

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

President Eisenhower today held his first news conference. The President met with almost three hundred reporters, all anxious to question him about his first few weeks in office. Mr. Eisenhower discussed farm prices and taxes, price controls, and the atomic bomb.

The most important point which the President made, was that Russia definitely has the atom bomb. This, again contradicting a recent statement by former President Truman.

General Eisenhower said he agreed with the Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, Gordon Dean. A couple of weeks ago Chairman Dean declared that the Russians had touched off at least three atomic bombs. Which the President today confirmed.

President Eisenhower mentioning taxes, said that some reduction is certainly desirable. But, that he never promised a reduction. The point is, he noted, that taxes cannot be reduced until the budget is balanced.

The President also declared that he is not considering a blockade of the Chinese coast.

Those are the major points from his first White House news conference.

A United Press dispatch reminds us that the modern style White House news conference is now exactly twenty years old. That is, it began on March Eighth, Nineteen Thirty-Three, when F.D.R. told reporters that the session would be thrown open for oral questions. "I am told that what I am about to do will become impossible," said President Roosevelt, "but I'm going to try it. We are not going to have any more written questions."

The United Press dispatch notes that the first question those twenty years ago was rather prosaic. A reporter wanted to know if the President would deliver his State of the Union message in person, or send it to Congress to be read, there. Mr. Roosevelt answered that he would send it to Congress. An historic question - starting the news conference as we know it today. After that, it became a standing procedure with Presidents Roosevelt and Truman. So General Eisenhower begins his term by following in the footsteps of his recent predecessors - in regard to his meets with press and radio.

ADD EISENHOWER

Today's news conference answers one question that many newsmen had been asking. They wondered how he would deal with press and radio -- that is, they wanted to know how an Ex-General would handle himself. The answer is that General Eisenhower enjoyed his first session and carried the whole thing off in an easy-going way. So it's likely the press can expect the same in the future. And that's good news for the reporters assigned to cover the President.

On yes, and Today President Eisenhower entertained Adlai

Stevenson ~~to lunch~~ at the White House. ~~The two men meeting~~

~~informally.~~ First they had a private chat for about half an

hour. Then ^{they} joined a group of Democratic and Republican

Congressmen for lunch. Stevenson and the President sat

side by side, and are described as carrying on an amiable

discussion during the lunch.

Afterward, the defeated Democratic candidate spoke to reporters. He refused to give details of his talk with Mr. Eisenhower. But he did say that they had discussed both the presidential election, and Stevenson's forthcoming tour of Europe and Asia. Said Adlai: "The President was very cordial and courteous, and offered me any help he could give on my trip." Then he went on, "I can assure you there were no secret agreements, nor am I enslaved." He added that he ^{also} had met with Secretary of State Dulles. And ^{that} ~~said~~ Dulles ~~was~~ ^{ed} offering him the full facilities of the State Department ^{for} ~~during~~ his trip. This gave Adlai a chance for another of his quips. "The

Republicans are treating me so nicely," he remarked, "that I'm beginning to like Washington - maybe too much."

Casting his mind back to the election, Stevenson declared that the President had reassured him on one point - in Adlai's words, "He had moments, as I did, when he was not sure he could survive another day."

That's as much as we know of the meeting. ^{The former} ~~between the~~

^{Illinois governor} ~~two~~ ~~Stevenson~~

has been visiting the embassies of countries he intends to visit. And he is scheduled to leave for Chicago tomorrow.

ECONOMY

More economy in the government. A House Subcommittee has been listening to testimony about luxurious living among our officials in Germany. According to Glenn Wolfe, Executive Director for the High Commissioner, apartments are being built in Germany, each with an extra room; for a maid. It seems out officials over there can't get along without maids, and the apartment units are costing up to forty thousand dollars each.

Wolfe says one reason for the high cost is the need to have space for maids. That such a room is an inducement to a maid, ~~XXXXXXXX~~ "I was certainly in favor of it," he says, "I certainly recommended it, and I certainly endorsed it."

Members of the Sub-Committee are not so sure that apartments for our officials have to be so lavish. Particularly in view of the housing situation in Washington. Representative Brownson of Indiana remarked on ~~xxx~~ this. He wonders how....

government workers - here are his words - "ever lived under
these uncivilized conditions here in Washington."

CONANT

Our High Commissioner for Germany, Dr. Conant, has made his first visit to Berlin, and had his first talk with a Soviet official. It was brief! Conant remarked, "The weather is pretty bad." And the Russian chief of the Soviet Control Commission replied, "You should come over to the Soviet sector. The weather is better there." But Dr. Conant had already visited the Russian Zone, and the Communist weather there was no better than the weather in the West.

Tomorrow, he will have a chance for a longer conversation with a Russian. This time with General Chuikov, Soviet Commander in Germany. During his visit, our High Commissioner will have conferences with other Allied and West Berlin officials.

DENMARK

A dispatch from Copenhagen discloses that the mutiny in the Danish army has ended. ~~The military units involved are based on~~ the island of Bornholm, in the Baltic Sea, ~~and the~~ ^{there was} rebellion in five different ^{military} camps, ~~was~~ the first ~~case of~~ mass insubordination in the modern history of the Danish army. At least one thousand men involved.

The trouble started when military service was extended from twelve to eighteen months. ~~This caused flare-ups across the island.~~ At one point some seventy draftees attempted to march on Copenhagen, in protest, ^{with} soldiers from the other camps ~~were~~ ready to join ~~them~~. In one place, four hundred men went on a hunger strike.

Yesterday, a general persuaded some of the rebels to give up their protest. Then, ~~the others began to follow their example.~~ And tonight we hear that the whole rebellion is over.

~~According to the authorities, many of the rebels~~

TP All due to ~~were following~~ Communist propaganda - the Reds distributing

leaflets to draftees, and suggesting demonstrations in the street. The Danish Defense Minister has ordered an

investigation of Communist agitation, ~~And he has toured the island in order to~~ ^{is on} ~~see~~ ^{for a survey} the situation for himself. Meanwhile,

a spokesman for the Defense Ministry states that no decision has been made about whether the rebels would be prosecuted

for mutiny.

Anthony Eden contradicts General Naguib. Last night the Strong Man of Egypt stated that the Sudan may not enter the British Commonwealth. He warned that such action would invalidate Egypt's recent agreement with Britain. But, speaking in the House of Commons, the British Foreign Secretary said that the Sudan ~~was~~ would have a right to choose its own political allegiance. ^{That} The agreement with Egypt provided ~~that~~ ^{for} the Sudan ~~should have~~ self-government immediately, ~~and in three~~ ^{with} ~~years~~ the right to choose its ^{final} own status ^{in 3 yrs.}

Naguib interprets this to mean just one of two things. Either the Sudan will become completely independent, or else it will unite with Egypt. But, according to Eden, Sudanese independence means just what it says - the right of the people to decide for themselves. In the words of the Foreign Secretary, "complete independence could clearly not prevent the Sudanese claiming association with the Commonwealth, or any other arrangements they wish, which are in accord with such independence."

The Eden statement indicates that Britain and Egypt may have another disagreement over the Sudan.

BALTIMORE FIRE

Another "great fire" in Baltimore. The last, in Nineteen Four, burned for ten days, with destruction of more than one hundred million dollars.

Today's fire was not that great. But, it was an eighteen alarm affair, sweeping along the Baltimore waterfront, causing damage around two million dollars.

The fire broke out in a storage and repair shed. It was fanned by a high dry wind, and spread through seven neighboring buildings. Also a series of oil tanks exploded, and clouds of smoke blanketed the waterfront area.

It took four hundred firemen more than an hour to check the fire.

So far no deaths are reported.

FOOTBALL POOL

In Britain, it is legal to bet on football games, and the idea of a pool is to predict a week's games correctly.

Jack Coulton plays the pools, and has a special system; to use the same pattern each week.

For three years, Jack used this system. And now we hear that he has won - and won two separate pools. The pattern he used has come up twice. And he wins over three hundred thousand dollars.

Apparently Jack Coulton is not as surprised. He says he never doubted that sooner or later his combination would hit the jackpot. But even he could not have believed that he would win two pools with the same combination; the first time anyone has ever done this. His original investment was one shilling, about fourteen cents. Fourteen cents parlayed to three hundred thousand dollars! How's that!

MOUNT EVEREST

A dispatch on the news wire, today, gives a few added bits of information about the Swiss expedition that made a futile attempt to scale Mount Everest several months ago. At Los Angeles, Norman Dyhrenfurth, a Swiss-American, ~~XXXXX~~ ^{was} who ~~is~~ one of the climbers, tells of curious maladies that assailed the mountaineers at altitudes of over twenty-five thousand feet. "Many of us" he said, "suffered high from 'altitude cough'. It's like whooping cough and usually leads to nausea." Dyhrenfurth says that at the twenty-five thousand foot level, he had an attack of laryngitis, which left him speechless. He couldn't talk above a whisper - another strange effect up there ~~is~~ near the summit of the world's highest mountain.

Last week, on this program, I related some things that Dyhrenfurth told me, when he passed through New York. But I didn't have time to repeat one of the most curious of all - about the "abominable snow man." That's the mysterious creature about which there has been so much talk. Time and again, mountaineers have found strange footprints in the snow at great Himalayan heights -

footprints that look like those of a giant. Many said - they must be the traces of some huge mountain bear. But the natives of those parts insist:- "The abominable snow man!" Norman Dyhrenfurth says - it's an ape, of an unknown kind, living at lofty altitudes. He told me how a native hunter had encountered two of these huge apes and shot one, wounding it. The other charged him, and mauled him badly - before his companions were able to save him.

So, according to this latest from the Swiss expedition - the "Abominable snow man" is a great Himalayan ape.

I've just been talking this over with Dr. John Tee Van, head of the famous N.Y. Bronx Zoo; Dr. Edward Weyer, of the American Museum of Natural History, and William J. Morden, leader of Central Asian Expeditions. They all say they are skeptical. Surely it can't be a huge Himalayan ape. So there's a chance to solve one of the top mysteries of our day, Nelson. Lead an expedition to the world's highest mountains, and dead or alive bring back the Abominable Snow Man!