

L.T.K. Wed. July 15 - '53

This next meeting at Pan Mun Jom is called - "showdown." The Communists - expected to give a "yes" or "no". They will, or won't, accept the Syngman Rhee pledge to cooperate with an armistice.

The proposal was handed to them yesterday, and it isn't clear exactly what happened at the meeting. There seems to have ~~gwn~~ been a "walkout" by our side - the U N delegates refusing to listen to a lot of propaganda talk. ^R The Chinese Radio indicates that the Reds may not be willing to accept the Syngman Rhee agreement. Demanding - stronger guarantees that the South Koreans will observe a truce.

Some American officials think the Reds are stalling - while they hurl their massive drive on the battlefield. Actually, it seems rather strange to have a "showdown" armistice meeting, while a great battle is being fought ^{in which} the issue ^{is still} undecided.

KOREA-WAR

Today, an American officer attached to the South Koreans declared: "The situation at the front is very serious." The Red offensive continues - with greater power. The Chinese assault ripped holes in the South Korean line. It then was checked by storms of artillery fire, which ^{did} inflicted huge losses. But enemy reinforcements came swarming; - and ^{then} the drive was on again. One hundred thousand Chinese plunging on - and never mind the losses. They ^{battered} forced through gaps in the defense line, and are said to have crossed the Pukhang and Kumsong Rivers. The whole South Korean line on the central front might collapse - if that ^{continues,} ~~went on~~

Eighth Army commander, General Maxwell Taylor, flew to the threatened sector for a second time today - to make an estimate of the peril. South Korean President Syngman Rhee made another appearance ~~too~~ - exhorting his troops to stand or die.

Actually, it is impossible to form any clear

picture of the military situation - because the most important facts are blacked out by censorship.

SUB KOREA-WAR

The latest ~~is~~ powerful Allied counter-
attack ~~is driving~~ ^{is under way.} Stopping the Reds, and hurling
them back. Three full divisions, forty-five thousand
men, supported by massed artillery, squadrons of
tanks, and swarms of fighter bombers. Mustered for a
counter-assault, they hit the line on the central
front - where a hundred thousand Reds had been
slashing holes through the South Korean defenses.

The first bulletin tonight quoted Major John
Eisenhower, son of President Eisenhower, who is
serving with the South Koreans. He said, "our line
is stabilized."

Later, United Press correspondent, William
Miller, reported - the counter-attack had made
"important gains". An American officer is quoted
as saying: "We're moving, I don't see how anything
can stop us."

It's the greatest allied offensive in two
years, and seems to have turned the tide of battle.

CONFERENCE

The western allies have sent a formal invitation - asking Soviet Russia to a Big Four conference. The State Department delivered a note to the Soviet Embassy in Washington today, and similar communications are being handed to the Russians by the British and French.

The purpose of the conference - to discuss the unification of Germany, with free German elections, and the establishment of a free unified German government. That's the major point. Another proposal being - the discussion of a peace treaty with Austria. We hear that the western powers favor a date somewhere around October First - if the Soviets accept the invitation to a conference.

(This was the final decision made by the western Foreign Ministers ~~in~~, meeting in Washington. The calculation being that a Big Four affair might possibly result in the settling of the German and Austrian problems. In any case, it would put the whole thing up to Moscow, as a test of all ^{the recent} ~~the~~ Soviet

peace talk.

The meeting of the Foreign Ministers ended last night -- ~~Foreign Secretary~~ Lord Salisbury going back to London, Foreign Minister Bidault back to Paris.)

SUB LEAD BERIA

The purge is on in a big way - behind the Iron Curtain. News from Moscow tells of three top-ranking officials ~~expelled~~ deposed -- in East Germany, in Esthonia, and in the Soviet Province of Georgia. All- followers of Beria, the fallen member of the Kremlin triumvirate.

In East Germany, the Minister of Justice Max Fechner. Fired today by Red Premier Grotewohl, who denounced Fechner as "an enemy of the people". In Moscow, Beria was described with the same grim words, "an enemy of the people".

In Esthonia, the Minister of Justice has been fired - Ivan Unsenko. These Ministers of Justice, in the satellite countries, were connected with affairs of the secret police, and operated under the direction of Beria who, in Moscow, ran the Soviet Secret Police.

The Number One figure in the purge is a Beria man in the Province of Georgia - the Caucasus.

Vladimir Dekanozov, local minister of the Interior, in charge of the Secret Police there. Now, fired from his job, expelled from the Central Committee of the Georgian Communist Party.

~~Beria was always connected, etc. etc.~~

BERIA

News from Soviet Russia - that a purge of the followers of Beria has begun. In the province of Georgia, Vladimir Dekanozov has been dismissed as the local minister of the interior. And - expelled from the Central Committee of the Georgian Communist party. He was a top ranking adherent of the man who, until recently, was number two man in the Kremlin triumvirate.

Beria was always connected intimately with affairs in Georgia - himself a native of that province, as was Stalin. Part of the close relationship between the two was explained by that fact - both were Georgians.

When Stalin died, and Beria was left as one of the Kremlin Big Three - he master-minded a purge in Georgia. Ousting the ~~then~~ then Minister of the Interior, and installing his own man-Dekanozov.

^{Who}
~~now~~ now he goes; and the belief is that a whole string of other disciples of Beria are going the same way. The Central Committee of the Georgia Communist party takes a slam at Beria - for "appointing

his friends and followers ~~in~~ to high places."

In Moscow, today, Pravda gave more particulars in the charges against the fallen members of the triumvirate. Declaring - that Beria had been plotting to wreck the Communist party in Russia, and seize power - for many years. He was never a true Communist, declares Pravda - but wormed his way through the party to scheme in behalf of capitalism.

Which sounds like a carbon copy of charges made in Stalin's great purge trials back in the 'thirties', when former top ranking Bolsheviks, Zinoviev, Kamenev, and Bukharin were accused of having ~~all the time~~ ^{been spies for capitalist imperialism, *Although* all the time.} ~~while~~ they were leaders in the Soviet revolution, Lieutenants of Lenin.

KENYA

In East Africa, the Supreme Court of Kenya has ruled on an appeal made by Jomo Kenyatta, the "burning spear", ^{who recently was} sentenced to a harsh prison term - as the leader of the Mau Mau terrorists. The British Supreme Court reverses the conviction of the "burning spear" and five other alleged Mau May leaders.

The reversal is on the ground of ~~strict~~ strict legality - the Kenya Supreme Court holding the trial judge had no jurisdiction in the case. Legally, he ~~should~~ should have been assigned to the trial by the Governor of Kenya; but, there was no specific instruction.

The magistrate, Judge R.S. Thacker, is back in England. He left Kenya under heavy guard - to ~~shield~~ shield him from the vengeance of the terrorists.

So now the ~~the~~ "burning spear" will have a new trial. British Justice insists on being scrupulously correct - even in the face of the bloodcurdling doings of the Mau Mau.

DROUGHT

President Eisenhower asks ^{for} one-hundred-and-fifty million dollars - for six disaster loans to help drought stricken farmers and ~~xxx~~ ranchers. He tells Congress that his airplane trip to the southwest last week ~~xxxxxx~~ deepened his impression of the extent of the ~~st~~ disaster, caused by burning, rainless weather.

Congress has already authorized the lending of sixteen million dollars - to be drawn from funds

now on hand. ^{Now a Presidential request for} ~~The request for the appropriation is in addition to this.~~ 150 million more.

EXCESS PROFITS

The Senate, late this afternoon, completed the administration victory in the dispute over the excess profits tax. The bill had been passed by both houses - the versions differing somewhat. So now, to expedite matters, the Senate accepts the House version - passing it with a shout of approval.

ELECTION

Today's election figures from Virginia prove, once again, the power of the Byrd organization. A Democratic ~~at~~ primary - the victor as good as elected down ^{there in} ~~the~~ Dixieland. For Governor, Thomas B. Stanley, backed by Senator Harry Byrd. He wins by more than one hundred and thirtythree thousand, as against seventy thousand for his opponent, state Senator Clare Fenwick.

(Stanley, worked his way up from coal miner to the ownership of a successful furniture factory. They call him a "financial angel" of the Byrd organization, a heavy contributor. So now, after an overwhelming victory in the primary, he will become the next Governor of Virginia)

SHRINERS

The New York session of the Imperial Council of the Shriners opened in formal style today. Addressed by Major ~~Vincent~~ Impellitteri, who hailed the efforts of the Mystic Shrine in behalf of crippled children. Maintaining seventeen hospitals in the United States, Canada and Mexico. ~~which have helped~~ ^{ing} ~~to~~ salvage the lives of more than two hundred and fifty thousand youngsters, said the Mayor.

~~He~~ ^{he} then took notice of the high jinks ^{the} the festive sounds ~~that~~ ² one hundred thousand shriners and their families are making. - "we like to be kept awake in New York" ^{1) said} "His Honor, proclaimed.

GANGS

At Duluth, Minnesota, the police are trying to check an outbreak of war - and have asked local parents to cooperate.

The trouble grew out of a basketball game last winter. A regular feud followed - several boys beaten up. Now, large scale hostilities between two gangs - about one-hundred-and-twenty-five boys and girls on each side.

The climax was to be - a pitched battle fought on a public playground. The police got wind of it, and intercepted one detachment of forty teen agers - on their way to the front. They were armed with knives, rocks, broom handles, lengths of waterpipe - and razors. Seven girls were found to have razors taped to their arms.

The police were able to break up the pitched battle before it started, but they^are afraid another may be planned.

CREDIT

There may be some suspicion that Americans are not careful about paying their debts. But you can't prove that by Arthur Dietz, President of a multi-million dollar firm, which ~~finances~~ finances the purchase of automobiles. He says that, of installment payments on over a million cars, only seven-tenths of one percent are overdue more than thirty days.

"The American consumer" he declares "is honest. He believes in paying up." Which ~~applies~~ applies not only to boom times - but was also true in the depths of the depression.

This expert on credit tells of a long drawn out coal strike - when the miners couldn't pay up. The finance people prolonged the credit - and, when the miners went back to work, the ~~payments~~ payments poured in. Mike,
The losses, because of a final failure to pay, were less than two percent!

~~So that's a report from the world of
automobile credit, which should interest our Kaiser
announcer.~~