

LANIEL ANNOUNCES FALL LT-W. Fri. May 7 - '54,

By now nearly everybody I presume, has heard the tragic news from far off Indo China -- news just as important to us as to the French, or to the people of Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia.

~~When~~ The fall of Dien Bien Phu was announced in the French Chamber of Deputies this morning by Premier Laniel.

The Premier's voice shaking, as he spoke. He charged that the ~~defeat~~ defenders of the fortress were "sacrificed"

because France has had to carry on by herself ~~is~~ for seven years in Indo China. This quite naturally is interpreted as criticism of Anglo-American hesitation, delay and refusal to send Air Forces to ~~xx~~ help. That is, to send help in time. The old story -- too late.

But Laniel added that France will meet the crisis as a great nation should. No despair because of this tragedy.

The Deputies -most of them - rose to their feet as the Premier made his solemn announcement. Some clenched their fists. Others fought back their tears. The only

deputies who remained in their seats - were Reds and fellow travellers - sitting there as they heard the first news about the worst military defeat France has suffered since the German invasion of Nineteen Forty.

Ironically, Paris was preparing to do some celebrating tomorrow -- that is, celebrate the ~~arms~~ surrender of the Nazis in Nineteen Forty-Five. Instead it will be a day of national mourning.

I suppose a large part of the western world figured it would happen. But, we kept hoping, hoping for a miracle.

I knew it was coming. But, still I thought, maybe the monsoon would somehow save Dien Bien Phu.

I knew the bad news would come soon, because a week ago when I flew back to New York from Washington, on the plane was a famous American General who I thought was in Indo China. When I asked him when he had returned to America, he said he had just come and was now flying back to Saigon. Then I asked him if DeCastries had any chance. His face was drawn. His eyes hollow. And his voice hollow too, as he answered. "No, not a hope. He's getting help too late."

DIEN BIEN PHU

Now that the French outpost in Indo China has fallen to the Reds, the defense of Dien Bien Phu is hailed tonight ~~as~~ by some military experts as one of the epic military stands of our time.

General DeCastries holding out for fifty-six days, against great odds - vastly outnumbered. The Reds were able to march their troops overland all during the siege. The French hemmed in on all sides, able only to parachute a few men in at a time. Nor would the Communist commander at any time permit hospital planes to fly the wounded out of Dien Bien Phu.

When General DeCastries' radio-telephone went dead - Hanoi knew that the enemy had overcome the garrison.

At eleven a.m. Hanoi time. Today's dispatches from South East Asia say the Reds threw some forty thousand shock troops into the final battle. DeCastries' garrison overwhelmed

by that screaming Red tide. The defenders of Dien Bien Phu outnumbered at least thirty to one. The Chinese shouting:

"Die Frenchmen, die!" Wave after wave of Reds - plunged through gaps in the line to fight with rifle butts, bayonets and knives. One by one, DeCastries' strong points fell. And when his command post was overwhelmed - organized resistance ended.

One ironic point - French planes zoomed helplessly overhead - the situation on the ground, too confused for an air attack.

In Hanoi, a French General says that "Dien Bien Phu is a new name to ~~emblazon~~ emblazon on the battle streamers of France. And to the bitter end resistance that will never be forgotten."

General Navarre's headquarters, in announcing the fall, stated that DeCastries and his men fulfilled the mission entrusted to them.

And what of DeCastries' himself? ~~No word on that.~~

We don't know whether he is a prisoner of the Reds, or whether he too fell fighting. Also, no information about the one

woman who was there. Nurse Genevive, the so-called "angel of Dien Bien Phu". She too has disappeared in the confusion following the Red victory.

~~In the meantime~~, President Eisenhower has sent a letter to French President Coty, saying that, ~~xxx~~ here are his words: "the entire free world has been inspired by the heroism and stamina - displayed by the gallant garrison at Dien Bien Phu."

Secretary of State Dulles will make a major address tonight over ~~aa~~ radio and T.V. To tell us about the problem of southeast Asia - now including the fall of Dien Bien Phu. The Secretary's speech has been approved in advance by the President, for of course he speaks for the Chief Executive.

Democrats in Congress already indicate that they intend to criticize the Secretary's handling of the Far Eastern situation. Senator Maybank of South Carolina saying: "I don't think the contradictory American policy over the past few weeks helped in any way."

In his address to the nation tonight, Secretary Dulles said that the Indo-Chinese problem was more complicated than Korea and that Communist aggression might compel us to make, what the Secretary termed, "serious commitments."

He pointed out that the whole problem of Indo-China may be clarified at Geneva. Our hope being, that an honorable armistice can be worked out. Dulles noted, however, that we would not be satisfied with an armistice that would permit further aggression by the Reds.

He still feels that if the Reds took Viet Nam - they could move into all southeast Asia. He intends to prevent that - if he can.

He noted that only Communist opposition is preventing the unification of Korea. And he promised that the freedom of South Korea would not be surrendered at the council table in Geneva.

GENEVA

Talks on peace in Indo China - may begin tomorrow.

At least, Molotov says he's agreeable. Meaning, he has waited for the fall of Dien Bien Phu - which ~~is~~ ^{now furnishes} a strong talking point for the Reds.

Meanwhile, French Foreign Minister Bidault accuses the Reds of refusing a mercy cease-fire -- because they wanted a quick end to the battle. ~~at the Fortress~~. In a formal statement, Bidault said that the Chinese waited almost two full days - ~~but~~ before they returned an answer to his request for a truce ^{to} ~~which would~~ permit the wounded at Dien Bien Phu to be flown out.

A Soviet press officer; ~~held~~ ^{at} a special press conference this afternoon, ~~he~~ denied that the Chinese had rejected the French plea. He said they were favorable to the request - and wanted it taken up at the formal peace talks. But he didn't explain why they waited so long to ~~answer~~ answer Bidault. The Soviet Press officer was asked why he was speaking for Red China. ~~That was one~~ ^Q question he refused to answer.

A judge in Beaconsfield, England - sentences the fiery leader of left wing socialism. Aneurin Bevan having his license suspended. And to pay a fine of around seventy dollars.

Bevan was the driver of a hit and run automobile. His car, swerving at high speed. Mounting the curb on the wrong side of the road. Then swerving back to sideswipe a bus. After all that - the car kept moving, and disappeared.

And here's an odd coincidence. One witness - ~~was~~, Richard Davis, son-in-law of Clement Attlee. Attlee, being the leader of the Labor Party - whom Bevan has been challenging for ^{top} command. Attlee's son-in-law appeared in court to testify against Bevan.

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The stormy petrel from Wales told the court that he didn't stop - because he wanted to avoid publicity. He added that he had a "special reason" but, he wouldn't say what it was. ^{Whereupon} ~~Then~~ the Judge said - "guilty"! And the laborite M P had to pay up.

TAFT HARTLEY

The Senate rejects President Eisenhower's proposals for a revision of the Taft-Hartley law. The Senators deciding to send the bill back to the Senate Labor Committee - which means it's almost certain the bill will not be passed this year.

It was a party vote. The Republicans, solidly opposed to sending the bill back. The Democrats, for that motion. And, the Democrats won - forty-six to forty-two.

Union officials say they ^{are} satisfied with the ^{re-}action. Because, they ^{were} afraid ~~that~~ the Eisenhower revisions would enable governors to break strikes - by declaring them a danger to the people.

HEARING

Only one session today in the hearings of McCarthy versus the Army. Secretary Stevens, again on the stand - and he'll be there again when the sub-committee meets again on Monday.

At the morning session, the Secretary repeated that McCarthy's aides threatened him with reprisals - if he refused special preferential treatment for Schine. Said Stevens - "it was my feeling - they were threatening me."

Senator McClellan asked about charges that Cohn had threatened to "wreck the Army" - and that he said Stevens would be "through" as Secretary. Stevens said that Cohn ~~■~~ did say that to him -- and that he considered the remarks a threat.

Senator Symington wanted to know if Stevens meant - that the more he did for Schine, the less the sub-committee would hammer the Army. Was this the Secretary's contention? Said Stevens, "Yes. Sir, that was my idea."

Senator Dirksen brought up the possibility of

CANAL

The Mississippi to be connected to the Rio Grande - by a canal. That's the idea of Guy Jackson, President of the Texas Water Conservation Association. Jackson wants to syphon off the excess water of the Mississippi - use it to irrigate some of the parched lands of Texas.

The Texan says that the canal would be around fifteen hundred miles long. And would elevate the water of the Mississippi, some four thousand feet. For how much? He says it could be done for less than two billion - but admits it's a rough guess.

He has two routes in mind. One, from St. Louis across Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas and New Mexico - to join the Rio Grande at El Paso. The second, from Cairo, Illinois, across Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Texas - then to join the Rio Grande at El Paso.

The President of the Texas Water Conservation Association thinks that the Mississippi Valley states might agree - because the canal would take away water that causes

floods. One eminent engineer thinks there is some merit in the plan. He put it this way:- "It would certainly have to be a big canal! But, he adds - "there's an awful lot of water in the Mississippi."

MILE

When Roger Bannister ran the mile in less than four minutes yesterday - he fulfilled a prophecy by one of his leading rivals. Gunder Hagg, of Sweden - saying early this year that the British speedster would be the first to break through the four minute time barrier.

On March thirteenth, Gunder Hagg told an A P correspondent, ^{that -} "the four minute mile will be run this year. ^{He said.} It's overdue." [^] Then he made this prediction: "The man to do it will be Roger Bannister - that British doctor, who has so much brains."

After hearing about the new record, Gunder Hagg remarked that he always thought the main difficulty was psychological. Runners, held back - because they thought a four-minute mile was impossible. Hagg says that all along ~~as~~ he regarded Bannister as the one man who had the proper mental attitude ^{- plus} ~~also~~, the speed. So the Swedish miler felt that some time Bannister would put the two together - and

1/2 run the mile in less than four minutes. Which is what
happened at Oxford yesterday.

ROBBER

The Reverend Newton Gosby, of Mt. Vernon, Virginia was returning to his rectory shortly after midnight, when suddenly a robber stepped up, held out a gun, and demanded his money,

Instead, what did the clergyman do? He began a sermon! He talked about virtue and the sin of stealing.

He discussed the robber's background, and pointed out how honesty is the best policy, leads to ~~the~~ success - crime

In fact, on and on.
doesn't pay - and so on. ~~In fact~~ The longest sermon he had ever preached. For the Reverend Gosby talked for four hours. Finally, at four a.m. the robber was worn down, and stammered that he guessed the dominie was right. Then he regained control of himself and said that he guessed ~~th~~ he'd take the clergyman's wallet, anyhow. Which he did.

Harry, *end*
Somehow [^] that story doesn't quite as it should.

alas
I thought right was going to prevail. But ~~no~~ Satan won again!