

L.I. Simoco. Friday, Jan. 4, 1946.

(Rutland, Vt.)

Truman.....

In congress-the democrats are split in their reactions to President Truman's address last night. Some are for, some are against. Today, Senator George of Georgia ~~endorsed~~ <sup>endorsed</sup> the President's appeal to the people to bring pressure on Congress. And Senator Bankhead of Alabama said: "He is entitled to the support of all good citizens."

On the other hand, there is democratic opinion that President Truman committed a political blunder, democratic Senator Thomas of Utah declaring: "This is nineteen-forty-six, and congressional elections are coming. Yet the President, a democrat, is scolding a democratic congress".

The republicans, naturally enough, have hopes of making political capitol out of the scolding ~~administered~~ by a democratic president to a democratic congress.

As for the public reaction, the white House reports a flock of telegrams-eighty per cent of which endorsed what the president had to say last night.

Strikes.....

The C. I. O. expects the labor crisis to be over by March first. Leaders of the C. I. O. held a strategy meeting today, to figure out the prospects—after which they stated that they expect to win a satisfactory settlement for their demands for a thirty per cent wage increase, a settlement by March first.

<sup>TP</sup> Meanwhile, the labor battle is on in full blast—with telephone operators in New York tying up long distance today for one hour. They struck in sympathy with the Western Electric walkout. <sup>TP</sup> Telephone operators in Washington staged a similar strike—though for local Washington reasons, we are told. There was an outbreak of battle at Kearney, New Jersey—where Western Electric strikers had fist fights with supervisor employees who tried to get into a plant. <sup>TP</sup> And, in Washington the Government is planning mediation to head off the strike of meat packers.

Unrra

The dismissal of Lieutenant General Sir Frederick Morgan, chief of UNRRA in Germany, is blunt and summary. This, of course, follows his statement that there seemed to be an organized Jewish plan for a mass exodus of Jews out of Europe: Objective-Palestine.

There were worldwide Jewish protests-with bitter denials of the existence of any such organized Jewish plan.

Earlier today, UNRRA headquarters gave out word that Sir Frederick Morgan was going to resign. To this he replied promptly-that he had no intention of resigning. Whereupon UNRRA announced the British General had been fired-without ceremony. The formal declaration states: "Morgan has been deprived of authority and pay, and is without a job in the UNRRA."

All of which illustrates the acerbity and touchiness in Jewish affairs and Palestine.

## Nuremberg

The question of responsibility for launching the European war, a crime against the peace of the world, was illustrated by a dramatic document today. At the Nuremberg trial, the prosecution introduced an affidavit made by General Von Blomberg—the one-time German chief-of-staff. Von Blomberg was ousted by Hitler in a German army shake-up a couple of years before the war—because of the general's marriage ~~to his secretary~~.

Today Von Blomberg's affidavit implicated the whole German General staff in plans to make war-plans that went back to a time long before Hitler took power. It says the entire leadership of the German army, as long ago as nineteen-nineteen, believed that Germany would have to make war to wipe out the terms inflicted by the Versailles treaty on the kaiser's defeated Germany. Chief among the questions that would have to be settled by war was Poland, the Polish corridor.

<sup>Von</sup> Blomberg stated that in nineteen-twenty-three, ten years before the rise of Hitler, the German Generals began with plans for secret rearmament.

Nurem - 2.

His affidavit pins personal responsibility on four of the top German military leaders now on trial at Nuremberg-Generals Keitel and Jodl, and Admirals Doenitz and Raeder. Keitel succeeded

<sup>von</sup>Blomberg as chief-of-staff. Of Keitel, <sup>von</sup>Blomberg says;

"He became a willing tool in Hitler's hands. He grew into a job he was not capable of".

And another of the defendants personally accused today-though not a <sup>was</sup> general, Baldur Von Schirach, who was head of the Hitler youth movement. A witness told how Von Schirach had visited and was familiar with conditions at a nazi horror camp-where a most fiendish type of atrocity was committed. Nazi storm troopers drove prisoners with whips, drove them to the edge of a cliff, and then whipped the victims over the cliff-until they jumped. The Nazi fiends laughed and called this "Playing paratrooper".

Germ.....

We are told that, during the war, measures were taken to protect this nation against a frightful menace, a deadly menace of disease, which might have been hurled against us by the enemy.

At the University of California, the Navy sponsored researches to discover scientific protection against an enemy-created-epidemic that might have been a catastrophe. What malady we aren't told. Still a secret-for security reasons.

One thing that we are told is that the chemical warfare service developed a defense against-botulism. That's a deadly kind of food poisoning caused by germs. It was feared that the Germans, in the European war, might resort to botulism.

Another ~~secret~~ revelation tells of what is called a <sup>"Foliage</sup> ~~'Spray~~ destroying spray." This was a weapon we could have used against the enemy food supply-a spray for destroying crops. Which presumably would have meant airplanes flying over and showering the kind of stuff to wreck enemy harvests. We were prepared to use that kind of bacteriological warfare-only if the enemy had started it first. And now we have the "foliage destroying spray"

Germ 2.

for peacetime use--<sup>for</sup> the destruction of weeds.

All of which is very satisfactory to learn--but we are left in doubt about that possible catastrophe of disease which the enemy might have hurled at us. We are merely given one small hint-- "the disease is centuries old and one of the greatest killers", say the insiders.

What's the guess? influenza seems to be ruled out. The next surmises are cholera, typhus, the bubonic plague. Each of these epidemics would fit the description- "centuries old and one of the greatest of killers."

Well, anyway, we escaped something awful, but we dont know what we escaped.....

VERMONT

One thing interesting about this snow country where I am tonight, up here in Vermont, is the way you run across people whom you last saw somewhere at the front. The ski trails here in Vermont seem to be in use mainly by ~~xx~~ returned veterans. And some of them say they are having difficulty making the transition from sea legs to ski legs. Coming down the Blue Ribbon Trail on Big Bronley a Lieutenant Commander Manfreede was complaining about this. He was telling me how he had been at sea almost continuously for the past two or three years. At one point where he couldn't quite get his sea legs to do what ski legs should do, I helped pull him out of a snow drift and then we saw on a snow bank for a while and ~~xx~~ talked about Guam, Saipan, the Carolines and Gilberts, and especially about Truk, Japan's picturesque Gibraltar of the Pacific, which our people by-passed. He told me how he had been in at Truk and had found forty-five thousand Japs stranded there. All their installations have been ~~bombed~~<sup>bombed</sup> and blasted to bits but ~~xx~~ our airmen ~~xx~~ and those forty-

five thousand Japs were living on potatoes, And a little sea food that they could get from the lagoon.

Also on Big Bromley I ran into an old friend, Fred Snare, a marine aviator, just back from the South Pacific, reveling in the snow that he hadn't seen for two years.

And all Vermont is buried deep in snow.

At Snow Valley, with the legendary Fred Islin, Commander Roland Palmedo, recently back from the Marianas, and Okinawa skied with us, and as we would rest beside a pine tree ~~we~~ we would talk about the extraordinary behavior of the Japs since the war.

Going up the chair tow, a soldier of the thirty-eighth Division, one of the men who had chased General Homma and his Jap Army in the jungles of northern Luzon shouted back at me across the snow, gloating over the fact that Homma, the butcher of Bataan is now on trial ~~ix~~ in Manila.

I'm broadcasting from a room in a basement of a hotel, the Berwick, in Rutland, tonight. Sitting

around me are Vermont business men, ex-service ~~men~~ men, and their families. Riding up the left here at Pico, beside me was another soldier who was wearing an Army jacket. He had had it ~~di~~ dyed a rather bright green. It made a fine ski jacket and he remarked that it was the only thing he could claim that he had gotten out of the war. On Pico, also, I've been skiing with a young flier who is still wearing his leather jacket and on the front of it above the pocket I noticed eleven swastikas each one of them representing a German plane he had shot down. The last time I had seen him -- his name is Hugh McLeod -- was at an American fighter base, in Germany, near Mainz, where he was taking off on daily missions, in ~~g~~ his P-51. and that's the way it is everywhere here in Vermont, at Pico, Big Bromley and Snow Valley -- ex-service men who are finding the snow trails of the north ideal for their nerves, ideal for bridging that period between their fighting days and getting back to peace time work.

Homma.....

At Manila, more testimony against Jap GENERAL Homma-under whose command was staged the infamous batan march of death. One witness today was a former staff officer, who served under Homma at the time. He stated that the Jap general had ordered the march of the prisoners of war from Bataan to Camp O'Donnell, the ~~staggering~~ inhuman march on which thousands died of mistreatment and starvation. He said Homma knew the prisoners would have to walk, because there was no transportation for them.

The witness added that the Japs were not prepared to handle sixty thousand prisoners-they hadn't expected more than thirty thousand.

China.....

BITTER fighting in China-inspite of the fact that the nationalists and communists have a "cease fire" agreement. The news tells of heavy battles fought in the provinces of Shantung and Jehol. Each side is blaming the other for the hostilities. They agreed to cease fire, but the firing has not ceased.

Pearl Harbor.....

The Pearl Harbor inquiry brings out a secret report made by the late Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox to the late President Roosevelt. Immediately after Pearl Harbor, Secretary Knox made a hasty flight to Hawaii to investigate. His secret report to President Roosevelt was that neither the army nor navy commanders at Pearl Harbor had expected the Jap attack, nor were they adequately prepared for it. Secretary Knox told President Roosevelt that neither Admiral Kimmel nor Lieut General Short made any alibi for the deficiencies of the defense.

Australia .....

Australia has an official verdict in the case of Lieutenant General Henry Gordon Bennett, who commanded Australian troops at Singapore-when that great navy base was captured by the Japs. After the fall of Singapore, Lieutenant General Bennett appeared in Australia-after having made a headline escape. He was hailed as a hero-for having got away from the Japs.

When the war in the Pacific ended, the affair took another turn-with the release of the British officer who had been in general command at Singapore, Sir A E Percival. The charge was now made that General Bennett, the Australian commander, had no right to escape from falling Singapore. He should have remained and become a prisoner of war along with the others.

All this has been hotly debated in Australia. General Bennett, in October, was summoned to ~~make~~ a secret military hearing to answer for his conduct-he walked out on that. Whereupon the Australian government ordered an official commission to investigate - and make a public report. That report is out today, and it finds that General Bennett was not justified in escaping from Singapore.

He got away during an armistice signed by his superior officer, General Percival. Cease fire orders were given, and British troops were ordered to remain in their positions. and General Bennett should have stayed with the rest, until the surrender was completed, after which, as a prisoner of war, he would have been entitled to escape-if he could.....

the commission notes, in Bennett's favor, that he was under the mistaken impression that the armistice was a full surrender. In his own defense, General Bennett stated that he made his escape because he wanted to give the Australians the benefit of what he had learned during the fighting in Malaya-information about Japanese tactics. The commission reports that he did bring back valuable information-yet he had no right to make the headline escape for which he was hailed as a hero in the early part of the war. ....

Baseball.....

Here's a baseball item that's a sign of the times. The hitter who came within one percentage point of winning the American League batting championship last season was released unconditionally today. Sounds ODD just barely to miss being the champion slugger of the league, and right away you're fired.

Well, it all points to the fact that Wartime baseball was played by all sorts of waifs and strays-especially old timers over the draft age. And now the youngsters are coming back to the ball teams-exchanging military uniforms for baseball uniforms.

Last season the hitting sensation of the American League was Tony Cuccinelle (First syllable pronounced Cooch) of the Chicago white Sox. Tony had been around a long time. He is thirty eight, a patriarchal age in baseball. Yet Tony burned up the league. Most of the year he was at the top in the batting averages-and was only beaten out at the very end of the season, by Gauffy Stirweiss of the New York Yankees, beaten out by a mere one point.

Yet Tony now goes into the discard. At thirty eight, the veteran has to make way for youngsters who are veterans-in another sense.....

and is - l - u - Monday

MacPHAIL

According to the story told in court today, ~~when~~ Larry MacPhail, President of the New York Yankee Baseball Club, on October Fifth, put in a long distance call for one of the Yankees who was then in Detroit. He told the telephone operator at Bel Air, Maryland, it was an emergency. This happened while the telephone strike was going on and only emergency calls were being accepted. The operator listened in and decided that MacPhail had been somewhat exaggerating when he said that was an emergency.

Later in the day, Mrs. MacPhail put in an emergency call which really was an emergency. She wanted to talk to her son who was on an aircraft carrier in New York Harbor. The operator told Mrs. MacPhail that because of what her husband had done, her call would not be considered an emergency. Thereupon, so the story runs, McPhail got into the argument, talked to the manager of

the exchange at Bel Air, and complained loudly.

The manager suggested that the issue would be settled more easily if MacPhail were to drop by the office. MacPhail did drop by the office and, said the witnesses, shouted loudly, demanding to see that girl. He pushed one operator back against the desk, so the witnesses said, and hit the office manager, who took it without hitting back. One witness after another testified. After the evidence was all in, the court acquitted MacPhail, although five telephone employees testified that the baseball magnate had showered curses on the operators and struck the manager of the exchange. But he was convicted of disorderly conduct, and for that fined the sum of fifty dollars.

And so long until tomorrow.