

*L.I. - Sunoco. Friday, July 27, 1945.*

The new British Cabinet has just been announced. Prime Minister Clement Attlee tonight gives the list of Ministers in his Labor Government.

The most important post is, of course, that of Foreign Secretary - about the only one that is of worldwide interest. The new foreign Secretary is, as had been expected - Ernest Bevin. He is a veteran laborite, who rose from the ranks of the workers to become a powerful trades Union Leader. He was Minister of Labor in Churchill's wartime coalition government, and is regarded as forceful and conservative. Ernest Bevin now succeeds that long time British idol, Anthony Eden - and takes charge of British Foreign Policy. And here's late word - the new Foreign Secretary will accompany Prime Minister Attlee to the Potsdam conference of the *the Big Three* now being Stalin - Truman - Attlee. At Potsdam, Bevin will be Number Two to Attlee as Eden was Number Two to Churchill.

That other prominent British labor leader, Herbert Morrison, becomes President of the Council, and

will act as majority leader in the House of Commons.

Another prominent name - Sir Stafford Cripps. He becomes President of the Board of Trade.

The new Chancellor of the Exchequer is Hugh Dalton - and so on down the line, prominent leaders of <sup>the</sup> British labor and Socialist parties assuming top ranking posts in the British government.

All day long, there was a series of urgent labor party conferences, <sup>at</sup> ~~in~~ which the list of Ministers was debated. And then finally at night, the list was completed and agreed upon - and ~~was~~ presented to King George.

The Monarch had waited at Buckingham Palace throughout the day and on into the evening, waiting to put his royal okay on the labor cabinet that now becomes His Majesty's Government.

BIG THREE FOLLOW BRITISH CABINET

At Potsdam, the Big Three will resume their meetings tomorrow - upon the arrival of the new British Prime Minister.

Stalin and Truman waited today for word from Attlee. ~~One doesn't~~ <sup>We don't</sup> know how greatly they were surprised by the overwhelming defeat of their recent colleague, Winston Churchill. I wonder what Stalin may have guessed about the outcome of the British election? Anyway, tonight, Stalin and Truman got a message from London - stating that Attlee would arrive at Potsdam tomorrow afternoon, with the new Foreign Secretary, Ernest Bevin.

~~Winston~~ Churchill will not return to Potsdam; - that's the word from London. We are told that Attlee, his victorious rival, asked him to go back - and sit in <sup>as</sup> an advisor to his Labor Party successor. But Churchill refused - rejecting any such powerless and subordinate ~~is~~ position.

There are various London rumors about what he now will do - some saying that Churchill is

likely to retire from membership in Parliament to which he was elected in the downfall of his party. One surmise is that the great wartime leader will be rewarded with a dukedom for his part in the winning of the victory - the King to make him Duke of London, we hear.

In that case, as a Duke, Churchill would enter the House of Lords - which would give him leisure to write his memoirs, memoirs that would be important history. Churchill could make a lot of money by now reverting to the ~~xxx~~ trade of writing, at which he is a professional and one of the best. He could command large prices - and Winston Churchill, a younger son branch of the House of Marlborough, never was rich.

They'll miss him at Potsdam - Stalin now the only remaining member of the original Big Three. But then the Soviet Generalissimo is well acquainted with the new British Prime Minister - as is President Truman. Churchill, as has been repeatedly pointed out, took Attlee with him to Potsdam - so that his political

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opponent might be fully aware of the Big Three deliberations, in case Churchill should lose out in the election and Attlee should become Prime Minister.

Moreover, Clement Attlee got acquainted with President Truman in Washington - when the British Labor Party leader was in the United States attending the San Francisco Conference.

~~Well, anyway, the date is~~ <sup>at</sup> five P. M.

tomorrow, European time - noon, according to our

eastern wartime ~~At that hour~~ the Big Three will go

into session again, with a new member; and ~~we'll be~~ <sup>then we will</sup>

hearing ~~ing~~ about the doings of Stalin-Truman-Attlee. <sup>and</sup>

## BRITISH VOTE

With the final vote over in Britain tabulated, let's translate the result into American figures. The popular majority of the labor party over the conservatives is nearly three million. The population of the United States is nearly three times that of Great Britain, so over here that British majority would come to nearly nine million.

Or - let's take the figures for all the parties opposing Prime Minister Churchill as compared with the total votes supporting him. This gives an anti-Churchill majority of nearly five million - which in the United States would mean a majority of nearly fifteen million. In our own last presidential election, President Roosevelt won over Governor Dewey by a popular majority of little more than three million. He got about fifty-two percent of the votes. In this British election the Labor Party takes sixty percent of the votes.

And then consider the large majority that

Churchill and the Conservatives had in the House of Commons until the overturn. In other words - from a large plus to a huge minus.

## WAR CRIMES

There is grim indication that we have heard only the beginning of atrocities committed by German civilians against American flyers. The United Press in Germany states that it has learned, on reliable authority, that hundreds of American aviators, forced down on enemy territory, were murdered by Germans.

This comes out in connection with the trial of eleven civilians at Darmstadt, civilians accused of lynching the six man crew of a Liberator bomber.

One investigator states that more and more atrocities of that sort are being uncovered, and it may be years before the trials for crimes against aviators can be completed.

## JAPAN

And now the big question - what is the Tokyo reaction to the ultimatum? If the Japs have any intention of surrendering before their land and their people are overwhelmed with utter devastation, this is the time.

The terms laid down by the governments of the United States, Great Britain and China are as good as the Japs can possibly expect - rather better than some people may have expected. So what echoes from the direction of Tokyo?

There was little likelihood today of hearing anything decisive - so soon after the ultimatum delivered yesterday. The most we could anticipate was mere information, something on which to base surmises.

The noise the Japs made today was confusing - with contradictions. The most evident thing is a dispatch from the official Japanese news agency, Domei. The statement of Domei is that Japan will ignore the ultimatum, will pay no attention to the demand for surrender of the terms laid down.

Domei states that it has authoritative information about a meeting of the Japanese cabinet at the residence of enemy Premier Suzuki. There the Tokyo Foreign Minister officially presented the American-British-Chinese proclamation. The decision, says Domei, was to ignore it. Domei is, of course, <sup>the</sup> Tokyo propaganda <sup>organization.</sup> The story may be true, but it may be one of those smokescreens. We can recall how, at the time Italy was negotiating a surrender, the Badoglio Government talked big about fighting the war. And the same thing goes for the noises made by the Nazi regime that succeeded Hitler - while it was getting ready to surrender.

As against the Domei report of "ultimatum rejected," we hear about a statement said to have been made by a Japanese Brigadier General, in a broadcast to Japs in China. He is quoted as saying: "It is an open secret that Japanese troops in China are discussing peace overtures".

That's from Chungking, which gives us still

another report. It tells of a statement attributed to Field Marshal Okamura, Commander of the Japanese Expeditionary Force in South China. Okamura is said to have spoken pessimistically about what the dispatch calls "the possibility of a Japanese withdrawal from China".

The Tokyo radio today devoted a lot of time to the surrender ultimatum, and tried to give it all kinds of propaganda twists. One of these was that the American-British-Chinese surrender-demand indicated that American President Truman had failed to draw Soviet Russia into the Pacific war - because the name of Stalin was not affixed to the ultimatum.

Still another Tokyo propagandist tried to be ~~xxx~~ hopeful about the American people getting tired of the war in the Pacific. Altogether, it was a confused performance - and gives little inkling of what result, if any, may result from the ultimatum of -  
"surrender or be destroyed."

(being)  
~~enforced~~  
^

That grim decision was enforced on the Japs today by a shower of leaflets - bombers of the American Twentieth Air Force launching a propaganda raid against the home islands of ~~Jxx~~ Japan. Warning was given - warning about Jap cities that come next on the bombing list. Sixty thousand leaflets informed the population of eleven cities to get out, or be burned out by bombing.

This is the first time in any war that exact targets have been called in advance of bombing.

Today, Major General Lemay, Commander of the Twentieth Air Force, told the newsmen: "The Japs have nothing left to look forward to except destruction. We have reached the point", said he, "where they refused to fight-while we burn down their cities. Now", he added, "we are telling them <sup>right</sup> where we are going to do it".

GENERAL BUCKNER

Today brings the final touch in a story of grim fatality. To me, it is the more vivid, because I was tied in with the strange twist of chance. The story - the death ~~of~~ in action of General Simon Bolivar Buckner on Okinawa. ~~I was to~~ <sup>I would</sup> have been with him at that point on the battlefront, where a Japanese mortar shell burst and killed him. But luck intervened - luck for me. ~~and~~ <sup>at</sup> his command headquarters, I was waiting for General Buckner - when he was killed.

I had an appointment to meet him, (and go with him on a trip to the fighting line.) But I was delayed. On the way to his headquarters with ~~a party~~ <sup>two</sup> of Marine Corps Officers, one ~~of them~~ suggested I might like to drop in on Colonel Maas - former Congressman Maas of Minnesota.

That brought about a delay - an interesting delay. The former Congressman, now a Colonel in the Marines, ~~told us~~ <sup>was telling me</sup> why he thought the war in the Pacific wouldn't last much longer. The Japs were licked, and ~~they~~ <sup>probably</sup> knew it - said he.

We continued our way to General Buckner's headquarters, and then came upon a baka bomb, one of those Jap suicide missiles - the only one captured on Okinawa. American officers were studying this instrument of hari-kari fanaticism, and a bunch of soldiers were gaping at it. So did I -- for another delay.

When we got to headquarters, General Buckner had gone on - I had missed him. Waiting for him to return, I stayed for lunch <sup>with his staff -</sup> but the Commander of the Tenth Army on Okinawa did not return. I didn't know why, and just figured - I had missed an interesting trip.

*Then, an hour later, I flew*  
~~Travelling around fast, I was, the next~~  
*out to* ~~day, aboard~~ *And there, during the night* an air craft carrier. - ~~when~~ a message came, asking me to ~~come to~~ *hurry ashore to Army* headquarters. ~~ashore.~~ I was seeing and hearing interesting things aboard the carrier, and thought I might as well get the full benefit - before going ashore. *So I stayed there,* Later I learned - the reason I had been asked to come to headquarters was to attend the funeral of General Buckner, *which was held there on Okinawa, without any delay.*

*Then it was that*

<sup>^</sup>I learned that the General had been killed at the place where I was to have been with him. ~~But the~~ accounts of what had happened were <sup>a little</sup> contradictory. One was that several Jap shells had come over. Another - that only one shell had hit and burst. This impression - however, was clear - that according to old military superstition, General Buckner's name was written on the Jap shell.

*Now today comes the story*

~~I never did learn the exact facts until~~  
*from the General's aide who was with*  
~~him~~. And ~~now~~ the impression is tense and sombre -

the superstitious idea that <sup>a</sup>~~the~~ Jap shell was ticketed for the Tenth Army Commander.

Back ~~in~~ to the United States has come Major Frank Hubbard, who was General Buckner's aide. Major Hubbard was knocked out by the explosion that killed the General. At Los Angeles today, he stated that there was only one shell, and that General Buckner was the one person who, according to all probability, should have been safe.

Major Hubbard relates: "There was a Marine Company about to advance from that <sup>very</sup> position, when the <sup>one</sup> shell came over. We had been there about two hours.

It was the only shell the Japs fired in that time.

~~And~~ General <sup>Buckner</sup> ~~he says~~ was protected by two large rocks. Everyone else was <sup>out</sup> in the open". ~~They exposed~~ <sup>he</sup>

~~They were exposed. He was~~ the only one

who should have been safe. Yet General Simon Bolivar

Buckner was the only one to be killed <sup>by that lone</sup>

<sup>shell.</sup>

SOAP

Here's a bit of news that might start a migration of small boys to Hillsboro, Ohio. All because of the soap shortage, which is so acute at Hillsboro that mothers are rationing baths. Not enough soap and the kiddies are not allowed to wash up too often.

"Now junior", says Mom sternly, "you simply cannot have a bath. I know you'll hate being dirty like that, but you'll have to eat supper and go to bed without washing - even your ears".

Unhappy ~~sonny~~ - boy feels  
You can imagine how ~~sonny~~ boy starts

~~sawing~~ - because he can't take a bath.

And now H — it's time  
for you, and me, to go home and  
have dinner — after we hear  
a final word from you.