

ATOMIC

P.Y. - Sunoco. Monday, July 1, 1946.

What about "Operation Crossroads" today?

Well, it was emphatically a success, says Admiral Blandy, who was in charge. Blandy repeats that it was accomplished with skill and perfect timing; that the experiment went off with smoothness and speed; and the only casualty, one drone, this is a plane without a pilot that plummeted into the sea before even the bomb was dropped.

No loss of human life; and apparently no great loss of animal life.

One of the scientists who accompanied the expedition reports that he saw ~~the~~ wild birds flying over Bikini two hours after the bomb dropped. And, when sailors boarded the U.S.S. Pennsylvania, they found a herd of goats on the ~~first~~ fore^{castle} deck, ~~seen~~ munching hay, and blissfully happy.

Admiral Blandy gives us a revised list of the ships damaged by the atomic bomb. It is not definite yet, because there is still too much radio activity in the water around Bikini and around the ships, for any close-up observation to be possible. He says that for certain the bomb sank two transports, capsized one destroyer which later sank, and damaged another destroyer which may sink. The battleship Arkansas is badly damaged, also the Japanese battleship Negato, as well as the Skate, the light carrier. INDEPENDENCE, one Japanese light cruiser, our own heavy cruiser PENSACOLA, and one concrete landing ship. Twenty-five other ships were slightly damaged.

There were numerous fires, but most of them have been put out by fire-fighter tugs or the flames just burned themselves out.

So far there seems to be a general feeling

that the bomb dropped at Bikini may have been considerably less effective than the one that wiped out Nagasaki last year. Nor did it do as much damage as the other one, at Hiroshima. Naval officers are already saying that if the fleet had been maneuvering, the ships might have escaped the blast of the atomic bomb.

So, is that terrific weapon as effective at sea as on land? We don't know yet. But Admiral Blandy hints that yesterday's bomb at Bikini was not as powerful as the one that destroyed Nagasaki. Then too, there are some who say the experiment was unsatisfactory because it was impossible to reproduce actual fighting conditions, with no crews available to put out the fire that the bomb started. At the same time, it's recalled that at Hiroshima all the fire-fighting equipment was burned ~~in~~ up with the city, and the bomb killed most of the firemen before they could start fighting any flames.

O.P.A.

Supporters of the O.P.A. in Washington and elsewhere are today in the position of watching the news and wondering will prices now rise spectacularly, as they predicted. If they don't, well then, ~~that~~ they'll look foolish, because of those arguments they used on President Truman.

As a matter of fact, already in several places prices did jump. At Chicago, livestock sold today from one to three dollars higher than last Friday -- and hogs two to three dollars higher. Then, there's a similar story comes from Indianapolis.

On the other hand, those who do not believe in O.P.A., who remember that price control never has been effective, point out that these rises I've mentioned are only nominal, merely what were black market prices, which in most cases have been the ~~prevailing~~ prevailing actual prices. O.P.A. ceiling prices they point out, were fine- or would have been -- but what good were they when you couldn't get what you wanted?

Without O.P.A. pressure, goods that have been obtainable only through the black market, ~~wh~~ will shortly find their way into the open market; and, as soon as production is released from government control, prices are expected to find their natural level.

The leaders of Congress have told President Truman that before the day was done, the House at least would put through a resolution extending price controls until the twentieth of this month. A similar move got under way in the Senate; but the majority ~~lax~~ leader needed unanimous consent. O'Daniel of Texas objected. That meant the resolution had to be tabled for twenty-four hours.

In Milwaukee, one merchant announced that he would cut the price of everything in his store by five per cent, and invited his competitors to follow suit. Even so, he'll not be losing money, he says, and he adds that if all merchants would reduce prices instead of raising them, we'd never need price control again.

In Ohio, the Governor, a Democrat, urges the people of the Buckeye state to go on a buyer's strike except for essentials.

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Although O.P.A. officially ceased to exist at midnight, all thirty-four thousand people holding jobs in the agency were on the job this morning. O.P.A. Administrator Paul Porter told newspapermen he intends to keep his organization intact until a new bill is passed. Meanwhile, there is no absolute guarantee that those thirty-four thousand jobholders will be paid. However, they probably will, for they still have one function, sugar rationing. Under the Second War Powers Act, sugar rationing continues until March thirty-first, Nineteen Forty-seven. O.P.A. is just one of the government agencies concerned with sugar, and sugarmen tell us that's why the stuff is so scarce, because nobody in any government agency has the faintest knowledge or comprehension of ~~the~~ the problems involved.

The word is that rents went up today in several parts of the country, but not in New York State, where a law was passed, anticipating the possibility of such a situation. Governor Dewey, last December, asked the leaders of the New York Legislature to prepare a bill to bring all residential rents under State control in case Federal control came to an end. The law was passed last December, and over this past weekend Governor Dewey appointed an administrator to enforce the law.

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ADD O.P.A.

Following the New York example, the Governors of New Jersey and Iowa today issued executive orders freezing all residence rents.

It seems a foregone conclusion that the House tonight will do what is expected of it and adopt a stop-gap resolution continuing O.P.A. powers until July Twentieth, pending consideration of a more complete new bill. The Representatives agreed by a voice vote to limit debate to one hour, plus five minutes for each member on each amendment.

In the Senate, meanwhile, ^{Sen.} ~~Mr.~~ O'Daniel sticks to his guns. He is against even rent control, ^{and} will use all technicalities to prevent any debate until Friday. After that, he ^{is} ~~is going to~~ filibuster until the end of time. ^{He} Senator Byrd of Virginia ^{is} offered ^{by} a bill extending federal rent control for one year. But Pappy ~~is~~ ^{is} Daniel will have none of ~~it~~ that either,

CONFERENCE

The Big Four Foreign Ministers are at last close to an agreement on Trieste. Molotove put up a hard fight on behalf of Jugoslavia; and then the French made a compromise proposal suggesting that Trieste made an international zone. This to include not only the seaport proper but a considerable area surrounding it. The zone to be governed by a commission of six powers, Uncle Sam, John Bull, Russia, France, Italy and Jugoslavia. The integrity of the zone to be guaranteed by the Security Council of the United Nations.

Great Britain and the United States promptly accepted. Then Molotov came up with a suggestion which would have given the balance of control to Jugoslavia. Secretary Byrnes flatly rejected that; said he would agree to nothing but the French compromise.

After a lot of arguing, Molotov and the French Foreign Minister agreed upon the modification of the French plan. We've not been told just exactly what it is but presumably Molotov even wants Czechoslovakia included on the Trieste international control board. Secretary Byrnes

said he would think that one over tonight and his decision tomorrow. So the Big Four seem to be on the verge of an agreement on Trieste, for ten years.

As for Trieste ~~itself~~ for the third day it was the scene of riots. mobs of Italians fighting mobs of Slovenes. Eleven were shot, or, wounded by flying stones. Ironically enough, American soldiers in full battle dress were ordered into the city to Communist headquarters which was being besieged by an angry Italian crowd. The arrival of Uncle Sam's troops quickly dispersed the rioters.

INDIA

More riots in India, but not against the British government. Merely a revival of a custom that long has prevailed in Hindustan. When the Moslems have a religious procession, the Hindus help the celebration with stones and clubs. And when the Hindus have a procession, the Moslems turn the tables. That is what happened at Ahmedabad.

The Hindus had a festival in honor of Mahaviri, one of the canonized leaders of the Jains, a sect of exceedingly pious Hindu fanatics. One article of their faith is that it's wrong to take life in any form. So they wear cloth over their mouths to keep from breathing in germs and killing them.

The saintly Mahaviri died in ~~the year~~ the year One Hundred and Seventy-six B.C. And the festival was in his honor.

Whereupon the Moslems took part, by throwing stones. And this was followed by a pitched battle. Finally, the police fired on the crowd, killing nineteen and wounding a hundred and thirty.

PALESTINE

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The Holy Land tonight is in the throes of a conflict which recalls the days when the Irish were fighting the British Black and Tans. Upwards of three thousand ~~thousand~~ Jews are in prison, accused of being members of the Hagana, a Jewish secret army. The Jews are putting up passive resistance to the British search parties, but there have been skirmishes all over Palestine.

British troops are rolling through Jerusalem in armored cars, trucks and radio cars, looking for suspects, arms and ammunition. Movie theatres are closed and owners of cafes have sent their musicians home. Traffic tonight is at a minimum between Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Haifa. In spite of British vigilance, the voice ~~noise~~ of Israel was heard distinctly, up and down the land, that is, the voice of the secret radio transmitter operated by Hagana.

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Prime Minister Attlee had something to say about all this in the House of Commons today. He says the Jews in Palestine are using some of the worst methods of

their oppressors in Europe. He made it clear that he and his government do not intend to stand for any attempt to settle the problem by force. Britain, he adds, still has a mandate, a duty to maintain law and order in the Holy Land. And without abdicating this duty they can not tolerate what he calls "a direct challenge to British authority."

He also said that the Jewish activities in Palestine are according to plan, a plan prepared and executed by a highly developed military organization with widespread ramifications. Hagana, says Attlee, has ~~has~~ some seventy thousand members, with a mobile striking force of about five thousand. In addition, he tells us there are two other, what he calls, "Jewish terrorist" organizations, whose members run into the thousands. One group, says Attlee, specializes in assassination. With sixteen British officers and five police killed since December.

STRIKES

The railway express strike in New York is over. After five days without work, the men came to an agreement with the Company, and they claim the agreement is a hundred per cent victory for them. At any rate, they're going back to work tomorrow.

But there is trouble elsewhere. Hollywood ~~has~~ ^{having its} second motion picture strike in less than a year. Some seventeen hundred pickets are posted around ten studios. Production was completely interrupted at one lot, and slowed up at nine others.)

The last strike was a jurisdictional squabble, one of those quarrels about which union should represent certain groups. This one is an echo of the last affair.

At San Francisco, ^a ~~the~~ transport workers' strike has plunged that city into the worst traffic snarl it has ever known. Not only street car men, but those on the cable cars and buses walked out, ~~and tied up the~~ ^{ing up} San Francisco ~~service completely~~ ^{in style.}

INTRODUCTION TO MR. GOTTLIEB.

Facing me ~~at the microphone tonight~~ is a man to whose energy motor car owners and drivers owe ^{much,} ~~a great~~ deal. The American Automobile Association is the largest and most effective body we have to protect the interests and safety of motorists. The most important subsidiary of the A.A.A. is the Automobile Club of New York. The man facing me is its President, Mr. William J. Gottlieb. I am giving him the privilege of the mike for a message he has for you -- Mr. Gottlieb.

MR. GOTTLIEB: Yes, Mr. Thomas, but first I have something to say to you, particularly about the sympathy and help you've always extended to the aims and activities of the American Automobile Association. You've been a great help to us, in our efforts to bring about better standards of safety on the highways, and to show our appreciation I've been delegated to present to you honorary membership in the Automobile Club of New York.

L.T.: I ~~don't~~^{don't} know ~~that~~ I deserve it, Mr. Gottlieb. ~~The sound common sense behind the aims and purposes of the A.A.A. should be only too obvious. All I've done is to add my voice to those who are appalled by the staggering increase of street and highway accidents. I am grateful~~ ^{But} and I appreciate the privilege of being an honorary member in the Automobile Club of New York. ~~But how can you~~ tell us what progress you are accomplishing in preventing traffic accidents?

MR. GOTTLIEB: Well, I have this to report. Most traffic accidents are avoidable. They would never happen if motorists - and pedestrians too - would all just take it easy.

L.T.: That's your new slogan, is it?

MR. GOTTLIEB: Yes, Mr. Thomas, and more than one million, six hundred thousand members of the A.A.A. have pledged themselves to live up to it.

L.T.: You may certainly count me in on that.

And now that I'm a member, I shall be taking advantage of the celebrated A.A.A. service, which makes motoring so much more comfortable and pleasant. My sponsor, the Sun Oil Company, is one of the strongest supports of your safety program, and I am sure they will heartily endorse your slogan - "Take it easy."