


LISBON Wed. Feb. 20 - '52. L.T. - P. & G.

(The Lisbon conference got going today, with delegates of fourteen countries in the North Atlantic Treaty organization beginning their session.) American Secretary of State Dean Acheson urged them to act promptly in the formal creation of an international army of Western Europe - including German units.

(A treaty is being drafted, to give General Eisenhower fourteen French divisions, twelve Italian, five Benelux, and twelve German. British armed forces are separate - though allied.)

Secretary Acheson told the Nato delegates that an agreement has been worked out between the Big Three and Western Germany - as a result of conferences with West German Chancellor Adenauer in London. Which settlement, in fact, makes the Lisbon conference possible. 

ADD LISBON

Later in the day, General Eisenhower addressed the gathering, and urged the immediate creation of a network of West European airfields, to support a ground army.

SUBSTITUTE TRUMAN-CHURCHILL

The latest tonight is a declaration by President Truman - that he made no commitments to Great Britain for sending American troops to any part of the world. ^{So stated} The President ~~stated this to a news conference~~ after Congress had voted a demand for an answer. Did he, in his talks with British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, make any commitments for sending U.S. troops abroad?

"No," says the President, ~~in a news conference declaration.~~

KOREA - TRUCE

In the Korea truce talks, the deadlock is just the same. Staff officers today made progress in settling minor points, but the latest point of stalemate remains - the Red demand that Soviet Russia be accepted as one of the neutral countries to preside over a Korean armistice.

One enemy negotiator, today, said the U.N. delegates were creating the deadlock - by rejecting Moscow.

POLITICS

Tonight brings a couple of journalistic reports about important figures in the political picture. One, Chief Justice Vinson, who has often been mentioned as a democratic nominee, if President Truman does not run again. But the Washington Post ^s says it has learned that the Chief Justice would reject any such nomination - would refuse to be drafted. His view, according to the newspaper, is that a Supreme Court Justice ~~must~~ should keep out of politics forever and completely, in the interest of the independence of a high tribunal.

Report number two states that General MacArthur prefers Taft of Ohio as the GOP Presidential candidate but - that MacArthur would support either Stassen or Eisenhower! This is stated by Newsweek Magazine which says that they have it on the authority of Congressmen who have been talking to MacArthur. One angle is - a denial of reports that MacArthur and

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Eisenhower are not friendly. MacArthur is quoted as saying "I have a strong feeling of friendship and almost a personal affection for him." Which is contrary to usual suppositions. As we know

Eisenhower, as a major, was on MacArthur's staff for a long time — years ago.

LOUISIANA ELECTION

In Louisiana, today, an election count piled up a landslide for Judge Robert Kennon, who now becomes Governor of Louisiana. Which means, a record-breaking defeat for the political machine left by the late Huey Long. The vote, almost complete, shows - four hundred and thirteen thousand for Judge Kennon. Two hundred and fifty-three thousand for Carlos Spaht, backed by the Long machine.

The result is also - sweet revenge for the country judge. He has been bucking the dynasty of the Kingfish for a long time. Twice they defeated him in major elections, In Nineteen Forty-eight, he ran for Governor against Earl Long, brother of Huey - and lost. In Nineteen Fifty, he made a bid for the Senate, and was beaten by Russell Long, son of the late Kingfish. But he tried again this year - although his effort seemed hopeless.

Judge Kennon had no organization support, was backed by amateur enthusiasts. But the Long machine split - with the brother and son of the late Huey Long backing different

candidates for governor. So, in the three-cornered affair, Judge Kennon came in second. Louisiana law provides that, in case of no outright majority, there must be a run-off - and that brought the landslide victory for the country judge.

ALIENS

There's a charge in Washington that contractors are forcing illegal aliens to work - practically for nothing. So stated by Congressman Francis Walter of Pennsylvania, who accuses employers at New York and Newark, New Jersey. He says that two hundred thousand illegal aliens, some of them kept in barracks, are under-paid - intimidated by threats to turn them over to the immigration authorities for deportation.


This appears in connection with legislation to deal with "wet-backs." That is, Mexicans who swim the Rio Grande, crossing the border illegally, for employment - as workers in the southwestern states chiefly.

The Pennsylvania Congressman points out that something like that goes on in the northeast - where aliens jump ship, and enter the country illegally. He is asking the House Rules Committee for a bill to punish all who conceal illegal aliens - and mentions those employers who, he claims, under-pay those aliens, under threat of exposure.

FRANCE - TRIAL

In France, a criminal trial began today - and, inevitably, the American newsmen over there make reference to a Broadway play, half a dozen years ago. "Arsenic and Old Lace" - about nice old ladies, who had a genteel way of poisoning people. In France, at the old city of Poitiers, Madame Marie Besnard faced the court today - charged with twelve murders by arsenic.

Madame Besnard, they say, looks like the kindest, mildest old lady that ever slipped a dose of poisoning in a plate of soup. Her victims - two husbands, her father, her mother, her mother-in-law, a brother-in-law, a sister-in-law, two cousins, a great aunt, and two neighbors.

The motive - profit. They say that, from her victims, she inherited two farms, a hundred and twenty acres of other lands, three hotels, and nine residential properties, not counting a bundle of cash.  So there's a large financial angle - in the French version of "Arsenic and Old Lace."

NUMBERS RACKET

The Detroit police have smashed what they believe to be the biggest numbers racket in the Middlewest. Arresting - forty-six prisoners. One - a retired policeman.

They say the syndicate was taking in twenty thousand dollars a day, selling tickets to people betting on the numbers. They've seized huge masses of records ^{that give} ~~giving~~ the financial details of the racket. One bit of evidence is a film, which the detectives made - motion pictures of one of the top racketeers depositing numbers racket money in a bank. This individual, up to a year ago, was a patrolman on the Detroit Police Force - a copper retired from law enforcement, who went into the numbers racket.

They found the suspect had gone - after having bought a battery for his automobile, which was in the neighborhood. So the two searched, found the car, and made the arrest.

The pants salesman, meanwhile, had seen the cops go off, and thought - nothing was happening. He must have made a mistake - and home he went. Then, within a few hours, the news was full of the capture of Willie (the actor) Sutton. Schuster was the more interested - because of ^{large} ~~seventy thousand dollars in~~ rewards offered for the capture of the notorious bank robber.

Today, Patrolmen Shea and McClellan admitted - yes, in their excitement, they had forgotten to tell how their headline arrest had been on a tip they had from the Brooklyn pants salesman.

WILLIE

The news tonight confirms the disillusion -- in the story of two New York policemen, heroes in the capture of Willie (the actor) Sutton. Night before last, we heard how they had spotted the notorious bank robber, one of the ten fugitives most wanted by the F.B.I. After which they were in the limelight for two days. Promoted by the Police Inspector - and today they were to have been congratulated by Mayor Impelliteri, in a ceremony at City Hall. But that was called off, suddenly - when the truth came out.

The one who recognized Willie (the actor) Sutton was a Brooklyn pants salesman named Arnold Schuster - who was riding in the subway, when his eye fell on a man sitting across the way. Face - familiar. Arnold Schuster had seen an F.B.I. poster, with a picture, a face - crook wanted, Willie (the actor) Sutton. So there was that same face.

The suspect left the subway in Brooklyn and went to a gas station - Schuster following him. On the street were two cops in a police car. He told them of his suspicion, and they went over to the gas station. They found the suspect had gone - after having bought a battery for his automobile, found the car, and made the arrest.

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DOOLITTLE

Today President Truman ordered all federal agencies to cooperate with the Doolittle investigators - in their study of the problems of great airports in heavily populated areas.

Which, of course, follows the series of disasters at Elizabeth, New Jersey - ~~the crash~~ ^{the crash} of planes flying to and from the great Newark airport. The outcry has been such that the White House appointed a special investigating commission, headed by Lieutenant General James H. Doolittle - of Tokyo bombing fame and ^(Commander) ~~in command~~ of the Eighth Air Force in World War Two. Jimmy Doolittle, retired from the ^{U.S.} Air Force, is a ^{top} ~~busy~~ executive in the oil industry, but he takes time out to study what the White House calls - "the safety, welfare, and peace of mind" of people living near big airports.

SHIP

Tonight, the stern of a shattered oil tanker is on its way to port - and on it are thirteen sailors, who refused to abandon what's left of their broken ship.

Today the stern of the Fort Mercer was taken in tow by a tug, which started on a voyage to Block Island, at the mouth of Long Island Sound. Scheduled to be the first stop - in an effort to get the fragment of the ship to a dock at New York. It's a slow operation, but they're making all the speed they can - to avoid new dangerous gales that are predicted.

OLYMPICS

From the Winter Olympics - news of another triumph for Andrea Mead Lawrence. The nineteen-year old housewife from Rutland, Vermont, won her second gold medal today, when she came in first in the regular slalom. In spite of a fall in the slushy snow, Andy won out. And to Winter sports fans that's sensational news. The nineteen year Vermont girl doing what no American skier has ever done -- two Olympic gold medals.

SAN FRANCISCO

San Francisco's traffic mix-up arises from a small cause - apparently. Six workers on those traditional cable cars protested against working conditions - and that resulted in a full scale transit strike which halted every street car and bus in San Francisco today. The traffic jam was fantastic but they say it would have been worse if San Francisco had not scheduled its first full dress air raid. The police were mobilized for that. Which helped in the handling of the fantastic traffic snarl.

TRIAL

A trial came to a strange conclusion at Albuquerque, New Mexico, today. The judge told the jury to return a verdict of not guilty, because of a technicality. But the defendant refused to accept the verdict, and demanded that he be found - guilty.

This was in one of those conscientious-objector cases - a college student, Carlton Owen, having failed to register for the draft. He admitted everything, but the judge ruled that, under the law, a confession was not enough - that was the technicality.

But, when the judge directed an acquittal - the defendant told the jury he should be sent to prison for violating the law. He thinks this country, instead of preparing for defense, should apply the Golden Rule. But he didn't explain how to persuade the Soviets to apply the Golden Rule! So the jury obliged - and voted a verdict of guilty.

~~Today, Judge Carl Hatch declared: "This is the~~

most unusual case I've ever seen." And - ordered psychiatrists to examine the defendant who persuaded the jury to find him guilty.

LOAN

At Terril, Iowa, Lewis Johnson, eighty-four years old - has received a letter offering payment of a debt. One hundred dollars - which he loaned forty-six years ago. The offer comes from an eighty year old widow - whose husband borrowed the money.

Mrs. Etta Cloake of Doyle, California, writes how, years ago, her husband told her that Lewis Johnson had lent him a hundred dollars, when the two men worked together in a brick-yard at Spencer, Iowa. He tried to save enough to pay it back, but had never been able to. Before he died, he asked his wife to settle the debt, if she ever could. So now she writes: "After four years of saving, day by day, I have the money."

Likely enough she won't have to pay it. Today Lewis Johnson said: "I have enough to provide for my needs."

At Columbus, Ohio, there's a Minister of the Gospel - brandishing a stone ax. A prehistoric weapon wielded by a cave man twenty thousand years ago. The Reverend George Evans, head of a good-will charity group, has the stone ax, and the State Department in Washington wants it.

The stone age relic came as a donation to the charity group. Somebody, nobody knows who - included it in a contribution. We've heard about buttons in the collection basket - but who ever heard of a cave man's weapon of war?

You might think it an Indian relic - but not at all. Archeologists declare it's of the "Chert" type, not found in America ~~axxxx~~ - but in northern Europe. Dating back to the neolithic period, the new Stone Age - up to twenty thousand years ago. Valuable, too, the Reverend George Evans declaring: "We've had some pretty nice offers from collectors for that old ax."

Probably brought over here by an American

soldier of World War Two - a souvenir picked up by some G.I. A museum piece - and the State Department thinks it should be sent back.

But the Reverend George Evans says: "The State Department better prove it knows whom the ax belongs to." To which he adds: "We're liable to bounce it over somebody's head."

Which would be quite a picture, ^{Nelson} a preacher crowning a diplomat with ~~an ax~~ ^a the Stone Age axe!