


LEAD FLOODS L.T. P. G. Thura, Apr. 17 - '52.

The critical point in the flood picture tonight is -- the "north anchor" at Council Bluffs. That "anchor" is the key to the system of dykes which guard the city on the east bank of the Missouri.

The river there is narrow. Upstream the flooded Missouri is fourteen miles wide. The section between Council Bluffs on one side, and Omaha on the other, is ~~in~~ twelve hundred feet wide. So, ~~too~~ just ~~to~~ imagine the pressure of all that water upstream ~~pressing~~ ^{pouring} through so narrow a funnel. 

fast-rushing current -- under-cutting the dyke. The weight of water -- seeping through the sandbagged barrier. That anchor -- ~~the~~ ^{center of} the system of an Army engineer's design. "It may become jelly-like and disintegrate." So today they were building a secondary dyke, back of the anchor -- to hold off a flood, ~~if~~ ^{if} the river should break through -- which seems likely enough. The hope is that the secondary dyke will ~~be the~~ ^{be the} ~~one~~ ^{one} that saves Council Bluffs. Most of the people of that city have been evacuated.

FLOODS

~~The critical point in the flood picture tonight is -- the "north anchor" at Council Bluffs. That "anchor" is the key to the system of dykes which guard the city on the east bank of the Missouri. The river in there is narrow, Council Bluffs on one side, Omaha on the other -- and the pressure of the flood erect against the levees is almost incalculable.~~

^R As the flood surges down stream, the worst of its impact is against the "north anchor" at Council Bluffs, and today that wall showed signs of giving way. The fast running current -- under-cutting the dyke. The weight of water - seeping through the sandbagged barrier. ~~That "anchor levee" saturated in the words of an Army engineer who said:~~ ^{states that: -} "it may become jelly-like and disintegrate." ^R So today they were building a secondary dyke, back of the anchor -- to hold off a flood, ^{if} ~~the~~ ^{the} river should break through -- which seems likely enough. The hope is that the secondary dyke will ~~do the trick, and~~ save Council Bluffs. Most of the people of that city have been evacuated,

for fear ~~of what might happen~~, if the deluge ^{may} ~~very~~ to come crashing through.

~~The big ~~miss~~ attempt is to save Council Bluffs and Omaha.~~ Further down stream, levees have been abandoned, although the crest of the flood has not yet reached them. Even so, the water is over the dykes -- towns and farms abandoned as the river pours ^{down upon them.} ~~over the walls that were built for the purpose of holding it back.~~

If it were not for the Missouri, the Mississippi would monopolize the ^{ominous} ~~wicked~~ headline -- destruction by water! Today, a record-breaking crest was moving ^{the Mississippi} ~~downstream~~ from St. Paul, where it caused ten million dollars in damage. The ~~miss~~ misbehaving Father of Waters is doing ~~in~~ his worst -- but ~~is~~ not quite as bad as the havoc wrought by his ^{rampaging} ~~erratic~~ daughter the Missouri.

In Washington President Truman today allocated a quarter of a million dollars for flood relief in

POLITICS-DOUGLAS

(Senator Douglas declares for Kefauver.) The Illinois Senator has been mentioned as a presidential ~~possibility~~ possibility in his own right. But now ^{he} ~~he~~ comes out for the Tennessean.

(This follows the withdrawal, yesterday, of Governor Adlai Stevenson of Illinois, who declared himself out of the presidential race. Douglas had supported Stevenson -- whose refusal left him without a candidate. Just as -- so many other Democrats have been left without one.) Today Douglas sent a message to Senator Kefauver saying "Now that Governor Stevenson has withdrawn as a possible candidate for the Presidency, I firmly believe that you are by all odds, the best available candidate for our party." After which, the Douglas message goes on with sharp words. "Some of the politicians, ~~the~~ bureaucrats and king-makers may not like you -- because they know they cannot control you," says the Senator from Illinois.

At a news conference, ^{Sen. Douglas} ~~he~~ said he is sure that Kefauver could beat Senator Taft of Ohio. But

what about Eisenhower? Douglas replied that Kefauver would have what he called ^S "a very good chance." ^H Well, it all makes interesting political drama. Kefauver went in as a forlorn hope -- or so it seemed. He plunged for the Democratic nomination, saying he'd seek it, ~~no matter~~ ^{what} ~~whether~~ ^{might do,} President Truman ~~intended~~ ^{to run} ~~again or not.~~ ^H Those were the days of the Truman guessing game -- when it was conceded that the President could have the ~~the~~ nomination if he wanted it. But ^{Mr. Truman} ~~H.S.P.~~ declared himself -- out. Which left Kefauver almost alone in the Democratic pond -- giving him a head start, a chance to ^{win} ~~run~~ the prize by ^(mere) ~~xxxxxx~~ default. ^H Today's Douglas declaration is the more important because the Senator from Illinois is a foremost leader in what is called the "liberal wing" of the Democratic party. So, tonight, that Kefauver forlorn hope -- is not forlorn at all.

(and by the way, President Truman says - he
Here is the latest: Governor Adlai Stevenson
never did intend to run, for re-election. There never
comes out in support of Averell Harriman, the
was any indecision on his part; so he says. This
administration diplomat who ranks as a New York
afternoon, he told a news conference that he has had
favorite son.)
a life-long belief - that nobody should ever be
President for more than eight years. So, from the
time he went to the White House he knew that he would
not seek a third term, always a believer in the two
term tradition.

TRUMAN

And by the way, President Truman says - he never did intend to run, for re-election. There never was any indecision on his part; so he says. This afternoon, he told a news conference that he has had a life-long belief - that nobody should ever be President for more than eight years. So, from the time he went to the White House he knew that he would not seek a third term, always a believer in the two term tradition.

STEEL

President Truman declares that the question of a wage increase for steel workers will be one for him to decide. He said this to a gathering of newspaper editors from all over the country -- editors who had previously heard union President Philip Murray ~~say~~ declare that he hopes and expects the government will "impose" the wage hikes recommended by the Stabilization Board. The President says ~~this~~ ~~the decision will be his~~ ~~will be for him to decide~~ since the problem will likely enough be dropped in his lap.

NATO

(We hear that the successor to General Eisenhower in Europe will be General Matthew Ridgway, now Supreme Commander in Tokyo.) ~~The dispatch is printed in~~ ^{states} ~~the San Francisco Chronicle, stating that~~ General Ridgway is the selection of the Chiefs of Staff in Washington, and that his nomination has already been forwarded to the other ~~important~~ nations of the North Atlantic Treaty organization. The ~~decision~~ ^{reasoning} is said to be ~~based on the reasoning~~ that the name of General Ridgway, after his career in command of the Korean war, is well known in Europe. General Eisenhower leaves his Nato post in June -- and, by that time, the hope is that Ridgway may have concluded a truce in Korea. So says the San Francisco Chronicle.

(The news men promptly put a query to General Alfred Gruenther, Chief of Staff to General Eisenhower, said to be General Ike's own choice for a successor. General Gruenther answered like a soldier, saying he would be pleased if General Ridgway were given the

~~North Atlantic Defense Command.) As a soldier, said Gruenther, "I will be delighted to do anything that the Department of the Army wants me to do." But who~~

Who to
~~would~~ succeed General Ridgway in Tokyo? The report has an answer for that also -- General Mark Clark, of Second World War fame. General Clark is now stationed at Fort Monroe, Virginia, as Chief of the Army field forces. Where -- he would be replaced by General Gruenther. An all-around switch --

so says
~~according to~~ the San Francisco Chronicle. *H* This report of the nomination of General Clark to the command in Japan ~~will~~ follows the ^{appointment} ~~the naming~~ of our first Ambassador to post-war Japan -- and the tie-in has a fascinating angle. The Ambassador -- Robert D.

Murphy, who collaborated in that famous secret mission of Mark Clark to North Africa in the second World War. Murphy, in diplomatic service in French North Africa, was a go-between, who received Clark, when the General landed from a submarine. *H* The diplomat and the General represented the American side in a secret

meeting with French officers. Perilous undercover talks in a villa -- making arrangements for the Allied landings in North Africa, which followed shortly afterward. ^H So now, if the report be true, General Mark Clark would ~~join~~ join his fellow adventurer, the two collaborating as American diplomat^{ie} and military chiefs in Japan.

in Nebraska. After his visit, yesterday, to the stricken areas along the Missouri, the President is getting support in Congress for his plea - that an over-all program be formed for flood control. But there is congressional opposition to a revival of the scheme for a Missouri Valley Authority. ~~A wholesale government project modelled on the "T.V.A."~~ There ^{it's} ~~is~~ an old quarrel ^{between} those who want a sort of T.V.A. in the Missouri Valley -- and those who insist on a flood control and irrigation project in collaboration with the states. ^{Though - nobody denies that} ~~All admitting that~~ something big is needed to check that most mischievous of all our American rivers -- the Missouri.

FOLLOW FLOODS

The latest -- it is raining -- thought not hard enough to swell the flood level. But the rain does impede the work on the dykes, as the crest of the deluge comes down upon Council Cluffs and Omaha tonight.

JAPANESE

The Senate has voted nine million dollars to pay claims of ~~prisoners~~ persons of Japanese ancestry who were interned during the Second World War. The proviso was introduced by Senator Magnuson of Washington who declared it was a "grave mistake" to remove people of Japanese blood from the west coast -- often herding them behind barbed wire. They were forced out of their homes -- and often enough their property had been vandalized when they returned. So now, the Senate votes nine million dollars, to repay them.

JAPAN-FIRE


Japan reports -- the biggest fire since the end of the Second World War. The city of Tottori -- devastated. ^{Some} Four-thousand ^{and} five hundred houses destroyed. Fifteen thousand persons homeless. The center of the city ~~was~~ wiped out, when a tempest of raging flame, whipped by a high wind, swept with a fury that could not be controlled.

All a reminder of the old story of cities in Japan -- consisting mostly of wooden buildings, ^{and} ^{paper walls -} flimsy and inflammable. In the war, they were ~~the most vulnerable~~ targets for incendiary bombing -- which set enormous fires. ^H Today, by accident, the greatest fire Japan has had since the days of the bombing raids.

PILOTS

The "stay down" strikes in the Air Force are the result of a policy that was abandoned five months ago. So stated by Air Force Commander General Vandenberg. The policy was to recall flying veterans of the Second World War -- members of the Reserve. They stopped doing this five months ago, but numbers of reservists remained in the Air Force, and the ones who refused to fly are in that category. Mostly -- men of thirty or more, who have family reasons.

General Vandenberg stated that there always are some who balk at flying, and ^{there} ~~that~~ are proper procedures for them to avoid it -- if they say how they feel about it. The present cases, in which airmen are being court martialed, involve breaches of discipline, or misrepresentation - says the General. He calls the whole thing "a tempest in a tea pot."



ADD FLYERS

General Vandenberg denies angrily any insinuation that reserve pilots are sent to air battle in Korea, while regular Air Force officers remain at home in safer jobs.

PLANE

A B-26 bomber crashed into the Great Salt Lake today -- an eye-witness declaring that the Air Force plane seemed to be making dives and passes at the surface of the water, crashing on the last dive. Three losing their lives -- according to last reports tonight - two of them civilians.

RACE

At Sun Valley, Idaho, ^{today} they were all ready to acclaim Bill Stroppe - winner of the Sweepstakes Economy Run. Bill had come in first -- getting the most mileage out of a gallon of gas, ⁱⁿ the race from Los Angeles to SunValley. Driving through deserts and mountains, he had averaged nearly twenty-five-and-a-half miles per gallon. He did it with a strategy of -- "taking it easy on the throttle, avoiding hasty stops and starts," as he phrased it. Two years ago he had won a similar Economy Run -- and today, was the hero of the hour at Sun Valley.

But just before the ceremony of awarding him the prize, Bill Stroppe collapsed. Exhausted by the ordeal? -- Not at all. The doctors looked him over and said: He had been hit suddenly by an ordinary case of -- mumps. Childish malady, but it laid low the winner of the race. Just -- the mumps.

SEA ELEPHANT

There was a strange fatality of the air today -- aboard a plane flying across the continent from Los Angeles. The passenger -- a sea elephant, one of the rarest of mammals, a species of giant walrus, almost ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ extinct.

The prize was captured by sailors of a Danish freighter navigating in South Pacific waters, off New Zealand. They spied a baby sea elephant, weighing about two-hundred-and-sixty pounds. In time it would grow to a weight of two thousand. They caught it, and got it aboard -- a treasure, thought the Danish sailors, for the zoological garden in Copenhagen. ^H The only place they had to keep the critter was in a bath tub. But the baby sea elephant flourished all right. ~~In that bath tub~~, all the way across the Pacific to the port of Los Angeles where aerial transportation was arranged -- the sea elephant to be flown to Denmark.

But that was too much, ~~for~~ ^{was} the rare mammal of the ocean, [^] never meant to fly through the sky.

And, winging across the continent, the sea elephant died. ~~So~~ Of fright -- they say, ~~So the~~ ~~xx~~ zoo at Copenhagen loses the treasure captured by those Danish sailors in distant waters. A sea elephant up in the ~~air~~ and literally scared to death.

QUEEN

From Michigan, news about Queen Juliana.

Or, maybe we'll have to call her Dr. Juliana. Because the sovereign of the Netherlands was, today, granted the honorary degree of Doctor of Civil Law.

The Sovereign of the Netherlands, is ~~the~~ concluding a three-day tour in Michigan, where many people are of Dutch ancestry, with reminiscences of old Holland, including the national flower of the Netherlands, the tulip. So now the University of Michigan crowns a royal welcome with an academic degree of -- doctor.

I don't know what the protocol would be, --

Maybe

[Her Majesty Doctor Juliana.

And now Nelson - back across the continent to you.