

BIG FOUR

C.I. - Sunoco and P. & G. Inc., March 14, 1947.

Today's meeting of the Big Four Foreign Ministers at Moscow was the most pleasant and friendly since the conference began. Its high point was an eloquent demand by Secretary Marshall for full freedom of information for Germany, freedom of press and radio.

He pointed out the plain fact that one of the most powerful weapons in the hands of the Nazis was the complete control over every medium of information. Totalitarian ideologies, he continued, can never be wiped out from Germany until the entire body of Germans has complete and unrestricted access to information of all kinds. Secretary Marshall tactfully refrained from any mention of the Soviet government's control of press and radio among its people.

He presented a five point program. One that Germans should be guaranteed their basic civil rights. Another, that there should be a free and competitive election system, with full rights to all

political parties. Trade unions must be free and their rights guaranteed. Also, there must be the same freedom of movement for persons and things throughout Germany as there is in our own United States.

After which Secretary Marshall, as he had promised, reported the number of German war prisoners under American control. The total is thirty-thousand,- nine-hundred-and-seventy-six, of whom only a-hundred-and-three are in the United States. The others are in Italy, and France, but most of them in Germany, in the American occupation zone. There are a-hundred-and-seventeen war plants in the American zone. We've already destroyed eighty and will polish the rest off this year.

FOREIGN POLICY

~~Today~~ ^{today, we} finally, have an inkling of the situation in southeastern Europe, which has brought about the new Truman foreign policy, ^{with respect to} ~~of course~~ Greece and Turkey. Our information does not come from Washington, but from a debate in the British House of Commons.

A conservative member ^{of Parliament} ~~spoke~~ spoke up in explanation of British aid to Greece -- gift of thirty-six million dollars. The M P pointed out that the Greeks, on their northeastern border, face the fact of a Bulgarian Army larger than their own. On their northwestern border they face a Yugoslav Army larger still. Both those countries are dominated by communists. So the Greeks have to maintain an Army prepared to deal with Red Bulgarians and the Yugoslavs, and also with communist guerrillas ⁱⁿ ~~of~~ their own country.

Such are the critical facts which the Conservative member of Parliament urged as a reason for ~~sending~~ sending thirty six million dollars of

British money to Greece immediately. Obviously these are the same facts that governed President Truman in his proposal to send ~~ix~~ two-hundred-~~and~~ and-fifty-million dollars as aid to Greece.

The thirty-six-million^s ~~dollars~~ from Britain are intended to tide the Greeks over until they receive the first installment of the two-hundred-and-fifty-millions from us.

In the House of Commons debate it was charged ^{that} the Bulgarians and Jugoslavs, with their Greek Communist allies, are subjecting Greece to a war of nerves. To this a communist member of ~~Rxx~~ Parliament retorted that ^{it's} the Americans are carrying on a war of nerves.

Leftists in the Commons were vehement today against sending any British help to the Greeks. Their opposition drew an angry protest from Anthony Eden, the Conservative former Foreign Secretary. He ~~xxxx~~ said it was nauseating that Bulgaria, ~~an~~ an

enemy in the war whose behavior has been utterly treacherous, should be allowed to have an army without a word of protest from the communists and their sympathizers.

FOLLOW FOREIGN POLICY

In Washington the Foreign Affairs committee of the House will begin public hearings next week on President Truman's request. The White House asks that the new foreign policy be given top priority; but the committee is going to consider first President Truman's previous request for three-hundred-and-fifty-million dollars for foreign food relief.

~~Help must be sent to both Greece and Turkey before anything happens to upset the balance of power in the eastern Mediterranean. However,~~

~~Neither the Senators nor the Representatives propose to move without considering exactly just what they are doing. The question that bothers many minds, both in and out of Congress, is how long is this sort of thing going to continue. If we ^{send} ~~have to shell~~ out four-hundred millions to save Greece and Turkey from Communism, shall we be called upon later to pour out even more to save Manchuria and Korea? And what about Persia?~~

REACTION

Soviet reaction to President Truman's new foreign policy is rising to an angry climax. Russian newspapers bristle with editorials and articles which read as though they had been written by journalists in spasms of rage. Like all Communist utterances, they follow a pattern full of cut and dried phrases. Izvestia, official organ of the Stalin government, says the United States is imperialistic and expansionist with designs of subjugating Greece and Turkey.

Tass, the official wire service of the Soviet Government, has a dispatch from Washington describing Mr. Truman's speech as directed against democratic elements and democratic institutions in Greece. Tass makes the flat statement that President Truman said that American aid to the Greek government will mean eventual American control of Greece. The President, of course, said nothing of the sort - but that's a trifle.

One Moscow communist declares that the

viewpoint of American newspapers indicate an open sympathy for preservation of the military strength of Germany. I read a lot of newspapers, but I've never seen one that even remotely hinted at such an idea. American newspapers are unanimously in favor of making it impossible for the Germans ever again to start a war.

A different sort of reaction comes from Winston Churchill. He calls President Truman's declaration a great event, and says that, if the United States had taken such a step before World War Two, that conflict never would have occurred. Churchill declares that British policy, like that of the United States, is one of ~~the~~ friendship with Russia - but friendship from strength and not appeasement from weakness.

COMMUNISTS

The problem of what to do about our American communists is about to come before Congress in a big way. There are two bills now pending, and if they are passed the Communists will only be able to operate from underground. One of these measures would make membership in the party unlawful. The other would make it illegal for any Communist either to take ^{Office} or even run for office.

Still another bill, already approved in committee, would create a loaylty commission as an agency of the federal government. The job of this commission would be to ferret out any one on the national payroll suspected of subversive activities.

Hearings on anti-communist bills will begin ~~the~~ week after next. There will be a lot of witnesses, including the Secretary of labor, the Attorney General, and J. Edgar Hoover of the F.B. I.

It is known that both Attorney General Clark and J. Edgar Hoover are afraid that, if the Communists are driven underground, it will be more difficult to ~~xxx~~ cope with them. No Communists will appear as witnesses because, as the chairman of the committee pointed out, they would have nothing but lies to tell, and stale lies at that.

The committee on labor is considering charges of perjury against Harold Christoffel, former President of the union in the Allis Chalmers strike, and Robert Buse who succeeded him. They told the committee that they had never been Communists. But Louis Budenz, former editor of the Communist Daily Worker who returned to the Catholic church, informed the committee that both Christoffel and Buse were definitely known members of the Communist Party.

He also told the committee something about that Allis-Chalmers strike which began in Nineteen

forty one. It was started by a mysterious person known as Comrade Juniper. This Comrade Juniper, says Budenz, is today a national officer of the C I O. United Electrical workers. Budenz gave the identity and real name of the Comrade at a closed session of the Committee last night. Budenz asked to be excused from making the information public, because it would not be ~~xxx~~ advisable at present- would not help in putting the kibosh on Comrade Juniper.

A union leader appeared before the committee, and asked Congress to help unions keep communists out. Walter Generazzo, President of the Watch Workers Union, told the ~~xx~~ representatives that, if Congress is going to pass new labor laws, one of them should help ~~xx~~ union members preserve their democratic rights. Union leaders should be elected by secret ballot, said this union official, and collective bargaining should be on a local basis - not nationwide. He said there was nothing wrong with the closed shop, but there is emphatically something wrong with the closed union.

INCOME TAX

In Washington today, two surprise witnesses declared themselves in favor of a straight twenty percent reduction of individual income taxes. They were two high ranking democrats, ^{John} W. Haines and Rosswell McGill - both ^{former} under-Secretaries of the Treasury.

They told the Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives that the twenty percent tax cut should be made. And are their brother Democrats furious. The Truman Administration, as we know, is dead set against any tax reductions whatsoever at this time - the twenty percent cut being a Republican idea. But both Haines and McGill advised that the government budget should be cut to rock bottom. If this were done, said they, taxes could be reduced twenty percent and part of the national debt could still be retired. Tax relief is necessary to make our system of private enterprise flourish, they declared.

ADD INCOME TAX

One thing that Haines said was particularly significant. He declared that the present taxes on incomes in the higher brackets ~~xx~~ were designed as what he called, "punitive instruments". He certainly ought to ~~xx~~ know. Since he was under- Secretary of the Treasury when the "punitive tax policy" was framed by the Roosevelt administration.

^R Haines repeated what other people have been complaining about - that these astronomical taxes destroy the incentive to work and assume ~~xxx~~ responsibilities. The present ~~xx~~ taxes, he continued, are not a tax on wealth or income, they are a tax on brains. ^R He called them a stupid levy against the know[^] - how and the experience, which are the greatest assets of our nation. Naturally, all these things, coming from a former democratic high official, made the ^{New Deal} Democrats boil over. The Republicans just kept ~~xxx~~ quiet and smiled.

INCOME TAX - U N

There is one income tax area in our fair land where everybody is happy - even those who make income tax returns. That corner of Paradise is the United Nations headquarters at Lake Success.

American citizens who work there must file returns, and some of them even send cash to Uncle. But ^{the} United Nations refunds the money. A New York damsel on the payroll says that income taxes is fun. You just put down a lot of figures, and then comes along a nice man who picks up the check, just like going to a restaurant with a lobbyist or somebody else who has a nice fat expense account.

All of which happens because Congress has not yet got around to passing a law to exempt United Nations salaries from income tax - a state of affairs that has the ~~xxx~~ revenue collectors worried. Some of them, who are of a literal type of mind, declare that the U. N. employees should pay an additional tax on the tax the U N pays for them. Then U.N. would have to pay that additional

tax, and so on and so on - and the process would never end. The joker is that Uncle Sam pays nearly one half of the expenses of United Nations.

Three days ago, the American tanker, S. S. Fort Dearborn was ripped apart in a violent Pacific gale, as the vessel broke in two sections. The aft section, flying out on the storm, was in no danger, balanced aboard up - food and water for the men trapped inside. But the bow section - in desperate peril. From that wrecked fore section, ten crew members were taken off today. The freighter, St. John Victory performed the exploit. Now, we don't just know how the freighter maneuvered alongside the bow section of the broken tanker. Or did volunteer rescuers go over side in open boats to pick up the waiting survivors?

RESCUE

A dramatic rescue at sea, out in ~~the~~ mid Pacific. The abounding courage of sailors fighting for the lives of comrade sailors - and winning their ~~gallant~~ fight.

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RESCUE - 2

We don't know, but we do know that this rescue in the face of twenty knot winds and giant waves must have been an epic.

HEX

In Louisburg, North Carolina, a tobacco worker is wasting away, skin and bones, because a witch doctor put a hex on him. Not long ago, he was a hale and husky fellow. But when he heard the wizard had cursed him, he went to bed and stayed there, just waiting for death to come. One unfortunate aspect of the case is that the wizard who put the hex on the tobacco worker cannot take it off, because he himself is dead. ^{For} another fellow, on whom he put a curse, reacted in a different way - ~~and~~ killed the wizard.

This news has aroused the interest of a New York hypnotist, Marsh Babbitt, who has offered to go to ^{North Carolina} ~~Louisburg~~ at his own expense and take the curse off the tobacco worker. He declares the case is deadly serious, if any man believes in the power of a hex, it can kill him. It's the old power of suggestion that has been effective for thousands of years.

How will the hypnotist remove the power of the curse? He says he'll tell the victim that he, the hypnotist, is a stronger witch doctor than the one who put the spell on him. Then -- hypnotize him. And lo the hex will vanish. The curse will be removed.

And now Nelson, if you can get your mind off tomorrow's Harriman trophy race -- in honor of Averill Harriman, the Union Pacific man who created Sun Valley -- if you can get your mind off the race --