

FRANCE

Fri. Feb. 29 - '52. L.T. - P.G.

In the French political crisis, former Premier Paul Reynaud has agreed to form a new government - if he can. In the early hours of this morning, the Cabinet of Premier Edgar Faure sustained a defeat in the National Assembly, and fell - after a mere five weeks in office. France without a government for the fifteenth time since the end of the second World War.

The seventy-three year old Reynaud was the Premier, when the Nazi blitzkrieg struck, and brought about the fall of France. He says he will try to form what he calls a "national" government. Which might imply a coalition with the party of General DeGaulle.

The DeGaulle faction is hostile to many international arrangements that previous French governments made - in matters like General Eisenhower's Army of West European defense, with an inclusion of German troops; So this new political crisis is regarded with apprehension by statesmen of the West, who have just concluded that Lisbon agreement. The moreso, as the Cabinet of Premier Edgar Faure fell because of

a proposal to raise taxes by fifteen percent - for French armament.

All of which focuses the eyes of the diplomatic world - on Paris tonight.

of which he takes a serious view. But he points out that the government of Premier Edouard Faure fell, not because whether or not the money for armament should be raised, but - just how it should be raised.

Copied by Eleanor Billings
Secretary to Geoffrey Miller

FOLLOW FRANCE

In a radio address tonight, Secretary of State Acheson referred to the French political crisis, of which he takes a serious view. But he points out that the government of Premier Edouard Faure fell, not because whether or not the money for armament should be raised, but - just how it should be raised.

Copied by Eleanor Williams
Secretary to Geoffrey Billo

KOREA

A dispatch from the Korean truce talks, states that the Reds were given today, what the dispatch calls - "a copper riveted rejection of Russia as a neutral keeper of the peace." "Copper riveted" - so let's look at the words actually spoken by negotiator Colonel Don Darrow.

"I now tell you formally, unequivocally and with the fullest authorization," he told the Reds, "that the United Nations command decision to reject the Soviet union as a member of the neutral nation supervisory committee - is final and irrevocable. Other debate on this subject is completely futile!"¹ said he.

Which certainly sounds copper-riveted, and brings the truce talks to a greater crisis than ever.

KOREA - WOMAN PRISONER

The negotiations at Pan Mun Jom disclose that among civilians interned by the U N forces, one is - a Russian mystery woman. She is the only foreigner kept in custody, the only civilian who is not a Korean. So described by the U N truce delegation.

The mystery woman was picked up a year and a half ago by South Korean soldiers in the war area - and turned over to the Americans. A young woman - with a baby, an infant daughter. A "good looking brunette", named Dimova. Now interned with her child at a hospital in Pusan.

Today American Admiral Libby told the newsmen that he had no other information about her - no details about who she is and what she was ~~gax~~ doing in Korea. Just a Russian mystery woman.

RED CROSS

This is Red Cross Day - beginning a drive for funds all through the month of March. Solet's hail the great organization of mercy by telling about Richard Tomlin of Cheyenne, Wyoming - decorated recently with the Medal of Freedom, awarded by President Truman.

Tomlin, a Red Cross Field Director in Korea, was sitting on a truck outside a tent ~~full~~ full of Army staff officers, when some Koreans started building a fire nearby. And Tomlin noticed a bandoleer with four Chinese hand-grenades - in the fire, ready to blow up the tent full of staff officers.

In a flash of action, he jumped from the truck, and reached into the fire with his hook. He snatched out the bandoleer - and swinging the hook, tossed the grenades a safe distance away, where they exploded.

To all of which you may ask - what hook? The answer is that Tomlin of the Red Cross, a lawyer by profession, was in a hunting accident before the war.

He lost his left hand - in place of which he has a
hook. Maimed like that, he volunteered for Korea - and
that hook came in mighty handy for reaching into the
flames, and saving the lives of the staff officers.

SUBMARINE

At the submarine base, New London, Connecticut - a record was established today. An undersea craft made its five thousandth dive - said to be the first time in history any sub ~~XXXX~~ has ever descended below the surface that many times.

The record was made by a great old veteran of the undersea - The Flying Fish. Which was launched in the Second World War, went on cruise and sank fifteen Japanese vessels in the Pacific. Ten years old, The Flying Fish has spent a total of about nine months under water, nearly ten percent of the time.

A good example of how a submarine lives - how much under the sky, and how much under the sea.

The significance is obvious - in the event of another Dixiecrat revolt, if President Truman is re-elected. One southern device might be - for a state to vote Democratic, and for its electors to refuse to support the party nominated. Switching to somebody else. That would be to lose in Alabama - according to the court decision today.

POLITICS

The Alabama Supreme Court handed down a decree today, which may play an important part in Presidential politics this year. The tribunal ruled that the "democratic loyalty pledge" is not legal -- is invalid.

This loyalty pledge would bind Democratic electors to support the nominee of their party. If, for example, President Truman were nominated, Alabama electors, chosen as Democrats, would have to cast their ballots for him in the ~~electoral~~ electoral college. They would not be allowed to switch to some other candidate -- like a Dixiecrat. All that - according to the Alabama loyalty pledge. Which the State Supreme Court now finds illegal.

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FOLLOW POLITICS

In Wisconsin, the "Fighters for MacArthur" finally had their way - and put General MacArthur in the state primary. Only ten minutes before the deadline for filing, they entered the name General MacArthur. The former Supreme Commander had, of course, insisted on withdrawing - and he succeeded all right, but the "Fighters for MacArthur" were so determined that they dug up somebody else - a negro packing house worker whose name is "General MacArthur." How he got it I don't know. He's in as a favorite son, pledged to deliver his delegates, if any, to that other General MacArthur - at the Republican National Convention.

CAVARRETTA

At Mesa, Arizona, where the Chicago Cubs are training, Manager Phil Cavarretta finds himself named in a political scandal. An uproar in Chicago, all sorts of people found on the public payroll.

This follows the murder of Charles Gross, Republican Acting Committeeman - who was defying gangster influence in politics. A clean-up drive is on, and now - the "phantom payroll." That is, people drawing salaries - for no apparent reason.

One man listed as a "picnic grove inspector," drawing - two-hundred-and-sixty dollars a month. A woman called - a "forest preserve laborer!" Actually, she worked as a Secretary for the Republican Central Committee in Chicago. So what about Phil Cavarretta - the star first baseman, now manager of the Cubs?

He's on the payroll as a -swimming pool manager. Well, we all know that Phil sure could hit the ball, but what had he to do with managing swimming pools?

Today, he said he worked for the Cook County

Forest Preserve for two months, during the off-season, four or five years ago, getting two-hundred-and-fifty dollars a month. "My job" he declares "was giving lectures to Boys' Clubs, Y.M.C.A. and the like, physical instruction for boys. I did my job, got paid for it, and reported it on my income tax."

As for managing a swimming pool, Cavarretta says he can't explain why he was listed that way.

ROBINSON

Last night in Los Angeles, Edward G. Robinson was playing at the Biltmore Theatre - the tough guy of the movies taking part in a play. During the performance a message came to him by telephone. Saying - that his son, Edward Jr. was in jail. Bad news for any father to receive -- and something of a climax for the tough guy of the ~~XXXX~~ movies.

There had been that quarrel between father and son - because of the marriage~~XXXX~~ the younger Robinson had made. Father ordering son out of the house. Edward Jr. announcing that he didn't want to live off -- "crumbs from my father's table." Later, he reported for examination for induction into the Army, and said - Uncle Sam would give him a home, even if his father would not.

But now - he was locked up on a charge of passing a bad check. So he promptly appealed to his father - to get him out. Which was the message received by the tough guy of the movies, acting in a play. Immediately after the final curtain, Edward G. Robinson

rubbed off his make-up as fast as he could, got hold of his attorney, and arranged for a bondsman to bail out the son. Quarrel or no quarrel, it was the call of - blood and kin.

Today, having been released, young Robinson said he had given the check, one-hundred-and-thirty nine dollars, for a couple of automobile tires, then felt he had been over-charged - and stopped payment. He called the charge against him -- a "bum beef."

I wonder what the tough guy of the movies would call it?

PRAYER

In one hundred and five countries, right around the globe, this Friday, February twenty-ninth, has been set aside as a day of prayer. The focal center for this day has been the United Nations Building in New York.

"The farmer" said he, "is more given to reflection than the city man. He is not easily moved by sudden enthusiasm or indoctrinated by wave words. On the other hand," continued the Pontiff, "the farmer is somewhat slow in making up his mind. He wants to see everything with his own eyes - and being attentive to all that immediately surrounds him, is less likely to broaden his field of vision and to look across his own circle."

which may give the farmer a narrow view, and Pope Pius added: "He may have too much care for his own needs, and not enough for the common and universal interests - not recognizing that, if things are badly for others, they will not be long in going

POPE

Here are some words of wisdom - about farmers.

Spoken at the Vatican by Pope Pius the Twelfth - who today addressed four thousand members of an Italian agricultural federation. The Pontiff propounded a philosophy of life on the farm, pointing to merits and shortcomings.

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Pontifical wisdom concerning the farmer.

Much of it the same that has been said and re-said about farmers for thousands of years - especially that the farmer is more given to reflection - thinking things out - than the city man.

LEAD LEAP YEAR

Here is an unusual way to celebrate Leap Year. Two CBS stations, affiliates rather, KSJB in Jamestown, North Dakota and KCJB in Minot, North Dakota were turned over to the ladies today, lock stock and barrel. The ladies of those North Dakota towns putting on all broadcasts, doing all the announcing -- everything. John Boler, President of the North Dakota broadcasting Company tells me that they are having the biggest day in their history -- that is -- more listeners, because the girls are doing all the broadcasting.

LEAP YEAR

The Leap Year celebration of February twenty-ninth was lively ~~at~~ Aurora, Illinois - where the girls arrested ^(bachelors) ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ on sight, and tossed them into jail! The rebellious maidens forced the bachelors to donate pints of blood to the Red Cross, buy tickets to a dance tonight, and ask the girls - for dates.

At Ottawa, Illinois, the Junior Women's Club made similar arrests on the charge of crime against "womanhood." The crime being - the failure to marry "womankind!" *That's the way it's worded.*

But in Milwaukee, Emanuel Zbleski celebrated leap year in reverse. He entered suit against a girl named Helen. Who, he says, jilted him twelve times in one year. Last year she became engaged to him seven times, and changed her mind as often. This year she spurned him once in January, and three times in February. So, come the twenty-ninth of February he sues her for multiple breach of promise!

Nelson,
don't you think we ought to crown Helen - the queen
of Leap Year? Or have you some other queen in mind?