

L.T. P. & G. THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 1949

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

At Lake Success, Dr. Ralph Bunche, acting mediator for the United Nations, announced that both Israel and Egypt had agreed to a cease-fire order, this morning.

U N officials are reported jubilant. This unexpected agreement between Israel and Egypt, they take as a sign that a permanent settlement is about to be worked out. Also, that Egypt is the first Arab state to agree to direct negotiations with Israel. They also have the impression that Egypt's decision to negotiate will be approved by King Abdullah of Trans-Jordan.

So for the moment, no more war in Sinai, where Moses and the Israelites spent those famous forty years when they fled from the Pharaoh of Egypt three thousand years ago. Now the shoe is on the other foot.

ADD PALESTINE

Later, it was stated at Lake Success that fighting is still going on - in some parts of the desert. So the U N mediator ^{has} set a new deadline, for what ~~ixx~~ he hopes will be the final cease-fire -- Seven A M tomorrow morning - our time. This to give both sides time to notify all their fighting units.

INDONESIA

Acting Secretary of State Lovett says he hopes the Netherlands government will keep its pledge -- to establish self rule in Indonesia. This in reply to a letter from C I O President Philip Murray to Secretary of State Marshall - asking the U.S. to call a halt to Dutch military action in the East Indies.

The United States, says Lovett, has urged the Dutch to settle their differences with the Indonesian government. He adds that the latter has already proved its nationalist character - by checking a communist revolt. And, he praises the leadership of Indonesian President Doekarno in opposing the Moscow-inspired attack by the Communists - wiping them out instead of compromising with them.

Meanwhile, in Amsterdam, in a radio speech, Queen Juliana announces that military action by the Dutch government against Indonesia was unavoidable. She went on to say that she hopes an Indonesian federal government will be formed within the next few weeks, to pave the way for what she calls "a free

and independent Indonesia within the union of the Netherlands". The Dutch are not going to be wheedled out of their vast and fabulously rich East Indian empire by us hardly!

The young Queen went on to say that she intends to fulfill the promise made by her Mother, Queen Wilhelmina, in Nineteen Forty-two, when the Dutch Royal family was in exile. Wilhelmina promised Indonesia its freedom, that is, as a member of the Netherlands Indonesian Union - a promise she repeated in Nineteen Forty-Eight.

Queen Juliana, in her radio speech, added that it is not her intention to withdraw her Mother's promise - the promise of freedom to Indonesia. And that her government will arrange for free elections in Indonesia, as soon as possible.

FLYING TIGERS

A surprise move in Washington tonight. William C. Bullitt, former U.S. Ambassador to Russia, handed the Joint Congressional Committee on Foreign Aid an appeal from top ranking Chinese leaders. A request for an immediate revival of General Claire Chennault's wartime Flying Tigers. Also, Bullitt asked the committee for an all-out American aid program - for China. He proposed eight million dollars in military and economic assistance immediately. This to include the cost of training ~~of~~ new Chinese divisions under the supervision of American officers.

Bullitt today gave the committee an account of his recent mission to China. His report was made behind closed doors, because some of the committee members felt his testimony might embarrass the administration. Also they insisted that the report be published merely as his own findings. Not as the views of the committee.

After the session the former Ambassador told reporters that he believed the Nationalist Government's

' line along the Yangtze River could be held against the Communists. But, he said, the United States must send an experienced American fighting general to direct the war. Bullitt suggests MacArthur for the job or General Al Wedemeyer.

He said the Generalissimo admitted he hasn't a single general competent to resist the Moscow trained Chinese Communist leaders. He described his own high brass as incompetent and dis-honest - particularly the generals.

But the Chinese soldier, according to Chiang, is equal to any fighting man in the world, when properly trained and well fed and led. The junior Chinese officers, too, he thinks are first rate.

Tonight as if to confirm Bullitt's remarks, a Nanking dispatch tells of three of Chiang's top commanders refusing to obey his orders - doing it with extreme politeness, sending the Generalissimo a telegram in which they praise his good work in

defending the Republic against the Communists.

But they say they are unable to carry out his commands.

In fact they suggest that the Generalissimo take an honorable vacation.

CABINET SALARIES

President Truman has asked Congress to raise the salaries of ~~the~~ Cabinet Ministers and other top ranking federal officials. In a special message today, Mr. Truman told Congress that he could not get able men for the top jobs in the government - with salaries as they are now.

Today he also endorsed a bill introduced by Senators, of both ~~parties~~ parties - a bill to boost cabinet salaries. The President said he realizes the government cannot pay salaries on a par with private ~~business~~ industry (in Russia they do) but he wants to make cabinet jobs worth while, salaries sufficient to attract our best men, without them taking too great a loss.

He said he wants Congress to act promptly; and help him strengthen, what he terms: "the management of the executive branch of the government " by boosting salaries.

ICKES FOLLOW CABINET SALARIES

President Truman had a visitor today, Harold Ickes. The former Interior Secretary calling at the White House to congratulate Mr. Truman on his State of the Union message. The Old Curmudgeon had words of praise for Mr. Truman -- in contrast to the bitter words he hurled at the President when he resigned Mr. Truman's cabinet two years ago.

Today Ickes said that he thought the President's State of the Union message was good on all counts. That he thinks the "fair deal" label which Mr. Truman chose is okay. Ickes smiled as he told reporters that he had lived through the "square deal" of Theodore Roosevelt, the F.D.R. New Deal, and he welcomes the Truman "fair deal".

THURBER

One evening, not long ago, I told about the atomic scientists who were threatened with loss of sight because of their work with cyclotrons, how their eyes had been bombarded by neutrons, several years ago, causing cataracts. James Thurber, famous artist ~~has~~ sent me a message about this. Thurber at one time was threatened with blindness. So, from personal experience he knows a great deal about the subject. His wire reads:

"You seem to imply the Ty Cobb cataract operation was unusual. The fact is that about ninety-~~xxx~~ five percent of cataract operations are completely successful and sight restored. A recent check of twenty-three hundred such operations showed that only three had lost an eye. Surgeons regard the average cataract operation as a simple process as ~~xx~~ easy one of them said as clipping fingernails."

Then the message goes on:-

^ "Everybody with cataracts should consult a reputable eye man. Self treatment is always futile and sometimes dangerous and should never be practiced. Yours for

all the reassurance possible in a fearful world,"

signed Jim Thurber, West Cornwall, Conn.

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There's a new face in the Hoosier House of Representatives today at Indianapolis - a face with a familiar name. Philip Willkie, ~~xxx~~ son of Wendell Willkie, was sworn in today as a new member of the Indiana legislature.

Young Willkie, we hear, is full of ideas for injecting new fight in the G O P. He wants local Republican organizations all over the country to hold meetings patterned on the New England town meetings, to discuss party policies, invite the public to sit in, bring the ^{politicians} ~~politicians~~ to the voters.

Philip is not likely to ~~xx~~ forget his first day in office.

After being sworn in, he left the chamber. When he came back, the doorkeeper wouldn't admit him. Young Willkie insisted that he was a legislator. Said the doorman: "For all I know you're a butcher". Whereupon he kept young Willkie out. Which didn't discourage him a bit. It takes more than that to down a Willkie!

REFUGEES

The allied authorities in Berlin are facing a new problem -- what to do with thousands of refugees, fleeing daily from behind the Iron Curtain. Germans getting out of the Soviet zone. All they ask is, a chance to live in Germany - in the part under Allied rule.

Some of them have been flown farther west by the British. But there is no regular service - no arrangement for handling them. So the Berlin City government - in the western sector - has opened a welfare office and eight camps for them. And, these are jammed. The problem is - now what to do with them. Where can these fleeing Germans be sent?

Officials of this Berlin refugee welfare department describe the task of screening them as heart-rending. For at least half of them - fugitives from the Red terror - have to be told to go back - only ones who can be helped are those whose lives are in danger. Many of the refugees say the Russians have turned them out of their homes; their business establishments

confiscated by the Reds. Nevertheless they are told to go back and make the best of things.

This flow of refugees goes on and on.

Oddly enough they are not all Germans. A few are Russians, and others are Eastern Europeans escaping from slave labor camps.

Of course there is one obvious hazard. Some of them may be sent out on purpose - as spies. So our people try to screen them with extreme care.

COLDS

The common cold we are often told is man's number one plague. Costing industry millions and millions a year. To say nothing of the cost to nearly all of us for medical fees, medicine and time lost.

In England the British Medical Research Council has been investigating the common cold, ~~for the last thirty months, and~~ Today the British medical magazine, the Lancet, tells us the following:

That the common cold is caused by a ~~xx~~ virus, and can be transmitted from person to person, by clothes - particularly by handkerchiefs. Also, that the cold virus pegs you a full day before the actual symptoms develop. So when you say: "I think I'm getting a cold" you probably are. The virus - the cold germ - dies out when the cold has run its course.

Here's an odd point: one person can pass on a cold to four others, who in their turn can infect four others, and so on ad infinitum.

The Lancet goes on to say that the quickest way

to spread a cold is to shake your handkerchief in the air. The London medical report suggests this might be counteracted by impregnating handkerchiefs with germicides - disinfectants.

A few weeks ago I had an Eskimo lady on the air. Her name, Anauta. She told us that night that colds were unknown in her country, Baffinland, at the top of the world. The British scientists confirm this and add that if you want to spend the rest of your life without catching cold, get away from civilization, live on that lofty plateau of Tibet, or on Tristan Da Cunha, a lonely island in the South Atlantic, or in an igloo in the Arctic -- what the scientists call "cold free areas."

Even there you'll not be entirely safe. The cold virus will get you - if you have visitors.

Arctic explorers report escaping colds until they opened parcels from home - especially those containing clothes and blankets. Which leads the

scientists to conclude that the virus does live in fabrics.

These British scientists say they are determined to win an all-out victory. To this end they are using human guinea pigs. Over seven hundred persons have volunteered. They say they are looking for people between the ages of eighteen and forty willing to spend ten days, with a partner in complete isolation, in some remote part of the world. There's an idea for a honeymoon. ~~spend it~~ - Just the two of you - alone in the Arctic. *Maybe Rita Hayworth and Prince Ali Khan will volunteer! -*

RITA AND ALI

~~And now, for a moment let's~~ do a galendusprung
from Lake Placid in the Adirondacks to Gstead in the
Swiss Alps. This is a Hollywood news item from Europe.

News reporters on skis, today located Rita
Hayworth and her prince - Ali Khan - on an Alp.

Where the couple had arrived in a furlined sleigh.

The Prince from tropical India, with his skis; Rita

in a mink coat and ski pants. *They seemed
anxious to escape from the reporters.
So, maybe they'll turn up next in Tibet or
on Tristan da Cunha.*

ATOMIC CLOCK

The latest wonder of science - an atomic clock, a timepiece accurate to the twenty millionth of a second. The inventors of this wonder clock, however, report that they soon hope to increase its accuracy of one ten-~~6~~⁶millionth of a second. At that rate, it would take three million years for the clock to lose just one second.

Scientists of the U.S. Bureau of Standards have developed this atomic clock. Dr. Edward Condon, director of the Bureau, says its first practical use will be for the regulation of radio broadcasting frequencies.

Our present Naval Observatory time is figured out by measuring the rotation of the earth in relation to the stars. They've been doing it that way for many years. A telescope is pointed at a distant star, and the time the star takes in passing a pair of crossed hairs in the lense is noted. Then, when the star crosses them again, a full day has passed -- twenty four hours.

And that method, says the Bureau of Standards is okay for running railroads and so on. But not for scientific research. But, the twinkling of a star makes it difficult to register its precise position. Also, we are told, the earth is ~~slowing~~ slowing down -- its rotation easing up, so much so that today, Nineteen Forty-Nine, is a little longer day than was January Sixth, Nineteen Twenty. And that is enough to bother scientists who need to deal with measurements accurate to a millionth of a second.

The new atomic clock is controlled by an atomic regulator, a device which governs the electric works and enables it to maintain fabulous precision, to a twenty-millionth of a second. And - it looks just like any conventional electric clock. The difference is all in the works - those atomic works.

~~And now let's see if we can
and this way to a 20-millionth
of a second.~~

WEATHER

Here's a new freak of weather to off-set those sub-freezing temperatures in southern California. New England today had an un-expected touch of spring. Fifty-nine degrees in Boston. So warm that byacinths and narcissus bulbs burst into bloom.

Exceedingly bad news for winter sports enthusiasts. Snow gone. ~~So~~ No skiing. At Warner, New Hampshire, those who depend on the winter sports for a living are growing beards as a protest. Even the local barber says he won't shave himself until there is enough snow to bring the skiers back to town. Dartmouth has had to postpone its hockey game with the University of Colorado. All ice on the outdoor rink at Hanover has vanished.

Old Town, Maine - over six hundred Penobscot Indians marooned on their island reservation. Usually, at this time of the year, they cross the Penobscot River by walking across the ice. In the summer they have a ferry service. Now no ferry - and no ice. Indians marooned. Ugh!

On the subject of the weather right now

I could be as eloquent as the Penobscot Indians. How
about you, Nelson?