

L.J. - P+G

Thurs. Sept. 6 - 1945

SUBSTITUTE LEAD CONFERENCE

Andrei Gromyko sums up his opinion of the San Francisco Conference. Calls it, "steamroller!" Late word from San Francisco is that the treaty signing may actually go through on time, this Saturday. Today's business was taken up with speech-making: delegates from ^{twenty-two} ~~thirteen~~ nations taking the rostrum. ~~this morning~~. All announced their intention of signing the treaty. Most of them had some minor criticism to make - ^{and Holland,} Norway, the lack of restrictions on Japan's whaling fleet, Egypt on the stationing of Allied forces in Japan. The briefest speech of all came from the representative of Iraq, possibly a world record for conference speech-making. The diplomat from Baghdad said he had nothing to say, and would sign. ~~It seems a pity that more diplomats can't follow his example, and cut down on the verbiage.~~

Late word from San Francisco. ~~Republican~~ Senator Styles Bridges of the Senate Armed Services Committee, announced today that he has reliable information ~~indicating~~

that the Soviets are planning to walk out of the conference

Which has been rumored all along. Maybe he wants He may realize that to do a thing too often becomes boring

MACARTHUR SPEECH

General Douglas MacArthur, speaking in Cleveland tonight, ^{referred only} ~~briefly~~ turned his attention to the Japanese Treaty Conference in San Francisco. The former Supreme Commander described Japan as one of the bright spots in the postwar period of failure to obtain real peace. ~~The~~ ^{He} General said that the new Japan "with its new precepts of human conduct, protection of labor, academically-free schools, and universal suffrage, will favorably influence the course of events in Asia for generations." "This is a Japan in which we of the free world may find an alliance which shall merit our full faith," was ~~the~~ ^{the way he summed} General ^{it up.} ~~MacArthur put it inxxxxxxxxxxxx~~

KOREA

(On the Thirty-eighth Parallel today, the Chinese kept up their withering attacks down the Injin Valley towards Seoul.) However, there's no sign so far that this is the beginning of the expected Red push. Driving three miles into the U.N. line, the Chinese threw Soviet T-34 tanks into action for the first time in months - with seventy reported in the area. The U.S. battalion cut off early today by the first sudden onslaught, has tonight battered its way back to safety.

For sixteen hours, the surrounded men slogged their way out, carrying their dead and wounded on their tanks. A relief column, driving to the aid of the threatened battalion, was guided ^{from} the air by a tank man, Major McFalls, who directed the battle and brought the two groups together.

~~Elsewhere on the front, reports are of little activity. Some light patrolling, that's all.~~

ADD KOREA

The latest - another U N patrol base has been cut off by the Red Drive -- a tank infantry group is rushing to the rescue.

(Meanwhile Tokyo says there is no reply from the Communists to General Ridgway's latest proposal for a new truce site.)

HORSE

This is the story of a horse named Man-O-War.

Which might seem presumptuous, a nag taking the name of that most famous of thoroughbreds. But the name is okay. The new Man-O-War is in Korea - and deserves the title.

Recently, the Marines chased the Chinese Reds out of a canyon-like valley on the Eastern front, and there they saw, wandering around and wounded, a big red nag. He was saddled and bridled - as if some Communist officer had been shot out of the saddle. We've heard a lot about the horse-riding of the Chinese Reds - odd in modern war, in which the cavalry is mechanized.


The Leathernecks captured the steed, and found he had been hit by shell fragments in one leg. So they gave him G.I. medical treatment, and fed him on oatmeal, scraps of bread, and chocolate bars - which put him in fine condition in no time. They adopted him as a regimental mascot and called him Man-O-War, because he was big and red, like his famous namesake - and he certainly had been in the war.

Well, he still is - with an officer on his back. Whenever the regimental commander, Colonel Victor Krulak, inspects his outfit of Marines, he rides Man-O-War -- the only mounted officer in the U. S. Army in Korea. Sounds like the old days of the charger, the ornamental sword, the glittering epaulets - when a colonel really looked like a colonel.

IRAN

Premier Mossadegh of Iran spent an unfruitful time this morning, in the Majlis. The Prime Minister had called a special meeting of the Lower Iranian House, to give its approval of the oil ultimatum that Mossadegh is planning to send Britain. However, the Premier and his supporters waited two and a half hours for the Majlis to convene. Then gave up for lack of a quorum. Not one member of the opposition had put in an appearance.

The ~~ERR~~ reason would seem to be obvious. The opposition didn't dare venture out into the streets of Teheran. The fault)
~~was~~ was the Premier's own. Earlier today he had closed all markets in Teheran to allow his supporters to crowd around the Majlis, with instructions to shout "Death to traitors!" at any opposition members who might show their faces. The result - no opposition, no quorum, and so far no ultimatum.



ADD IRAN

The latest from Iran. Threatened by an ultimatum, Britain announces that oil negotiations have been "broken off" but adds that any new Iranian offer "will be considered." "We have nothing further to offer," ^{say} the British announce.

SUBMARINES

From Portland, England, today, a flotilla of four sleek British submarines, headed out to sea, bound for the Baltic. Their trip is intended to demonstrate Britain's close friendship with Denmark and Sweden. Since World War Two, no American or British submarine has sortied into the Baltic. So we may well expect a squawk from Moscow.

Word from London is that the submarines have a second mission. This is to show the Soviets that the Western Powers still consider the Baltic a free sea for all who may care to sail it - not just a private Soviet lake.

JORDAN

In Jordan today, ^{a great} ~~great~~ ^{- big for Jordan -} crowds turned out to welcome ^{home} ~~back~~ the new King, Talal the First. At the airport to greet the royal party was one of the most colorful figures in the Middle East, General John Bagot Glubb, Glubb Pasha, famed British leader of the Arab Legion.

At the Parliament House, King Talal took the royal oath, swearing: "In the name of the Almighty, I shall observe the Constitution and remain loyal to the country." Throughout the city the black flags of mourning for King Abdullah's death had been hauled down, and in their place flew the ~~black, white, green and red~~ flag of Jordan, and pictures of the new King.

HURRICANE

Northeast of Puerto Rico tonight, the season's fifth hurricane is headed in the general direction of Florida.

However, the hundred and thirty-five mile-an-hour ^{howler is} ~~hurricane~~ still thirteen hundred miles from shore - more than three days away at its present speed. Word from the Miami Weather Bureau is that the storm will only threaten shipping for the next twenty-four hours, then may fizzle out before it reaches ^{Florida} ~~shore~~.

Meanwhile, number six is on its way, fourteen hundred miles off the coast of Africa!

EVITA

In the Argentine, today, a law was proposed - which would prevent a woman from ever becoming president or vice-president. A deputy of the Party opposed to the Peron regime introduced a bill providing that those highest offices of the state could be held - only by men. Which is all the more interesting because it follows the recent hullabaloo about - Evita, wife of Strong Man Peron.

A couple of weeks ago, at a huge mass meeting, the demand was made - Peron for President, and Evita for Vice-President - with the certainty of being elected. If anything happened to Peron, Evita would be President. Really - Dictator, the way things are in Argentina. Or - Dictatress. So all was in suspense, until Evita, in a radio address, and with her voice all choked up, withdrew her name as a candidate. Today the opposition member, introducing the bill, said it was not aimed at Evita - since she had declared herself out. Maybe so; but Argentines will only smile.

When I was in Buenos Aires, not many days ago, on an inter-continental flying trip, the universal topic was - Evita. Buenos Aires was humming with the plans for that mass meeting that was gathering - to nominate the two Perons. Everybody I talked to was alarmed, frightened by the notion of Evita becoming Vice-President -- possibly in time, President.

Of course, down through the centuries, women have been heads of state -- many a queen. The idea that a woman might someday become President has been mentioned here in the U.S.A. But, then, we have a constitutional government. Many checks on our President. Evita would be something else -- a Dictatress. People regarded this young woman as inordinately ambitious - - many say, ruthless -- with a dangerous hold on labor, the unions, and the poorer classes. You might think they were talking about one of the great, dangerous women of history, like a Cleopatra or a Semiramis.

All of which sounds melodramatic; but, there was a chance of Argentina having - Vice-President Evita.

Somehow, for whatever reason -- she declined. Following which we have, today, a bill put before the Argentine Congress -- to prevent any woman becoming President or Vice-President. All an echo of the formidable renown of the lady called -- Evita.

TRUMAN'S ELEPHANT

President Truman's elephant has died. His gift from the King of Cambodia perished today aboard ship at Capetown.

Some weeks ago, the word was that the King of Cambodia, who is on our side in the Cold War, was sending a royal elephant to President Truman. Sounds a bit Republican, but the King of Cambodia wouldn't know about that. The pachyderm was put aboard a steamship, and started on his way to Washington, via the Cape of ~~Good~~ Good Hope. The ship was a slow one, and put into one port after another - where children were allowed to ride around the deck on the back of the royal - presidential elephant.

But, on the voyage around the Cape, the weather was cold, winter down there in the Southern Hemisphere & not at all like the steaming jungles of Cambodia, ^{around Angkor Wat.} The elephant was kept in a special hut, into which warm air was pumped. But it did no good. Today the vessel put into harbor at Capetown, and the sad news broke - President Truman's elephant has died.

RELUCTANT BRIDEGROOM

In Italy, in classic Florence, the reluctant bridegroom said "No" again today. Once again he disrupted his wedding -- by refusing. Last year he did the same thing, and the story ~~was~~ attracted international attention. This time, the same thing all over again. But today the scenery was very different.

The reluctant bridegroom is Vittorio Piromallo, member of an aristocratic family of Rome. The would-be bride - Claudia Scalo. Her father arranged an elaborate social wedding in a Roman church, and all was blissful until the priest asked the bridegroom that famous question -- "Do you take this woman to be your wife?" The church full of Roman society was astounded when Vittorio, in a loud voice, replied -- "No." And -- turned and walked out of the church.

But Claudia, the would-be bride, did not give up. She met Vittorio again, and their engagement was resumed. But, the next thing you know, they were both in jail. The reluctant bridegroom seems to be an

RELUCTANT BRIDEGROOM - 2

unsteady individual, because both he and Claudia were arrested for shoplifting in Florence -- and he was found to be driving a stolen automobile.

All of which, however, did not alter their plan to get married. Permission was obtained from the authorities, and they were to be wedded today at the prison. So Claudia and her family were waiting, with a wedding cake and a bottle of Vermouth, to toast the bride. The prison chaplain went to fetch Vittorio -- but that was where things went wrong again. In ^{(his} ~~the~~ prison cell the reluctant bridegroom once again said -- "No!" In spite of all persuasion by the chaplain he refused to leave the cell -- to go and get married.

So Claudia was abandoned at the altar once again, ~~But~~ she and Vittorio will have another meeting. They are to appear in court together in a couple of weeks to face the charge of shoplifting.

That, Nelson, is the story of the bridegroom who keeps saying "no!"