

L.I. - P.G. Thursday, Nov. 18, 1948.

TRUMAN

(President Truman today reaffirmed his faith in the idea of a bi-partisan foreign policy. He did this by appointing John Foster Dulles to fill the roll of Acting Chairman, of our delegation to the U.N., in Paris. Governor Dewey's foreign policy adviser to take Secretary of State Marshall's place while Marshall returns to Washington.)

Mr. Truman also named Benjamin Cohen, one of the original New Deal brain trusters, to serve temporarily as Chief American Delegate to the U.N. General Assembly, while Warren Austin is absent from Paris.

---o---

2
The President ~~is~~ today took time out from his vacation to talk things over with Defense Secretary Forrestal. Forrestal flew to Key West from Washington, on his own, he says, then flew right back to the capital after being with Mr. Truman for less than an hour. Stories have been going around that Forrestal wants to drop out of the ~~Executive~~ Cabinet. Soon. The rumor is that today's trip to Key West was for the ^{purpose} ~~purpose~~ of discussing that.

Presidential Press Secretary Charlie Ross assured newsmen that Forrestal was there to report on his trip to Europe -- a verbal report in addition to a ten-page memorandum he had written.

CRISIS

From Paris, word that the United States and Great Britain have made it clear they will not allow U.N. Secretary General Trygvie Lie to act as a mediator for them in the Berlin crisis -- not as matters now stand.

Argentina's representative, Bramuglia, President of the Security Council, is making a final effort to mediate between East and West. And, both Britain and America are helping him. But when Trygvie Lie asked for identical information, neither power would reply.

PALESTINE

From Tel Aviv tonight the Israeli Government makes it clear that it intends to hold the Negev Desert in Southern Palestine. But it will comply with the recommendations of the U N Security Council. This by withdrawing all troops that entered the area after October Fourteenth -- and leaving those who were there before then. Meaning Israel holds twenty strong points in the Negev; and that just about amounts to complete control.

CHINA EVACUATION

In Washington, the State Department announces that *so*
far nearly two hundred Americans and a number of aliens have been
evacuated from Tientsin; ~~China~~ ^{aboard} ~~by~~ two U.S. Naval craft.

Eight hundred Americans are still in the Peiping area, waiting
for ~~shipping space to come~~ ^{a way to return} home.

Also in Washington, Paul Hoffman, Recovery
Administrator, announces an emergency aid program for China,
to bring immediate food relief for twelve million people in
seven major Chinese cities. The E.C.A. has diverted two
9,000 ton cargoes of U.S. Army wheat to Chinese ports.
This for the people in the north, who live on wheat. And,
large shipments of rice are being sent to the cities of
southern China.

But the problem is still one of transportation; *that*
and the increasing menace of a Communist break-through to
the national capital.

NOBEL PRIZE

5
There will be no Nobel Peace Prize awarded for Nineteen Forty-seven. Last year to go down in history as one of the years in which no one made a contribution to world peace worthy of the award. So the prize of about thirty-two thousand, two hundred and fifty dollars in gold kroner will go back to the Nobel Foundation in Oslo, Norway.

There had been reports that Gandhi would get it, or Count Bernadotte. But we hear that neither was put on the list in time to qualify. Now both are dead; both victims of an assassin's bullet.

Nineteen Forty-seven is the tenth year since Nineteen One that the Nobel Committee has held back, failed to award its peace prize.

HOLLYWOOD

(Hollywood film star Rita Hayworth and Prince Ali Kahn, the multi-millionaire Indian Prince, a descendant of the Prophet Mohammed, arrived in Havana, Cuba, today. On the same plane. But when they saw a host of pressmen and photographers on the airport they acted as if they didn't know each other. Neither exchanging a word.)

Rita refused to pose for a picture with the Prince. And, she firmly denied she was married to the handsome Moslem, son of fabulously wealthy Aga Kahn.

Finally the press got round to questioning Prince Ali. He protested that it wasn't his fault if he arrived on the same plane as a girl he knew -- such a thing could happen to anyone he inferred. One reporter asked the Prince if it was a coincidence he and Rita Hayworth being together in Cuba. To which he replied: "I say, old boy, I would like to answer your questions, but I just can't when they embarrass me." So tonight the press is waiting and watching for a wedding in Havana -- although both Rita and her Prince say such a thing just isn't possible.

14

AIR FORCE

Something new ~~command~~ for the U.S. Air Force -- the Continental Air Command they are calling it. To strengthen our national defense. Its commander -- Lieutenant General ^{*Sec.*} E. Stratemeyer, with headquarters at Mitchell Field on Long Island.

One part of the new arrangement is to push ^{*the*} ~~an~~ Air National Guard and ^{*the*} ~~an~~ Air Reserve program. Also, General Stratemeyer will unite ~~the~~ present air defense and tactical air commands, and have six air forces at his disposal. One for each of the six army areas ~~in~~ into which the United States is divided. Each of our six army areas to have one air force.

PLANE

~~Some more aviation news -- the latest~~ The Navy announces tonight that it has completed flight tests on a new flying wing jet fighter plane of unconventional design. Sharply swept back wings, no tail; and a speed of over six hundred miles an hour. Faster, says the Navy Department Bulletin, than any other military aircraft now in use anywhere -- on land or sea.

The new deck landing fighter is said to climb like a rocket, but ~~it~~ can be slowed down sufficiently to land on the deck of a flat top. The pressurized cockpit is way out in front of the plane's V-shaped single wing; to give the pilot a clear view. And, ~~there is~~ an ejection mechanism to shoot him clear if he has to bail out.

~~The Navy further reveals that the plane's two~~ Turbo jet engines, ~~are~~ revolutionary in design. With a secret device ~~which~~ ^{gives} a reserve of power at all speeds. Whenever he wants it, the pilot can get a sudden short ^{terrific} burst of speed -- which should be tops in aerial combat.

PLANE

~~Some more aviation news -- the latest.~~ The Navy announces tonight that it has completed flight tests on a new flying wing jet fighter plane of unconventional design. Sharply swept back wings, no tail; and a speed of over six hundred miles an hour. Faster, says the Navy Department Bulletin, than any other military aircraft now in use anywhere -- on land or sea.

The new deck landing fighter is said to climb like a rocket, but ~~it~~ can be slowed down sufficiently to land on the deck of a flat top. The pressurized cockpit is way out in front of the plane's V-shaped single wing; to give the pilot a clear view. And, ~~there is~~ an ejection mechanism to shoot him clear if he has to bail out.

~~The Navy further reveals that the plane's two~~ Turbo jet engines, ~~are~~ revolutionary in design. With a secret device ~~which~~ ^{gives} a reserve of power at all speeds. Whenever he wants it, the pilot can get a sudden short ^{terrific} burst of speed -- which should be tops in aerial combat.

URANIUM

(A dispatch from Brussels tells of the world's largest plant for processing uranium. They are building it in the Belgian Congo, which is the world's largest source of uranium.) An almost limitless supply of the most sought-after mineral, now being mined in the jungles of darkest Africa.

The news wire tells of a modern city being built in a clearing in the Congo. Homes for four thousand white workers, as well as for twenty-five thousand natives. All these to help turn out the fissionable element that provides the explosive power of the atomic bomb. We to benefit, because Belgium's entire uranium output comes from there. Two years ago we signed a five-year contract with Brussels, to that effect.

All of which brings back the story of the Congo -- and of swamps, fever and the tse-tse fly. In Eighteen Seventy-six, when Leopold the Second, King of the Belgians, read of the exploits of Livingstone,

he decided to stake a few claims here and there on the Dark Continent. Leopold was more than a king. He was a keen business man. Forming a private company, he sent messengers to the south of France to intercept that other explorer, Henry ^{M.} Stanley, who was on his way back to England from Africa, where he had been sent by The New York Herald. Although he had explored the unknown river, the Congo, Stanley was disillusioned because he couldn't interest British capital in the exploitation of his African discoveries. Nobody could believe there was anything worthwhile in the fever-ridden jungles of Equatorial Africa. So, Stanley willingly accepted King Leopold's offers -- and they proceeded to open up the Congo -- with fabulous results.

Out of the Belgian Congo came gold, ivory, coconut oil, precious stones, and rubber, making Leopold just about the ~~xix~~ richest man in the world. And British capitalists were fed up that they had missed the opportunity. From the jungle so dark that

Livingstone wrote of the foliage as eternally blocking out the light of the sun, there poured unending wealth. All because King Leopold had imagination enough to see what others failed to see.

And now, the Congo is in the headlines again.

This time news of an unlimited supply of uranium, belonging to one of Europe's smallest nations ^{all} because old King Leopold and Henry M. Stanley opened up the Congo.

WEATHER

From Chicago -- news about the weather. Snow, and winds of hurricane force. In Western Kansas, telephone and telegraph lines down. Tornadoes in the South -- especially in Louisiana. Snow in Nebraska, Colorado and Oklahoma.

The weather man in Chicago says the storm sweeping the Middle West is of "considerable intensity," snow, howling winds, with temperatures down sharply.

The news from Nebraska tells of an ice and sleet storm. ~~With~~ Some roads nearly impassable. Dozens of automobiles stranded and mainline trains slowed down, through lack of communications, as Old Man Winter delivers an early punch.

BULL

Here's a story which may go to prove there is indeed something to that old theory, that bulls do not like the color red. In San Cristobal, Venezuela, Jose Rodriquez was driving home after winning a sixty thousand dollar race from the Argentine to Venezuela. His automobile painted a bright red, with yellow stripes -- his racing colors.

In the main street of San Cristobal, Jose met a bull. The bull didn't like Jose's car, so charged it, and overturned it, with Jose safe -- underneath.

BRITISH SCANDAL

In London today, the British black market inquiry has uncovered evidence that not only shocked the court but today made bigger headlines in the British press than the declaration of the war, the coronation of King George, or the arrival of the royal baby. This because the fate of the Labor Government may depend on the outcome.

But what was this evidence which the British press describes as standing out in a haze of testimony about telephone code names, pin ball machines, football pools and bags of cement?

Just this:-- Harry Sherman, who operates one of England's largest football betting pools, related how he met Sidney Stanley at a meeting in the private apartment of John Belcher, high official of the British Board of Trade. Stanley is the man of many aliases, the man the British court yesterday described as the "biggest villain unhung." Witness Sherman told the court that Stanley called Minister Belcher "John," and he addressed Belcher's wife as "Lulu."

What difference does that make? Well, in England a man's first name is his ~~own~~ own -- for family use. You need to be on very familiar terms indeed, oh, know a man say fifteen years or so, before you use his Christian name -- before you address him as Reg, or Stan. John Smith is "Smith" to you, and you are "Jones" to him. And he wants it to remain that way. He was "Smith" when he went to school, and when he started work. As a lowly clerk he might have been called "John," but the moment he got a desk of his own, he became "Smith." The Englishman keeps first names for his chauffeur, the ^{gardener,} the ~~garden~~ delivery boy, and close friends.

Years ago, in England, I found this a bit ~~puzzling~~ puzzling. But that was the way it was. After twenty years, one of my London friends did ask me to call him Hal. To call a man by his first name during the first years you know him may cause him a pang or two. To do it the second day or the second week -- that would offend him deeply.

~~xxxxx~~

Here sits a chap I've known for so many years I've forgotten how long. I say, old chap, is it all right now to call you Nelson?