EISENHOWER - ATOMIC/LT-Date Tues. Apr. 1st. '58.

We learn, today, that President Eisenhower did consider the notion - of beating Moscow to the punch. In that big propaganda move - of announcing a suspension of atomic tests.

AT a news conference, today, Secretary of State John Foster Dulles told of deliberations at the White House. Where they knew, well in advance, ten days ago - what the Soviets were likely to do. It was well understood - that the Russians were just completing their own intensive series of nuclear explosions. Their quota - for the time being. Leaving them in a propaganda position to say - we're halting our atomic tests. We're doing it - of our own volition.

So why not "steal a march" on Moscow, and make an announcement of our own - that we were suspending atomic tests? Which would give us - the propaganda break. Tempting - to beat Moscow to the punch. And Secretary Dulles, today, stated - that the President discussed the notion with his advisers. Considering - the pros and cons. Deciding, finally - no. Because, if we made the propaganda maneuver, we'd have to call off our own

experiments in the Far Pacific - to be held this Spring. These, the more important, because their purpose is, largely, to continue the development of a "clean" ~~xx~~ bomb. The type of nuclear weapon - that will minimize the deadly radioactive fall-out. Another purpose - to work out a defense against intercontinental rockets. With - an anti-missile missile.

All of which was ~~more important~~ considered more important - than a propaganda victory. So the President and his advisers thought it better - to let the Soviets have their big talk.

FOLLOW EISENHOWER-ATOMIC

In London, ~~today~~, Prime Minister Macmillan rejected - a suspension of British atomic tests. Saying - the British government will not be rushed into anything "hasty." And adding - that the question of halting tests - is one to be thrashed out at a summit conference.

The Labor Party - demanding that Britain follow the Russian lead, and call a halt to atomic experiments. The Prime Minister - refusing.

FRANCE

France tied up - today, by a one-day "warning" strike. One million workers in enterprises run by the government - in a twenty-four hour walkout. Which, they call a "warning." A real strike - to follow, unless they get wage increases.

Paris took the tie-up with good humor, today - the April Fool spirit.

DESERTER

At the U.S. Embassy in Paris - fifty thousand letters for President Eisenhower. That many - addressed to him at the White House.

Why the deluge of mail? They're appeals in behalf - of Wayne Cowards of Chilicothe, Missouri. The American soldier - who deserted in the Second World War, After falling in love with Yvette Bleuse - in whose house he remained hidden for fourteen years. One result - five children.

Another result - a U.S. Army charge of desertion in wartime. Wayne Powers - having been finally discovered by the French police, who turned him over to the U.S. military authorities. So now he faces a court-martial.

The romantic aspects of the case have aroused - intense popular interest in France. That land - of romantic sentiment. A Parisian radio station put on a broadcast full of heart-throbbing emotion, asking that Wayne Powers be granted clemency - and suggesting that appeals be sent along to President Eisenhower. The response, overwhelming - those fifty thousand

letters written to the President.

Today the U.S. Embassy in Paris gave assurance that the case will be judged, in the words of the Embassy, "with all understanding compatible with the application of law." The romantic circumstances - to be taken into account.

Probably, Wayne Powers will be let off lightly. The military penalty for desertion in wartime is - death. But, in previous cases, resembling this, punishment has usually been - not more than five years in prison. Leniency - ~~of~~ all the more likely, considering that surge of popular sympathy in France.

INDONESIA

The war on the jungle island of Sumatra - going back to the ways of the jungle. The rebels resorting - to bamboo spears. No, not that they have an idea of ~~charging - with~~ throwing spears against machine guns. The jungle tactics - a defense against paratroop invasion.

Word is that the forces of the Jakarta government plan to make paratroop landings - around the rebel center at Bukittinggi. So, for miles around, the rebels have planted thickets of bamboo spears - as sharp as needles. The idea being - that paratroopers would have a tough time, landing on spears. It sounds primitive in this modern era - but it might work.

Meanwhile, the Jakarta government announces - a successful advance in western Sumatra. The rebels, in their turn - claiming successes.

CUBANS

The hunger strike of Cuban rebels in Brownsville, Texas - takes a curious turn. Fourteen, in a local hospital - now being fed by intravenous injections. Nourishment - injected in their veins. Nothing unusual about that, but - it's at their own request.

They still refuse to eat, but want to stay alive. Believing, apparently - that injections will not violate their hunger strike.

Sounds like an odd sort of logic.

CANADA

Tonight, political experts are trying to figure out - just what caused that Canadian landslide. Prime Minister Diefenbaker, riding back into power - with more than two hundred seats out of two-hundred-and-sixty-five. No administration in Ottawa ever had more than a hundred-and-ninety before.

Mr. Diefenbaker is popular. He was expected to win. But his margin of victory - surprised everyone, Because there were big issues in the campaign, Issues like unemployment - and Canada's economic ties with the United States.

Anyway, the Conservatives are now in control. The Liberals, slipping to forty-seven seats - the smallest number they've ever had. The rest of the seats in the Ottawa Parliament - divided among the splinter parties.

ANTI-RECESSION

President Eisenhower, today, signed the first big anti-recession bill passed by Congress. Putting up nearly two billion dollars - for housing construction. To create - half a million new jobs. The President signed reluctantly - admitting that the bill would increase employment. But arguing - that it places an unnecessary burden on the taxpayers.

METHUSELAH

In Monteria, Colombia - the Methuselah of the Twentieth Century has died - at last. Javier Pereira - the oldest man in the world. He claimed to be a hundred and sixty-eight.

That would put his birthday in the year - Seventeen Eighty-Nine. The year George Washington was sworn in as our first President. The year the French Revolution broke out. Which means, if true - that he lived through the age of the industrial revolution - and then on and on into the age of global warfare.

The New York Times reminds us - how, in Nineteen Fifty-Six, Javier Pereira came to America - and was examined at a medical center in New York. The doctors there declaring - that he might easily be more than a hundred and fifty years old.

They found him in good health. His hair, jet black. He walked under his own power - even had some of his own teeth. In fact he was in such good health at

the medical center - he started a fight. Punched four men during a press conference - because they popped flash-bulbs in his face. Before leaving this country - he told newsmen, he thought he might live forever.

But he didn't. The world's oldest man - dying last night in Monteria - age a hundred and seventy-eight.

SHIPWRECK

Today's news brings more word about that ~~the facts, in general - about a~~ maritime disaster in the Indian Ocean. Though details are still lacking - because of skimpy communications in those remote waters. A Norwegian passenger vessel - engulfed in flames. ~~And~~ Aboard ~~the ship were~~ - twelve hundred men, women and children. Loss of life? All twelve hundred saved, apparently, with the exception of - one.

The Norwegian craft, an oil tanker - converted into a passenger ship. Carrying - European immigrants to Australia. One batch - taken aboard at the German harbor of Bremen. Later, a stop at Malta - to pick up another crowd.

The vessel - jammed with immigrants. The men - sleeping fifty to a room. The woman and children - occupying small cabins.

All went well, until the immigrant ship was navigating in the Indian Ocean - off the coast of Africa. When a fire broke out - in the engine room. Spreading so swiftly - that, soon, the ship was like a glaring torch,

lighting the surface of the sea.

Radio distress calls had been sent out, and the nearest vessel was a British freighter - the City of Sydney. Further off - an Italian liner, the Roma. Both - steaming to the scene of flaming disaster.

The City of Sydney - getting there first. Finding - a swarm of over-crowded lifeboats. The immigrant ship - now burning to the water's edge.

The weather, for a saving grace - was calm. The City of Sydney - taking people out of lifeboats, by the hundreds. But that left a problem. The City of Sydney - a mere freighter. Mighty little room for twelve hundred extra people.

But then the Italian liner, the Roma, arrived on the scene. The captains of the two vessels making quick arrangements - for a transfer of hundreds, there at sea.

At last reports, the two ships with a whole host of survivors - was steaming for the British port of Aden - at the

southwestern corner of Arabia. After one of the biggest of life-saving jobs, at one of the most remote places - on the Seven Seas.

FORTUNE

In a swanky London hotel suite, costing eighty-four dollars a day - Mrs. Heather Riley sipped champagne, today. And announced - lavish gifts of money to various people. Mrs. Riley - the fifty-seven year old wife of a coal mine lamplighter at the town of Horton, who makes twenty-two dollars a week.

So what makes Mrs. Riley - a queen of diamonds today? Well, she hit a British football pool for a record-breaking prize. Cashing in a thirty-five cent ticket, for nearly six hundred thousand dollars. All that Mrs. Riley did - was to predict that in fifty-four soccer games this weekend - eight would end in ties. The odds - nearly one million, seven hundred thousand to one.

So, collecting the fortune, she went straight off to London, put up in an expensive hotel, with champagne luxury - and started handing out the money to needy relatives. Of which - Mrs. Riley has a flock.

There's her husband, the lamplighter - a semi-invalid

because of coal mine injuries. Her eighty-two year old mother - two sons, two sisters, and a brother-in-law. Not forgetting - a grandson stricken with polio, at Canton, Ohio.

Upon winning the six hundred thousand, Mrs. Riley said: "Now we can do something for the whole family." Which she's doing in such a big way - that most of the money has been already distributed.

This is not the first time, however, that the Rileys have been lucky - in betting. Nineteen years ago, Mr. Riley won a football pool, coming to eleven hundred dollars. And, yesterday, Mrs. Riley placed a bet on a horse-race -- and won eighty-four cents. Then, Don, right after the eighty-four cents, bang! the news of the bonanza. £600,000.

APRIL FOOL

At Columbus, Ohio, today, people who called the local zoo - got a busy signal. Anyone picking up the phone, and dialing the number, heard the buzz, signifying - busy.

So you might say - what a lot of April Fool jokers! Giving people ~~a~~ messages - telling them to call the number, and ask for "Mr. Fox, Mr. Wolf, Mr. Lion, ~~M~~ or Mr. Bear." However, it was a little different. The joke was on the jokers.

This year the director of the zoo, Earl Davis, decided he'd put a stop to that nonsense. Which is also a nuisance - for the zoo.

So he made an arrangement with the telephone company - that all incoming calls would get a busy signal.

Plenty of people, ~~un~~doubt~~edly~~, no wanted to ask for Mr.Fish or Mr. Hare. But, always - ~~the~~ line was busy.