

W.K. Fri. Nov. 27-'53.

The U S reaction to the Moscow note is - ~~still~~ chilly and skeptical. The State Department interprets the new Soviet proposal as a maneuver to split the western allies, and impede western plans ~~in~~ of defense.

The Kremlin ^{acceptance of} ~~accepts~~ that invitation to a Big Four conference of the Foreign Ministers. Previously, Moscow had rejected it - demanding, first, a Big Five affair.

The Soviets now back down on this, merely suggesting - that the Big Four, in their get-together, should discuss a subsequent conference with Red China. Something that might happen - later, Which is - a concession,

At the same time, the Soviet ~~and~~ acceptance is accompanied by a new ^(denunciation) ~~denunciation~~ of the plan to rearm western Germany.

The State Department in Washington calls the diplomatic note -- a disappointment. Admitting, however, that it appears to be a "tactical retreat." ~~But~~ The

Washington view is that - the whole thing is a propaganda maneuver.

The timing is noted - Moscow making the move last night, in the middle of a political crisis in France. Premier Laniel's cabinet in a shaky position - and just in advance of the meeting of the western Big Three in Bermuda. Moscow would like nothing better - than an interruption of the Churchill-Eisenhower-Laniel conference.

In London - a complete contrast: London is hailing the Moscow note. Today, the British Foreign Office said it "amounts to an acceptance" of the western invitation. An "unconditional acceptance" that should be welcomed.

It would be hard to find a greater difference of ~~an~~ opinion than in the views expressed in Washington ~~and~~ and London tonight. If the ~~purpose~~ purpose of the Soviet move was to cause disunity among the western powers, ~~and~~ it certainly seems to have accomplished something - for the moment, at least.

FRANCE

The situation in Paris - lively and ironical. Today, Premier Laniel got the vote of confidence he wanted - but it fell short of his demand. He said he'd have to have - an absolute majority, or he'd resign. Instead, he got a majority - of those who voted. And there were plenty - ~~in~~ who did not vote. One hundred of the deputies - abstaining. But Laniel reversed himself, and says he ~~now~~ regards his majority as a "strong victory". So he'll stay in office - and go to Bermuda.

The irony is this. The supposition was - that the Soviet note might be intended to influence the French National Assembly, and bring about ~~the~~ the overthrow of Laniel. But it worked - the other way around.

The issue was trembling in the ~~balance~~ balance - to overthrow or not to overthrow. When - the Premier came in with the new communication from the Soviets. In the face of probably defeat, he told the National Assembly - he wanted to stay in office, so that he could join Britain ~~and the U.S.~~

and the United States in dealing with Moscow - on this new basis. Find out - what the Soviets have to offer.

So

/ The Moscow note - helped to ~~keep~~ keep Laniel in power ✓

But it all would indicate that France is with Britain in the belief - that the Russians are offering something useful.

apparently not

Laniel ~~is~~ agreeing with Washington - that it's a propaganda sham.

At the U N it looks as if the debate on Red atrocities in Korea will be delayed - until early next year. This is in accordance with the views of the western powers.

At the same time, the United States will not ask ~~the U N to investigate those inhuman brutalities~~

the U N to investigate those inhuman brutalities - because there would be no way of getting behind the Bamboo curtain to make an inquiry. Our government will merely ask the U N to condemn the Communists - on the basis of evidence in hand, proving ~~the~~ atrocities.

SYNGMAN RHEE

South Korean President Syngman Rhee arrived in Formosa today - to consult with Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek. The visit is, officially - a "courtesy call." Syngman Rhee presenting ~~the~~ Chiang Kai Shek with a South Korean medal of honor, at a formal dinner tonight.

But the word is that they ^{are} ~~are~~/~~are~~ meeting to discuss -- a military alliance. Syngman Rhee and Chiang Kai Shek have between them, more than a million soldiers, and there's a supposition - that they may be planning an attack on Communist China. A sort of one-two punch, South Korean and Nationalist Chinese.

PUSAN

Tonight, the great South Korean port of Pusan lies in ruins - after one of the greatest of fires. ^{For} ~~Six~~ hours a tempest of flame swept out of control. Blown by a thirty-mile-an-hour wind - raging through the city on a one mile front.

Pusan, before the Korean war, had three hundred thousand inhabitants. Swollen by hosts of refugees, the population rose to more than a million. Today, the fire started in a shack covered with tar paper - the sort of hut in which countless lived. In mere minutes, the blaze was racing through packed areas of similar shacks. The city, built mostly of wood, was like one gigantic firetrap.

Huge crowds poured through the streets in a wild panic ~~xxxx~~ - tens of thousands fleeing before the on-coming walls of fire. The heart of the city gutted - U.S. military buildings burned out. No real reports of casualties - which do not appear to have been great. But the destruction - enormous. Pusan - virtually destroyed.

KENYA

In Kenya, a court martial has acquitted Captain Gerald Selby Griffiths, about whom we heard the other night -- accused of shooting down three Kikuyu tribesmen. The victims were described as loyal natives - not members of the Mau Mau.

But, at the court martial, evidence was produced to show that the three victims had taken the Mau Mau blood oath. And - that they were trying to escape, when shot.

Meanwhile, the news from Kenya tells of bombing attacks on strongholds in the jungle. War planes - dropping high explosives on the hide outs of the Mau Mau.

QUEEN

In Jamaica, today, an enthusiastic, loyal subject, tried to play Sir Walter Raleigh to Queen Elizabeth the Second. Emulating - the famous gesture when Sir Walter, of old, placed his richly decorated coat at the foot of the first Elizabeth. So that her Majesty - might not have to walk in a mud puddle. But - how times have changed.

Today, Elizabeth the Second had just completed a review of troops - when Warren Kidd of Kingston, dashed forward, and laid his linen jacket at the foot of the sovereign.

He was immediately grabbed and taken away by the police. Charged - with lunacy! Three or four centuries ago - a knightly gesture. Today - just crazy.

SUPREME COURT

The Department of Justice now takes a stand on the subject of - racial segregation in schools. The question is up before the Supreme Court - and, today, Attorney General Brownell presented the court with a brief. Urging the high tribunal - to outlaw school segregation. Citing the fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution, and saying: "The primary and persuasive purpose was to secure for negroes full and complete equality before the law."

This is the first official expression by the Eisenhower administration on that issue, such a burning question in the South - segregation in schools.

O'NEIL

Eugene O'Neil died tonight. The writer of bitter tragedies, whose life was full of bitter tragedy. During his last seven years he was afflicted with Parkinson's disease, a kind of shaking palsy, which left him unable to write. Now, at sixty four, he succumbs to pneumonia in

Boston. But, his life was also full of triumph. He became the first ranking American ^(playwright) ~~playwright~~ with a series of dramas hailed as masterpieces, and ^{he} won the Nobel Prize.

RABIES

In Chicago, Mr. X is in the hospital tonight, where he is being treated for - rabies. Mr. X was the object of a city wide manhunt for six days - after being bitten by a dog.

Mr. X turns out to be Harry Snarr, a Cherokee Indian working as a waiter in a lunch room. Last Friday night, he was walking along when he saw a collie, a handsome dog. The Cherokee likes dogs, and stooped over to pet the collie. The dog leaped at him, and slashed him across the forehead - then bit his hand, as he tried to ^{protect} ~~protect~~ himself.

The lunchroom waiter walked off. The bite of a dog - not so terrifying for a Cherokee raised ~~in~~ among the rattlesnakes of ~~an~~ an Indian reservation.

The collie was taken away - and found to have a virulent case of rabies. People had seen the man bitten by the mad dog - but nobody knew who he was. The city health authorities were alarmed - by the prospect of a man at large, badly inoculated with rabies. So a campaign was

on -- to find Mr. X. And today Harry Snarr saw a piece in a newspaper. The first he knew - it was a mad dog.

He has a low fever, a sore throat, and pains in parts of his body. Which could be symptoms of rabies. Or - some other malady. They gave him immediately - the Pasteur treatments, ^{which} ~~these~~ ^{it} may ward off. ~~the rabies~~

GHOST SHIP

At Block Island, Rhode Island, these are the days of the year for old-timers to remember - the "blazing ghost ship". Probably - the most picturesque legend along the New England coast.

In Seventeen Thirty Two, the sailing vessel, Palatine, was at sea-carrying wealthy Dutch families and their possessions. The crew mutineed, seized the valuables of the passengers - and abandoned ship. So the Palatine, with land lubbers aboard, could only drift - and went aground in a blizzard, off Sandy Point,

The passengers got ashore through the surf - but what did the Block Islanders do? They plundered the ship - taking whatever the mutineers had left.

In the course of the looting, the Palatine caught fire. Then - a shift of the wind, and the blazing vessel drifted off the reef - out to sea.

The wickedness of the Block Islanders was rewarded

with a curse. The looters and their descendants - doomed to see the Palatine in flames, every anniversary of the wreck.

This is the time for it, old timer Sam Mott declares.

He says:-

/*In the evening, or at night, before a storm. We saw it, or at least we thought we saw it - many times, when I was a boy.*

Sounds a bit like the "flying Dutchman", the navigator doomed to beat his way around Cape Horn forever.

The Palatine - just as picturesque a legend.

↗ Appearing off Block Island, once each year - the Palatine, still burning, still ablaze.

TROPHY

At the University of Tennessee, the college authorities refuse to do anything about - the keg-napping. Tennessee students raided the University of Kentucky, and kidnapped the beer keg -- the football trophy.

Today, the President of the University of Tennessee declared: "It is up to the student body to settle the beer barrel incident," ~~and the trophy~~

On Saturday, last weekend, the Kentucky wildcats won the annual big game - for the first time in eighteen years. That won the beer keg - and Kentucky carried it off in triumph.

But Tennessee claims that the winning touchdown was - illegal. The one the wildcats won - thanks to the referee. Hence - the keg-napping. / ~~inspired~~ ^{- inspired by} a poem ridiculing the Kentucky football victory. The poem, ^{Mike -} concluding as follows:

While, as for the keg, we shall return it
When the 'mighty wildcats' really earn it."