


Thurs. June 29, 1950.

It may well be the big news tonight is -- weather news. Reports from Korea picture clearing skies, a break ~~of~~ of the cloudy, rainy murk that has been handicapping American Air Forces. As a result, we hear that the air strikes ^{have been} ~~now reported as~~ the most successful since the American Air offensive began. In one day, one hundred and eighty-three sorties were flown. Five Red tanks were destroyed, at least fifty-six trucks shot into wreckage -- as the American fighters and bombers hit the lines of transportation of the Red tanks and artillery. Four enemy planes were shot down. Six others were -- "probably destroyed". In all of this, not one American airplane was lost, ^{and no} ~~xxxxxx~~ casualties were sustained.

On the ground, not only have the Free Koreans been able to hold the line of the Han River, but they have put on a successful counter-attack. Earlier in the day we heard that they had pushed forward and captured the Kimpo Flying Field -- the airport of the captured city of Seoul. Tonight word is that they are in full possession

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sion of the Kimpo Airport, backed by a ~~xxxx~~ hail of fire from American war planes. This -- in the face of Communist assaults which were described as being "of increasing ferocity". A late despatch describes the counter-thrust as driving a wedge in between Communist forces in the sector of Seoul. 

One-most interesting point in the news tonight features -- the Mustangs. That is, those veteran propeller-driven planes of the Second World War. The Mustangs, in action today, proved themselves to be the most effective destroyer of the Red Yak fighters. The Jets are so fast that the Yaks have been able to seek safety at low altitudes, at the level of the tree tops. The Mustangs, however, are good at hedge-hopping too, and are described as harrying the Red Communist fighter - planes in their places of refuge.

BOMBING

Air Force authorities in Washington state they have no information about any bombing of the capital of Red Korea. Which amounts to a denial of the statement made by the Korean Communists and by Moscow -- that American B-Twenty-Nines hurled three hundred bombs on the seat of the Communist Korean regime. Air Force authorities in Washington say that, so far as they know, all American aerial attacks have been directed at targets south of the border -- the thirty-eighth parallel of latitude. Which is in accordance with directions given by President Truman -- that the American air war is strictly against the invading forces that have pushed into Free Korea.

FOLLOW KOREA

The latest - from Formosa. Generalissimo Chiang Kai Shek announces that he is ready to send highly-trained combat groups into South Korea to wipe up the Communists on the ground.

MacARTHUR

The Supreme Commander's trip to the battlefield had the ~~usual~~ MacArthur touch of the dramatic. He flew in his own plane, the BATAAN - that name so memorable in Douglas MacArthur's career. Second World War, the Philippines, the Defense of Bataan. The weather was bad, the visibility too poor for an escort of Air Force fighters. So the BATAAN flew alone from Tokyo, over to Korea - and soon they were in the sector of air battle. They could see fights between American and enemy planes, and at one time a Red fighter, a Yak, seemed as if it might be threatening the BATAAN.

"We'll get him cold," said MacArthur, as American fighters closed in. But the BATAAN went speeding on, and they never saw what happened to the intruding Yak.

At the Suwon air base, the key to the battle, the Supreme Commander took an automobile straight to the fighting line - and there he stood on a hill, within a mile of Seoul, the Korean capital, now in the hands of the Communists.

Just below was the Han River, that critical defense line, and MacArthur noticed a couple of bridges. An attempt had been made to blow them up, but they still looked as if a tank might be able to cross. MacArthur gave an immediate command - to blast the bridges. Which happened promptly. He had hardly left the hill overlooking Seoul, when huge columns of smoke arose - the bridges destroyed.

MacArthur conferred ^{today} with Korean President Syngman Rhee ~~and with Korean Army leaders~~ - and, everywhere he went, he was cheered by Korean soldiers. He said he thought they looked okay, ~~in~~ in good spirits and morale - bucked up by the swift arrival of American air aid.

Then, leaving in the BATAAN, he took off from the Suwon airfield, a dangerous place - because the Red Yak fighters try to sneak in when ~~any~~ American planes ^{are} not around. Complete air coverage is difficult, because the fighters and bombers must fly back to Japan to refuel. Tonight's dispatch

states there is likely to be a gasoline airlift, so that American air power can have Suwon for a base of operations.

TRUMAN

President Truman says - "We are not at war." At a news conference today, he took the position that the American Air Force and Navy in Korea are merely carrying out a mandate given by the United Nations. A mandate - to drive out what the President called - "a bunch of bandits." He bases ~~the~~ American action on that legal foundation - that we're not at war, but are carrying out a police operation ordered by the world organization, *the U.N.*

The newsmen questioned the President about the possibility of American ground troops going into Korea. This is talked of as a possibility - in case the air support should not be enough to back up the light armament of the Free Koreans against the tanks and cannon of the Reds. It is known, for example, that General MacArthur has under his command in Japan - units of American armor. Which is what "ground forces" would mean - American tanks and motorized artillery.

President Truman refused to say anything on the

subject - something he wouldn't talk about. But Army officials in Washington are quoted as saying that General MacArthur has not, so far, asked for authority to use "ground forces."

INDIA

The most important development on the diplomatic front was in India today - where the government of Prime Minister Nehru decided to take the American side, in enforcing the decree of the U.N. India - joining the line-up of liberal countries against the Red invasion of Free Korea.

This is the more important, because the official policy of India has been - neutrality. For months, the Nehru ^(regime) ~~xxxxxxxx~~ has asserted - that they would not take sides in the cold war, but would maintain a middle, neutral position.

This was dramatized day before yesterday, when the question came up before the Security Council of the United Nations, a proposal for the U.N. to summon all its members to back American military measures in Korea. The motion was carried - but the Indian delegation abstained from voting. They said they couldn't act, until they had received instructions from home.

Today we learn the reason for the delay - the Nehru government deep in deliberation, trying to make up its mind.

A dispatch from New Delhi states that there were two emergency Cabinet meetings in forty-eight hours - and the second, today, brought the decision. India abandons its neutrality, and accepts the U.N. resolution to support the United States.

SUBSTITUTE SOVIET NOTE

Tonight was a time for some of the most intent scrutinizing on record -- our State Department, the foreign offices of all the world, ~~examining~~^{examining} a note from Moscow. The result of the scrutiny is one of those fascinating puzzles.

The reply is to ^{the} American diplomatic communication calling upon Soviet Russia to make the Korean Reds withdraw their invasion. ~~It~~ So, is the answer yes or no? It is neither. By implication, it is a rejection -- but only by implication. Moscow replies ^{to our note} ~~that~~ ^{with} the propaganda charge that the war in Korea was started by the Free Koreans and places upon them the responsibility -- also on the governments that are supporting Free Korea. Which means this country, ^{also} the United Nations and the rally of the liberal governments of the world. ^{9/} That is the answer to the American demand ^(that) ~~for~~ the Soviets to do something about it. ^(but) only an indirect answer. From this the conclusion is drawn -- that the Soviet reply is moderate; it gives no hint of supporting the Korean Reds, ~~it~~ has no belligerent

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tone, and therefore would seem to indicate that Soviet Russia does not intend to turn the local Korean war into a Third World War. ¶ This reasoning, of course, does not imply that the Soviets may not give the Communist invasion indirect support, perhaps with armament and munitions. But that would be indirect. Which adjective applies to the whole tenor of the Soviet note -- indirect. Easing the tension -- thinks Washington.

PROPAGANDA

Communist propaganda has a new villain, and his name is - Dulles. Today, the Moscow Radio and the Red pollparrots all around the world, roared the charge that American "imperialist aggression" was instigated by State Department Adviser John Foster Dulles.

The Moscow News Agency Tass explains by referring to the trip Dulles made to Korea just before the Communist blitzkrieg was launched - and Red newspapers print photographs showing (the former Republican foreign policy adviser/ ~~Dulles~~ in a trench with Free Korean soldiers. Tass declares that Dulles, upon returning from Korea, called for war. "He," says the Red News Agency, "demanded the rejection of peaceful unification of North and South Korea." That expression "peaceful unification" is becoming a chestnut in Red propaganda - ~~that~~ unification so peaceful that it was launched with an armored blitzkrieg. *P* ~~But, anyway, Dulles did it - and his name was prominent in proceedings at New York's Madison Square Garden last night, where a Communist~~

COMMUNISTS

Four citations for contempt of Congress were issued today. One against Philip Bart, managing editor of the New York Communist "Daily Worker", who refused to answer questions about an alleged fake passport ring run by the Reds. The others - against three scientists, who would not reply when questioned about a reported atomic espionage ring at the radiation laboratory of the University of California.

At the same time, eight Hollywood writers were convicted today. There were ^{(ten originally, - charged} ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ with contempt of Congress - refusing to answer the sixty-four dollar question about being a Communist. Two have already been sent to prison - and of the remaining eight, four today were given a year in prison. Two get six months - while sentence was delayed in the case of two others.

~~One of the Hollywood writers, who will get a year in jail, was a speaker at a Communist rally last night in New York, Madison Square Garden. Sponsored by the Civil Rights Congress, which has been listed as subversive, a meeting of~~

TAXES

The House of Representatives passes the Tax Bill, by an overwhelming vote - three hundred and seventy-five to fourteen. Which illustrates the collapse of the Republican opposition. The G.O.P. Congressmen were all in favor of the reduction of sales taxes, the many levies on luxuries - slashed by more than a billion dollars a year.

But there was loud Republican protest against the other half of the bill - which increases corporation taxes, enough to make up for the sales tax reduction. The G.O.P. strategy was to have each half of the bill considered and voted on separately - so that the reduction might be accepted, and the increase turned down. But they lost out on that, and then - the great majority of the Republicans in Congress voted for the Tax Bill.

GEORGIA

In Georgia, Herman Talmadge has been elected Governor again - his opponent, M.E. Thompson, conceding defeat this afternoon. Talmadge was far ahead in unit votes - according to the complicated system of Georgia election, which favors the rural population. But the popular vote is mighty close. As the count came in, Thompson ran consistently ahead - but later Talmadge pulled up to a virtual tie.

(Son of old-time Gene Talmadge, he campaigned on his father's familiar platform of White Supremacy - and, although the popular vote is so close, the unit count is decisive in giving him another term as Governor of Georgia.)

BELLRINGER

At the town of Great Cornard, in England, the church bellringer has lost his job. Not that he could ^{not} play eloquent music on the chimes. - He could! Great Cornard has a fine old carillon, which for long years has come forth with ^(many a sacred melody,) ~~many a sacred melody,~~ suitable to the services in the parish church. The bellringer, who has been fired, never failed to play skillfully on the chimes. But, alas, he developed an impish sense of humor - which can often get a fellow into trouble.

At service in the church, they had a special collection and the chimes rang out - but not with any venerable anthem. That bellringer knows something about American popular ditties. So, as the collection was being taken up, the chimes pealed out with - "Put another nickel in." So that's why the bellringer lost his job.

Now Nelson - you always ring the bell!