

STEEL - L.T. - P. & G. - Wed. Dec. 19th '57.

~~The threat of a steel strike on the first~~

~~of the year presents an ominous picture - into which~~

~~again~~ ~~John L. Lewis~~ ~~to make it more ominous.~~
stalks into a strike situation

Today, the President of the Mine Workers put his powerful union on the side of the steel workers.

Lewis held a meeting with his top policy committee, for a discussion of financial support, if there should be a strike.

There has long been a feud between John L. Lewis and the head of the Steel Union, Philip Murray -- who is also the President of the C I O. But Lewis, at least for the moment, is forgetting his old grudges. We may note, moreover, that the coal contracts expire on March thirty-first -- when Lewis will go into negotiations with the coal operators. And - a pay rise for steel might set a pattern.

~~Federal Mediator Cyrus Ching is bringing~~

~~government intervention into the steel dispute - scheduling a series of meetings between company executives and union President Philip Murray. If these conferences break down, the problem will be handed over to President Truman - who, in turn, will pass it along to the Wage Stabilization Board.~~

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Under the Taft-Hartley Law, an injunction might be procured -- delaying the steel strike for eighty days. But that, they say, is not likely. It would extend the deadline into March - when John L. Lewis will be going at it hot and heavy with the coal companies. Something of a nightmare to have the two things coincide - steel strike and labor troubles in the realm of coal.

All of which emphasizes the ominous impression given by John L. Lewis walking into the steel strike picture today.

KOREA - PRISONERS

In Korea, the question of the release of prisoners is snarled in a new tangle. (The Reds complain angrily that the list the U. N. Truce Team gave them, the list of Communist captives, is in English. That is, the one-hundred-and-thirty-two thousand Korean and Chinese names -- are written in the Latin alphabet of the English Language.) (Moreover -- that the names are not accompanied by serial numbers of the prisoners, the ranks they hold, or the Military Units to which they belonged.) This, the Reds declare, makes the list useless for them-- untranslatable.

They point out that in the Chinese language there are only about one hundred family names, and these must be written in Chinese characters before they have any meaning. The Koreans have even fewer family names.

On our side, it is admitted that the lists are in English. (U. S. Spokesman, General Nuckols explaining-- that this is) in accord with the Geneva Convention concerning Prisoners-of-War, which calls for the transmission of data in the language of the country

holding prisoners, not in the language of the prisoners themselves.

Well, it's all a puzzle -- complicated by twisters of language -- the speech and writing of the Far East being so different from the languages and Latin alphabet of the West. For example, the list of American prisoners, compiled by the Chinese and Korean Communists, was in English. But then, how would you represent American names in Chinese writing? With Chinese characters? ~~The~~

The net result is that the Red Negotiators demand duplicate lists of Communist prisoners -- made out in Chinese and Korean writing. These they will get -- our negotiators promising to hand over duplicate lists by about December twenty-fifth, Christmas Day.

So a Gargantuan job is going on at U. N. Headquarters -- ~~One-Hundred-and-Thirty-Two Thousand~~ names in process of being listed in Chinese and Korean. We presume the task is being ~~performed~~ performed by Far Eastern Scribes. It would be ^{hopeless} ~~inhuman~~ to ask Americans

to do it. (I wonder how many Americans we have over there who can write Chinese or Korean.) All in all, it sounds ~~not~~ like one huge headache for the ~~the~~ U. N. Command.

The language ^{is} ~~puzzle~~ ^{snarl} adds up to new delay in ~~the~~ Armistice negotiations -- putting off the time when prisoners might be released. It seems utterly unlikely that there can be any truce agreement by the deadline, December Twenty-Seventh; -- ^{so} ~~and~~ today ~~was~~ an American warning was given. The end of the period set for the conclusion of an Armistice may be followed by a major offensive -- a U. N. Drive to help the Reds make up their minds.

~~There is insistent warning -- about that list of American Prisoners-of-War. Today President Truman added his own voice, urging everybody to regard the names given by the Reds with skepticism. ^{For instance this} They may not represent a full tally of Americans actually held by the Communists; -- and, in the list there may be some enemy trick. The President emphasizes that the names are~~

ADD KOREA Prisoners - 3b.

The latest is-- that the U.N. Truce Team has informed the Reds that they will not be ready to resume negotiations on prisoner exchange, until Supreme Headquarters in Toyko has had time to study and analyse the list handed over. The message was delivered by an American officer who met enemy representatives at the usual place, Pan Mun ^Y Jon.

Here is one bitterly tragic note to add to the roster of prisoners-of-war, as published today. Three weeks ago at Richmond, Virginia, Mrs. Florence Hills (last) jumped from a bridge and was drowned. Her son was listed as missing in action, and she was driven to desperation by the fear that he was a victim of Red atrocity. Today on the list of prisoners-of-war appeared the name of -- her son.

KOREA - PRISONERS - 4

Pres. Truman warns that the names are unverified -- may be true or false, complete or incomplete. *There may be some enemy tricks.*

For example, there is no final certainty that General Dean is a prisoner-of-war -- the Congressional Medal of Honor man captured ~~early~~ early in the war. General Dean's name is on the list - but without any serial number. Which is odd, because nearly all of the other names are accompanied by numbers.

Here is one bitterly tragic note to add to the roster of prisoners-of-war, as published today. Three weeks ago at Richmond, Virginia, Mrs. Florence Mills Leake jumped from a bridge and was drowned. Her son was listed as missing in action, and she was driven to desperation by the fear that he was a victim of Red atrocity. Today, on the list of prisoners-of-war appeared the name of -- her son.

FOLLOW KOREA PRISONERS

The news wire brings in another strange case. At San Diego, California, three weeks ago, they held the funeral of Private William Boyd, listed as killed in action. Today the name of Private Boyd appeared on the list of prisoners. His foster mother says - she has new hope. Maybe it was not the body of private William Boyd -- that they had buried.

KOREA - PLANE

There was a thriller over the mid-pacific today, when a giant transport of the Korean airlift developed engine trouble about half way ~~xxxx~~ between Honolulu and the California coast. Fifty-one passengers were aboard. A distress signal brought rescue planes to the scene, two B-17 bombers. They flew formation with a C-54 transport, escorting the plane safely to Moffett Field, California.

To Miss Secretary Johnson xxxxxx

Let the government in Washington be xxxxxx of

any such incident - no information that xxxxxx

and sabotage agents were dropped inside xxxxxx. He

says it is just another trick of Red propaganda.

His opposition is that it's all tied in with four

American flyers were forced down in Red

Hungary, where they are now being held.

In Paris today, French Foreign Minister

Chamberlain declared that the four flyers were

SPIES

Secretary of State Acheson calls the new spy story from Soviet Russia - a fake. Today Moscow announced that two anti-Communist Russians, trained by the Americans, had been dropped by parachute in Russian territory - on a mission of espionage and sabotage. They were caught, and executed by a firing squad. ^{So} say the Reds.

To which Secretary Acheson ~~xxxxxx~~ responds that the government in Washington has no knowledge of any such incident - no information that espionage and sabotage agents were dropped inside Russia. He calls it - just another trick of Red ~~xx~~ propaganda. One supposition is that it's all tied in with four American flyers whose plane was forced down in Red Hungary, where they are now being held.

In Paris today, Moscow Foreign Minister Vishinsky declared that the four airmen flew ^W over

Hungary on a mission of espionage. In a long propoganda blast he called them "spies for the Atlantic Pact." Later he indicated that they would be in Vishinsky's words, "tried according to Soviet law."

But that, apparently, was a little too much. Because later -- Vishinsky denied he had said it. He claimed he wasn't referring to the four fliers, and explained that he could not speak for the Red government of Hungary.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

(Today brings confirmation of reports that the Red purge in Czechoslovakia is largely - Anti-Semitic.. The evidence is a speech made by the Premier, which is printed in the Communist Party Newspaper at Prague. He attacks what he calls - "Jewish Capitalists." And - "Interference from Jerusalem!")

It has been noted that, in the present purge, a large proportion of the victims are Jews. Jewish leaders in Vienna say - an "extremely high percentage." The number one target is Rudolph Slansky, former Secretary General of the Communist Party. Regarded as Stalin's Chief Henchman in Czechoslovakia - but now he goes to trial on the deadly charge of treason. Slansky is of Jewish ancestry; as are two former Deputy Foreign Ministers and a former Deputy Minister of Defense - all held for trial in the purge.

All of which is the background for the speech made by the Premier, who shouted bitterly against what he called - "An attempt to return factories to Jewish and

other Capitalists." To which he added: "We will not tolerate any outside influence whether from Washington, London or Jerusalem." (~~The tone is Anti-Semitic and Anti-Zionist. Referring, no doubt, to Zionist sentiments among Jews who remain in Czechoslovakia and want to emigrate to Israel.~~)

STALIN

(Word from behind the iron curtain is - that the Reds are trying to turn Christmas - into a Feast of Stalin.) The Red Dictator's birthday falls on December Twenty-first - He'll be seventy-two this coming Friday. So the word has gone out - make it a bigger celebration than ever. The Communists in Russia and the Satellite countries find it ~~ix~~ impossible to abolish the religious feeling that surrounds Christmas; ^{so} ~~and~~ they ^{are} ~~are~~ trying to use the traditional ceremonies for the glorification of the Lord of Communism, *who millions regard as anti-christ.*

They ~~are~~ urging people - to hang pictures of Stalin on the Christmas trees. Which is actually being done in a large way in the Soviet Sector of Berlin. Yuletide displays are arranged around huge ~~xxx~~ portraits of the man with the big mustache - as if Christmas were dedicated to him!

Children in the schools, all dominated by Communists, are required to write letters of praise to the Red Dictator - just as youngsters in these parts write to Santa Claus. Stalin taking the place of -

Jolly Kriss Kringle.

But the most wonderful idea of all concerns - Christmas gifts. In the Red zone, they can't keep Germans from giving each other presents, in the old familiar way. So a German Communist newspaper, in East Berlin, tells them what they should give each other for Christmas. Sounds too awful to mention. For a Christmas present - the sixteen volumes of the ~~Collective~~^{ed} Works of Stalin. How would you like that on your Christmas tree - Stalin in sixteen volumes.

VATICAN

Today brings the formal report on the excavations under St. Peter's, in Rome. The Archeologists declare it's definite that, deep under the great cathedral, they found the tomb of St. Peter.

Tradition relates that Peter was martyred in the time of Nero - Sixty-Seven A. D. That - his grave was in the Vatican area, then one of the poorer neighborhoods of Ancient Rome. And, that - some Two hundred years later, a shrine was built at the place, a tomb honoring the mortal remains of Peter. This tomb, it would seem, has been discovered - deep below the present church.

~~History relates that, above the tomb, the Emperor Constantine built the First Cathedral of St. Peter's - Three ~~thousand~~ Hundred and Twenty-Six A.D., which stood for more than a thousand years, and then, in the fourteen hundreds, was demolished to make way for the present church.~~

The Archeologists declare that, deep underground

they found streams of running water, which created ~~some~~ constant danger of a cave-in. So careful measures had to be taken to avoid any danger to the vast Edifice, with Michelangelo's Famous Dome. They say ~~that~~ the ground was unsafe for building--and--the Architects of the original church, in the time of Constantine, must have selected the site only because of the Tomb of St. Peter.

As for the discovery of any mortal remains of the Prince of Apostles, the answer is - negative. Apparently, the Archeologists found the Tomb - empty. They discovered ancient bones nearby, but the Vatican says there is no evidence that these may be the remains of Simon-called-Peter.

HOLD-UP

There was a hold-up, today, at the aircraft engine plant of the Ford Motor Company, in Chicago. And tonight - the police believe the robber may ~~be~~ have been a worker in the plant, who made his getaway by going back on the job.

The bandit showed a complete familiarity

with the plant, making his way through a tunnel - ~~and~~

with a gun

~~and~~ holding up the girls in the cafeteria, ~~with a~~

~~pistol~~. He got away with three thousand dollars; and

~~the~~ vanished in puzzling fashion. Maybe - reporting

at his place on the ~~in~~ Ford assembly line. *And now*

Nelson, how about a hint to the ladies on the dishpan assembly line?