

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

(Word from London. The United States, Britain and France today handed the Kremlin a counter-proposal - in answer to their recent Red suggestion, for a Big Four Peace Conference on Germany.) The text just released. This reply is mild in tone, agreeing with the Soviets' professed desire for a German Peace Treaty, but disagreeing with Moscow on how to go about it. (The note states - as was predicted - that the Western Powers consider that a "free all-German government" must be formed by free elections -- that done before a German Peace Treaty can be considered.)

We also reject the Soviet suggestions fixing the German-Polish borders as they now are. The Soviets state that these frontiers were laid down at the Potsdam Conference. The Western Powers point out, however, that, at that historic Potsdam meeting, the final boundary lines were left uncertain -

awaiting the final peace settlement.

The note also rejects the Russian proposal to form a German national military force, and ban German alliances with the West. The Big Three considers any such limitation on Germany's freedom "a step backwards" away from European unity. It terms that the true path of peace."

First reactions - from Germany - are described as "qualified satisfaction." Both the German Socialists and Conservatives seem pleased that the Western Powers have not given a flat turn down to the Soviet proposal.

BRITAIN

Former Prime Minister Attlee wins a unanimous vote of confidence - not in the House of Commons. In the British Labor Party. All members voting in favor of Attlee, with one exception, Aneurin Bevan. Bevan didn't vote. He wasn't there. He was ill.

The Labor Party delegates also gave unanimous approval to a new code of Party discipline. That is they will allow members to abstain from voting in the House of Commons, on a policy approved by the Party. However, no member may vote against the Party. Abstention okay! But open rebellion will now mean expulsion.

All of which is directed, of course, against the absent members, ill at home - Aneurin Bevan.

VATICAN EMBASSY

In Washington today, the House Appropriations Committee disclosed a request from the State Department for seventy thousand dollars. Which is ~~all the more~~ significant, as the funds are ~~requested to set up an~~ *for setting up an* ~~American Embassy~~ *diplomatic establishment* at the Vatican, ~~during the new fiscal year.~~

Testifying before the Committee, Assistant Secretary of State George Perkins explained that the money would be used for salaries for a staff of six Americans and Italians - also the official expenses of a "small mission."

This brings to mind ^{again} President Truman's ~~controversial~~ proposal ~~the appointment of~~ *that there be* an Ambassador to the Vatican again. The President still insisting that he will make the appointment whenever he can find a suitable candidate.

POLITICS

In the swiftly changing political scene -- Stassen announces that he is turning over half of his Wisconsin delegates to Eisenhower. He is in the Wisconsin Primary with a slate of thirty -- and, if these are chosen by the voters, fifteen will be authorized by Stassen to vote for General Ike on the first ballot in the Republican Convention. Stassen is making this declaration in a speech tonight.

~~The situation in Wisconsin, is this.~~ Taft, Stassen, and Warren are on the ballot. Eisenhower is not -- his backers having preferred not to compete in Wisconsin. Under ^{State}~~Wisconsin~~ law there can be no write-in such as produced the Eisenhower triumph in Minnesota. But that Minnesota write-in is the background ~~of~~ ^{of} the Wisconsin situation. Both Stassen and Governor Warren of California have been appealing to the Wisconsin Republicans who "like Ike" -- each

trying to garner votes that would go to the General,
if he were in the Wisconsin race.

So now Stassen makes a drastic move -- turning
over fifty percent of his delegates to General Ike --
if he ^{Stassen} gets the delegates.

STEEL

Defense Mobilizer Charles Wilson urges a settlement of the steel dispute, based on recommendations handed in by the Wage Stabilization Board. Which sounds astonishing - since the Defense Mobilizer, last Friday, declared that the wage increase recommended was a threat to the national economy - new danger of inflation. Today he explained that he has not changed, what he called "his personal views." ~~But~~ But added - that the menace of a nationwide steel strike is a thing of such gravity that everything possible should be done to avert it.

We have still to hear from Economic Stabilizer Roger Putnam, who will have the say - whether or not the pay hike would violate the government ceiling on wages. If he says they do, the steel dispute may be turned over to the White House - for presidential action. The deadline for a strike is now set at April Eighth.

CHINA - BLACKMAIL

(The Secretary of the Treasury discloses - nearly eight hundred thousand dollars paid to the Chinese Reds, as ransom for Americans. Eleven U.S. business firms and two missionary groups have ^{handed over} ~~paid~~ the money, in an effort to free twelve U.S. citizens held as hostages. Only four of the twelve have been turned loose - though the release of the other eight is expected.)

Secretary John Snyder states that this was done with the official approval of the Treasury Department in Washington - the Treasury having to okay ~~the~~ transactions ~~under the~~ ~~existing~~ ~~business~~ between U.S. firms and Communist China. The payment of the eight hundred thousand was licensed - because it was feared the Americans would be killed, unless the Reds got the money.

All of which is the latest in a series of cases of Communist blackmail.

KOREA - TRUCE

(From the truce talks tonight the news is -
no news. That secrecy blackout we were told was
coming was imposed today, after a twenty minute
meeting.)

However, the Allies - through their
negotiators today warned the Reds that the news ban
will be lifted if Communist propagandists use this
secrecy to further their own ends.

JAPAN_ICE

At the northern tip of Japan, a giant ice floe has trapped a couple of ships - and created something of an international situation. The string of Japanese islands extends a long way to the north, and Hokkaido is just across a narrow strait from Soviet Sakhalin, off the coast of Siberia. It's bleak and snowy up there at this time of year - in the grip of a blinding blizzard. In addition to which - an immense mass of ice has drifted from the ocean into the narrow strip of water between Hokkaido and Sakhalin. Not a berg; a floe - a sort of icefield

A Japanese fishing vessel ran into trouble in the snow storm - and a warship, operated by the Japanese Coast Guard, went to the rescue. Now, both are trapped by the ice, up against the coast.

Rescue operations probably ought to include American war planes on - - a peaceful bombing raid against that mass of ice. But, it's right near Russian territory - probably too near for bombing. The plan now is to send a party out onto the floe to

JAPAN_ICE - 2

dynamite a path of escape for the two ships. A trap
of ice - which has created an international situation.

GLIDER

A new world's record for gliding - made in a section of sky so favorable, yet perilous, for planes without power. From Bishop, California, news of a glider that soared to forty-four thousand feet - on the Sierra Wave. That's the current of air which blows in from the Pacific, across California, and then sweeps up the steep, high Sierras. On wings without a motor you are carried aloft on a great up-draft -- the wind blowing skyward.

The government is running experiments, trying to find out how high the Sierra Wave keeps going up. So Pilot Larry Edgar, of the Sierra-Wave Project, and Meteorologist Harry Kleiforth - took off in a two-man glider. They soared to an altitude of forty-four thousand feet -- far higher than the topmost peak of the mountains out there or anywhere. When they called it a day, they were still climbing at the rate of seven hundred feet a minute. The Sierra Wave - still

going up, nobody knows how far.

This glider flight beats the record established several months ago by a Swedish pilot, who lost his life.

He rode the Sierra Wave to a dizzy altitude, where something went wrong - and he crashed. Better luck attended Larry Edgar and Harry Kleiforth, ^{who came} ~~and they've come~~ back from the ~~the~~ forty-four thousand ~~foot~~ ^{still} level. A record - but it wasn't the top of the Sierra Wave.

ROBBERY

In Massachusetts, a six hundred thousand dollar theft - which sounds like melodrama. New England has been having a string of huge robberies - headed by the Brink hold-up of more than a million, two years ago. ^H But the banditry today borders on the ridiculous.)

The six hundred thousand was taken from an armored ~~truck~~ truck - protected by three armed guards, ^{who however} ~~but they~~ were in a drug store at Danvers, Massachusetts - having coffee. The robbers, three of them, simply opened the door of the truck - which was unlocked. ^{And there was} The six hundred thousand, just waiting there, nice and convenient.

The first the three guards knew about the robbery - was when a cop walked into the drug store, and said he had seen an automobile speeding away from the armored truck, and suggested ~~that~~ they take a look. So the guards put down their coffee cups; and found ^{the} ~~six~~ hundred thousand ~~dollars~~ gone.

The police got on the trail of the bandits, and there was an automobile chase - two captured, one getting away. They ^{re}

hunting for him at Everett, Massachusetts. The loot - still missing. The robbers are believed to have hidden the bundle of cash.

LONDON

A crowd in London had a free show today - when a peer of the realm tried to ford the River Thames.

all this was a matter of
~~it was~~ classical scholarship; - having to do with ancient days, when London was a Roman city. Called - Londinium.

Baron Noel-Buxton is writing a book on the City as it was when the sovereign of Britain was Hadrian or Nero. When - the guard was changed by a Roman Legion. His Lordship has a pet theory - that the Thames, at Westminster, was then a ford. Where traffic splashed across - the chariots or a cohort of imperial cavalry. He believes that, when Caesar invaded Britain, his legions forded the Thames at Westminster. All of which he decided to illustrate - *-- by himself* ~~by~~ fording the Thames today.

So A crowd was gathered on the Westminster Bridge *to see the Baron do it.*
~~nearby~~ A sort of grandstand. As Baron Noel-Buxton *he* appeared, *he* handed his walking stick to Lady Noel-Buxton; *then m'Lord* ~~and~~ walked out into the water. For thirty yards, the

theory worked okay. But then His Lordship got beyond his depth. The Baron is tall, six feet three, but the river was deeper. So he had to swim the rest of the way all fully clothed. He now admits it would take a man nine-and-a-half feet tall to ford the Thames at Westminster and the mighty Caesar was only five feet six, or thereabouts.

So maybe Caesar and his legions didn't do it. But, anyway, it was a matter of high classical scholarship - except for one point. Why did Baron Noel-Buxton have to go out wading to see how deep the Thames was? Why didn't he find out - with a ten-foot pole. Could it be that His Lordship had talked it all over with an American press agent? Could it have been a publicity stunt, - Nelson? Why, the very thought is enough to shock the noble members of the House of Lords right out of their crimson and ermine.