

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Washington believes that the steel strike called for New Year's Day, is likely to be delayed. This hope is based on the fact that Union President Philip Murray has called meetings of both the Steel Workers Executive Board and its Wage Policy Board. This, following President Truman's urgent appeal - don't strike!

"Why would Murray call a meeting of the top level policy makers of the Union?" One reason might be - to consider a new wage offer. The only other logical reason would be to consider a recommendation to delay the strike, and place the dispute before the Wage Stabilization Board.

MIAMI

The Miami police report what seems to have been another dynamite attempt against a Jewish center. Today two policemen spotted three mysterious individuals who had a car parked outside the Jewish center at Hialeah. One of the officers, with a drawn pistol, started towards the automobile. Whereupon the car ~~started~~ *careened* off at high speed, and there was a wild pursuit along the highway. A police car giving chase; -- but it wasn't fast enough.

There have been ten bombings, or attempted bombings at Miami recently -- attacks directed at Jewish synagogues and Negro housing projects. Over the weekend, an unexploded stick of dynamite was found in a Catholic Church.

Today's episode causes the State Attorney, Glenn Mincer, to make a stern threat. "The time

has come," he says, "to warn the psychopathic individual with the twisted mind that the punishment for throwing a bomb in public places in Florida is -- death."

to pay the one hundred and twenty thousand dollars in fines -- ordered by the Red court.

Telephone Executive Robert Vogelger knows only too well what it needs to be in a Communist prison. For three years he endured that fate in Red Hungary -- on a trussed up stretcher of espionage.

Today he said: "I know what these boys will get for Christmas dinner. It will be a piece of black bread and water." He says he knows our government does not want to give it to blackmail; but that the most

important point is to liberate the four flyers. The telephone executive says he would like to start a fund with a contribution of a thousand dollars.

AIRMEN

The question of the four American airmen in the Red Hungarian prison brings a dramatic offer today - from Robert Voegler. He proposes to raise the money to pay the one hundred and twenty thousand dollars in fines - decreed by the Red court.

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Then, in his words "Go out and appeal to the public and make speeches." He says he'd ^(have no) ~~xxxxxxxxx~~ trouble ~~in~~ raising the money. ~~This offer~~ ^{Today} he wired ^{this offer} ~~today~~ to Mrs. John J. Swift, of Glens Falls, New York, wife of one of the flyers.

This is the latest in a debate as keen as the dilemma in which the government finds itself - either to pay the blackmail, or let the flyers remain in a Red prison for three months - ~~only~~ because they lost their way in their plane and were forced down in Hungarian territory. Which the Communists now use for a shake-down - virtually holding them for ransom.

But here's another suggestion today:- let those airmen stay in prison! This ~~comes~~ from an Attorney in Indianapolis, Leo Rappaport, who wired his proposal to Secretary of State Acheson. Don't pay the blackmail! he says, Let the government put up the one hundred

and twenty thousand dollars - and give it to the
flyers. Which would mean that each one would serve
the sentence of three months in a Communist prison
-- ^{each} and get thirty thousand dollars ^{When he comes out!} It would be

interesting to inquire among Air Force flyers, and see
how they'd respond to such a proposition.

EGYPT

This was a day for sporadic violence along the Suez Canal - Egyptian terrorists busier than ever. Which had been expected - the British command figuring that Mohammedan fanatics would, likely enough, be especially active on the day of the great Christian feast. Commanding General Sir George Erskine ordered an especial Christmas alert - and no British lives were lost during some hours of sniper fire and bursts from machine guns.

The danger spot, as usual, was at Ismailia, the big transport center. There the British have opened a new highway, and this was a target for the terrorists. They staged ambushes, trying to trap British vehicles. But, in each case, the guerrillas were driven off by machine gun fire from armored cars and fortified sentry posts.

At night, tracer bullets, streaking brilliantly across the Heaves, made such a display of fireworks that American declared that it looked

more like the fourth of July than Christmas, there
along the Suez Canal.

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NEPAL

From one of the strangest corners of this earth, ~~REMEMBER~~ comes news of one of the strangest parties ever held. The Himalayan land of Nepal, the capital city of Katmandu - where the party was given for King Tribhubana, and the former Prime Minister, Majara-Hah Mohun Rana, The hobnobbing of these two high personalities must have seemed like ~~synthesis~~ ^{a highly explosive association} to people in Nepal.

The festivities were attended likewise by Robert Trumbull, New York Times Correspondent, stationed in India. We got to know Trumbull ~~quite well~~, when we passed through India on our ~~trip into~~ ^{way out of} Tibet, a couple of years ago; and ^{we then} noticed his journalistic enterprise and standing. Hence, it is not so surprising to find him a guest at the party in Katmandu.

Behind it all is a fantastic page of recent history. Until last year King Tribhubana was a puppet

monarch, as his ancestors had been for more than a century. He was like a divinity imprisoned in his own sacred shrine - the Kings of Nepal being regarded as incarnations of the Hindu God Vishnu. Just across the northern border of Nepal lies Tibet, where the Dalai Lama is worshipped as a re-incarnation of Buddha. Same sort of idea, though in ~~diff~~ different religions, Buddhism and Hinduism. The living Buddha - the Living Vishnu.

The real power in Nepal was wielded by hereditary Prime Ministers - all of the noble house of Rana, the proudest line of aristocrats in the modern world.

Back in Eighteen Forty-Six the clan of Rana ~~seized~~ seized control and made the Kings of Nepal - mere figureheads. Each -- a living Vishnu imprisoned in a shrine. The present King was allowed to do nothing

more than - raise flowers.

But all that was broken up last year in a revolutionary movement - when the living Vishnu fled from his shrine, taking his two wives with him.

Today, Robert Trumbull gives us a bit of inside information about this:- He says the overturn was engineered by the Ambassador from India to Nepal, Sir C.P.N. Singh. The reason - having to do with the seizure of Tibet by the Chinese Reds, a thing now accomplished. With the Communists in control of the roof of the world, the isolated Kingdom of Nepal assumes a singular importance - as a barrier, buffer state between India and Chinese Communism.

The Indian government headed by Prime Minister Nehru looked with disfavor on the absolute autocratic ruler of the Prime Minister and the clan of Rana. Thinking apparently, that something ~~xxx~~ more

democratic would be appropriate -- like² a
constitutional monarchy.

So the Ambassador Sir C P N Singh arranged for the escape of the Puppet King to India - a fugitive living Vishnu, with his two wives.

That led to a revolt which resulted in the Abdication of the Prime Minister Maharajah Mohun Rana -- and the return of the King. He -- to preside over a more or less democratic government with a parliament. The living Vishnu - now a constitutional monarch.

According to the old ways^{of} the Orient, you'd think a proud powerful clan like the Ranas would not accept a situation like that -- at least not submissively and peaceably. The more^{so} - as the new Prime Minister is a commoner, not a noble at all.

TR But now we come to that party reported today. |

^ To make it still more surprising - a cocktail

party, American style ^{was} given ^{in Katmandu,} by that Indian Ambassador Sir C.P.N. Singh, who instigated the ~~murder~~ ^{was there,} overturn.

The King, the living Vishnu, ^{was there,} pleasant and amiable

~~as he~~ ^{ing} circulated among the guests. His two wives -

staring in cold silence. I suppose the two wives of

the living Vishnu ^{were} ~~would~~ expect ^{ing} Divine Honors, ~~and~~ ^{not getting them.}

But the focus was on Maharajah Mohun Rana,

the ~~important~~ deposed Prime Minister. Trumbull says he

was good humored and amiable, chatting and smiling.

Taking it all in good spirit, ^{philosophically} ~~apparently~~ accepting

the overthrow of himself and his mighty clan. ^{Not} ~~to be bothered at all by his own downfall~~
Downfall of the traditional rulers of Nepal - home of

those legendary soldiers of the British Empire, the

Gurkhas.

KOREA-TRUCE

In the truce talks - it is ^{now} the eleventh hour.

(Right now it is December twenty-sixth in Korea, and the period named for reaching an agreement expires December Twenty-Seventh. They still have a few hours to go, but there is not the least likelihood that an armistice will be reached by the deadline.)

Today, the Chief debate at Pan Mun Jom continued to be - the question of prisoners. The U N truce team charged that large ^(numbers) ~~numbers~~ of captives, probably Koreans, were taken from Korea to china - this on the ground of stories told by red prisoners of war.

The Communist representatives made no reply.

to the charge, but they did admit one thing - that they did put South Korean prisoners into the Red Korean army. Today the Chief enemy delegate said they had been, in his words - "Red educated and

voluntarily inducted". Our side claims that the Korean captives were given some Red indoctrination - and then forced into the ranks of the Communist Army.

There is no real guess of what will happen when the truce period expires. It won't be any reason for discontinuing the armistice talks - because the thirty days apply merely to the question of an armistice line. The talks are likely to go on. The real question being - whether or not there will be a new outbreak of warfare, with allied forces *attempting* *to push* ~~driving~~ the battlefront further ~~and~~ north.

WEATHER

The U S Army in Germany had trouble with the weather today, and it brought a disappointment for the Pennsylvania twenty-eighth and the New England Forty-Third Divisions, not to mention other units.

The G I's did not get their Christmas mail from home, and there is no telling when they will get it - if the fog continues.

Western Germany is blinded by a dense mist, and has been for ~~xxxx~~ twelve days. Planes have been unable to get in to the airports. So Big C-54 transports loaded with tons of letters and packages, are tied up at French and British flying fields, unable to get into Germany. The Army says there will be an around-the-clock-airlift the moment the fog breaks - *to* *rush through the* bringing in belated Christmas cargoes.

~~Last night we heard of bad weather in the Holy Land. Bitter cold and overcast skies making it~~

At San Francisco today there was a jam of war veterans from Korea, thousands milling around the streets - unable to reach their homes for Christmas. Brought across the Pacific under the rotation system -- supposed to get home for the holidays.

But bad weather held up eight military transports, which arrived late. Then, at San Francisco the airports were tied up by heavy fog. Impossible flying conditions, ^{also no} ~~no~~ ~~air~~ railroad transportation; ~~either~~ the railroads ^{were} ~~are~~ jammed. To make matters worse, the Southern Pacific had to cancel its fast Streamline service to the Pacific Northwest -- ~~because~~ because of an earth slide which dumped huge masses of rock on seven miles of track in Oregon.

So the crowds of veterans can only hang around San Francisco - not even been able to phone home; ^{the} ~~long~~ long-distance lines ^{all} ~~are~~ jammed.

KOREA - WEATHER

In Korea, the day began with a bombardment all along the battlefront. But it was a bombardment of - sleet. A deluge of ice came pouring down on the troops in the foxholes. But soon, the sleet changed to snow - making it a White Christmas. So much so that many a G.I. would have preferred a spot of red or blue somewhere. By nightfall five inches had fallen, with drifts piling up.

The blizzard stopped all air action. Even helicopters could not get through - on missions of flying Christmas dinners to the front line. Their place was taken by trucks -- which also had their difficulties on icy roads that could have been used for skating rinks.

I wouldn't for a moment compare my own Xmas experience with what happened to the flyers and truck drivers in Korea. But I have a rough idea of their problem. For I started out to take my old friend, Count Luckner, the Sea Devil, and his Swedish Countess, across Quaker Hill, by a back road, through the woods. We were on our way to

visit my farmer neighbor - Congressman Ralph Gwinn, and I got them stuck. The old story:- ice, off the road, into a ditch, and on a lonely road -- Then I had to go what seemed like miles afoot, for help. First a jeep; but that didn't solve the problem.

Then I got Farm Superintendent Irving Fleury, with a big four-wheel drive truck. That went off the road. Then a tractor. The kind with high wheels and two small low ones in front. But it also slithered around on the ice. All the while the Sea Devil in there, with his huge strength, pushing and shoving, and von Luckner on ice is something to see! Finally Irv. with a heavy catterpillar tractor got us out; after spending a considerable part of Xmas marooned in the woods, on a back dirt road - amid snow and ice.

The G.I.'s in those trucks in Korea, trying to get those Xmas kinnners to the front - they had a far, far tougher time than the old Sea Devil and I had. But our own little experience -- it gave us a faint idea of what it

might have been like stuck on those icy Korean mountain roads! It's no way to spend Xmas Day! Either in Korea or the wilds of Dutchess County!