

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

The reaction to President Eisenhower's radio-TV report - the one he made tonight, seems to be favorable all around. Democrats in Congress hail the White House determination to deal actively with any possible economic slump. Adding, however, that this was always the policy of the Democratic Party. Republicans acclaim the president's report - as reasonable and sound.

Mr. President did not go into detail about the economic plan he'll present to Congress. But the gist of it was as follows: "Every legitimate means available to the Federal government that can be used to sustain prosperity is being used and will continue to be used as necessary".

Malenkov today gave his answer to the British, American and French Ambassadors in Moscow. A reply to the notes the Western powers left at the Kremlin last week.

The Russian statement declares that Soviet officials in Berlin have been ordered to go ahead with final arrangements for the conference. The only hitch so far - the building ⁱⁿ which the foreign ministers will meet. The West has proposed the allied council building in West Berlin. The Kremlin doesn't reject that site - but Malenkov wants representatives of the high commission in Germany to discuss the matter before any particular building is selected.

But that's a minor point.

During the foreign ministers conference, Secretary Dulles will discuss with Molotov, the Eisenhower proposal for peaceful use of atomic energy. The Kremlin having indicated its readiness to talk this over.

According to a State Department spokesman Dulles and Molotov will open this discussion at Berlin. The State Department ~~according to Sueden~~ ^{view} is that we want a plan worked out as quickly as possible, In fact we hear that our Ambassador in Moscow has already held preliminary talks with Molotov. Next, Dulles-Molotov.

What we want to know is whether Malenkov is really interested in the Eisenhower plan - or merely pretending.

At any rate we are in dead earnest, ready to pool everything atomic with Britain, Canada and Russia as partners in an international atomic agency.

PRISONERS

Word from Pan Mun Jom, that we are preparing camps to receive more than twenty thousand anti-Communist prisoners. The Chinese and North Koreans who refuse to go back to Communism. According to the terms of the armistice, these prisoners must be released on January twenty-third. Hence the camps.

The Reds have demanded that the prisoners be held after that date. But our commander, General Hull, has already informed Indian commander General Thimayya, that we do not intend to accept any other proposal." We want the terms of the armistice observed, and are preparing to take over the prisoners, when they are released.

INDO CHINA

French planes

A dispatch from Hanoi tells of squadrons of flying through the Thai Mountains of Indo China, striking at Red communications and supply lines. The planes flying a route through towering peaks and twisting gorges. Then letting the Reds have it with bombs, rockets, and machine gun fire.

Reinforcements and supplies have been getting to the Reds through this mountain country, so, the French command sent planes right down into the passes, hitting targets far in the rear of the battleline, attacking around the clock.

Meanwhile, prisoners released by the Reds tell how they were forced to work as coolies, hauling military supplies, and on the side attend propaganda lectures.

They were released under what the Reds called, "a Christmas amnesty." Sent back on foot - barefoot through the jungles. Reaching the French lines bleeding and exhausted.

KIEHN

An American business man returns after almost three years in a Chinese prison. Arnold Kiehn, arrested in March, ~~of~~ Nineteen Fifty One, accused of illegal possession of firearms.

He says that he shared his five foot cell with four Chinese, sleeping on a cement floor, an ~~and~~ ordeal ~~which~~ *that* left him partially paralyzed. The food? He lost a hundred pounds during his first year.

According to Kiehn, ~~an~~ an average of fifteen prisoners died every day.. American prisoners? He says yes there are some still in the Shanghai Prison. But he refuses to talk about them. As he puts it: "I would not want anyone to suffer because of something I said." Afraid the Reds will make things still harder for them - if he even tells the ~~full~~ *prison* story of his experiences in *China,* ~~the prison in~~ *China.*

MADAME SUN

Here is one that is just a repetition of what we have heard before. Madame Sun Yat Sen, says the Red regime in Peking is, in her words, "the true representative of the Chinese people." So she calls on the world to recognize the ~~rg~~ regime of Mao Tse-Tung.

Madame Sun, widow of Sun Yat Sen - known as the "father of modern China," has long been opposed to her brother-in-law, Chiang Kai Shek. She stayed on the mainland when her sister and the Generalissimo fled to Formosa. ~~Eventually~~ Eventually, Madame Sun became a vice-Chairman of the ~~Mat~~ Mao Tse-Tung government.

BERIA

A dispatch from Moscow discloses that owners of the new Soviet encyclopedia - are being urged to ^{snip or slit} ~~cut~~ out the article on Beria. This, another example of the familiar Communist technique -- rewrite history after the fall of any Communist leader.

The most famous instance of this was Trotsky. When he lost out to Stalin, and was exiled, Soviet historians began to revise their account of Trotsky's activity during the Bolshevik revolution. Until then, everyone knew that Trotsky had been one of Lenin's closest associates. And of course Trotsky was the key organizer of the Red armies that saved the Bolsheviks.

But the truth was too much for Stalin, when he came to power. So from then on, Russian writers even began to omit Trotsky's name as a leader in the revolution, calling him a traitor and a fascist.

Now Beria gets the same treatment, from Malenkov. Until the fall of the leader of the secret police, Beria was

always mentioned as a close associate of Stalin. And the new Soviet encyclopedia was already out, before Beria fell -- the encyclopedia, containing a laudatory article on him. The article, apparently too much for Malenkov - just as the one on Trotsky was too much for Stalin. So now owners of the encyclopedia are asked to cut out the four pages about Beria. A substitute article is ~~xxxx~~ provided. Says the statement that accompanies the new article: "The aforementioned pages should be cut out with scissors or blades, leaving inside a margin ~~and~~ on which the new pages can be pasted".

The substitute article[?] about ~~Beria~~ Bering Sea!

It had to be something beginning with the letters B E R.

So, Bering Sea instead of Beria! How's that?

ABNEY

If you employ a maid you must pay part of her social security tax. But you can't deduct it as a business expense. So says the Supreme Court.

The decision follows an appeal by a group of Lone Star State housewives, led by one Mrs. Carolyn Abney, of Marshall, Texas who argued that the law discriminates against women who employ maids. Mrs. Abney thinks the law deprives her of both liberty and property, because she must withhold one percent of her maid's pay - and then match that one percent herself. All because of the social security tax.

When the tax was first put into effect Mrs. Abney refused to pay it. Whereupon the government took it from her bank ~~and~~ account. Whereupon she sued in the ~~lower~~ lower courts, and lost. Finally carrying the issue all the way up to the Supreme Court. Which now rejects her appeal.

THEFT

Another Washington mystery: What became of the missing one hundred and sixty thousand dollars? It disappeared from the Bureau of Printing and Engraving. In its place - nothing but blank paper.

According to the Associate Director, H. J. Holtzclaw, the paper left behind was cut to resemble twenty dollar bills. Two packages, like small shoe boxes. Bound by steel bands, spot welded, and covered with heavy paper. Holtzclaw states that the blank paper was discovered only because the packages were a little lighter in weight than the same number of real twenty dollar bills. Except for that, the paper would have been shipped to a federal reserve bank in New York.

Was the money stolen? That's not certain. They say the money may have been misplaced. During Christmas, the normal security regulations seem to have been relaxed. Usually, every package of money entering and leaving is opened. But during the holiday rush some ~~packages~~ packages

are authorized to leave without inspection.

The Bureau of Printing and Engraving employs hundreds, many of whom have been dropped from the payroll this year. So there has been a good deal of coming and going. And, it may be difficult to discover who took that one hundred and sixty thousand. That is, if anyone did!

TEXAS ROBBERY

Amarillo, Texas, reports a mysterious disappearance of ~~money~~ a whole sackful of cash - vanishing from a bank.

At the first National Bank Teller Phil Sanderson says he prepared three bags, each filled with currency - to be picked up by an armoured truck. Then he went to lunch. When he came back, the armoured ~~truck~~ truck had just arrived. But he noticed that - ~~the~~ there were only two money bags instead of three. The one missing contained seventy-five thousand dollars.

At last reports, nobody could guess what happened to it.

BOLIVIA

Here's one for the book. An Indian in South America, a jungle chieftain to force a sixty-three year old white woman to marry him.

She's madame Wanda Hanke, an Austrian ^{ethnologist} ~~anthropologist~~ who went exploring in the wilderness of Bolivia, accompanied by a journalist, Andre Hirdman. They were studying a primitive tribe, the Chaca Bucos, who dress in long tunics made of grass. Their chief, a magician called Maua, reported to be about forty years old - told his visitors about his "death ray" eyes. Able to kill people by merely looking at them - that great a sorcerer.

When Chief Maua saw Madame Hanke, sixty-three and gray haired, he proposed at once. She rejected him, whereupon he wouldn't let the lady ~~and~~ ethnologist and her journalist companion leave the tribal country.

What was the fascination? Well, among the Chaca Bucos, the belief is - that elderly women have great gifts of

wisdom, witchcraft even. So they are sought as wives. Madame Hanke - the more irresistible because she had studied some medicine in Vienna, and could cure various maladies. The chief saw how he could double his magical powers - with such a wife.

Madame Hanke and Andre Hirdman were detained for days, and only got away when a Bolivian Rubber planter, coming down stream in a canoe, managed to rescue them.

Mike, you are more of an authority on this than I am. It isn't often - is it - a lady of sixty three has so much trouble escaping a proposal of marriage, - to a chief of the Chaco Bucos.