

ATOMIC

E.I. - P. & S.

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The atomic energy committee of Congress has scheduled what is called "an urgent meeting" for tomorrow morning and it is believed the subject will be -- the hydrogen bomb. The committee will confabulate with Chairman David Lilienthal and other members of the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission. Which ties in with the word that President Truman is weighing the decision - whether or not to build a super devastating H-Bomb. Hell bomb, as they call it.

The United Press tonight has a statement ~~FILE~~ from a Russian scientist that the Soviet is as far advanced in atomic matters as the western powers -- know how to build a hydrogen bomb, and will not hesitate to do so. This comes from an interesting personality -- a brother of Stalin's pet biologist -- ~~L~~osenko. But this other ~~L~~osenko broke with communism, was captured by the Germans in the war, and is now in the United States.

## SUBSTITUTE COAL

There is a conflict of opinion on the likelihood of the wildcat coal strike ending on Monday. Washington reports that this is likely to happen - following a decision to renew company-~~xxxx~~ union negotiations. Today John L. Lewis agreed to go into bargaining talks again - but at Pittsburgh mine union officials declared tonight that they are not sure the ninety thousand rebel strikers will respond to the negotiations by returning to their jobs on Monday.

FORMOSA

In Washington, simply sweltering in this mid-winter heat-wave -- )

Four American chiefs of defence give the opinion that the Island of Formosa does have "strategic significance" for the United States <sup>if in enemy hands.</sup> In this they take issue with the State Department -- Secretary of State Acheson having declared that the Island, held by the Chinese Nationalists, is of no consequence for American strategy in the Pacific.

Today Secretary of Defence Louis Johnson and General Omar Bradley, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, testified before the Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate - called because of protests against the administration policy of refusing to aid the defense of Formosa. They said the Island was important to us -- but not important enough to send American troops.

General Bradley testified that General Douglas MacArthur in Tokyo believes that Formosa, in the possession of the Reds, would be a menace to American defences in the Pacific. (~~But both Bradley and~~

~~Johnson said this was only -- the "military viewpoint".  
While the State Department and the administration have  
to take into consideration the political factors,  
international policy.~~

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Today, by the way, is the 70<sup>th</sup> birthday of Gen. Douglas MacArthur. He neither looks nor acts seventy. When I visited him not long ago he seemed in perfect shape — a man at just about the peak of his powers — mellowed, wise and with one major obsession — to do his utmost for his country.

## ATOMIC

Former Vice-President Henry Wallace denies, vigorously, that he ever had anything to do with wartime atomic shipments to Soviet Russia. (He was head of the board of economic warfare, which issued licences for shipment. But such licences were routine, and none ever came to his attention - so he declared today.)

The former Vice-President, testifying before the Committee on Un-American Activities made the charge that reports about his atomic activities came from what he called -- "A lying leak in the Cabinet". He did not say what Cabinet member or members might be accused of originating the reports about him.

(He denied, likewise, that as a member of the Cabinet of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, he advised that American atomic secrets be turned over to Soviet Russia.) (He said that, at a Cabinet meeting, he merely argued that atomic science was known - no secret. But he advised the withholding from the Soviets the secrets of -- "know-how", the engineering knowledge in the construction of atom bombs.

## BRITAIN

In London today the Liberal Party refused to join the Conservatives against the Labor Government. The Liberals, at one time mighty in British politics, are now a mere fraction. In the last general election five years ago they polled less than two-and-one-third million votes. But that number could be important in a close contest, and Winston Churchill issued a formal invitation for a joining of forces -- calling on Conservatives and Liberals to unite against the Socialism of the Labor Party. But the Liberals today refused, and said they were still against both Tories and Socialists.

## INDONESIA

Tonight there are warlike scenes in Jakarta, capital of the Indonesian Republic - the city formerly called Batavia, - Latin for Holland, - that imperial power of the Indies, until now. Soldiers are throwing up defences, stretching barbed wire, and constructing sandbag barrages - to protect government buildings. This -- after a ~~raid, and a~~ battle in the middle of Batavia, staged by the rebel army of the renegade Dutch officer, Turk Westerling.

Which climaxes the recent news about that captain of the Dutch Army, who is half a Turk, and half a Moslem. Revolting against the Indonesian Republic, forming an alliance with Mohammedan fanatics from Dar ul Islam. The other night we heard how Turk Westerling had captured the City of Bandoeng in West Java, and yesterday he seized an important railroad town. TP But it was hardly to be expected -- what he did today.

Turk Westerling's insurgents launched an attack right into Jakarta, intending to seize the government buildings. The battle went on for hours,

streetfighting with machine guns - before the troops of the Indonesian Republic were able to beat off the attack.

*The* United Press this afternoon has an interview with Turk Westerling, procured by a reporter who met the renegade Dutch officer at a secret hiding place, *in* Western Java. Turk Westerling said, confidently, that he expects to win control of all Java.



## MARS

News of a catastrophic explosion, devastating beyond all description. But don't worry -- it's news from Mars. A Japanese astronomer reports what appeared to be a stupendous blast -- apparently some kind of volcanic eruption that hurled a vast cloud, some seven hundred miles in diameter, <sup>- a cloud</sup> that rose forty miles above the surface of the red planet. He says it would mean frightful havoc among the people on Mars -- if there were any.

This Japanese astronomer is attached to an observatory at Osaka, where they have a big telescope -- and immediate enquiries were made over here. Did any American astronomer observe such an explosion? The answer, given by astronomer Fred Haas at Albuquerque, New Mexico, is that no such phenomenon could have been observed from the United States -- Mars not visible. But a check is being made among astronomers in western Germany, where the reported explosion could have been seen.

## WRECKAGE

At Momence, Illinois today, the story was revealed of what happened when a twister hit the town last night and wrecked a factory. The plant blown into a mass of wreckage - and right alongside were the railroad tracks. Hunks of concrete <sup>and</sup> steel beams were hurled across the rails - as was the roof of a feed store <sup>was</sup> blown for two hundred feet.

In the plant was the factory manager, Richard Metz, thirty five years old, as the building came down around his ears. But that was not what worried him. He saw the barricade across the railroad tracks, and knew a passenger train was due to come through in a few minutes.

He jumped into his car, drove south as fast as he could, in the direction from which the train was coming. The highway is alongside the railroad line, and pretty soon he saw the train. So how did he flag it down? He threw the spotlight of his automobile on the locomotive flashing the brilliant beam at the engineer -- and managed to get that across as a danger signal. The

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train stopped, and factory manager Metz told of the  
tornado-hurled barricade across the tracks. "hich  
averted a likely disaster, as the train hitting the  
obstruction would have <sup>probably</sup> ~~probably~~ gone off the rails.

## BOUNTY BIBLE

At Pitcairn Island, in the remote South Pacific they got back today the - Bounty Bible. After one hundred and ten years that copy of the holy writ has returned -- the Bible of the mutineers. The Connecticut Historical Society, via the British has restored it to the descendants of the mutineers of the Bounty.

That strangely historic volume of the scriptures was printed in the Seventeen Hundreds, and was the captain's Bible, Captain Bligh - the hardboiled skipper. The Bounty set sail from England for the South Seas in 1787, and the story has been told time and again how, in southern latitudes, the crew mutinied seized the ship, and set officers adrift in open boats -- the mutineers of the Bounty finally winding up on <sup>remote, craggy</sup> Pitcairn Island, settling down with a native wives, and lost to the sight of the world for long years.

*from the Bounty,*  
When they went ashore, they took the ship's papers, including the Bible -- and this they had in

their possession when they were re-discovered. In Nineteen Thirty Nine the American whaling ship, the Cyrus of Nantucket called at Pitcairn Island -- and Captain Levi Hayden made friends with John Adams, grandson of one of the original mutineers. He made the Yankee skipper a present -- the old Bible, relic of the Mutiny of the Bounty. Which Captain Hayden took home with him, and in time his descendants presented it to the Connecticut Historical Society. Last year, the Society decided to return the priceless memento to the place where it belonged -- according to all the canons of romance.

The Bounty Bible was sent to England to be repaired -- its original binding had been torn to tatters. No wonder, after all those adventures. Several of the first pages had disappeared, the beginning of Genesis; and nothing could be done about that. But otherwise the Bounty Bible was put into its original shape, as nearly as possible. So today in a special

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case of Fiji Island hardwood, the Bible is back at Pitcairn Island, full of those memories of Captain Bligh and the Bounty.

## SLANG

The Canadian police are complaining that they don't understand the crooks any more. That is, they don't savvy the new slang in the Canadian underworld -- the way the smart burglars are talking nowadays.

What's an honest cop to think, hearing something like this: "When a hard-rock goes on a boost, he needs a dark benny and mouse feet."

Well, "hard-rock" means - a tough guy. "A boost" -- a burglary. "Dark benny" -- signifies a coat, and "mouse-feet" are rubber soled shoes. What the well-dressed thief wears out thieving.

(Then, there's a "greeble" -- a doll not so classy. "All wrapped up" means -- carrying a torch. You will observe that I am translating this underworld slang into classic academic English, as when I say that "blue beetles" is an expression for cops, otherwise known as flatfeet.)

But my classic soul is most enraptured when I note the way they ask for a light. They say -- "ignite

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me, punk". Sounds vivacious, not to say zippy. "Ignite

me, punk". ~~Which does not mean you, Nelson~~



## JAPANESE PRINCESS

Today in Tokyo, at One P.M. sharp, a twenty-dollar-a-week government clerk appeared at the Royal Palace, and was ushered into the presence of the Vice-Chief Chamberlain of the Imperial household. To this office worker, whose name is Takasukasa, the Vice Imperial Chamberlain announced: "Their majesties, the Emperor and Empress, would like to have their daughter, the Princess Kazuko, married to the Honorable Takasukasa." What are his feelings on the subject?

To which the clerk replied: "I accept."

Thus comes about the engagement, announced today, of the twenty-year-old daughter of the Mikado to what certainly would seem to be the humblest kind of bride-groom. However, the government employee is the twenty-six year old son of the Chief Priest of a Shinto Temple, the most venerable in all Japan, the Meiji Shrine. Moreover, that Shinto priest is a cousin of the dowager empress of Japan. So the pen pushing clerk is royalty; -- at twenty bucks a week!

After the announcement of the engagement, the prospective bridegroom and his father were interviewed by newsmen. ~~They~~ <sup>They</sup> presented no picture of a young couple out dining and dancing together, and falling in love. They saw each other only half a dozen times, ~~XXXX~~ and briefly at that. The negotiations for marriage, in fact, were begun before they ever met -- nor will they see much of each other, before their marriage next year.

The intended bridegroom was asked -- was he in love with the princess?

To this he replied with Japanese propriety: "That feeling will come."

So the jazz age has not yet affected the ways of royal marriage in Japan, where they have the wedding first, and then -- that feeling will come.

*Now Nelson - what feeling comes over you at this moment?*