

The joint committee of the Senate and House has agreed on a bill to let President Truman reorganize the Federal government - on the basis of the Hoover commission report for economy and efficiency, saving billions of dollars a year. The joint committee had argued for a month, and ~~now~~ now says okay - giving a favorable report on the Hoover ~~plan~~ plan.

Soviets have been using the Berlin railroad strike as a pretext for keeping the blockade going. But that's now about to be settled, according to the Paris conference tonight.

... - an Austrian peace treaty now to be signed, and the problem of Germany put in the hands of a commission of deputies of the foreign ministers.

CONFERENCE

Sudden optimism in Paris - following a surprise meeting late this afternoon. After previous formal sessions had been called off today, the western foreign ministers asked Vishinsky to meet them informally at the French Foreign Ministry tonight - which is followed by a report that the conference of the Big Four is about to come to an agreement on ending the Berlin blockade. The belief is that the Soviets have been using the Berlin railroad strike as a pretext for keeping the blockade going. But that's now about to be settled, according to the Paris optimism tonight.

Also - an Austrian peace treaty soon to be signed, and the problem of Germany put in the hands of a commission of deputies of the foreign ministers.

CARDINAL

The report that Cardinal Mindszenty may be released is based on a statement alleged to have been made by Rakosi, the Red boss of Hungary. The Rakosi declaration is quoted in church circles at Vienna - the Communist leader represented as saying: "In principle, we don't object to Mindszenty's release from prison in the near future, which will permit him to stay in a sanatorium or seek exile in a western country." The mention of "sanatorium" is interesting - coinciding with Vatican reports that the mental condition of the Cardinal is becoming worse.

Today the church source in Vienna states that the self-accusations made by the Cardinal at the Red trial followed a threat to shoot his mother.

Also - visited recently by his mother, the Cardinal said to her: "Do you know when I will be tried?" Indicating - that he has forgotten the trial and confession.

So now the statement that the Hungarian Communists are willing to release him - to go to a

sanitorium or into exile. The reason is said to be that the Hungarian Reds never did want to stage the Mindszenty trial - knowing that it would have a bad effect on the Hungarian people, but the Soviets insisted.

described and pictured as much. But about the explosion, or explosions, at Khatyovsk - blank secrecy. Today's hint comes in the course of the atomic investigation in Washington - Chairman Lilienthal testifying. He said that the explosive was of an advanced design of bomb as about to go into mass production at the Great Plutonium Plant, Hanford, Washington. Beginning in the twenty-seventh of this present year. He stated that the explosive was now being used in laboratories - now extensively in production. This is a result of the testing at Khatyovsk - where they tried out a more devastating bomb, and it worked.

All this was in answer to one charge made against the Atomic Energy Commission - that the bomb

ATOMIC

Some small hint was disclosed in one of the top secrets of these years - Eniwetok, the atom bomb tests made at that remote Pacific Island last year. The Bikini tests, the year before, were public spectacles - those fabulous atomic explosions, described and pictured so much. But about the explosion, or explosion, at Eniwetok - blank secrecy.

Today's hint comes in the course of the atomic investigation in Washington - Chairman Lillienthal testifying. He said that the explosive core of an advanced design of bomb is about to go into mass production at the Great Pluonium Plant, Hanford, Washington. Beginning -- the Twenty-Seventh of this present June. He explained that the explosive core has hitherto been made by scientists in laboratories - now assembly-line production. This, a result of the testing at Eniwetok - where they tried out a more devastating bomb, and it worked.

~~All this was in answer to one charge made against the Atomic Energy Commission - that the cost~~

STEEL

Tonight -- a union demand on United States Steel presented by Philip Murray, President of the C I O. No money is mentioned, but the steel union asks for a combination of benefits - wages, pension, and insurance. This is in ~~the~~ line with new union ~~concept~~ policy - featuring security.

COPLON

The latest in the Judy Cōplon trial - a letter of congratulation from Attorney General Clark. Presented as evidence today, the letter was written in May of last year, and is in Clark's handwriting - praising highly the work of Judy Cōplon as an employee of the Department of Justice. That was a little more than a year ago - and now Judy is on trial, accused of transmitting Department of Justice secrets to Soviet espionage.

~~The court proceedings today included the appearance of - prominent witnesses. But they never got a chance to testify anything much. Former Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes - asked about a one-time department employee named Ruth Gruber, whose name was mentioned in the contents of Judy Cōplon's purse. The Defense Attorney asked Ickes - if Ruth Gruber was a Communist. The prosecution immediately objected - that this had nothing to do with the question of Judy Cōplon and espionage.~~

Another headline witness was Dr. Condon, head

of the Bureau of Standards - whose wife was named in an F.B.I. memo as a suspected "contact" between a Soviet agent and a Washington business man who recently committed suicide. Dr. Condon has been objecting violently to this - assailing J. Edgar Hoover, Head of the F.B.I. Today the head of the Bureau of Standards was asked, did he know anything about a firm said to have sold atomic research equipment to the Soviets? The prosecution objected to the question - and was sustained.

Then Mrs. Condon took the stand, and the Defense lawyer asked: "Are you, or were you ever, a Communist?"

"Objection!" roared the prosecuting attorney.

"Sustained", said the judge - who ruled all along that the questions did not bear upon the fact that Judy Coplon had in her purse the secret F.B.I. information, as she met the alleged Soviet agent, Gubichev.

All of which is followed by a denial of a

report that J. Edgar Hoover has offered his resignation. The story, printed in the Washington Times-Herald, was that the Chief of the F.B.I. had a row with his boss, Attorney General Clark - Hoover maintaining that the Department of Justice should have dropped the prosecution of Judy Coplon, rather than have the F.B.I. secrets brought into court. The Attorney General calls the report of the resignation of J. Edgar Hoover ridiculous.

MILITARY PAY

Late this afternoon, the House of Representatives passed a compromise bill for a military raise of pay. The compromise pay hike would cost Three Hundred and Two Million Dollars a year, a Hundred Million less than the original measure - the proposed increases being scaled down all along the line. Still retaining the feature of bigger boosts for the higher ranks, the bill now goes to the Senate - where the issue is doubtful.

ASTRONOMY

Here's an announcement of a map-making project. Some country to be charted? No, it's bigger than that. Some continent? No, bigger. The whole ~~world~~ ^{cosmos} to be mapped? Well, the announcement comes from the Mount Palomar observatory, where they have the giant Two Hundred inch telescope. So the project is to make an Atlas of the universe.

Of course, there are plenty of sky maps, charts of the star^ss, but this is to be the greatest and most complete of all. The job will be done by the super-telescope, together with a special type of photographic eye for gazing into the cosmos. The star maps will fill twenty huge volumes, a research guide for observatories and astronomers the world over. ^R The Palomar observatory is collaborating with the National Geographic Society. And today the projected Atlas of the universe was described in these words: "An astronomical bible for at least a century to come."

WAITKUS

Today in Chicago, a tall, Nineteen year old brunette was taken into a hospital room, where a man lay in critical condition, between life and death - Eddie Waitkus, star first baseman of the Philadelphia team of the National League. He looked up, pointed a finger at her in identification, and asked weakly: "Why did you do it?"

The girl turned her head away, and said: "I'm not sure."

This may be taken as a typical sign - Ruth Steinhausen giving rambling and confusing accounts of why she shot the baseball player, - the police calling her a "Pathological Liar." Then, face to face with Eddie Waitkus, she says - I'm not sure."

Infatuation and an insane egotism impelled her to seek the limelight by killing a star of the diamond with whom she was in love - although they had never met.

Today the story was told from an interesting angle by the girl's mother, Mrs. Eddie Steinhausen, a plump Chicago housewife, who says; "She had been

crazy about Eddie for three years and she had hundreds of pictures of him, ^{and} ~~Why, do you know,~~ exclaims the mother, "she used to spread them out on ~~a table, and even~~ on the floor, and look at them for hours."

Which description is a companion piece to accounts of how Ruth Steinhagen used to go to the ball games constantly, when Eddie Waitkus was the first baseman for the Chicago Cubs. She would sit in the grandstand behind the first base line, her eyes on the ballplayer, as he took throws to first base, or as he swung the bat at the plate.

Mrs. Steinhagen adds that, a year ago, the girl talked about killing the ballplayer and herself, but the mother could not have imagined that it would come to the murderous reality.

But such was the girl's ~~f~~ frenzy when yesterday she went to the ball game in Chicago - Eddie Waitkus now playing for the Philadelphia Nationals, and the Phillies in a game with the Cubs. No, she

WAITKUS...3

wasn't rooting for the home team. Today she said:
"I went to the Cubs' Park, and watched Eddie help
the Phillies beat the Cubs, Nine to Two. It was
wonderful!" she exclaims. Her eyes were on her hero,
and Eddie got a hit - which elated her, and made her
want all the more to kill him. In any case, she
lured him to her hotel room with an urgent note last
night - and shot him down with a rifle she had
procured for the purpose.

Today Eddie Waitkus was so near death that
a priest heard his confession. So weak, the doctors
delayed an operation to remove the bullet, lodged
near his heart, and his team-mates on the ball club
were not allowed in to see him.

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~~The latest the doctors announce the
patient has rallied.~~

FOLLOW EDDIE WAITKUS

Dr. George Holmes, a chest surgeon examined Waitkus, and found him "much improved". Prospects for his recovery - "better all the time". But meanwhile, a girl friend of Ruth Ann Steinhagen, says that the distracted young woman, before she became infatuated with Eddie Waitkus, had a crush on Chicago infielder Peanuts Lowrie; but, she switched to the ~~fixer~~ first-baseman, luckily for peanuts.

BERGMAN

A favorite theme of literature is - the reversal of roles. A classic, for example, is the Anatole France story of the hermit-monk of the desert, who went to wicked Alexandria to convert the beautiful sinner Thais (Tah-ees). He succeeded, but with irony. He became ^{the} sinner, while she became ^{the} a saint.

All of which would seem a bit lofty to transfer to the world of movies, but a singular reversal of roles is reported from the Island of Stromboli. (~~accent on the first syllable~~). ~~Where film star Ingrid Bergman is making a picture in the shadow of the famous volcano.~~

The male star in ^{new Bergman} the screen drama is named Mario Vitale - and he, until recently, was a fisherman. Selected by Director Rossellini, whose name has been linked romantically with that of La Bergman.

We have the story from a Hollywood movie writer, Art Cohn, sent over to Stromboli to work on the Bergman picture. He writes back to Hollywood, telling how Rossellini went down to a fishing dock and

picked up Mario - who was without money, job or hope.

"Rossellini," relates the film writer, "asked him if he wanted a job to work at Stromboli. Mario thought he meant fishing. He didn't know he would be Miss Bergman's leading man until the day before the picture began. Then. "The writer goes on," Mario found himself in front of a camera. He discovered Ingrid Bergman in his arms. He was confused, bewildered." As why wouldn't he be - the lucky fisherman.

But what about Mario now? Well, as the picture - making went on, he became less confused and less bewildered - and then one day he saw his profile, big as life, on the cover of an Italian motion picture magazine. Whereupon Mario went Hollywood. And now he poses around with a full flavor of - ham. "His pockets," writes Art Cohn, "are stuffed with Ten Thousand Lire bills. The belles of the Island follow him around. He gives autographs with the standard bored expression on his face - and

loves it." The Director, Rossellini, says sadly:

"Mario is not an actor - I'm afraid."

But what about Ingrid Bergman - the Swedish glamour blonde of Hollywood? She, too, has changed.

No fancy dressing room, no maid, no mirrors, no elaborate make-up, no ~~Million~~ Dollar clothes. She wears a cheap skirt and sweater, and sleeps in a kitchen. The dazzling movie queen has reverted to type. ~~And is just plain Swede.~~

So there is the reversal of roles. One -
from star to ^{the primitive} Swede. The other - from fisherman to Ham.

DESPERADOES

In California an armed posse captured two desperadoes tonight - outlaws ~~of~~ eleven and fourteen years old. They were the last two remaining at large of a gang of six ferocious brigands who broke into a hardware store at Bakersfield, stole some rifles and rode off into the hills to become bandits of the old West. Taking refuge in the bad lands of San Fernando Valley, four of the juvenile versions of Jesse James, found life in the desert too rugged. So they ^{came} in, all played out and gave themselves up to the police.

That left two, more formidable than the rest. The bad lands were too rugged for them also, but they still defied the law - and went hitchhiking. Today they were picked up, and seemed relieved. They were hungry and tired - those outlaws of eleven and fourteen.

MOVIE

The British are known for - understatement. But the British movies don't seem to be going in for that national quality of sedate reserve. London announces the production of a new serial thriller, called - The Perils of Nyoka. It's a blood curdler to make that old American "Perils of Pauline" seem like a soothing bed-time story.

The villainess of the piece is - Princess Vultura. The Royal lady vulture, it would seem. And here are some of the episodes: "Devil's Crucible", "Ascending Doom", "Monstrous Clutch", "Underground Tornado", "Thundering Death", "Satan's Fury."

Where, oh where, is that British understatement? *Nelson?*