

January 27, 1954

From Portland, Oregon

BERLIN

At the Berlin Conference today, Molotov again demanded a five-power conference including Red China. The West has rejected this firmly. But, in a ninety-minute speech the Moscow Foreign Minister intimated - that the rejection might not be final. He seems to think Great Britain, France and the United States - will give ground.

At the end of the session today, an official Soviet spokesman insisted that the question of a five-power conference was the first item on the program. And it would not be possible to consider problems of Germany and Austria until an agreement was reached on dealing with Red China.

## KOREA PRISONERS

The twenty-one Americans, who went over to Communism, have probably by now marched out of the Pan Mun Jon area. The Reds agreed to take the pro-Communist prisoners - three hundred and twenty five South Koreans, one Briton, and the twenty-one Americans. But they're not to be released - as civilians. They'll be held in another prisoner-of-war camp until a Korean peace conference decides on their fate - the Red command sticking stubbornly to that point.

## PRISONER

President Eisenhower today promised "full justice" to Corporal Edward Dickenson - the GI who went over to Communism, then, changed his mind, and came back.

At his news conference, the President said he was "disturbed" when he heard the army had arrested Dickenson - on court martial charges. He said he got in touch, immediately, with Secretary of Defense Wilson, and talked with him about it.

The armed forces, the President explained today, have no desire to court-martial a soldier, who merely made a momentary decision - then had a change of heart. But there might be something else in the Dickenson case. The President - giving no hint of what else there might be.

The charges against the corporal are -

PRISONER - 2

"intercourse" with the enemy. And - seeking "favorable treatment" for himself, to the "detriment" of his fellow prisoners.

In military parlance the term "intercourse" could mean "aiding the enemy." Which could bring the death sentence in an extreme case. Seeking "favorable treatment" might be punished by - prison."

The President's mood was expressed - by a biblical reference. He said that, when he heard of the arrest of Corporal Dickenson, he remembered - the story of the Prodigal Son.

## COFFEE

The government has begun an investigation of coffee. President Eisenhower stating - that the Federal Trade Commission is launching a full scale inquiry into the soaring prices which are believed to have been caused, in part, by speculation and monopoly.

The President gave his news conference a sketch of the recent history of coffee prices - a story that goes back to the nineteen thirties. In that period of the depression, he said, there were heavy surpluses of coffee - a result of over-production in countries like Brazil. So production was decreased - a cut-back. Then, in some years, the demand began exceeding the supply. A condition aggravated last year - by bad weather conditions. Frost injuring the Brazilian crop. Whereupon, monopoly and speculation may have entered the picture.

President Eisenhower, today, stated that a preliminary inquiry shows that the recent rise in the price of coffee was connected with trading in coffee futures. Gambling - in the coffee market.

This definitely played a part, said the President. Adding that Federal laws may have been violated - illegal speculation. If so there will be prosecutions.

One result of all this was - immediate.

On the New York coffee and sugar exchange, coffee futures dropped as much as two cents a pound. Which is the maximum decline permitted by regulations - in one day of trading.

Prices in coffee speculation - taking a tumble.

## TAFT-HARTLEY

In the Senate Labor Committee, defeat seems to be certain for President Eisenhower's proposal that ~~stri~~ strike votes be conducted under government supervision. That recommendation for amending the Taft-Hartley Law ~~has~~ is before the Senate Labor Committee - and, today, Senator John Sherman Cooper of Kentucky, a Republican member of the committee, announced his opposition.

Previously, Walter Reuther, President of the CIO, issued a bitter denunciation of the plan for government supervision of strike votes. And, Senator Cooper said - he agreed with Reuther. Republican Senator Ives of New York had already announced his opposition to the presidential proposal. Result - a majority of the committee is against.

## ALBANY

In Albany, the State Commissioner of Correction has provided a list of persons who visited Lucky Luciano in nineteen-forty-two. The latest in a political uproar - with the Democrats making charges in the Luciano case.

That notorious gangster was convicted by Thomas E. Dewey, when the Governor was a racket-busting district attorney. After serving some years in prison, Luciano was paroled - and deported. There was an explanation that the parole had something to do with aid Luciano gave to the war effort.

So now, Correction Commissioner Edward Donovan has given a list to Democratic Assembly Leader Eugene Bannigan - and today Bannigan released four names: Frank Costello, Meyer Lansky, Joe Lanza, and Willie Moretti. All - mentioned prominently as underworld



figures. Moretti, a New Jersey gambler, was killed later - in an underworld murder.

A spokesman for Governor Dewey states that these visits, in nineteen forty-two, were requested by in the administration of Democratic Governor Lehman - before Dewey took office. So Dewey refers the matter to Lehman, now a senator.

## CHURCHILL

London is agog because of a word - "delusion". Which applies to the question of whether or not - Prime Minister Churchill intends to resign. This, for sometime, has been the subject of a guessing game. Now confused more than ever by - delusion. What did Sir Winston mean when he said it in the House of Commons? A labor member who broached the subject of the Churchill retirement said: "On it, we shall, no doubt, be receiving distinguished distinguished enlightenment shortly."

To which Churchill replied: "It's a delusion!"

Some take that to mean that the rumor of retirement is a "delusion" others believe the Prime Minister meant - it was a "delusion" to suppose that he would say anything on the subject.

Today, the London papers were trying to interpret - that one word.

## **POPE**

At the Vatican, Pope Pius the Twelfth has been told by his physician + to take a complete rest, for at least a week. The seventy-seven year old Pontiff suffers from fatigue - and intermittent spells of hiccoughs. They say his illness is not serious, but the doctor prescribes "rest, and more rest."

So the Pope immediately cancelled all engagements - including one with British Field Marshall Viscount Montgomery.

## PORTLAND, OREGON

Here at Portland, Oregon, rain is not unusual at this season. But even the people of the Rose City say they've had enough. So far this season they have had three times as much as usual - and it's still coming down. Making it impossible to see Mt. Hood. And in the eyes of a Portlandite it's a major calamity to come to the metropolis of the Columbia and the Willamette, and fail to see what they consider the most beautiful mountain in the world. But don't tell anyone in Seattle I said that.

This is the land of big trees, big dams, big everything. Not ~~satisfied~~ satisfied with Bonneville and Grand Coulee, they now have the huge McNary Dam; and they are starting work on two more like it - the Chief Joseph and the Dalls.

PORTLAND, OREGON - 2

My cousin C.F. Thomas, a builder of bridges for railways and other big projects - has been telling me how they just built a structure for storing wheat four hundred feet long, one hundred and eighty feet wide and as high as a twenty-three story building, and did it in eight days. In which to store surplus wheat from eastern Oregon and Washington.

## MYSTERY

Detroit has a murder mystery in which a magazine salesman offered the solution to a newspaper. In return for thirty-three hundred dollars. But this only made the case more confusing than ever.

John W. Mattson, traffic manager for the Atlas Steel Corporation, was shot to death, as he sat working at his desk - at night. The killer fired through a window with a high powered rifle.

This was on Monday. The murder of the fifty-three year old executive - a blank mystery. But the police promptly discovered evidence that might be rich in clue.

In the traffic manager's desk, a heap of letters - letters from women. Sentimental correspondence - with nearly a score of women. The letters indicating that each one thought Mattson to be single, and wealthy.

**MYSTERY - 2**

Actually, he was married. As for wealth - medium. Salary - thirteen thousand a year.

Yesterday, the magazine salesman entered the picture. James R. Dolly of Milwaukee, phoned the Detroit Times, offering to sell the solution of the murder mystery. The editor made an appointment for a reporter to meet him.

That was last night, and Dolly told the reporter he had met the steel executive in Milwaukee at a party, New Year's Eve. He said Mattson had a date with a telephone operator, whom Dolly identified as a cousin of his, which tied in with the woman angle.

That was as far as the reporter got. Dolly saying - he'd meet him later at a hotel bar. The reporter kept the appointment but the magazine salesman failed to show up.

Whereupon the newspaper informed the police - and, today, Dolly was arrested. The police say the story he tells is confused. Adding perplexity to Detroit's murder mystery.



## DORIS\_DUKE

In Hollywood, on the top of a hill, stands a white house with a red roof - Spanish-Italian style.

In fashionable Benedict Canyon - "The Falcon Lair".

Haunted by memories of the past. And there are devoted who still gaze with a sigh at the white and red house on the hill. For it's the one time home of - Rudolf Valentino.

Now The Falcon's Lair is acquiring a new tenant. Who is having the place remodeled - and will move in some weeks from now. Doris Duke - called "the richest woman in the world."

The heiress to the Duke tobacco fortune liked the location and the architecture of Rudolf Valentino's old home - the Spanish-Italian style. So she bought it, and is having it enlarged and redecorated the walls to be covered with tapestries - not wall paper. The rooms

to be furnished - with seventeenth century antiques from Italy and Spain.

Doris Duke - to live in the one-time home of

"the Great Lover" - "The Sheik" - Rudolf Valentino.

## Los Angeles

Los Angeles is now having trouble with Chicago. Following an argument with Philadelphia, the City of the Angels claimed the place of the City of Brotherly Love - as the third largest in the United States. Which Philadelphia denied. So now the claim - that Los Angeles County has exceeded Cook County - in population. Cook County - which contains Chicago.

The Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce announces that the population of their county is four million, eight hundred and seventy-five thousand. Cook County - only four million, eight hundred and twenty-three thousand. So what has Chicago to say?

The Association of Commerce in the Windy City ridiculed the claim, saying - that Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES - 2

County covers more than four thousand square miles.

Which is true. It sure is one large county. Bigger, says Chicago, than all six counties which constitute the overall metropolitan area of Chicago. These cover four hundred square miles less, and have a population of - five million, seven hundred thousand.

The City of the Angels, having got into a row with the City of Brotherly Love, has now taken on - the Windy City, Harry, Angels, Love, and Wind - quite a combination.