

TRUMAN

P.J. - *Suroso and P. & G. Thursday, Dec. 16, 1946.*

Once again we ~~have~~^a unified command for Uncle Sam's military establishment. It was in existence during the war, dropped after V-J Day. But today President Truman reinstated it by executive order, as Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces. This means that wherever we have military units overseas, they are going to be under a single commander, to be chosen from one of the three services, Air, Army or Navy.

The President did this ^{today} on the recommendations of the joint chiefs of staff.

The order goes into effect immediately; but, ~~it~~ does not involve any immediate changes. General Douglas MacArthur remains in command in Japan, Korea and the islands of the Western Pacific. General ~~Joseph~~ McNarney continues in command in Europe. But in the Central Pacific, Admiral John H. Towers takes over all command, not only of the Navy but also ~~the~~ Air Force and

Army units. That includes the Hawaiian islands and some islands formerly held by the Japs under mandate. Each of these overseas commanders becomes responsible to the joint chiefs of staff.

The plan as formulated by the chiefs, establishes a strategic air command under General George Kenney; ~~to~~ be based ~~on~~ the United States, and ^{Gen.} Kenney will be responsible directly to the joint chiefs of staff.

Major General H.A. Craig becomes head of the Alaskan Command, including the Aleutians. Admiral Mark Mitscher ~~is~~ in command of the Atlantic fleet, and Lieutenant General Willis Crittenger ⁱⁿ commands in the Caribbean.

This action by the President ^{comes as} ~~is~~ a direct consequence of the Senate inquiry into the Pearl Harbor disaster. The Committee's report blamed that tragedy largely to the lack of coordination between the armed services. By this ^{present} plan that sort of thing ~~could~~ ^{not} happen again. So we are ^{informed by} ~~Washington~~.

Leaders of the C.I.O. met at Pittsburgh today, beginning a discussion that may be important to the entire country. Discussing just how big a raise they'll ask for workers in the steel mills, automobile factories and electrical plants. A total of some two million, three-hundred-and-fifty-two- thousand men and women. All of which may be a curtain raiser to another big strike.

For several days we've been hearing that Walter Reuther, as President of the Auto Workers, is calling for a boost of twenty-three-and-a-half cents an hour. According to some accounts, that's merely an asking figure, that Reuther always begins by asking for a ~~xxx~~ maximum. Murray, as President of the C.I.O. and head of the steel workers, is believed to take a more moderate position. Albert Fitzgerald, head of the

electrical workers, has said nothing so far.

But there is ~~a good deal~~ more involved than a mere demand for a raise. The C.I.O. ~~union~~ leaders have reached the point where they are ready to push ~~the a~~ demand for a guaranteed annual salary for their people, ^{plus} ~~as well as~~ health and welfare insurance. They are also talking about ~~a~~ closed shop and portal-to-portal wages. Meaning that a man should be paid from the moment he passes through the front gate of a plant until the moment he leaves, not ~~merely~~ for the time he is at his bench or in the room where he works.

Reuther is relying largely upon the recently published report by ^{one} Robert Nathan, who ^{says} ~~claims~~ that industry can raise wages twenty-five per cent without raising the prices of ~~any~~ commodities. ~~to the public~~

² ~~The~~ Nathan report has been widely and bitterly criticized.

SUPREME COURT

The Supreme Court of the United States handed down a decision today, which is going to ^{bring} ~~give headaches~~ and sadness to the governors of several states and their budget directors. - Several legislatures ^{were having} ~~are having~~ imposed a sales tax on the transfer of securities. ^{TP} The Nine Justices today declared ^{all} ~~that~~ that ~~was~~ illegal, ^{if} ~~if~~ the sale is a transaction in interstate commerce. Justice Frankfurter, in his opinion, wrote that this tax constitutes interference by a state with the freedom of interstate commerce.

HOUSING

Another federal official resigned today in a blaze of fireworks, fireworks of angry words. Norton E. Long, Deputy Housing Administrator, declared that President Truman's new housing program was, in his words, "a complete phoney, a fraud perpetrated on veterans for political expediency."

He went on to charge that this program opens the way for an era of boom-and-bust in real estate. *And, he* defied the President's advisers to prove that the program was not an act of what he called "infanticide against the whole industry of pre-fabricated housing."

No comment was forthcoming from the White House. White House Secretary Charlie Ross merely said that future events would speak for themselves.

GAMBLING

The ^{Police} ~~New York police~~ ^{encountered} ~~ran into~~ an obstacle in

running down the attempted bribery of two ~~players~~ of the

^{- the top N.Y. Pro-} Giants' [^] football team. They have the man ~~who is~~ accused

of having been the go-between, ~~and are~~ [^] holding him on

twenty-eight thousand dollars' bail. ~~and~~ They ^{are} ~~are~~ going

to arraign him tomorrow. But, they ^{are} ~~are~~ having a tough

^{time} ~~job~~ [^] getting ^{hold of} ~~at~~ [^] the members of the syndicate with the

money, because they hang-out ^{of the syndicate is} ~~in~~ New Jersey.

A grand jury heard testimony today and indicted the alleged fixer on two charges of having attempted bribery. When it came to playing the game, one of the players, Merle Hapes, was disqualified, but Frank Filchock, the star quarterback of the Giants, was allowed to play because it was reported that he had been contacted by innuendo, ~~not~~ not directly. Today it turned out that he had been approached directly. At least so say the police.

RUSSIA

An editorial in a Russian magazine has filled the world with wonder and a faint hope that the Politburo, committee of rulers ~~and sub-ruler~~ that hard-headed ~~public men~~ under Stalin, may have had a change of heart. ~~and turned friendly~~

~~It was published~~ In a ^{Moscow} magazine called ^{the} "New Times" and one-third of the entire issue was given over to ~~an~~ unsigned editorial, ~~The gist of it is~~ a plea for international good-will and for ^{world wide} patience. ~~It went on~~ ^{Saying} that lasting peace cannot be achieved without compromises on all sides.

Usually an editorial in a magazine is just another piece of writing, the opinion, interesting or otherwise, of one man or a small editorial committee. But in Russia, as we know, nothing can be printed and published without the consent and concurrence of the Soviet Government. Mostly, the ideas for such articles originate in a government office. What is more, the tenor of that editorial is in harmony with

the recent change of attitude on the part of ~~the~~ Soviet Foreign Minister, Molotov, both at the United Nations meetings and at the conferences of the Big Four Foreign Ministers.

~~That~~ ^e ~~magazine~~ editorial was not without the usual Russian dig at Uncle Sam and John Bull, ~~carried~~ ^a on the customary line that the reactionary American and British delegations ^{have been} ~~very~~ faneagling for world domination. At the same time, the article declared that there was real progress toward international cooperation in the work accomplished recently at New York. The editorial said further that the war had proved that freedom-loving peoples can find a common language in spite of the ⁱ ~~d~~ifferences in their political fabric and ideologies. ~~It went on to say, reasonably enough, that naturally these adjustments had always been made quickly or easily.~~ ^P A correspondent points

out that the language of this editorial is pretty much in line with a statement ~~that~~ Stalin made during the war, ~~That was when he proclaimed~~ that the most remarkable feature of the collaboration between Soviet Russia, Great Britain and the United States was not the differences that existed ~~between~~ between them, but the comparative rapidity and ease with which those differences were ironed out.

CHINA

A ray of sun through the political clouds in China. Raising hopes of some chance of ending the civil strife out there..

At Nanking today, at a meeting of the Steering Committee of the National Assembly, hopes were aroused. But first let's go back to last January, when a council of representatives of all Chinese parties, drafted a Constitution. Since then, the prospects for the adoption of that Constitution haven't looked so good. Amendment after amendment was proposed, most of which would have wrecked the program. Finally, the suggested Constitution was turned over to a Steering Committee of the National Assembly. Late today, that Steering Committee yielded to the pleas of Chiang Kai-shek and turned down all the amendments. The consequence is that the original draft will be put up to a plenary session of the National Assembly tomorrow, and the probability now is that the Constitution will be approved.

And what does that mean? Well, it means a

complete right-about on the part of the Steering Committee. It means at least a temporary political victory for Chiang Kai-shek, and for our representatives out there, General Marshall, and Ambassador Leighton Stuart.

The amendments rejected by the Steering Committee would have continued the Kuomintang, in absolute power, in China. And, up to now, the Steering Committee apparently has been in favor of that.

Several of the delegations in the Assembly would have walked out if the amendments had been approved. How about the Chinese Communists? Nothing has yet been heard from them, or from the Democratic League, the two largest minority parties, both of which have given the ~~first~~ cold shoulder to the National Assembly -- stayed away from all meetings. However, Chou En-Lai of the Communists, and Lo Lung-Chi of the Democratic League, played an important part in drawing up that draft of the Constitution. Then, the Communists

and the Democratic League stayed away from the Assembly because it was convened by the Kuomintang. They maintained it should have been called by The Steering Committee. So, with the rejection of the amendments, well, it looks as though they may all get together on a plan for a unified China after all. That is, it looks that way tonight, even if Communist and Nationalist armies are fighting both in southern and central Manchuria at this very moment.

The nation's cold wave has already launched its attack on a wide front -- particularly the Dakotas and Montana, Minnesota, Iowa, Northern Missouri, and Kansas, with below-zero temperatures reported in many states.

And now, the cold is creeping along the crest of the Cascades in Oregon and Washington, where swollen rivers have already caused the worst winter floods in years. And there, the cold is welcomed for it is turning flood waters into ice.

The industrial area of Portland expects the Willamette to reach its highest tomorrow, at four feet above flood stage. Dock workers, at Portland, are clearing cargo from low areas and mooring everything that can't be moved.

BILBO

A Mississippi contractor today testified that being a friend of Senator Theodore Bilbo is an expensive business. Michael T. Morrissey of Vicksburg, Mississippi told the Senate sub-committee investigating the war that he had known Bilbo quite a few years, and it has cost him sixty thousand dollars. For one thing, he built a lake for the Senator, ^{the} a great friend-of-the-poor and-downtrodden in Mississippi - a lake with an island and a house on the island. in it. The lake is a twenty-two acre affair, and Bilbo still owes three thousand, six hundred and seventy-two dollars for the job, said Morrissey.

Also, the contractor went into a partnership with the Senator, a partnership for operating Bilbo's thirty-six hundred acre farm in Mississippi. The arrangements was that the contractor should pay the taxes and the expenses, and split the profits, but carry all the losses. After four years, the losses amount to forty-eight thousand dollars. In addition,

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Morrissey loaned Bilbo six thousand dollars, secured by a mortgage on part of the farm. He also donated thirteen hundred dollars for the building of a Baptist church and parsonage on Bilbo's land.

Three other Mississippi contractors told of campaign contributions they had made, as well as personal loans, to the Senator, and donations to that Baptist Church. One of them said that every time he visited the Senator's office, Bilbo's former secretary, Edward P. Terry, tried to borrow money. Terry, by the way, will give his testimony on Wednesday. He was discharged from a hospital in Mississippi today, and the doctors pronounced him able to stand the ordeal of cross-examination.

The contractor who said Terry had, in the language of Broadway, "put the bite on him", explained that he had never complied. Terry would say to this

contractor that he wanted money but did not want Senator Bilbo to know about it. Still another contractor admitted that he had been easier, had lent Terry two thousand dollars on a note, but never got any of it back.

The Committee asked Morrissey whether Bilbo had ever given him any help on war contracts. Morrissey replied that he had obtained his contracts as a result of low bids and Bilbo was in no position to help him make out those bids.

The house which he built on the island in that twenty-two acre lake, said Morrissey, represented one of Bilbo's dreams. It was his second dream house, his "junior dream house." From what this contractor told the Committee, the Mississippi Senator was quite a dreamer.

The Committee asked the contractor whether he had ever tried to collect any of the money Bilbo owed

him. No, he replied, the Senator had been running into a lot of bad luck and, for his part, he was not worrying about the money, not even in his dreams.

And now Nelson -- if you are not dreaming.

WEATHER

The word tonight is that Old Man Weather is moving down on us on a wide front. Folks throughout a considerable section of the U.S.A. already are aware of this -- particularly in Minnesota, Iowa, northern Missouri and Kansas, with below-zero temperatures in many states, but particularly in the Dakotas and Montana. Minnesota, and Michigan, and the Ohio Valley will be on the list tomorrow. With snow forecast for Western New York and Pennsylvania some time tonight.

Around Chicago, snow and ~~fx~~ freezing rain covering streets and highways with a sheet of ice. Seven dead as a result of accidents on the icy roads.

In parts of Oregon there are floods. At Portland, ~~xx~~ docks under water. Outside the city thousands are homeless.