

Thurs, June 20, 1946

CONFERENCE

Molotov at Paris today agreed to withdraw the Red Troops from Bulgaria, ninety days after the peace treaty goes into force. Of course, the peace treaty has not yet been drafted, but Molotov's consent to withdraw the Red Forces last September, and their the Soviet Union reneged on the promise.

The Western Democracies for their part, today promised to withdraw their forces from Italy, ninety days after that peace treaty goes into effect.

Another agreement announced today in Paris concerned the creation of a Commission of Ambassadors of the Big Four to supervise the enforcement of the peace terms for the first year after the treaty goes into effect.

TRUMAN

A Atomic energy should and must be controlled by civilians, said President Truman. He declared ^{today} that the recommendations of elder statesman Barney Baruch to the United Nations, constituted the international atomic policy of this country. Baruch's views are the President's views.

This statement comes on top of the action of the house, which passed the bill providing that the atomic energy commission should include at least one soldier. Mr. Truman declined to comment on that, because it is a matter still pending. The bill before the Senate is the one he would like to see enacted into law.

Mr. Truman also told the newspapermen that he expected Navy Secretary Forrestal to fall in line with his ideas about merging the armed services.

PALESTINE

A leader of the Hagana, the Jewish Underground in Palestine, today explained the motives for blowing up railroad and highway bridges on the frontier of the Holy Land. To prevent the sending of British reinforcements from Egypt and elsewhere, said he. But to anyone who knows Palestine, that's puzzling. Most of those bridges are facing the desert where there are no British

However, the Hagana Leader added that one of the trump cards of the Moslems in Palestine is the expectation of getting military help from Arab countries. The sabotage that has been going on, is to show the Arabs that their communications can be shut off, if the Hagana chooses.

All this he said to a correspondent of the United Press, in an interview in a crowded sea front cafe at Tel Aviv, while at tables nearby sat several British policemen. The Hagana leader didn't even bother to lower his voice. He said he was perfectly well-known to the authorities, and that the police have the names and addresses of thousands of members of the Hagana.

The correspondent mentioned British Foreign Secretary Bevin and his declaration that he will not let a hundred thousand more Jews into the Holy Land because it would need an extra division of British Troops to protect them. At that the Hagana spokesman said: "We will show him, we will make it so hot for him that he will have to bring in two divisions anyhow."

In Cairo, meanwhile, Egyptian newspapers were welcoming the Grand Mufti. One saying that every Egyptian is pleased that the Mufti has chosen Egypt as a place of refuge.

Premier Sidky Pasha announces that his cabinet has decided that the Grand Mufti is not a war criminal -- just a political refugee. Consequently, he is immune, since there is no law in the country to prohibit the government from giving him shelter as a political refugee.

In London, a spokesman for the Foreign office hinted that the British Government would probably ask the Egyptian Government to hand over the person of the

Grand Mufti. Hassenini, in the view of the British, is an enemy and a trouble-maker. In the House of Commons, Prime Minister Attlee reported that the British Ambassador in Cairo is holding conversations with Premier Sidky Pasha about the Mufti. Even the London Foreign Office admits that there is no criminal charge against the Mufti, except an old one, an accusation of having been an accomplice in a political murder.

INDIA

The harassed British in India today found themselves with more trouble on their hands. In the beautiful vale of Kashmir.

It all began when a certain Shiek Mohammed Abdullah was thrown into jail. Sheik Abdullah is President of what is called the Kashmir national confernece. He was accused of conducting agitations against a petty local Rajah. This came to the attention of Jawaharlal Pandit Nerhu, who hurried to Kashmire to seek the liberation of the Shiek Badullah. Whereupon the Kashmiri authorities issued an order forbidding the entrance of Nehru into Kashmir. But Nehru is an exceedingly determined man, and he decided he was going to get into Kashmir or know the reason why.

So when he arrived at the frontier bridge, he started to push past the sentry. There is a report that he was slightly wounded by the bayonet of one of the sentries, and he was arrested and detained last night at a village some fifty miles inside Kashmir, surrounded by Kashmiri soldiers.

A dispatch from Bombay reports that two hundred ~~and~~ red shirt volunteers from the northwest frontier province are on their way to rescue Nehru.

The first immediate result of Nehru's arrest was to put a stop to negotiations between the national Congress party and the other parties in India. And, the meetings of the executive council have been suspended indefinitely, until Nehru is released.

All of which is exceedingly embarrassing to the British even though Kashmir is an independent state.

COMMUNIST

In Canada, the Communist who engaged in treason goes to prison. Fred Rose, the only red member of the Dominion Parliament, ^{who has been} ~~as you may recall, was~~ convicted ~~the other day~~ of criminal conspiracy to sell his country's war secrets to the Soviet Union, ^{today} ~~he~~ came up for sentence at Montreal. ^{Said} ~~and~~ the presiding justice ^{said}, "Six years!" ~~It was proved that~~ Rose had been a sort of recruiting officer for Soviet spies ⁱⁿ ~~his own country.~~

Former President Herbert Hoover today repeated his flat denial that he had ever said anything in favor of price control to anybody, at any time, or any place. But he also made a polite gesture to Assistant Secretary of State William Clayton. He said Clayton's mistake in misquoting him about price control was due to a misunderstanding.

The way it came about was this: Mr. Hoover was at the ~~Amber~~ American Embassy at Rio De Janeiro. While he was there, Ambassador ^{Bill} Pawley telephoned Washington in order to talk about rubber to William Batt, head of the United States Rubber Board. ~~Bill~~ While Pawley and Batt were talking, Clayton took the phone at the Washington end, while the Ambassador at Rio De Janeiro handed the instrument to Mr. Hoover. Mr. Hoover didn't know that the telephone in Washington had changed hands, he thought he was talking to Batt. So when Clayton started talking about price control, Mr. Hoover handed the telephone back to the Ambassador because, as he says, he was not interested.

After he had made this explanation, newspapermen asked Mr. Hoover what he thought about O.P.A. and the bill now being discussed. Mr. Hoover replied that he had not read the bill and knew nothing about it. Upon previous occasions, he ^{has} stated emphatically that he ~~didn't~~ ^{does not} believe in price control. But at present, ~~he said he~~ ^{he says} he does not wish to mix up in legislative quarrels.

Chester Bowles, on the other hand, let loose with another attack on the people who don't agree with him about price control. He sent Congress a statement of two thousand five hundred words; ~~in~~ an attempt to substantiate his claim that both the House and the Senate O.P.A. measure would blow the cost of living sky high. On top of that, he called in the newspapermen, repeating his arguments. He blamed the shortages on anybody and everybody except himself. He said, for instance, that cattle ranchers are not sending ~~their~~ their critters to market because they hope to get better prices after July First. ^{and} The same thing, ^{he} said Bowles, is going on in other fields.

KLAN

The State Government of Georgia is ~~really~~ in earnest about the Ku Klux Klan. By order of Governor Ellis Arnal, Georgia's Attorney General ^{has} filed suit in the courts to revoke the charter under which ~~these persons~~ ^{the Klurers} caper around in white robes, burning fiery crosses and terrorizing helpless people. This action ^{comes as a} ~~was the~~ result of a ~~whole~~ month of investigating. It ~~charges~~ ^{is charged} the Klan with having committed wanton murder, with terrorism and with conspiracy to seize the law enforcement agencies of the state. The exalted cyclops of one Atlanta Post is a policeman, and was head of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation when Eugene Talmadge was Governor. The complaint makes the flat statement that Roper publicly boasted that the aim of the white nightshirt outfit is to enroll all police officers, cab drivers, truck drivers, in fact everybody who holds a key job with regard to public security and transportation.

It makes the further accusation that ~~the~~

^{Klans} sole purpose is to inculcate and disseminate racial and

religious prejudices, intolerance and hatred. In
pursuit of these ends, it indulges in violence,
terrorism and hate, including wanton murder.

FIGHT

Mutterings about the tameness of the Louis-Conn fight reached a head at Washington today. A Congressman proposes a Congressional Investigation of the way ~~that same affair~~^{it} was ballyhooed in the Press. ~~That~~ Congressman ~~is Representative~~ Donald O'Toole of New York. He sent a telegram to Eddie Egan, Chairman of the New York State Athletic Commission, declaring the public had been swindled. ^{and} ~~He~~ ^{Commissioner} asked Egan to hold up the purses of both fighters until an investigation is made into the preparations for the fight, the agreements signed between Uncle Mike Jacobs and others, and the debts which the fighters are supposed to owe to Uncle Mike. O'Toole declared further that the investigation should cover Uncle Mike's control not only of Conn and Louis, but ^{of} the entire boxing industry in the United States. Last night's affair, said ^{the Congressman} ~~Representative O'Toole~~[^] was a fraud.

~~Uncle Mike, for his ~~own~~ side, came back~~
~~at the Congressman with a retort discourteous. He~~

ADD FIGHT

Evidently that accusation represented fighting words to Congressman O'Toole. He declared that Jacobs' statement amounted to an accusation of extortion. So he is asking his lawyers to bring a suit of criminal libel against Uncle Mike for a hundred thousand dollars damage.

Chairman Eddie Eagan rejected O'Toole's request that he hold up the purses. He said O'Toole didn't have the sporting instinct to see the fight. That, retorted O'Toole, is incorrect. ^{That he} ~~He~~ saw the whole fight by television in Washington. ~~And then he~~ ~~said O'Toole: "What Eagan means is that I didn't have the sucker instinct." He declared that last night's fiesta was not a fight, it was an exhibition.~~

~~The newspapermen who for weeks had been intimating that Conn was in much better shape than Louis, and whose statements had built up the ballyhoo for the fight -- those same writers are now describing the whole show as a farce.~~

ADD FIGHT

Former Champion Gene Tunney described the show as the worst thing he has ever seen, just what he predicted it would be six months ago. As Gene put it, "John Public took it on the chin."

Mike Jacobs repudiated the accusation that he had over-charged people. He said the public itself made those prices before the tickets were even printed by sending in blank checks inviting him to fill them out at his own figures.

Mike Jacobs says
said O'Toole ~~was~~ knocking the fight because O'Toole's

office had asked for complimentary tickets and Jacobs had refused to give them.

Just as many of you have been doing, I've been reading today's comments in the press to see how sports writers feel about the fight. Their verdict in general can be summed up in the way Grandland Rice, put it in tonight's New York Sun. "There probably has never been a worse fight or a duller contest in the history of all heavyweight title bouts." That's

his knockout line. (Referring to the way ~~the~~ Louis flattened Conn in the eighth, ^{last night,} Grant Rice ^{says} ~~says~~: "He was a crumpled mass, a challenger who had blown his chance without throwing a single hostile punch".

H.I. Phillips, speaking for those of us who are not boxing experts summed up the lack of action in the ring at the Yankee Stadium in the



following words: "It restored the world to its most peaceful shape since Hitler began 'Mein Kampf'. And it definitely proved only one thing, that Louis's veto power is almost as good as Stalin's." Said Hi Phillips: "Any spectator who saw the bout suffered greater exertion going and coming. We have seen better fights in nylon lines."

On the other hand,

[^]To me it was by far the most interesting fight I ever attended. But not because of anything that happened in the ring. Boxing Commissioner Eddie Eagan, long a star on our ~~notorious~~ ball team, the Nine Old Men, had asked me to go with him. As a result, I got a behind-the-scenes-glimpse of what ^{happens} ~~goes on~~ at a championship fight: Racing to the stadium with the Boxing Commissioner, behind a high speed motorcycle escort, with ~~crowds~~ crowds along the way pointing ~~at us~~ and saying "ah, there goes the Governor", or, maybe they thought us Barney Baruch and Soviet Delegate Gromyko. Then to a room at the Concourse Plaza Hotel where ~~Colonel~~ Eagan gave final instructions to Referees Burns, Benny Leonard, and Eddie Joseph, and ^{to} ~~the~~ timers and judges,

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telling them how to avoid a possible long count, to handle it ~~just~~ as though it was ^{just} another fight and not let the principals have any subconscious psychological effect on any of their actions, and so on.

We sat right up at the ring, with the working press. That is, ~~we were~~ considerably nearer ~~the fight~~ than those who were in the Hundred Dollar ringside seats. The Boxing Commissioner with a telephone in his lap, calling the fighters to the ring from the distant dressing rooms, for each bout, and picking the referee to handle it. And then, the talks we had with both ~~Joe~~ Louis and ~~Billy~~ Conn in their dressing rooms before the fight and after the fight, their dressing rooms almost as quiet as ~~rooms in~~ a public library, before the bout; pandemonium afterward. Conn frankly admitting he had put up a bad fight, and saying it was his last. Louis, mobbed by his shouting admirers.

I understand today that more than twice as many people saw the fight, by television, than ~~was~~ ^{were} there in Yankee Stadium, ~~it on the spot, in the Arena.~~ I wonder if any of those

The Boxing Commissioner himself could have given Joe Louis a much stiffer fight.

Who will be the next challenger? When will Louis be dethroned? I couldn't find ^a ~~any~~ of the sports experts ^{there last night} ~~at the ring side~~ who would even venture a guess.

who sat before television instruments realized how near they came to not seeing it? At eight o'clock ten minutes before the first preliminary, Mike Jacobs told me of ^{the eleventh hour} ~~the last minute~~ trouble he had been having with union delegates. He said he had been threatened by some seven different electrical unions who until the last minute kept telling him they were going to cut off the current and prevent the fights going out by television. The last I heard was that Mike had some of the men who were causing ~~the~~ ^{the} trouble put in the Hundred Dollar seats. It was all too complicated for me to understand or for the badly worried Mike Jacobs to explain *clearly*.

The most impressive part of the evening to me was the ^{gentle} ~~gentle~~ soft-spoken way that Boxing Commissioner Eddie Eagan went about his job, and the poker-faced unruffled way the Brown Bomber went about his. As for the fight, Quent Rennolds sitting near me summed it up about right when he said: "They just didn't belong in the same ring together".

SPEED RECORD

At Dayton, Ohio today, an~~d~~ aviator set another new record, which almost baffles the imagination. In a twin engine plane with an auxiliary jet power plant, Lieutenant Thomas P. Gerrity, with Captain Walter K. Richert, as co-pilot, took ~~f~~ off from Wright Field at seven minutes past eleven, flew to St. Louis, and returned at thirty six minutes past ~~xx~~ twelve. That means six hundred and twenty one miles in one hour, thirty minutes, and forty seconds or an average speed of four hundred and thirteen miles an hour.

~~Lieutenant Gerrity is of the procurement division of the Air Materiel Command, and Captain Richert is in the A.M. C. Flight Test Division. At four hundred and thirteen miles, that plane was traveling more than ~~four~~ half as fast as the velocity of sound. Next Saturday, two jet propelled planes will, for the first time, carry~~
^{U. S.}
~~United States~~ mail. The planes will take off from Schenectady, New York, for Washington and Chicago.

And now at high speed
to you Hugh.