

Thurs. April 24 - '52 C.T.-P.+G.

For a while today, we seemed to have the disclosure of a historic secret. For about an hour and a half we had, apparently, the revelation of an ultimatum to Soviet Russia -- how, a half a dozen years ago, the course of Red aggression was checked by an ultimatum from Washington.

This transpired at a Whitehouse news conference at which President Truman made comment on the government seizure of the steel industry -- and the emergency which, said he, had made it necessary. To illustrate, he cited other emergencies -- how these were solved by drastic action. For example that ultimatum to Moscow.

It happened back in the Iranian crisis soon after the World War II. In those days there were headlines -- the Soviets making moves to take over the ancient land of Persia. (Russian troops were in the northern part of Iran, and the crisis was placed before the United Nations. It looked like ^{a real} ~~the~~ danger

of war -- but then the Soviets, rather surprisingly, withdrew their forces from Iran, and the crisis was over)

Today President Truman stated that at the height of the Iranian crisis, Washington sent an ultimatum to Moscow - demanding that the Red Army withdraw, or American ~~xxx~~ forces would be sent into Iran. Result - the Red Army moved out. Newsmen reminded the President that the word "ultimatum" was mighty serious in the world of diplomacy. To which the President responded -- that it was the accurate word. He said Moscow was given a date for pulling out its troops - or the United States army would go in. The deadline made it an ultimatum, and the Soviets acquiesced.

That was the historic news - but, about an hour and a half later, there was a correction. No such ultimatum had ever been sent. Officials had made a check of diplomatic records, and here is what they show.

"On March Sixth, Nineteen Forty-Six" said a spokesman at the White House, "a note was sent from the U.S. Government to the Soviet government making our position perfectly plain with respect to the situation in Iran." ^{March} "The Russians withdrew their troops from Iran in May, Nineteen Forty-Six. It was not an ultimatum, in the usual diplomatic sense," the spokesman explains, "but it was a pretty strong note." To which he adds that the President was using the word "ultimatum" in a "non-technical layman sense." There is no trace of any other note to which the President might be referring.

A newsman, pressing the question, demanded flatly - did the President send a personal note to Stalin, demanding that the Red Army get out of Iran by a certain date. The spokesman replied, "I do not believe he did."

So the historic secret of the "ultimatum" faded out a bit - hardly historic at all. But it wasn't the only one cited by the President today. He declared that similar drastic word was given in the

case of Red Marshal Tito of Jugoslavia - at the time when he still was a Soviet satellite. Tito-threatening march on Trieste, a disputed seaport on the Adriatic.

The President says he called in General Eisenhower, General Marshall and Admirals of the Navy, and ordered the United States fleet into the Adriatic. ~~So~~ And ^{he} ~~the~~ told General Eisenhower to send three American divisions into Northern Italy. ^{all of} which stopped the Red march on Trieste.

So that was his historic secret number two. ^{On this too} ~~and~~ there was a prompt check-up. ^{and} ~~then~~ This, as given out later on at the White House, shows that the troops of Red Marshal Tito occupied Trieste for forty days in Nineteen Forty-Five. They got out after being told to do so - by the United States and Great Britain.

Well, it was a great day for historic secrets -- all in the business of explaining the seizure of the steel mills.

TRUMAN-SEIZURE

The White House ridicules the notion of any seizure of newspapers and radio stations. President Truman -- answering a lot of criticism he stirred up at a ^{previous} news conference. That one was attended by members of the American Society of newspaper editors, and the question of the seizure of the steel mills came up. One of the editors asked: "If it is proper to seize the steel mills, can you, in your opinion, seize the newspapers and the radio stations."

The Truman reply was, rather ambiguously -- that, in great emergency, the President has the right to do what he thinks best for the country. Which, of course, covered a lot of territory, and some of the editors drew the conclusion that it meant - yes.

Today H.S.T. said he didn't mean any such thing - the idea never occurred to him. He declares that he finds it difficult to imagine a situation in which the seizure of press and radio would be necessary.

FLOODS

In the flood story the complete bedevilment comes to ^{the} a town of Sabula, Iowa -- where the waters of the deluge are joined by legions of beavers and muskrats. At Sabula on the Mississippi the raging waters are menace number two, for the levees. Which are being undercut and under mined by the beavers and muskrats. Reinforcements of sand bags are being built ^{| but} ~~by~~ the aquatic animals are burrowing right into them, ~~xxx~~ cutting ^{holes through} ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ which the water pours.

The swarms of muskrats are from nearby swamp lands -- driven out by the deluge, ~~from the Mississippi that have~~ ^{They've} taken refuge in the levees -- waging a battle ^{there} against the sand bags which ~~were to~~ hold them in.

Flood ^{fighters}
The ~~muskrats~~ ^{are} bedeviled all the more, because of a state law ~~was~~ ^{forbidding} anyone to shoot a muskrat. ^{And} ~~the~~ law abiding citizens can only go after the pestulant critters with clubs.

FLOODS (2)

On the Missouri River side of the flood picture the crest is approaching Kansas City -- where the dikes are expected to hold. But that ~~the~~ anticipation of safety does not apply to the farm lands above and below Kansas City. These are in the sweep of the deluge.

SUBSTITUTE PRISON

(The Michigan prison riot ended this afternoon) with as ~~wild~~^{wierd} a scene as was ever witnessed in the history of crime. (The mutineers in cell block fifteen marched out in surrender -- and released the prison guards they had been holding as hostages. Whereupon, ~~the remaining mutineers~~^{they} were given a big dinner, a regular feast -- as their reward.

They had put on a display of arrogance hard to believe -- in compelling the authorities to negotiate for their surrender. The authorities, helpless -- in their concern to save the lives of the hostages.)

Governor Mennen Williams himself agreed to the terms -- and tonight, stated that they will be kept.)

The bargaining ~~was~~ came to a climax -- when at the last minute, the psychopathic leader of the mutineers made an additional demand.

Convict Earl Ward hiked the price by insisting

that the rebels upon coming out, be given a dinner -- "fit for a king", as he phrased it. He said the terms must include what he called -- "an abundant meal of steak, ice ~~XXXXXX~~ cream and appropriate trimmings", which the mutineers got tonight. They call it "a victory feast." [^] They are jubilant -- especially their leader, psychopathic Earl Ward, who likes to be called "Mr. Brains." And -- his lieutenant, [^] wild-eyed convict called "Crazy Jack" Hyatt. He gives himself the title of "Mr. Strategy". [^] The whole thing -- accompanied by an address from the Warden, who used phraseology like this: "You won every point of your demands, and most will be in effect immediately. Good old Ward," the Warden went on "is a natural leader. He and the others are to be congratulated."

Sounds strange, as the Warden himself admits. He says most people will consider his congratulations to the mutineers rather remarkable. But adds -- that any trained psychologist will understand. After all,

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most of the rebel convicts, attending that victory
feast tonight, are mentally deranged.

CRIME

In Phoenix Arizona, they caught the Red Cap Robber. But not -- the Rubber Masked Bandit. Phoenix has been having a wave of robberies perpetrated either by a crook in a red cap or one wearing a rubber mask.

Today's news dispatch tells of the holdup of a liquor store, the bandit captured -- and his identity is a shocker. A ~~I~~ seventeen year old highschool football star, son of a elementary school principal. The last you would expect; but, he was arrested as the bandit -- and he was wearing a red cap. ~~Today the police declare that he has confessed a whole series of crimes.~~

The irony comes in the fact that, while they were questioning the Red Cap Robber there was a holdup at a hotel -- only three blocks from the police station. The crook wore -- a rubber mask. He got away with \$150.00 in loot. The latest -- in the doings of the Rubber Masked Bandit.

CRIME (2)

All of which makes a criminal fantasy.

The cops have ^{were} captured the red cap, ^{are} now looking
for -- the rubber mask.

ONE

The marital difficulties of Franchot Tone and Barbara Peyton are coming out in a blaze of scandal. The movie actor today filing evidence procured by private detectives. ^{their} ~~These~~ statements give exceedingly romantic details of how they watched Barbara's house and noted how Actor Tom Neal spent the night there. Which might seem ~~to~~ to bear out reports that Barbara has transferred her affections back to the muscular Neal, who gave Franchot Tone so savage a beating. All for ~~Barbara~~ Barbara -- who thereupon married Franchot Tone, only to have the marriage blow up sky high.

They are suing each other for divorce, and today Barbara's lawyers declared that the charges are made only for revenge -- and to keep Barbara from getting a share of the property. She says Franchot Tone is worth a million or so. Her lawyers claim that he threatened to file ^{serious} charges, ~~of adultery,~~ unless Barbara agreed to his terms for a settlement. Which, say the lawyers, meant "she would walk out without one cent." Barbara doesn't like the idea

PHONE (2)

of walking out without one cent, ~~as SEE what woman~~
~~does.~~ (She is asking temporary alimony to the tune
of \$1500.00 per month, plus the cost of the lawyers.)

BASEBALL (2)

no hitters for nine innings -- Fred Toney losing out in the tenth.

Yesterday's game put the St. Louis Browns in ~~the~~ first place. The Browns, chronic tail enders, having won seven and lost only one. Of course, it is too early in the race to mean much, but the St. Louis fans can hardly believe their eyes -- to see their hopeless patsies leading the league.

Today the baseball writers were going back to records of long ago to find something to match the drama of the diamond in the American League yesterday -- when the great Bob Feller came close to pitching a no hitter, but was beaten by a ~~some~~ comparative unknown, lefty Bob Cain, who likewise almost pitched a no hitter. Each gave a lone, solitary hit.

It was a heart breaker for Feller, cheated out of what would have been his fourth no hit game. Which would have given him an all time record -- no other pitcher ever having tossed four no hitters.

For Bob Cain -- it was sweet revenge for last season, when Bob Feller pitched his third no-hitter and Cain was the victim.

All of which sent the sports writers back to 1917 -- for a pitchers duel as tense and exciting. Thirty five years ago Fred Toney of the Cincinnati Reds and Jim Vaughn of the Chicago Cubs, matched

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SMORGASBORD

Tonight, alas, there is indignation and outrage in Minnesota -- the Larsens, the Hansens, the Olsens and ~~Johnsons~~ ^{Svensons} are howling with anger. And no wonder - considering what happened in Minneapolis today. Smorgasbord -- declared "unsanitary".

This emanates from the City Health Administrator ^{or,} Dr. Clare Gates, which name is not Swedish at all. He says that Smorgasbord exposes food to dust, dirt, flies and germs. And - should be protected by what he calls "sneeze guards". People sneezing in the smorgasbord.

Well, it is all enough to arouse the wrath of every Olaf, ~~or Magnus~~ ^(Sverre or Alf) in Minnesota. Imagine -- sneezing in the smorgasbord!

And now from out here in the West - as the Sun slowly sinks into the West - we switch east to you - Nelson.