

~~SECRET~~ C.T. - P. 48. Wed. Dec. 13 '50. (Washington)

BRITAIN

The British House of Commons heard an historic announcement today - that Marshall Plan aid to Britain will be suspended the first of the year. That is, fifteen months ahead of schedule. The statement was made by Chancellor of the Exchequer, Hugh Gaitskell, who gave the reason - British economic recovery.

Which was emphasized by a previous London announcement - that last month, November, British exports were at an all-time high. Nearly two hundred and twelve billion pounds, more than five hundred and ninety three million dollars. Britain selling more goods to foreign countries than ever before.

In Parliament, there were expressions of the warmest gratitude toward the United States, a flood of thanks by both the labor government and Winston Churchill's conservatives. The end of Marshall Plan aid was cheered - welcomed as a matter of national pride. In London tonight there's a report that Prime Minister Attlee, with his narrow majority in parliament, may soon call a national election - on a platform that the Labor government

has brought Britain back to self-support.

Yes, it's a boon for British pride. But it also means - more austerity. Today, the meat ration was cut again - because negotiations for argentine beef were deadlocked. The second cut this month - which modifies the cheers for the end of Marshall Plan aid, because of British economic recovery.

Today's London dispatch quotes a London cabbie as remarking in wry cockney humor: "It shows, blime', that virtue doesn't pay."

~~CRIME~~

~~A congressional committee had a welcome relief today - in the form of a talkative witness. This, after so many refuse to reply. Only yesterday, the crime investigating committee questioned two big - time gamblers, Joe Adonis and Salvatore Moretti - and neither would answer, on constitutional grounds of self incrimination.~~

FACT LONDON

The North Atlantic Treaty powers announce full agreement on the inclusion of German troops in the West European army.

The chiefs of staff of the twelve North Atlantic powers, after a two-day meeting, came to a decision. But the Germans themselves are still to be heard from - the West German government demanding full equality in any "European grand army."

end pact

U. N.

Soviet Russian rejects the proposal that the U. N. try to arrange a "cease-fire" in Korea - the Moscow delegation demanding that all foreign troops be withdrawn, including those of the U. N.

But the general assembly ~~should~~ went right ahead with the resolution - though it all seems futile. The representatives of communists China will undoubtedly take the same stand as Moscow.

end un

Sheet-2.

SUBSTITUTE LEAD KOREA

The latest from Korea--An enemy attack on the Hamphung beachhead.

But it didn't amount to much, was easily beaten off--the second minor communist assault in two days.

The evacuation was not impeded--it is in full swing.

~~In this minor setback of the Korean East coast, etc, etc.~~

~~Note: The best story to drop would be airliner.~~

~~or the last paragraphs of Korea could be dropped.~~

(END SUBSTITUTE LEAD KOREA)

KOREA

The only war news from Korea is - that East Coast evacuation. It was in full swing today, and we are told that it actually began on Monday - when the first transport sailed.

In ~~the~~ ^{the} minor Dunkirk of the Korean east coast, - sixty thousand soldiers are being taken out - with mountains of equipment. The marines, who made the great battle march of escape from the Chosin Reservoir, for example, brought out nearly all their armament. The troops embarking in the ^R Hamgung area are described as being tired, cold and disgusted. As why wouldn't they be - some of them having retreated a couple of hundred miles, all the way from the distant Manchurian border of Northeastern Korea.

Their destination is a military secret, but it is supposed they may be landed further down the Korean coast, maybe to establish positions ⁱⁿ line up with ^{the} front the eighth Army is holding in Western Korea.

No. 2 KOREA

The flight of the native population from Seoul still goes on - and in that city today, the secretary of a Korean national assemblyman was killed by gunmen. Believed to be a fifth column assassination, the first since the occupation of Seoul.

From Tokyo, a curious report of a plot to assassinate General MacArthur. The story is that two recruits of the Japanese police were in a bar, where they gave hints of a conspiracy to assassinate the Supreme Commander. This is the more peculiar, because we hear that the two police recruits were arrested on charges of passing information to the communists.

(end Korea)

Army

A dispatch from Fairbanks, Alaska, states that private Jack Wilson has arrived - or is it Corporal.? Anyway, its news-at the Eielson Air Base. The next thing you know, they'll be seeing private Arlie Evans-and that will end the story.

Another wonderful story of an army snafu-telling how the two g.i.'s Jack Wilson and Arlie Evans, of Kenton, Ohio, and Berkley Springs, Westvirginia- were given leave, and went on a trip home. They had their vacation, and then started back for Alaska - The two buddies joining at Seattle for the final trip to the Northland. At Army headquarters in Seattle, they were given their travel papers- and, the next thing you know, they were on their way to Korea. The good old mix-up, the old Army snafu,- they were given the wrong papers.

So to the War in Korea they went - after which the mistake in Seattle was discovered. Whereupon the Army got busy trying to locate Jack Wilson and Arlie Evans, and get them back to their unit - ~~with~~ ^{at} ~~Kielson~~ ^{at} ~~Field~~ ^{at} Alaska. But by now the two G.I.'s were mixed up in Korean battles, and it took months to locate them.

When they found Wilson, he was a corporal and ^a ~~hero~~ ^g ~~!~~ having won a promotion on the battlefield, where he had performed exploits of war. Well, they got him back, got him all the way to Anchorage, Alaska - on his way to Fairbanks. Again he was given the wrong travel papers, and was being sent back to Seattle. But they caught that in time, and today the news - he's back with his unit at ~~Kielson~~ ^{at} Field.

But is he a private or is he a corporal? today he said, he ~~only~~ hopes they ^{won't mind if he} ~~will let him~~ keep the extra stripe he won on the battlefield.

That question now remains to be settled - and it may end in another snafu.

But what about his buddy, Arlie Evans? Well actually, they found Arlie first - at the warfront in Korea. So they started him on his way back to Alaska. He got as far as Yokohama, and there his papers got mixed up again, and back he went to Korea, to the war. At last reports, Arlie had been re-routed once again, and was on the high seas, aboard a ship somewhere.

Up at Etelson Field, they're waiting for him - especially his pal, Corporal - or is it Private? - Jack Evans.

AIRLINER

~~An airline disaster was narrowly averted in Nova Scotia today, and thirty-one persons had a fabulous escape. The plane, on a trans-Atlantic run, was flying from Switzerland to New York - scheduled to make a stop at Gander, Newfoundland. But the airport there was closed in by fog, and the plane was re-routed on to Sidney, Nova Scotia.~~

DRAFT

Here in

Washington, word that the draft will be expanded.

This is indicated by Congressman Vinson of Georgia, chairman of the Armed Services Committee who had a talk with President Truman at the White House today. He says the prospects are these: there will be fewer deferments from the draft. The term of military service will be extended from twenty-one months to twenty-four months. And, the possibility is that eighteen year olds will be inducted. The lower age limit is now nineteen.

Chairman Vinson tells us that the Truman goal seems to be - four million men in the armed forces by the middle of nineteen fifty - two.

The meeting at the White House today was a gathering of leaders in Congress to discuss the presidential plan for a proclamation of National Emergency. This would include economic regulations, with ceilings on wages and prices.

STRIKE

A wildcat railroad strike spread in Chicago today, tying up thousands of freight cars - including many carrying material for the war front in Korea. The walkout is described as being in anticipation of a possible wage freeze - railroad trainmen going on strike without authorization from the unions.

end strike

Sheet-3.

ADD STRIKE

The government tonight asked Federal Court for an injunction
to end the Railroad Walkout in Chicago.

(END ADD STRIKE)

SECOND ADD STRIKE

Still later--The Federal Judge has issued an injunction to
halt the strike.

(END SECOND ADD STRIKE)

PRICES

The automobile industry turns down the government demand to cancel price increases. The hikes were put into effect by Ford and General Motors, and they today were included in a meeting of ten leading automobile manufacturers in Washington. Warning was given - that the Federal Government has full authority to cancel the price increases. But, nevertheless, the industry stood firm. Their attitude is expected to have an important bearing on the price control policy administration.

(end prices)

MICHIGAN

The Republican party in Michigan has called off the recount of the election vote - and conceded the victory to Democratic Governor Mennen Williams. It was a huge recount with the Democrat having a slender margin all along. But this increased, so that now, at length - the Republicans concede.

end

CRIME

A congressional committee had a welcome relief today
- in the form of a talkative witness. ~~RE~~ This, after so many refuse
to reply. Only yesterday, the crime investigating committee
questioned two big-time gamblers, Joe Adonis and ~~THE~~ salvator
Moretti - and neither would answer, on constitutional grounds of
self incrimination.



Today, the witness was another Moretti, a brother-and he chatted loquaciously about his racketeering connections, gambling operations and dealings with New Jersey politicians.

William Moretti said proudly that he was acquainted with what he called - "persons of character." Like Frank Costello, alleged slot machine czar, and, the late scarface Al Capone. "Persons with character." - but he didn't say what kind of character!

As for his gambling operations, he was particularly proud of nineteen forty - eight -- when he bet on the election. He won twenty-five thousand dollars - because, said he, "I had a sure thing running, President Truman." One bet was a thousand dollars at fifteen to one - with Lou Clayton, one-time partner of Comedian Jimmy Durante, but just the same, the gambler says he was robbed - because he could have got a hundred - to - one, betting on Truman.

(crime NO. 3)

He declared ^{he} was not in politics. "if I were," he told the committee, "I'd be a congressman." He admitted he knew a lot of New Jersey politicians but insisted that they were of both parties. "I'm bi-partisan," explained the gambler. Bi-partisan - like the foreign policy.

(end crime)

PEARSON--MCCARTHY

There is a disclosure tonight of a fistfight in Washington between--columnist Drew Pearson and Senator Maccarthy of Wisconsin. It happened in most aristocratic surroundings, the exclusive Seagrave Club--and there are two versions. That of Pearson--and that of Maccarthy.

They met in a coatroom after dinner, and words were exchanged--based on previous differences between the two. Drew Pearson says--"as usual, he hit below the belt." He claims the Wisconsin senator grabbed him with a judo hold: "he hit me in the groin with his knee a couple of times and knocked me down," says Pearson. The Maccarthy version is this: "I slapped him hard on the side of the face with my open hand."

All of which would seem to end the matter--because Pearson says he doesn't intend to take legal action.

End Pearson--Maccarthy

Truman Poetry

We have a disclosure of President Truman's taste for poetry, we know, of course, about the Truman talents in the realm of music. The President--a performer on the piano, Daughter Margaret--a singer. So now the art of poetry, and the Presidential taste is--Robert Burns.

So far as I know, the Truman ancestry is not scottish. But that doesnt keep one from being an enthusiast for Bobby Burns, Scotland's favorite bard.

The disclosure today comes from Sir Patrick Dollan, an author from Glasgow, who visited the white House. he says President Truman told him it would be well if the world would hearken to the philosophy of the scottish poet. Whereupon the President quoted the following lines.

"Man's inhumanity to man

makes countless thousands mourn."

Which reminds^{me} that in the poetry of bobby burns we find both liltng lyrics and bits of philosophy that apply mightly well today. For example, President Truman might find comfot after those letters he writes. Like the one

about the marines, the epistle to the music critic, and

the reply to the congressman who suggested a day of prayer.

There must be a good deal of presidential nerve strain these

ominous days, and Robert Burns wrote:

"It's hardly in a body's power

to keep, at times, frae being sour."

Which, of course, could apply to a lot of us, who

are not the President.

- o -

Nelson - how do you keep frae
being sour? You always do
manage to keep frae being sour,
Jock - I mean Nels!