

K.T. DeLoe Mon. Dec. 26 - '55

The new Soviet budget is accompanied by re-assuring words. Called -- a "peace budget." Funds for armament -- cut by ten percent. Still -- enormous. ~~But I suppose~~ ^{And} any reduction of money for armament is welcome.

Today, the Moscow Finance Minister placed the budget \llcorner before a special session of the Supreme Soviet. One thing notable -- no verbal attacks on the west -- no mention of your Uncle Sam as a warmonger. For the first time in many years, the Soviet Military budget was presented without propaganda blasts against the free world.

Finance Minister Zverev declared \llcorner that heavy industry still has priority in Soviet production. Heavy industry -- the kind necessary for war. But he ^{also} put a lot of emphasis on consumer goods -- and housing. Promising the Russian people a better standard of living. More of the necessities of life -- even luxuries. With more and better dwelling places -- which they need badly.

In the realm of education -- one item of sharp interest. The training -- of technicians. In nineteen fifty-five, Russia turned out more scientists and engineers than any other nation. That figure to be increased in nineteen fifty-six, by twelve thousand!

This coming year, Russian technical schools will send forth a total of seven-hundred-and-sixty-thousand graduates.

~~This~~ educational announcement ^{that} will evoke new expressions of alarm in the West -- where we are not educating nearly enough scientists and engineers.

The Christmas message from Pope Pius, the Twelfth, draws a hearty endorsement -- by President Eisenhower's pastor. In Rome, the Pontiff proposed a ban on atomic tests -- of "A" bombs and "H" bombs. Also, an international agreement on dis-armament. His message, by implication, endorsing President Eisenhower's "open sky" plan for atomic inspection.

In Washington, Doctor Edward L. R. Elson, Pastor of the National Presbyterian Church, which the President attends, speaks of the Papal plea in these words: "It may well be one of the most constructive suggestions that has come to us in recent months."

A new commander has been appointed to the military forces -- of Saudi Arabia. And here's the interesting part of it -- he's an Egyptian general. The latest -- in the plan to place Arab states under a joint military command.

This began with Egypt and Syria. The Syrian Armed Forces placed under the command of Egyptian Major General Abdel Hakim Amer, Minister of War at Cairo. Now -- the same thing for Saudi Arabia. That land of immense deserts hasn't anything much of an army -- though fabulously rich in oil. Almost unlimited wealth. Those incredible Arabian oil fields. Significant now as Saudi Arabia comes under Egyptian command.

This unification of Arab states is, of course, directed against Israel. Also -- against the anti-communist alliance, under the Baghdad pact. Egypt -- getting armament from the Reds.

another dispatch, today, states that the King of Jordan will meet with the heads of state of Egypt, Syria, and Saudi Arabia. The purpose -- to keep Jordan out of the Baghdad anti-communist alliance. The western powers want Jordan in, and Jordan has all along been under British influence.

Today's dispatch from Damascus gives the purpose of the meeting in these words: "To extricate Jordan from the clutches of foreign imperialism." Meaning -- Britain and the West. The statement adds -- that Egypt, Syria, and Saudia Arabia, will offer Jordan a financial subsidy, cash on the line, to take the place of the money that Britian now hands over to the government of young King Hussein.

That comes to twenty-two million four hundred and twenty thousand dollars a year -- an amount that Saudi Arabia, alone, could put up with ease, out of the multi-millions -- of oil royalty. King Saud -- reported to receive royalties of around a million dollars a day.

In Jordan, the word is that the government of King Hussein will not reply to this financial offer -- until after elections, which are to be held in the spring. But, meanwhile ^{he} ~~the ministry~~ will not join the Baghdad pact. Everything to wait -- until after elections.

A loud noise broke out in the Far East, today. South Korea and the Chinese Reds -- exchanging uproarious protests. Because of an incident between fishing boats -- in waters off the Korean coast.

There the South Korean government has proclaimed a sixty-mile limit -- in which fishing boats of other nations are forbidden to enter. Japan has protested angrily about this, and the Chinese Communists are against it. So that's the loud explosion. Verbal, mostly.

Today, the South Korean government ^{changed} -- that Chinese gunboats attacked a Korean patrol boat, Christmas morning. Capturing -- Four Korean coast guardsmen. This occurred when the South Koreans found Chinese fishing boats -- in the forbidden waters. They seized one, and put four coast guardsmen aboard. But the Chinese gunboats recaptured the fishing craft -- including the four South Koreans.

Today's declaration at Seoul called this "a deliberate act of war." And added: - "It is no exaggeration to say that the very survival of Korea and free Asia is at stake." The United States called upon -- to come to the defense of South Korea. The declaration putting it in these words: - "Join with us in immediate measures of defense and

counter-attack." Which certainly sounds like -- a summons to war.

All this was followed by a blast from the side of the Chinese Reds. Charging the South Koreans with "armed provocation and a piratical act on the high seas." The South Koreans carried off a couple of Chinese fishermen, say the Reds. Adding -- that this incident, in their words: - "has aroused great indignation among the Chinese people."

I don't suppose this fishing boat squabble will touch off any hydrogen bomb World War Three; but the verbiage sounds -- formidable.

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Argentina reports the crushing of a Peronist revolt. A military Christmas.

On Friday something odd was noticed by an officer at an airbase in West Central Argentina: -- recruits marching out early in the morning. The officer inquired -- why? He was told that the non-coms had ordered the soldiers for target practice. That surprised him -- because no target practice was on schedule.

He grew suspicious and informed military headquarters. There was quick action, and twenty-nine non-coms were arrested. ~~Being~~ *When* questioned, they disclosed -- that the fictitious target practice was part of a move to get soldiers ready for a revolt. Plotted by supporters of exiled Peron.

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A cabaret dancer, in Paris, has filed a lawsuit for two million francs. Because of motion pictures -- showing her dancing. Her costume, exceedingly scant -- practically nothing at all, in fact. She says she didn't know the film would be shown, in public !. - and she's embarrassed.

But her own feelings are nothing beside those of her twin sister. They are identical twins. Can't tell 'em apart. So, when the film appeared, her sister was taken for the dancer -- wearing little or nothing.

Now, the twin sister is most respectably married -- with a sedate husband, also a prim set of in-laws, and a prudish circle of acquaintances and friends. So it was hard for her to convince them that she was not the one who did the dancing.

Sounds like a perfect situation for a French farce.

Six years ago, Vice-President Barkley -- now senator -- married Mrs. Jane Hadley. The veteran statesman -- a widower. The bride -- a widow. Among the people interested especially, were the grandson of the bridegroom -- and the daughter of the bride. Thomas Truitt -- and Miss Jane Hadley. They first got acquainted -- while Grandfather was courting mother.

So what did they do about it? Well, they didn't think that grandfather and mother had any monopoly on romance. Which leads us to the news today. The wedding, in Washington, of Thomas Truitt and Jane Hadley. The Senator -- giving the bride away. Giving -- his step-daughter to his grandson. All in the family.

FLOODS

New floods predicted in California tonight. It's raining out there, and the weather bureau says the downpour will increase. The rains extending into the high Sierras, with a melting of the winter snows. Same conditions that caused the week-end floods. Yuba City -- threatened with another disaster.

One focus of danger is in the country around the junction of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers. Their currents increased by rains and melting snow. Both rivers in flood.

The Sacramento and the San Joaquin meet, and then flow in one stream, into nearby San Francisco Bay. There they encounter the high tides from the Pacific Ocean. A tide of six-feet-three-inches -- today. The combination of the flood and the tide to bring a deluge to the low-lying land.

New floods are feared, likewise, in western Nevada -- where the heart of Reno was inundated over the weekend. The rain, melting the snow on the high Sierras, means - the Truckee River on a rampage again.

However, the weather Bureau says things will not be as bad as they were over the weekend -- when the floods were a major disaster.

This will be the worst holiday season on record -- for traffic accidents. Early this afternoon the United Press had counted four hundred sixty-six lives lost in mishaps to automobiles. With ten hours to go, it was virtually certain that the figure would be more than the total predicted by the National Safety Council. Which forecast -- five hundred sixty traffic deaths.

Ned H. Dearborn, Safety Council President, says: - "It appears inevitable that the nation is headed for a new all-time record for any holiday, unless a last minute switch in traffic habits can be achieved." So what's the chance of a sudden switch in driving habits? You make the guess!

The reason for the bad record -- the long holiday. Counted -- as being from six P. M. Friday, until midnight, tonight. Also -- bad weather, with poor driving conditions.

One surprise is -- the figure from California which has more automobiles registered than any other state. Thirty traffic fatalities ^{there.} -- less than had been predicted. Possibly, the reason was the floods. With so much of central and northern California under water -- the amount of automobile driving was reduced. The deluge -- saving lives on California highways. What irony in that!

~~on the highway.~~

More than 560 of our fellow countrymen, no longer alive, by midnight tonight! An appalling thought. And when that unnecessary fate befalls a relative, or a friend, or a neighbor, then the shock *more than ever* makes us wonder [^] if there isn't some way to put an end to the holocaust that adds a note of tragedy to every holiday. I've just had news from *— lovely Jean Kurus —* home, of a neighbor and friend [^] who will not be there when I return. And it makes me wish that I could find a solution to this [^] one of our most urgent national problems.

Maybe, one day all automobiles will ~~also~~ have wings. Certainly there is more room in the sky than on ~~our~~ out-of-date highways. When I think of the progress made in aviation since I made my first flight 39 years ago, nothing seems impossible. This weekend I flew from New York to Florida, with Eastern Air in three hours. Two years from now that will be cut to two hours. General Leslie Arnold, executive vice president of Eastern Air, was one of the pilots on man's first flight around the world, thirty-one years ago. He was a young Army Air Corps lieutenant then. And I, ~~was~~ [^] historian of the flight. It took