does not exist. <sup>Says Fiaschetti</sup> ~~He said~~ the old Maffia, imported from Sicily to this country, did have a nationwide scope in this country. But the Maffia was broken years ago and passed out of existence - as an organization.

Mike Fiaschetti explained that the use of the term nowadays is largely the doing of newspaper reporters. When any gang of mobsters with Italian names gets in the news, the reporters are likely to say - Maffia. Because, it's an effective tag, sounds dramatic. Hence the name is applied to all sorts of gangsters, and doesn't mean what Maffia used to mean a criminal secret society with traditional oaths, fantastic customs of murder and the vendetta, and strange rituals of terror.



## TRUMAN

President Truman visited the Senate today, and hob-nobbed with his old colleagues - recalling the days of Harry Truman, Senator from Missouri. Nothing new about that, the President having a habit of going back to his old Senatorial diggings, with expressions of homesickness and nostalgia.

But recently rumors have begun to appear in Washington - that Harry Truman may not seek a third term ~~ix~~ as President. But instead, might run for Senator, from his home state of Missouri. Thereby going back to his old job.

So that put an added interest into the home sickness and nostalgia today. The President attended a ceremony, in which Vice-President Barkley was presented with a gavel made of <sup>w</sup>good from the White House, wood ~~is~~ dating back to Eighteen-Seventeen. And the Truman remarks were as follows: "I wish it were a fact that I was returning permanently to the scene of my former crimes and ~~mit~~ misdemeanors - which got<sup>e</sup> me into more trouble than any man has ever

got into." Meaning - his term of Senator was the road to the White House and all its burdens.

On his way out after the ceremony, Harry Truman turned back and waved ~~at~~ at the Senators, who were giving him a standing ovation, and shouted: "I wish I was back with you."

All of which is sure to encourage the rumor factory in its latest production, that Harry Truman may run for Senator again, instead of seeking a third term ~~in~~ in the White House.

LAKE ICE

It is quite a sight driving along the shores of the Great Lakes, at this season of the year, looking out at <sup>the</sup> endless miles of ice. ~~But~~ This has been a rather freak winter and at the moment it looks as though the ice in the lake<sup>s</sup> may break up maybe as much as a month earlier than usual. <sup>Prominent</sup> Buffalo-Kenmore business man Sherm Shalley tells me this is a weather phenomenon most welcome to the citizens around the Great Lakes, the early resumption of navigation. <sup>So, Nelson,</sup> I find considerable optimism in the <sup>snappy</sup> air here in Buffalo tonight.