

~~KOREA-TRUCE~~ T-P-G Fri. May 22 - '53.

Word from Washington is that President Eisenhower must make a decision within a few hours - on a plan to end the deadlock in Korea. A decision which, we hear, may displease our allies like Britain and France.

This word emanates from members of a foreign relations committee of the Senate in the House - who were briefed at the State Department today by Acting Secretary Bedell Smith.

The truce talks of Pan mun Jom are to be resumed on Monday - a new proposal to be handed to the Reds. We hear that the critical question concerns the procedure in the commission of neutral nations in charge of prisoners of war who refuse to go home -- the voting procedure. That issue, now up to President Eisenhower for a final decision.

## CONFERENCE

The Eisenhower Administration serves notice that the Bermuda conference will not necessarily mean a big four meeting with Soviet Russia - not unless Moscow shows indications of halting Communist aggression in various parts of the world. This warning emanates from Secretary of State <sup>Dulles.</sup> ~~John Foster~~ Dulles.

The Secretary of State is out East, where he has been having conferences with ~~Indian Prime~~ Minister Nehru at New Delhi. Today, he proceeded on to Pakistan, for talks with Moslem leaders there. Before leaving New Delhi, he said:

"I doubt if any important results could come out of a high level conference which included the leaders of Soviet Russia, so long as a Soviet bloc is promoting a war of aggression." He mentioned the hostilities in Korea, and in Indo-China. Also - the Moscow refusal to take occupation forces out of Austria, and conclude an Austrian peace treaty.

(This is taken as an official answer to the expectations voiced in London and <sup>Paris</sup> ~~Paris~~ - that the conference of the Big Three in Bermuda will be a preliminary for a get-together with Soviet leadership. Prime Minister Churchill, President Eisenhower, and the French Premier - to lay plans for talks with Moscow Premier ~~in~~ Malenkov. To this we way - we're still waiting for some sign of Soviet good faith.)

A dispatch from Moscow gives the Soviet ~~new~~ view, as expressed in official newspapers - like Pravda and Izvestia. They say the Kremlin is ready to go into "businesslike" talks with the West - to settle disputes of the cold war. But the Malenkov regime will not accept - conditions laid down in advance.

The Moscow dispatch adds - that Charles E. Bohlen, U.S. ~~in~~ Ambassador to Moscow, is likely to attend the Bermuda conference. The report is that ambassador Bohlen will go to Washington for consultations, as the top American expert on Soviet

affairs. Then, he'll ~~XXXXXX~~ accompany the President to Bermuda. Which is taken as a sign that the American-British-French talks will discuss a Big Four meeting, the Soviets included.

In Washington, the White House and State Department refuse to comment on this Moscow report about Ambassador Bohlen.



## FRANCE

Today, President Auriol of France had a series of interviews - and a regular procession it was. Ten former Premiers paraded through his office.

He's trying to solve the political crisis - following the downfall yesterday of Premier Rene Mayer. France left without a government, once again - and the Bermuda conference is scheduled for next month.

*Q France today*  
President Auriol confabulated with the ten former Premiers, on the question - how to form a new government. Looking for a new Premier - who will be able to line up a majority in the National Assembly.

They'd better hurry. Plenty of preparation will be needed by the Premier who goes to join Churchill and Eisenhower at Bermuda.

## INDO-CHINA

<sup>new</sup>  
The French Commander in Indo-China had a narrow escape today - when his plane was hit by a violent blast of anti-aircraft fire.

General Henri Navarre, who has recently taken charge, was flying in an American built transport, a ~~Douglas~~ - *Dc3* - Dakota -- scouting over the jungles of the Red River Delta, where the Communists are thrusting at the City of Hanoi.

The French have been saying that the Reds have up-to-date war equipment from China -- probably Soviet built. Well, General Navarre had a chance to find that out - when anti-aircraft batteries on the ground opened fire. A shell hit the port side engine of the Dakota, and knocked it out. The plane was riddled by fragments of exploding shells.

Down below was dense jungle, infested with Reds. Looked bad for the new Commander-in-Chief. But the pilot did a skillful job - and, with one engine, he was able to fly the damaged plane for forty miles, to a French airstrip.

## MARINE

Here's the champion leatherneck - a recruit, at Parris Island, South Carolina, who broke all records in boot training. In the "general classification test," for all-around efficiency as a Marine - he scored ~~one-hundred-and-sixty-one~~ points, out of a possible ~~one-hundred-and-sixty-four~~. The highest mark ever obtained by a rookie - at the Parris Island Training Station.

So, who is this leatherneck prodigy? The answer - surprising. <sup>a</sup> Former U. S. Vice Consul, a Diplomat who served at the Consulate in Singapore. Private Leo (Mike) Linehan, of Watertown, Massachusetts -- twenty-six years old. A graduate of Boston College, where he took honors in the classics - Greek and Latin. He got a job in the State Department, assigned to Singapore, where he was in the Diplomatic Service for three years. Then he quit - to join the Marines.

Well, those Diplomats are supposed to be the striped-pants boys, and you'd hardly expect one to set records as a champion leatherneck. But Mike Linehan did it.

The Secretary of the Air Force declares - he's "disappointed" by the cuts in the Air Force budget. He hopes - that it will not be necessary to curtail U.S. Combat strength in the sky.

This, from Secretary <sup>Harold</sup> Talbot, follows the criticism from an Air Force spokesman, who declared that the five billion slash proposed by President Eisenhower will mean - fewer planes, poorer planes, and not enough men to operate them.



## TIDELANDS

President Eisenhower signed the Tidelands Oil Bill today and it was quite a ceremony - forty-six members of Congress in attendance.

The President declared against any further concession to States interested in oil resources. Under the Bill, they get the mineral rights as far out as their historic boundaries. Three miles out in most cases. Ten-and-a-half miles out - for Texas and West Florida.

~~Further~~<sup>The</sup> demand is being made - that States should have an interest in submerged oil still farther out on the Continental Shelf. Texas and Louisiana want this, and a battle is shaping up in Congress.

President Eisenhower declares for exclusive government control of oil - beyond the historic boundaries of the States.

## AUTO WORKERS

The auto workers of General Motors get a wage hike. So announced today - at a conference of the Union and G.M. The terms are complicated, with varying scales of pay, but the gist of it is that the three-hundred-and-fifty-thousand workers, who are paid by the hour, get a boost.

The union contract had still two years to go, and bargaining talks were on a basis of reopening the agreement. The auto workers threatened that, unless its demands were met - ~~then~~ there would be no ~~for~~ further long term contracts, after the present one expired.

Today's agreement, it appears, will apply to other companies as well. G M regarded as - setting the ~~pattern~~ pattern.

## TORNADO

*together -* The United States and Canada <sup>*are working*</sup> ~~have joined~~ hands to help Port Huron, Michigan, and Sarnia, Ontario -- the two towns devastated by a tornado last night. Five lives lost, thirty-nine seriously injured. The residential area in Port Huron - smashed. Business district in Sarnia - wrecked. Destruction and damage all along a line of seventy miles - across which the twister blew.

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Down across the country, to the South, the Gulf of Mexico - the floods are still on. Tens of thousands homeless, especially in the Bayou Country of Louisiana.

(Today, United Press correspondent Charles Cummings flew over the deluge, and writes: "We saw empty farm homes, with water lapping at the roofs. They had the appearance of small boats swaying in the waves."

Sounds like something that Noah might have written.)

## FOLLOW TORNADO

Today, Louisiana state troopers were sent to guard U.S. Highway ninety - against any dynamiting attempt. "Ninety", the "old Spanish Trail", is banked high - just east <sup>of</sup> the ~~the~~ Sabine River, which is in flood. The highway is like a dam holding back the inundation, which otherwise ~~xxxx~~ would flood Louisiana marshlands. The river is the boundary with Texas, and is threatening to engulf the Texas town of Orange. So the reasoning is - that, if the highway barrier in Louisiana were broken, it would relieve the pressure of the waters over in Texas.

The rumor spread - that Texans were on their way to blow up the "old Spanish Trail". ~~As~~ Louisiana figures it ~~xx~~ has enough flood already. So State Troopers were dispatched - to guard ~~xxx~~ against Texans with dynamite.



## TEXAS CITY

A late dispatch tells of a thundering explosion at Texas City, Texas - a blast at the Monsanto Chemical Co. Flame and smoke rose a thousand feet in the air. Several lives lost at least. All available fire fighting equipment was rushed there.

Texas City had a disastrous explosion back in Nineteen Forty-Seven. More than five hundred killed then.

## CONVICTS

There was a prison break in Michigan today, and the way the convicts got out was astonishing. They cut their way through the bars - with acetylene ~~xxxx~~ torches. Seven of them, including four lifers. All - having escape records.

They were put on a job of repairing plumbing fixtures, for which they used - the acetylene torches. Suddenly, they jumped two guards. Locked them in a cell, and proceeded to cut their way out through the steel bars. They made a get-away --, and today, are believed to be hiding in the Michigan ~~xxxx~~ woods.

At Portland, Maine, an old lady celebrated her ninetieth birthday today, and said: "I am content to live with my memories. It was al<sup>l</sup> so long ago - that I almost wonder if those things really happened." She is Mrs. Robert E. Peary, widow of Admiral Peary, who discovered the North Pole.

He took his young wife with him on one Arctic voyage after another. Five - in all. She was the first white woman ever to go on a Polar expedition. In Eighteen Ninety-Three, her daughter Marie was born at an ice camp, less than thirteen degrees from the Pole. They called the child - the "snow baby".

Today, the United Press reporter asked Mrs. Peary - what did she recall as the most thrilling moment, after all that Arctic travel?

She wasn't with him on that epic-making expedition in Nineteen Nine. She stayed home that time. So today she described her most thrilling moment in these words: "It was," she said, "when the short, fat storekeeper, out of breath and stumbling, ran up to our

summer home, he carried the message - that my husband had reached the Pole."

Today, Mrs. Peary revealed that her son, Robert E. Peary, Jr., is following in the family tradition. He's a civil engineer stationed at Thule, our great Polar air base in Greenland.

She had a letter from him recently, saying that he's making a trip home, and will visit her at Portland. He's bringing along the sole surviving Eskimo who was with Admiral Peary on the expedition that ended in the discovery of the North Pole. That aged Eskimo, Ootah, lives near the Thule air base.

Well, it should be a great get-together, and they ought to have Matt Henson with them, the Negro who was Peary's lone companion in the final dash to the top of the world. He's in his eighties now, and sure could

add - to those memories. And of course Commander Donald Mac Millan, who started his Polar travels with Peary and has been on a score of Arctic expeditions since then. Today Mac Millan and Bernt Balchen and Sir Hubert Wilkins, are the foremost living authorities on the Polar regions.



## SECRETARIES

From Harvard, a bit of scientific research to celebrate - National Secretaries' Week. Homage - being paid to the lady who takes the dictation, pounds the typewriter, and sometimes runs the business, <sup>or</sup> just about. Dr. Otto von Mering, social scientist at Harvard, made a survey to find out - what the secretary thinks of the boss. What she usually gripes about.

~~(Well, our first guess would be - not enough pay, she wants a raise. But not at all. Of a thousand secretaries queried, very few mentioned that at all.)~~

The chief complaint is against the boss, who treats the secretary - like a mere machine, an office automaton.

~~(She wants to be regarded as an individual. Her personality and ideas - taken into consideration. She likes to assume responsibility.)~~

The Professor puts this into Harvardian prose, as follows: "The ideal boss is one whose approach to his secretary is characterized by democratic reasonableness and authority, <sup>))</sup> ~~responsibility delegation.~~"

So that's the good word for - Be-Kind-To-

Secretaries Week. I'm all for it - although I've had some odd experiences.

In England, back at the time of the previous Coronation, I left London to take a ship at Southampton - homeward bound. I had to give a broadcast, on short wave, at Southampton - and would have to dictate the script on the train. So I engaged a London stenographer. She was a typical English secretary, severe and plain - and pretty soon, as the train rattled on, she began to look slightly green.

"You know," she said, "I always get train-sick."

She was train-sick all the way to Southampton, and I had to get out the old portable and bang out the script.

Then there was the time in Hollywood, when I called an agency, and engaged a stenographer - to get out the nightly show. In due time, she appeared - a typical Hollywood blonde. She sure looked okay. She waltzed in, and announced blithely:

"I hope they told you, I don't know shorthand," said the Hollywood stenographer.

~~so I dictated the script to the typewriter.~~

She ~~is~~ was a help.

On the whole I've been rough on secretaries — impossible hours on late radio shows and all night news reel sessions — also dictating in planes, trains and boats. And Nelson, I take my hat off to all of them during National Secretaries Week — and all the time.