

L.I. - P. + S. Thursday, Oct. 23, 1947.

Every other day for months we've been hearing that there would be a special session late in November. Every other day, the report has been contradicted. Tonight, the prophets who said it would be called have a chance to say they told us so. ~~But it won't be only on account of the crisis in Europe.~~

^π In ~~the~~ ^a statement ~~he~~ issued from the White House, President Truman ~~presented~~ ^{gives} inflation as the first reason for calling the lawmakers back to Washington on November Seventeenth. On that day he will send them a message recommending laws to deal with inflation, high prices, ~~the~~ ^{In the meantime he} growing cost of living. ~~He~~ will take to the air tomorrow night and tell the ~~whole~~ country why he ~~is~~ ^{ing this} ~~has~~ called the twenty-sixth extraordinary session in the history of the United States.

The crisis in Western Europe comes second ~~as a~~ ^{as a} ~~reason~~ ^{reason} for yielding to the clamor. The French will run out of money about the end of December; Italy even sooner, ^{and} The people of the ^{Appennine} Peninsula will have to have substantial ~~help~~ ^{help} some time before

the end of the year. The needs of the world, says President Truman, cannot wait for the regular congressional session in January.

Probably the special session would begin before November Seventeenth, but it could not do any good, since nothing could be started until after the foreign relations committees of the Senate and the House have met, and that wont be until November Tenth. Speaker Joe Martin said that so far as he was concerned he would not call any earlier meeting of his committee.

The President indicated that he hopes the Legislators will have the draft of a measure to deal with inflation ready, to be at least talked about, by November Seventeenth. And he promises to have some suggestions of his own for them to consider.

Although Republican emembers of Congress had spoken out against any special session, most of them appear to realize now that emergency action by Congress is quite imperative.

The President's proclamation and the terms of the

statement that accompanied it revived the old question, whether he intends to try to bring back the O.P.A.

Before he announced his intention today Mr. Truman had a meeting with Congressional leaders, after which Representative Congressman Halleck of Indiana told reporters that the President had indicated definitely he had no expectation of trying price controls again. Only last week he told his press conference that price control was a measure suitable only for police states.

Just a hundred and fifty years have passed since the first extraordinary session of our House and Senate. President John Adams called that first session to break off diplomatic relations with France. One of the most important came on July Fourth, Eighteen Sixty One, when President Abraham Lincoln called an extra session to consider the insurrection in certain southern states.

The greatest number of extra sessions were called by the two war Presidents of this century, Woodrow Wilson and Franklin D. Roosevelt. The last one on September Twenty First, Nineteen Thirty Nine, eighteen days after Hitler marched into Poland. F.D.R. then summoned the Congress to amend our neutrality laws.

LABOR

Just as the President announces his decision to call ~~the~~^a special session to deal with inflation, the American Federation of Labor gave^s warning that its unions ~~w~~are about to demand another series ~~t~~ of boosts in pay. ~~So we are promised a fresh start of a special in prices.~~

The A.F. of L. will couple its drive for higher wages with a demand that manufacturers keep prices at their present ~~ix~~ level. The monthly economic survey of the ~~A~~ederation shows that the climb in prices this year has been more than enough to offset the larger pay envelope. So say the Unions. The A.F. of L. declares that this is proved by the increasing level of profits.

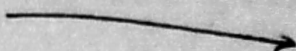
STALIN

(The organization of a bureau representing the Communists of nine countries - that is not a revival of the old commintern, says Stalin.

Its proper name is the Cominform -- Communist Information Bureau, and it's not directed from the Kremlin, added the Red Premier.)

The purpose of the old Comintern was to establish connections between the Communists of different countries, and help them develop leaders. To attempt to revive the Communist International today would be a utopian enterprise and, continued the Soviet Chief, "The Communists are not Utopians."

He went on to say that in a number of countries the Communist party has become the representative of a large section of the population, led by strong and able men. Then he added that it would be exotic and utopian to attempt to direct such parties from any common center. That to attempt to establish a new commintern would



be like trying to turn back the wheel of history, which would be stupid.

Stalin continued to talk as though the cominform had been created without ^{his} ~~any~~ knowledge. ~~on~~
~~his part, because he used these words,~~ ^{said he:-} "As I understand
it, [^] the declaration by the nine Communist parties, [^] it
means that Communists of those countries will work
together to improve the conditions of the working class
and to defend the independence and sovereignty of their
countries." [^] He then continued that the attitude of the
nine Communist parties, represented in the cominform,
does not and will not in any way change the policy of
the Soviet union. That policy, ^{the Moscow} said ~~the~~ Premier, "is
the improvement of political ~~&~~ and economic relations
with all countries, beginning with the United States
and Great Britain".

Stalin added that if those countries
wish to improve their relations with the Soviet Union,
~~they~~ they would ~~we~~ be welcome. He went so far as to say
that the Soviet government would go halfway to meet them,

regardless of any differences in their economic and social systems. Cooperation of countries of different economic and social ideologies is quite possible, he

went on.
~~declared~~ "On the other hand," *he added,* ~~said Stalin~~ "if those countries do not wish to improve their relations with the Soviet Union, the U.S.S.R. will have to carry on without them until such time as they come to their

senses." *Then he concluded:* -
"International cooperation in the world today is ~~most~~ essential." ~~The Stalin statement concluded with the words, "we are a patient people, we can wait."~~

That statement was made to a delegation of British members of Parliament, led by the Left Wing Labor member, Connie Zilliacus. They visited the Soviet Chief at his villa in the Caucausian foothills overlooking the Black Sea. Zilliacus ~~seized the occasion of releasing that statement to join those who are picking on Americans as war mongers.~~ He dragged out the old cliché about big business wanting war. "American big business", he said, "is the villain of peace." He made it evident that Soviet propaganda has been successful in selling that

idea to many people in Europe.

He described the Caucasian country home of the head of the Soviet state as a modest house, a stucco two story affair, quite simply furnished. The only bodyguard visible consists of a couple of policemen at the gate. ~~of the grounds~~

FIRE

A forest fire of wild fury raging on the coast of Maine tonight -- the famous resort of Bar Harbor ringed in by flames. Three thousand five hundred persons trapped, all escape by land cut off. Half the town destroyed.

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The forest fire in the neighborhood of Bar Harbor had been smoldering for days. Tonight, it burst forth -- and swept down on the internationally known resort, blocking both roads leading to the town and severing all communications -- all electric power lines destroyed. The entire community in darkness -- except for the light from the great fire. With several thousand people homeless.

Huddled helpless on the water front while Coast guard Men and fishermen are attempting a rescue. A rescue fleet of some forty fishing smacks. Among those trapped in the fire encircled town, its outskirts already blaze are four hundred soldiers who arrived several days ago to help the civilian fire fighters.

Fifteen hundred men are battling the fires in the center of the town tonight. Others are assisting the infirm and aged to the water front, where the fishing

smacks are coming and going in through the choking smoke.

From all over the nation tonight there are reports of forest fires. In New York State alone, seventy grass and forest fires reported. At Manistique, Michigan, three men were killed as a huge blaze roared out of control through some of Michigan's richest timber land. Two hundred men turned out to fight this devastating blaze that threatens to cut the long distance telephone lines and isolate numerous towns in the district, last news of this Michigan blaze is that the fire has already destroyed some five thousand acres of forest land and is sweeping towards hundreds of private homes and cottages on the Keewawanaw Peninsula.

And what causes most of these dangerous forest fires? Usually just carelessness. A cigarette butt or an unextinguished match carelessly tossed on the open road or thrown off a leafy path through the woods. These days when the woods are tinder dry and the leaves crackle under your feet, anyone who drops a cigarette butt, or a lighted match is guilty of criminal neglect - neglect that

may cost millions of dollars in damage to property and
endanger precious lives.

ADD BAR HARBOR FIRE

Coast Guard and naval vessels are speeding to Bar Harbor under forced draft, hopeful of reaching the fire refugees threatened by the inferno. Vessels going from Boston and Rockland. Among them, the U S Destroyer Perry loaded with Navy fire fighters and emergency supplies.

NEW LEAD FOR SHELTON

At Fairfield, Illinois today, a savage killing -- whay may be the last word spoken by bullets in a nineteen year old feud between two lawless gangs -- and all because of a woman - a redhead, so they say.

Carl Shelton, an elderly, prosperous farmer was driving a jeep along a dirt road near his farm. Suddenly, a black sedan overtook the jeep, and slowed up in front of it. From the sedan came a hail of bullets, that literally shot the Carl Shelton right out of his jeep -- to die in a ditch. The sedan getting away - leaving no clues.

Residents of Fairfiled, Illinois remembered something most of us probably have forgotten -- an old feud between two rum-running gangs back in the "twenties" -- a feud between two mobs led by Carl Shelton and Charles Birger. Shelton and Briger were partners in the bootlegging business -- until they fell out. Both were interested in a red-head, a woman who, had inherited a hundred thousand dollars. Two ruthless characters in love with the same dame. After that, it was war- the ----->

the hostile Shelton and Birger mobs hi-jacking each other's loots, shooting and murdering -- a gang war that ended only after forty people had been killed, a war ~~in~~ with tanks and airplanes used on each side, while the law looked the ~~other~~ other way.

Such stories people in Illinois are recalling tonight -- how Birger made himself a fortress out of a roadhouse near Marion, Illinois. Floodlights mounted on trees, a machine gun in each window. In the front yard, an army tank ~~was~~ supported by armored trucks with machine guns. Barbed wire entanglements electrically charged. Inside a veritable ~~storehouse~~ ^{arsenal} of hand grenades and ammunition, with Birger going around recruiting reinforcements -- calling for more men to fight the Sheltons. Shelton replied by parading his forces, also led by a tank and armored cars -- the gang-army parading around the court house of Marion, Illinois. Both Shelton and Birger ^{even} went on the air, using the radio ^{to} ~~tell~~ ^{the} peaceful citizens of the county that they wouldn't get hurt.

And then the war started. Shelton men in their tank bushwacked a car carrying a man named Neuman -- Birger's Chief of Staff. Neuman's wife wounded, the man himself hurt. From then on, duels, raids, skirmishes and guerilla warfare over three countries, dead bodies found in two's and three's, hand grenades tossed around, law abiding citizens staying in their homes at night for safety.

county that no harm was intended to them. Shelton went so far as to parade his forces, led by his tank and armored cars, through the streets and around the county court houses of Marion, Illinois.

Hostilities opened when Shelton men, in their tank, bushwacked the car of Birger's chief-of-staff, a fellow named Neumann, wounding his wife but leaving Neuman unhurt. From then on, there were duels, raids, skirmishes, guerrilla warfare all over the county -- over three counties, in fact, -- counties who peaceful inhabitants never knew when they might be aroused by gunfire or when bullets would be whistling through the windows of their homes.

Dead bodies were found sometimes by twos and threes. One day in November, Nineteen Twenty-Six, the Shelton mob invaded Colp City, Illinois, captured a Birger man, held him in suspense for a while and then shot him. The mayor of the town came running out shouting: "You can't do that in my town." The Shelton men laughed and killed him on the spot.

Soon after that, the Shelton men took to the air. That is they got a plane and dropped a stick of bombs on that Birger fortress in the woods near Marion. The defenders below drove off the plane with anti-aircraft fire. Birger charged that the chief conspirator in the aerial bombing was Mayor Joe Adams of the nearby town of West City. Whereupon the Birger gang then raided the Mayor's home and blew it up. And they killed Mayor Joe Adams, outside his own front door.

Back and forth the battle raged. In retaliation the ~~SMH~~ Shelton mob made another attack on the Birger fortress -- with machine guns, hand grenades and dynamite, ~~at~~ in an engagement that lasted for hours, with the ~~SMH~~ Shelton men victorious. Nobody ever knew how many people perished in that fight. The building was burned to the ground, and in the embers a number of bodies were found.

After they had all but wiped each other out the law finally stepped in. Birger was arrested,

tired, convicted, and hanged. Two of the Shelton brothers were tried for a mail robbery and a bank robbery, and convicted, but each time a higher court set aside the convictions.

Apparently this Civil War of the Nineteen Twenties was over. At any rate, Carl Shelton retired, bought a farm near Fairfield, Illinois, and conducted some profitable operations in oil.

And now nineteen years later he is shot down, riddled with machine gun bullets, nineteen years after his rival, Charles Birger went to the gallows.

Quite a lurid news story, that!

And now Nelson - something from you to quiet our nerves -- to calm us down.