

SUN OIL - April 26, 1946.

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substituting for
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Here is the latest word on the reported Russian looting of Manchuria's heavy industry as the Red Army withdraws. The State Department confirms that Moscow has bluntly rejected our protest against such looting. The text of the Russian note has not been made public but informed sources say that the Russians contend in effect that what they do in Manchuria is none of our business. While the Kremlin was framing that official note to us about its actions in Manchuria, the Soviet Press continued its technically unofficial criticism of what it call American looting in Japan. General Oliver Echoes chief of the War Department's Civil Affairs Division, he says that there is no basis for charges of such American looting. Some enemy assets we have impounded but not confiscated. Says Echoes, "No

Japanese gold, silver, diamonds, platinum or art treasures have been sent to the United States," as for the charge about Japanese industrial equipment, he says, "that is absurd, we have more industrial equipment than we know what to do with." The military situation in Manchuria is still grave. Fighting is still going on, but the dark horizon suddenly brightened today. Chinese Communists submitted a three --point proposal to our General Marshall which late dispatches say may lead to immediate cessation of fighting. One United Press dispatch from Chungking says that it is expected that Government and Communists leaders may sign a truce at any time; and then start in again to settle all the Army political problems by peaceful talk. Today's developments are said to be almost entirely the result of efforts by Lo Lung Chi. He's leader of the Democratic League which stands somewhere on middle ground between Chiang Kai-shek's Wo Ming Tang and the Communists. Lo was educated incidentally, at the University of

Wisconsin. He's becoming an increasingly important figure in Chinese affairs. It's quite possible Lo is close to General Marshall; had lunch with him just yesterday, but it's quite possible that ideas and ideals absorbed on the Wisconsin campus may settle the differences in Manchuria which have caused such bloodshed, such International ill-will. Meanwhile five American correspondents who got to embattled Changchung in Manchuria and then couldn't out; at least it's learned that they're alright. They haven't been able to sent out dispatches, but that is apparently just because the Chinese Communist radio operators don't understand English letters. But these Americans have perfect freedom inside the city and the expected truce should get them out.

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The Big Four Foreign Minister's conference continued in Paris today, but for Parisians the big story of the day was a running battle in the city streets between American G.I. Law enforcers and law

violators. Twelve days ago, five G.I.'s held at the detention barracks; one for murder and the others for robberies, escaped. Word went out that they had sworn to kill Military Police on sight. You can't miss spotting a Military Policeman overseas. They wear white helmets, white belts and white brassards. So the M.P.'s actually known to the fugitives were for their own safety's sake taken out of M.P. uniform, told to carry their guns out of sight. Today, a carload of M.P.'s let go with sub-machineguns. Eddie Jones, a Cleveland negro charged with the murder of a currier, slipped and fell and he was subdued quickly. His white companions fled. But John Lee of Louisville, West Virginia, was cornered in a dead-end street and captured after he had emptied his gun. Gromer Blackburn of Wheelwright, Kentucky who had been held like Lee for ~~many~~ robberies, ran to a tenement roof. From roof to roof he fled, with the M.P.'s in hot and perilous pursuit. After forty minutes, he too was caught. The casualties as so often happens, they were confined to innocent

bystanders. A French policeman who didn't know what it was all about was wounded, and a fifty-five year old civilian one George Hupiat just happened to be passing when the battle began, he was killed.

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Meanwhile, as I said, the Big Four Foreign Ministers Conference was in session in Paris, laying the plans for peace treaties with former German satellites. It was decided today to deal with Italy first, the country first to see the light or the writing on the wall. Italy's is the one peace treaty of all the five satellite treaties to be made on which all the Big Four have a vote as well as a voice; because Russia has finally agreed to that. France can vote only on Italy, and we cannot vote on Finland. Today the Foreign Ministers named a Committee to find out what war reparations Italy is able to pay, if any. Russia wants her to pay three ~~xx~~ hundred million dollars to Russia,

Yugoslavia and Albania. If that should completely pauperize Italy, why then of course UNRRA would have to step in and save the day, and we are most heavily involved in supporting UNRRA. In effect we might find ourselves paying a good part of Italy's reparations to Russia and the rest. So the matter was argued out and Russian has shown a greater tendency toward concession Paris than in New York, agreed to a committee to see what remains in Italy's own purse.

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Here in New York the Security Council of the United Nations which held its longest session of more than three hours and a half yesterday, held its shortest session today; just fourteen minutes before recess was taken until Monday. But even in that brief time a new compromise of former differences concerning Spain was announced, though Russia remained a road block on the path against the rest for direct action against France

Spain; diplomatic and economic boycott of the country by all United Nations, rather than personal investigation first and then action if warranted. Poland and Russia stood together then, but overnight Poland's Dr. Lange was won over and today a new resolution was offered by Australia, France and Poland condemning the Franco regime, but also recommending further studies to determine whether that regime really constitutes a threat to world security and peace. This compromise resolution was presented and then adjournment was taken without even voting on it until Monday. As the meeting broke up Russia Gromyko was asked how he feels about this matter now. Exactly the same, he said unsmiling. I made my position quite clear yesterday. That position was an adamant stand for action against Spain now, no investigation. The other ten delegates have until Monday then to change Gromyko's mind or one beetle may block majority rule. They've been counting ballots in the Phillippines ever since last Monday and it may be

weeks more before the count is finished. That may seem like a pretty long count for an election but it must be remembered that there are seven thousand and eighty-three Philippine Islands stretching 1150 miles from north to south and communication from many of them would make the old pony-express look pretty fast still. However, enough votes are in already to give a pretty good indication that the first Philippine President under the Independence that is coming to those islands on July 4th will be General Manuel Roxas who was captured with his troops by the Japanese in 1942. Present incomplete and unofficial compilations give him a lead of more than 100,000; a lead over Sergio Ismena the part-Chinese incumbent. The winner will be inaugurated May 28th and then the new Republic will come into being on July 4th, which will thereafter be, their Independence Day, as well as ours.

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The biggest domestic news out of Washington today

is coal. Labor Secretary Schwollenbach says that lack of coal due to that twenty six day old strike may cripple the nations's key industries in a matter of days. He invited mine operators and the Union to start in again talking things over. There hasn't been a bargaining meeting since April 10th and the coal bins of industry are running out like the sands in an hour-glass. Bread was in the news today as its increasingly wealthy; bread and all that it implies, good of all kinds. Out in Climax, Minnesota, the Red River wheat belt, former Mayor LaGuardia of New York, who is now head of UNRRA, he pleaded with farmers for mercy wheat. Calling himself a farmer from the pavements of Manhattan, he said, we need wheat to save millions from starving; and Washington has implimated that plea by calling all loans on the 1945 corn crop to force immediate market. Residents of the great grain consuming center in New York found that for them the so-called staff of life is already shrinking because of need

abroad; because of constant increasing shipments from this country. The milling companies have told the bakeries, no more flour deliveries this month. So reduction of output has already begun, each bakery with its own plan. Some favored smaller loaves, but that means new pans and where are you going to get those. Others say less loaves and rolls and still others plan continued bread and roll out but a sharp reduction in fancy wheat products just making almost all breads and rolls, loaves and rolls. But whatever form the cut takes it means tightening the American belt.

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And in London, the big bad bomb by Buckingham Palace went off today with a bang; a bang about as loud as when a baby bangs the side of his crib with a celluloid rattle. But the buildup to this let down was wondrous to behold. I tuned in on BBC about the time for "let her go" signal and I got an on-the-spot report. BBC's Byon Johnston, an experienced reporter was right

there, and stanced in what he called a beep-shelter. He was better off he said with considerable satisfaction than the newspaper reporters, who, in his words, were right on the surface and lying on their tummies. The whole area had been cleared, even the ducks had left Johnston reported, probably the Serpentine. But the reason for the ducks departure may have been that their pond had been completely drained ahead of time, so that the army saffords, engineers as we call them, could dig a dry well to reach the bomb where it lay thirty feet in the ground. Johnston built up a suspense over the air by getting one Major Smith, member of the bomb disposal squad right on the air. He said, "When are you going to give the orders, Major," and the Major said, ~~He~~ "Oh, I must get permission of the Colonel first" so he finally went away and got the Colonel's permission. Then Johnston thrust his microphone out a shelter window and the Major shouted, "Fire." Someone blew a whistle and there was a noise like someone with a light

cold clearing his throat. The bomb, a dud, dropped by the Germans five years ago, had burst at last. The BBC man who seemed a little ashamed of the whole operation seemed to feel some apology was due his listening audience, concluded his broadcast thus "We hope" he said, "to bring you a better and bigger bomb in the future."
