

HAVANA

Thursday, Jan. 22 - 59.

In Havana today, Fidel Castro held a ~~large~~ news conference ^{with hundreds of newsmen on hand.} ~~the~~ the revolutionary leader showed himself - decidedly sensitive about public opinion outside Cuba. The revulsion in the United States, for example - against the wave of executions.

He blamed the bad opinion on American news reporters - who, he said, employed subtle means to discredit the Cuban revolution. Using misleading expressions - such as "mass ~~executions~~ executions". And referring to the victims as "followers of Batista." Whereas, argued Castro, those shot by firing squads were members of the Batista secret police." Assassins who had killed many people" said he.

Once again Castro harped upon what seems like a curious illusion - claiming that the American newsmen, reporting the executions, were incited by financial interests, hostile to the new regime in Cuba.

He stated that foreign business interests will not be molested - unless they ^a are shown to be harmful to Cuba.

And Castro asserted vigorously - that he's not a Communist.

Meanwhile, the trials of top-ranking Batista police officials are beginning in the huge sports palace.

MISSILES

Secretary of Defense Neil McElroy ~~is~~ today, stated - that Soviet Russia does not now have an inter-continental ballistic missile, which could be fired against the United States. At a news conference, he rejected the talk - that the Soviets are ahead of this country, ~~in~~ having an operational I C B M something - that could be actually used, in case of war.

Secretary McElroy called a lot of talk about Soviet military rockets - "exaggerated."

LABOR

From the ^dsize of labor - an attack on President

Eisenhower's call on the unions, ~~urging~~ urging them to be restrained - in demanding wage hikes. The President states - that unjustified wage increases only promote further inflation. He likewise called on business to be careful about raising prices; ~~to~~ And do their bit - to check inflation.

Today, the A F L - C I O contended - that pay hikes have only a small effect on the inflationary trend. Insisting - that they'll continue their drive for higher wages.

The A F L - C I O report says the President put the major blame on the labor unions. But Secretary of Labor Mitchell answers - he doesn't believe the President had any such intention.

REPUBLICANS

President Eisenhower, today, issued a summons - to the Republican party, calling, - for political work all year around. Not - just a big, spasmodic effort when an electioneering campaign is on. The President put it in picturesque words - saying the party should ~~stop~~ stop acting like what he called - "a hibernating elephant, who kicks up with a mighty trumpet blast at election time, and then rests calmly until the next campaign."

The message - sent to a two-day meeting of the G O P congressional campaign committee, where it was received - with somewhat less than three cheers. Republican leaders feeling - that the President, himself, doesn't show enough interest in ~~politics~~ politics. That he - doesn't campaign for the G O P all year round.

So Chairman Richard Simpson retorted:

"I call upon the White House - to give us some of that unremitting political effort on behalf of the Republican ^{Party}

~~Party.~~"

MINE

The climax of the bad weather news, today - the flooding of a coal mine at Pittston, Pennsylvania, where the Susquehanna River is in flood - choked with ice, swollenⁿ by heavy rains, and ~~xxxxxxx~~ an unseasonable thaw.

Coal mine shafts - extending under the bottom of the river. A tunnel connecting two mines - extending for a quarter of a mile, thirty feet below the river bed.

Today, the pressure of the flood broke down through the bottom - ripping ~~xxxxxxx~~ a hole in the mine shaft - the river - pouring into the mine. Flooding one section - where three miners lost their lives.

In another shaft - forty-four men trapped. And at first it was thought - they were doomed. But, this afternoon sixteen miners made their way out - after fighting their way through flooded mine tunnels. Reporting - that twenty-eight others were under ground. ~~Safe at least for the moment.~~

~~On the rescue job a team of government experts.~~

MINE

Here's the latest -- all twenty eight were taken out safely tonight. Rescue parties making their way through flooded shafts, to get at the trapped miners.

PAINTING

A prize of twenty five thousand dollars- put up for a lost painting. A canvas by Frederick Remington - that famous painter of ~~xx~~ scenes of the old West. The Indian, the cowboy - the U S Cavalry troop. Reproduced - in endless prints. For example, the famous painting - of ~~xx~~ Custer's last stand.

Art experts know that Frederic Remington, in his heyday, turned out a large canvas - fifty by a hundred inches. Depicting - a U S Cavalry charge out on the western plains. But, in the course of the years - the painting, some how disappeared.

They believe it may be lying, gathering dust, in some old storage place. So now twenty-five thousand dollars is offered, if anyone can find - the cavalry charge, by Frederick Remington.

SKIING

Among skiers - those who go back to the days when men were men, this is an anniversary. And they are celebrating it tonight at North Conway, N. H., one of the top ski spots in America. Just twenty years ago, Toni Matt was the first skier ever to schuss the Tuckerman Ravine, on Mt. Washington.

So, today the news wire, from North Conway, carries a reminiscence from our old friend Toni Matt. Explaining - that he never intended to do it.

The Tuckerman Ravine is a thousand feet of almost perpendicular head wall - just below the cone on Mount Washington. Part - of the regular course for a ski race, the Inferno - from the weather observatory on the summit to Joe Dodges camp at the base of the mountain - a distance of nearly four miles.

Toni Matt was nineteen at the time - recently arrived from Austria. He'd never been over the Tuckerman Headwall, until that famous race in Nineteen-Thirty-Nine.

So, in the race, he came to the lip - where you look over the precipice. Over he went, and before he could make up his mind how to make a turn - he was going all out - at tremendous speed, as he retold the story today, twenty years later, he said:- I'd picked up so much momentum, I figured I'd have to run it straight."

"Crouched down over my skies" he goes on, "I figured I hit a speed of eighty-five miles an hour." He says:- "There wasn't time to be afraid. I was too busy!"

So, Don "schusst" by accident - he schussed the Tuckerman Headwall in a way that no one ever did or maybe ever will. I tried running that precipice once just trying to get down it - and I fell eight hundred feet!

HAILSTONES

Hailstones - of record-breaking size. Hailstones -
We've seen them as big as eggs - even as large
the size of cabbages. The ~~xx~~ Weather Bureau in Washington -

giving an account in the following words:

"Some hailstones, of the amazing size of six to eight inches in diameter - were reported to have fallen north and northeast of DesMoines, Iowa." Eight inches equalling - a good sized cabbage.

However, the Weather Bureau refuses to make those Iowa hailstones official, *Because,* the evidence melted. Nobody bothering to put the hailstones on ice - until they could be verified.

Therefore, so far as the Weather Bureau is concerned, the world championship still belongs to a hailstone that fell near Potter, Nebraska ~~xxx~~ in Nineteen Tw_wenty Six. That hunk of celestial ice was five and four-tenths inches in diameter. About the size of a large grapefruit.