

CABINET

*L.J. - Sunoco. Wednesday, May 23, 1945.
(Given by Dr. R.C. Andrews, L.J. in Hear East.)*

All the suppositions that President Truman would drastically revise the cabinet left to him by President Roosevelt were confirmed today - with the White House acceptance of three resignations. The departing cabinet members are Attorney General Biddle, Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins, and Secretary of Agriculture Wickard.

The news was given out by President Truman at a news conference today, and simultaneously he named successors to the departing cabinet members. The new Attorney General is Tom C. Clark, of Dallas Texas, who hitherto has been Assistant Attorney General. The new Secretary of Labor is former Senator Louis B. Schwellenbach of Spokane, Washington, who, since retiring from the Senate, has been a Federal Judge. The Secretary of Agriculture is Congressman Clinton P. Anderson of New Mexico.

The first change in the cabinet left by President Roosevelt came when Postmaster General Walker stepped out, and was succeeded by Robert H. ~~Walker~~ Egan,

Democratic Campaign Manager during the ~~the~~ election last fall. And now three more changes. Of the ten Cabinet members bequeathed by President Roosevelt ~~to~~ to the new administration, four are gone and six remain.

HOPKINS

LATER news tells of two appointments to special diplomatic missions - President Truman assigning these to Harry Hopkins and Joseph E. Davies. One of the missions is to London, the other to Russia.

Harry Hopkins, close advisor to the late President Roosevelt, gets the Moscow assignment. Hopkins was with President Roosevelt at the "Big Three" meetings with Stalin - Teheran, Yalta. And now he goes to confer with the Soviet Premier concerning what the official statement describes as - "matters now in discussion between the Soviet government and the Government of the United States."

Joseph E. Davies was American Ambassador to Russia several years ago, and he wrote the book - "Mission to Moscow". He now, however, goes on the mission to London.

CONFERENCE

President Truman will go to the San Francisco Conference— he will attend the final session. This was announced today by Secretary of State Stettinius who said that the President will address the conference after its work has been completed - the formation of a world security organization.

And Mrs. Truman will do her bit, as hostess in the White House. She is going to entertain the wives of the Chief Delegates to the San Francisco Conference. This social event will be held at the White House on May twenty fourth, as part of the amenities attending the get-together of the United Nations.

OKINAWA

American strategy in the battle of Okinawa discloses itself as a double flanking operation. Our troops are ~~are~~ thrusting down both coasts of the narrow neck of land to cut in behind the central Japanese bastion of Shuri. One drive today was in the area of Naha, the capital of the island. Another pushed forward from the captured town of Yonabaru. In that sector the American troops scored their most important advance, a smash forward for a mile. A mile is a long distance in the constricted space of southern Okinawa.

Five American divisions, as many as seventy-five thousand men, are launching the two-~~pronged~~ pronged outflanking assault against the enemy force ^{which} is now believed to number about thirty thousand. The Japs are resisting bitterly, and the weather has turned bad - rainy - the Americans plowing forward through mud. In spite of this, the end of the Okinawa campaign seems to be drawing near. Jap resistance ^{is} at the point of being crushed after fifty-three days of large conflict.

Already the island is being rapidly transformed into what it is destined to be - our major base for the final assault against Japan. Today's dispatch states that engineers are swiftly converting Okinawa into what the bulletin calls - "the largest island air base in the world with the exception of Britain."

SUPERFORTRESSES

25 pages

Tokyo took its heaviest battering today when the biggest fleet of B-29s on record hit the Japanese capital. More than five hundred and fifty of the superfortresses hurled forty-five hundred tons of bombs on Tokyo, in as great an air assault as ever blasted Nazi Germany. The B-29s concentrated on centers of war industry, and left great areas of Tokyo in flames.

It is difficult to figure out what is going on in China -- but the Japs do seem to be pulling back. Today's dispatch from Chungking tells of advances by the armies of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek. And American airmen report withdrawals of Japanese troops from southern to northern China. That, of course, is up toward Manchuria where Japan faces the armies of Soviet Russia.

Great Britain took the plunge today - into a general election. We knew it was coming, and now Churchill makes it definite.

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He followed British constitutional forms. First he went to King George at Buckingham Palace and resigned. Whereupon the King reappointed him to head an interim government -- a "caretaker government" to run things until a new Parliament is elected. Churchill asked the King to dissolve the present House of Commons, and this was done - the present house to go out of existence on June Fifteen by royal proclamation. The new parliament will be elected at a general election on July Fifth.

Britain now goes into a bitter political battle -- with the Labor Party opening all its guns on Churchill and the Conservatives. From this side of the water it would seem that Winston Churchill, who led Britain through its darkest days and on to victory, will undoubtedly come out on top.

TRIESTE

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- We hear that there is to be a compromise in the dispute between the Western Allies and Marshal Tito's Yugoslavs. London reports that Tito has agreed to British and American control of the Italian province of Istria including the great port of Trieste. This - if Tito's own partisan ~~forces~~ forces are permitted to remain in the disputed territory.

Meanwhile the Yugoslavs are reported to have withdrawn from sectors into which British and American troops have pushed.

This reassuring word is accompanied by news of another angle of possible trouble - the French pushing into Italy. Dispatches from Rome state that ~~French~~ French troops are occupying the valley of Aosta, which is the site of some of the largest steel plants of Italy.

The final vestige of the Nazi regime was eliminated in Germany today - with the abolition of the acting German government headed by Admiral Doenitz at Flensburg. There has been much discussion of the fact that the western Allies continued to employ Admiral Doenitz, successor to Hitler, having his regime carry out the terms of the German surrender. Now that's all over, and Admiral Doenitz and his staff were arrested today as prisoners of war - which is properly their status.

There still remains the question of whether Doenitz and his fellow officers will be regarded as war criminals. In fact, the whole war criminal question is still in a state of indecision. We hear from Washington that the other United Nations have not accepted the American plan to try the Chief Nazi offenders before an international military commission. The British are said not to like the idea, and prefer to deal with war criminals by means of what

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today's dispatch calls - "political treaty decisions".

Meanwhile, we are informed that Goering, so long the Nazi Number Two Man, and Field Marshal Von Rundstedt, have been taken to Britain. Also - that One of the most notorious of Nazi leaders has been captured in South Germany, Julius Streicher. ^{This} ~~the~~ Number One Jew baiter among the Nazis, was ~~fxi~~ found today at a farm and turned over to American troops.

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SOVIET - SAN FRANCISCO

At the San Francisco conference today - a Soviet representative argued the case for giving a lot of German territory to Poland. The Soviets are taking about half of pre-war Poland, and want the Poles to be compensated at the expense of Germany. The Russian representative, Professor Pertsev, contended today that the Poles had what he called - "an indisputable historic claim" to all German territory east of the River Oder.

The Professor made it exceedingly historic - going back a thousand years or so. He said the name "Prussia" is not really German - even after all the talk about Prussian militarism. The original Prussians, he declared, were really Slavs - who were conquered by the Germans. All of which is well known, ~~is~~ a matter of ordinary textbook history. The only novelty is in the idea of re-adjusting things that were done a thousand years ago, at which time the world had a far different look than it has now.

The Soviet Professor went on to say that, in fact, the Slavic peoples have a historic right to

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all the German territory east of the River Elbe - which would include Berlin, Saxony and what not. It is, of course, a fact that the German peoples did push back the Slavs in the areas east of the Elbe - this in the time of Charlemagne. But then, before that, the Slavs themselves pushed into territories of other people - and if you kept going farther back, you ~~■~~ could prove all sorts of rights and titles - all the way back to Adam.

KING

We hear of another prominent casualty of war - a King, one of the strangest monarchs on earth. His Majesty Ross the Third, King of the Cocos Islands. Those bits of land in the remote Indian Ocean belong, of course, to the British Empire. But the Cocos Islands have a reigning dynasty, a royal family that is part Scottish and part Malay. Today the news tells of a Jap air raid against the Cocos Islands, and King Ross the Third died from the mere ¹⁰ shock of it - the shock of such an outrage against his royal domain.

All of which recalls a singular bit of history. Back in the Eighteenth Century, a Scot named Alexander Ross was one of the Highlanders who fought for King James for the lost cause of the House of Stuart. He had to flee as a rebel, and thereafter was an exile from Scotland. His son and grandson maintained the family loyalty to the Stuart pretenders - like Bonnie Prince Charlie.

Finally John Ross wound up in Java, from which point he and some others went to the Cocos Islands

- where he set himself up as a king over the natives. As His Majesty Ross the Third, he was a typical oriental sovereign, with a host of slaves, a magnificent palace, and a large harem.

His descendants, mingling the Scottish and Malay blood, have been lords of the Cocos ever since. In Eighteen Hundred and Eighty-six, with the British in possession of the islands, Queen Victoria confirmed the arrangement in a legal way - by granting the Ross family a ninety-nine year lease on the Cocos Islands.

And now Ross the Third, who was seventy-seven years old, has become a victim of war. All of which causes some British imperial difficulty - because the whereabouts of the heirs to the throne of the Cocos Islands are in doubt. One report is that the Crown Prince was caught somewhere in the tide of Japanese invasion, and has been a prisoner in Singapore. This is not confirmed, and the British, always sticklers for legality, may have a ~~problem~~ problem on their hands - following the Japanese bombing that caused the death of His Majesty the Third, King of the Cocos Islands. *and*

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Here is one great big Seventh War Loan agreement. Shouldn't you think it wise to invest your money as great corporations are investing theirs? Financial masters of big business ought to know. A report from the Securities and Exchange Commission discloses that American corporations, more and more, are putting their funds into government securities - war bonds mostly. Since Nineteen Thirty-Nine, big business concerns have increased their holdings from Two Billion, Two Hundred Million Dollars to Twenty Billion, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Eight Hundred Million Dollars. In other words, being given a ^{great} ~~large~~ wartime opportunity to invest in Bonds, they have [REDACTED] jumped at it. In the past year alone, corporations have increased their bond holdings by five billion dollars.