

The situation in the Middle East shapes up ominously, tonight. King Hussein of Jordan charging, publicly - that Israel is preparing for war. King Hussein put it in these words: "Information available to us indicates that the enemy intends to launch an attack against us soon." The use of the word "enemy" for Israel - has a forbidding sound.

ON the Israeli side, Premier Ben Gurion proposes - to draft one-hundred-and-fifty-thousand workers. To build barricades for the protection of Israeli settlements along Moslem borders.

Ben Gurion makes an appeal to labor unions - to do "one million work days" on the frontiers. He said the workers could accomplish this - by taking vacations from their jobs. Dedicating the time - to frontier defense.

These military precautions are accompanied by ~~the~~ news that sounds curious. The government of Israel announcing a draft of Druses. Soldiers to be conscripted - from the Druse tribes.

— around Jebel Druze —

The Druses are mostly in the mountains of Syria, but some are in northern Israel. Hitherto immune - from service in the Army of Israel. A dissident sect of Moslems - Heretics of Islam, whose strange religion goes back to the Middle Ages. Historically, the factions of Islam have persecuted each other bitterly. The Druses, a prime example of this. But it sounds odd. Moslems, of no matter what heretical sect, in the Army of Israel.

SUDAN

Deep in the remote Sudan - the report of a horror. Reminiscent of the - "black hole of Calcutta." That atrocity - of early days of the British in India. When British prisoners ~~were~~ ~~xxx~~ jammed into a small basement room - and one-hundred-and-twenty-three perished of suffocation. Now, in the Sudan, one-hundred-and-ninety-four prisoners - perishing in a similar way.

It happened in the Blue Nile country, where cotton farmers were unwilling to hand over their crops. Riots ensued - with twenty farmers and two policemen killed in clashes. Wholesale arrests were made - and two-hundred-and-eighty-five rioters were jammed in one room of an army barracks. Left there - and one-hundred-and-ninety-four of them died.

Today's dispatch from Khartoum says- the cause may, possibly, have been food poisoning. But indications are - another "black hole of Calcutta."

EUROPE - WEATHER

A disaster threatens in Paris - the destruction of the famous bridges across the Seine. The trouble - the bitter winter over there in the old world. The intense cold - continuing. Ice piling up in rivers, everywhere - especially in the Seine. Where the pressure of the frozen masses may crush those Paris bridges. Officials estimate that eight hundred thousand tons of ice are piled up in the Seine - where it flows through Paris.

(In Denmark, the country - cut into three parts. Ice blocking the channels - between Danish islands and the mainland.

(In Yugoslavia - artillery firing high explosive shells, trying to break an ice jam in the Danube.

ARGENTINA

Argentina reports - one of the greatest of oil gushes - the strike made in the "Salta" province. North Central Argentina - near the Gran Chaco. American geologists are quoted as saying - that the new oilfield warrants the construction of a pipeline to Buenos Aires. The Argentine Ministry of Industry declaring - that the country will now become self sufficient in oil.

ARGENTINE EXPLOSION

There was a tremendous explosion in Argentina, today. Buenos Aires - shaken as if by an earthquake. An Army arsenal blowing up. The blast - creating a crater thirty feet deep. Thousands of artillery shells and air bombs - hurled far and wide. Showering - a thickly populated residential district.

You might think the casualties - enormous. But nobody ~~seems~~ seems even to have been hurt. The explosion happened at night - no one at the arsenal. The artillery shells and air bombs - without fuses. And - they didn't explode.

One suspicion - sabotage by Peronists. But it may have been spontaneous combustion.

URANIUM

The U.S. Government will provide a billion dollars worth of fissionable uranium for civil industry and research. Half of it - for use by commercial industries in this country. The other half - to go abroad. To be leased or sold - for peaceful purposes.

So announced by President Eisenhower, today. The statement adding - that safeguards will be taken to make sure the fissionable material abroad will not be ~~diverted~~ diverted to military purposes.

The billion dollars worth of uranium two-three-five, comes to about two hundred tons.

EISENHOWER

The word becomes more and more insistent - that President Eisenhower will run.

Today, the United Press declares it has information from most reliable sources - of what the President, himself, told his close associates. That he would not commit himself publicly, until he had made a personal test of his physical strength. So that's why he made the trip to the Georgia plantation of the Secretary of the Treasury, George Humphrey. Why - he went quail shooting day after day. And why - he went back to golf. Today, for example, he played eighteen holes. His game - strong. A 240 yard drive - that's good in any league.

The doctors thought - he wouldn't be able to go back to full physical activity, until a couple of months from now. But the President gave himself - an earlier try-out, and finds his physical reactions okay.

Today, Martin Hayden of the Detroit News, reported that Presidential Assistant Sherman Adams and

Chairman Leonard Hall have conveyed information to top Republicans. That - the President will seek another term.

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The Chicago American quotes friend^s of the President as declaring that - he's in the race. The newspaper says - ~~he has~~ ~~the President~~ made his decision down there in Georgia. However, the newspaper reports that the President has made his decision known - ~~are~~ denied at the temporary White House.

He returns to Washington on Saturday, and would normally hold a regular news conference - next Wednesday, the twenty-ninth. Before he left for Georgia, he said- he'd make his decision known before the first of March. And indicated - he would make the statement at a news conference.

So now the expectation is - Wednesday of next week, February Twenty Ninth. That extra February Day - in Leap Year. Which additional day always has - something special about it. Something extra special, it would seem - next Wednesday.

ALABAMA

There's a wholesale round-up - at Montgomery,
Alabama. Arrests - of one-hundred-and-fifty Negro leaders.
Charged - with inciting the boycott of the city bus line.

For eleven weeks, negroes have been refusing to ride
in the buses - because of racial segregation. Normally, they
provide a large part of the business, and the bus company is
in financial ~~trouble~~ trouble.

A Grand Jury finds the boycott - illegal. Hence
today's arrests of negro leaders. Including - ten clergymen.

SUB KIDNAP

The kidnap affair at Pueblo, Colorado, turns out to be - puzzler. The abductor - now identified as the schoolmate of Robert A. Jackson, wealthy automobile dealer, whose wife - was the kidnap victim. Eugene Hurst says - he intended to rob Jackson's automobile company, but he happened to see Mrs. Jackson, and decided to hold her - for a ransom.

He carried her off in an automobile, but was quickly trapped by the police. Whereupon, he pointed a gun at Mrs. Jackson, and tried to make ~~his~~ his way across a field. Keeping her in front of him, always pointing the gun at her.

But she broke away, and the posse closed in swiftly. In a scuffle, the kidnapper fired one shot - with singular effect. He managed to ~~shoot~~ shoot himself in the leg - and also *the husband,* Jackson, who was in the posse. Both wounded - by the same bullet.

WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY

Today being Washington's birthday, flags were flying this morning, in four communities of Upper New York State - Watertown, Alexandria Bay, Clayton and LaFargeville. But, when the citizens of the four towns took a look, they were amazed - and indignant. Banners were waving - on the flag poles of the local schools. But - British flags. The Union Jack - reminiscent of the redcoats, George the Third, and all.

Moreover, on each flagpole a proclamation was pasted. Reclaiming the United States as a British Colony. Demanding allegiance - in the name of George the Fourth, King of England. Shades of Paul Revere - and the Minute Men of Lexington and Concord! Shades of George Washington, himself.

To make matters all the more outrageous, the proclamation den^{do}~~n~~ounced the father of his country - as a "subversive and a rebel."

Well, it sure was an outrage - and the culprits have been discovered. Canadian students from Queens University, Kingston Ontario. Celebrating Washington's birthday - in reverse. Their sense of Canadian humor - getting the better of them.

FLORIDA

Byron Parks phoned me from Florida a moment ago - confirming what I heard 2 days ago from Robert Trent Jones. Anyhow, this afternoon the contracts were signed for Florida's largest real estate transaction. The fabulous Boca Raton Club and one thousand acres were sold by J. Meyer M. Schine to Arthur Vining Davis, Chairman of the Board of the Aluminium Corporation of American. Price - Twenty-two and a half million. The brokers were F. Byron Parks and J. Stewart Robertson.

GIRL

In London, a girl and boy romance. And the boy - is a ghost.

Fifteen year old Shirley Hitchings told on television about her "out of this world" romance. How the boy tells of his affection for her - by tapping on her bedroom wall. Using a code. Letters of the alphabet - represented by the tapping. The girl - writing down the message.

She says it's a boy named Donald, whom she knew as a childhood playmate. But the boy died, and now in the spirit land - he comes courting.

Some weird fantasy of a girl's imagination. Shirley's father declares - "this nonsense has got to stop." But how ~~can~~ ^{can} her father chase away a boy friend - who's a ghost?

Well, a later dispatch says - a spiritualist held a seance - and banished the sentimental spook.

ROYALTY

Today, the British public learned how the Royal family took - the skit in the French farce. The skit - on the risque side. So ~~whatixix~~ was the Royal Family shocked? Or were they amused? These questions were considered much too delicate for discussion.

The French farce playing in London is called - My Aunt's feather. The skit that caused the embarrassment? Well, it might be indelicate for me to describe it. But it's typical - of a Parisian Street scene. Something that could not happen, for example, on the Avenue - in London or New York.

Anyway, the Royal Family attended My Aunt's Feather. The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh - the Queen Mother and Princess Margaret. London newsmen covered the story, as is the custom - when Royalty goes to the theatre. So, there was a group of reporters in the auditorium.

They watched the Royal Family during the first part of the play. But then - that skit was coming up. So what

happened? A member of the Royal bodyguard went to the theater manager - and whispered. The manager went to news reporters - and whispered. Asking them - to leave. So that the Royal reaction to the risque comedy would not become public, wouldn't get in the newspapers.

The newsmen were indignant. But Royalty is royalty, and they discreetly - ~~max~~ obeyed. Leaving the theater, and standing in the lobby - while the skit was being enacted.

They heard roars of laughter from the audience. But they couldn't tell - if there was any royal mirth mixed in. So the secret was kept inviolate - when the morning papers appeared in London today.

But now - the secret is out. Who gives it away? One of the reporters? Not at all. One of the French actors.

Robert Dehrey, who appears in the skit spoke up and said "of course they laughed." He said the Queen, the Queen Mother and Princess Margaret shrieked.

The Duke of Edinburgh, doubled up with laughter.

- Henry -

Yes, it was too delicate for the British to tell - but not
for a French actor.