

L.T. - K. - TUESDAY, MARCH 30, 1954

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

The power of the H-bomb is "unbelievable." So says Defense Secretary Wilson. The Defense secretary told a news conference today that "The whole concept of modern warfare - is involved in realities which are hard to accept." He explained his meaning by saying that the H-bomb surpasses the atomic bomb - as much as the atomic bomb surpassed the giant T.N.T. bombs of World War Two.

Secretary Wilson urged Americans to take more interest in civil defense - because a sudden enemy attack would be so destructive. And another war would be, as the Secretary puts it, "a war of survival." So he wants - tighter civil defense.

But a member of the Congressional Atomic Energy Committee makes a different proposal. Representative Holifield saying, little that would be effective could be done in the face of an enemy attack. Said he:-

"Civil defense against atomic-hydrogen attack is a delusion." He adds, "Mass extermination of millions in any or all nations - can occur during a weekend."

Congressman Hilifield's proposal is that demonstrations of the H-bomb be given publicly. He wants people everywhere to know the truth about the new bomb. He hopes that such demonstrations will convince everyone that war must be averted at all costs. And he thinks that world leaders like President Eisenhower, Queen Elizabeth, and Malenkov, should tell their people the truth - the truth about the H-bomb.

## TARIFF

President Eisenhower asks Congress for the power to

*reduce* tariffs. The President, saying in a special message that we ought to cut our duties on imports from abroad.

Mr. Eisenhower pointed out that our Allies find it difficult to strengthen their economies - as long as they cannot sell their goods in our markets. The President added, that we also lose markets in other countries. So he asks to be allowed to cut tariffs by as much as fifteen per cent. The reductions, to be spread over the next three years. The President promising that they will not hurt American business.

But he also made this point -- no change in our curb on trading strategic materials with Iron Curtain countries.

## TAXES

Today, Congress approved cutting federal excise taxes by about nine hundred and ninety-nine million a year. The Government, to get that much less from the sale of furs, jewelry, household appliances, movie tickets, and so on.

The bill now goes to President Eisenhower. The President originally opposed the cuts - because he wanted to balance the budget first. But ~~they~~ <sup>now he is</sup> expected to sign the bill, before tomorrow night - because otherwise an automatic tax reduction would go into effect, costing the Treasury even more.

What does the bill promise us, consumers? Well, we hear that the prices of things may not go down very much - because operating costs are rising - which means that things like movie tickets will be almost as high. ~~And the cut in goods may almost disappear between the manufacturer's price and the retail price.~~ But ~~they~~, the bill will give us a little relief ~~from the prices we pay now.~~ <sup>- which is something.</sup>

## WIRE TAP

The House Judiciary Committee postpones a vote - about wire tapping. That controversial issue - should evidence obtained by tapping telephone walls be used in the courts? Wire tapping itself is legal - used by the F.B.I. But in Nineteen Forty-Seven the Supreme Court ~~passed~~ <sup>decided against</sup> the use of such evidence in the federal courts.

The Administration claims that it could prosecute persons involved in espionage cases - if wire tap evidence were admissible. For example, it could prosecute Judith Coplon, who was freed after wire tap evidence in her case had been thrown out.

The House Judiciary Committee has been considering the problem for some time. A vote due soon. But postponed today. Because of disagreement on whether the Attorney General or the federal courts should have the final judgment on the use of wire ~~xx~~ tap evidence. The Committee also disagreeing about Attorney General Brownell's suggestion that wire tap evidence be used in kidnap and extortion cases - as well as in

the prosecution of spies, saboteurs, and traitors. In other words - the dispute concerns the limitations to be imposed, and who is to have authority to use the evidence.

Committee Chairman Reed of Illinois says that he hopes to get a test vote at a secret meeting tomorrow. He adds that discussions so far show that the dispute within the Committee cuts across Party lines.

## INDO-CHINA

A dispatch from Hanoi, that the French and their Viet Nam allies have now knocked out enough of the enemy artillery - so planes can now relieve the besieged stronghold. Yesterday, we heard how an Allied assault smashed and then captured the key artillery position just outside Dien Bien Phu. And now, the troops are digging in to keep the landing field open.

A french communique now says that fourteen hundred of the enemy were killed in that sudden thrust by armored columns out of Dien Bien Phu. With only twenty French Union troops killed. And - at least half of the Red anti-aircraft guns were destroyed or captured.

Rebel artillery fire from the hills - now described as "sporadic." French patrols, moving out more than a mile, not meeting any Reds.

French pilots report that the rebels seem to be re-grouping -- gathering their scattered forces north of the city. And French officials believe that the enemy might be

preparing for another all-out attack - perhaps still hoping to capture Dien Bien Phu before the rainy season. But we hear that violent cloudbursts are reported from northern Viet Nam. Which means that the rainy season may be starting two weeks earlier than usual.



## EAST GERMANY

The Red boss of East Germany calls for a militant anti-Western foreign policy. Deputy Premier Walter Ulbricht, laying down a <sup>Party-line</sup> ~~policy~~ to make East Germany a complete Soviet satellite.

The Deputy Premier spoke before a Congress of East German Communists. On hand - the Soviet High Commissioner and his aides. They were seated in a special box. At the same time, security police barred U.S. newsmen - even though British and French representatives of the press were admitted. This, reflecting the bitterly anti-American remarks that Ulbricht made during his speech.

He said that European nations should come together in a bloc - to exclude the United States. He declared that, if a West German army is formed - it will be, what he termed, "a mercenary army." Meaning - that it will be supported with American money. He threatened to create an East German army, to confront that in the West. He denounced the American troops in Germany, <sup>West</sup> ~~but he declared~~ <sup>and went on to say</sup> that the Soviet troops in

East Germany - are there merely to defend the peace.

Ulbricht also mentioned conditions within East Germany. And according to his description, things aren't too good under the Red regime. The Deputy Premier stating that food rationing will continue. Also, little chance that prices on consumer goods will be cut. In other words, even though East Germany is nominally "free" from Soviet control - austerity conditions will remain. Also, the anti-Western foreign policy. And, of course, the Russian army.

SALTONSTALL

Senator Saltonstall ~~of Massachusetts~~ introduces a bill - to withhold veterans' benefits from all soldiers who refuse to sign loyalty oaths. The Saltonstall bill, designed to cover loopholes in existing procedure.

According to defense officials, subversives are entitled to veterans' benefits - if they are not dishonorably discharged. And a suspected Communist cannot be dishonorably discharged - unless he has been court-martialed. This is why suspected subversives are entitled to pensions, and so on, after they return to civilian life.

*The Man* Senator ~~Saltonstall~~ says ~~that~~ his bill would prevent this from happening in the future. If it passes, it will, in ~~his~~ <sup>his</sup> words, "make sure that - we are not paying pensions to Communists." All benefits ~~will~~ <sup>would</sup> be withheld from G.I's who refuse to sign loyalty oaths.

~~Senator Saltonstall adds that his bill would make it possible to draft doctors as privates - if if they are suspected of being subversives. This, instead of making them officers.~~

## FORGOTTEN ISLAND

As a result of our Tibetan journey several years ago, Lowell Jr. and I came in contact with ham radio operators in various parts of the world. Reg Fox, who was then in Lhasa, had a short-wave outfit, and amateur radio operators everywhere constantly tried to get in touch with him. If they could, then they had accomplished the ultimate. One of the ham operators we ~~met~~ <sup>contacted</sup> through Fox was D.B. Mitchell, at Winnebago, Illinois, whose short-wave call letters are W9KOK. Mitch has just sent me some interesting information, and tonight I am wondering whether he or some other member of the short-wave fraternity, can tell me how the adventure turned out.

The message from Mitch tells of an expedition on its way to one of the most remote islands in the world. Clipperton, seven hundred miles West of Mexico, is an uninhabited atoll. He says the expedition was

organized as a part of a world-wide radio contest -- ham operators trying to get on the air from remote places not previously represented in amateur radio.

Leo Olney and Bob Denniston, from Newton, Iowa, started for Clipperton, a journey that might prove to be quite an adventure.

I only happen to know about this island because my son returned from Australasia with a story about an airman from Australia, who is to this air age what Magellan, Columbus, Vasco daGama, Hudson, Tasman, and Cook were in their day. Captain P. G. Taylor, played a major role in opening up the over-ocean air routes of the world. While so doing, he was the first ever to land a plane at Clipperton Island. Captain Taylor, by the way, was an associate of Kingsford Smith.

In Nineteen Forty-two, when it looked as tho the Japanese might over-run much of the Pacific -- and did -- he fought for the opportunity to open up

a new air route from America to New Zealand and Australia, a route far south and east of the regular route via Hawaii, Canton and Fiji. Captain Taylor wanted to fly from Mexico to the Marquesas, and on to Fatu Huku, Napuka, Puka Puka, Tahiti, Bora Bora, Nukualopa, and then to Auckland. Not so easy, because it meant three thousand miles to the Marquesas with only one island in between -- Clipperton, about which almost nothing was known. Captain Taylor explored that route in a PBV, and wrote a most interesting book entitled <sup>— published in Aust. —</sup> FORGOTTEN ISLAND.

And now these two ham operators from Iowa are trying to get to Clipperton, where no one has been since the war.

They may be out on a stormy ocean, right now, hunting for it. Perhaps they are lost. ~~There is a reason~~

~~why it isn't too easy to find. Captain P.D. Taylor~~  
~~thought it in those hands.~~

## QUEEN

Queen Elizabeth should start eating - crocodile meat. So says an Australian native, who saw Elizabeth and Philip drive through a town near Perth. Asked for his opinion, the bushman replied, "She's a nice little woman. But I could carry her in one hand." Then he added, "They both need lots of good fat crocodile meat - to fatten them up."

But the royal couple, because of the polio scare, are living aboard the royal liner. Eating their meals there. And on the Liner Gothic menu - no crocodile meat!

## INDIAN

In upper New York State, Indians on the warpath. The reason - the traditional one - the white man. One white/ man. Michael Checkman, who married an Indian maid - made her his squaw. - and then settled on the reservation.

When the paleface moved in, the Indian chiefs brought up an old law that limits reservation land to members of the tribe. So they told him to vamoose. He refused. The chiefs sued.

The State Supreme Court rules that a white man may reside legally on the reservation. The Indians appealed. Today the Appellate Court reversed the previous ruling; deciding that while the white man had a legal right to marry an Indian maid - he had no right to insist on settling with her on the tribal reservation.

So, Mike, the Indians have won - for once.