

LEAD

K. J. R. R. S. Jan. 31 1950 - Tull.

Today may turn out to be a "day of history", fraught with the mightiest implications of world drama. Yet the actual event was a work-a-day, simple statement, devoid of any theatrical flourish.

President Truman says: "I have directed the Atomic Energy Commission to continue its work on all forms of atomic weapons - including the so-called hydrogen or super-bomb." <sup>R</sup> The tremendous announcement is made in a subordinate clause, on the off-beat - almost like an afterthought. But the factual tone, the plainness of it, makes it all the more impressive - in proclaiming the decision to make the ~~new~~ <sup>new</sup> Bomb.

Actually, the work on that super-devastating missile has already begun, and seems well under way. Along with the Presidential announcement, the Federal Atomic Energy Commission states that experiments have been going on, and tests <sup>again</sup> will be staged <sup>A</sup> on the remote South Pacific - in the project of using hydrogen as an atomic explosive on the order of flaming energies of the sun and the stars.

So what is this ~~new~~ bomb? Well, we begin with what might sound like a play on words - fission and fusion. They sound alike, and mean the opposite. With a uranium bomb - it's fission. Which means - break apart. Uranium has the heaviest atoms, the biggest - and these are broken down in the atomic explosion. Which gives off - immense amounts of energy. Hydrogen is the lightest of all elements, and has the smallest atoms. With these - it is fusion, putting together. That is, hydrogen atoms are fused, two of them together making a larger atom - the element helium, a heavier gas.

The scientists reason that, when this fusion occurs, particles of the hydrogen atom are knocked loose, knocked free. - And that's energy = which is released in an explosion far more violent than the uranium bomb.

The way the scientists have arrived at all this is largely through astronomy - through a theory of what causes the heat and light of the sun, which

warms and illuminates this earth. That solar energy, they believe, is produced by the fusion of atoms, turning hydrogen into helium. The name "helium" is derived from the Greek word for sun - that element being so prominent in the chemistry of the vast fiery ball which distinguishes day from night.

The scientists figure that the hydrogen-helium explosion in the sun is caused by tremendous heat. So how on earth could we ever fuse the atoms of those two gases? How could we ever get the heat? The answer - the atomic bomb. When the uranium bomb was first exploded, the physicists perceived that enough heat was produced to be compared with temperatures of the sun - enough heat to fuse hydrogen and helium atoms, and produce an explosion of solar proportions.

From this you can deduce an idea of how to make a hell bomb - just have a mass of hydrogen inside a uranium bomb; Set that off, and the uranium explosion will create enough heat to fuse the

hydrogen atoms and bring about a far greater explosion.

There is much discrepancy of opinion about how powerful the hell bomb would really be. Some say, a thousand times as great as uranium. Others estimate -- maybe ten times. Perhaps the answer might be - it depends upon how much hydrogen you use. Then there's this other angle - uranium is rare and scarce, but hydrogen is one of the commonest of elements, a constituent of water.

Such is the meaning, in terms of popular science, of today's world headline - that the United States will go ahead and make the hydrogen bomb. There's nothing secret about the simpler theories - which are, for example, set forth today by the science editor for the United Press, Paul Ellis. But, obviously, there must be one tremendous amount of secret technique and mathematics, in fooling around with a kind of explosion to be compared with the sun itself.

*all of* Which bears on the question of Soviet Russia and the hydrogen bomb. President Truman's announcement today made it clear that it is the attitude of the Soviets which impels this nation to create a frightful power of destruction - and he says that we'll go ahead with the hell bomb until a sound system of atomic control is established.-

*Attention Soviets!*

Four-and-a-half years ago it fell to the lot of Harry Truman to announce the explosion of the uranium bomb at Hiroshima - an event that changed the course of history. Today it falls to Harry Truman again to make an announcement that may turn out to be still more portentous.

FOLLOW LEAD

The latest - European reactions to the news. A dispatch from London begins: "President Truman's announcement hit war-fearful Europe tonight with an explosive force of its own." In British official and scientific circles, there's approval, with statements that we over here are doing the only thing we can do. A physicist at Amsterdam states tonight that the U.S. may well have its first hydrogen bomb within one year.

From Paris, too, expressions of approval. Tonight the following statement was made in the French assembly: "It is high time Mr. Truman facilitated the development of the hydrogen bomb," said a high ranking deputy; <sup>and then</sup> he cried:- "After Russia's recognition of the rebel government in Indo-China, it is certainly time Mr. Truman made such a move."

~~which certainly is a typical French~~  
~~reaction there's nothing like thinking about your~~  
~~own back yard~~

## INDONESIA

Paris makes an indignant protest to Moscow- because of that Soviet recognition of the Communist regime in French Indo-China. France has established an autonomous native government out there - which, apparently, is to be recognized by the western powers. But Moscow takes the formal stand that Indo-China is - another Communist nation. How serious this is in French eyes, is shown by the phraseology of the diplomatic note, which reads: "France raises a solemn protest against the decision which, by its nature, alters gravely Franco-Soviet relations."

## TOKYO

The U.S. joint chiefs-of-staff are conferring with General MacArthur in Tokyo. Today, the heads of American armed forces arrived in the Japanese capital, for talks on defense in the Pacific. They are headed by General Omar Bradley, chairman of the joint chiefs-of-staff, and include General Lawton Collins of the Army, Air Chief General Vandenberg, and Navy Commander Admiral Sherman. At MacArthur headquarters, the word is that the supreme commander will present a dark picture of the Red sweep in Asia.



## BOSTON

The Massachusetts legislature today made up for what the Boston City Council did yesterday - the lawmaking body of the state giving a courteous, cordial welcome to fourteen members of the Japanese Parliament. The delegation is in this country, upon the recommendation of General MacArthur - to see the ways of American democracy in action. So the Boston City Council undertook to show them - by not letting them in. This with expressions of wartime animosity.

The news of this caused an outbreak of astonishment at MacArthur headquarters in Tokyo. And one American officer there is quoted as saying: "Boston will be remembered for this in Japan longer than the Boston Tea Party."

The members of the Japanese Parliament, themselves, are more philosophic about it, one of them giving this opinion: "General MacArthur wanted us to see democracy in action, and I suppose that was one phase of it," says he.

Well, today they saw another phase - a good

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deal more like the democracy MacArthur wanted them to see. The Japanese were welcomed by Senator Sumner Whittier, were shown the legislature in action, and were received by Governor Dever who is a Navy veteran of the Second World War.

They have, moreover, received an invitation to be entertained by Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., at Oyster Bay, Long Island. Mrs. Roosevelt is the widow of General Theodore Roosevelt, who died in the war, and he himself was a son of President Theodore Roosevelt -- who played the leading part in bringing to an end the Russo-Japanese War.

## MISSOURI

Today's attempt to pull the battleship Missouri off the sandbank was described as - a rehearsal. In that case, the main performance is still to come - because tonight big Mo is still aground. The big attempt will be made on Thursday, when the tide is highest - at full moon.

Today a fleet of tugs pulled as hard as they could; but <sup>they</sup> could not budge the forty-five thousand ton battleship. (And a high naval officer today stated that the Missouri may be impaled on a rock.) Admiral Homer Wallin, commandant at Norfolk, says he believes that the battleship, when she went aground, plowed into a huge mass of stone - and the rock may have wedged into the steel plates of the hull, holding the Missouri in a vise. If that be true, it might explain the dolorous plight the big battleship is in.

## COAL

In the coal strike, President Truman issues a double barrel proposal, suggesting to John L. Lewis and the mine owners that they do either of two things. One - resume normal coal production, while they conduct their negotiation for a contract; Or - agree to a Presidential fact-finding board, which would mean that the miners would return to ~~mx~~ work for seventy days, while the board investigates the dispute.

For the replies to these proposals, the President sends a double barrel deadline. He wants an answer on his first suggestion by noon on Saturday. An answer to the second - by Five P.M. on Saturday.

Suppose ~~that~~ both Presidential ideas are turned down? Well, in official circles the word is that, if there's a double barrel turn-down, the White House will invoke the Taft-Hartley Act. Which might be like grabbing a double-barrel shotgun.

## NURSE

Honors today ~~xx~~ were paid to a mission nurse - for checking an outbreak of infantile paralysis, at a village in the north country of Quebec. She is Mrs. Bernard Clench, and the town of St. Augustine was mighty lucky that she was there. Twenty-one children were stricken suddenly, and her own ten year old child was one. As a mission nurse, she recognized the malady - the dread polio. She sent an immediate appeal for help - while she, herself, worked to check the epidemic. Help came - and children were flown out.

~~Today a nurse, who went in with a rescue team, declared: "The entire village might have been stricken with polio if it had not been for Mrs. Clench's early diagnosis and her prompt action." At the same time, Dr. Donald Hoek of the Grenfell Mission sent a citation hailing the work of mercy performed by the mission nurse.~~

## SWINDLER

Here's a chance to test your vocabulary. How many words, how many synonyms, do you know for gall, cheek and impudence? Think them all up, and then apply them to a swindler who today told the judge he'd gladly take a jail sentence - because he has two-hundred-and-seventy-five thousand dollars of stolen money hidden away, ready for a fling when he is turned loose.

He's a young man from Oklahoma, blonde and dapper, ~~who was~~ a past master at cashing bad checks, ~~in court today, he~~ <sup>in court today that</sup> bragged he has been passing worthless paper at the rate of eight thousand dollars a week, nearly half a million a year. ~~to the~~ ~~authorities~~ he proudly displayed a fancy machine for writing impressive checks, also a forged Army discharge, and fake Social Security papers. He also has a plausible gift of gab and an honest face. The police say he's the most gifted bad-check-artist they've seen in a long time.

He was caught ~~but not~~ through <sup>no</sup> ~~any~~ fault

of his own. ~~It was because of a trick played by a friend, who took his automobile~~ In his expensive car ~~the magician of the bad check~~ <sup>he</sup> drove up to a business concern at Goreville, Illinois, and went in - to cash a bad check. <sup>With him usual</sup> ~~his~~ friend <sup>who proceeded to</sup> drove off with the car - to take a ride. <sup>But</sup> ~~this~~ the swindler ~~starts~~ ~~knows about, and he~~ reported the <sup>auto</sup> ~~car~~ stolen. The friend was picked up, having wrecked the car. The police investigated, and got on the long trail of the fraudulent bank paper.

Hence the trial today, with all that bravado - about <sup>the</sup> two-hundred-and-seventy-five thousand dollars hidden away. The brazen rogue saying to the judge - "I'll serve my time, and then I'll have a fling."

2/4 Now Nelson - time for you to have your fling.