

L.T.-K. FRIDAY, JULY 23, 1954.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

In Paris today the French National Assembly voted overwhelming approval for the truce in Indo-China. The vote -- 501 to 93.

Opposition was led by former Foreign Minister Bidault and other members of the cabinet, which fell from Power when Mendes-France took over. Their argument was that the ousted cabinet, headed by former Premier Laniel, could have made peace in Indo-China -- if given a chance. And -- might have got better terms. All this, however, made little impression on the French Parliament. Premier Mendes-France and his armistice winning an overwhelming victory.

In Washington, today, Under-Secretary of State Walter Bedel Smith described the truce in these words:--  
"The best we could have obtained in the circumstances."

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Bedel Smith came back today from the Geneva Conference. Yesterday stopping off in London, he had a conference with Prime Minister Churchill. Today he was reporting on that to Secretary of State, John Foster Dulles.

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INDO CHINA-WAR:

In Indo-China today, there was an aerial bombardment by French war planes. The target -- a Communist force, besieging a French outpost on the high plateau in Vietnam. The siege -- going on for some time. It was a bombardment -- of leaflets. The French High Command informing the Reds of the truce -- the end of the war.

Similar showers of leaflets were dropped on Communist units in other isolated sections. All -- in an effort to put the cease-fire into effect. Communications difficult and slow -- in areas of mountains and jungles. The Communist command -- unable to get prompt information to its own forces.

Hongkong, Saturday, July 24, -- (UP)-- The C-54 Airliner which plunged into the sea off Communist-held Hainan island with 18 persons, six Americans, aboard, was shot down by a Red fighter plane - or planes.

A U.S. Air Force rescue plane saved nine. Of those on the Cathay Pacific airways liner, three of the six Americans were saved and brought to Hong Kong. There is much mystery about this affair but we are told the C-54 was attacked and shot down by a lone fighter plane off the South China coast.

The London daily Telegraph, in a dispatch from Hong Kong, quotes an anonymous survivor as saying the skymaster was hot down by fighter plane or planes.

The airliner was bound from Bangkok, Thailand, to Hong Kong. American and British planes went to the rescue and reported that boats from the Red Island of Hainan picked up some survivors. Newsmen were barred from seeing survivors at the hospital in Hong Kong.

## GERMANY:

The West German Security Chief, who disappeared three nights ago, went on the Communist radio today. Otto John -- whose position with the West German government was something like that of F.B.I. Chief, John Edgar Hoover over here. His job -- to seek out Red subversion.

The supposition was that he had been kidnapped. Later, it was found that he went over to East Berlin with a Communist physician. -- and it was noted that Otto John had suffered from some sort of nervous disorder.

Today, in a brief speech on the East German radio, he criticized the West German policy of alliance with the West, and said that this would be a bar to German unification.

There is, as yet, no explanation for the strange performance. The West German Security Chief may have been abducted -- and coerced. Or -- he may have gone over to the Communists of his own free will. Anyway, the affair is a sensation in Germany.

MOSCOW:

The Soviets have closed out one of the ugliest affairs which disgraced the final days of Stalin -- the notorious "Doctors' Plot." Closing it out in Soviet style -- with an execution. The chief character -- shot yesterday.

M.D. Ryumin was, in Stalin's time -- the Chief Magistrate of the State Security Agency. Serving under Beria -- head of the dreaded Secret Police. Ryumin -- said to have done the actual job of concocting evidence against the nine eminent physicians. It would have gone hard with those doctors if Stalin had lived a little longer. Or -- if Beria had had his way.

The Chief of the Secret Police fell from power -- and was executed. Now -- his henchman, Ryumin. Moscow states -- that he falsified evidence against the nine doctors, compelling them to testify that they were engaged in a conspiracy to murder a list of Kremlin big

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shots. So now, with an execution, they write -- the  
end of the story.

## FILIBUSTER:

Nobody seems able to guess when that filibuster in Washington may come to an end. The marathon oratory continued on and on today -- in spite of every effort by Republican Leader, Senator Knowland, to cut it off. His idea of clamping on a gag rule seems to have come to nothing. Knowland indicates that he will call a recess over Sunday -- the filibuster to begin on Monday again. The Republican Leader, determined that the Senate shall hold out -- until these opposition orators become exhausted. But they are determined to go on filibustering -- until the Senate is exhausted.

Meanwhile, the House of Representatives took up the Eisenhower atomic bill, today. The measure that brought about the Senate filibuster. The congressmen -- disgusted with Senate behavior, will probably pass the bill before the filibuster ends.



ALABAMA:

Drastic measures taken at Phenix, City, Alabama. Measures -- to crush a reign of lawlessness, vice and Corruption. Phenix City -- notorious for a long time.

Well, the National Guard, under orders from the Governor marched in, and ousted the town law enforcement officials -- sheriff, cops, and all. Disarming them -- taking away their guns. At the same time, the state soldiers disarmed the whole town. All weapon permits - cancelled. Everybody ordered -- hand in those guns. At last report heaps of confiscated pistols were piling up. Some machine guns -- in the collection.

This is the latest in a series of events following the murder of the crime-fighting crusader Albert Patterson. Who was nominated to be the next Attorney General of Alabama -- and was killed by the Underworld.

## WALL STREET:

The financial world has rumor of a big steel merger. In New York, today, Wall Street was reporting - that three huge steel concerns were combining. Bethlehem Steel, Youngstown Sheet and Tube -- and the Follansbee Steel Corporation. The merger would create a steel giant with assets of more than two billion dollars. Which, however, would still not equal U.S. Steel - the biggest in the world.

## FLOOD:

The weather story, out here in the West, now takes a new turn. Yesterday, we had stories of forest and brush fires -- following the neat wave and severe drouth. Today, for variety, we have the peril -- of the deluge.

Farmington, in extreme north Western New Mexico -- threatened by an overwhelming mass of water. The town reservoir -- rising so high -- the dam may go out. If that happened, the whole reservoir would pour down into Farmington.

There was a cloud burst, hearily an inch of rain falling in a single hour. The reservoir -- rising swiftly. Today, a thousand volunteers were building up the dam with sand bags, reinforcing the barrier.

All through the Southwest mountain country, there were vilent rain storms. Turning -- half-dry streams into raging torrents. That was last night -- and today,

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it was still raining. Creating awkward situations here and there -- but all a boon for the farmer. Harrassed -- by the long heat wave and the drouth.

However, we still have that theme of brush and forest fires -- in Northern California. Today, there was a big blaze in the lumbering area of Burney. "n appropriate name, Burney -- considering what was going on today.

If it wasn't such a serious matter you might say burny burny at Burney. But it is so verious we'll omit levity and say the wood-lands are ablaze at Burney!?

## SWIMMER:

A swimming record was made today -- a new mark for one of the toughest of aquatic exploits. The swim-- across Lake Tahoe, that beautiful expanse of water on the border of California and Nevada. Burt Capps, a San Francisco swimmer -- splashing his way across the twelve miles in something less than eight hours. Which beats the old record -- by more than four hours.

What makes Lake Tahoe so difficult a swimming exploit is -- the temperature. The lake, up there near Donner Pass, is at an altitude of 6,240 feet. Fed -- by chilly streams from the mountain snows. Today, the temperature of the lake was 45 degrees.

Burt Capps is a veteran -- thirty-eight years old. A one-time college football star -- who has been performing feats of swimming for years. Time and again, he has paddled his way across the Golden Gate. And, a few months ago, he swam around Alcatraz Island in San Francisco Bay. The first one to do that -- in twenty-five years. He's a big husky -- weighing 240 pounds.

Today, swimming Lake Tahoe, Capps was hit by a cramp, and people thought -- he might have to give it up. But, cramp or no cramp, he kept on swimming. Until he became the third one ever to swim across Lake Tahoe.

## AMBERGRIS:

There is a Texas upholsterer who goes around carrying a strange fortune in his suitcase. Treasure worth \$15,000 -- but a curious treasure.

Today, Walter Thayer of Corpus Christi, Texas, was in Springfield, Illinois -- visiting relatives. His suitcase -- containing, not only his clothes, but also twenty pounds of ambergris.

That is the legendary stuff produced in the stomach of the sperm whale -- famous as material for perfumes. During the centuries, the rarest of all the fragrant scents were based -- on ambergris.

The Texas upholsterer tells how, a year ago, he and a friend were driving on Padre Island, a long sand spit just off the Gulf Coast. Suddenly, his companion said, "Look at that strange rock out there in the surf."

Thayer, curious stopped the car, waded into the surf -- to investigate, and recognized -- what the object

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was.

Back in college days, he had taken chemistry, and learned about ambergris -- what it looked like. This was it -- a huge lump drifting in from the Gulf of Mexico. Ambergris -- disgorged by a whale.

He knew it was a treasure, and expected to sell the twenty pounds for a good price. But he has not been able to sell it. Ambergris -- worth \$900 a pound; so expensive -- the perfume makers have changed over to musk, from the Musk deer. But the Texas upholsterer hangs on to his treasure -- expecting to sell it, some day. Carrying it around meanwhile -- in his suitcase.

It seems to me we used to read -- that ambergris, while used for the most delicate of perfumes, has a powerful, most offensive, odor -- in its original condition. Something, maybe, like the pole cat. Odd stuff to be carrying around in a suitcase.



## LEANING TOWER

The Leaning tower of Pisa -- leaning more than ever. So announced by a professor at the local university -- who has just made new measurements. He says that famous tower, built in the Thirteenth Century, - one of the so-called Seven Wonders of the Medieval world -- has leaned over about a fifth of an inch further this year. The leaning tower, one hundred and seventy-nine feet high -- is now some sixteen feet, six inches off center.

Engineers predict that, if the slant continues to increase at its present rate, the world renowned structure will collapse within the next four hundred years.

Well, it's been tilting ever since it was built, six hundred years ago -- and nothing seems able to keep the leaning tower from leaning more and more.

And now not leaning - but leaping thru the air from Coast to Coast - back to you, Mike.