

L.T. -DELCO. WEDNESDAY, MAY 23, 1956

(Given by Chas. Collingwood)

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Pierre Mendes-France -- a stormy figure in French politics -- is back in the news again. He has resigned from the French government of Premier Mollet. Mendes-France has quit over French policy toward strife-torn Algeria...The Mollet government has embarked on a policy of stern military action against the rebels -- some 300 thousand French troops are in Algeria. Mendes-France says that's not the way to do it. He is urging dramatic political and economic reforms to win back the faith of the Arab population...Mendes-France wants to do this even if it means antagonizing the powerful French colonials in Algeria... Premier Mollet stands firm on his policy of military action... So Mendes-France leaves the cabinet.

Here's an incident which shows how deeply French feelings run over the fighting in Algeria...

## FRANCE

News from France tells of a rowdy train ride - when three hundred reservists were on their way to join the French Army in Algeria. The soldiers, called back to the colors, knew how, five days ago, a twenty-one man patrol had been ambushed and wiped out by the Algerian rebels. The <sup>unlucky</sup> patrol consisted, mostly, of reservists - like themselves. Which was no encouragement.

The troop train started out from a reception camp near Paris, and the reservists were in a rebellious mood. Twice, the train stopped - when they pulled the emergency cord.

Then the real trouble began, when the <sup>train</sup> ~~train~~ pulled into the station at Bar-le-Duc. The soldiers poured out, and then uncoupled the coaches - so the train couldn't start again. The riot was so serious - two squads of gendarmes had to be rushed to the scene, and reinforce the local police, before the soldiers were persuaded to board the train again.

This <sup>is</sup> <sub>A</sub> a vivid illustration of how difficult that Algerian problem is for the French government.

EISENHOWER

Today is President Eisenhower's news conference day. There was one question he knew the reporters were going to ask him. How does he, one of America's great generals, feel about the current squabbles among the armed services? When they asked him, he was ready with his answer.

----

EISENHOWER: If there weren't, in his time, a good strong, fighting among the Services I would be frightened, indeed. The only thing in which you might hear me say that I was unhappy is sometimes the way in which these arguments are conducted. It has been the tradition with military services that every single person and anybody on the staff or a civilian commander is free to fight for his point of view to the ultimate of his strength, which he should do, and he's not doing his duty unless he does it. Finally, there reaches a place in the military command where, depending on the nature of the question, a decision is made. Then all loyally support that decision, so, as far as it possibly can be to exhaust every atom of logic and effect,

even of decent deductions that we can bring on everything that affects the problem, but I do say that we can still be -- do it in such a way that we don't alarm everybody. There comes a place in the military hierarchy where someone must make a decision, not to say a mistake. Now, the President by constitutional, is the Commander-in-Chief and what he decides to do in these things in the forms -- in the form and the way that you arm and organize your forces must be carried out.

I have no objection whatsoever to a man giving his personal opinion, if he's asked for it, when -- if he does it in the sense that "I am really carrying out what I'm supposed to do" and if he does it -- if he isn't capable of doing that, then I would say the man isn't capable of carrying on the job he has.

----

SPEAKER: Is there anything you can tell us about the success of the recent H-bomb drop (inaudible)?

----

EISENHOWER: Well, only that, of course, it was a much smaller bomb than some of the maximum ones which had been dropped before,

that the purposes for which the AEC dropped it had been achieved, at least largely the investigations they wanted to make, that it's -- the cloud from this explosion from which there was expected a minimum of fall-out because of its nature and its height, at least the immediate fall-out, the cloud drifted off to the north.

----

COLLINGWOOD: You could tell from that recording how full of his subject the President was when he was asked that question about military controversy.

EISENHOWER - TAXES

At his news conference, today, President Eisenhower was asked about the possibility of a tax reduction - since the government anticipates a larger surplus than had been expected. He replied by saying, this would be - "a very poor time." He wants to do something to reduce the national debt before considering a reduction of taxes.

In January, the White House predicted ~~that it would have~~ a surplus of two hundred million dollars this year. Recently, the Treasury estimated that the government will end this fiscal year - one billion, eight hundred million dollars in the black. Nine times as much <sup>surplus</sup> - as the ~~one~~ forecast in January.

The President argues, however, that the figure in the black is still "very small", compared with the size of the federal budget.

~~( Democrats have been talking of using the surplus as the basis for a tax cut. Congressman McCormack of Massachusetts, Democratic leader in the House, declares - they're going to look into the possibility. An opinion to the contrary, however, is~~

At Naples, today, former President Truman issued an apology - for the remark he made, yesterday. When he criticized the landings, in World War Two, at Salerno and Anzio. Saying the Anzio operation had been ordered by "some squirrel headed general." He says he didn't say it. Also - he's sorry to <sup>have</sup> said it. The contradiction is an indication of the embarrassment of H.S.T. - who always was famous for remarks that got him into trouble.

The furore that followed the remark about ~~the~~ "squirrel headed general" was loud and international. The highest indignation was displayed in Britain by Lieutenant General Sir Oliver Leese, who commanded the British Eighth Army at Salerno. In angry tones, he described the Truman remark as - "utter nonsense". And insisted the Salerno operation was "well planned".

The U.S. Commander at Anzio was General Mark Clark - who, later on, was named by President Truman as American Ambassador to the Vatican. Although - the appointment had to be called off. General Clark, in measured terms, says that, in

the landings, he followed orders from superiors.

At his news conference today, President Eisenhower was asked about the Truman uproar - and, in reply, spoke about the Anzio landing. At which time, General Ike was Supreme Allied Commander in Europe. He said that he disagreed with some phases of the strategy at the Anzio beachhead, but that the operation was not a failure.

Today, Mr. and Mrs. Truman were in Naples, and a statement was issued in behalf of the former President by his secretary, Eugene Bailey. Who declared that the "squirrel headed general" remark was not actually made by Mr. Truman. He didn't really say it. "He may have been repeating what one of the reporters said to him, merely as a joke," insisted the secretary.



FARM

Well, the Compromise Farm Bill of 1956 passed the House and went to President Eisenhower's desk... Compromise is a good name for it. Congressman Page of Texas who shepherded it through the House, urged its passage as "Not the second best farm bill we have had before us this year. Its probably the third or fourth best, but the only one which seems to have a chance to become law."

## RUSSIANS

In Washington, today, the testimony was - that there are, in the United States, some fifteen thousand refugees from Iron Curtain countries. Living - under false names, with falsified identities. Their illegal status is such, that they are likely targets for pressure by Communist agents. They receive Soviet propaganda by mail, and some of them have been threatened with exposure to the American authorities, unless they go home to their Communist native land.

This testimony was given by Countess Alexandra Tolstoy, daughter of the great novelist. She heads the " Tolstoy Foundation for Aiding Russian Emigres ", and urged Congress to pass legislation to legalize the position of those refugees from Communism. Which would ease their fears - and make them less subject to Communist pressure.

## DUKE OF EDINBURGH

There are denials in London - of any evidence of a Cypriote plot to assassinate the Duke of Edinburgh. Nevertheless, Scotland Yard has taken special precaution to protect the ~~husband~~ husband of the Queen. Three ~~special~~ secret agents from the Yard have been assigned to guard the Duke, who is vacationing in Scotland with the Queen and their two children.

The vengeful threat might seem all the more serious, since Greeks have denounced the Duke of Edinburgh as a traitor. Because he was born on the Greek island of Corfu, and was a Greek Prince, son of Prince Andrew and Princess Alice. However, the Greek royal family is of German origin, and the Duke became a British citizen in Nineteen Forty-Seven.

CANADA

In eastern Canada, you wouldn't believe the thermometer. You wouldn't, that is - unless you felt the heat and cold.

Yesterday, sweltering weather. Today - a cold wave.

At Val d'Or, northwestern Quebec, the thermometer read seventy-one degrees, yesterday. Today, the reading was - nineteen degrees. A drop - of fifty-two degrees.

## TREES

A big aerial campaign has begun in Quebec and New Brunswick - and this news is important ~~to~~<sup>for</sup> the news.

Ninety-one planes have mobilized - arriving from places as far away as Texas and California. The ninety-one are called - merely the vanguard, for the "battle of the budworm." You may wonder what the "budworm" has to do with the news, ~~the tidings of the day.~~ Here's the answer.

The budworm is a voracious insect, which, in great swarms, strips the foliage from spruce trees, killing them. And the spruce trees of Quebec and New Brunswick provide most of the newsprint for our daily papers.

Hence the aerial operation - to spray the trees, and kill the budworm.

## ISLAND

This next dispatch tells how the folks of Dundee, Wisconsin - towed an island away, and anchored it. Which may sound like a tall story - but it's a floating island, which has been plaguing people along the shore of Kettle Moraine Lake.

Ten days ago, in a high wind, a section of the west shore of the lake broke loose, and went drifting away. It's a real island, with soil, masses of under-brush, and a number of trees, including four or five large trees. The roots of the vegetation hold the soil together, and keep it from breaking up in the lake.

The floating island, after drifting around aimlessly for days, came pushing to the beach at the vacation resort of Dundee. So the people, instead of bathing beaches, had an island.

They figured they'd do something about it - and, yesterday, mobilized fifteen outboard motorboats. Which they hitched to the island - for a towing job. They got it moving, and were fifteen feet off shore - when a high wind blew up, and halted the proceedings. They were able, however, to moor the

island - and there it was, fifteen feet off shore, today.

While the vacationists mobilized their motorboats again - for another towing job.

But where <sup>can they</sup> ~~will~~ take the island, and be sure it won't come drifting back? They're demanding that the authorities do something about it - and sink the floating island.