

L.T. - DELCO - THURSDAY, August 8, 1957

(Given by Walter Cronkite)

CONFERENCE

In Geneva, today, an American delegate met with a representative of the Chinese Reds - for diplomatic discussion. Which began the third year of what must be - just about the longest international conference on record.

In August of Nineteen Fifty-Five, the American Ambassador to Switzerland, Alexis Johnson, began talks with Chinese Ambassador, Wang Ping-Nan. Subject - the release of Americans held in Red China. Also - an American proposal for a declaration to renounce the military use of force in the Formosa sector. And that began an interminable series of meetings - sixty-nine so far. The results - meagre. Of forty-one Americans whose release was demanded - six are still in Chinese prisons. As for the renunciation of the use of military force - a deadlock, still unbroken.

So what happened in the session today - beginning the third year? Merely an announcement - that the two Ambassadors will have another meeting, Thursday of next week.

I wonder what they've been saying to each other in those conferences, time after time, year after year.

BILL

At Floral Park, New York, Raymond Carr got a bill for gas and electricity. Accompanying the bill, a brochure which stated proudly: "The Long Island Lighting Company is now using electronic computing equipment - to calculate gas and electric bills. Because of the great accuracy of this modern system," the leaflet went on, "we are certain it will be another step forward in our program to render the best of utility service."

Brother Carr looked at the bill, and the charge for gas was okay. No complaint - six dollars and twenty cents. But the charge for electric light, as computed by the electronic marvel, was one thousand, two hundred and sixty-six dollars and eighty cents.

I wonder how the super-human calculator - arrived at that! Just an electronic brain storm, I suppose.

## JAPAN

Some of the tricky tangles of international politics are illustrated - by a protest made by Japan to the United States. Complaining - about one item in the U.S. disarmament proposal.

At the London conference, the American suggestion is that the aerial-ground inspection plan shall embrace all Russian territory. Including - the island of Sakhalin. Which - is what the Japanese don't like. Because the mention of the island would include southern Sakhalin - which is claimed by Japan. The American proposal recognizing, by implication - that the whole island belongs to Soviet Russia.

Tokyo says - this has been protested by the Japanese Ambassador in Washington. Complaining - to the State Department.

## LONDON - ACCIDENTS

Here's a dispatch about - death on the highway.

A usual topic of warning - in this country. But it comes from London, and says - that the fatality list over there is as much as twenty times as great as that of cities in the United States.

The British Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, today, made a report - that, on the main highways of London, there are from ten to forty fatal accidents for every one hundred miles driven by automobiles. In American cities, the figure for the same distance is - two.

Sedate London seems more addicted to reckless driving than those wild and woolly Americans.

## RANCHER

At Oro Grande, New Mexico, John Prather has received reinforcements - the eighty-two year old rancher, who is defying the U.S. Army. He refuses to comply with a court order evicting him from his ranch. Which the Army wants to annex - as part of the MacGregor Firing Range. They're willing to pay two hundred thousand dollars, but John Prather won't leave the old ranch. Instead, he stands his ground, rifle in hand - threatening to shoot.

He has a good deal of popular support among other cattle ranchers down that way - and, today, was joined by a small army of sympathizers. Twenty-Five relatives - including a brother, a son and daughter-in-law, a daughter and son-in-law, twelve grandchildren, and sixteen great grandchildren. Unarmed and peaceable - determined on pacific resistance.

Neighboring ranchers joined in two - the whole crowd camping out near the Prather home. A group of U.S. deputy marshals, with the eviction order - keeping a safe distance.

This John Prather insurrection has even Washington

baffled. Three New Mexico Congressmen called at the State Department, today - discussing the problem with Army officials. They say they hope the controversy may be compromised in some way.

## INTRODUCTION TO L.T.

In far off New Guinea, Lowell Thomas has picked up a thrilling story about an American in the Second World War - a Marine from Michigan. Which he now tells us.

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L.T.: - Now for the story of the American tail gunner, sole survivor of a plane that he said was the first American bomber shot out of the sky at night by a Jap night interceptor. John Gilmore, of New Guinea, who has a reputation for veracity in these parts, says the plane probably was brought down by Jap flak. But that's unimportant. This tail gunner, a young fellow from the Maine Woods, returned to the U.S.A. and told wild stories of his adventures on the Island of New Britain. In fact, his tale was generally regarded as one of the harrowing epics of the Pacific War. According to this Australian - he's really a citizen of New Guinea - Gordon Manuel did have some adventures, but not as he related them in the



exciting book "One Against Forty Thousand."

Instead of crawling ashore and setting his own broken leg hiding from the Japs by day, crawling down to the sea for shell life to keep himself alive, John Gilmore says a native, trained by the 7th Day Adventists Missionaries, set his leg and put it in a cast. After which the natives took care of him. Instead of his killing scores of Japs in hand to hand encounter in the jungle, that he never moved away from the native huts where he was taken care of, until one day the natives sent word to the then Sergeant John Gilmore, that they wanted to bring him to the jungle headquarters, where three of MacArthur's spotters, an Australian captain, Sgt. Gilmore and a corporal, had a secret radio station. They had been dropped there to keep track of the movement of Jap ships, and planes, and of course rescue any airmen, who might be shot down. Sergeant Gilmore sent back word

that they wouldn't accept any white man unless brought in by a native whom Gilmore knew and trusted. Whereupon the American airman was brought in by a Solomon Islander who had been one of John Gilmore's childhood playmates.

Right from the start, Gilmore says, they found they had a trouble-maker on their hands. Manuel criticized everything they did, caused trouble among the natives, and even endangered all their lives by doing stupid things, such as using his gun for target practice, when they had told him never to fire it lest it reveal their whereabouts to the Japs.

He says that Manuel caused so much trouble they radioed out to American Headquarters, which they did regularly - they were reporting direct to General MacArthur. That's how important was their radio spotting assignment. They told MacArthur of the trouble this man was giving them. MacArthur sent back word that all

Americans, no matter what their rank, if forced down on that island next door to New Guinea, must obey any and every order given by the three Australians who were at this advanced post in the New Britain jungle.

After that they had less trouble with this tail gunner. Even so he was still such a nuisance that as soon as possible they got him out in a submarine.

Whereupon he returned to his unit, told his wild tale, was forthwith made an officer, and sent home, where he told his spine tingling tale to me, to others, and to that able writer Quentin Reynolds, who was convinced, just as I was.

Not long after that we heard how this lad from the Maine Woods, had gone home to Maine, got to drinking, threatened his neighbors with a gun, abandoned his wife, and a little later Colonel Howard Rusk, the eminent doctor in charge of all Air Force rehabilitation, told

me he came to a tragic end. On a highway, between Baltimore and Washington, a traffic officer stopped him for speeding. He got out of his car, took a punch at the officer, and in the ensuing fight was shot and killed.

Should that cause us to lose faith in those who tell us of their experiences in war? Not at all. Most of them are true, and only half told. But occasionally there's a Dr. Cook, who says he has been to the North Pole, although he never got within a hundred miles of it. And in war time, as we know, the most hair raising stories of all are not told at all, because the men who experienced them are either inarticulate, or just won't talk. As for our ex-Maine guide, our tail gunner shot down here off the wild coast of New Guinea, well, it's too bad he didn't have a better education. He might have turned his obvious talent to fiction. He might have been a second Somerset Maugham. In my next I'll tell you where we are going - or hope to go - and why. Also something about another flight along this north New Guinea coast.

SENATE - RACKETEERING

A Union leader in Washington, today, told a Senate Committee - how he opposed Johnny Dio, alleged boss of Union racketeering in New York. Clifton Cameron, of the Electrical Workers Union, saying - that he battled against the racket, and had clashed with Johnny Dio.

Whereupon Senator Hruska of Nebraska asked, why hadn't Cameron fought against Communism in the Electrical Workers Union? Communism - as well as racketeering?

Cameron took the Fifth Amendment seventeen times - when asked about Communist affiliations of himself and the Union.

Meanwhile, alleged racketeer Johnny Dio was getting into a fracas with news reporters and photographers. Called upon to testify before the Committee, later on - he was leaving the Senate Office Building, when he called a photographer a vile name. And - pushed his fist against the photographer's ear. Then he made a dash away - eluding the newsmen.

## KHRUSHCHEV

Khrushchev - did some noisy threatening and blustering today. Addressing - the Communist Parliament of East Germany, he shouted that the United States would be liable to atomic devastation, in case of war.

More important, he seemingly destroyed any chance of an agreement for the reunification of Germany. Making it plain - that this can only come about, under Communist conditions. Rejecting flatly - the Western insistence on all-German free elections.

## DEFENSE

Another economy move - in the Defense Department.

An order - cutting down the purchase of oil for the current fiscal year. A slash - of ten to twenty per cent.

One result of this curtailment of oil purchases will be - a reduction of flying hours of military aircraft. And - time spent at sea by naval and other vessels.

All a part of an economy campaign - to keep military spending within thirty-eight billion dollars.

FOLLOW SENATE-RACKETEERING

When the time came for Dio to testify, he took the First Amendment. The Committee charges that he worked in cahoots with James Hoffa, Vice-President of the Teamsters Union. Dio - helping Hoff to rig a Teamsters election in New York. Asked about that, Dio wouldn't answer - making the familiar plea of self-incrimination.



## PLANE

Over the Pacific, today, a big military transport, with sixty-seven persons aboard, flew at an altitude - of one hundred feet. Hardly more - than skimming the waves.

Escorting it - five Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard planes.

The large aircraft, with two of its four engines - out. And - with hardly enough gasoline aboard to reach its destination - bound from California to Hawaii. A fleet of Navy vessels - racing to points along the line of flight. Ready for a rescue job - if the transport plane were forced down on the ocean.

Luckily, the weather was fine - bright skies and a calm sea. Adding to the hope - that the plane would be able to reach Hawaii safely.

(Note: Maybe we'll have the end of this by broadcast time.)

## BRITAIN

The uproar over criticism of the Royal Family goes on in Britain. Today, the powerful Beaverbrook press came out - with indirect support of Lord Altrincham, who has been making unfavorable remarks about the oratorical style of Her Majesty, the Queen.

The Daily Express told how, on a recent occasion, cordons of police kept the public from getting hardly more than a glimpse of the Sovereign.

In a periodical affiliated with the Labor Party, the support for Lord Altrincham - is not indirect at all. The paper advising what it calls - "a healthy discussion of British Royalty." And adding - "the atmosphere has become so stuffy, the obeisance so object, the general tone and references to the Royal Family so ridiculous."

Today, His Lordship continued his appearances on television, with a suggestion - that the Queen should send her son, Prince Charles, to a school along with children of the common sort. Don't bring him up - just as part of the upper classes.