

DULLES L.T.P.G.M.M. Jan. 26-53.

The new Secretary of State declares - "this country will never start a war. But neither will we be - "intimidated." Tonight, John Foster Dulles issued his first policy statement since assuming office, ^{and} went on to say that all those who were suffering under Communist slavery can "count on" the United States. To which he added, "together with the free peoples of the world, we can, I am confident, ^{peacefully} achieve honorable peace."

TAFT

Senator Taft has introduced proposals to revise the Taft-Hartley Law - so as to meet objections expressed by President Eisenhower and organized labor. The Senator, co-author of the controversial statute, presents a list of sixteen changes in the Taft-Hartley Law - ^{And} ~~his~~ will press for their adoption.

WILSON

The Senate has confirmed Charles E. Wilson - ~~the~~ as Secretary of Defense. After considerable debate, the vote came late this afternoon, and was - overwhelming, seventy-seven to six.

The Democratic opposition voted heavily for the Eisenhower nomination - though ^{some} misgivings were expressed. Democratic leader, Senator Lyndon Johnson of Texas, declared that the new President should have the kind of man he wants to head the Defense Department; - and so he voted to confirm Wilson. But the Texan added that, in the end, the choice might be embarrassing for the Eisenhower administration. He said he doubted that the former head of General Motors, which holds more defense contracts than any other concern, was the best selection for the head of the Department. ^PThe tone of the Democrats indicated that they will keep a close watch for political ammunition - in the way the Defense Department is run. At the moment, there's plenty of harmony between the rival political parties - but, sooner or later, the ~~is~~ time for

hostilities will come.

The leader of the small minority ^{voting to} ~~reject Charles E. Wilson~~
reject Charles E. Wilson, was Senator Wayne Morse of Oregon,
who bolted the Republican Party. ^{He} ~~was~~ collapsed - in the
middle of the proceedings. Addressing the Senate, in opposition
to the new Secretary of Defense, he said he felt ill. ^{Then} ~~He~~
left the ~~the~~ Senate Chamber, looking pale and haggard. He went
to an adjoining room, and there passed out. A physician came
harrying to his aid, and the Senator revived, in time to cast
his vote against the confirmation of Wilson - one of the
minority of six.

SENATE

A Senate Committee confirmed half a dozen more nominations today - "second string" appointments to the Treasury Department. But the financial part of it was only secondary. The main thing - a display of gallantry and chivalry.

The Committee okayed the new Treasurer of the United States - Mrs. Ivy Baker Priest, former head of the Women's Division of the Republican Committee. Mrs. Priest is the mother of three children, and is forty-seven. But, as for her looks, here's what happened.

Senator Clyde Hoey is a seventy-five year old Democrat from North Carolina, who wears a swallow tail coat and high stiff collars - a gentleman of the old school. He suggested that a picture of the new Treasurer of the United States should be printed on our paper money, as well as her signature. At present, the bills are adorned with the faces of Presidents - none of whom had shapely little noses and droopy eyelashes. So a picture of Mrs. Ivy Priest would improve the looks of the nation's cash - said the gentleman from North Carolina, with

all of that Southern chivalry.

Whereupon sixty-one year old Senator Milliken of Colorado brought the gallant conversation to a climax.

Speaking of the way the new Treasurer's face would beautify the money, he remarked: "You could say - 'come up and see my etchings.'"

Now Senator, do you mean to suggest that, if etchings were money, they would appeal to the ladies More?

EISENHOWER

The White House announces that the Eisenhower message to Congress, on the state of the Union, will be given next Monday - with suggestions for dealing with major national problems, including the Korea War. The program of the new administration has been awaited eagerly, and will be put on radio and television - nationwide.

The announcement followed President Eisenhower's first formal meeting with Republican leaders in Congress. They gathered at the White House, and all was harmonious, we are told.

Senator Taft attended, and so did the Speaker of the House, Congressman Joe Martin. Later, they said that in a two-hour meeting with Mr. Eisenhower, they went over all the subjects covered in the presidential message to be delivered Monday.

Later in the day, Mr. Eisenhower took things easy - fighting off a cold. Mrs. Eisenhower is recovering from that same malady. So the new tenants at the White House begin in the same fix as so many of us. Mr. and Mrs. have a cold/.

In speaking of Mr. Eisenhower, I follow the example of
the United Press dispatch - which, I suppose is correct. The
President being "Mr.", not "General" any more. However, history
does not speak of Mr. Grant. He always remained - General Grant.
The first President, too, was known in his time as - General
Washington. So I'm afraid that I'm liable to make a slip and
say - now and then -
say - General Eisenhower.

I doubt if the public will take to the - Mister. Most
people are likely to keep on referring to - the General. Or
even - "Ike." Which is the way, I'll bet, he'd like to be known.
After all, during those many years, from Second Lieutenant to
Five Stars in the Second World War, ~~Highly Hon~~ Dwight David
Eisenhower was known in the Army as - "Ike."

TRUMAN

Former President Truman is considering the publication of a book of - his memoirs. . Today at Kansas City, he disclosed that friends of his are negotiating with publishers. Earlier, there was a report of an agreement to ^{(print} ~~publish~~ the Truman Memoirs, with a guaranteed payment of half a million dollars ~~to~~ to the former President. But H.S.T. says - no contract has been made, though his friends are discussing matters with publishers.

RENT

There is to be a Senate Investigation of charges that some cities are being forced to keep Rent Control, even though they may want to abolish the ceilings. The allegation is that the Federal Rent Stabilizers have been coercing the cities through legal tricks and threats. So, Senator Capehart, Chairman of the Senate Banking Committee, tonight, ordered an inquiry - the Rent Stabilization Bureau, meanwhile, denying all charges.

ATOMIC

~~There will be~~ A new series of atomic tests ~~at~~ will be

held at
Frenchman's Flat

- in the Spring. There, on the Nevada desert, they'll stage the largest atomic maneuvers thus far - soldiers in battle games that will include A-bomb explosions. Moreover, the tests may, ~~include~~ include the first firing of an atomic cannon - the hurling of atomic shell^s.

This is announced by ~~at~~ the Atomic Energy Commission, which discloses that a new twenty-nine million dollar plant will be built in Fulton County, Illinois. To process and assemble - the explosive cores of atomic weapons. The site - on the Spoon River. The new development to be called - The Spoon River Plant. Which brings back memories of - the Spoon River Anthology. A collection of down to earth poems - *an old Chicago associate of mine,* written by Edgar Lee Masters. ~~The~~ Spoon River Anthology was a literary innovation years ago. Now, in the realm of that stupendous atomic innovation - The Spoon River Plant.

KOREA

In Korea, today, Allied air power bombed - the Armistice Trail. That is, the highway leading from Pyongyang, the Red capital, to the old truce tents at Panmunjom. The reason - the Communists were transporting military supplies under the protection of that old futile arrangement for truce negotiations.

It was agreed, when the talks began, that the ^{road} ~~highway~~ leading to the armistice headquarters of the Reds would be neutralized - so the enemy negotiators could go back and forth. Well, the palaver has been suspended for months, adjourned indefinitely last October. Nevertheless, convoys kept shuttling back and forth - as if the proceedings in the truce tents were at a climax of activity.

All - a dodge to run munitions and armament. So today U.S. and Australian planes hit the convoys, ^{and} knocked out fifteen supply trucks - on the old Armistice Highway.

SHIP

At Liverpool, British police have begun an investigation of the fire which destroyed the luxury liner - Empress of Canada. They suspect sabotage, in the blaze that raged through the five million dollar Canadian Pacific steamship. The vessel - finally capsizing at its dock in the Mersey River.

There is no evidence that anybody ~~had~~ set the Empress of Canada on fire. But, at the moment, there seems to be no ^{other} way to explain the disaster. ~~The liner had been in dry dock at Liverpool, getting ready for the Coronation - scheduled to carry thousands of passengers to that resplendent event in ~~June~~ ^{June}. Then, at the dock, flames suddenly swept through the lower decks - and, in a brief time, the whole ship was a roaring furnace. All the fire fighting equipment of Liverpool - unable to do anything about it.~~ Today, the ^L Liverpool Fire Chief, A.J. Greenslade, said: "How in the f world the fire was burning so fiercely, before the alarm was given, I don't know."

That's what raises suspicion of - sabotage.

WATERFRONT

In the New York waterfront investigation, the story was told how the power of the gang boss lasted for three years after he was executed at Sing Sing. A produce trucker, John Angelo Costa, stated that Racketeer John "Cockeye" Dunn compelled him to put underworld henchmen on his payroll, although they did no work ~~whatsoever~~ whatever. Then Dunn was convicted of murder, and sent to the electric chair. But, for three years afterward, Costa kept ^{paying wages to} the henchmen ~~on his payroll~~ - for fear that something would happen to him, ~~if he didn't go on paying them~~. Like influence - from beyond the grave.

RITA

At Reno, today, that vastly publicized marriage came, finally, to an end - Rita Hayworth and Aly Khan. The movie actress told the judge that the son of the Moslem religious leader, the Aga Khan, had too much of an eye for beautiful women. Rita herself is not bad looking - which is why Aly married her. But - love one, love all. Too many for marriage, said Rita - not counting Aly's habit of gambling.

The divorce proceedings today made no mention of alimony, and there's no telling what the movie star gets, - though it is known that she demanded three million dollars for Daughter Yasmin.

That ~~was~~ ^{was in the news - eternally it seemed.} ~~romance and marriage~~ ~~of the day~~ ~~in the~~ ~~paper~~. But, to make an end to it all, ~~the~~ ~~trial~~ ~~took~~ just seventeen minutes, Reno time.

FLU

Europe is having an influenza epidemic - now reaching its peak. France hardest hit - with fourteen million people reported ill. The Paris subway partly closed today - so many of its employees laid up. In the country along the Loire, soldiers distributing the mail; - thirty per cent of the mailmen down with the flu.

Germany has three hundred and fifty thousand cases - though the U.S. forces over there are little affected. An anti-influenza vaccine was flown over from ^{here -} ~~the United States,~~ with Army medics working day and night vaccinating every soldier. That has checked the flu among the American forces.

Italy is not hard hit, although the most distinguished patient in this epidemic is ^{- the} Pope, ~~Plus the Twelfth.~~ Who is recovering from ~~the type of~~ the flu complicated with bronchitis. The next most prominent patient - the Archbishop of Canterbury, in England. He's reported ill - as the news tells of the influenza spreading northward into ~~England~~ Britain.

Luckily, it's no deadly sweep of disease - nothing to

compare with that epidemic of the flu in the days of the First World War, which took millions of lives. Only a few deaths are reported in Europe's new outbreak of ~~the~~ influenza.

... who preached to an empty church for twenty years. The
"empty congregation" / the pews empty, not a soul there / - but
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... ? No! Of nobody!
... It could only have happened at a place like
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CLERGYMAN

In the old English land of Cornwall, at the town of Warleggan, they're holding the funeral of - the clergyman with a "phantom congregation." He died today, the Reverend Frederick Densham, who preached to an empty church for twenty years. ~~The~~ "Phantom congregation", ~~the~~ pews empty, not a soul there! - but the Rector, every Sunday, went through the usual service, sang hymns, gave Bible lessons, preached sermons. ~~to nobody.~~ *shook his admonishing finger at his wayward parishioners? No! At nobody!* Probably, it could only have happened at a place like

a village in Cornwall - the southwest tip of England, ancient Celtic land, with curious ways and lingering traditions.

Twenty years ago, the Reverend Frederick Densham got into a quarrel with his congregation. They walked out, one-hundred-and-sixty strong, and never came back. Boycotting the Rector -

and his church. *This is a news item my old friend, the great cartoonist H.T. Webster, would have loved!* π The trouble was all because of the game of - whist.

So familiar over here as - bridge. The congregation held whist parties - for charity. These, the Rector forbade, putting a ban on that old-fashioned form of bridge, a favorite game of the local people.

The Reverend Frederick Densham was opposed to a lot of things, strong drink, tobacco - and, ^{like Bernard Shaw,} he was a vegetarian. But most of all he hated - whist. To his congregation he preached this doctrine: ^(Bridgeto us) "Whist!" he thundered, "is an amusement! and amusements come from hell!" ~~So that's what caused the split between the person and the parish.~~ What followed was a question of - old English law. The congregation abandoned the Rector and his church - but, legally, he could not be removed as long as he conducted Sunday services in due form. No matter if the church was empty, nobody there.

Which he did, for twenty years - until he was eighty-three years old, ^{Nelson,} The clergyman with a "phantom congregation."