

INDO-CHINA

WED. MARCH 24, 1954 L.T.-Kaiser-Willys

News from Indo-China - of an enormous forest fire.

It's war out there, - and that's part of it - a vast area of the jungle, ablaze. In connection with the Red ~~sege~~ siege of Dien Bien Phu - Fleets of warplanes in action to stop enemy columns of reinforcements and supplies moving through the jungle. Planes assailing them with blazing napalm.

The jungle right now, is dry - inflammable. So you can guess what flaming napalm would do. Forest fires all along the Communist line of march. At one place - more than a square mile of the tropical thicket, turned suddenly into a blazing inferno.

SOVIETS

Soviet Russia, today, made a formal inquiry about the missing Russian ~~diplomat~~ diplomat - Rastvorov - who disappeared in Tokyo in January. Moscow Ambassador Zarubin called on Secretary of State John Foster Dulles - making a request for information.

The reports had been that Rastvorov, connected with Soviet Espionage in Japan, deserted communism, and went over to U.S. Intelligence. But this has never been admitted, officially, by our government.

ISRAEL

The government of Israel is bitterly denouncing the U.N. Commission trying to arrange peace negotiations in the Holy Land. Angry criticism - because of the failure of the armistice group to condemn Jordan for the bus massacre at

Scorpion Pass. At Tel Aviv, today, Premier Moshe Sherratt stated in an address to the Israeli Parliament: "If the United Nations is unable to control the Arab aggressors, Israel is obliged to protect her own interests."

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Meanwhile, an Israeli army spokesman declared - that Moslem Syria has moved a brigade of infantry to the border of the Jewish state. On the Arab side - a charge that military planes from Israel violated the frontier of Jordan, five times yesterday.

All - adding to the crisis in Palestine.

ITALY

Italy reports the smashing of a spy ring - ten members of which have been arrested. The chief - a Communist employed at a number one Italian airfield, ~~in~~ Foggia. The spies reporting on air bases and radar installations throughout Italy. Getting the word through to an espionage center in Red Czechoslovakia.

SUB ATOMIC

The government announces - new precautions for safety at the atomic proving grounds in the South Pacific. The area of danger - greatly extended. An aerial patrol - to warn ships and planes - to stay a long distance away.

New hydrogen tests are approaching, they do not want a repetition of those incidents - three hundred seventy nine Americans, South Sea natives and Japanese fishermen exposed to radio active dust.

The Navy states - there are no serious injuries in the crew of the Navy tanker, which was exposed to radiation in that hydrogen blast on March First. The crew of ninety-two, affected slightly - nothing dangerous.

~~ThisXX~~

~~XX~~

~~XX~~ We are not told how far the tanker was away from the scene of the blast. But the Japanese fishermen, showered with radioactive ash, were ~~XXXXXXXX~~ a distance of some eighty miles away. Twenty-eight U.S. Air Force weather observers were similarly exposed, and they were one hundred and fifty miles away. Two hundred and thirty-six South Sea Islanders, one hundred and sixty miles off, when radioactive dust descended on them.

(Altogether - three hundred and seventy-nine persons affected. None seriously injured - apparently.)

President Eisenhower believes that unemployment will continue to rise during the remainder of this month. But he doesn't think there's any reason for drastic action by the government. Slam Bang emergency methods - not called for. His opinion is that there'll be an orderly upturn of business later in the Spring, ^{— which} ~~but this~~ might be jeopardized - by slam bang action.

Last month, the President said the prospects were - that business would improve, with a decline of unemployment, in March, this month. He was asked about that today, and replied that March is normally the season for a business upturn. But, this year, Easter is late - and there's a delay in Spring buying. So business should improve as Easter approaches - in April.

~~Meanwhile, the Bureau of Labor Statistics in Washington reports a decrease in the cost of living. The figure declining - two-tenths of one per cent. The Bureau thinks - there'll be a still further decrease. But points out - that prices are "stable." Showing - small decreases, leveling off gradually.)~~

EISENHOWER - McCARTHY

President Eisenhower gave an opinion today, on the Army-McCarthy feud. He said - no man should "sit in judgment on his own case."

To which Senator McCarthy replies ^{that} he's _^ in perfect agreement. He says that, for one thing, he wouldn't be judging his own case - because the dispute is actually between the Army and Roy Cohn, counsel for the McCarthy Sub-Committee. Anyway, the Senator has given up his Chairmanship of the Committee, also his voting rights - during the period of the investigation.

But he insists on the right to cross-question the witnesses -- and President Eisenhower, today, was asked about that. He said - he doesn't know enough about the details of the matter to comment on the question of cross-examination.

McCARTHY - PEARSON

Senator McCarthy, today, renewed his old feud - with Columnist Drew Pearson. On Monday, he made remarks about an "espionage" case against a newspaperman. Today he reveals - he meant ~~HEW~~ Pearson.

This concerns a charge, made previously by the Senator, that Pearson got secret information from the War Munitions Board and from the Department of Justice. Confidential material - in violation of the Espionage Act. Intimating - that Pearson used "blackmail tactics" in getting the information. The columnist was cleared of this, during the Truman administration, but ^{the case} is being ~~reexamined~~ reconsidered - by the Department of Justice.

Drew Pearson says - he welcomes an investigation.

~~He ridicules the McCarthy charge of "blackmail." He explains - that it's a common thing for ~~a~~ newsmen in Washington to get confidential information. Which he has done, from time to time - without publishing anything not supposed to be published.~~

NEW YORK STRIKE

The wildcat strike of longshoremen in New York was made official today - by the I.L.A. - the old, scandal ridden union. An unauthorized walkout has been going on for ~~in~~ twenty days, impeding the operation of the harbor. Now - Union backing, which threatens a complete tie-up.

AUTOMOBILES

Another ~~big~~ merger in the world of automobiles.

Hudson - combining with Nash. Today the stockholders of both Companies voted overwhelmingly for the merger - one of the biggest financial transactions in years.

This follows the combining of Kaiser Motors with Willys Overland - with the Kaiser Company moving most of its automobile production to Toledo.

WINCHELL

And that reminds me of the
contest Columnist Walter Winchell has launched;

a letter contest that seems to be snow-balling in

a rather remarkable way. ^{He invited} Contestants to send in

brief letters on the subject! WHY I COULD ^{NEVER} ~~NOT~~ BE A

COMMUNIST. The original plan was to give just one

impressive prize. But, firms and individuals have

turned over an avalanche of prizes to him and one

of the top prizes was presented to Walter Winchell

^(Kaiser - Willys)
by our sponsor, [^] the spectacular new Kaiser Darrin,

just about the raciest sports car you ever saw.

The proceeds from this nationwide contest go to the

Damon Rynyon Cancer Fund.

TAXES

The Senate has just voted to cut excise taxes in half - on household appliances, such as refrigerators, ranges etc. This in addition to the cut in luxury taxes already provided for in a bill the Senate is now considering.

COCOA

This may not sound like news - that every time you drink a cup, the price goes up. But it is - the increasing cost of cocoa.

The National Confectioners Association makes a request of the Department of Commerce - asking an investigation of the rising price of cocoa beans. A year ago - thirty cents a pound. Now - fifty-seven cents. In Nineteen Forty-one, cocoa beans cost - five cents a pound.

It's all the worse, because a lot of coffee drinkers, disgruntled about the price, have switched to cocoa. Increase the demand - and you pay more.

Well, we've been complaining about Brazil - where the coffee comes from. So now ~~we can add a squawk~~ *a squawk in the direction* ~~at the~~

of the Gold Coast, which produces most of the cocoa beans - across in Africa.

TEXAS

The war in South Texas has ended - with "Emperor" Parr paying a one hundred and fifty dollar fine for carrying a gun. ~~He is~~ The political boss with an "empire" in Duval and Jim Wells County. ^{Well,} The time was when any free born Texan considered it part of his birthright - to tote a six-shooter. But things are all confused - in the cactus country.

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Governor Shivers of Texas - vowing to break the political power of George Parr. The Texas Rangers - sent in to protect the political opposition in Duval and Jim Wells Counties. "Emperor" Parr, himself, accused of pulling a gun on a political antagonist. After which - he got into a fight with a couple of Texas Rangers.

When placed on trial, "Emperor" Parr insisted - it wasn't a gun at all. It was a pair of binoculars. Which doesn't sound like Texas. Reaching for the hip, quick on the draw, and ~~pulling~~ ^{out case} binoculars.

The jury in the Jim Wells County courthouse didn't believe it, and said - guilty of carrying a gun.

Wash Storm

To which Judge ~~Wash Storm~~ added - fine, one hundred and fifty

dollars. ^{So} But, ~~anyway~~ for the time being at least, this ends

the war, Deep in the Heart of Texas.

SUB HAYMES

Crooner Dick Haymes was a bit contradictory today - the contradiction between action and words. In Washington, he applied for a passport to return to his native Argentina. Requesting this - at the Argentine Embassy. But then he told newsmen that American officials - "haven't got a chance of kicking me out." They asked him if he intended leaving this country voluntarily - after the immigration ordered to deport him. To which he replied: "I haven't a worry in the whole world." But he did look worried.

His lawyer says the case will be fought through the courts, all the way to the Supreme Court which may take as long as four years.

The case of Dick Haymes - full of contradictions.

RUBIROSA

In Hollywood today, Zsa Zsa Gabor announced - she'll fly to Europe with Porfirio Rubirosa. They'll make the sky voyage together - next week.

In New York, Porfirio said - he doesn't know anything about it. But, if Zsa Zsa wants to go along, she's welcome. There will be room in his own private plane - a large converted bomber.

Later, Zsa Zsa said - that going to Paris together didn't necessarily mean that she and Rubi would travel in the same plane. The Dominican playboy flew to New York from Miami,

today, and told the newsmen why his marriage to Barbara Hutton broke up = ~~Because, he explained~~ - the Woolworth heiress liked to lie in bed all day, reading a good book. Porfirio not so fond of - books.

He denied that his wife, rated as the second richest woman in the world - bought a lot of things for him. The stories, he declared, are all wrong. She didn't buy him that two hundred thousand ^{dollar} converted bomber, or a string of polo ponies, or a farm in his native Santo Domingo. He said he purchased all that, himself - and not with Barbara Hutton's money.

MUSICIAN

A well known Hollywood musician was found dead today, and there is immediate suspicion of - murder.

Alberto Columbo - a cousin of the late singer, Russ Columbo, who was killed accidentally some twenty years ago while examining a pistol.

The body of the musician was found in his automobile - with signs of a severe beating. The Hollywood police declare - he might have been killed by a hit and run driver - his body then hidden in his automobile. But they suspect - murder.

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JURY

At Aledo, Illinois, today, Judge Leonard Telleen stated: "This is the most unusual demonstration I have ever seen." Unusual - is a mild word. The jury - finding a defendant guilty in a case of killing. Then, seven women on the jury - rushing to the defendant. Embracing him - and weeping all the while.

It was the case of James Gipson, eighteen years old, convicted of stabbing an athletic coach with a pocket knife. The coach - having reprimanded him at school. Gipson, in his own defense, testified - he couldn't remember the stabbing. The prosecutor called for a verdict of guilty, but did not ask the death penalty - just a prison sentence.

The jury was out for more than twenty-one hours, and took ten ballots before ~~xxx~~ returning a verdict of "voluntary manslaughter." Calling - for from one to seven years in prison.

When the verdict was read, the seven women were sobbing. Then - the tearful embraces. ~~xxxxxx~~

With exclamations of - "God bless you."

The judge - astonished by the most unusual demonstration he ever saw.

ESKIMO

The federal government has discontinued a housing project - for the Eskimo in the Far North. Financially - nightmare. The Eskimo - not understanding much about money matters.

This polar philanthropy began shortly after the Second World War - for the improvement of igloos. The Housing system extended - to the Arctic Circle. The Eskimo took cash. But, when it came to paying up - even the Aurora failed to shed any light on that.

11/2
Federal Housing Official P.F.Seward, testifying before a Congressional Sub-Committee - put the financial in the following mournful words:

"You loan money to an Eskimo on his personal note which he cannot sign in the first place. He makes an 'x.' If the fur trapping season is good, or if the fishing is good he may pay some of the debt - maybe. The interest rate," Seward goes on, "is four per cent. But the Eskimo doesn't know anything about interest - he never heard of it."

Three hundred and twenty-nine thousand dollars loaned to the Eskimo. A mere fraction - paid. Loans - in default.

A newspaper reporter asked - why didn't the government take mortgages as security for loans?

"How silly can you get?" Housing Official Seward replied scornfully. "Those Eskimo huts are just igloos made of ice. In the summer, they melt."

Mike, that
Well, ~~it~~ sure would puzzle a mortgage expert!

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The security on the loan - just melts!