

CONFERENCE *L. J. P. G. Mon. Mar. 5, '51.*

(The Big Four meeting began in Paris today, with the Western Allies presenting their case in blunt fashion. The meeting is, of course, being held by Deputy Foreign Ministers, who are trying to arrange a full-dress Big Four conference of the Foreign Ministers.) The western view, as placed before the Soviets today, focussed on the huge military forces kept under arms by Soviet Russia and the Red satellites. (Moscow was told flatly that the tension in Europe cannot be eased until these Red armies are reduced to reasonable limits.)

SOVIET ARMY

A news dispatch brings a line of military opinion about the strength of Soviet Russia - this from an impressive source. In a German military magazine, which speaks for the old-time officer corps of the German Army, an expert writes that the Soviets can mobilize five hundred divisions within four months. Which is an enormous force; but, it might not be decisive. We are told that the western powers can stop a Red blitzkreig - by the use of ^{the} American strategic Air Force, the long-range bombers.

The statement is that the Russian Air Force is far inferior ~~as~~ to the American. That - the Soviets can, at present, produce only twelve thousand planes a year. While during one year of World War Two, the United States built ninety-six thousand. So the huge Russian mobilization could be held up by long-range air attacks on the Soviet network of railroads and highways -- a weak link in the chain of Russian might. The bombers would concentrate on ~~many~~ centers of communication, the supply line -- also on the oil

fields ^{and} industrial plants. The Red Army would soon run out of gasoline, spare parts, ammunition, and the armies of the Western powers ^{therefore} could prevent a quick Red conquest of Europe.

Such is the opinion of the military expert writing for the German Officer Corps. He sums it up as follows: "Despite its numerical strength the Red Army of today will not be able to wage a real blitz war. It will ~~rem~~ remain what it was in World War One and Two -- a steamroller." [†] Now fast enough for a blitz, a lightning war - the same old slow Russian steamroller, slow and ponderous.

VATICAN

have been A strange development in the cold war is disclosed by a release of letters today. The Communist Reds - appealing for support ~~of~~ on behalf of the Moscow sponsored World Council of Peace. And who do you suppose they have appealed to? The Vatican, the Pope!

The President of the Communist Council for peace is the French Atomic Scientist Joliot Curie, and today the Vatican discloses that he wrote a letter to Pope Pius Twelfth asking the Pontiff to come out in favor of the Red propaganda outfit. The argument was that the Pope constantly speaks for peace, and warns against the horror of a Third World War. So, therefore his views are the same as that of the World Council of Peace - and he might logically support it.

The Vatican of course, rejects this - and in doing so takes note of another astonishing fact;

The report has been circulated that the Pope has actually come out in support of the Red propaganda group. "From various parts," ~~we~~ declares the Vatican statement, "it is said that a letter is supposed to

have been sent in the name of His Holiness Pope Pius Twelfth to the "World Council of Peace."

So that, too, is denied - the moreso, as the Reds are also charging that Pius Twelfth is a warmonger, allied with the western imperialists.

Quite ^a contradiction! - but a contradiction or two has never bothered the Communists.

KOREA

In Korea the American Seventh Division has captured a strange fortress. On the eastern slopes of the Korean mountains is a rugged plateau, difficult of access, so remote, so hard to get at, that it is like a - lost world. They call it - a Korean Shangri-La.

There, the Red Korean First Division, having been driven back into the mountains, took refuge, and fortified the plateau, making it a sort of redoubt for last-ditch defense. So the Seventh Division pushed forward to storm Shangri-La -- a difficult job, because the Reds had dug in with underground shelters and strongpoints.

Artillery did it, for the most part; masses of cannon hurling a hurricane bombardment over the heads of the G I's, as they made their way up to the plateau. A deluge of shellfire routed the Communists out of their holes, and the infantry completed the job by chasing the remnants of the Communists into ^{the} jagged hills further north.

TR So they stormed Shangri-La.

At the same time, other G I's were capturing the town of Changpyong, which was the assembly center for the massing of enemy troops. Air attacks hit that anchor base, and left it a shattered ruin - which was promptly occupied by combat engineers of the Seventh, riding tanks.

The signs are that the Communists are massing for an all-out defense along a line not far to the north. ^{They are} Said to be gathering troops for a desperate effort to stem the U N offensive.

The Chinese Reds, today made the charge that American forces have used - poison gas. They claim that lethal vapors were hurled against them on February Twenty-Third -- an accusation which the Air Force in Tokyo describes in ~~the~~ these words: "So ridiculous we should not even dignify it by a denial."

ADD KOREA

The latest. General MacArthur in Tokyo gives warning that the Reds have brought up new masses of troops, and are prepared for what is called -- "a very sharp offensive." They have one hundred and twenty thousand fresh soldiers and a mass of tanks. Eighth Army Commander General ~~Matthew~~ Ridgeway says the expected counter offensive will be defeated.

DRAFT

The Senate approves of the eighteen year old draft, after voting down a Republican proposal which would fix induction age at eighteen and a half. This is a victory for President Truman and the military chiefs, who have been arguing for a draft of the eighteen year olds. But it's a set-back for them, too, because they want a term of twenty-seven months in military service, while the bill provides for twenty-one months in uniform.

R F C

A congressional committee, today, gave its okay to the White House plan to re-organize the Reconstruction Finance Corporation. President Truman proposes that the R F C be placed under a single administrator, instead of the present five-man board. There is some opinion in Congress that the R F C should be abolished altogether, but the committee action today seems to indicate that the Presidential program will go through Congress without too much opposition.

Meanwhile, the uproar continues with testimony that Democratic Senator Murray of Montana urged the R F C to lend a million dollars to a "wanky resort hotel at Miami Beach - which Hotel was employing the Senator's own son as an attorney. Before a Senate investigating committee, evidence was given today to show that James Murray, Junior, received twenty-one thousand dollars in fees for his work in connection with R F C loans.

A story told of an R F C loan examiner

who enjoyed free hospitality at a Miami Beach Hotel for ten days - and recommended that the hotel be granted government money. Also that White House Aide Donald Dawson was entertained gratis by the hotel.

All of which bears on charges that loans were handed out through "favoritism and influence."

AUTOMOBILES

The Ford Motor Company has granted the cost-of-living pay increases to its one hundred and nineteen thousand workers. The boost amounts to five cents an hour. This follows a similar action by General Motors; and, Chrysler is expected to fall in line soon. Which would mean - seven hundred thousand workers getting a cost-of-living pay increase, under the flexible provisions of wage-freeze.

RECORDS

The news reports a couple of records with large figures. One - for profits. General Motors announces the largest earnings ever made by a corporation in a single year - more than eight-hundred-and-thirty-four-million dollars for Nineteen Fifty. *On breaking it down most of it eventually goes to the Govt. taxes.* *TP* And things are booming for the newspapers, with figures tonight showing that the circulation of English language dailies in this country has increased to more than fifty-four million eight hundred and seventy-seven thousand copies a day. That was the average in Nineteen Fifty, representing a circulation increase of more than two million six hundred thousand copies per day. Which is the biggest increase on record, and brings a new high mark for newspaper circulation.

SUBSTITUTE PUERTO RICAN

(In Washington the Puerto Rican Collazzo took the witness stand today, and swore that he never intended to assassinate President Truman. That is his ~~in~~ defense -- as we have been hearing for days.)

~~Eighteen~~ This afternoon the proceedings were interrupted in dramatic fashion when a man stepped forward suddenly and announced that he would contribute nine thousand dollars for the defense, if Collazzo would plead ^d insanity. The intruder, a lawyer, first went to Collazzo, and then conferred with the attorney's on both ~~an~~ sides. But Collazzo refused - said he would not plead insanity.

AWARD

In Denver, a lady who was the first woman member of the American Bar Association, will receive a medal tonight. About time, you may say. For she graduated in law at the University of Denver in Eighteen Ninety-Six. Her name is Mary Lathrop. The medal is called the "Evans Award," in honor of John Evans, one of the founders of the University of Denver, and second Governor of Colorado.

CONVICTS

At Omaha, ^a linoleum salesman named DeStefano says he hopes - it's a girl. This results from a wild adventure, in which DeStefano was seized as a hostage by escaping convicts. "They discussed killing me several times" he says, "but I always had two or three good reasons why they should let me live." One reason was - that his wife was expecting a baby.

The fugitives were sympathetic about the blessed event, and one of them, Dewey Battershaw - pointing a gun, said: "If it's a boy, will you name it Dewey after me?" Looking into the muzzle of the gun DeStefano promised fervently that he would. So today he said: "Now, I sure hope it's a girl."

SCOTLAND YARD

In London, Scotland Yard is having a celebration, commemorating the Fiftieth Anniversary of its fingerprint Bureau. Scotland Yard is mighty proud of its enormous collection of prints - but the festivities were marred today by a disconcerting disclosure. A dispatch from London calls it - "the case of the heirloom thumb." That is, a thumb ~~SM~~ that was a treasure inherited in a family.

(To appreciate the irony of this, we must note how seriously Scotland Yard is taking its fingerprint anniversary - releasing information on the venerable antiquity of the art. We are told how, in ancient Rome, the print of a palm was presented as evidence in a trial - in the first century A.D. ^{Then-in} In China finger print signatures were used in the time of the Tang Dynasty, the Seventh Century B.C. ^P The theory of fingerprint identification was ~~is~~ set forth by a Persian historian, Thirteen Hundred A.D. He wrote: "No two ^(individual's have) ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ fingers precisely alike". Which is the theory. →

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Now the ~~same~~ scandal.) At the time the Scotland Yard finger print bureau was established, fifty years ago, it came to be the practice to take thumb prints, instead of signatures from illiterate laborers in the government service. When they were pensioned off, they'd acknowledge payments by pressing a thumb with ink on the pension form. This ~~was~~ has been going on until the present day - so now what do they discover?

A recent examination of records shows that payments were still being made, on the basis of a thumb print, to a laborer - who, according to the dates must be one-hundred-and-twenty years old. So Scotland Yard ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ officials made a journey to visit this remarkable centenarian. They found he had been dead for thirty years - and had bequeathed to his descendants the thumb with which he had signed for the pension payments. That's the heirloom thumb - which the family kept on using for ~~this~~ thirty years to get the money.

KOREA-INDIAN

At headquarters of the U.S. Second Division today Big Chief Lowry was decorated with a fourteenth cluster on his purple heart medal. Meaning that the Big Chief has sustained his fourteenth wound. He is Major Leonard Lowry, of Dunkerton, Iowa, a ~~Shuzuku~~ Cherokee Indian by ancestry - worthy son of the braves of the Cherokees. So they ^{naturally} call him - Chief.

He sustained twelve of his fourteen wounds in the second World War, when he served in the campaigns of the Pacific. His most recent battle-injury came in a wild fight, when two battalions of the Thirty-Eighth Regiment cut their way out of a Chinese encirclement at Hoengsong.

Today Corporal Miles Prieur of Flint, Michigan, said: "Chief Lowry is the bravest guy I ever saw. I ~~was~~ was right behind him when he charged up that hill against a heavy Chinese machine-gun. I was scared as the dickens, but the Chief acted like it was something that happened every day."

The hill was captured, ^{- and} the Big Chief was --

wounded again. "Funny thing" says the Corporal, "what probably saved his life was a can of meat and beans he was carrying in his jacket." The bullet ~~hit~~ hit the can of grub, was deflected downward, and inflicted a minor abdominal wound.

So now the band will ^{it} strike up, and play --

Mail to the Chief.

And hail to you - Nelson!