

C.T. - P. & G. Friday, January 28, 1949.

(Given by Mr. John Kierman.)

Mr. Thomas out West.

BULLETIN

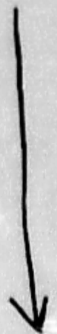
A bulletin from Washington. Secretary of the Interior Krug announces he has authorized construction of a forty-five million dollar irrigation project at Solano, California. Eighty-three thousand acres of farm land ^{are} to be irrigated, and water supplied to Mare Island Navy area.

RAILROADS

In San Francisco tonight the Southern Pacific Railroad announces that over two thousand five hundred shop employees will be laid off at the end of January, in the six western states covered by the company's Pacific Division. The layoff effects thirteen percent of the railroad's total of nineteen thousand shop employees.

The company says that the layoffs are due to a normal seasonal decline in traffic, and ^Ito an unusually heavy loss in freight because of the extreme winter weather. But the company hopes that the layoff will be only temporary.

And from Chicago tonight we hear that President Truman has intervened in that dispute between



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the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and the nation's railroads. The President's action has averted the strike scheduled by employees of fifteen western railroads on January thirty-first.

The President has set up an emergency board to examine the facts of the disputes which may ultimately effect sixty-nine major railroads. So until the emergency board arrives at its decision the railroads of the west will be kept rolling.

AIR POWER

Air Secretary, Stewart Symington, told Congress today that Mr. Truman wants to increase U.S. air power. That the President believes that we should have that seventy-group Air Force -- when we can afford it. Also, that Mr. Truman thinks that Congress should authorize the formation of the seventy groups. And do it now, so the additional units of air power can be organized quickly; when the money is available.

The President and Air Secretary Symington are known to have differed on our air ploicy in the past. Last year Symington persuaded Congress to endorse his seventy group Air Force plan. But the President objected. Now apparently it is all settled. Mr. Truman is agreeing to increasing our Air Force when we have the money to pay for it -- about two billion eight hundred million dollars.

EUROPE

no deficit

There's to be a parliamentary body for Western Europe. That's the news coming out of London, ~~tonight.~~ Foreign Ministers of the Benelux countries announce plans to establish an international legislature, to be composed of representatives of the states subscribing to the Western European Defense Treaty. There will be not only a House of Representatives, but a Cabinet. The Cabinet will be concerned with defense problems.

And tonight the Foreign Ministers of Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Iceland say they favor the establishment of a Council of Europe and a European Parliament. They all want to come in -- to start a United States of Europe.

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ISRAEL

~~London~~

London announces that the Foreign Ministers
of Great Britain, Belgium, Holland and Luxemburg, --
the Benelux countries -- have agreed to accord
de facto recognition to the State of Israel. Their

decision following^s ~~the~~ closely those of Australia, France
and Switzerland. ^{15 hour} Israel ~~recognized~~ ~~was~~ by twenty-five

nations.

ISRAEL PEACE TALKS

Tel Aviv says that Israel will walk out of the Palestine peace talks on the Island of Rhodes. If Egypt insists on more territorial concessions; that is, if King Farouk's representatives want more than a strip of coastline on the western shores of the Negev Desert.

Israel's Foreign Minister Shertok is reported to have told his representatives at Rhodes to deliver a virtual ultimatum to the Egyptians. Farouk's men ^{must} either agree to come to terms with Israel, or call off the armistice talks.

And Shertok, we are told, is in a strong position now as Prime Minister Ben-Gurion's Moderate Labor Party heads the polls in Israel's first general election. Ben-Gurion is expected to form a coalition with a group of religious political parties or with the United Workers Party. Working with either of these he will have a powerful majority in the Tel Aviv parliament.

WEATHER

Out in the West, Air Force Cargo planes took off today to continue the Hay Lift; to fly food to some three million cattle starving on the snowbound ranges. A heavy blizzard yesterday grounded the Hay Lift, and laid a deep blanket of new snow. In some states forty-mile-an-hour winds have piled up huge drifts to bring new menace to the ranchers and their cattle.

And today in some areas the Air Force pilots are flying through blinding snow and fighting high winds, as they search out the snowbound herds - to drop bales of hay. The bales are tied in a special way; so that they burst as they hit the ground. But the pilots report many of the beasts are too exhausted to eat.

From South Dakota, Governor George Michelson reports mounting human suffering caused by the great blizzard. He has appealed to the Fifth Army for all-out aid. The situation so grievous, he says, that it is beyond the scope of state and local agencies.

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Every resource exhausted. With more than a thousand workers and one-hundred-and-fourteen bulldozers fighting a losing battle against mountainous snowdrifts.

Out there, in South Dakota, they are trying to reach the herds by clearing the roads. But the going is apparently tough, and Governor Michelson talks of possible losses in livestock as staggering.

But help is coming. The Army is sending more heavy equipment and the Hay Lift will be stepped up -- if possible. More men and planes are to be put on the perilous job of feeding those three million starving sheep and cattle.

OAKRIDGE

The Atomic Energy headquarters at Oakridge, Tennessee, tells of atomic energy being used in an automobile for the first time. To test the effect of fuels and lubricants on engine wear.

The automobile engine was fitted with radio-active piston rings. And they were heated by a bombardment of uranium atoms. An Oakridge scientist tells us that this successful experiment may eventually benefit all motorists. They expect it to lead to the use of better fuels and lubricants and thus cut repair costs. And the good old car will be given an even longer life.

COST OF LIVING

The cost of living is apparently falling. That is good news for all of us. In Washington the Labor Department reports that its price index on nine hundred wholesale commodities is down. The index now stands at three point five percent below the same week in nineteen-forty-eight.

And from the stores come reports of price cuts in meat and vegetables. The meat cuts range from twenty to thirty percent. On some vegetables retail prices are cut in half.

And because of the drop in the price of wholesale commodities the Amalgamated Clothing Workers Association of America today decided to shelve action on its demand for new wage hikes. But this is only a temporary measure. The spokesman for the Clothing Workers, the fourth largest union in the CIO, saying that demands for a wage hike could be made at any time.

COST OF LIVING - 2

And in Detroit Walter Reuther, President of the CIO Auto Workers, says that his union will concentrate this year on demands for pensions of at least one hundred dollars a month. And more social security for automobile workers. Wage demands to be put in second place.

GREECE

(13)

In Athens the ~~Greek~~ government announces that it will accept that offer ^{yesterday} from the Greek Guerillas for an immediate cease-fire order. to end the Greek Civil War. But the Athens government makes conditions. Among them that a nationwide vote be taken. Everyone in Greece ^{is} to vote as to whether American economic and military aid to the Hellenic Republic shall continue. And Premier Sophoulos wants the United Nations to supervise the polling. He says that he is accepting this latest peace offer to test ^{its} ~~the~~ sincerity.

Yesterday the leader of the Greek Guerillas made his peace proposal over the radio. The Guerilla terms for a cease-fire being for all foreign missions and military forces to leave Greece; a general election and an immediate pardon for all political prisoners.

MOSCOW

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From time to time we have news of the progress of culture behind the Iron Curtain -- the condition of the arts.

In Moscow this morning, PRAVDA, the official organ of the Communist Party, delivers ^{ed} a four-column blast against unpatriotic dramatic critics. Seven Moscow theatre writers are accused of being "cosmopolitans, who know no fatherland." The Red newspaper chided them for attacking the artistic imperfection of the Soviet's blue ribbon plays. And it demands ^{ed} their ideological destruction.

Now I wonder how you bring about "ideological destruction" of a critic. Give him a course in Communism? Or set him to study Politi's Dramatic Situations -- on which, we are told, all drama is based. PRAVDA suggests a purge. Fire all these

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critics with their anti-patriotic and cosmopolitan attitude to Soviet drama. Plays, which says PRAVDA, depict so artistically "the creative forces of the nation's patriotism".

* * * * *

And from Czechoslovakia we learn how true love goes hand in hand with industrial production. A Prague morning newspaper frontpages a sonnet describing two young Communist workers dating outside the factory gates. Boy meets girl after work.

"With her kiss I heard the breathless question
"Whether the shock brigade in plant number two
"Had proclaimed its competition with works
plant number one."

And here's the drama. The boy friend's rival

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works in plant number one -- and he's told the girl that he is going to wipe the other fellow out by turning in a smash-up production performance. But the girl just laughs that off. After another kiss she tells her boy

"I only laughed at him because I knew that
you are the best of all,

"That you will work until your bones crack
in your body."

To which the boy friend replies:

"Sure, we'll beat the record by twenty per
centum."

"So she clasped him closely to herself,
starry-eyed,

"Her dear boy, the best worker of them all."

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12 "There was love in his words" says the Red poet; "as the boy realized that work and a good woman are the same thing. And his blood was boiling as he listened."

I wonder what Stephen Vincent Benet would say to that.

~~At Lake Success today the Trusteeship Council~~
Today
of the United Nations, heard a solemn protest from
darkest Africa. From the Fon of Bikom. Bikom is a
tribal kingdom in the Cameroons. The Fon is eighty
years old, and the old gentleman is mighty annoyed
over some idle gossip about him which has reached the
U.N. Some unkind people, says he, have reported that
he has six hundred wives. And that, they say, is five
hundred and ninety-nine too many. Further, they charge
the Fon drafted some ladies into his harem.

It isn't true, proclaims the aged Patriarch of
Africa. Please stick to facts, he says. He is only
married to one hundred and ten women. Moreover, he
says, every one of them, the entire harem, can pack up
and go, whenever she likes; and cut his housekeeping
costs.

*Well, that would be one way to cut
down on expenses, don't you think so Nelson?*

WIVES - 2

As a final declaration of good intention, his eighty-year-old Majesty, the Fon of Bikom, solemnly assures the U.N. that he will not draft any more brides. In future he will only marry those who are willing. Even that may be too many. What do you think, Nelson?

*Speaking for Lowell Thomas.
so long until,*

MEDINA

(10)

TAKEN FROM
EARLY SHOW -

January 28, 1949

In New York today Federal Judge Harold Medina, who is presiding over the trial of those eleven Communists, revealed that he has been getting threatening communications. ~~and~~ The said he did not believe that all of them were connected with the Defense Attorneys, or the defendants. But he warned that some of the emotional accusations made by the Defense Attorneys might lead misguided people to irresponsible acts.

Whereupon Defense Attorney Harry Sacher rose to inform the Court that not only had the Defense lawyers and the men on the trial received threatening letters, but also their wives and children. Judge Medina's comments ~~were made~~ ^{CAME} after a woman tried to push past a Court Bailiff to make a personal protest to the Judge

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because she apparently could not get a seat.

And after his reference to statements made in Court about his impartiality as a Judge, His Honor said that he had no great opinion of himself. But, ~~said he~~, he had a high opinion of the post which he held. ~~and~~ He went on to describe himself as a Judge for the rich as well as the poor. And ^{added} ~~he said~~, "I don't feel in danger. But if I am in danger, I will face it calmly".