

KOREA C.I.-P.H. Thurs. Feb. 22nd. 51.

(Washington's birthday was celebrated in Korea with a major U N offensive on the central front. The latest news pictures a massive pincers movement, which threatens to trap as many as a hundred thousand Reds.)

One jaw of the trap is at Hoengsong, where An American column, spearheaded by tanks, drove to within two miles of that enemy base, eastern anchor of the Red mountain front. They stormed forward, behind a blazing curtain of artillery fire and air action - planes firing rockets and hurling that fiery terror called napalm, jellied gasoline. The Reds broke and fled, and American shock troops seized hill one hundred and sixty-six, The height that commands Hoengsong.

To the west, the anchor of the Communist front is the town of Pyongchang, which is now being assailed by two American divisions and one South Korean. At last reports, they were within three ~~mi~~ miles of Pyongchang - the other jaw of the trap.

~~The Communists are putting up little resistance - after the hammering they've been taking.~~

BOMB

The statement was made in Washington today that Soviet Russia could atom-bomb the United States at any time. This, from retired Lieutenant General Harold George, who was head of the Transport Command in the Second World War. General George said - "There isn't ~~xxx~~ any doubt" that Soviet long range planes could strike across the North Pole and hit American industrial centers.

This was stated to a Congressional committee, which also heard Lieutenant General ^{Ennis} Whitehead, head of the Air Defense Command. He said that, right now, his air defenses could not provide, what he called, a "minimum" defense of the United States. Because fighter planes ~~xx~~ are not being produced fast enough.

Later, General Spaatz, former Chief of Staff of the Air Forces, recommended that we should have ~~xxxxxx~~ a two-hundred-and-fifty-group Air Force - more than two-and-a-half times as large as the one that is now being planned.

The question of the defense of Alaska was answered today by a congressional sub-committee, (~~which said that "realistic" ~~xx~~ preparations are being made.~~) The report states that it would be impossible to ~~xxx~~ hold all of ~~the huge Alaskan territory,~~ together with the ~~chain of the~~ Aleutian Islands, in case of war with Soviet Russia. But, it would be possible to protect critical areas with ground troops, and defend others with naval and air action.

The statement is accompanied by sharp criticism of housing conditions at Alaskan bases - officials in Washington blamed for wretched conditions in which people at the bases must live.

To which I agree. Last Summer in Alaska it was the no. 1 topic of conversation - the shabby way Washington had treated our soldiers and their families at our northern bases.

GERM WARFARE

British defense authorities declare that western scientists can provide full defense against bacterial warfare -- enemy attacks with deadly germs to spread epidemics.

In an interview today, Sir Ernest Rock Carling stated: "We now ~~xxx~~ have efficient treatment for practically all the biological agents that can be used against us." He said that much of this is due to the American development of antibiotics - chemicals to check epidemics that might ~~xxx~~ be caused by germ warfare.

We've heard horrendous tales about the ghastly threat of bacteriological attack, but the British expert gives this assurance: "The development of anti-biotics has gone on at such a pace that we can cope with practically anything in that line."

—In Paris, two mysteries were made public today - and they may be cases of Communist espionage. Two sets of secret plans disappeared - and they may have been taken by Red spies.

Last Saturday night, an armament engineer parked his car at the house of some friends - and in the car were the blueprints of an anti-tank hand ~~re~~ grenade, which was in the headlines last autumn. This anti-tank weapon was demonstrated before top military commanders of the Atlantic pact powers, and was said to penetrate armor twice as thick as that of the heaviest type of tank.

When the engineer completed his visit, and went back to his car - he saw that the ~~box~~ body of the automobile had been jimmied open. The plans of the anti-tank hand grenade were gone. The police hope the robbery was the doing of a common thief, who would know nothing about the secret weapon. But it may have

been - Red espionage. *The engineer has been arrested, charged with criminal negligence.*
Then, on Tuesday, another set of blueprints

vanished from an armament plant near Lille- plans of a new device for cannon, the latest gadget for artillery. An engineer left them on his desk at night - and, the next morning, they were missing. (~~He notified the police, and a futile search was on - until today. This morning, the plans of the artillery gadget were found on the desk of another engineer. The supposition is that they may have been taken away, copied, and replaced - replaced, that is, in the wrong desk. Or, maybe it was the doing of some late worker, who moved papers around carelessly.~~)

Today French counter-intelligence was busy ~~on the job,~~ (trying to discover whether ^{all this} ~~or not these~~ ~~mishaps to secret military papers were~~ the doing of Communist espionage.)

Tales told about the R F C continue - with more testimony today before a Senate Committee.

(Evidence was given that Director Walter Dunham sought what was called, a "highly improper" political favor. This, from the Kaiser-Frazer Corporation, when that automobile firm was borrowing heavily from the Reconstruction Finance Corporation.)

Vice-President Chad Calhoun of Kaiser-Frazer told the committee that last year, ^{R.F.C. Director Walter} Dunham asked him for political support - in gaining a reappointment to the R F C board, ~~of Directors~~. He said ~~that~~ Dunham asked him to talk to Senator Tobey of New Hampshire, ~~a member~~ of the Senate banking committee - Calhoun being a friend of the Senator. The Kaiser-Frazer Vice-President said he turned down the request, and later the Banking Committee blocked the renomination of Dunham.

Moreover, there was ~~xxx~~ testimony that Kaiser-Frazer officials were advised to engage legal firms with political ~~xxx~~ influence, like that of

William Boyle, Democratic National Chairman, All in
the business of borrowing from the R F C.

COLORADO INVESTIGATION

In Colorado, the authorities are investigating charges that a million dollar fire last weekend was ordered by big-shots of the gambling underworld. The place that burned was the swanky Wolhurst Saddle Club in Denver. Saddle might seem to have something to do with horses and riding. But, actually, it meant gambling - dice and roulette.

Two lives were lost in the blaze - and now the word is that it was all part of an ^(underworld) ~~underworld~~ feud. They say that eastern gambling interests were giving orders to the Wolhurst Saddle Club, but these were defied. The "saddle" people refusing to obey ^{those} ~~the~~ "orders from the east." Hence the fire that destroyed the Club. ~~and~~ Today the word was that the underworld war might continue with gangland killings as in Colorado.

All this comes from Governor Dan Thornton, a millionaire cattleman who took office last month. He says that, apparently, the gambling big-shots were out to take advantage of the change in the state

administration, and build up a Colorado gambling racket - supposing that a cattleman Governor would be too green to know what was going on. But today Dan Thornton ordered a full investigation and said - gambling will not be tolerated in Colorado.

BASKETBALL

(The basketball scandal spreads nationwide, with a former star of Colorado University telling how gamblers offered bribes and threats.) Lee Robbins says that in Nineteen Forty-Six the team came to play New York University at Madison Square Garden - and he was taken to a night club and entertained. He was offered five hundred dollars, and asked to ring in another Colorado player for a fixed game: He says the gamblers displayed guns and told him; "We don't fool."

But Robbins informed his coach, who in turn told Ned Irish, head of the Basketball Promotion at Madison Square Garden. Today Ned Irish said he couldn't recall any such incident, but officials at the University of Colorado confirm the story told by the former basketball star.

At Bangor, Maine, a high school player says he received a telephone call, offering him a bribe to throw a game. Same thing in Washington, D.C. where officials of Georgetown University state that

basketball star Barry Sullivan was offered "easy money" for crooked play.

INFLUENZA

The epidemic of influenza spreads rapidly - thousands of people stricken, especially in New England. Hospitals jammed, schools closed, industry crippled by workers at home ill. Its ~~a mild, form of~~ ~~influenza~~, say the doctors, like a "very bad cold." But its a ~~plague~~ nuisance, spreading to New York and Philadelphia, ^{and} moving West.

SOLDIERS

In Detroit passerby noticed a lighted shrine in the window of a home - twenty-one little wooden soldiers in front of a miniature church. Over this a grey haired woman presides and prays. She calls the twenty-one little wooden soldiers - her boys.

Mrs. Edna Koch has one son in Korea - Roy, twenty years old, who some while ago, was wounded. He wrote her about it and made a request: "Put a light in the window" said Roy, "and pray for me. Then I will never be hurt again."

So she put a light in the window, also a miniature church - and a small figure in full battledress, to represent her son. A shrine at which she prays. All of which she told Roy by letter. In Korea, he showed the letter to his buddies. Some of them asked - could they be placed in that window? Roy passed this along to his mother. So the number of little soldiers grew, and is growing still, as Roy

sends new requests, the names of Roy's pals, and she writes each name on the base of a wooden soldier.

"When I look at them," she said today, "I feel my boys are near me, and all of them will come home safe again."

The story of a shrine of G I's in the lighted window of a home in Detroit.

New Orleans is in an uproar because of a work of art. The usual thing - sculpture ~~minus~~ ^{sans} clothing.

The city fathers decided to decorate the municipal courts building with some statues, and hired a sculptor ~~xx~~ named Alferez. The subject he chose was - the family. Which sounds edifying enough - only the family ~~forgot to get dressed, before taking~~ ^{appeared in what sometimes is} referred to as "the all-together" to take their place in public; father, mother and child.

The group was unveiled last Saturday, just in time for a lot of people to see it, on their way to church Sunday morning. ~~so~~ ^Protests have been pouring in all week, and the city gathers don't know what to do about it. Some propose fig leaves, while others demand another work of art entirely.

Today Judge Harold Moore said: "Something like a WAC shaking hands with a marine, would be much better." ~~But then, a WAC shaking hands with the marine might turn into a family and it would be the same thing all over again.~~

INDIAN

Another secret of longevity - this one from Borland Corners, Michigan. Today Chief Big Elk celebrated his one hundredth birthday. He's a medicine man among the Pequot Indians, famed for his magic with roots and herbs, the old Redskin cures and wonders.

Today Chief Big Elk ~~xx~~ was asked -- to what did he attribute his long life? And gave the secret in these words: "I take my own medicine" said the medicineman.

FIRE

In Hollywood, a magician who does fire stunts is in a hospital - suffering from severe burns. William Spaeth, in night clubs, performs flaming magic, his favorite miracle being to walk barefooted across a bed of live coals. So now the doctors are treating him for first and second degree burns on the soles of his feet.

What happened? Well, some pranksters played him a dirty trick. The secret of the stunt is to have the bed of live coals made of specially selected small bits of burning charcoal on top of sand. The tough soles of his feet press the small glowing embers into the sand - and no harm ~~xx~~ is done. But, at a rehearsal, some son-of-a-gun substituted large chunks of burning charcoal - and these did not press easily down into the sand. So when the magician walked on them, "ouch". He roared with pain, and got out of there as fast as he could - but not until the soles of his feet were scorched and blistered. So, Nelson, no wonder that Hollywood barefoot magician said: "Ouch!"

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