

C.I. - *Willsy*. Thursday, May 20, 1954.

IRELAND

In Dublin, they're saying - the end of an epoch. Tonight, a nearly final count in the Irish election - shows a majority against Prime Minister De Valera. His party won sixty-three seats in the Dublin Parliament.

The combined opposition - seventy-nine.

The new Prime Minister will undoubtedly be John Aloysius Costello, the Dublin lawyer who was prime minister from nineteen forty-eight to nineteen fifty-one. Displacing De Valera - during those years.

Dispatches from Dublin explain the De Valera defeat - merely in terms of high prices. There was no dispute about foreign policy, or any difference in domestic issues - except for an increase in cost of commodities.

The belief is that the seventy-one year old veteran of the Sien Fein rebellion may retire from politics. His eyesight failing - he's almost blind.

De Valera has been ~~the~~ Prime Minister for nineteen out of the past twenty-two years. So no wonder they're saying "the end of an epoch."

INDO-CHINA

The news from Indo-China has a grim sound. Red columns - pouring toward the Red River Delta, the "rice bowl" and - threatening Hanoi, the capital city of those parts.

The army that captured the fallen fortress of Dien Bien Phu - transferred for a Red River campaign. Columns of troops and trucks, on the roads. The French - throwing all their air power against these.

Today's dispatch telling of lines of trucks - blasted, set on fire, destroyed. But the enemy horde keeps coming on.

The French command says - the Reds have captured a strongpoint along the coast. But at another place, a Communist area, strongly fortified, was captured in a bayonet attack.

The most ominous picture is - inside Hanoi. The city - seething in a near panic. Dark rumors - on every side. Some - spread by Communist agitators.

One report is that the French chief-of-staff has arrived from Paris, to direct the evacuation of northern Indo-China. Which, of course, would include the Red River Delta - and Hanoi. The city - to be left to

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its fate, the mercy of the Reds. The report is false, but any kind of rumor spreads in a panic.

The proprietor of a Hanoi night club created a scare last night - with a weird piece of dramatics. He said he had heard that all civilians were to be evacuated from the city. And announced - "We are offering free champagne - so the Communists won't get it."

Activities are virtually at a standstill in Hanoi, as the city, especially the French population - fears and wonders.

GENEVA

At Geneva, an agreement - they'll start to work, tomorrow, on terms for a truce in Indo-China. Actual conditions for a cease-fire - to be hammered out, if possible.

The proceedings today were - behind the scenes. British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden - taking the lead. This morning, he had a conference with Chou En-Lai, representing Red China. Tonight, Eden was having dinner at the residence of Soviet Foreign Minister Molotov. The Foreign Secretary - working hard for a compromise.

Today's agreement is regarded skeptically by American and other western officials. There's much talk - that, in Indo-China, the Reds are having so much military success, and they're not likely to call the war off.

GENEVA - POET

He yes, and At Geneva, there's a poet - who isn't starving any more. Today, he took some nourishment - even though the Indo-China peace conference remains deadlocked.

The poet is Vo-Thanh-Minh -- from Indo-China. Who arrived at Geneva - dedicating himself to the cause of peace. He circulated a peace petition among the various delegations. But his hope faded - as the conference turned into a lot of wrangling and argument.

So Vo-Thanh-Minh took more drastic measures. Announcing - a hunger strike, until a treaty was made. He pitched a tent on a plot of ground not far from the Palace of the Nations. There - to fast until death, if need be.

"I want to suffer with my people," proclaimed Vo-Thanh-Minh.

"It is my destiny."

- Well, it was his destiny for seventeen days. Until today - when the Geneva police removed him, tent and all. They took him to a hospital. Where, at last reports, Vo-Thanh-Minh was taking nourishment - eating some fruit. A hungry poet is an old story. But never considered a help in making a peace treaty.

SOUTHEAST ASIA

New Zealand says - that a southeast Asian alliance would have *to* include Great Britain. This emanates from the New Zealand Minister of External Affairs T. Clifton Webb, who is in Washington.

Yesterday, President Eisenhower indicated that the United States might go ahead with plans for a southeast Asian anti-communist pact - without Britain, if the British continue to be reluctant. But the New Zealand official says. "I can't conceive of a satisfactory alliance being made that would not include Britain."

GIBRALTAR

Prime Minister Winston Churchill denies - that Britain ever offered to return Gibraltar to Spain. This in reply to a Spanish newspaper article, the authority for which is attributed to Franco, the Spanish dictator.

The newspaper said that, during World War Two, the British government offered the "Rock", in return for Spanish neutrality. The fear being that Franco Spain would join Hitler. Franco accepted the deal - remaining neutral. But the British did not carry out their end of the bargain. Bad faith - claims the Spanish newspaper.

In the House of Commons today, Sir Winston was asked about that. He'd know - because he was the London Prime Minister during the war. He said - nothing to it. There was no such deal - offering Gibraltar for Spanish neutrality.

SUBMARINE


England almost had a drama of the undersea - almost. A submarine vanished last night - and, today, rescue operations were about to begin. When - up came the sub.

It happened off the south coast of England - during routine training maneuvers. The submarine "Scorcher" dived, and then - no further word. Suspense - alarm. The Royal Navy has an elaborate system of undersea rescue, and this was ordered into operation. Salvage vessels and equipment were mobilized swiftly, and went into action. The tense business of locating, and then trying to save - a sunken submarine. Which so often has ended - in bitter tragedy.

Twenty minutes after the great rescue operation got going, the "Scorcher" was located by another submarine. Which sent a signal to the "missing" undersea craft. "Better come up - immediately!" which the "Scorcher" did. There had been some kind of mix-up causing all that alarm.

GUATEMALA

The United States has asked Sweden for information - about that shipload of armament for Guatemala. It now turns out that the freighter, which picked up the cargo at a Soviet-controlled port - is a Swedish craft. Washington wants to get all the information possible about the shipment of arms and munitions to the central-American republic - the government of which is called pro-Communist. Sweden - an appropriate place to inquire.

We hear, further, that ships entering U. S. waters are being scrutinized. Recently, a Dutch vessel, putting in at San Juan, Puerto Rico - got a going over. Searched  for a possible consignment of armament. We aim to make sure that waters or harbors, under the U. S. Flag, are not used for any traffic in armament - between the Communist world and the Americas.

Meanwhile, Nicaragua may call a conference of Pan-America foreign ministers - to check the spread of Communism from Guatemala into other American countries. So stated by the Nicaraguan Ambassador to Washington today.

MC CARTHY

Senator McCarthy says - he still doesn't know whether he'll show up on Monday when the televised proceedings are due to be resumed.

Today the temporary chairman, Senator Mundt, had a talk with the junior Senator from Wisconsin, after which he told the newsmen - it was his "guess" that McCarthy would appear. But he didn't know - the whole

thing still up in the air.

Later - McE - says he will be there. Will he testify? He wouldn't say.

Meanwhile, McCarthy flings a new attack at President Eisenhower's

order - forbidding testimony about the much debated meeting with White House aides. He calls the directive - "ridiculous". This in spite of the assurance from Army Secretary Stevens - that the Army, alone, was responsible for the report in the Cohn-Schine affair.

At the White House, there's no information about any McCarthy request for an interview with President Eisenhower. Yesterday, the Senator declared that he wanted to talk matters over - before the controversy "exploded". But was unable to get an appointment at the White House.

Presidential Secretary Jim Hagerby says - he knows of no such "direct" request. But he would not comment on the McCarthy claim - that he tried to get an interview through a prominent Republican leader and a White House official. Making the approach - through them.

OPPENHEIMER

Prominent Atomic Scientists have joined in blaming the government for its treatment of Dr. Robert Oppenheimer, ~~The~~ physicist - so prominent in the development of the atomic bomb, ~~Who~~, recently, was denied any further access to atomic secrets.

In the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, they point out that the government knew, quite well, about Dr. Oppenheimer's former association with communism and communists, ~~Which~~ he, himself, admits frankly. With full knowledge of this, the atomic authorities employed him to great advantage - in the creation of the bomb. So now it's "a breach of faith" to banish him as a bad security risk. That's the argument put forth by top level atomic scientists.

SEGREGATION

Governor Talmadge of Georgia has called a meeting of southern state officials - on the **segregation** issue. Officials, on the legal side - attorney generals. They're to gather in Atlanta on Wednesday. - To discuss legal ways to evade that Supreme Court decision. Outlawing - racial segregation in public schools.

At the same time, Governor Stanley of Virginia has asked the governors of fifteen other southern states to meet in Richmond, June seventh and eighth. To "exchange information and views" on the school question.

Today Governor Talmadge of Georgia vowed all over again - that school segregation will continue in Georgia.

CRATER

Canadian Scientists are going on an expedition to investigate a strange geological phenomenon. In the wilds of northeastern Quebec. A great "circular structure," which may be an ancient crater. Volcanic- or, maybe, caused by a giant meteor.

The "circular structure," surveyed from the air, consists of two lakes. Each one - a half-moon. They're near each other - and, taken together, make a huge circle.

Mining prospectors, who have been in that remote wilderness report the rocks are strange for Quebec. Which province lies on what they call - the "Pre-Cambrian Shield." The most ancient of rocks - while those of the supposed crater, are much newer. Don't seem to belong there - which adds to the geological mystery.

MONSTER

Here's one for - professors of ichthyology. At Tampico, Mexico, they need information from experts who know about - strange creatures of the sea. Some fishermen caught a "monster," and - are puzzled.

A shrimp fishing boat was out in the Gulf, when the monster appeared on the surface. The Mexican sailors harpooned it - and that was quite a job. Several times, the harpoons bounced off the tough hide of the monster. But, finally, the critter was harpooned, and dragged into a boat. The shrimp fishermen - utterly amazed.

A five hundred and fifty pound -what-have-you.. With long sharp teeth, flippers on its back - and also on its under-side. The tail - shaped like a half moon.

So what is it.. Nobody in Tampico can make a guess.