

L.T. - GM - BROADCAST

January 5, 1955

(Charles Collingwood substituting)

C.C.: GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY!

CONGRESS

We have a new Congress today, the eighty-fourth, and as the new Congress went into session you might never have suspected that there was a change of party control - the "outs" in, the "ins" out. Traditional foes changed places but all was in an atmosphere of sweetness and light. The new Democratic majority began by pledging to cooperate with the Republican Administration. They said they wouldn't indulge in partisan criticism. In the House of Representatives the lead was taken by the new Speaker, Sam Rayburn, of Texas. He'll celebrate

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his seventy-third birthday tomorrow as President Eisenhower comes to Congress to deliver his message on the State of the Union. Sam Rayburn has served in the House for forty-two years, longer than any present member, and what's more he's been Speaker for more years than any other man in history. Today, he banged the gavel and sounded the Democratic keynote, saying: "This Party will not look on the legislative proposals of the President from a partisan standpoint, but from the standpoint of what they believe to be the best interests of the people." In the Senate, the note of good feeling resounded loudly, too in cheers for a new member - seventy-two-year-old Alben Barkley, of Tennessee, a veteran of all veterans, former Vice President and now returning to the Senate.

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Always a genial, popular figure he was cheered by Republicans and Democrats alike. However, I'm going to get into trouble if I keep saying that he's from Tennessee, because everybody knows that Senator Barkley is from Kentucky.

There was not much of legislative consequence today in the Senate except for a flood of new bills handed in for future consideration. And No. one place was given to a measure backed by President Eisenhower, a bill for a three-year extension of the Reciprocal Trade Law, intended to liberalize our foreign trade.

MANPOWER

President Eisenhower today came out in personal support of the military manpower cuts, thereby backing up his Secretary of Defense, Charles E. Wilson.

There is a division of opinion in Congress about the wisdom of reducing the personnel of the armed forces, as much as the Secretary of Defense has been suggesting anyway. Democrats have been asking - are the plans based on military considerations or is the real purpose to balance the budget? The Democrats want to be sure our national defense is not impaired in the interests of economy. In response to this, Secretary Wilson requested the President to go on public record in favor of the manpower cuts, which the President now does in a letter to Wilson. The figures the President gives for the reduction are in fact a little higher than those proposed by the Secretary. No reason is given for the discrepancies. The White House describes this Eisenhower letter as a summary of the President's personal beliefs of how our defense should be geared to meet modern conditions and

requirements.

LADEJINSKY

The Foreign Operations Administration has given Wolf Ladejinsky a job. The Russian-born farm expert was dismissed by the Department of Agriculture on the charge that he was a security risk, which caused an uproar, so Foreign Operations Administrator, ^{W-8} Harold Stassen, has named Ladejinsky to serve in southern Viet Nam, ~~the free part of Indochina~~, in connection with a land reform program there. This follows a directive from the White House and today Presidential Secretary, Jim Hagerty, told the newsmen the White House asked heads of the departments and agencies involved to use their best judgment in working out this situation. We believe, he added, that judgment has been exercised.

FRANCE

The cabinet of Premier Mendes-France today decided on a move that may bring about another French political explosion. The Ministers voted in favor of a change in the basic electoral system of the republic. Right now, members of the National Assembly are chosen by a system of proportional representation and much of the confusion of recent politics in France was blamed on this so now the Mendes-France government wants to go back to a more direct form of election, such as prevailed in France before the second World War. The project is to be placed before the National Assembly where there's likely to be a noisy argument since many of the members owe their elections to proportional representation. The cabinet

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also gave its approval today to the plans of the Premier for seeking closer ties to Italy and Germany. Mendes-France will be in Italy early next week for talks with Italian Premier Scelba. Later in the week he proceeds to West Germany to confer with Chancellor Adenauer.

At Bonn today, the West German Chancellor was the center of international attention, celebrating his seventy-ninth birthday, receiving cabled congratulations from leaders of the western countries. Adenauer had a birthday party and that brought a reminiscence of Premier Mendes-France whom he'll receive in state next week. One of the birthday presents was a contraption called a milk tanker, a sort of refrigerator, loaded with bottles of milk, which certainly recalled the fact that the French

Premier is a crusader for milk. It isn't likely, however, that Mendes-France will succeed in converting the seventy-nine-year-old Rhinelander. Today, Chancellor Adenauer passed the milk around to a number of his grandchildren who were present. He has thirteen grandchildren. Then, he drank a series of birthday toasts with wine. He comes from a famous Rhine wine section of Germany.

Well, Lowell Thomas has been travelling into the wild country of southern Arabia. Tonight, his recorded report is an account of exciting events in those remote parts.

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L.T.: Arriving here in southwest Arabia we seem to have run head-on into a small war. So far as I know nothing about it has reached the outside world. The fighting for the most part is between the Mosata and the Shahabi, in a wild region north of Aden, in the Sultanate of Yafai, stirred up, so rumor has it, by the Yemeni. It's ~~right~~ near the Yemen border.

Now, Yemen is a rich country of southwest Arabia.

In fact, it's a fabulous country and the rulers of the Yemen have as little as possible to do with the outside world. Travelers are not welcome there. It's a country almost as rarely visited by westerners as Tibet. The story of how this fighting has come about is rather complicated.

Before World War I the Turks claimed nearly all of Arabia as part of the Ottoman Empire and then they lost it in that war. The British had a treaty with Turkey regarding a boundary between their Aden Protectorate and the Yemen, but the Yeménis refused to recognize that treaty. And, then, in 1948 the two of them got together and they made a deal to maintain a border status quo. ^{Handwritten mark} Of course, it had to be written in Arabic and the story now is that the British at Aden were so eager to settle that they were not too careful when the agreement was put into Arabic. Result - the rulers of Yemen, Imam Ahmed and his brother, Al Hassem, the Prime Minister, now say that status quo not only included the southern Yemen border but also included ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~

all of the thirty or forty sultanates in the vast area of south and southwestern Arabia over which the British claim that they have a protectorate, ~~and over which we believe that the Queen of Sheba long ago ruled,~~ So the Yemenis are reported to be behind the present border war, trying to make it tough for the British. Why? Well, they don't think the British are going to be here forever. They see what has been happening to the British Empire so the Yemen rulers hope to be ready to take over when and if they get a chance.

~~The Governor General of Aden, Sir Tom Higginbotham, has left for the area where this small war between sultans and sheiks is going on and I was all set to go into this tribal country today, but our plane developed engine trouble. Now we hope to leave~~

at dawn for Beihan . . . B-e-i-h-a-n. I wonder if you can find that on your map? It's some six hundred miles northeast of Aden.) So, tomorrow I may be able to tell you about it.)

So long until then!

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Thank you, Lowell, for that bulletin about a war which the outside world never heard about.

CHINA

Well, in another remote part of the world the Secretary General of the United Nations received the plush treatment in Peiping today, the Chinese Reds rolling out the red carpet for Dag Hammarskjold. At the airport his party was greeted by officials of the Red Government and members of diplomatic missions. Three hours later they called on Foreign Minister

Chou En-lai for a courtesy visit. An hour after that a formal reception at which Dag Hammarskjold and his colleagues were guests of honor. The reception was held in the sumptuous Palace of the Purple Light, a sort of Chinese hall of state, attached to the residence of the Red Foreign Minister. Tonight they're being entertained at an official banquet. All of this resembles the reception the Chinese Communists have given to other visiting celebrities, like the leaders of the British Labor Party when they were in Peiping and Indian Premier Nehru when he was on a visit. The Chinese Reds, like the Chinese Communists, or, the Russian Communists go in for splendor and luxury on occasions of state. It remains to be seen, though, what all this large

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ceremony means when Dag Hammarskjold gets down to business. His first negotiating conference will come tomorrow when he'll take up with Chou En-lai the subject of the eleven imprisoned American airmen. The Reds with hostile propaganda have been screaming the charge of espionage. They've been giving the impression that they won't concede anything. Well, we'll have to wait till tomorrow to see what today's plush red carpet means, if anything.

CHRISTMAS

Let's wish a Merry Christmas today to the people of Rodanthe, North Carolina. This may seem rather late for yuletide greetings, but not on that island off Cape Hatteras. There, on the outer banks, the villagers are celebrating Old Christmas. The

custom is so old the islanders have little memory of why they celebrate Christmas on January 5, but supposition is that it all goes back to the change of the calendar centuries ago. The change was directed by Pope Gregory XIII and various Protestant countries refused to accept it for a long time. England didn't adopt the Gregorian calendar until 1750. In this country the folks on that island off Cape Hatteras never did adopt it, at least as far as Christmas is concerned, but don't think that Santa Claus came visiting today either. The islanders have another character, Old Buck, they call him, a legendary bull that comes out of the woods. A local citizen dresses up as Old Buck with horns and all and prances around the village. Nobody knows the origin of Old Buck, but some trace him back to Norwegian sailors shipwrecked

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on the outer banks long ago. In Norway, Hugh, the
peasant folk have a similar legend of a bull that
comes out of the forest on Christmas and maybe
somehow it got transplanted to Rodanthe, North Carolina.
Any^{way}, it's Merry Christmas tonight, on the outer banks.