

MOSCOW L.J. - Sunoco. Fri., March 21, 1947. Portland, Ore.

(At the Moscow Conference an American-British plan was presented for conquered Germany today -- a pattern of government.) British Foreign Secretary Bevin offered it, and American Secretary of State Marshall immediately endorsed it. What's it like, that proposed plan for a new Germany? ^{IP} The outline will have a familiar sound to us Americans.

(A federated Germany -- a union of states with local self rule.) A government~~ed~~ headed by a President; a legislature consisting of two houses, upper and lower; and a Supreme Court -- making it a government with three branches -- executive, legislative and judicial. Moreover, there would be guarantees of civil liberty, free citizenship -- a bill of rights.

Does that sound familiar? It sure does.

(The Anglo-American plan for a new German government is, in fact, modelled on the political system of the United States.) ^{IP} What had Molotov to say to that?

The Soviet idea is very different. Moscow proposes a strongly
~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ centralized German government, all power

concentrated, and little left for local states, local rule. American Secretary of State Marshall ^{(argued} ~~argued~~ today that extreme centralization which the Soviets demand for Germany, might provide the framework for another dictatorship; another Hitler. ^π General Marshall didn't say so, but an all-powerful central government might likewise be the vehicle for a Communist dictatorship. To all of which Molotov had nothing to say. He listened to the Bevin-Molotov plan for a federalized Germany on the American model, and didn't say a word. Molotov will have his say later.

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FOREIGN POLICY

There was plain speaking in Washington today, with Acting Secretary of State Acheson providing the out-spoken comment. Testifying before the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives he stated that if the United States does not give aid to ~~Greece~~ Greece and Turkey against Communism, there will be what Acheson called -- "a very strong conviction ⁱⁿ ~~of~~ the Middle East and throughout the world, that a great deal of our professions are merely words." Which, he intimated, will only encourage the Near East to go Communist.

TP "If we allow Greece to go to pieces", he argued, "then we will have a Comissar in charge of the place in short order". And he added that Turkey needs American aid to retain control of the Dardanelles.

Acting Secretary Acheson tried to use diplomatic verbiage, and not mention any particular power as being a menace. But there was no doubt about what he meant. His most forthright expression came when he spoke of the Red menace to the United

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States. Congressmen asked would it not be dangerous to have Communist dominated governments in the Pacific?

To which the Acting Secretary replied:

"It is dangerous to the security of the United States to have Communist dominated governments anywhere".

ADD FOREIGN POLICY

The latest is a White House denial that President Truman has drawn up a letter to the United Nations explaining his new foreign policy -- aid to Greece and Turkey against the menace of communism. It had been reported that the President was planning to make ~~xxx~~ such a statement ~~mx~~ to the United Nations, as a way of meeting criticism in Congress -- criticism to the affect that the new administration policy was by-passing the world organization, ~~and making it a futile affair.~~ The White House denial, however, does not say that the President will not, in the future, make some such report to the United Nations.

REDS

A news dispatch from Washington gives a report on an astonishing idea -- a Communist idea. United Press correspondent Lyle Wilson tells of a scheme the Reds are hatching as a counter-attack against the moves in Congress to outlaw the Communist party. That has the Reds alarmed, and they are equally disturbed by the ~~threat of~~ American foreign ~~policy~~ policy of -- check the totalitarians in the Near East. So the American Stalinites are planning a demonstration, and here's the astonishing part of it -- they have ideas of using General Eisenhower as a front.

As Lyle Wilson describes it, the Red strategy is to stage a veterans' march on Washington. They'll rig up a parade of about five hundred former ~~xx~~ soldiers and sailors with Communist leanings. This ~~will~~^{to} be preceded by a banquet, with heavy accent on veterans and their interests, veterans for disguise. And General Eisenhower will be invited

to address this camouflaged Communist rally. The Comrades are reported as not being sure that General "Ike" will accept, but they think it is worth a try. Communist front organizations have fooled a lot of prominent people in the past.

In addition to the projected veterans march on Washington, the Communists are resorting to another familiar device: that old stale trick -- the smear. The "Commies" are said to be plotting smear campaigns against their antagonists in Washington, one antagonist in particular -- J. Edgar Hoover. The most damning of all current evidence against our domestic Reds has been provided by the F.B.I., so the F.B.I. and its chief, J. Edgar Hoover, are top on the list for the Red smear.

Which reminds me-- there's a bill in Congress to provide pensions for the F.B.I., pension security for the federal agent such as that enjoyed normally by police. J. Edgar Hoover tells me that the passing of this bill will do a lot to help the F.B.I. retain the

services of its most valuable men. So one eloquent
reply to the Red smear would be for Congress to pass
that F.B.I. pension bill.

TAXES

The Ways and Means Committee of the House has okayed the Republican tax legislation about which we heard yesterday. That is, an income tax cut of twenty percent for all with a taxable income of a thousand dollars^a/Year or more, and ^athirty percent cut for taxable incomes under a thousand. ~~A thousand~~

~~dollar figure would of course apply to such taxpayer as a married man with two children earning Three thousand three hundred a year, sixty dollars a week.~~

~~The bill as okayed by the committee today will provide ~~some~~ small tax cuts for incomes ^aover three-hundred-and-two thousand dollars a year, which would affect mighty few people. The committee vote today was sixteen to nine, one Democrat revolting and joining with fifteen Republicans. The official Democratic view being that there should be no tax cut at all.~~

The Washington forecast is that Congress will promptly okay the committee recommendation and pass the tax bill.

HERMITS

In New York they've talked for a long time about -- the Hermits of Fifth Avenue. Today one of the strange recluses was found dead. The other is missing. ^{!!} They were two aged brothers, of a once prominent New York family, -- the Collyers. They lived in utter seclusion in an antique faded mansion, in a neighborhood that was once the height of New York fashion -- Fifth Avenue fashion.

The brother found dead today had been paralyzed, blind and bed-ridden for twenty-five years. The other brother taking care of him -- stealing out at night to buy meager supplies of food. Otherwise, never leaving the ancestral mansion, the windows of which were boarded up, the doors barred and bolted.

The police today had to get in by a fire department ladder through a second story window, and what they found was a fantastic parody of what had once been a fashionable show place of New York.

Everywhere were the dusty remains of by-gone splendor.

^{TP}In the mansion were twelve grand pianos -- and an old model T-Ford. Many years ago the gas and electricity had been shut off, because the bill was not paid.

Whereupon, the brother who was ^(able)~~(unable)~~ to move around had brought in the Model T-Ford and used the engine as a power plant for lights. ^{TP} Heaped everywhere in the one-time sumptuous town house were empty orange crates. The two brothers had lived on orange juice and peanut butter sandwiches.

So ends the New York story of the Hermits of Fifth Avenue. Nobody knows what has happened to the one who for twenty five years of solitude had taken care of his blind and paralyzed brother. When death came, he seems to have fled from the hermitage, fled from Fifth Avenue.

EXPLOSION

At Santa Ana, California a charge of murder was entered today ^{in the case of} ~~against~~ Beulah Louise Overell, the seventeen year old girl who is being held in connection with the death of her parents. This follows a statement that the fatal events were preceded by a quarrel. ^{IP} All along the supposition has been that ~~there~~ there had been ~~an~~ parental opposition to the marriage of the daughter of the wealthy and prominent family and her boy friend, twenty-one year old George "Bud" Collum. ~~So now~~ ~~there's testimony of a quarrel.~~ ^{IP} Meanwhile, the authorities declare that the explosion of the motor boat in which the parents were found, was not accidental. They say the evidence is that it was a planted explosion. Moreover, the socially prominent parents of ~~the~~ Beulah Louise Overell were actually killed, not necessarily by the explosion in the boat. ^T Their deaths were caused by skull

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fractures which might have been the result of the blows of a club. More and more, according to the authorities, this case at Santa Ana, California, appears to have been a strange and sinister affair, a family quarrel.

The first parties to appear in the civil form of an old friend, the Carlisle Hotel. Weston is a star of the San Carlo Opera Company, which has just arrived here in Oregon for a brief season of popular lectures and dramatic readings. Weston is a man of the world with a couple of notes for us. Weston, won't you be so good to note (see notes)

That was the case of the Grand Operative, who is a member of the Alaska Association. I've been talking to a very interesting man who has been on an extensive northern trip -- in behalf of the fair Oregonian city. Portland, the most interestingly interested in building up a road with Alaska. Hitherto, Seattle has had a virtual monopoly of Alaska business, and now there's

PORTLAND

Back in Portland, after a quick trip to Seattle, I promptly ran across two topics widely different -- Grand Opera and the wilderness of Alaska.

The Grand Operatic theme appeared in the jovial form of an old friend, the ^{great} baritone Mostyn Thomas. Mostyn is a star of the San Carlo Opera Company, which has just arrived here in Oregon for a brief season of soprano heartaches and baritone boomings. Mostyn Thomas is here in the studio with me so boom a couple of notes for us, Mostyn, won't you?

(two notes)

~~well,~~ That ~~sure~~ takes care of the Grand Operatics, ^{and now let's head for} ~~so let's follow along with~~ the Alaska wilderness. I've been talking to a sturdy Portlander, who has been on an adventurous northern trip -- in behalf of this fair Oregonian city. Portland, at the moment is exceedingly interested in building up trade with Alaska. Hitherto, Seattle has had a virtual monopoly of Alaskan business, and now there's

a competition between the two cities. The Portland Chamber of Commerce wants to establish a steamship line connecting with Alaska, and sent George Henderson on a mission-a mission that took him all the way to the Arctic Circle.

L.T.: Where all did you go George Henderson?

GEORGE HENDERSON: "In less than a month I visited twenty-one towns and villages from Juneau to Nome and Fort Yukon. I saw reindeer herds, and polar bear on the Bering Sea, talked with Eskimo, who were fishing for food through holes in the Arctic Ocean ice, and stayed in villages north of the Arctic Circle."

L.T.: Then he went on to tell me a curiously interesting thing. About free trade with Soviet Russia, the only instance of unrestricted commerce between American territory and the Soviets.

GEO. H.: "In a ski plane" we flew over the American territory nearest to Soviet Russia -- and don't forget that Russia's mighty near to us. The mainland of Siberia showed up bright and clear, just thirty miles away."

L.T.: And tells us about those unrestricted commercial relations.

G.H.: I found one place where free trade exists between Americans and Russians, although it's quite unofficial. The Eskimo on the American shore of Bering Straits carry on a brisk business with tribes on the Siberian shore."

L.T.: What kind of merchandise?

G.H.: "The Eskimo exchange supplies they get from our trading posts, and trade these for Ivory and reindeer meat."

L.T.: All of which would make it seem as if those American and Soviet arctic tribes were setting a peaceful friendly example, which the diplomats at Moscow might do well to copy.

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NORTH POLE

(It almost takes away ones breath to tell it -- airplane flights daily to the North Pole. A weather service routine of a flight per day to the ultimate north of this earth. ¶ Such is the disclosure that follows the news of an Army B-29 winging to the Pole and back.) Aboard was Brigadier General Donald Yates, Chief of the Weather Service of the Army Air Forces. We are now told that this flight was only the first, the first of what is to be a daily schedule.

¶ Beginning in May, giant superfortresses, on a regular run, will proceed from California to Alaska, Fairbanks first and then Point Barrow -- the northernmost tip of American territory. From Point Barrow -- on to the Pole, and back by the same route. The B-29s equipped with all the most modern devices for weather observation, will relay the data of the weather -- weather secrets of the highest Arctic, at the very Pole itself. ¶ They will make a dream come true, the dream of the meteorologist. The Polar regions of this earth are where the weather

originates, where the cold fronts begin. In this northern hemisphere it is impossible to be anything like complete in forecasting the weather, with the Arctic a blank -- nobody knowing what's going on up there, what's happening in the way of polar winds, temperatures, blizzards and clouds. ~~But now, the daily schedule of North Pole B-29s will give a running account of the weather secrets at the top of the world, the birthplace of our cycles of rain and storm, cold and warm.~~ It is enough to arouse the shades of those great old polar explorers who decade after decade fought to conquer the Pole -- and many perished in the attempt. What would Admiral Peary think -- he who achieved immortality by reaching ^{North} the Pole after many attempts, slowly on the ground with dog sleds? What to him was a terrifying exploit now becomes a daily common-place routine.

The news tonight indicates that this new epic of weather forecasting was being kept a secret, until the news of the trail breaking Polar flight

leaked out. The word is that the State Department didn't want anything about it made public, not while the Moscow Conference was on -- because of Soviet sympathies. Moscow is making angry propoganda against American adventures into the Arctic. The Soviets do not look kindly on our weather forecasting work in the Far North, saying it's hostile to them. At the same time the Soviets, themselves, have been establishing weather stations extensively in the Far North -- but what is right for them, is wrong for us, according to Marxian dialectics apparently.

But now daily to the Pole -- and now back across North America to you, Nelson.

NEWSPAPER

Anybody who has visited a newspaper plant will have gazed with some feeling of awe at the giant presses whose rumbling operation throbs through the building. Today in Philadelphia, there was a collapse of massive newspaper presses, the floor giving way, and the presses plung^{ing} for a distance of four storys.

It happened to the Philadelphia Inquirer, which next door to its main offices has a building for the rotogravure presses. These ha^d recently been installed, and something went ~~xxx~~ wrong today. The floor not strong enough to ~~hold~~ hold the weight of the presses. So down they went with a tremendous roar, crashing down for a thundering drop of forty-five feet. Twenty workmen were on that same floor at that same time -- five injured. ^R What about the people below ~~the rotogravure presses~~ when ~~they came~~ ^{down came} smashing down with a pulverizing impact ^{the} of tons of steel? There wasn't anybody underneath, and that's

the lucky reason why no lives were lost, when the rotogravure presses fell through the floor at the Philadelphia Inquirer today.