

FRANCE L.T. Delco. Wed. Feb. 23 - '55.

France, at last, has - a Premier. After eighteen days of political crisis, there's a ministry, once again, in Paris. Premier Edgar Faure - voted ^{into} ~~in~~ power, today, by the National Assembly.

After having rejected one prospective premier after another, the French lawmakers got tired, apparently - of the long political confusion. And - plenty of ridicule. The vote today - overwhelming. Three-hundred-and-sixty-nine - to two-hundred-and-ten.

Edgar Faure, a finance expert and a former premier, is a member of the Radical Socialist Party. He goes into office with a pledge to put through a ratification of the German REarmament Treaty. Carrying out - the policies of his predecessor, Mendes-France.

BRITAIN

Prime Minister Churchill, today, served notice - Britain will take no part in any fighting over the coastal islands, off the Chinese mainland. In the House of Commons, he repeated - that Britain would stand with America in the defense of Formosa. But - that's all. Churchill told the Commons: "There's a great difference between the coastal islands of China - and the Island of Formosa."

This followed a Labor Party resolution, insisting - that Britain should not become involved in the defense of islands like Quemoy and Matsu. Also - calling on the Chinese Nationalists to withdraw from those bits of land. So now the Churchill reply lines his Conservative government in unison with the Labor opposition - on the subject ^{of the defense} of the coastal islands.

Meanwhile, the word in London is that Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden is presenting this British determination to American Secretary of State John Foster Dulles. They ^{are} both attending the South East Asia conference at Bangkok, Thailand.

Eden and Dulles - having talks on the side.

(In Washington, today, the Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee demanded - that we pledge ourselves to the defense of the off-shore islands. Congressman Richards, a South Carolina Democrat, assailed Secretary Dulles - for not being definite on that point. He said that Eden, at Bangkok, is trying to convince Dulles - that we should let the coastal islands go. Which, declared the South Carolina Democrat, would be - "appeasement.")

NEGOTIATIONS

We hear that Britain and India are working behind the scenes - trying to make the Chinese Reds tone down their aggressive talk. And try - to come to some arrangement with the United States. Object - a cease fire along the China coast.

The word in diplomatic circles is that the Communist believe - the Americans are planning to assist a Nationalist invasion of the mainland. They have a suspicion - that this is the real purpose of our diplomacy in the Far East. So the British and Indians are trying to convince them - that the United States policy, concerning Formosa is defensive. Not - a grand^{is}~~ise~~ invasion plan.

(Soviet Russia has been approached, and asked - to do something to check the belligerent rantings of the Chinese Reds. Moscow - said to be of the private opinion that the Mao Tse Tung crowd have talked themselves into a dangerous crisis. ~~Too much of the~~

~~big news~~ Britain and India think that, if the Chinese Reds will stop talking so loud about shooting their way to Formosa, the United States would persuade Chiang Kai Shek to stop the air attacks against shipping along the coast. In which case - things would calm down, ^{and} the chance of some arrangements would be much better.

ATOMIC

The United States will attend an "atoms for peace" conference at Geneva, this coming summer. So announced by the State Department and the Atomic Energy Commission, jointly.

The conference will be largely technical - with an international presentation of data on all phases of the peace-time use of atomic energy.

Eighty-four countries to attend - including ten Communist nations.

~~This will be~~ The first international "atoms for peace" conference.

ARMY

Army Chief-of-Staff General Ridgway broke, today -
with basic military policy of the Eisenhower administration.
Differences of opinion ~~were~~ made clear at a hearing by the
Senate Armed Services Committee - differences that are
fundamental in the global military strategy of the United
States.

General Ridgway spoke in opposition to the manpower
cuts recommended
~~cuts proposed~~ by the President. Which - would decrease Army
manpower by two-hundred-and-seventy-three thousand men in the
next eighteen months. The General argued that we should maintain
Army strength - and keep American military forces at ~~sixteen~~
critical points throughout the world. He noted - that the
Reds have not risked armed aggression in any area where American
troops are deployed. His theory being - that American troops
at points of peril are a deterrent. Keeping the Communists -
from starting anything.

The strategic view of the Eisenhower administration was
presented by Army Secretary Stevens, ~~General Ridgway & at side~~

Who argued that U. S. forces should be withdrawn from some foreign areas. Concentrate the Army in the United States. From which it could be moved swiftly - to threatened areas. While we, at the same time - would depend more and more on air power and atomic weapons.

So there you have the two conflicting theories of American world strategy. Army Chief-of-Staff General Ridgway -- favoring the presence of American troops in foreign parts, as a way to defeat Communist aggression. President Eisenhower thinking that Air Force and atomic power are a better way to persuade the Reds to keep the peace.

CONGRESS - RAISE

Today, the Senate voted a pay hike - for the lawmakers of Congress. The vote - sixty-two to twenty-four. The bill provides for a fifty per cent increase. Which would raise the pay of all the legislators, Congressmen and Senators alike, to twenty-two thousand, five hundred dollars a year. The House ~~of Representatives~~ has already voted a similar pay raise. But with a different figure - increasing Congressional salaries to twenty-five thousand a year. So now the two bills will go to a joint committee - to be harmonized.

Both bills would give salary increases to Vice-President Nixon, Speaker Say Rayburn, and the federal judges.

EISENHOWER - TAXES

The battle is on, in Washington - on the question of taxes. President Eisenhower - leading off, today, with a vigorous charge. He said the income tax cut proposed by the Democrats in Congress is, in the presidential words - "the height of fiscal irresponsibility." Declaring - that a twenty dollar reduction, for each person and each dependent, would cost the Treasury two billion, three hundred million dollars in revenues. Leading - to more deficit spending and inflation. The President noted that we all would like a tax cut, and the Democratic bill would make an appeal to people in the low income brackets. But he pointed out - that inflation would cancel benefits.

The President, in a fighting mood, blamed the Democrats for trying to put the tax cut across as a "rider". That is - as an amendment of an Administration bill to extend corporate and excise taxes. He told a White House news conference that the Democrats lacked "the courage" to put the reduction in a separate bill - which he could veto.

EISENHOWER - TAXES

Hot words from the White House, followed - by equal heat on the side of the Democrats. Speaker Sam Rayburn answering with a biting remark - about the Republicans not wanting to give "the little folks" anything.

The bill goes to the floor of the House tomorrow - and seems likely to pass. Prospects in the Senate - are doubtful.

At Albany, Governor Harriman has abandoned his demand for an increase of the gasoline tax. The Governor had been insisting on a hike of two cents a gallon. Today, however, in a surprise action, he sent a letter to the leaders of the State Legislature - saying the gasoline tax increase is not necessary. He finds, more money than had been expected will be taken in from other taxes.

The Republicans are calling this - "a concession of defeat." Today, in the State Senate, Republican Leader Mahoney cast ridicule on the whole Democratic budget. Which drew a prompt reply from Democratic Leader Mahoney. Who said - the Harriman abandonment of the gasoline tax increase is not "a concession of defeat." Republican Leader Mahoney, in a heated controversy with Democratic Leader Mahoney.

Don't think I'm fumbling names. The Republican is -
W.
Walter J. Mahoney. The Democrat - Francis J. Mahoney. Sounds
like two peas in a pod, - But, they are two Mahoneys in a fight.

SARAZAN

~~At~~ ^{TF} At Augusta, Georgia, they ^{are putting up} ~~were constructing~~ a monument. ^{And} ~~no wonder.~~

On the far famed golf course - where the Masters Championship Tournament is played, each year. The monument - a bridge, across a pond leading to the fifteenth green. That's where, twenty years ago, Gene Sarazan made, what is called - the "most dramatic single shot in the history of the Masters Tournament." Gene - scoring a "double eagle."

Well, when you shoot a "birdie" - that's one under par. An "eagle" - two under par. A "double eagle" - three under par. The "impossible" exploit. Like all the labors of Hercules - rolled into one. ^{How was it done?} ~~So here's how it happened.~~

In the Nineteen Thirty-Five Championship, Gene Sarazan was three shots back of Craig Wood - with only four holes to play. At the fifteenth, a "par five" hole, he hit a two-hundred-and-thirty yard spoon shot from ^{up} the fairway, ^{- into the cup.} ~~That enabled him~~ ^{Making} ~~to make~~ the "par five" hole - in two. ^{And that} ~~Making up the deficit of~~ ^{put} ~~three holes and getting~~ him even with Craig Wood. They

finished in a tie - and Gene won the play-off.

So that's what they^are commemorating at Augusta, with plenty of talk about that fabulous "double eagle."

~~But they're not building any monument commemorating another exploit that year. An exploit - in reverse. In the Masters Tournament, at the eighth hole, Frank Walsh took - twelve strokes. He just kept banging away at that ball.~~

~~Ohio is planning - to out-do Kentucky, In one field,
of which the Blue Grass State is particularly proud - Kentucky
Colonels. The proposal being - Ohio Generals.~~

At Columbus, two legislators are pushing a plan,
whereby distinguished sons of Ohio would be honored. The State
granting them - Ohio military rank. Not merely Colonel, but
General.

So what's that sound we hear, coming from the direction
of Kentucky? Raspberries - but of a majestic sort. Governor
Lawrence Wetherby of Kentucky is a statesman of much dignity,
and today ~~he proclaimed~~ ^{said} in solemn tones: "I don't think any
honorary title, of any state, would out-rank a proper Kentucky
Colonel."

No, not even Field Marshal or Generalissimo. Pro-Consul
or Commander-in-Chief. Nothing to equal - a Kentucky Colonel.

Well, altho' an Ohioan - I happen to be a
Ky Colonel - so I don't know what
comment to make.

VIENNA

From Vienna - the story of just about the slickest escape from Communism. On Monday we heard how a skating star, a ballerina from Red Czechoslovakia, had fled to freedom. Today, she tells - how. The dodge was very feminine - a lipstick.

Miroslava Nachodska was a member of a Czechoslovak team, which competed for the world's figure skating championship last week. In Vienna, the ballerina flashed her graceful act on the ice. But, all the time, she was thinking - how could she get away? It wasn't easy. The skaters were under the supervision of ^{Red secret} ~~Red~~ police officials, ~~and came along~~

Then, before the team started home, they were taken on a shopping tour. "I told the others, " relates the ballerina, "that I wanted to go into a store to buy a lipstick - and would be right back."

So she dashed into the store, and right on through - ²
out through another entrance. Moving fast, she was able to get back to the hotel, and pick up her suitcase, before the Reds realized - that she was a fugitive.

At an American reception center, she asked for political asylum - which was promptly granted. Today, she is in the American military zone of Austria. Telling - of the lipstick escape.

PARIS

Paris has a new fad - the "crutch" party. ~~Now~~ ^{the}

^{latest} vogue among Parisian hostesses, who think up novelties of entertainment.

The "crutch" party is for skiers - who have broken either a leg or an arm at a ski resort. They come back to Paris, either on crutches, or with an arm in a sling. The party -

They ought to try Squaw Valley where skiing is safe!
limited to them. For hospitality, they get alpine drinks -

and sausages. For amusement - they yodel, ~~Yodelon-on~~

Ole a he - o-le-a-ee
loo!

Or I should say o! le a ee Hugh!