

LABOR

P. J. - Sunoco. Tues., May 7, 1948.

Bad news about the coal strike. The hope for a quick settlement goes out ~~of~~ the window -- tossed out by the late news earlier this afternoon. There was a sudden flare of optimism -- this in the form of a statement in Washington that the Government ^{had} handed a proposal to the companies and the Union. A Washington news dispatch stated that the proposal, if accepted, would bring a speedy end to the strike that is starving the country for coal and impeding the work of industry and ^{the} day-by-day lives of people.

So, in the vicinity of the news wire, we waited hopefully for a bulletin that would say -- proposal accepted, strike on its way out. But the word, just in, is the opposite. We are now ⁺ informed that the government proposal has been turned down -- it's worse than that, more puzzling. The news comes from the Union side, and it's a denial that any government proposal was received -- Union Leader John L. Lewis himself denying that any Federal plan for a settlement has been submitted.

It's hard to reconcile the two statements, the

Government affirmation and the Union denial. ^{TP} However, that's the contradiction, and it's accompanied by further word that the Union today simply reaffirmed its demands. The full policy committee of the United Mine Workers is meeting in Washington, under the leadership of John L. Lewis, and this afternoon the policy makers voted to concede nothing -- stand on the ~~existing~~ original demand. So that would seem to mean an indefinite prolongation of the strike -- which is behind a long list of public evils -- all the way from the stoppage of coal-burning railroads to a shortage of fuel for hospitals.

And there's headline news in the railway Labor dispute -- a Union demand for Government ownership of the rail lines. Today the President of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen stated that the only way to avert the strike that is threatening is for the Government to seize the railroads. This as a means of ^{avoiding a} ~~preventing the~~ walkout. And he went further. He called on Congress to take action for Government ownership -- to correct what he called -- "overcapitalization." This is one of the

most drastic of Union proposals in the present wave of Labor disputes.

EGYPT

In London the House of Commons has just taken a vote -- a vote at nearly midnight. This concerned the plan of the Labor Government to evacuate British troops from Egypt -- soldiers to be taken out upon conclusion of a mutual assistance treaty between Egypt and Great Britain.

To the British, of course, the Land of the Nile really means the land of the Suez Canal, and the reaction in Parliament was immediate.

The plan to evacuate Egypt was announced by Prime Minister Attlee. The response to his declaration was made by the leader of His Majesty's loyal opposition, former Prime Minister Winston Churchill. This was, said Churchill - "a very grave decision, one of the most momentous I ever heard made in the House." He demanded full debate. This was promptly agreed upon, and the date was set - at once, this evening. It's midnight now in

London - but late hours of historic debate are a tradition in the House of Commons.

The case of the opposition was opened by former Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden, who immediately raised the main point, the Suez Canal, the bottleneck of Britain's lifeline to the East. Could Britain protect the canal without having military forces in Egypt? (Eden phrased the question as follows: ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ "Have the Government satisfied themselves that the defense of the canal can be carried out without air and naval bases in Egypt in the vicinity of the canal?" ~~He answered this~~
He argued that
~~by saying that~~ some British troops must be left in Egypt.

This was answered by Prime Minister Attlee, *who* spoke in such fashion as to leave no doubt that the Labor Government is not ~~unaware~~ *forgetting* of Britain's imperial interests. Attlee spoke cautiously. The plan, said he,

was to evacuate Egypt, but he hoped apparently that this might not be too complete. He said he hoped that Britain would retain what he called - "facilities" in Egypt.


As for the meaning of "facilities", he spoke rather gingerly of Britain retaining the right, in Attlee's words - "to come effectively to Egypt's assistance."

Putting the matter more plainly, the Labor Government plan would seem to be to pull out of Egypt, but not altogether,

~~The idea would seem to be~~ a negotiated treaty providing for the evacuation of British troops, but ~~with an~~ ^{with an} ~~understanding that~~ ^{understanding that} ~~provisions whereby~~ Great Britain would maintain Egyptian bases for the defense of the Suez Canal.

Attlee let another cat out of the bag, when he spoke of proceeding with what he called "the hearty good-will of the Egyptian people." There has been bitter opposition to the retention of British troops there - opposition expressed by rioting. Attlee wants to get

around that by using the evacuation as a way to gain good-will -- how to make friends and influence people, as ~~my old friend~~ Dale Carnegie, would say. Then, ~~that~~ with good-will established - work out an amicable deal for staying in Egypt in sufficient style to protect the Suez Canal.



ADD EGYPT

Here's the latest from London - a vote.

Conservative opposition, led by Winston Churchill, made a motion to censure the Labor Government for its policy in Egypt. I don't suppose they expected to win, the Labor majority in Parliament being as huge as it is - and they didn't win. The Cabinet was upheld by a vote of confidence of three hundred and twenty-seven to a hundred and fifty-eight.

CHURCHILL

Winston Churchill, in his declarations before the House of Commons today, uttered wisdom and warning - appropriate to the anniversary of V-E Day. Churchill spoke of Soviet Russia - the more interesting after his declaration over here at Fulton, Missouri; ~~and~~ his call for an alliance of the English-speaking peoples in the face of Russian totalitarianism. Today, Britain's war-time leader summoned the western democracies to reach an understanding with Soviet Russia - an understanding through the medium of the United Nations. ^{W Churchill} ~~and~~ raised a solemn question:- "What would happen," he asked, "if the United Nations should give place to a vast concentration of two parts of the world and two irreconcilably opposed conceptions of human society?"

"Failure to find the answers," added Churchill, "may lead the whole human race into a new period of

of misery, slaughter and ^aabsement."

Wherefore he summoned the western democracies to the all-important task of establishing an understanding with Soviet Russia, through the medium of the United Nations - lest the world be divided into two conflicting systems.

IRAN

It would seem that ^T the Red Army has completed its evacuation of Iran. This is indicated by a statement from Teheran, a declaration by Under-Secretary of State Prince Firouz. He was none too positive about it, saying merely that all reports appear to show that Soviet troops are completely out of Persia.

This follows an earlier statement made to the United Nations by Iranian Delegate Hussein Ala, ~~who~~ said he had no indication that the Red Army was out. The Soviets, themselves, said nothing - disdained to report to the U.N. on whether or not they had completed their evacuation according to schedule, out by the time of the deadline, May Sixth.

The news for days ^{has} pictured the Red Army as withdrawing, and all that remained to be evacuated was the disputed province of Azerbaijan. Now, the statement from Teheran indicates the probability that they left that area too - completely fulfilling the Soviet pledge to evacuate Iran.

FOREIGN MINISTERS

You know how at birthday parties, the gay cry rings out - Surprise! Surprise! Well, that's the proper comment on the news this evening from the conference of Foreign Ministers in Paris - Surprise! Today they ~~Foreign Ministers~~ took up one point on which they did not have a dispute. In fact, believe it or not, they had an agreement - on that particular point. Byrnes and Bevin on one side, and Molotov on the other, smiled amiably and nodded their heads in unanimous assent. - Byrnes and Bevin said - "Yes, Yes." Molotov exclaimed - "Da! Da!" So, ring the bells and blow the bugle.

What was it they agreed upon? Why, Transylvania. No, not Pennsylvania - Transylvania. They decided to give Pennsylvania to Romania - I mean, Transylvania. That province in eastern Europe has been long in dispute between Romania and Hungary, and has passed from one to

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the other. The 1 st previous transfer was made by the Nazis, who gave Transylvania to Hungary. Now that's reversed by today's quick and easy agreement by the Foreign Ministers. There was no argument. All was accomplished in a spirit of brother love, reminding one of Pennsylvania -- but it was ~~Transylvania~~ Transylvania.

The good news, however, does not go on forever - it never does. The Foreign Ministers proceeded to take up three other topics.

In addition to which, there was no further progress on the subject of Trieste. That Italian port, claimed by the Jugoslavs, is the chief difficulty of all -- the rock on which the conference threatens to founder. And the latest from Paris tells us the meeting of the Foreign Ministers is still likely to break up in deadlock -- in spite of today's brotherly love, inspired by-- Transylvania

DeGAULLE

In France today, General Charles DeGaulle made a gesture - and the French are famous for gestures. On the anniversary of V-E Day, he announced that he would not attend the French victory celebration scheduled for May Twelfth, Sunday. DeGaulle, of course, broke with the present government in Paris, which is run by a Communist-Socialist majority. DeGaulle, having been elected chief of the regime, resigned in protest against Red policies. In particular, he opposed the Constitution drawn up by the Communists and Socialists - and now, as we know, that Constitution has been decisively rejected by the French voters ~~a majority against it~~, last weekend. The French public gave the Communists and Socialists a vigorous turn-down.

In retirement DeGaulle has been a significant, though rather enigmatic, figure. He has observed silence, everybody looking his way - but DeGaulle remaining in

seclusion. Today's gesture was his first public expression - a sort of cryptic declaration made in symbolical form.

His refusal to attend the victory celebration sponsored by the government is only the smaller part of the gesture - which has that French flair for drama. DeGaulle announces that, instead of taking part in the festival on Sunday, he will dedicate that day to a pilgrimage. He will go to the grave of Clemenceau. There, he will commune with the spirit of ~~Clemenceau~~ the Tiger of France, the father of victory in World War ~~Number~~ One, Clemenceau, the supreme nationalist and patriot.

With that gesture DeGaulle will affirm his political belief that what France needs is not Communism, but the burning patriotism of Clemenceau.

IRELAND

In the North Irish city of Belfast tonight, the Cabinet Ministers of the government are being guarded - police assigned to protect them ^{and} ~~in~~ their homes. This was ordered today as a result of a hunger strike. The Belfast authorities are apprehensive of attempts by Irish extremists against the Ministers of the Cabinet - terrorism, if ^{the} ~~a~~ hunger striker should die.

There are two, really, two members of the outlawed Irish Republican Army who have been starving themselves for weeks. The one is in Belfast, the other in Dublin. Both are charged with being directors of I.R.A. plotting - anti-British extremism. One, ^{David} Fleming, is held in prison by the Ulster authorities. The other, Sean McCaughy, by the government of Prime Minister de Valera. Both went on hunger strikes as a protest against their imprisonment, and they are described as being so weak from self-imposed famine, that they can't survive much longer. Which, in

Belfast, led to an order today - an order assigning special guards for the protection of the Cabinet Ministers, a precaution against terrorism by the I.R.A.

The soldier was sentenced by an army court-martial in Japan. The public and press, in general, thought the sentence too harsh. His parents went to Washington and appealed to the War Department. Family physicians accompanied them and stated that Joseph Kline had been hospitalized in 1942 because he suffered a head injury in the Philippines.

Prisoner was convicted of the killing of two Japanese civilians, a crime branded by the court-martial as "barbaric and unprovoked." The U.S. was celebrating the fact that he was to be sent home from occupied Japan. With several buddies, he went on a wild binge party. According to the stories, Kline, saddened by alcohol, went on a homicidal rampage -

HICSWA

President Truman has commuted the death sentence imposed on Private Hicswa, of Wallington, New Jersey. The soldier ~~was~~ condemned by an army court-martial in Japan, - ^{whose} ~~and his~~ case was the subject of much protest and pleading. The public and press, in general, thought the sentence too harsh. His parents went to Washington and appealed to the War Department. A family physician accompanied them and stated that Joseph Hicswa had been mentally unstable ever since he suffered a head injury in childhood.

~~Private Hicswa~~ ^{He} was convicted of the killing of two Japanese civilians, a crime branded by the court-martial as "vicious and unprovoked." The G.I. was celebrating the fact that he was about to be sent home from occupied Japan. With several comrades, he went on a wild drinking party. According to the stories, Hicswa, maddened by alcohol, went on a homicidal rampage -

knifing two Japanese who were passing by, stabbing them in the back with his bayonet for no apparent reason.

Later, while the case was under public discussion, the ~~xxxx~~ news came that Hicswa had escaped from ~~the~~ army guardhouse. He was quickly recaptured, found in a Japanese geisha house - where geisha girls were hiding him.

The sentence of death imposed upon him was reviewed by an army board in Washington, which gave the opinion that the capital penalty was too harsh. With this President Truman now agrees - commuting the sentence to thirty years in prison. *And a-l-u-t-m.*