

LI L.T.-P.G. Wed. June, 18 - '52.

The ^{news today gave us} ~~latest news tonight is~~, a surprise -
on the negative side. At the U N ^{so far no} ~~there is no~~ blather
of Red propaganda - ^{no} ~~charging~~ ^{as concerning germ} ~~germ~~ warfare - though
-- that had been expected.

A couple of days ago, we heard how Moscow
delegate Malik, taking his turn as President of the
Security Council, had summoned a council meeting for
today - to call for the ratification of the Geneva
ban on bacteriological weapons. Which seemed to be -
the creation of an occasion for propaganda.

But this evening's dispatch from the U N
states that Malik simply suggested ratification - and
nothing else. No blast against the U.S.A. It ~~isn't~~
clear what he means by bringing up the Geneva ban on
germ warfare. Maybe that will develop later. Maybe -
with propaganda.

KOREA-PRISONERS

(Today, on Koje Island, a great massive line of prisoners was marching out of compound eighty-five.) More than five thousand Reds, and it looked as if nothing in particular would happen - the captives were docile, obedient.

But something did happen - when (prisoners broke out of the line, and made a dash to the G I guards.) Crowds of captives - four or five hundred. The G I's armed with fixed bayonets, received them with cheers, shouting: "Atta boy - come on Joe."

(The prisoners on the rampage threw ~~at~~ their caps in the dirt, and trampled on them - caps marked with the Red Star of Communism.) One of them showed the marks and bruises of a savage beating, recently.

(They were anti-Communists, who had lived through an orgy of torture and killing.) To them, the evacuation of the compound meant - release from the Red terror in the prison camp. So ~~xxxx~~ no wonder they broke ranks, and ran to the G I's - who cheered them on.

In the Korean war, the news is - fog.

A dense curtain of white moved down from Manchuria, and today spread over the entire Korean peninsula.

Air power? Grounded. The battlefront? Completely tied up - the fog was that dense.

For days, the Reds had made one effort after another to drive the Oklahomans of the Forty-Fifth Division from the three strategic hills west of Chorwon - every attack beaten off. But today all was quiet - the fog that blinding.

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SUB SWEDEN

(Sweden sends a note of brusque denial to Moscow - in the shooting down of a Swedish rescue plane. Stockholm ridicules the Russian claim that the rescue plane fired on Russian jet fighters. The flying boat was - unarmed. Today, ^{the} Prime Minister of Sweden, ~~flown~~ home from Italy, breaking a vacation - to take charge of the controversy.

All this, as the Scandinavian country has a headline spy trial. With confessions - telling of an espionage ring that planned sabotage in Sweden, in ~~an~~ case of war.

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VENEZUELA-FOLLOW SWEDEN

A flare-up, also, between the Soviets and Venezuela. Moscow claims Venezuela has blockaded the Russian Embassy in Caracas, surrounding the place with armed guards.

Two ~~mm~~ weeks ago the Soviets broke diplomatic relations with the South American Republic - because a member of the Red Embassy staff was arrested by Venezuelan police, leading to charges and counter-charges - and today the Soviets threatened retaliation against the Venezuelan Embassy in Moscow.

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IRAN

(Today, in the ancient city of Tehran, the Finance Minister said: "Let us pray to Allah.") And it sure looks as if the help of Allah will be needed.

(The Minister of the public purse declares he hasn't the funds to meet the current bills. No money to pay the salaries of government employees.) Nothing for Iranian students and universities abroad - they'll be up against it.

(The reason, of course - the cutting off of revenues from Anglo-Iranian oil.) Ever since the Tehran Government seized those great British oil properties, the financial crisis has been growing worse. They cut off their financial nose to spite their Anglo-Iranian face.

(The Finance Minister says he hopes - Mossadegh will offer a solution. The Prime Minister - who engineered the seizure of the oilfields. Mossadegh is now at The Hague, appearing before the International Court of Justice, arguing his case against the British. He's due back on Saturday - and maybe he'll be able to

perform a miracle.)

But, really, the Finance Minister has little to hope for - ^{Unless the Soviets step, Allah be-aid!} save the mercy of Allah. Today, he looked at the unpaid bills, and said: "Let us pray to Allah to make it possible for us to defray all these expenses." Which echoes that ancient pious exclamation ^{of} Islam: "Allah, ^{is} ~~is~~ merciful"!

weapons against them - chemical, supplemented by air power. Fleets of planes flew and sprayed vast areas with insect-destroying poison.

So here's the report from Egypt - the grain crop of the Nile Valley saved. Israel - free of the plague of locusts. Which might sound like a report of a miracle in the Old Testament. Saudi Arabia - campaign successful, though a few new swarms are appearing.

The most critical area that remains is in Southern Iran - heavy rains favor the reproduction of the locusts. But the warplanes and poison are being shifted eastward.

LOCUSTS

Here's a war bulletin with a good sound - they've won the battle against the locusts. In the Middle East, the plague of insects has been obliterated - in most areas. So states the U.N. Food and Agricultural Organization.

This was a year of the locust - the destructive insects hatching by the billions. The weapons against them - chemical^s, supplemented by air power. Fleets of planes flew and sprayed vast areas with insect-destroying poison.

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The only critical area that remains is in Southern Iran - where heavy rains favor the reproduction of the locusts. ^{Hence} ~~the~~ the warplanes and poison are being shifted eastward.

FIRE

In Brooklyn, a fire disaster - which took seven today. Arson suspected - in a crowded ramshackle tenement, which had no fire escapes. All a horror, depressing and wretched - except for one fine piece of heroism.

It was in the dark hours of the morning, and on the third floor, a family was trapped - flames bursting through the door. A one-legged man, his wife and two children - a youngster of eighteen months and a baby. They were driven to the window - and there, crowds on the street saw them. It seemed impossible that aid could get to them in time.

Two houses down the line on the same third floor level, lives Leroy Fredericks, a negro veteran of The Marine Corps- now a repair man for the Pennsylvania Railroad. Fredericks was awakened, looked out of his window, and saw the family trapped, a couple of houses away. They were about to jump from the third floor - for a probable fatal fall.

Fredericks shouted to them. He saw that, along the front of the old houses, there was a ledge, about a foot and a half wide. So out he ~~xxx~~ crawled, and made his way along the ledge. Reaching the family in the burning flat, he told them what to do. He took the child of eighteen months and carried it. The mother followed with the small baby. Then the husband, with one leg - using a crutch. The Negro veteran of ~~xx~~ the Leathernecks guided them along the ledge - while the crowd on the street watched, breathless. Finally, he got them to his own window -- and safely inside.

Medals - for Leroy Fredericks.

REORGANIZATION

(The Senate made a clean sweep today - in killing White House plans for civil service. Three plans - involving postmasters, United States Marshals and fifty-one ~~xx~~ employees of the Customs Bureau, in key positions. The President wanting all these to be named through Civil Service, not through politics as at present. The three plans were in accord with recommendations made by the Hoover commission. But they were defeated in rapid succession.)

First - reorganization for the Post Office Department. Killed - by a vote of fifty-six to twenty-nine, straight across party lines, Democrats and Republicans on both sides.

In the ~~xx~~ debate, Minnesota Senator Humphrey contended that appointments through politics are a part of the spoils system. The jobs - political plums.

Senator McClellan of Arkansas, leading the fight against reorganization, admitted that the appointments are mixed up with politics. But he said

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that, under Civil Service, they would be, in his words:

"behind an iron curtain of bureaucracy."

Political plums versus reform - and the plums

won out.

SEAWAY

(Today's vote in the Senate, on the seaway project, brings a prompt reaction from Canada. The Senate voting to shelve the huge plan - and the Canadian Minister of External Affairs, Lester Pearson, states: "This makes it all the more necessary for us to proceed with our own arrangements."

Well, we've heard all along that, if the United States refused, Canada would go it alone - and construct an ocean going route from the Great Lakes to the St. Lawrence River.)

Today the Senate received an urgent appeal from President Truman, who said it would be, what he called - "One of the nation's worst economic mistakes," if the seaway project were allowed to go by default. But the Senate ignored the White House advice, and voted to send the bill back to committee - which kills it for the rest of the present session of Congress.

(But a substitute was introduced at once - by Senator Blair Moody of Michigan. He brought up a proposal to permit individual states to go into the ~~army~~

seaway business with Canada. Some states want the project. So, if two or more of these were to get together - let them form a compact with Canada to establish oceanic navigation all the way to the middle of the continent, the Great Lakes. That's the proposal before the Senate now.)

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 The second contribution is a verbal. You
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 words. In his message to the steel workers, he
 characterizes a gentleman when he calls - "Oh, my
 Alfonso Taff." This, is connected with the name
 Partley law. Reading - Senator Robert A. Taft, whose
 middle name is Alfonso. St. John A. Lewis is known
 now, with his usual trademark, and usually calls
 Alfonso Taff.
 Very good, Mr. J. Lewis...
 They've been calling him "John" all these years, but
 his middle name is "Alfonso."

STEEL-LEWIS

In the steel strike, who should appear in the picture - but John L. Lewis. Offering - a contribution to the steel workers union. Two contributions in fact.

One - ten million dollars. The President of the Mine Workers telling the President of the Steel Workers that ten million is at the disposal of the strikers, to finance their walkout.

The second contribution is - verbal. You can always depend on John L. Lewis to do tricks with words. In his message to the steel workers, he excoriates a gentleman whom he calls - "Mr. R. Alfonso Taft." This, in connection with the Taft-Hartley Law. Meaning - Senator Robert A. Taft, whose middle name is Alfonso. So John L. Lewis gives a scowl, with his bushy eyebrows, and growls: "Mr. R. Alfonso Taft."

Very good, Mr. "J. Llewellyn Lewis."
They've been calling him "John" all these years, but his middle name is "Llewellyn."

It all sounds rather stately, if not social -- "Mr. R. Alfonso Taft" and "Mr. J. Llewellyn Lewis."

... dispute over the Texas delegation. This with advance approval from Senator Taft - who stated, earlier today, that the National Committee should handle the question of those Texas delegates. Two votes - one for Taft, one for Eisenhower.

(It is admitted that Eisenhower delegates were chosen by majorities in their districts. But the Taft people claim ^{the} majorities at Republican ^{Party} meetings were made up of Democrats, Scally; so, the National committee will open hearings in Chicago, on July First - to figure ^{all} that out.)

Actually, the final decision may be up to the Convention itself. An Eisenhower leader declares that battle over the Texas delegation will be carried to the Convention Floor. It's of Number One importance. Texas - having thirty-eight convention votes.

POLITICS-DELEGATION

The Republican National Committee will try to settle the contests over delegations - including the bitter dispute over the Texas delegation. This - with advance approval from Senator Taft - who stated, earlier today, that the National Committee should handle the question of those Texas delegates. Two slates - one for Taft, one for Eisenhower.

(It is admitted that Eisenhower delegates were ~~not~~ chosen by majorities in their districts. But the Taft people claim ^{the} majorities at Republican ^{Texas} meetings were made up of Democrats, ^{really}; so, the National committee will open hearings in Chicago, on July First - to figure ^{all} that out.)

Actually, the final decision may be up to the Convention itself. An Eisenhower leader declaring - that ^{the} battle over the Texas delegation will be carried to the Convention Floor. It's of Number One importance. Texas - having thirty-eight convention votes.

TRUMAN

We have a report on the question - would President Truman accept a draft? He has repeatedly said - no. Declaring himself out of the Presidential race, most positively - after having kept the country in suspense for so long. So what have we today?

Well, there are two versions from two White House visitors, who saw H.S.T. at the same time, and heard the same thing. But the reports they give are contradictory.

Joseph Fisher, President of the Utility Workers Union, urged the President to change his mind and be a candidate. To which H.S.T. replied: "No, that would be impossible." So Fisher takes that to be the answer - impossible!

But William Pachler, Secretary of the same union, gives a different opinion. He says he told the President - "All labor would love to see him change his mind." And, says Pachler, "He liked to hear that." He smiled, looked pleased. So - maybe he would accept a draft.

Nelson, Looks as if H.S.T. kept 'em guessing so long,
he now can't keep ¹ them from guessing!