

L.T.-OLDS. FRIDAY, MAY 19, 1961.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

At Dyersburg, Tennessee, the Sheriff remarked today - "It looks like it's going to hold." Those seven words, bringing a feeling of relief - throughout western Tennessee.

The reference - to old man river; and - the sandbags they are using on him. The Mississippi, hitting its highest flood crest in eleven years. Almost - forty feet. With a flood threat all the way down the Mississippi - from Illinois to Louisiana; with the number one danger spot - Tennessee. A levee of sandbags fifteen miles long - at Dyersburg. To keep these in place - is an around-the-clock job. The state authorities even had to bring in convicts - to plug the leaks.

Tonight the levee is holding - the river subsiding. Western Tennessee, seems to be saved.

CHIEFS

America needs a new ~~set of~~ joint Chiefs of Staff. So says - Senator Albert Gore of Tennessee. ~~Senator Gore,~~ a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee -- that has been investigating the fiasco in Cuba. After listening to the evidence thus far, the Tennessean pins much of the blame - on the Joint Chiefs, And calls for their replacement - by "abler, wiser men."

MEETING

The negotiations for a big two conference have been going on - since President Kennedy took office. You ^{will} ~~may~~ recall that Khrushchev gesture - liberating the American RB-47 flyers. And, we dropped the prosecution of - Soviet spy Igor Melekh.

However
The relation between the two ~~big~~ K's became strained - at the time of the abortive invasion of Cuba. Khrushchev, warning - that he would support Castro's police state with rockets. Kennedy, retorting - that we don't intend to be lectured by the tyrant who crushed Hungary with unbelievable brutality.

~~But in spirit of it all, this thought has been dominant on both sides of the iron curtain.~~
Nevertheless
The world situation has become so ^{explosive} ~~dangerous~~ - that the key world figures ^{had} have to keep ~~speaking~~ speaking to each other. Hence the continued ~~work~~ efforts to arrange - a face to face conference.

Hence also - the anticipation of ~~today's~~^{the}
made today
announcement in Moscow and Washington. Khrushchev and
Kennedy, to meet in Vienna - on June Third. Not - a real
summit conference. Just - an informal exchange of views.
Main purpose - to let the two leaders get acquainted. As
far as the west is concerned, this *may enable Pres.* ~~involves~~ Kennedy to
letting Khrushchev know ~~that~~ the West is in no mood for
appeasement.

REACTION FOLLOW MEETING

The reaction on Capitol Hill - is generally favorable to the Vienna meeting. Also it is - bi-partisan. But there are those in both parties who are dubious.

Most of the G O P leaders - are backing the President, led by Richard Nixon - who feels that the time has come to give Khrushchev a blunt warning.

For the Democrats, Senator Church of Idaho argues - there's no point in waiting for the right time; because there seldom if ever is that right time. So - why not now?

GENEVA

The Geneva Conference is marking time - amid a welter of charges and counter-charges. The Premier of Laos sent word - that the Communist rebels are still violating the cease-fire. Prince Boun Oum, charging that the Reds are attacking in force - at several places along the battleline.

The Reds in Geneva, responding - with a propaganda barrage. Claiming that they represent the Laotian people and that the real rebels - are in the Royalist government.

The other diplomats are still trying to get a genuine cease-fire -- in Laos. Still trying to bring the factions together - in a coalition government. ~~Whether these two objectives can be reached~~ ~~seems a moot point.~~

Meanwhile

~~Anyway~~ the American Secretary of State and the

Soviet Foreign Minister - ~~did have a meeting of minds~~ ^{met} today, to discuss the ~~subject~~ the Kennedy-Khrushchev meeting. The ~~lunch~~ ^{even} ~~that~~

~~Secretary Rusk gave in for Gromyko was~~ ^{Everything} so cordial - even

Gromyko emerged smiling. ~~Not a customary expression on the face of a grim Grom.~~ ^{And that's a switch,}

JOHNSON

In Agra, India, there was a Texas drawl in the voice that said - "this is something that Texas doesn't have." Lyndon Johnson, admitting - one shortcoming of the Lone Star state. No Taj Mahal.

The Vice President of the United States was in Agra today - to see India's dream in white marble. The Taj Mahal - masterpiece of the magnificent Moguls. Built by the Emperor Shah Jehan - in the Seventeenth Century; for his dainty, beautiful queen, Mumtaz Mahal; now a mausoleum - for both Emperor and Empress; and the pride of India.

The tall visitor from the Lone Star State admits - this was one stop on his tour he was determined not to miss. His reaction? Lyndon Johnson describes himself as "bowled over" by the shimmering beauty of the Taj. Even a Texan feels a tough humility - when he gazes at the Taj Mahal.

FIRE

The cost of last night's fire in Manila - twenty-five million dollars. That much damage, done by the blaze - that erupted in a Department store, Raged - for six hours, And burned out - six square blocks in the heart of the city.

It took eight hundred Filipino firemen, plus a ~~team~~ detachment from the U.S. Air Force at Clark Field - to bring ^{the} ~~this~~ fire under control. No fatalities - reported. But tonight, two thousand families - are homeless.

FOOD

There's a book just out - entitled "Kings in the Kitchen." With recipes contributed by famous men. The kind who like to take over and send the Little Woman to the parlor to play the piano.

Some of the contributors? and their favorite dishes? Former President Eisenhower, ~~xxxxxxx~~ as a culinary expert, is known for his beef stew. Averell Harriman, specializes in date pudding. Henry Cabot Lodge, broiled lamb chops. Secretary of Agriculture Freeman - and his consomme with wild rice. Rocket Scientist Werner Von Braun - cabbage and sour cream. Richard Nixon goes for - chile con carne.

President Kennedy? He's in it - with waffles. But of a special kind; with eggs; buttermilk - and baking powder. And now, Dick, lets send our wives to pick flowers, while we cook dinner. And what a dinner!

CHAMPAGNE

In Rheims, France, a wine taster gave an expressive Gallic shrug and said - "but, Monsieur, champagne is not Russian." This, a crushing French retort to that Moscow claim - ~~thinks about~~ ^{that} France ^{should} ~~adopting~~ Russian methods in the champagne industry. According to Pravda, the Soviets have developed a method of making champagne in three weeks - instead of three years.

~~was~~ The claim hasn't ^{aroused} ~~caused~~ a bit of interest - in the champagne country. Rheims, ridiculing the idea that the French should go to Moscow - to find out how to make the world's most typically Gallic beverage. ^{Champagne} ~~The most heady~~ ^{Queen of them all.} ~~of all fire-water~~ Champagne in three weeks! - absurd! ^{Ridiculous preposterous} ~~Everyone knows you have to age it to get just the right~~ ~~flavor. At least everyone in France knows it.~~

So say the French wine tasters as they sip their champagne - and suggest that the Russians stick to vodka.

↓ R - L - M. M.