

BIG THREE

13-29 Wed. May 10 '50.

The United States gives its full approval to the Paris proposal that France and Western Germany go into an economic partnership, and pool their coal and steel industries. The American okay was announced today by Secretary of State Dean Acheson, who is in London for the conference of the foreign ministers of the Big Three.

Today the Secretary of State had a talk with British Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin - the London Labor Government said to be not so enthusiastic about the proposed Franco-German partnership in coal and steel. Nor are the Socialists in Western Germany so enthusiastic - they being in favor of a nationalization of iron and steel. However, the head of the West German Government, Chancellor Adenauer, gives his approval.

On emerging from the conversation with Bevin this afternoon Dean Acheson described the suggested economic pool in these words - "A most important development." ^{He} ~~and~~ said ~~that~~ the Paris program corresponds to what he called - "Objectives which have long been favored by the Government of the United States."

SOVIET -- LEND-LEASE

The United States has rejected an offer from Moscow - an offer to settle Soviet lend-lease for two cents on the dollar. Such is the report from Washington, as negotiations go on to bring about an agreement in the question of eleven billion dollars' worth of lend-lease sent to Russia during the Second World War. There is not the remotest idea of demanding a repayment of the entire eleven billion - the Soviets being merely supposed to pay for useable material left over after the end of the war. The word is that our government thinks that one billion dollars would be about right - Moscow offering two hundred million, two cents on the dollar.

LOYALTY FILES

A Senate Committee gathered with State Department officials in the White House today - the cabinet room, where presidents traditionally hold cabinet meetings. On a table were spread - eighty-one large manila folders. These - the much debated loyalty files. The folders contained the records of eighty-one officials of the State Department, whom Senator McCarthy of Wisconsin has accused of being pro-Communist. There was endless argument about giving Congress a look at those loyalty files, and for a long time President Truman refused. But finally he consented, and today they were handed over to the committee - in the cabinet room at the White House.

~~The contents of the eighty-one folders include FBI reports, but not what are called the "raw" files of the FBI. Not - the secret records that give the names of FBI informants. President Truman still refuses access to these, and FBI chief, J. Edgar Hoover, has intimated that he will resign - if that material, with names of informants, is disclosed. His~~

contention is easily understood - that it would ruin the FBI sources of information.

However, Senator McCarthy is demanding that those "raw" files of the FBI be handed over, saying ~~they're the real thing~~ ^{R. Sen. MacCarthy} Moreover, he claims the

State Department files, produced today, have been tampered with, material removed - and don't mean anything. This is countered by a most emphatic denial from Committee Chairman Senator Tydings of Maryland - who declared today that the eighty-one fat manila folders contain everything the government has. And - Assistant Secretary of State Peurifoy says he is willing to testify under oath that there has been "Absolutely no tampering."

But what did the committee find today in those loyalty files? Foolish question -- if one were to take a look at the bulk of those eighty-one large folders crammed with documents. Senator Tydings estimates it will take two weeks or more to go through them, and study what they contain.

OPPENHEIMER

At Oakland, California, testimony continues - placing Doctor Robert Oppenheimer at a Communist meeting back in Nineteen Forty-One. Today a second witness, a second ex-Communist, swore that the atomic scientist was one of fifty to seventy-five persons, all Communists, at a house-warming given by a former professor of the University of California.

Doctor Oppenheimer's brother has admitted that he, himself, was once a Communist - though he soon broke away from the Reds, in a revulsion against Communism. But this is the first time that any Communist mention has been made of the high ranking atomic scientist, who played such an important part in the development of the atomic bomb.

To ~~which~~ which Robert Oppenheimer replies by denying that he ever attended a closed Communist meeting. That is, an official session of the Red party. But he says he has never denied that he has known plenty of left wingers, and associated with them.

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This today was called - "A rather weak and left-handed denial." So styled by the California legislative committee which is making an investigation.

FILIBUSTER

Republican support is promised for a move to break a southern filibuster against the Truman Civil Rights Bill.

Today Republican leader Senator Taft stated that the G.O.P. leadership will cooperate with administration Democrats in an effort to shut off debate, and bring the business to a vote next week. Sixty-four Senate votes are needed to close debates, and Taft thinks that thirty-four or thirty-five Republicans, out of forty-two, will help to break the southern filibuster.

APPROPRIATIONS

Congress tonight passed a spending bill to take care of government costs during the next fiscal year - ~~xxx~~ not including foreign aid funds, or fixed charges, like interest on the national debt. The appropriation ~~xxx~~ concerns merely the cost of running the government, and comes to nearly twenty-nine billion dollars. Which figure represents a slash of six hundred million, a ~~xxx~~ reduction that would remove from the federal payroll about ten percent of the government employees. In addition to which, the appropriations ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ bill calls for federal agencies to ~~fix~~ fill only ten percent of the jobs that may become vacant during the next year. This it was ~~xxxx~~ estimated, may save another half a billion. The slash of jobs is the most drastic ever passed by Congress.

STRIKE

The strike has crippled railroads in twenty seven states, mostly in the Middlewest tying up passenger and freight trains on five of our largest rail systems.

Today the National Railway Mediation Board, which failed to avert the walkout, took the dispute to the White House - a report sent to President Truman, who is in the Pacific Northwest, on his whistle-stop travels. The word is that John R. Steelman, presidential adviser on labor matters, may call a meeting in Washington - for new negotiations between the railroads and the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen.

WHEAT

The winter wheat crop is the smallest in seven years. So announced by the Department of Agriculture, which places the figure at six-hundred-and-eighty-nine million bushels. Compared with nine-hundred-and-one-million last year. The reason for the decline of the crop - drought and insect pests.

Not that there's any likelihood of a wheat shortage in this country - the small crop merely meaning that the government may have to put on the market some of the mountains of grain purchased in the business of holding up the price of wheat.

SUB WINNIPEG

The flood crisis at Winnipeg, the metropolis of the Canadian prairie provinces brings about a drastic suggestion -- the Canadian army tonight urging ~~xxx~~ that all women and children be removed from Winnipeg. Twenty thousand are already ~~xx~~ homeless in the Winnipeg area, and the flood waters now threatening to cut off the electric power and food supplies of the city. Two power plants are islands ~~xxxxxx~~ tonight -- completely surrounded by the inundating waters, which are still rising. Communications are being severed by the mounting deluge, cutting off food supplies. The flood situation at Winnipeg is described as - "the most drastic in Canadian history."

NEBRASKA FLOODS

The floods in Nebraska bring a graphic story - what it's like when people in their home are ~~xx~~ swept away by the deluge, house, wife, children and all. The United Press passes along a story of personal experience by Mrs. Ralph Nace, farm wife near Auburn, Nebraska, who had a wild adventure in the flood, together with her two children.

The farm house ~~x~~ was about two hundred feet from the river, which was pouring over its banks in a wild surge. The husband ran to get help, when a rush of water blocked his way back. In the dining room were Mrs. Nace, with her twelve year old daughter and nine year old son - as the deluge swept down upon the farm house.

"We heard a rip," she relates, "and the front porch tore off. Then the back porch ripped off and floated away. The windows had all been broken out, and water was pouring in. It already was up to our waists. I grabbed the children, and we climbed up on the dining room table.

"The next thing I remember," she goes on, "I heard a kind of tear - and the house started to move." So the farm home carried away, drifting on the flood. "I guess we floated about one hundred feet.", says Mrs. Nace, "and then the house ran into two trees, and stopped. By that time the water was up to the children's necks, and I knew I had to do something." Do something indeed, standing on the dining room table, water up to the children's necks, the rising flood threatening to drown them all like rats in a trap. But leave it to a farm woman to handle things in an emergency.

"I grabbed some clothesline that I could reach," she says, "and tied us together - so we wouldn't get separated. Then I reached for a lot of things, and ~~put~~ piled them up - so we could get to the door. Then we climbed." So the mother and two children, roped together, escaped from the house - out into the open flood.

"A plank floated by," Mrs. Nace relates,

"and we grabbed it, and held on. We went drifting, clinging to the plank, until it hit a tree. Then," says she, "we climbed up into the tree. I guess we stayed there about forty-five minutes, until two men came in a boat and got us."

The farm wife concludes as follows: "Our house is still lodged against the trees, and I don't think it can ever be fixed.)

↪ The river is back in its banks, but our whole hundred and sixty acres is just covered with mud - and we lost all our chickens and pigs."

All an example of what can happen to farm people in the flood country.

WELL

This afternoon brought a pitiful end in the New York story of a well digger trapped by a cave-in. Dominick Atteo was digging down deep, when a slide sent tons of earth and rock, pinning him, covering him from the waist down - after which he was burned when a fire broke out. For ^{twenty-seven}~~eighteen~~ hours, heroic attempts were made to save him, a rescue crew driving a shaft down to the bottom of the well. There was an agony of suspense, especially for his wife and children - as rescue inches nearer and nearer, but Cominick Atteo grew weaker all the time. This afternoon he sank into a final collapse, and shortly after the rescue crew reached him - too late.

MOHAMMEDAN WEDDING

Today's Mohammedan wedding in Paris would certainly have astonished a shiek of the desert or an iman of the whirling dervishes. Princess Fatima of Iran, sister of the Shah of Persia marrying a California bridegroom, Vincent Lee Hillyer - after a previous civil wedding in Italy.

Her brother, Sovereign of the Land of Cyrus, Darius and Xerxes threatened to deprive her of her titles and income. But he relented - if she would have a Mohammedan wedding. So the California bridegroom said he was being converted to Islam, renouncing Christianity - as was necessary.

But the religious head of the Mohammedans in Paris declared that the conversion was only for the purpose of marrying the Princess of Persia - and refused to let a Mohammedan marriage be performed. Allah, be merciful - and he was.

Help came from an unexpected quarter - most distinguished also. The ceremony today was performed by the Aga Khan, descendant of Mohammed and head of the

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Moslem sect of Ismaili. Whose own son, Prince Aly, married American movie actress Rita Hayworth in that spectacular affair, months ago. The Aga Khan's own wife, the Begum, is a French woman. The descendant of Mohammed is broad-minded in matters matrimonial.

The ritual, at the Iranian embassy today, was simple - as is the Mohammedan custom. The bride, royalty of Islam, ^{wore a white satin gown} ~~were a tailored suit~~, while the groom was in a cutaway. He said he was converted to Mohammedanism yesterday, ~~and today pledged a Moslem~~ dowry - (promising that if he ever divorces his wife, he will pay her two hundred thousand atoman. Which is oriental money - said to come to ^{fifty-seven thousand} ~~two hundred and seventy thousand~~ dollars. Which is a lot of atoman - but Vincent Lee Hillyer is said to come from a wealthy California family.

The Aga Khan was in a blue business suit, while his wife, the Begum, wore a brilliant red straw hat. His daughter-in-law was there too - Rita Hayworth, in a dress with a plunging neckline. Her

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husband, Prince Aly, was absent - said to be still laid up after a skiing accident.

Prayers were said in Arabic, and these caused Rita to sigh and say: "They brought back many memories to me." Recalling that she, herself, was married to the son of the Aga Khan in a similar ceremony. Which gave a touch of exotic romance - when prayers in Arabic can "bring back memories."

After the ceremony, the couple started off on a honeymoon - their second. They had one previously, after the civil wedding in Rome. But this one is their ^{Nelson-} Moslem honeymoon. I wonder what the difference is?