

CONFERENCE

L.I. - Sumner. Wed., Dec. 26, 1945. *2/1*

At Moscow, the Big Three Foreign Ministers held their last meeting today. At least it was expected to be their last. Foreign Secretary Byrnes and British Foreign Secretary Bevin expect to leave Moscow by plane tomorrow for Washington and London, if the weather is all right for flying. Secretary ~~Byrnes~~ Byrnes may fly direct to Washington, non-stop.

There still is no actual news about what conclusions they reached, or even about what they discussed. ~~Plenty of words have come out of Moscow, but if they have all been conjectural.~~ All we know is that committees of experts worked all day Christmas drafting the text of the joint ~~xx~~ announcement which Byrnes and Bevin and Molotov will issue. Early today, there was hope that we might have that statement this evening. It was to be released ^{at} six in the evening, eastern standard time. But later word came from London that the final draft had been delayed and that it might be as late as tomorrow evening before we have the ~~xx~~ statement itself. ~~American newspapermen received that~~

change in plans caustically. They were speculating whether, as happened before in such cases, the British newsmen would be given the first crack at it and scoop the world again.

(The Big Three have not yet had any reply from the French government concerning the decision of ~~Byrnes~~ ^{and Byrnes} Bevin and Molotov [^] to conclude peace treaties with Italy, Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary and Finland. Secretary Byrnes tried to reach ^{the French} Foreign Minister ~~Bidault~~ by long distance telephone, Monday.) (When he got through to the Foreign ~~Office~~ Office, Byrnes was told that ^{he} ~~Bidault~~ was not available, ~~As we've heard from Paris, that was~~ a symptom of the French government's displeasure because the French are not in ~~the~~ on the signing of the treaties.)

ADD CONFERENCE

Another thing we know is that Secretary Byrnes has invited Commissar Molotov and British Secretary Bevin to Washington. ^{With the} ~~Their~~ next conference ~~will be probably about~~ ^{to around} March Fifteenth. ~~probably.~~

It is also understood that ~~both~~ the Soviet Union and the British have accepted, at least in principle, a suggestion from Byrnes that the meetings of the Big Five Foreign Ministers be resumed soon. ~~You may recall~~ The last one, ~~which was~~ two months ago, ~~ended in~~ ^{was} a fiasco.

After his return from Moscow, Byrnes will not remain long in Washington. He will immediately ~~have~~ ^{after} conferences with the President and ^{his fellow} ~~other~~ Cabinet members ~~he'll fly~~ ~~Ministers before rushing~~ back to London for the first meeting of the United Nations Organization, on January tenth.

FRANCE

As I mentioned a moment ago The French government is not satisfied with the way other governments are treating it.

Particularly, the decision made in Moscow that France may take part in discussions of the treaties with the Balkan nations but may not sign them. A spokesman for the Quai D'Orsay said today that the outcome is a compromise and not very satisfactory to France.

Although France was not at war either with Finland or the Balkan countries nevertheless the French had moral and material interests there which should be considered.

Having recognized the new regime in Albania, the Quai D'Orsay is now about to recognize Marshal Tito's government in Jugoslavia.

In Today's meeting of the French constituent Assembly, the question of Bretton Woods came up, Bretton Woods and the economic agreement made between France and Uncle Sam, which means that we are to advance the French five hundred and fifty million dollars.

The Minister of Economy has a plan for

reorganizing the economy of France. The first step is the devaluation of the franc, which yesterday stood at a hundred and nineteen point six hundred and sixty nine francs to the American Dollar. That makes a franc worth considerably less than one cent. The government is also going to ask the Assembly to revalue the gold stocks of the bank of France. That will add more than a billion dollars to the French Treasury. A commission of the Assembly is now considering the step of seizing all the gold in the country, all foreign currencies and all foreign stocks held by French citizens. And tomorrow a committee of the Cabinet will discuss the matter of freezing all prices.

ADD FRANCE

From Washington comes the word today that the United States is going to discuss Spain with Great Britain and France. The suggestion came from the French.

Meanwhile, the Hapsburg pretender has been pursuing his intrigues to become King of Spain with some apparent success. A Message from Madrid reports that Franco has made the condition that if he supports the royalists, he is to have the permanent job of commander-in-chief of the Army,

DEMOBILIZATION

War Secretary Patterson today answered the charge that Japanese prisoners had been sent home from the Philippines to Japan, while American veterans were left in the islands. The Secretary explained that the ships in which the Japs were transported home were not suitable for American veterans, they were cargo ships not equipped to carry troops for long distances.

Patterson went on to say that since V-E Day, more than four million soldiers had been returned home, most of them from overseas. The process of demobilization is going ahead at least twice as quickly as after the first world war. The Army has already released more men than were in all the A E F put together. Men who arrive home are separated usually some forty-eight hours after they have arrived at discharge centers. ^PThe Army is using bombers to the utmost possible extent in bringing the veterans back. But most of our big planes cannot be used, because they ~~would~~ would require elaborate overhauling before they could serve as transports.

Patterson revealed the fact that a group of officers were sent to the Pacific by air a few days ago to investigate all aspects of the demobilization program. And Patterson added that any improvement found necessary will be set afoot at once.

In conclusion, the Secretary said: "Our original schedules have been far outstripped by our accomplishments. In a short while, I hope the public and the Congress will find reason for praise instead of criticism for the manner in which the Army has done this critical job."

MURDER

One Christmas party at Cooperstown, New York, ended early with the death of two young sons of the house, their mother seriously wounded. The Cooperstown police report that the boys and their mother were shot by one of the guests, a former flight officer. The strangest part of this tragedy is the reason attributed for the act. The young fellow who did the shooting - he is only nineteen - was ^{on} a crying jag. All day he had been frightfully sorry for himself, told everybody that army doctors had told him he had only six months to live. Investigation showed that army doctors had told him nothing of the sort. His sympathy for himself produced an argument, which ended in the shooting.

By way of contrast to that tragic Christmas party, was the celebration enjoyed by Professor George C. Gates of the Colorado State College of Education. Professor Gates, a new recruit to the faculty, traveled from Cedar Falls, Iowa, to Greeley, Colorado, in a box car. In the car with him were his two horses and his cat.

Now I don't mind telling ~~him~~ you it gets pretty chilly ^{in those two old home states of mine,} ~~on the mountain railroads of my native,~~ Nebraska and Colorado, at this season; but, ~~state well, one of my native states. But,~~ Professor

Gates said he was perfectly comfortable, quite warm enough, because the horses provided enough heat. In fact, the atmosphere was quite cozy, says he. He passed the time by reading three books to the horses, one an anthology of English philosophers, another a volume of poetry, and the third ~~was~~ a tome called "modern man is obsolete".

The Dispatch does not say what the horses and the cat thought of English philosophy.

P.S. Mrs. Gates went to Greeley in a pullman.

EXPLOSION

Some fifty miners have been killed or trapped by that coal mine explosion in Kentucky. That means about the entire underground shift. Some of them may have escaped and made their way up to the top by parallel tunnels of air shafts.

The explosion was quite inaudible on the surface. The first thing the people at the pit-head knew of it, was through a cloud of smoke that suddenly swept up through the shaft with bits of charred cardboard and paper. The first crew of rescuers who tried to get down the shaft couldn't make it, the fumes and smoke threw them back. Later they tried again, but after an effort of hours, they had been able to get no further down than fifteen hundred feet. Some of the tunnels are two miles from the tippie. And it may be a matter of days before there is any accurate information about the fate of the men in the mine.

A The superintendent hopes that they were able to barricade themselves against the deadly black damp and other gases. There are five crews of rescuers going down)

straining every effort.

One of the grimmest facts in this story was ~~xx~~ revealed by what the wives of the miners said as they stood waiting at the mouth of the shaft for the news ~~xx~~ that may make widows of them. Yesterday, they said, was their happiest Christmas in five years.

FIRE

After a first investigation, the authorities at Hartford, Connecticut, discovered that those seventeen patients died in the fire in the hospital for the aged because a nurse lost her head. The State Fire Marshal does not reveal the girl's name. She was the one who found the Christmas tree blazing. She picked up one of the four fire extinguishers that were available, and instead of using it became seized with a spasm of terror. She ran out and left the outside door open. Thereupon, the Christmas eve gale immediately fanned the flames into a blaze. Nobody at the hospital turned in an alarm. It was not until the conflagration had a thorough start that a neighbor saw flames leaping out of the windows. Other neighbors and passersby carried out more than a score of patients. But by that time it was too late for the fire fighters to control the flames.

A strong wind tore through the old house, drove the flames and smoke up the stairway, so that the unfortunate people upstairs were suffocated before

any rescue was possible.

Fire department officials had inspected the building as recently as December Seventh, they found the four fire extinguishers in good order, and the doors swinging outward, rear stairway enclosed, and if anybody had retained presence of mind, that rear stairway would have been the best kind of fire escape.

And only a few weeks ago there was a fire drill in the hospital, supervised by the fire department.

TRUMAN

President Truman will ~~xxxx~~ speak to the country one day during the first week in January. He is going to tell the people all about the new laws he wants passed, his entire program. However, that will not interfere with the usual January Presidential message to Congress, the annual report on the state of the union. But he is going to tell the people what laws he wants before he outlines them to the ~~xxxxxx~~ lawmakers.

One of the reporters said he had heard the radio speech would be anti-labor, was that true, he asked?

Mr. Truman replied no, not anti-labor at all. Then they tried to pump him about what ideas he ~~xxx~~ has concerning labor. To that the President smile^d in friendly fashion and replied that they'd have to learn that for themselves when he delivers the speech.

After his Christmas with his mother, the President was in a ~~docular~~ ^{Joked} mood. He ~~Japed~~ with the newspapermen, asked them whether they had rough going in their plane that followed his "Sacred Cow to Kansas City yesterday.

"Did we find it rough?" they echoed, and then they came back at him by asking, "did you?"

To this the President smiled and said he had rougher trips, though not many. He is going to fly back to Washington in the "Sacred cow" Friday, weather permitting. That drew out the question: "What do you mean, weather permitting, Mr. President?" And ~~Mr~~ Felix Blair of the New York Times said it didn't do much permitting yesterday.

Again Mr. Truman laughed and said it would have to be much ~~more~~ worse than that before it would deter him.

The Times man then asked him whether he had any present engagements that obliged him to be in Washington Friday.

"No", replied the President, "nothing particularly, except the desk piled up with work".

So Blair asked: "Then Mr. President, why couldn't we go back by train?"

Said another newspaperman: "What Felix

means is why can't Felix go back by train?" *The rest would go by plane.*

The President grinned and said: "Felix can go back by train if he wants to." →

~~The newspapermen tried to find out what Christmas presents he had taken to his Mother. The President had ^{an} answer for that one too. He said they were just the sort of things that the newspapermen themselves ~~xxxx~~ would give to their mothers. Then he ~~xxx~~ added that none of them were of particular value except for the sentiment involved.~~

~~Mr. Truman stated his day this morning by leaving his home through the back door and going to his neighbor's house for ~~his~~ breakfast. And in case you would like to know what they had, it was ham and eggs and hot biscuits.~~

~~Mr. Truman then called on his aunt, Mrs. J. T. Noland, who is ninety-six years old. For the rest of his vacation he is just going to sit around and enjoy himself.~~

ADD TRUMAN

But maybe that Christmas flight made by the President was a trifle over-played by press and radio. The pilot of the President's plane, the Sacred Cow, seems to think so. ~~He says~~ He was dumb-founded when he heard the way the story had been played up. Said Colonel Henry Meyers, the President's pilot: "It was just a routine flight". ^R And I talked to the Colonel's boss, General Harold George, head of the A T C, which has done such a fabulous job both during and since the war, flying planes round and round the world, under all conditions, jumping oceans and continents, flying the Himalayas in all sorts of weather, and so on. Said General George:-

"Conditions were not favorable yesterday morning, at eight-thirty when the President had intended to leave. ~~***~~ So, his pilot, Henry Meyers, phoned the White House that they would be delayed for a while. Shortly before noon he again phoned the White House, and said everything was okay. So at six minutes after

noon, the Sacred Cow took off with the President aboard.

"At the National airport, when the Sacred Cow headed for the sky," went on General George, "we had a thousand foot ceiling and five mile visibility. Not instrument conditions at all. The ^{plan had been to} ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ fly at around six thousand feet. At that altitude there was no ice, but it was rough. So, up went the Sacred ~~Em~~ Cow to ten thousand feet where it was smooth and clear, ~~and~~ ^{good} going from then on," added General George. ^{TR} How about conditions when they got to the Middlewest? "Eight mile visibility at Kansas City," responded the General. And then, he put in this additional remark: "With sixteen hundred gallons left in the Sacred Cow fuel tanks".

So why wasn't the C-54 ~~gm~~ carrying the reporters able to get away at the same time? Why was it delayed another two hours? Here is General George's answer to that: The Sacred Cow was in a hanger. The press plane happened to be outside. During

the morning there were icing conditions at the airport. The press plane outside became covered with ice and had to be de-iced. The Sacred Cow with no ice was ready to fly at noon. And off she flew".

So there's today's follow-up story on the interesting and rather exciting story we had last night. All of which takes not one tittle of kudos from President Truman, who seems to be an enthusiastic air traveller.

And now H - before you fly away on your sacred cow, what from you?

- or before you start home in your puddle jumper -