

STORM L.P. P.G. Thurn. Dec. 18 - '52.

A raging storm is howling across Europe, leaving death and destruction in its wake. Hurricane winds of over a hundred miles an hour, rivers rising to flood level because of heavy snow, plus hail and rain. Italy, proverbial land of sunshine, hit hardest. All major Italian rivers are reported near flood-level. At Rome the Tiber up over thirty feet. Inhabitants of Southern Italy seeing snow for the first time in memory. We hear that thousands of Italians have been made homeless by the usual turn of the weather.

From France, ~~xxxxxxx~~ too, comes word of floods and devastating winds. Roads blocked by falling trees, dams carried away, houses damaged and shipping tied up along the French coast.

The liner U S United States has been delayed twenty hours in leaving England. A British troopship, bringing men home from Korea has sought shelter along the Welsh coast - there tonight waiting out the storm.

Another dispatch tells of vast oyster beds ruined, and many freak accidents are reported.

A death toll of thirteen so far. And the weather corecasters say more blizzards <sup>and</sup> ~~xxx~~ high winds are on the way.

## NATO

In Paris, representatives of the NATO countries have held their last session <sup>For the present,</sup> ~~of this meeting.~~ And their final agreement is that the defense goals formerly set for Nineteen Fifty-Three will have to be cut drastically. The Nineteen Fifty-Three goals were set at the Lisbon meeting last year. The ~~xxx~~ member nations agreed then on seventy-five divisions, and over six thousand aircraft. Now they say these figures will have to be reduced to fifty divisions and four thousand planes - which is approximately NATO strength at the moment.

A communique which sets forth the new plan, indicates that from now on Nato will concentrate on quality rather than quantity. For example, fewer planes, but of better make. A United Press dispatch describes the decision as "a weak compromise between a defense-minded United States, and an economy-conscious Europe."

General Ridgway protested against the cuts. All he can do now, says the U P, is ~~at~~ ask General

Eisenhower to increase our contribution to Nato finances. We have already agreed to pay forty percent of the common burden.

As President, <sup>Gen.</sup> Eisenhower may be expected to give full support to the organization which he once headed. At any rate, the European nations are convinced that they cannot go ahead faster without increased American aid. This will be one of the major problems facing the Eisenhower administration when it takes over.



world will cooperate successfully to maintain its  
freedom.

## ACHESON FOLLOW NATO

The Paris meeting of Nato was the last in which Secretary of State ~~Dean~~ Acheson, will participate. When the organization meets again, we will be represented by John Foster Dulles, who will replace <sup>Dean</sup> Acheson ~~at~~ the State Department after January Twentieth.

Dean Acheson has been the center of much controversy. But he has always been a good friend of the Nato countries, trying to help them hold firm in the face of Russian imperialism. At this <sup>Paris session</sup> ~~meeting~~, <sup>Secretary</sup> Acheson tried to <sup>put</sup> ~~lay some~~ European fears to rest. He asked his colleagues there to place ~~their~~ complete confidence in the new Republican administration. At the same time, he predicted that <sup>Gen.</sup> Eisenhower will give ~~his~~ full support to the cause of Nato.

<sup>Sec. of St.</sup> Acheson was not pessimistic about the recent decisions <sup>made</sup> ~~taken~~ in Paris. Said he: "I think it ~~is~~ would be all right to describe our work as neither standing still nor going backward." So, Dean Acheson leaves Nato, after leading our delegation at ten of its sessions. And he still keeps his faith that the free

ADD\_ACHESON

After the Nato meeting, the foreign ministers of the Big Three met together, They discussed in particular the situation in particular the situation in French Indo-China. According to a late news dispatch, France requested Secretary Acheson to stress her case when next he meets John Foster Dulles.

But the meeting was <sup>in</sup> the retiring Secretary of State's words., "more sentimental than political". For this was the last time he would represent us at Big Three meetings. At these also John Foster Dulles will take over for us now.

## RUSSIA

"Business Week" magazine has been gathering facts and figures about the Soviets, and now comes out with an analysis that throws light on what Stalin and his henchmen probably have in mind.

The analysis shows that Russia's heavy industry although it has grown enormously under a succession of five year plans, is still far behind America, and that Stalin is not strong enough industrially to take on a major war.

All these years, hoping to catch us, the Kremlin favored heavy industry over consumer goods; steel for the state, rather than shoes for the people. We on the other hand supply our people first - then the State. All of which holds down the Russian standard of living.

An Italian journalist, just back from the Soviet Union, writes: the impression I got was an impression of misery. On my whole long journey, I did not see, at the railroad station, a single person, man, woman or ~~whit~~ child, dressed at all comparable



to his opposite number in the West. Their clothing, their faces, the things they carried - all spoke of wretchedness.

According to "Business Week" the debasement of the Russian people may be the Achilles heel of the Soviet regime. The magazine goes on to quote Stalin as arguing that production cannot be maintained for long unless it satisfies the needs of the people.

All of which adds up to something indicating that the Cold War will not go on indefinitely.



President Truman refuses to name the persons who screened nine Americans recently dismissed from the United Nations. The nine refused to answer questions about their ~~an~~ connection with the Reds. Senate ~~SENATE~~ investigators asked the President to say who okayed them for U N jobs. But now the President says he will not reveal the names of the screeners -- *and* he won't say who was responsible.

## FIELD

The United States has reopened the case of Noel Field and his family. Field has often been called a Communist sympathizer, --by Whittaker Chambers among others. In Nineteen Forty-nine he visited Czechoslovakia, and then disappeared, mysteriously, in Prague. Three Months later his brother went behind the Iron Curtain to look for him. He too anished. Noel Field's wife and adopted daughter set out to find him, they failed to return. The entire Field family vanished. Nothing more heard about them until the recent purge trials in Prague. Then the name of Noel Field turned up in the indictment. Two of the defendants testified that he had been a spy for the West. The Czechoslovak Radio and Press disclosed that the members of his family were in Red prisons.

Now, this country demands that Czechoslovakia release Noel Field and his family. Our note to the Prague government asks for information about the

arrests, And ~~it~~ demands that a U S representative be allowed to visit them.

So far, Prague has not replied to our note. But we recall that William Oatis, the Associated Press correspondent, is still in a Czech prison in spite of our repeated demands for his release. The pattern of arrests in Communist countries being almost always the same - a charge of ~~being~~ "capitalist" spy, and then the victim disappears, often without the formality of a trial.

## KOREAN WAR

In Korea ground fighting has slowed ~~xxxx~~ down, because of cold. With the Red propagandists showering the U N forces with leaflets and bombarding them ~~xxxx~~ by loud speaker.

These leaflets again ~~xx~~ insist that we are responsible for all the trouble. And they compare the misery of the Front, with the comforts back home.

Meanwhile loudspeakers were blaring out songs by Bing Crosby, Nelson Eddy, and Jeannette MacDonald., followed by the usual propaganda line; also saying they'll be "In Seoul by Christmas".

Tokyo Rose used that same technique in World War Two. Same formula. She would play American popular music, and then give her spiel. Now the Chinese Reds are imitating Tokyo Rose. Apparently they don't know how little success Tokyo Rose had. She did entertain our forces, They enjoyed the music and got a laugh out of her talks.



## SPELLMAN

Cardinal Spellman to play the role of Father Xmas! He took off today for Korea, on a tour of the battle zone. He is carrying gifts including packages from many who asked him to play the role of Santa for them.

The Cardinal will leave Korea on New Year's Day, going on to Formosa, Manila, and the Lebanon, among other places - on his way to Rome for a consistory of Cardinals - a meeting of the highest dignitaries of his church.



Has a real estate firm the right to act as stand-in for a Duke during the Coronation? This question was put to the Court of Claims which judges controversial issues about the Coronation. The Duke is Henry Edward High Pelham-Clinton-Hope, Ninth Duke of Newcastle. For almost four hundred years, the Duke of Newcastle has enjoyed the privilege of presenting to the Sovereign a scarlet glove with which to hold the royal sceptre. The Duke also was allowed to support the royal arm as long as the scepter was held aloft.

But the present Duke of Newcastle sold his ancestral manor to a real estate firm. In so doing, he forfeited his traditional Coronation privilege. So the real estate firm applied to the Court of Claims for the right to continue the privilege. The judgment of the court is announced: - no, the firm may not act as a substitute for the Duke of Newcastle.

Only the Queen can decide who will exercise the privilege in her Coronation. She may, if she chooses, begin a new tradition of giving it to different

families in turn, instead of one permanently.

## ROBBERY

From Boston we hear that one of the men who took part in the biggest ~~xxx~~ cash robbery in history has been identified. The robbery was the famous Brinks hold up when over a million dollars were taken from an armored car in January of Nineteen fifty.

Now a New England <sup>character, one</sup> ~~medium~~ Joseph O'Keefe, is identified in F B I affidavits as one of the robbers. The affidavits indicated that F B I agents ~~xxxx~~ wire-tapped a conversation between O'Keefe and his wife. It is not ~~km~~ yet known whether there is enough evidence to indict O'Keefe; for the use of evidence obtained by wire-tapping is not allowed in federal courts. However, O'Keefe is ~~xxxx~~ being held in Boston. <sup>R</sup> Special agent, John Green said he believed sixty-thousand dollars of the money was hidden in <sup>the</sup> O'Keefe home. But the authorities will not give any more details of what they have found until a further search has been made. At any rate, The F B I seems ~~km~~ close to solving the biggest cash robbery of them all.

## MISSING

I have a letter here that takes us to one of the pitiful aspects of life - the missing person. Especially - the missing daughter, or missing son.

The letter is in English, but it doesn't start out with - "Dear Sir", or anything like that. The salutation, with which it begins, reads as follows: "Sayed el Azziz-el Kareem, Effendi <sup>Lowell</sup> Thomas."

It's from Arab parents, <sup>a Mr. and Mrs.</sup> ~~Joseph and Julia~~ Hajjar, of Dorchester, Massachusetts, and tells how they're seeking a missing daughter, a fifteen year old girl - Yvonne. They say they ask me to mention this - because Yvonne has always been accustomed to listen to this program - and may be doing so tonight.

She was last heard of in Canada - ~~Yarmouth~~, Nova Scotia. Her parents write: "She may be sick, or lonely, or hungry - and too proud, too ashamed, to come home." And go on to say: "We are pouring our prayers that Yvonne will hear your voice and come home to her grief-stricken mother, her brothers,



her sister and her father, whose life is empty and miserable without her."

The letter concludes with high courtesy from Arab to Christian. It says: "May the Almighty compassionate God and Jesus of Nazareth repay you with good health, and a long happy life."

To which I can only respond - that I hope the missing Yvonne Hajjar may be listening to this program tonight.



## MONEY

If you happen to live along the railroad tracks between Chadwick, Illinois and Savannah, Georgia -- you have a chance ~~in~~ of picking up some easy money. All because a money-filled mailbag was caught under ~~in~~ the wheels of a train. A mailbag dropped off a Burlington train "Empire Builder," was sucked under the wheels, which cut it open, leaving a trail of ~~in~~ dollars.

At Savannah, station agent Frank Van Slyke, said the train was simply spilling money from its wheels as it pulled in to the station. "I ran out and picked up ~~in~~ hundreds of dollar bills" said he.

Meanwhile the authorities were ~~in~~ informed and a search for the money is on now -- for some ~~seven~~ thousand dollars along the tracks.

So, if you live along the tracks, <sup>Nelson,</sup> ~~well~~   
 ~~nebbe~~ you'll get some! Nebbe.