

MARSHALL

L. J. Snows - A. P. B. Thursday, July 10, 1947

(Paris is all set for the conference on the Marshall Plan. Everything is ready -- except the Reds.) The line up tonight is about complete, eastern and western Europe definitely split over the Marshall program for European rehabilitation. .

Czechoslovakia will not be there -- her decision reversed. Proud, industrious Czechoslovakia - not so long ago democracy's number one representative in Central Europe has gone the way of the rest of central and eastern Europe.

(The Czechs late today made an about face - withdrawing their acceptance of an invitation to the Paris Conference.) It had been hoped that Czechoslovakia, at least, of all the nations in Russian sphere of interest would accept. Then came the pressure from the Kremlin. (An emergency meeting held in Moscow today ~~at~~ between three Czechoslovak officials and Premier Stalin.) Prague newspapers say their representatives remained at the Kremlin "for an unprecedented length of time" adding that something

MARSHALL_INSERT

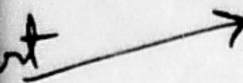
While that meeting in Moscow was in progress, the ~~Czech~~ Ambassador in Washington in an interview, said that his country's decision to go along with the Marshall Plan despite Russia's refusal, made "nonsense" of all the talk about an Iron Curtain. His country's decision said he, was taken by "an independent sovereign country". But in a matter of hours something happened that ~~xxx~~ made nonsense of his statement: Russia clamped down and the Czechoslovaks had to renig.

very serious was under study."

After today's meeting in the Kremlin, three say-eyed Czechs ~~xx~~ were driven immediately to Moscow's airport, there put on a plane for Prague. The Czech officials were silent, but (the announcement from Prague tonight is that Czechoslovakia will not be at Paris.)

Albania - another Soviet country has also declined. Leaving only Finland to be heard from.

Of the twenty-two nations invited fourteen have accepted - seven, including Czechoslovakia and Albania have refused. The Czechs give as their excuse the following: ~~As~~ "Participation ~~xxxxxx~~ would be interpreted as an act direct against the Soviet Union and our other allies."

 Earlier today Poland and Hungary sent formal refusals. The Polish note curtly charged that the conference would merely contribute to a "rebirth of German imperialism." But, Poland did relent in its attitude ~~xxxx~~ enough to express gratitude for help

already received from the United States.

There was a note of courtesy in the Hungarian refusal, as if the spirit of old Budapest may still flicker faintly. Said Hungary, it could not attend because Russia, France and Britain have been unable to agree among themselves on the objects and task of the conference. Which is putting the cart before the horse.

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Tonight only two European nations to be heard from -- Albania and Finland. Tonight a high American official in Paris, issued the warning that any country that stays away from the conference must

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realize that this is the last call. If it stays outside now, it will have to stay outside for good.

In Washington today, the President promised to call a special session of Congress early this Fall, to consider the Marshall Plan, if necessary. And late today the Senate Foreign Relations Committee announced that it will meet in Executive Session tomorrow to hear General Marshall outline his project.

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By the way, a new honor for Secretary of State George C. Marshall. Number one among the best dressed men of the Nineteen Forty-Seven summer season. Who says so? Why the Mayfair Magazine Fashion Guild. Among the runners up? None other than Nelson Rockefeller.

TAX

President Truman has announced that he will reject the revived version of the Republican income tax reduction bill, which the Senate is expected to pass tomorrow.

Mr. Truman told his news conference that he saw no reason to change his position on the bill which he vetoed three weeks ago. Except for the date, next January First instead of July first, the revived measure is the same as the one he vetoed. It appears now that there are enough votes in the House to over ride a veto on the modified bill. But there is likely to be another close vote in the Senate.

COAL

Congressman Hartley, co-author of the Taft-Hartley Labor Law, today lashed out at the John L. Lewis contract with the mine owners. He said it "looks like collusion between the operators and the union to force small companies out of business".

Replied Taft of Ohio, who wrote the law with him: "I don't think its any violation of the law." And then Taft added: "Employers and employees should be able to make any contract they ~~xxx~~ want to".

~~Taft went on to express the opinion that maybe Lewis had driven a hard bargain, one that might force up the price of some basic commodities and start a new inflationary spiral. He said that would be a matter for the economic committee of the Senate and House to consider, not the justice department".~~

Taft ~~went~~ also said he was convinced that both Lewis and the operators made "a direct effort to comply with the law." And that whatever employers and employees agree on that will be all right with him. He further gave the ~~opix~~ opinion that not many

employers would sign the kind of contract Lewis had won. And that freedom of employers and unions to sign any contract they please, is restricted by the law only in certain special fields. That such must be the base of labor relations unless the government is going to run the whole show."

So today we have Senator Taft lining up with John L. Lewis - the man who has sworn to purge him ~~from~~ from public office and block his nomination for the Presidency next year.

After looking over this new Lewis contract President Truman's council of economic advisers report that it will add six hundred million dollars to the nation's annual fuel bill.

OAK RIDGE

Today a reporter disturbed by ^{yesterday's} ~~the~~ story about the Sergeants who took ^{Atomic} ~~the~~ bomb secrets ^{just} ~~as a souvenir~~ - ^{the correspondent} went on a guided tour of the inner area of Oak Ridge's sixty thousand acres; - that's how ~~big~~ big it is - sixty thousand acres. Tonight he tells us that any agent bent on sabotage would have to penetrate three separate security cordons to get at the heart of the works.

Then if that theoretical saboteur ever did get in, adds the correspondent, he would find it ~~twice~~ twice as tough to get out.

He says that Oak Ridge's first line of defense consists of a ten foot fence with seven gates. You need a pass to get in any gate, and guards carefully check your identification cards. If you're travelling by auto they search the car completely. And, each of the seven gates can be closed simultaneously from a central alarm system. With the gates closed, no one can get in or get out.

But this is only the first line of defense. That outer operating area is ringed by another ten foot barrier, topped by barbed wire, and patrolled by armored cars with crews carrying pistols and riot guns.

Even if the intruder managed to pass the second line, he would still be yards from the actual operating plant. Between him and his objective is a complex procedure of pass exchange and comparison. If you survive all this, then you are in the inner chamber, where the central alarm system goes into action. And it's the same red tape on the way out.

All of which is good news to the rest of us.

GOVERNOR

The Governors from forty-six states are converging on Salt Lake City -- what will they discuss? Taxation, veterans' affairs, and housing, of course. But most of all they'll be wondering will one of their number be the next Presidential nominee.

Governor Tom Dewey of New York, and Governor ~~W~~ Earl Warren of California, of all the governors admittedly are far in the lead.

Utah's Chief Executive, Governor Maw, expects a record convention attendance. One Governor has sent no official notification that he'll attend, but, at Conference Headquarters, there is a letter addressed to Governor Jesus Pinero of Puerto Rico, marked "Hold for arrival for Governor's conference." So evidently Governor Jesus Pinero is on his way from San Juan.

At Kansas City, Governor Dewey was greeted by Missouri Republicans wearing buttons with the slogan: "clean house with Dewey."

He joked with reporters today and said that although his two sons were born after he had entered

public life, that on this trip they have seen more
Republican ^{politicians} ~~politicians~~ than all the rest of their years
put together. Meaning that the country now seems full
of Republicans -- whereas in past years they were
scarce!

ELIZABETH

Princess Elizabeth put on her engagement ring today -- for the first time. Three diamonds - not pretentious though. According to British royal protocol, she had to wait until this morning to put it on. Until the official word went out about her engagement.

Young Lieutenant Philip Mountbatten discovered today that winning a Princess means losing your ~~xxx~~ privacy. From now on, every step he makes in public will be charted in rigid accordance with tradition. First, a visit with the Royal Family to Scotland, to stay in historic Holyrood House at Edinburgh. That comes before anything else. Then an inspection of the Home Fleet on The Clyde, below Glasgow, followed by a quick trip to the rocky island of Arran.

Yesterday the young Prince of Greece made his last public act as a private citizen - a phone call to a newspaper that ~~he~~ had printed the story of his engagement before the official announcement. That had scooped the rest of the press. To the Editor, ~~he~~ ^{Lieut. Mountbatten} protested

that it was an intrusion into his private life. An intrusion by not many hours! Anyhow from now on he'll have less privacy than Irwin Cobb's famous gold fish.

Today's appointments included posing for pictures at Buckingham Palace, with that sparkler on Elizabeth's third finger; a visit to Queen Mary, a formal dedication of a memorial chapel in Westminster Abbey - (a stained glass window commemorating the heroes of the battle of Britain) and then a formal garden party, at Buckingham Palace. In spite of the rain five thousand people turned out -- princes, dukes and ■■ commoners. It poured - on King and Commoner alike. Nearly wrecking the royal garden party. And then out came the sun. And down the terrace came the King and Queen, accompanied by the young couple - and Princess Margaret Rose.

~~Even then the day was not over. Elizabeth and her fiancée went off to a dinner date at a hotel.~~

Londoners seem to be thrilled by the announcement of the ■■ engagement. As is their wont

some thousands stood in the rain outside Buckingham Palace, waiting just for a glimpse of the ~~the~~ engaged couple.

Cried one old cockney lady: "Hi saw your mother married! And I'll be at your wedding!"

The ~~Duke~~ Duke of Windsor who is on the Riviera, told the Press he had heard about the ~~the~~ engagement of his niece several days ago - from members of the Royal Family. But that he ~~had~~ did not know the date of the wedding - nor had he received an invitation.

DUEL

In Paris this morning, the ancient art of dueling was revived, with all the panoply and pomp of yesterday. The contestants, Georges Baume, a former French Commando, and Reserve Captain Roger Guattare, a parachutist. The weapons, Eighteenth Century Flintlock Pistols.

It all began after a hearty dinner in a fashionable Paris ^{du} restaurant. Well dined and blissfully content, ~~Guattare~~ ^{the Commando} was suddenly confronted by the indignant ^{of parachutists.} Captain. He looked up with a smile, ^{and in return} ~~but~~ received instead a slap in the face. "Take that Commando Insignia out of your buttonhole, you have no right to wear it," ordered Guattare. Baume's answer was a challenge to a duel. Seconds were quickly chosen, and the weapons ~~was~~ selected.

This morning, as the mists cleared away from the outskirts of a lonely wood on the banks of the Seine, the two - ex-soldiers faced ^{Commando} each other. Baume ~~was flawlessly attired~~ in formal evening dress. In the nearby automobile, a ~~XXXX~~ surgeon waited. After a

formal greeting, the two men stepped back twenty paces and the duel master gave the command, "Fire;" two shots rang out. Those eighteenth Century pistols sure made a lot of noise -- and smoke. Guattare was still standing. Baume lay motionless on the ground. Honor satisfied.

The surgeon rushed over to examine the prostrate veteran. His injuries? Two neat holes in the right trouser leg of his full dress evening suit.

HORSE

There are many ways of changing your luck. Some ~~people~~ say you have to see the new moon through an open window, and turn over your money. But Myrtle Ferguson of New York City gives us a new one. This morning Myrtle appeared in traffic court, charged with riding a horse through a red traffic light on Broadway.

When Magistrate Simmons heard Myrtle's explanation he raised his eyebrows. The lady ~~exp~~ explained that she had lost ~~quite~~ a considerable amount of money on the bangtails lately - and to stem the tide of ill fortune, she had consulted a psychic adviser, a star gazer, a crystal ball peerer, who recommended that to change her luck she should be in close contact with a horse for seven consecutive days. ^R All of which for Myrtle meant no hardship. ~~Born to the saddle on a Kansas farm, it only remained for her to hire a horse.~~ And so every evening off she cantered, to change her luck. The horse she said, objected when a taxi bumped it from behind. The horse went through a red light, and a traffic cop arrested Myrtle and her steed. And ~~the~~

there she was -- in court, telling it to the Judge.

"Did your adviser prophesy what my fine might be?" inquired Hizzoner.

"Ah no," said the Lady. "In his crystal ball he saw neither you nor that red light."

Sentence suspended said the Judge. A wise Judge. And now words of wisdom from you Hugh.

And now some wise words from you Nelson.