

ISRAEL L.T.-K. Fri. Oct. 23 - '53.

In Palestine, today, the Armistice Commission of the U.N. accused the kingdom of Jordan of, what it called - an "extremely serious violation" of the Palestine Armistice Agreement. Jordan condemned - for the blowing up of an Israeli freight train between Haifa and Tel Aviv. About which we hear <sup>d</sup> last night. The U.N. Commission demands - that the Jordan authorities take vigorous action to prevent a recurrence of any such outrage. Which follows, of course, that Israeli raid on Jordanian villages.

Meanwhile, Jordan rejects a protest from Israel - charging that Arab forces are massing on the frontier - that borderline where tension is so great. The Moslem reply denies this alleged mobilization, but admits that Jordan is taking measures to ward off possible aggression.

Sweden enters the picture, with a charge that a Swedish airplane was shot down by Israeli fighters. It was a two-seater tourist plane, which crashed near the border of Syria - both occupants killed. The Jewish state denies that

the Swedish aircraft was shot down by Israeli fighters, and intimates - that Arab planes may have done it.

TRIESTE

London reports - no progress in settling the problem of Trieste, that explosive dilemma. The conference proposed by Great Britain, the United States, and France is tied up in a knot. Yugoslavia refuses to attend - if Italy is given Trieste and Zone A, ~~in advance.~~ The Italians refuse to attend - unless they get Trieste and Zone A, as promised by the United States and Great Britain.

<sup>A</sup>~~The~~ diplomatic suggestion has been made that, as a compromise, Italy might be given the civilian administration of the disputed area, but not military control. Neither Yugoslavia nor Italy makes any favorable response to that.

Today's London dispatch intimates that, in the face of this deadlock, British and American troops might be kept in Trieste and Zone A - indefinitely. (~~London and Washington had announced that they're pulling their soldiers out. But, they might have to back down on that - confronted with the threat of hostilities between the Yugoslavs and the Italians. They might have to stay on - to keep the peace.~~)

## LONDON - STRIKE

London was in a snarl today - because of a strike in gasoline distribution. Traffic stalled all over the place - for a lack of ~~gas~~ petrol, as the British call it. Mighty few buses running, and the largest city in the world depends hugely on the familiar London bus.

It's a wildcat strike - three thousand workers going out - in defiance of their Union leaders. The walkout called - Communist inspired. Union officials have ordered the strikers to go back to their jobs, but in vain.

So the Labor Party Socialists are backing the Churchill Conservative government in measures to untangle the snarl in London. Today, twenty-six hundred soldiers moved into the City - ready to run big tank trucks of gasoline, and distribute the petrol tomorrow. If - the strike is still on.

PRECEDE COMMUNISTS

The White House announces that onethousand, four hundred and fifty-six government workers have been ousted for security reasons - during the first four months of President Eisenhower's loyalty-security program. Some - on grounds of Communism. Others - because for reasons of morality, <sup>or</sup> because they talked too much.

In addition, one-hundred-and-forty-five thousand employees were dropped from the federal payroll-  
XXXX as a measure of economy.

## COMMONISTS

At the New York House of Detention, a convicted Communist Party leader was slugged with a lead pipe, today, and is in a hospital tonight. His condition - serious. Robert G. Thompson, one of the top leaders of the Red party - who jumped bail and hid away in a California mountain cabin for more than two years. Captured - recently.

The assailant - a Yugoslav, Alexander Pavlovich, who was being held for deportation. He was to have been sent out of the country tonight.

Today, as inmates lined up for the noon meal, Pavlovich went at the Communist leader, and struck him over the head. No reason is given for the sudden assault. Some say that the Yugoslav was bitterly anti-Communist. Prison officials think he made the attack - to delay being deported from this country.

Eight busloads of cattlemen are on their way to Washington - from twenty states in the West. Their purpose - to protest against the falling prices of cattle, and to demand government action.

They plan to lay their demands before Secretary of ~~Commerce~~ Agriculture Benson - and he, today, tried to stop the caravan of two hundred and fifty ranchers. Making the appeal to the National Farmers Union, saying - that so big a conference would not be practicable. Not the way - to exchange ideas.

But the Farmers' Union replies - it's too late. The cattlemen are already on their way. Eight busloads, rolling on to Washington - where they also want to see President Eisenhower.

~~The Farmers Union has been urging the Administration to put price supports on live cattle, but Secretary Benson says there's no practical way to do it. Today he added - that he believes the crisis in livestock prices is easing off. And the cattlemen can~~

~~expect an economic improvement next year.)~~

Later the Secretary announced that - the Administration Farm Program will be ready for Congress in January. He had a meeting at the White House which lasted for six and a half hours. And, upon emerging, said - "the improved" farm program will include the "principle" of supporting agricultural prices.

The word from Republican circles is that Vice-President Nixon may do the job of ~~campaign~~ campaigning for G.O.P. candidates in the Congressional elections next year. The task - which President Eisenhower rejects. Feeling - it's not proper for the President to take part in the local political battles. So the Vice-President may be enlisted, for a whistle-stop campaign in behalf of Republican members of Congress, who face a hard fight for reelection.

Vice-President Nixon is on a world tour - he was in Indonesia today. He'll return with added prestige, no doubt - and, anyway, he has proved himself an <sup>unusually</sup> effective campaigner in the political wars.

CLARK

General Mark Clark has accepted the Presidency of The Citadel - the famous military college at Charleston, South Carolina. So announced by Governor Byrnes today. The General inspected the Citadel, and was impressed by the smartness of the cadet corps. So now, in March, he'll become President of an institution that's a landmark of the Old South. When the Civil War broke out, the entire student body of The Citadel marched off to fight, as a unit, against the Yankees. Now they've got a Yankee president.

## QUEEN

There's royal melodrama in Paris. But former King Peter of Yugoslavia says - it's nothing serious. Well, it happens to be a suicide attempt by his wife, Alexandra, whom the former monarch is now suing for divorce. Yesterday, the estranged couple appeared before a Parisian judge, who tried to persuade them to be reconciled. - ~~an effort requested by French law.~~ The ex-King refused - and, <sup>then</sup> ~~later in the day,~~ his wife slashed one wrist with a razor.

Today, Peter declared: "It's the fourth time. She threatened to turn on the gas, or throw herself out of a window. It's not serious."

But Alexandra replies: "I owe my life to Queen Fredericka of Greece."

The King and Queen of Greece, ~~are~~ in Paris, on their way to the United States, and <sup>have</sup> ~~they've~~ been trying to patch things up between the quarreling royal pair.

"My aunt, Fredericka," explains Alexandra, "had a premonition that I was going to kill myself. It was a

telephone call from her that saved me."

So there is a difference of opinion between the Ex-King and his Queen. Was it <sup>almost</sup>~~early~~ tragic? Or, was it exciteable melodrama, "not so ~~serious~~" as the king says.

## FLOODS - ITALY

Southern Italy is having a disaster of floods. Torrential rains have sent seven rivers over their banks. Villages engulfed, many places evacuated - perhaps as many as a hundred lives lost.

Today, the rain was a mere drizzle; but, a new havoc descended. Landslides - caused by water loosening masses of earth on steep mountainsides. Inundated villages - overwhelmed by avalanches of stone and mud.

All this is attributed, in part to World War Two. Calabria, the toe of the Italian boot, was the scene of devastating warfare in the Allied invasion of Italy. Forests on the hillsides shattered by cannon fire and bombing. For ten years the slopes have remained barren - without vegetation to hold the rainfall and bind the earth. Hence the floods and landslides.

## NEW JERSEY - TIDES

The New Jersey coast is having trouble - with high tides. Today, the tide came in with such a swirl, that large areas were flooded. People had to be evacuated from homes.

Classes in<sup>a</sup> school had to be suspended - when the water moved in. The whole east bank of the Maurice River was washed out,

~~and~~ <sup>when</sup> two feet of tide water surged upstream from Delaware Bay.

The Weather Bureau at Atlantic City says the tides are abnormally high for two reasons. One - it's full moon. Another - a storm out in the Atlantic, the tempest pushing the water, and adding to the tidal effect of the moon.

LOUISIANA

There's more alarming word about the mass of salt water that's pushing up from the Gulf of Mexico into the Mississippi - giving Old Man River a tinge of green. New Orleans gets its water supply from the Mississippi - and, today, a city official declared that <sup>even</sup> the drinking water may ~~begin to taste~~ <sup>be</sup> salty within ~~twenty-five to~~ thirty days. <sup>That</sup> ~~which~~ would cause the abandonment of a thirty million dollar purification plant. Which purifies <sup>ordinary</sup> the river water all right - but <sup>won't</sup> ~~wouldn't~~ take ~~the~~ salt out of it.

Still more alarming is the word from Army engineers down there, headed by Major General Samuel Sturgis. They've been trying to cope with the basic problem - the fact that the waters of the Mississippi are being drained off into the Atchafalaya, a river, <sup>that lowers</sup> ~~as low as~~ the level of the Father of Waters. Causing - salt water of the Gulf to push upstream.

Actually, say the Army engineers, the whole face of Nature may be changed in southern Louisiana. The Mississippi may change its own channel, and flow down the Atchafalaya River

into the Gulf of Mexico. And then New Orleans wont be at the mouth of the <sup>Mississippi.</sup> ~~Mississippi~~ This to happen within ten years - unless a huge project of river-control be put into effect.

The geography down there is interesting. The Mississippi flows southeast into the Gulf - through a long delta. The Atchafalaya takes a short cut, flowiing south into the Gulf. Old Man River now prefers the short cut, flowing south into the Gulf. Old Man River now prefers the short way to the long way, and is turning into the Atchafalaya at an increasing rate.

The junction is about a hundred miles north of New Orleans - and, if the Mississippi were allowed to change course, the lower part of the Father of Waters would run dry, and the great and historic port of New Orleans might be left high and dry.

## AMMUNITION TRUCK

Today, the West had its fourth ammunition truck explosion in six weeks. At Axtell, Nebraska, a trailer truck was rolling along the highway, with dangerous cargo aboard. - believed to be bombs. When - a tire of the trailer caught fire. The driver, Ralph Archer, acted quickly and unhitched the trailer. Then - drove off in the tractor, as fast as he could.

The trailer, with all that explosive, was ~~burning~~ burning, when a local fire company arrived on the scene - attracted by flame and smoke. The trailer was marked, so as to show what it contained. And, when they saw what it was - off went those firemen.

Then the explosion - which ripped a crater fifteen feet deep in the highway - and shook buildings twenty miles away. The blast causing no casualties - luckily.

~~Yesterday, an ammunition truck blew up at Lovelock, Nevada. Two weeks ago, a similar explosion near Omaha. Last month, a truckload of explosives went - bang! near Indianapolis. Seems to be an epidemic of unwelcome fireworks.~~

## WIDOWS

Today's news gives us a massive lot of statistics, to show what we all know - that there are more widows than widowers.

The figures were compiled by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, and reveal - if a woman marries a man of her own age, the chances are sixty out of a hundred, that she'll become a widow. If a husband is five years older, the probabilities of widowhood are - seventy out of a hundred. If he's ten years older - eighty out of a hundred.

So the mathematics show that a woman must marry a husband younger than herself, if she wants a fifty-fifty chance of not being left a widow. Of course, you might ask - why should she prefer her husband to be left a widower to herself a widow? <sup>Wife -</sup> That's one to be figured out by men who understand women. Or - are there any who do?