

L.T.-W. MONDAY, JULY 26, 1954

Russian River, Calif.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

International affairs are tense, tonight, following announcement of American planes shooting down Red fighters off the south China coast. The announcement was made today by Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, whose manner was grave, as he gave out the news. All agree that the incident produces a new crisis in the Far East.

## U.S. PLANES

The air battle off Hainan was brief, decisive. Two Red fighters attacked American carrier-based planes. They opened fire, and the Americans shot back. Aim - deadly. Two Reds hit, shot down. This came as a climax in decisive American moves out there, following the shooting down of a British transport plane, with nine killed or missing. Among them three Americans. A search for possible survivors. And that looked like a perilous task in waters off the Red-controlled island. So the U.S. government ordered two aircraft carriers to the scene for protection. The carrier planes to provide a "cover". Work of mercy -- under guard. They were on patrol, when attacked. Two Reds downed.

## BRITISH PLANE

The new crisis broke, just as trouble was dying down. The British, accepting the apology of Red China, for the destruction of the British airliner. In fact, Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden was just informing the House of Commons of the British acceptance, when the news came telling of American carrier planes shooting down two Communist aircraft.

The Red apology, by the way, might well remind us Americans of the way Japan said "so sorry," after the shooting of the American gunboat Panay, shortly before World War Two.

The Chinese Communists explained -- it was an accident. Their flyers, mistaking the British passenger plane for a Nationalist bomber. Saying, they'd been harried by warplanes of Chiang Kai-shek's Air Force, based on Formosa. We know, of course, that a good deal of sea and air skirmishing has been going on between the Nationalists and the Communists off the south China coast.

Red China, saying, "so sorry," agreed to pay damages. Doing just about all that could be expected - according to

diplomatic procedure.

Prime Minister Winston Churchill held an emergency Cabinet meeting, which decided that the explanation and apology were quite satisfactory. This acceptance, followed by the new flare-up. The clash, between American and Communist planes.

PLANES - BARTHOLOMEW

The island of Hainan off the South China Coast, has been regarded as a danger spot for some time. The Communists installing a major submarine base. That has been reported repeatedly.

All of which is confirmed by a news correspondent, Frank Bartholomew of the United Press, who returned over the weekend from a reporting tour of the Far East. Frank Bartholomew says he passed Hainan, along about the same route as the British airliner which was shot down. He says the Red installations are plainly visible on the island, the structures of the submarine base.

## INDO-CHINA

The war in Indo-China -- still on. Today the French command reported new attacks. The Reds assailing an outpost in northern Viet Nam. Actually, the cease-fire has not yet gone into effect in those parts. The Reds -- having delayed the date, because of the difficulty of communications with guerrilla forces in the wilderness.

But why the flurry of warfare at the last minute? The French declare that it's part of a systematic plan. The Communists are directing a propaganda barrage against the native soldiers in the French Army. Trying to get the Viet Namese to desert, come over to the Communists.

The French admit that Vietnamese are deserting; and they call this "disquieting."

## ATOMIC

The House of Representatives, today, passed the atomic energy bill, by a vote of two hundred thirty-one to one hundred fifty-four. Prompt, efficient action by the House, much in contrast to the Senate, which today was tied up still by that filibuster.

The long distance oratory goes on and on, and it may go on forever -- so far as Republican Leader Knowland of California is concerned. The orators may orate for all eternity, headed by the leather-lunged Wayne Morse of Oregon. Senator Knowland says he'll never give in.

The California Senator conferred with President Eisenhower today and the President agreed that the Senate shall be kept in session for several more weeks, if necessary to break the filibuster. G.O.P. leaders have informed the President that because of the talkathon it will be impossible for the Senate to adjourn by next Saturday, as had been planned.

However, the filibuster shows signs of breaking up.

The Democratic leaders of the Senate are backing Knowland, against the small group of diehards. And among the filibusters themselves, the Democrats are said to be thinking of a compromise. So - could be that Wayne Morse might be left alone -- filibustering all by himself. And he's sure to wear out sooner or later in his effort to block the Atomic Bill.



## TEXAS

Returns from the big political battle in Texas shows Governor Allan Shivers ahead. But there will be a run-off -- that appears to be certain. Governor Shivers has a small majority over his nearest rival, Ralph Yarborough. But there were two other candidates and they received just enough votes to keep Governor Shivers from attaining an over-all majority. Under Texas law, a candidate must get more votes than the total of all his rivals -- or there is a run-off. So now there'll be a two-man race, Shivers versus Yarborough, for the Democratic nomination for Governor. The Democratic nomination being as good as election in Texas.

The Texas political battle is all the more interesting, because of national aspects. Governor Shivers bolted the Democratic national ticket in Nineteen Fifty-Two, and supported General Eisenhower. Yarborough was a prominent supporter of Governor Stevenson. So the contest for governor is, actually, a battle between the pro-Eisenhower faction in Texas and the Democratic regulars. The two factions -

fighting for the control of the Democratic Party in Texas.

In the Congressional angle of the Texas primary, Senator Lyndon Johnson and Congressman Sam Rayburn won overwhelming victories. Johnson of Texas is Democratic leader in the Senate. Rayburn of Texas is Democratic leader in the House. The Lone Star state, having more than one star in Congress.

## NURSE

The Angel of Dien Bien Phy received a hero's welcome in New York today. Multitudes -- hailing her as she drove through the streets with Colonel Richard Patterson, who flew back from here just to greet her. Arriving at the metropolis she made a statement - and not in French; and she doesn't know any English! Well, somebody wrote the words out - probably Colonel Patterson - and Lieutenant Genevieve memorized the English syllables.

So she was able to say the following: "I do not deserve this honor, I have only done my duty."

You can imagine the exquisite French accent with which the Angel of Dien Bien Phu enunciated these words.

SYNGMAN RHEE

The South Korean President arrived in Washington today and expressed himself in -- Americanese. Syngman, Korean who speaks English made a brief address at the airport, where he was received with full honors.

He stated that full victory in Korea, was prevented by - "cold feet". Which is an expression that all Americans will understand -- frosty tootsies.

## STABBING

There was a strange act of violence in San Francisco town today -- melodrama in a church.

At the alter of Saint Gabriel's, Father Bernard Cronin was kneeling during mass, when a woman stepped up behind him and stabbed him with a jack-knife. He fell unconscious and lay prone, in his ecclesiastical vestments.

Later, at a hospital, they found the Priest and had sustained a neck wound. Serious -- but he'll recover.

The woman assailant was arrested, and cried out to the police a strange statement. "This is just like confirmation. They taught me to walk." Then she added: "I belong to the parish. If you want to know who I am, ask them."

But no one seems to know her and she had on her person no identification. She's being sent to a psychopathic ward for observation.

## TOWNS

Here in California, two towns are being sold.

Complete municipalities except for people. So if you want to buy a town, here's your chance. One is Delleker, up in the Sierras. Once - a thriving lumber town. But all the commercial timber in the neighborhood has been cut, and most of the people moved away. Four families remain -- are leaving today.

Delleker belongs to the lumber company, which, now, will put it on auction. Streets of houses, office buildings, a school house, a saw mill and so on.

The other town for sale is Little Valley, in northern California, up near Mount Lassen. That's timber country, too. But the local saw mill burned down, and they figure it isn't worth while to build a new one at Little Valley.

So, take your pick. You might purchase one, move in, and be the sole inhabitant of a town.

## WISCONSIN

The State of Wisconsin is investigating a "medical marvel" at the town of Lone Rock. Something new and modern -- a "uranium tunnel". Sounds like technology produced by the scientists of Berkeley Radiation Laboratory out here in California. But the "uranium tunnel" is operated by - a farmer.

Some people may think a farmer is just a simple minded rube. But leave it to Si Perkins to be smart, when necessary. In this case, it's Farmer Kenneth Crook - who set up the "uranium tunnel" for a cure of all sorts of illness. He hired an old drug store in Lone Rock, and lined the place with sacks of low grade uranium ore, procured from Nevada. The patients -- well, they just sit around in the "uranium tunnel" and receive the benefits of radiation. The fee - ten dollars for ten sittings.

Business -- marvelous, booming. All day long, the "uranium tunnel" is crowded, from six A.M. until midnight. Farmer Crook - taking in a couple of hundred dollars a day.

State authorities became interested, and took

samples of the ore in the sacks lining the walls of the old drug store. They say the radio active material in that ore is no more than you'd find in the radium dial of an ordinary wrist watch. Moreover - is Farmer Crook practicing medicine without a license?

Today, a subpoena was issued for an investigation.

Ed -- the authorities declare they may seek an injunction against this newest medical marvel, Farmer Crooks' "uranium tunnel."