

RFC L.T.-P.G. Wed. Apr. 23 - '52.

The Senate, in a surprise move tonight, swung a heavy blow at the Truman Administration -- voting to abolish the R.F.C. That government ^alanding agency has been under heavy criticism. Democratic Senator Byrd of Virginia pressed a bill to put an end to the R.F.C. Administration leaders were sure they could beat the proposal but had a surprise when a coalition of Republicans and Southern Democrats won the battle. The Byrd bill would transfer some of the functions to other agencies of the government. But -- no more R.F.C. That is, if the measure sticks.

TRUMAN

Congress, today, handed the White House a defeat-- by rejecting a bill to let President Truman name twenty-three new federal judges, appointments before he retires from ~~office~~ office in January. (~~In the House of Representatives a coalition of Republicans and Southern Democrats teamed up against the proposal, and the vote against it was one hundred and sixty-five to one hundred and forty-nine.~~) Technically, the decision is to send the measure back to a committee for ~~re~~ reconsideration. Actually, it kills the bill.

Meanwhile, the President is in little peril of -- impeachment. The resolution introduced by a Republican Congressman yesterday, seems to perturb the Democrats not at all. Instead, the impeachment business causes uneasiness among the Republicans -- many of whom think that it would only create sympathy for Harry Truman. (~~The resolution is before a Congressional committee, which is expected~~

STEEL FOLLOW TRUMAN

Meanwhile, in the steel dispute, Economic Stabilizer Roger Putnam takes action to permit the industry to raise the price of steel. This afternoon, Putnam directed Price Chief Ellis Arnall to issue regulations for a price increase of Three Dollars a ton. Which, however, falls far short of the increase the industry says it would need to offset the wage hike recommended by the S_tabilization Board.

POLITICS

(Today's tally for New York shows that General Eisenhower will have virtually the entire delegation.) Yesterday's primary did not feature any popularity contest. It was straight away voting to pick delegates to the Republican National Convention. The only kind of competition was between delegates favoring General Eisenhower, or Senator Taft. The result was a sweep for the General, and (it looks as though Taft wins only one delegate.

R But then, New York State always was an Eisenhower stronghold. Governor Dewey' started the ^{Eisenhower} boom rolling months ago - first ^{to} come out for General Ike.) The New York Republican organization likes Ike -- and so he'll have, virtually, the full support of the largest delegation at the G O P Convention.

(In Pennsylvania,) things are more complicated. (General Ike polled an enormous vote, around eight hundred thousand. But Senator Taft received a strong write-in -- about a-hundred-and-fifty-thousand. He ran ahead of Harold Stassen who was on the ballot --

Taft write-ins coming second, Stassen third.) (

Moreover, the Senator ran the General a close race in the Pittsburgh area, and may have captured a few delegates there.

The Eisenhower ^{Pennsylvania} sweep is impressive, as a sign of popularity -- but not nearly so convincing ~~it~~ in terms of delegates. The Pennsylvania delegation selected yesterday, is uninstructed -- and a large segment of it is controlled by political elements favoring Senator Taft. So, while Eisenhower wins the popularity contest, Taft may show up with a majority of Pennsylvania delegates at the Republican convention.

LEAD KOREA

(In the Far East, the Reds are turning down the U N compromise on prisoner exchange.)

Today the Peking radio stated that on Saturday, they were handing^{ed} revised lists of Communist prisoners of war - and say the lists ^{had} ~~has~~ been changed in such fashion as to ^{exclude} ~~exclude~~ captives who don't want to go back to the Reds. ~~Which in fact, was the compromise that had been expected.~~ The Chinese radio calls it -- a "face saving" device. Purpose -- to get around the Communist insistence that prisoners be handed back to them, whether prisoners like it or not. I suppose -- they are not so wrong about that. The recent optimism has been explained by guesses that there would be some kind of proposal for "saving face."

~~But now,~~ the Red radio calls^{the} the revised list of prisoners -- a "disgusting American scheme."

All of which sends that ~~ARMY~~ Armistice business down to a new low.

KOREA

(The truce talks at Pan Mun Jom so futile today that the only news from the truce tents was a blast of cannon fire. Right outside the neutral zone, American guns opened fire on a Red position -- and the noise reverberated in the truce tents, ■■ just as a Red Korean interpreter was reciting some kind of statement, which the news dispatch doesn't even bother to pass along. He stopped, startled by that thunder, of distant guns. Then -- went ahead -- talking about something that didn't seem to matter much.)

In the sky, U.S. fighter bombers had a big day today -- raking Red lines of ■■ communications ■■ all the way to the Yalu River. They had little trouble -- the Soviet built M I G's being conspicuous by their absence. This, after four more had been shot down, by American Saber jets. Actually, the most interesting news about Red Air force fighters concerns the Yak. No, not that all important animal of Tibet -- but an old fashioned

fighter plane the Red army used in the Second World War. Those propeller driven Yaks, appear again in Korea -- based on a North Korean air field. There three were caught on the ground, and ^{ripped} ~~ripped~~ into wreckage by American Saber jets.

In all this air action against the Reds on the ground, We have the story of how an American jet pilot did an unexpected job as a ground observer, ~~a job of spotting~~. Lt. John Donor of Centerville, Pennsylvania, was flying a Thunder^{jet}~~bird~~, when his plane was hit so badly he had to bail out. Drifting down by parachute, he landed at a most interesting place -- in the middle of a ~~regular~~ nest of enemy positions, centers of Red communication and transport. ~~The Communists were not onto him and he had his portable radio set with him.~~

From hiding, he could spot a string of (-and he had his portable radio set. So he sent inviting targets, so he radioed messages to his own fellow pilots ~~in the sky~~ -- directing them to the targets, which they proceeded to blast in high old style.

Later

~~After which~~ a helicopter came over and rescued the Lieutenant -- after his unexpected exploits as a spotter on the ground.


PRISON RIOT

(At the Michigan state prison the strange doings continued today. The warden "negotiating" with revolting convicts holding out in ^{that} cell block.) Strange sort of parley, but ^{the mutineers} ~~they~~ have what they call their "bargaining power". That is, ^{that} 10 prison guards ~~who~~ they captured and are holding as hostages. ^PThreatening to kill these hostages if they're attacked) in their cell block fortress -- they issued an ultimatum. This, consisting of 11 points -- the chief of which was that there should be no retaliation against them. ^{of course} They have reason to fear punishment for the wild mutiny ~~x~~ that wrecked a considerable part of the world's largest prison. ^PToday the warden, eager to protect the lives of the hostages, accepted their ~~their~~ ultimatum) everyone of the 11 points. Promising ~~xx~~ particularly -- that there would be no retaliation. All would be forgiven. But, at last report, the mutineers in the cell block had not yet surrendered. They are doubtful about the promise -- that they won't be punished.

ADD PRISON RIOT

The height of the ~~crime~~^{-criminal} fantastic was reached this afternoon -- in a riot among the rioters. ~~Some of the besieged convicts~~
~~one faction among the convicts besieged in the cell block~~ revolting against their leader, Earl Ward, who is called a psychopathic and who grows more arrogant by the hour. ~~He issued an ultimatum,~~ Talking to reporters through a barred window, he bragged -- that he had put down the mutiny inside. Saying: "And I broke one guy's ~~in~~ arms and legs, ~~yesterday~~, ~~in~~ for trying to take over."

All -- presenting a picture of ~~xxxx~~^{/sinister} melo-drama. Ten hostages held by the besieged mutineers in whose own ranks there is violence and mutiny. ~~There -- in that cell block.~~



FOLLOW ~~THE~~ PRISON RIOT

The latest news tonight pictures the prison warden in a face to face talk with the convict leader. They parleyed through a barred window -- the Warden insisting that pledges would be kept. But still -- no surrender.

AIR FORCE

The news today brings ^a declaration from group of reserve officers at Randolph Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas -- they're those fliers that refuse to fly. They demand that, instead ~~of~~ of being court martialed, ^{they should be allowed to bring} charges against air force officials. ^R They say that "stay-down" fliers have been badly treated -- including two who have been dishonorably discharged and sentenced to prison. They call the charges "illegal", claiming they are within their rights, in refusing to fly. Moreover, they complain that there has been ~~xxx~~ discrimination against reserve officers, in favor of regular officers

So they want -- at least an apology, ~~and~~ say -- that higher officers bringing charges should be court martialed. All this in a letter to a business man in Dallas who offered to make a con-
~~xxx~~tribution to a defense fund for the "stay-down" fliers.

FLOODS

Today was-- home coming, at Council Bluffs Iowa. 40,000 people-- returning to the deserted city. They had been evacuated at a time when it seemed Council Bluffs would be flooded by the raging Missouri River. But the crest of the deluge passed, the levees held fast. So the people of Council Bluffs were mass refugees from an inundation that, actually, never happened. ~~ss~~ Tonight, they are home again. ^H The crest of the flood meanwhile ^{has passed} ~~comes past~~ St. Joseph, Missouri, and is on its way to create a new crisis at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. There, soldiers are toiling on the dikes to save a great flying field of the air force.

The final blow struck by the Missouri, before it flows into the Mississippi, will be ~~the~~ at Kansas City. But that metropolis is not worried--the ~~mt~~ advice being that the levees of a great flood control system will not be endangered. ^H Actually, the malice of the Missouri

FLOODS (2)

has been foiled at one city after another, but
its vast muddy waters ^{have} ~~has~~ inundated half ^a million
acres of rich farm land. The more so within the
past couple of days, because of rain -- water
from the sky added to the water in the river.

SUB FIRE

Vancouver, British Columbia is the scene of a huge disaster -- by fire. A roaring blaze wiping out a large section of the waterfront. Three grain warehouses, two docks, two deep sea grain ships and a train of loaded box cars -- going up in smoke. The blaze is said to have been started by a welders torch and for a time threatened to engulf storehouses ~~and~~^{of} explosives. A destructive blast was averted by mobilization of fire fighters -- but, even so, the damage runs as high as Six Million Dollars.

ATOMIC

(The atomic technicians are figuring out the lessons to be learned from yesterday's blast on the Nevada Desert. One thing is immediately apparent -- they say. The soldiers in the fox holes could have entered the target area immediately after the explosion -- with no ill effect from radiation.)

As the maneuver was conducted, the G I's did not advance into ~~what is called "ground zero"~~ — that circle of the desert which took the direct fury of heat and radiation when the atomic bomb burst three thousand feet overhead. According to plan, the troops moved around the "blast area" keeping ~~them~~ about one-hundred-and-fifty yards away. But now the ~~studies~~ studies show that they could have gone right in, without any ~~ill effects~~ ill effects.

Last evening, I said -- there were no casualties among the G I's sheltered in the fox holes, at the edge of the explosion. But this now has to be revised.

Some got smacked right in the face -- and had the atomic blast rammed right down their throats.

~~As is revealed by~~ Brigadier General Frank Dorn, in command of the fox holes, ~~he~~ tells how he and his troops were ordered to stay crouched for three seconds, after the blinding blaze of light. Then -- to come up out of the fox holes. Which they did.

"We stood up as directed" General Dorn relates. "We gazed in awe upon the great churning fire ball over our heads, we opened our mouths as we gaped upward. We forgot the warning of the shock wave to come" says the General.

That's what caused the casualties, the shock wave, as they stared, mouths open with wonder and astonishment.

"The shock wave" relates General Dorn "picked up sand and gravel, and it hit us hard.

It gave the pallates of ninety percent of our
personnel a neat sand blast."

So the atomic blast rammed part of the
desert right down their throats.

— o —

And now from West to East —
to you, Nelson.

6