

L. J. Suroso and P. + G. F. M., Jan. 31, 1947.

Congress was told today that atomic development in this country is being focused on weapons. For the time being, the adaption of atomic energy to peacetime use is being given second place - the emphasis being on new ways of atomic war.

This information is embodied in the first formal report to Congress made by the Federal Atomic Energy Commission - which points to the menacing state of affairs in this world. The security of the nation requires all-out effort for the invention of still more powerful atomic weapons. We must not be content with merely guarding the secret of the atomic bomb. We must go further, go beyond the atomic bomb.

We are not told anything about the new atomic weapons being produced. That, of course, is a military secret. One report, of Australian origin, is that the atomic bombs now being made are six hundred times more powerful than the one dropped on Nagasaki. That would mean a bomb with a power equivalent to the devastation of twelve million tons of T.N.T. — powerful enough to wipe out a city of a hundred million people if there were such a city.

The report of the Atomic Energy Commission touched off new agitation in Congress on the subject of Communism. It was stated today that Communists have gotten into ~~own~~ atomic Energy Commission itself - and names were named. Charges were made identifying persons connected with the Atomic Energy Commission as Reds.

These accusations were received with a good deal of skepticism - but, just the same, directions were given for a ~~max~~ loyalty check. The F.B.I. right now is looking into the political background of everybody having anything to do with the atomic energy commission, ~~with~~ a report on the charges of Communism is to be made to Congress.

NEW LEAD LABOR

A F of L President William Green, ~~xx~~ wrote a letter today to C I O Chief Philip Murray, a letter that may become a historic document in the archives of American labor.

Green proposed the creation of one mammoth labor organization, taking in all present members of the A F of L and the C I O - all in one super organization. This to include all unionized workers in the United States.

Green, in his letter to ~~Murray~~ Murray, stressed the need for "labor unity and labor solidarity. It would mean" said he, "that millions of workers now represented by divided unions would stand together, speaking as one and acting as one, united solidly into a strong, progressive movement."

The letter, we hear, was written with the unanimous approval of the A F of L Executive Council ~~xx~~ now meeting in Miami. And we also hear that John L. Lewis, President of the United Mine Workers who broke away from the A F of L to found

the C I O ~~the~~ and then left it because of political disputes, returning to the A F of L fold -- John L. Lewis has been named one of the men to meet with Murray and discuss the ~~the~~ proposal.

The possibilities of this move are obviously tremendous. Perhaps a nationwide union headed by ~~John L. Lewis~~ John L. Lewis.

There is no indication that Murray will submit to a joining of his group, the C I O with the A F of L. But it is no secret that both unions are worried about the current anti-labor feeling in Washington and the likelihood of anti-labor legislation in the near future.

JAP STRIKE

In Japan, a general strike of government workers was called off today in dramatic circumstances. The strike with a demand for a wage increase of three hundred percent would have taken two million, six hundred thousand workers from their jobs, would have stopped the railroads and other public services, and would have tied up Japan in disastrous fashion. The menace of the walkout, which was said to be Communist-inspired, was so grave that it caused a shake-up in the Tokyo Cabinet, with the ousting of ten ministers.

Then General MacArthur took a hand.

Yesterday officials at the MacArthur Headquarters called in the strike leader, Yoshiro Iyi, and told him the walkout had better be called off. Iyi held a meeting of the strike committee, which voted to ignore the suggestion from the Headquarters of the Supreme Commander. That was followed by a MacArthur order issued today - forbidding the strike. So what did the strike leader do now? Iyi hedged. He said he hadn't been given a copy of the MacArthur order. So he was handed one. Iyi

came back with another ~~hodge~~ ^{hodge}. He said: "General MacArthur's announcement prohibiting the strike is not binding, since it does not bear his handwritten signature."

Whereupon Iyi was summoned to the MacArthur Headquarters to be given ~~something~~ ^{something} as emphatic as any handwritten signature. He was informed among other things, that the crack First Cavalry Division of the United States Army had been alerted to preserve order in Tokyo. The First Cavalry was one of the original American Army Units to enter Japan after the surrender. And ~~ixixx~~ Iyi knew it was no fooling. When he emerged from the conference, he said he would call off the strike immediately.

This he did, He went on the radio today and read this announcement: "I ask all unions to call off the strike. If it is MacArthur's orders, we cannot do anything else but call off the strike!" *Those were his words.*

In that fashion, Japan today escaped a huge walkout with Red implications, a disturbance that might have brought the most serious trouble since the American occupation.

PALESTINE

In the London House of Commons, a demand was made today that Great Britain ~~should~~ turn Palestine over to the United Nations - unless the United States will share the responsibility.

The demand was made by Winston Churchill, who argued that Britain should not continue to deal with the Palestine situation alone. He said that America should join in the troubled administration, and bear half of the burden under a joint British-American policy. If the United States will not do this, then Great Britain should get out ^{of} Palestine completely - and turn the dispute between the Jews and the Arabs over to the United ~~Nations~~ ^{Nations--} leaving the U.N. to administer the Holy Land.

Churchill put it in these words: "At the earliest possible moment unless we are to have the aid of the United States, we should give notice to divest ourselves of the responsibilities which ~~were~~ we are failing to discharge and which, in the process, are covering us with blood and shame."

But suppose the British should withdraw,

what would happen? Churchill said he thought there would be Civil War between the Jews and the Arabs; ~~and~~ this would be ~~the~~ problem for ~~the~~ United Nations to handle.

(In Palestine, meanwhile, all British women and children have been ordered out - together with a certain number of men civilians.) They are to be evacuated between now and next Tuesday - sent from Palestine to Britain. This is compulsory, - they'll have to go whether they want to or not.

Wives and children ~~of~~ some two thousand British families are involved. They are being taken first ~~maxxxx~~ to what are called "security areas," for safety, then to ships to carry them home. (The order for this gives the following terse and grim explanation - "so military operations will not be hampered.")

When Jewish leaders in Palestine learned today's order for the evacuation of British women and children, they said they were shocked. They hadn't expected anything so ~~axx~~ drastic.

GOVERNOR

Time changes all things and time plus a labor government in London is bringing a new Governor General to Australia. One William John McKell, to replace H.R.H. The Duke of Gloucester. The Duke, a brother of the King, to be succeeded by a former boxer and boiler maker. McKell, the son of a butcher who later became financial secretary of Australia's boiler makers union.

And, the appointment has been confirmed. But, from Canberra, Australia's capital, there come horrified protests. Says Australia's former Prime Minister, Robert Menzies: "This appointment is a shocking, humiliating and most deplorable incident." Menzies added that "it is apparently designed to lower the Governor-Generalship in significance and esteem".

Meanwhile, McKell, who currently is the Premier of the Australian Province of New South Wales, is busy winding up his ~~and~~ affairs so that he the boxer and boilermaker, the son of a butcher, can replace the Duke of Gloucester as Governor-General of Australia.

FLYING

The world of commercial aviation heard today from its key men in the business of flying - the pilots. In Washington, A Congressional Committee is holding a hearing on the subject of the tragic series of air crashes that have occurred lately. And one witness today was David Behncke, President of the Airline Pilots Association,

He stated ^{that} the consensus ~~of opinion~~ of the pilots ^{is} that the greatest hazard of commercial flying right now ~~is~~ - fire. He added that there ~~was~~ no excuse for this. "The fire hazard by this time should be licked," *said he.*

The President of the Pilots was asked about the radar ground control approach system, whereby radar on the ground brings in a plane in blinding bad weather. There have been some headline examples of planes brought in safely by radar ground approach; but, the Chief of the Pilots Association stated that there was still, what he called "too much margin of error." He said the pilots favored instrument landings that place responsibility

in their hands, rather than in the hands of radar crews
on the ground.

BYRD

Down on the South Polar Continent, men's imaginations are stirring - explorers dreaming of what strange things they may find. Admiral Byrd, having flown from an aircraft carrier to his old base ~~at~~ Little America, is preparing to strike out from that home base - strike out through the sky.

Right now, he and his men are getting six planes ready, planes equipped with both wheels and skis, wheels for aircraft carrier take-offs and landings, and skis for the Antarctic Ice. Byrd is wasting no time in swinging into action through the air - with flights that are intended to do the main job of exploration on the present expedition.

The planes are going to wing back and forth across the ^{Antarctic} ~~Antarctic~~ Continent, across the South Pole - and one thing that Admiral Byrd has particularly in mind is to determine whether ~~it~~ it's one Antarctic Continent or two - maybe two great islands encased in ice.

What's even more in Byrd's mind is the fact

that, on the other side of the Polar Continent, the planes will get a glimpse of territory never before seen - parts of Antarctica that explorers have never reached hitherto. So what will they find there - in that area of the unknown? That's where the imagination comes in - the vivid imagination of the explorer.

Today's news dispatch from the Antarctic quotes Admiral Byrd as saying - what a wonder it would be if, on the other side of the Pole, they were to find what Byrd called "A big volcanic area with boiling water coming out of the ground," *in*

~~Maybe so. An active volcano on the Antarctic Continent is within the possibilities, and what a wonder it would be - volcanic fires and sulphur and polar ice, boiling water steaming out of the ground in that otherwise eternally frozen world.~~

RENTS

We have an explanation of ~~what is being~~
~~called~~ "A comedy of errors," ^{the} ~~that is, the mix-up on~~
~~Wednesday over the ceilings on rents.~~ At first the
report was out that the President was authorizing a
ten per cent increase in rents all over the country,
~~which was~~ followed by a hasty ~~and peremptory~~ White House
denial.

There was ~~some~~ confusion ~~was~~ somewhere and
Washington laughed over - the comedy of errors.
Republican Senator Tobey of New Hampshire made an
irreverent ^t jibe. He said it was a case of what he called
- "Somebody putting the overalls in Mrs. Murphy's
chowder."

The explanation was given today by temporary
controls Director Philip Fleming, testifying before the
Senate Banking Committee. ~~He said that he had ordered~~
~~the nationwide rent boost on Wednesday, but the President~~
~~had stepped in at the last minute, and said - no.~~

Director Fleming told how data ^t gathered by
his office indicated that the rent ceilings were hitting

the landlords hard. So Fleming thought a countrywide increase of ten per cent would be the right solution.

He prepared an order to that effect, and gave it to Deputy Director Follin for publication. After which Fleming, himself, left for Chicago. He departed for the Windy City blissfully ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ unaware of what was about to happen.

Word of the rent increase got around in Washington, and the rumors were put on the news wires.

~~The official order was about to be handed to the reporters when the surprise came.~~

It appears not to have occurred to Director Fleming that the President might fail to agree with the rent increase. A White House okay was taken for granted.

~~So today Fleming said it was a dramatic surprise, when President Truman turned the whole thing down, and the White House issued ^{the} sudden statement that the President had not authorized a ten per cent hike of rents.~~

Director Fleming takes full responsibility for the Comedy of Errors. It was he who, if we are to

accept Senator Tobey's figure of speech - "Put the
overalls in Mrs. Murphy's chowder."

SUIT OF CLOTHES

Here's an example of Roosevelt frugality, extreme conservatism about money - be cautious about spending. The story concerns the late F.D.R. and tells of a three generation Roosevelt suit of clothes.

In Edinburgh, they've just published a book by Lieutenant Colonel Arthur Murray, a soldier of fortune and in it is reprinted a letter written by the late President Roosevelt - a letter that states the following: "In Eighteen Seventy-Eight," wrote F.D.R., "My father had a tweed suit made in Edinburgh, - ~~that~~ ~~was~~ four years before I was born. He wore the ~~suit~~ suit constantly until his death in Nineteen Hundred. I inherited it," continued the late President, ~~at~~ "And wore it steadily until Nineteen Twenty-Six, when I passed it on to my boy James. He still has it, and ~~was~~ wears it in the wintertime when he is in the country. A good example of Scots craftsmanship," the letter concludes.

Well, if James Roosevelt is still wearing that suit of scotch tweed, made in Eighteen Seventy-Eight the suit is sixty-nine years old, and had had that many

years of wear. Out in the West, when I was a boy, hand-me downs were a thrifty family institution - but we never went quite as far as the Roosevelts and their three-generation tweed suit. Of course, in matters of government money, the F.D.R. frugality was less in evidence. -But then, how could you have a hand-me-down in Federal finance? In that loftier realm the word is "hand-out."

And now ~~Am~~ ~~how~~ do we get a hand-out from you?

FOOTBALL

(~~The latest tonight~~ ^{And now about} the Army's answer to Blanchard and Davis: The answer ^{being-} ~~is~~ no. Those two superstars of Army football, together with their teammate Barney Poole, will not be given furloughs to enable them to play professional football.)

The mighty Blanchard and Davis have been offered big money to play for a season as professionals, ~~and they, together with Poole, asked the Army to give them leaves during the weeks of the football season.~~

The word from Washington is that the applications were greeted by the frowns of high military officers, who reasoned that if the football players were given furloughs to play as professionals, why then other officers would be entitled to ask for leaves to permit them to go into private business.

So, with the High Command expressing its ~~disapproval~~ disapprobation in no uncertain terms, the Army's verdict was handed out late this afternoon by Secretary of War Patterson.

Just off the wire, the Patterson answer states

"The requirements of military training and service for young officers are such that the War Department cannot favorably consider granting extended leaves of absence for engaging in private enterprise."

That is final, no appeal -- and now what will they do? Will they step out of the Army to take advantage of the big money they can get. That's up to them. Blanchard and Davis are in the top position of college football stars and can command immediate wealth in the professional game, some extra dollars that might come in mighty handy if they later on resumed military careers where even Lieut. Generals get just enough to live on.

LABOR

The news wire has just brought word that the American Federation of Labor is proposing the formation of one all-inclusive labor organization to include both the A F of L and the C I O. The bulletin, just in, states that the A F of L plan is for all the member unions of the two rival groups to join one mammoth organization.

All of which ties in with a menacing situation that revolves around ^{the} member of the Jewish Underground named Gruner, who has been sentence to death by a military court. Jewish Extremists' Organizations have threatened deadly retaliation, if Gruner is executed. He made an appeal, but the word today is that Gruner, who claims the treatment of a prisoner of war, has repudiated the appeal, which means that under the law, he will be hanged - unless the British Commander in Palestine arbitrarily commutes the death sentence.

All of which has created such apprehension in the Holy Land, that today Jewish leaders asked X Zionist newspapers not to publish the ^{report} ~~news~~ that Gruner had withdrawn his appeal.