

ATOMIC

L.T. - K. Wednesday, March 31, 1954.

This country tonight, in a collective way, is likely to follow the example of President Eisenhower. Who, today, expressed his feelings -- by shaking <sup>his</sup> ~~his~~ head, and staring gravely at the floor. That's the way the news idspatch describes the reactions of the President, as he heard a statement made by the Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, Lewis Strauss.

At a White House news conference, where he appeared with President Eisenhower, the Atomic Chairman <sup>Lewis Strauss</sup> declared that this country can now make giant hydrogen bombs, capable of destroying any city in the world. Including New York - the metropolitan area. Which including the city proper and the suburbs, ~~xxxxxxx~~ has a population of about thirteen million.

It was explained, later, that "destruction" did not mean - a city leveled to the ground. But it would be - knocked out and utterly devastated.

Chairman Strauss gave an account of those hydrogen

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explosions in the Pacific. Two H-bombs tested - the larger one on March First. He said the March First bomb was not "out of control," as has been reported. It was, he admitted - twice as powerful as had been expected. But the reason why people were exposed accidentally to radioactive dust was - because of an unexpected shift of the wind.

The Chairman of the Commission went on to say that indications are that Soviet Russia began H-bomb experiments before we did. *and* they've already staged one - hydrogen explosion. Our own H-bomb ~~experiments~~ experiments in the Far Pacific show - that the hydrogen weapon can be made, in his words - "as large as you wish, as large as the military requirement demands."

There's no limit, apparently to the size of the devastation. Which led to the statement - about the possible destruction of a city, like New York. And - listening to this, President Eisenhower "shook his head, and stared gravely at the floor."

In New York, the head of civil defense mentions, what he calls - "A fantastic possibility." "Fantastic" is right. Herbert O'Brien says, the Civil Defense of New York City is planning for the evacuation of the entire population of the metropolis, in case of war. That simply staggers the imagination. The city, proper, has seven million people - the evacuation of whom would be something undreamed of in history.

## ADD ATOMIC

The reactions in Congress tonight are grave and foreboding. The opinion - that the power of the hydrogen bomb signifies "either the end of war or the end of civilization." But there's a kind of optimism, too - the belief that the hydrogen nightmare may make war impossible.

Congressman Preston of Georgia said: "Almost overnight, by virtue of hydrogen bomb tests, the possibility of World War Three has become suddenly remote. The bomb is too destructive."

## BRITAIN-ATOMIC

In London, the House of Commons will have a full scale debate on American hydrogen bombs. So announced by Prime Minister Churchill today.

He doesn't want any such discussion, insisting that Britain should take a moderate view. London says that President Eisenhower, himself, asked the Prime Minister not to press the United States for information at this critical stage of hydrogen bomb development.

But the Labor Party is raising an uproar - in opposition to U.S. policy. Calling for an international conference - to end hydrogen experiments. ~~They~~ The outcry so loud - that Churchill has had to yield, and agree on a major debate, next Monday. In which he will give the House of Commons a full statement of British policy, with reference to American H-Bomb developments.

## SOVIETS

Here's the most astonishing piece of news in a long time.

When I saw the dispatch, I thought I must be cross-eyed. I had to take a second look - to make sure I was seeing straight.

The dispatch, which is from Washington, begins: "Russia proposed, today, that she be admitted to - the anti-Communist North Atlantic Alliance."

Officials in Washington say - they are "astounded." They couldn't believe their own eyes, either.

Nevertheless, it's a fact. In Moscow, today, the Soviet Foreign Minister handed identical diplomatic notes to the French, British and American Ambassadors. Who immediately relayed the surprising word - on to their own governments.

Moscow begins with the usual denunciation of the West European defense army, and offers - an alternative. Part of this alternative is - the same old thing. Proposing - an all-European Security Treaty. Which the Western Powers rejected at the ~~Berlin~~ Berlin meeting of the Foreign Ministers.

It's the other part of the alternative that makes your eyes blink. The dispatch puts the whole proposition in these words: "If the United States would join in an All-European Security Agreement, the Soviet Union would then be willing to consider joining NATO."

Yes, that North Atlantic Treaty Organization, formed to meet Soviet aggression. And - repeatedly denounced by Moscow in bitter terms. Only last month, Soviet Foreign Minister Molotov compared NATO to the Anti-Comintern Pact, formed by Hitler, Mussolini and Japan. Nevertheless, Russia now offers to join that anti-Communist line-up -- NATO.

Officials in Washington are studying the surprise proposal, and are trying to get over their astonishment.

INDO-CHINA

The all-out Communist assault against the fortress of Dien Bien Phu, has been driven back - temporarily at least.

The defenders - launching powerful counter-attacks today. And regaining outlying positions which had been lost in the human sea assault of the Reds.

The latest dispatch from Indo-China tells of ~~masses~~ masses of Communists in a wild offensive, surging forward - regardless of losses. But the garrison met them, with a defense just as violent, ~~and the weather was good. Flying~~  
~~that fleets of warplanes raked the Reds with bombs and flares~~  
~~again after which the counter offensive, headed by~~  
~~troops, had regained all positions lost.~~ But the battle remains critical - the Communists massing for still another attack, ~~on the beach, and in the~~



## INDO-CHINA - PROMOTION

In Indo-China, a Colonel was promoted, made a General today, - by radio! Which was the only way. In this, the French High Command followed a recommendation - from President Eisenhower.

The other day, ~~the~~ <sup>Eisenhower,</sup> President, referring to the Indo-China War, spoke of Colonel DeCastries - in command of the garrison at Dien Bien Phu. Saying - if he had a Colonel like DeCastries, he'd promote him to General right away. So let's take a look at that French Officer.

DeCastries is of an old military family - of the French nobility. The kind - that has given Officers to the French Army, ever since the days of the Bourbon Kings - and earlier. Down through Revolutions, political changes, and what-not -- always in the service of their country's army.

Colonel Christian DeCastries distinguished himself in the second World War, was captured by the Germans, escaped, and joined the Free French in North Africa - distinguishing himself all over again.

In Indo-China, he was given command of a desperate venture - an air invasion far behind enemy lines. Six battalions dropped by parachute - and seizing a strong position in the ~~town~~ <sup>Town</sup> of Dien Bien Phu. That brought the Reds in a swarm - the first mass attack on March Thirteenth. His garrison, ever since, beating off the Reds, in heroic defense. Colonel DeCastries reporting: "I am still master of the situation."

So that's the Officer whom President Eisenhower said he'd promote - and General Ike knows about such things.

Well, the promotion came today - a radio message flashing to the beleaguered fortress. DeCastries - a General.

## PALESTINE

Israel charges Jordan with - frontier ~~sm~~ violations. Including the ambushade of a train; a dozen recent raids across the border of the Jewish state.

Other dispatches tell of troops of the Arab Legion pouring into Jerusalem today, in full battle dress.

The government of Syria, on the other hand, reports that Israel troops are massing along the Syrian frontier - digging trenches, laying mines, erecting barbed wire entanglements.

Crisis as both sides appeal to the Security Council of the United Nations.

In London, Foreign Secretary Eden, today, told the Commons that Britain, by treaty, is bound to support Jordan, "should she become engaged in war." But it's qualified, "subject to the duty of the parties seek a peaceful settlement of their disputes. And - subject also to obligations under the Charter of the

United Nations."

President Eisenhower, at his news conference today, called on Israel and the Arab states to restrain extremists, and permit other nations to help settle their disputes.

## FIRE

At Buffalo, a school fire disaster, and the mournful count shows that - ten children perished. Twenty-four pupils and teachers - injured. It was a flash fire, which swept the classroom in brief seconds. ~~Doors blocked, the teachers saving some twenty-five children by thrusting them through windows which the teachers had to break.~~

~~The first report said - a boiler explosion. But the belief is now - that the fire originated on the first floor of the school building.~~

BUTTER

Housewives will pay less for butter tomorrow. That's the prospect - as federal price supports decline at ~~midnight~~ midnight. Secretary of Agriculture Benson - reducing the supports to seventy-five per cent of parity.

Officials in Washington ~~predict~~ predict that the price of butter will decrease, tomorrow, from five to twenty cents a pound.

## PISTOL

There's a warning and a lesson in this next bit of news - picturing a strange, fantastic scene in a school room. At Newton, Massachusetts, Junior High School Teacher John Connor describes what happened at class.

"We were spelling words and giving their definitions," he relates, "when a noise, like the sound of a firecracker, came from the back of the room. Looking up, I saw that Gerald Vecchione's (Vay-kyo-nay's) hand was bleeding."

Gerald, fourteen years old, had the second finger of his left hand - torn and fractured.

The teacher went to his aid, and other pupils called a doctor. It was only then that they noticed Johnny Frankenberger. He lay, two desks away -- dead.

Tragedy in a classroom - a story of children and firearms. The boys in the school had been trading around an automatic pistol. Gerald had bought it from another lad - and, he didn't think it was loaded! In class, he put one finger over the

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muzzle, and pulled the trigger. The bullet shattered his  
finger, and struck the boy in front.

One more warning, added to many other mournful warnings -  
about the danger of fooling around with firearms.

The ship, flying the Atlantic to England, was were caught in  
a blinding storm - and the U.S. Air Force Base at Prestwick put  
in a telephone call to the little fishing village of Skipness,  
asking that an emergency beacon there be turned on. The  
request was urgent.

The message was received by the Postmistress, Mary Cook -  
who started out for the home of the Keeper of the Beacon, John  
McGowan. The storm was raging - and Mary Cook rode a  
bike through the tempest, only to find that  
John McGowan was away. But his wife was at home, and she got  
the message to the beacon.

The two women went through the storm - to the  
just in time. The County nine



## BRITAIN - WOMEN

Over in London, the U.S. Air Force is going to throw a party for - the Postmistress of Skipness and the Light House Keeper's Wife. Light House - modern style. Those two women - having saved twenty-nine U.S. jet planes from disaster.

The jets, flying the Atlantic to England, ~~and~~ were caught in a blinding storm - and the U.S. Air Force Base at Prestwick put in a telephone call to the little fishing village of Skipness. Asking - that an emergency beacon there be turned on. The request - most urgent.

The message was received by the Postmistress, Mary Cook - who started out for the home of the Keeper of the Beacon, John McGougan. The storm was raging - and Mary Cook g rode a bicycle. She struggled through the tempest, only to find that John McGougan was away. But his wife was at home, and she got the key to the beacon.

Whereupon the two women went through the storm - to the light. And turned the beacon on - just in time. The twenty-nine

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U.S. jets had fuel enough left for a mere ten minutes, when they saw the light - which guided them safely to the Air Base.

So that's why the U.S. Air Force is going to throw a party in London - for the Postmistress and the Light House Keeper's wife.

SONG

There were legal proceedings in Philadelphia, today - and the lawyers should have sung, "Oh, you beautiful doll, you great, big, beautiful doll."

They made a final settlement of the Estate of A. Seymour Brown, song writer of long ago. Who collected lifetime royalties of - one million, six hundred thousand dollars. Most of them from - that, beautiful doll. Which still brings in the money.

Back in the days of World War One, A. Seymour Brown wrote - "If You Talk In Your Sleep, Don't Mention My Name." Last year, that masterpiece earned - one ~~dollars~~ dollar and ten cents. Another, "I'll Do It All Over Again," brought in royalties of -- two cents. But, even at this late date, the favorite earned eighteen hundred dollars. So, <sup>Mike, you and</sup> maybe, <sup>you</sup> ought to sing: "Oh, You Beautiful Doll, You Great Big Beautiful Doll!"