

WHITE HOUSE L.T.-K. Wed. June 23 - '54.

Leaders of Congress were ~~given~~ given a report -
at the White House today. Sixteen Republicans and thirteen
Democrats - briefed ^{on Indo China} by Under Secretary of State, Walter
Bedell Smith, ~~on Indo China~~. The conference lasted for
an hour and a half. With President Eisenhower and Secretary
of State, John Foster Dulles, joining in.

The picture ~~is~~ presented was - sombre. Congressman
Overton Brooks of Louisiana says: "There was not anything
about it that you could call optimistic." Several others
declare - the administration expects France to settle for
"peace at any price" in Indo China.

(Speaker ~~Joe~~ Martin, of the House of Representatives
~~says that he perceived~~ ^{saw} a ray of hope, ~~There might now be~~
a better chance ^{now} of forming an anti-Communist alliance in
East Asia. One Democratic legislator ~~says he got a notion~~ ^{sees}
~~that there's~~ less chance than ever of the United States
intervening in Indo China.

That's the gist of the report the leaders of

Congress got at the White House today - from Bedell Smith, who has just returned from the Geneva Conference. So, now, let's look at some foreign news -- tying in with this.



to carry out the promise we gave the French National Assembly. When we had elected De Gaulle, we pledged - at the time - to continue within a month to this region. When the parties were met, the President of France and the Prime Minister issued statements in the almost identical words. The one released by Charles De Gaulle reads as follows: "Treaty of Commerce and Consular Rights between the United States and France - has a great contribution to the economic relations of the restoration of peace in Indochina. As a result of this agreement, they are able to anticipate that the Geneva Conference will be a success."

The French press reported this optimistic - in an interview with news reporters. In London, today, Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden proposed a report of news broadcasted from London.

Today, French Premier Mendes-France met the Premier of Red China, Chou En-Lai -- for a peace talk. The meeting - held in the Swiss town of Bern. Mendes ^{-France} ~~France~~ -- trying to carry out the promise he gave the French National Assembly, when he ~~as~~ was elected Premier. Pledging - an Indo-Chinese ^a armistice within a month. Or - he'd resign.

When the parley was over, the Premiers of France and Red China issued statements in ~~the~~ almost identical words. The one released by Chou En-Lai reads as follows: "Premier Chou and Premier Mendes-France had a free conversation on questions relating to the restoration of peace in Indo-China. As a result of the conversation, they are able to anticipate that the Geneva Conference will make progress."

The French Premier repeated this optimism - in an interview with news reporters.

In London, today, Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden proposed - a sort of ~~new~~ Southeast Asian Locarno Pact.

In the House of Commons, he declared that World War Three could be set off in that area and suggested - that both the free world and the Communist countries should join in a guarantee. An agreement - to preserve the peace in southeast Asia.

(That's what brings them the reference to Locarno.)

A few years after the end of World War One, at that city in Switzerland, the Allies joined with Germany - in a pact. Pledging - to do ~~any~~ nothing that would endanger the peace. The Locarno Treaty worked all right - until Hitler plunged the nations into World War Two.)

GUATEMALA

Conflicting reports from Guatemala. The pro-Communist government - claiming - victory. Saying that the anti-Communist insurgents have been defeated in the sector near the Caribbean coast. The insurgents described as being - "in headlong retreat, seeking the protection of mountainous areas."

~~The anti-Communists give a different picture. Saying - they struck by air at a strategic town. Then hurled a heavy ground force assault. With severe fighting - still going on. They say that hundreds of peasants are flocking to join the rebel forces.~~

~~The insurgents, moving westward from the border of Honduras, have been trying to push to the railroad line - which runs from the ~~Sea~~ Caribbean to the capital, Guatemala City. The strategic objectives are points ~~along~~ along the ~~the~~ railroad some distance inland from the harbor of Puerto Barrios. The scene of the fighting - the Caribbean area.~~

~~The U.S. government announces that Air Force planes~~

GUATEMALA

The anti-Communist version is entirely different.

Indicating - that there has been hardly any fighting.

Colonel Carlos Castillo-Armas declares that the advance of his "liberation" Army has been slowed down because of heavy rains. And adds - that his forces have not suffered a single battle casualty. Information in Honduras is - that there has ~~been~~ not been, as yet, any serious clash.

In Washington, tonight, Honduras and Nicaragua issued a formal denial of the charge that they committed aggression against Guatemala. The Ambassadors from the two Central American countries invited an inter-American investigating committee to make an inspection on the scene. Which, they say, will show that Honduras and Guatemala did not collaborate in the launching of the anti-Communist attack.

with having been a Communist espionage agent in our

government, and -- convicted of perjury for denying it.

So the President backs the legislation to strip

him of his federal pension.

President Eisenhower, today, gave support to a move to cancel a federal pension for Alger Hiss. Thereby over-ruling the civil Service Commission and the Budget Bureau. Which - gave the opinion that, in spite of his conviction, Hiss had fulfilled the requirements of his federal pension.

This would come to seven-hundred-and-fifteen dollars a year, when he reaches the age of sixty-two. Hiss ~~is~~ now forty-eight, is due to be released from prison next year.

The pension question raised an uproar. And, today, White House Secretary Jim Hagerty said: "When I brought these stories to the attention of the President, he remarked - that the existing law seemed unbelievable." General Ike - accustomed to the Army system, under which only pensions are ~~is~~ paid for honorable services. Alger Hiss - charged with having been a Communist espionage agent in our government. And -- convicted of perjury for denying it,

So the President backs the legislation to strip Hiss of his federal pension.

JENKINS

Ray Jenkins has been qualified as Republican candidate for the Senate. Which does not mean, necessarily - that the counsel in the McCarthy hearings will actually run in November.

In a Tennessee Republican primary, yesterday, three possible candidates qualified. Meaning - they^are now eligible to run for the Senate, if they so desire. Ray Jenkins - one of them.

A move is on to draft him - to campaign on the Republican ticket against Democratic Senator Kefauver. Normally, Tennessee is Democratic, not much chance of electing a Republican Senator. But the G O P leaders are thinking of that television extravaganza - a show seen, probably, by more people than any other. Tremendous publicity for the principal personalities - and counsel Jenkins was one of these.

Today, Jenkins declared - he'd like to run for the Senate, if he thought he could be elected. He put it

in these words - "if there is enough sentiment to convince me that I have a chance."

He pointed out, ~~and~~ shrewdly - that- campaigning against Senator Kefauver, he'd be competing with another television star. Referring - back to those Kefauver crime hearings, which were a T V sensation several years ago.

SPY

Federal authorities have dismissed charges against Ludmilla Mihailova -- the beautiful blonde spy. She was to be deported - but that's off. The gorgeous espionage agent has become a ~~new~~ citizen - all of a sudden. How? By getting married. She became the bride of a used-car dealer at Arlington, Virginia.

Ludmilla appeared several months ago with a story -- of how she had been a spy for Soviet Russia in China. Saying - she wanted to disclose her espionage activities to the F B I. The F B I, however, was not impressed ~~by~~ by the vivid accounts she gave.

So Ludmilla was arrested by the immigration authorities. But the beautiful blonde spy knew what to do - as any blonde is likely to know. She got married, *and* *solved it that way.*

SCOTLAND

Today, the Scottish Highlands honored - the first Lady of Scotland. And - the most famous of ~~Highland~~ Highland Regiments. Queen Mother Elizabeth is of an ancient Scottish family - and the Black Watch has a great place in military history.

Dundee, in the Highlands, granted the Freedom of the City to the Queen Mother. Also - to the Black Watch. But the Regiment couldn't be there - so the Dowager Queen accepted the honor in its behalf.

All of which made it - a great day for the Highlanders. Queen Mother Elizabeth - making her home at Glamis Castle, the ancestral seat of her family. Glamis - a name so familiar in Shakespeare. The castle of Macbeth - where Duncan was murdered.

This morning, she left Glamis Castle and drove to Dundee - the city jammed with crowds. People from all over the Highlands - flocking in. In a stately ceremony, she received the Freedom of the city - for herself and

the Black Watch.

(But, before long, the Black Watch, itself, will
March into Dundee. As it's now entitled to do - with
bayonets fixed, and colors flying. And - with a beating of
drums and the skirl of ~~the~~ bagpipes.)

FLOOD

The battle of Des Moines is on. Five thousand volunteer warriors - with sandbags. Fighting -- against the river.

The Des Moines River is bearing down with the highest flood crest in its history. Today the stream was five feet above the flood stage, and was expected to rise higher.

The dikes protecting the city threaten to collapse. Sandbags, by the thousands, are being placed - as reinforcement. ~~Moreover, the dikes may not be high enough. They are twenty eight feet, and are now being built up to thirty feet - as the battle against the river goes on.~~

~~If the dikes should break, or if the river should~~ pour over them, one fifth of the ~~capital~~ capital of Iowa would be underwater - the deluge.)

ADD FLOOD

The latest -- the flood has broken through the
dikes in two places. Seventy five homes promptly washed out.

disturbance brought under control. Tear gas - subduing
the rebellious prisoners.

PRISON

A riot broke out in the Illinois state reformatory tonight. One inmate killed, a guard injured -- before the disturbance brought under control. Tear gas - subjugating the rebellious prisoners.

HEIR

The Chicago police disclose a new piece of evidence in the mysterious death of Montgomery Ward Thorne, Young heir - to a mail-order fortune. In his apartment, where his body ~~was~~ was found, they discovered - a woman's girdle. It was in a bureau drawer - a girdle of the size to fit a slender young woman. ~~But~~ Police believe the owner of the girdle may have been the last one to see Thorne alive.

This ties in with the discovery of hypodermic needles and other articles used by drug addicts - found in the apartment. There were needle marks on the arm of the mail-order heir. Some suppose, however, that these evidences of drug addiction may have been planted.

~~The cause of death may have been - an overdose of narcotics; ^{and} it may take several weeks to make full tests.~~

Meanwhile, the mystery is complicated by legal angles. Thorne's mother - taking action, to contest a will he left. Leaving - half of his estate of one million three hundred thousand dollars, to his fiance. Eighteen year old

Maureen Ragen, grand-daughter of the late magnate of racing news, James Ragen - killed by gangsters in Nineteen Forty-six.

In a previous will, Thorne had bequeathed his entire estate to his ~~mx~~ mother. Later, he left ~~mx~~ her only one-eighth. Other beneficiaries getting other fractions.

She will charge that he ~~mx~~ was under "undue influence" when he made the second will.

SHAKEDOWN

A shakedown - at the expense of the Elks. So stated by Dr. Henry Hunter - President of the Ohio Association of Elks. He said that lodges throughout Ohio have been rooked by - state liquor agents. Shakedowns totalling - half a million dollars.

The racket worked like this. A state liquor agent would come to a lodge at closing time, and see a member having a drink. Whereupon, he would inform the management - that this was a violation. But, instead of making an arrest, he'd ask for a pay-off.

Once there was a pay-off, the Lodge would be in for further extortion - to avoid embarrassment. ~~One lodge paid one hundred ^{and} seventy-five dollars a month - regularly.~~

~~(Private clubs of various kinds have been victimized in this way. Now it looks like a ~~staggering~~ statewide scandal. The President of the Ohio Elks declaring ~~that~~ he's got the information on racketeering liquor agents, And ^{will} present the evidence to Governor Frank Lausche. Purpose - prosecution.)~~

KIDNAP

At Smithfield, North Carolina, three housewives began paying off, today -- in a kidnap case. The Judge sentenced them to three to five years in prison. But -- suspended the sentence on condition that they ^{fork over} ~~kick in with~~ a thousand bucks, ~~to be paid~~ to their victim - a high school girl.

Mrs. Ray Lynch ~~was~~ was jealous -- and suspected that Betty Jean Perry was going around with her husband. Whereupon Mrs. Lynch, with the help of two other housewives - kidnapped the high school senior. They took her to an isolated spot, charged her with going around with Mr. Lynch and gave her a beating.

So now they've got to pay one thousand dollars. The Judge saying the money should be used to finance a college education for Betty Jean. But Betty Jean, now working in a five-and-ten, isn't sure she wants to go to college. Maybe - she ['] will just take the cash.

ROYAL GORGE

For the first time, the Royal Gorge has been conquered. Two Americans and a Frenchman - navigating the rapids. On a raft.

The Royal Gorge, in Colorado, is a favorite of sightseers - gazing from a Denver and Rio Grande Railroad train. But it was a lot more adventurous for Ty Dines of Littleton, Colorado, John Sibley of Philadelphia and Ray Zuberi of Bordeaux, France. They rode a raft down the ~~xx~~ wild waters of the Arkansas River. The stream - strewn with huge boulders, as it pours through the Royal Gorge.

Once, they had to disembark and lower the raft down a boiling waterfall. Then - ~~was~~ climbing on board again, *Miles* for the conquest of the Royal Gorge.

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