

Fri. Dec. 15 - 50, P.T.P.H.

The State of emergency was pretty well spelled out by President Truman tonight - in his radio address. He called for the mobilization of this country -- man power and industrial power.

The State of Emergency will be proclaimed officially tomorrow morning - and with it the creation of a new office of defense-mobilization headed by Charles E. Wilson, who has resigned as President of the General Electric. Wage and price controls will be imposed, and the army will be increased to three-and-a-half-million as soon as possible. President Truman, in the bluntest of words, blamed Soviet Russia for pushing the world to what he called - the brink of a general war.

TRUMAN

President Truman called the Cabinet together today - for a look at the speech of national mobilization he will make tonight. He is expected to announce his decision to declare a state of national emergency - and to begin wage-price controls. The word is that he'll warn the public that higher taxes are coming - and that the draft will be expanded. He will tell the people that "business as usual" will have to be suspended, and that heavy sacrifices are needed, as the price of our freedom - in the face of Red aggression.

H ~~But the President is not expected to go nearly~~
But he did not go nearly
as far as Governor Dewey did last night - in

recommending all-out national mobilization against mortal peril. The titular head of the Republican Party, for example, advocated an army of a hundred divisions, though we now have no more than ten.

It was one of the most powerful, summary warnings that a nation has ever listened to - and today Governor Dewey's office in Albany reports a flood of

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telegrams and messages from all over the country -
supporting his proposals for so complete a muster of
the power and resources of America.

MOBILIZATION

The House of Representatives has passed the military spending bill - totaling nearly seventeen billion dollars. The vote was an overwhelming shout of approval - putting up the money requested by President Truman for the Korean War and the giant rearmament program. The measure goes to the Senate, where action will be just as quick and approval just as overwhelming.

ATOMIC

The United States is far ahead in atomic bombs. This we hear from the chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, Gordon Best. "We are well ahead of Russia," he is quoted as saying. "As far as bombs are concerned, we're in a strong position."

The statement was given to a Congressional Sub-Committee a little more than a week ago - made public today. We are in the lead, and intend to remain in the lead - said the chairman.

He was backing the President's request for more than a billion dollars to boost A-bomb production, and also develop the hydrogen bomb. He confirmed reports of a new giant atomic plant, which is to be built near Paducah, Kentucky, and pointed to new supplies of uranium made available by South Africa - radioactive ore, which is a by-product of the South African gold mines. This - in addition to quantities we already get from Canada and the Belgian Congo. The head of the Atomic Energy Commission said that, with new South African supplies, our sources of uranium ore -

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will greatly exceed anything we could see a year ago."

That was the way

as he phrased it.

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REPUBLICANS

The Senate Republicans have joined with those of the Lower House in demanding the removal of Secretary of State Acheson. In a move without precedent, the members of Congress in the opposition party went formally on record - in demanding the shake-up of the State Department and a new Secretary of State. The House Republicans voted earlier in the day. The G O P Senators tonight -- by a vote of twenty-three to five.

The trained look to work.

SUB RAILROAD

Tonight in Chicago, a Federal Judge ordered the railroad strikers to show cause why they should not be cited for contempt. The federal government asked for the order, in an effort to end the walk-out, which is impeding supplies for the Korean war. The judge issued an order in the action for contempt - but the question is complicated by the fact that the strike is a wildcat affair, not ordered by union officials, who insist they are doing everything they can to get the trainmen back to work.

KOREA

our Korea
The Red assault against ~~the~~ beachhead has failed. Savage fighting raged all day long, as two thousand enemy shock troops tried to push through the tight little perimeter that guards the Hamhung evacuation area. They were able to dent the ring of fire and steel, push it back in places. The perimeter is twelve miles deep, and it sagged for two miles. But the Reds couldn't break it. So, at the end of the day, the Chinese drew back, leaving half of their troops as casualties on the frozen Korean earth.

In the wild rush of the Reds, two American platoons, patrolling out in front, were isolated. One still missing. But sounds of shooting in the section where it was, appear to indicate - that the platoon may be fighting its way back.

Today's assault upon the beachhead was broken, hurled back in defeat - but the defenders are waiting grimly for more. It is known that three Chinese divisions are within striking distance, and a new offensive is expected at any time.

FOLLOW KOREA

The evacuation is being made in the depth of the Korean winter - but, by now, the soldiers have got^{ten} used to the frosty winter. They say - when they've got the right clothes, it isn't so bad. What worries them now is the way the folks back home are worried - after having been alarmed by earlier stories of polar temperatures. So today's news dispatch quotes the soldiers as requesting: "Tell the people back there, it ain't so bad."

One G.I. was particularly anxious to have his mother informed of this - wanting her to know he doesn't need so much medicine. It seems that mom sent a huge package over to Korea - and, when the G.I. opened it, he found every known brand of patent medicine for colds and the flu.

Other G.I.'s are described as having similar experiences with - mom. One got a beautiful Christmas package, and in it found a necktie - like a sunburst. A dispatch from the Seventh Infantry Division lists the

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colors of that necktie as - red, yellow, blue, maroon, grey and pink. ~~(The soldier gazed at it sadly, and said -- "It sure is a beauty, but the commanding officer might think I was a little out of uniform if I were that tie.")~~ Imagine the colonel coming down the line and getting one glimpse of all that - red, yellow, blue, maroon, grey and pink.

Still another young G. I. was observed, lugging along a big heavy Christmas parcel. Which turned out to be - a bushel of apples. A reminder of home, the farm, the trees in the orchard. Mom had paid twenty-four dollars to send the package by airmail - and, in Korea, ^{plentiful and only} apples are fifteen cents a bushel.

MOSCOW

Soviet Russia demands again that the Japanese Emperor be tried as a war criminal. In a note to the Government of the United States, Moscow repeats with insistence that Hirohito be put on trial, another Soviet propaganda move - that is likely to get little attention.

CHINA - OPIUM

Red China - said to be resorting to one of the worst evils of Chinese history; Opium - the drowsy drug, so long a curse in the Orient. A dispatch from Hong Kong states that the Red Government is engaged in a huge operation of smuggling opium abroad - to finance Communist movements in other countries of Asia. The narcotic poison, grown and processed in China, is peddled at enormous profit abroad - and the money goes to support local Communist parties and underground activities.

The nationalists of Chiang Kai-Shek tried to suppress opium, and imposed the death penalty on producers and salesmen of the drug. But the Reds find that ancient curse a good thing for the spread of Communism. The dispatch tells of opium going by caravan into Burma - and of ships in the China trade compelled to take smuggler cargoes aboard. At Canton, the Reds are said to have established a plant turning opium into heroin - a still more ~~vicious~~ vicious narcotic. I don't know how true these reports are, but they would

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would certainly make a fine caricature of one Marxian dogma, basic in Communism. Marx proclaimed:

"Religion is the opium of the people." So now it might read: "Opium is an instrument of Marxism."

ISRAEL

Moscow today hurled a blast against Israel, ~~which may be the beginning of a propaganda campaign against the Jewish State.~~ The Red navy newspaper declares that the government of Prime Minister ~~Ben-Gurion~~ Ben-Gurion is turning Palestine into an American military base. The charge is that the Port of Haifa, newly reconstructed, is to be a U.S. Naval station. The Lydda flying field - an American air base.

The Moscow newspaper charges that the Mapai Party, headed by Prime Minister Ben-Gurion, is in the service of "American imperialists." Recently, the finance minister of the Jewish State was in the United States, where he made an agreement for American technicians to develop industry in Israel. Red propaganda states that the real purpose is to have the American technicians turn Israel into a U. S. Military Base.

ROME -- HOLD-UP

In Rome, an event without precedent in the Eternal City - a bank hold-up. They say it was the first attempt of armed robbery at a bank - in living memory. Bandits killed a director of the financial institution, and the cashier was gravely wounded.

The bank is near the ancient River Tiber; and today four hold-up men in masks entered - and pointed machine guns. On their way - to the cashiers office, where the money was kept - the bank director, in charge, immediately drew a pistol and opened fire. So did the cashier - and both were cut down by machine gun bullets. But the battle they put up stopped the robbers, who fled - without getting any money.

The police, at once, began a search, blocking all entrances to the city - and, tonight, Rome is astonished at having a manhunt for bank robbers.

RESCUE

At Renton, Washington, a rescue crew reached a buried miner tonight, and cleared away masses of fallen stone from his head and shoulders. John Wolti, fifty-four years old, was buried in the cave-in of a mine shaft on Wednesday -- and there seemed mighty little hope for him. But his comrade miners drove to the rescue, and reached him tonight. He is alive -- and the last word was that, in an hour or so, they will have him completely released from masses of fallen stone.

PERE NOEL

From Paris, a hard hearted news dispatch, telling what happens to letters children address to the French version of Santa Claus. They^{are} sent to the dead letter office - where, according to law, they are kept for three months. Then they are burned - all those message from Jean and Pierre, ^{Georgette}~~Marie~~ and Suzanne. Which sounds unsentimental, in a land with so much sentiment.

Santa Claus, in France is called Pere Noel - Father Christmas. He doesn't live at the North Pole, but up in the sky. This year a little lad, named Marcel, addressed his letter to - "Monsieur Pere Noel - up in the sky, on the big cloud of the falling star." Sounds as if Marcel might grow up to be a poet. Many of the letters assure Pere Noel that on Christmas night the stove will be kept going, so he can warm himself - and, on the table, a glass of wine will be left for him.

All quite enchanting. But ^{at} the French post office department - they proceed strictly according to law. They keep the letters to Pere Noel for three months.

in the dead letter office. Then - burn them.

This made me wonder - ~~xx~~ how does your Uncle Sam do it? So I called the office of the postmaster in New York, and found - they ^{actually} play Santa Claus. They screen the letters, and each one that seems genuine is answered with a Christmas gift. There's a fund for this, made up of contributions by post office employees - and donations from outside sources.

Looks as if Santa Claus gets a better mail service than Pere Noel.

RED STAR

At San Diego, in southern California, they're seeing stars. Red stars, declares retired Admiral William H. Standley, former U. S. Ambassador to Moscow. *TL*
Admiral He says the Christmas decorations at the San Diego Civic Center feature - the red star of Soviet Russia.

The decorations for the Civic Center were put up by the Chamber of Commerce, which today shouted - orange. Which is a good color for southern California - with its orange groves. City manager O. W. Campbell says he investigated, and here's the report; "We checked the stars. They are orange. They were painted orange, with orange paint, that came out of a can marked 'orange'." *TP* Of course, the Irish might want them - green.

All of which reminds us of the many parts played by the geometrical figure with points. The star of Bethlehem, - stars and stripes. With six points, it's the star of David. But the Soviets have their own - red star. So, tonight, in San Diego, *Nelson* they're seeing stars! ~~But what color - red or orange.~~