

Britain and France are urging the United States to join in a conference with Soviet Russian - on the subject of German unity. This is disclosed in London - while, in Paris, the French Government made a formal announcement today. Right now, the Western powers are preparing an answer to a Soviet communication of last month, proposing a parley.

At first, the United States was - in favor. But later - grew cool. London and Paris, at first, were not enthusiastic, but now they've changed their minds - and want to get the United States in. It all has to do with changing opinions about the prospects of what could be accomplished.

The British and French think that we're now in a better position to bargain with Moscow - after the signing of peace with western Germany. German troops to serve in the army of the West. Today's London dispatch states

moreover, that Britain and France are convinced that there is, - "a very real danger to world peace."

The question is - can they get the Soviets to agree on an agenda? That is, practical topics, realities. The fear is that Moscow would use the conference merely for propaganda. The Western Allies insist that, to unify Germany, there must be free democratic elections in the Soviet Eastern Zone, honest elections. But Moscow has never shown a sign of agreeing to anything like that.

The British, in wanting a conference, are not talking of top levelheads of government, including Stalin. They don't even suggest a meeting of the Foreign Ministers. They think the parley should be a meeting between lesser diplomats, authorized to talk business. Explore the possibilities in discussions at a lower level, before calling a conference at the top.

KOREA - TRUCE

The truce talks are on again - with our negotiators declaring they'll take another "recess" if the Reds resume their propaganda blasts. ~~They were~~ ^{to do so} Authorized ~~by~~ by Far Eastern Commander Mark Clark who - in a note to the Communists, told them that our truce talkers ^{(will} ~~would~~ take time out again, if the Reds don't get around to real negotiations.

So what about the session today - in the tents at Panmunjom? Well, the Communist officers began with a propaganda diatribe, same old thing. But, at last reports, there was no U.N. walkout. So, maybe, the Reds had something else to say besides propaganda.

In Washington, the word is that the United States would be "reluctant" to include British representatives on the U.N. truce team. ^{Dispatches} ~~News from London has been~~ have been saying that the British might ask to play a part in the negotiations. But all this is unofficial - and, in Washington, they say it would not be good policy to include the British. Red propaganda might represent this as a sign of discord among the Allies - and, moreover,

all the other countries with soldiers in Korea might think they should be declared in also. We might wind up with a small army for a truce team.

The Army disputes vigorously - a statement made by a General of National Guards/ ~~who stated~~ that the Reds can drive our forces out of Korea. ~~whenever they want to.~~

Major General Daniel Hudelson, Commander of the Fortieth Division, California National Guard, returned from Korea recently, saying - that the Reds over there outnumber our forces so greatly that they could stage a victorious push at any time. ^PThe denial comes from Army Chief-of-Staff General Collins and Army Secretary Frank Pace, who tell a Congressional Committee that there is no basis for the pessimistic declaration. The Chief-of-Staff states: "General Ridgway and General Van Fleet have said over and over again that, if the Communists attack, they're going to get badly beaten."

KOREA - WAR

In Korean skies - seven Migs shot down today.

Twelve American Sabrejets versus twenty-five enemy Jets, in swirling combat all the way from six miles up right down to the deck. We got - seven.

KOREA - PRISONERS

In Korea today, soldiers hunted through a compound evacuated by Red prisoners yesterday - and made an atrocious discovery. (Yesterday, at ~~at~~ Compound Seventy-Seven, the Communists moved out meekly - obeying orders. But, before doing so, they murdered fifteen fellow prisoners - anti-Communists.) Today American G.I's found the bodies of ~~newly murdered~~ the newly murdered. All along, the Reds ran kangaroo courts, condemning and executing victims - for anti-Communism. They did it to the very last - in Compound Seventy-Seven. Where, today, the search went on - for other ^{bodies.} ~~victims~~. The belief is they'll find - hundreds. Previous victims of the Red terror in the prison camps.

FRANCE

Over in Europe, the French Government sure is cracking down on the Communists. Today, hundreds of workers were fired from defense plants - for taking part in political strikes- Communist agitation. This is regarded as one of the heaviest blows against the Reds - mass dismissals of Communist employees.

At the same time, flying squads of police continued with raids on headquarters and hide-outs of the Reds throughout France. The government of Premier Pinay showing every sign that it means business - in suppressing what it calls a "threat of Communist insurrection."

BRITAIN

The plight of Britain was pictured today by Prime Minister Winston Churchill - with all his ~~vigour and~~ eloquence. Addressing the British Press Association, he told them to warn the people of their economic plight - the country constantly on the verge of bankruptcy. He noted that nations on the continent are better off than Britain, and put the dilemma in these words:

"Lands and nations whom we have defeated in war, or rescued from subjugation," declared Churchill, "are today more solidly sure of earning their living - than we, who have imparted our message of parliamentary institutions to the civilized world. And - have kept the flag of freedom flying in some of its darkest days."

That does sound like a mockery of history.

STEEL

(The Senate, this afternoon, voted down still another bill to give the President the power to seize the steel mills. Three measures of the same sort were defeated yesterday - another today.) This one - introduced by Republican Senator Wayne Morse of Oregon.

Yesterday, in its rebuke to the White House, the Senate requested the President to invoke the Taft-Hartley Law. But - there's no sign of compliance. ^{At} ~~the~~ the White House, the word was today that the President is - "extremely unlikely" to ask the courts for a Taft-Hartley injunction - as long as there's a chance for Congress to reverse itself. There doesn't seem to be much chance - after the rejection of that fourth bill today.

(In the House of Representatives, though, the Congressmen turned down a resolution advising - Taft-Hartley. This, as the House voted to extend a lot of presidential wartime powers for another year.)

POLITICS - CONVENTION

Amid the headlines of General MacArthur as the Republican keynoter, little attention has been paid to - Walter Hallanan, named as Temporary Chairman. Usually, the keynoter fills that post - but, in the case of the General, the Republicans make an exception.

The Temporary Chairman presides, while the Convention is being organized. Which is quite a technical, parliamentary job. Especially - with all those contested delegations, Taft versus Eisenhower. Like the dispute in Texas. In these the rulings by the Temporary Chairman might make all the difference and the contests ^{of delegates} might decide the nomination. So the hot spot of Temporary Chairman is not given to the General. Hallanan gets it, a veteran of politics - and, a Taft supporter.

Well, there's a fascinating bit of background - ~~looking back to~~ a Republican Convention of years ago. Also featuring - Taft. But - President Taft, father of the Senator of today. In Nineteen Twelve, William Howard Taft won the nomination against Theodore Roosevelt. He had control of the

Republican Party organization - just as his own son has now. The situation has points of startling similarity.

Recently, the story of that Nineteen Twelve Convention was recalled by Arthur Krock of the New York Times, who told ~~the~~^a story of contested delegations - then, as now. Then, for a Temporary Chairman, the Taft-controlled-committee elected Elihu Root, Senator from New York. Elihu Root - the Nineteen Twelve version of Hallanan.

At the Convention, Root ruled in favor of Taft - in contests of delegates. Seventy ~~sixty~~ were seated - largely through the rulings of the Temporary Chairman. Which provided the Taft majority.

So Teddy Roosevelt with his followers, bolted, and formed a third party, the Bull Moose. Which led to the election of the Democrat - Woodrow Wilson.

Strange similarities indeed - with Hallanan, today, playing the part of Elihu Root. Though this time, of course, there is no chance of an Eisenhower bolt, if Taft should prevail.

TEXAS - EXPLOSION

West Texas had an explosion today - and it sure was seen far away. A gas pipeline blew up, a twenty-five incher, ripping a hole in the ground one hundred yards wide. No lives lost - thatpart of Western Texas not being so densely populated, the great plains. The nearest farmhouse was a mile fromthe point - where the pipeline erupted with a towering stream of blazing natural gas. The alarm was given at the Amarillo flyingfield, where they spotted the explosion. Amarillo - thirty miles away.

SAFETY

The National Safety Council announces - awards of honor. A series of business concerns were named - for distinguished service in avoiding industrial accidents. On the list are two great factories - of obvious interest to this program. One item reads: "Proctor and Gamble ~~Manufacturing~~ Manufacturing Company, Chicago plant.: The other - "Proctor and Gamble Manufacturing Company, Port Ivory, Staten Island plant."

Both cited as - champions of safety.

Clean record - and Ivory is the word for clean.

BOY

In Washington, there's a young opportunist - fifteen year old Bob Thorson of Anaconda, Montana. Bob won a prize in a letter-writing contest, sponsored by the Schaeffer Pen Company. Subject - "How Can I Help Expand Opportunities in America?"

In his letter, he wrote: "In order to make more opportunities and expand them, a person must have two prevailing qualities, curiosity and the chance-taking spirit. It is through curiosity that we discover opportunities, and it is by gambling that we expand them." Not bad at all, ~~and~~ an acute idea, well expressed.

Winning the prize gave Bob a trip to Washington, and there his curiosity made him seek an opportunity to visit that other great letter-writer - President Truman. Whose epistles ~~have~~ have had a way of hitting the headlines. But, alas, a phone call to the White House revealed that H.S.T. was too busy. Writing a letter, probably.

WIFE

A West Virginia farmer is advertising for an Indiana wife - and offers twenty-eight thousand dollars for one. ~~It~~ sounds like a pretty good price - quite a tribute to Indiana women.

West Virginia, says Jesse Garrett, of Scott Depot, ~~that~~ he used to live in Rockport, Indiana - so he makes the offer in a letter to a Rockport newspaper. He lists his qualifications ^{as a husband,} in addition to the twenty-eight thousand dollars - and they're impressive.

He's a forty-nine year old farmer and says he's not bad looking. Well, many a wife doesn't require good looks in a husband - but I guess they don't harm. Anyway, the West Virginian is a man of great versatility. "I have a fair education," he writes, "and am at home in a hog pen or a mansion's drawing room." Anything - from pigs to high society.

The letter says - the lady must have qualifications, too. As why not - for twenty-eight thousand dollars? The West Virginian has two boys, and she must be a good cook.

"Me and my boys," he writes, "we love to eat." Moreover, the

bride must be between the ages of thirty-five and forty-five -

none younger need apply. *So, Nelson, wouldn't*

you say, ~~so~~ there's your chance, ladies, if you happen to

live in Indiana - and want to move to West Virginia.

June 12, 1952, broadcast lost -- was never brought
to the New York Office.