

Today's event in Washington - had the newsmen agog. For the first time since the cold war began, eleven years ago, a Soviet Ambassador called at the White House - on business. Previously, ~~there was~~ nothing more than the <sup>routine,</sup> formal visit of courtesy - perfunctory. But now, Russian Ambassador Zarubin was calling on President Eisenhower - bearing a letter for the President from Soviet Premier Bulganin.

The message - delivered to Mr. Eisenhower, in his White House office. Delivered - vocally. Read aloud - by the Ambassador.

He gave it in Russian, which was translated by an interpreter from the State Department. A Russian, by birth - Alexander Logofet, now an American citizen. The President listened attentively, ~~and~~ as did Secretary of State John Foster Dulles - who was present.

So what did the letter say? That was the insistent question <sup>put to</sup> ~~when~~ Ambassador Zarubin <sup>as he</sup> left the White House -

plunging through a crowd of news reporters. His answer was - a simple repetition, in English - "I cannot say, I cannot say, I cannot say." The only thing he would say was - that the President looked in excellent health.

On the side of the White House, the word was - that, at the request of the Russians, the contents of the Bulganin letter would be withheld, for the time being. But <sup>they say</sup> ~~the word is~~ that it advances new suggestions concerning disarmament and an abolition of atomic weapons. The tone of the message called - "friendly."

## SOVIET ICEBREAKER

Moscow announces a typical Russian development in this atomic age - an atomic icebreaker. A Soviet scientist declares that, by Nineteen Sixty, Russia will have a ship, driven by atomic power - for crashing through icefields. <sup>No - wait a minute - not</sup> ~~or, not~~ exactly crashing. Ice to be melted - by jets of boiling water from nuclear reactors. Atomic energy - producing heat for a conquest of ice.

Typical of Russia - with its enormous coastline in the Arctic. Where harbors are blocked by ice <sup>for</sup> a large part of the year, all the way from Archangel and Murmansk to Wrangell Island and Kamchatka.

FRANCE

News from Paris is - that the Communists will support a new government formed by the Socialists. The Reds were demanding - that they <sup>be permitted to</sup> ~~should~~ form a Cabinet. But, ~~have~~ abandoned <sup>that attempt,</sup> <sup>they now</sup> ~~Indicating~~ that they'll vote for Socialist Leader <sup>Guy</sup> Mollet, as Premier.

Today, Communist Leader Jacques Duclos conferred with French President Coty. After which he told the newsmen:

"In the name of our Party, I've asked the President to designate a Socialist."

Mollet, the Socialist leader, has teamed up with former Premier Mendes-France - forming a Leftist "Republican Front". And the belief is - that President Coty will call upon Mollet to form a Cabinet, <sup>with</sup> ~~in which~~ Mendes-France <sup>as</sup> ~~would be~~ Vice-Premier.

## ISRAEL

The word from N Jerusalem is - that Israel may take a determined stand in the question of armament for Israel. The latest reaction - to a statement by President Eisenhower, who said <sup>that</sup> the question of arms for Israel will wait until after the conferences with British Prime Minister Eden in Washington.

Israel wants an earlier answer. Which demand will be placed before American Secretary of State John Foster Dulles by Israeli Ambassador Eban, later this week.

We are told that Israel may refuse to go into any negotiations for a settlement with Arab states - until the military strength of Israel is made equal to that of the neighboring Arab countries.

Meanwhile, Egypt has made a concession - agreeing to withdraw troops in the El Auja zone. So that agents of the United Nations can mark the borders of the "de-militarized" strip. An arrangement negotiated by U.N. Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold - who has been making a tour of the quarreling countries.

In Jordan today, Hammarskjold told newsmen - that the immediate task of the U.N. should be - to go to the aid of Arab refugees, who fled from their homes in Israel.

Hammarskjold pointed out that, right now - one-third of the population of Jordan consists of the displaced Arabs. Who, he said, were mostly responsible for the recent riots in Jordan.

( In Jordanian quarters, a suggestion is made - that a new state be established, an Arab refugee state. An area in Israel, where they could live - without becoming Israeli citizens. )

EISENHOWER

President Eisenhower, today, named a date - definite within a few days. He told his White House news conference that he will have his next important medical examinations - February Tenth and February Fifteenth. After which, he will announce his decision promptly - no long delay. He said he won't "dilly-dally."

To the newsmen, the President spoke of the attitude of his family. There had been reports, even before he fell ill - that Mrs. Eisenhower did not want him to seek another term. But the President says - no member of his family has any objection to his running again, if he thinks it the proper thing to do.

He spoke highly in praise of Vice-President Nixon. Interesting, in view of the question - what part will Nixon play? If the President runs, or if he doesn't - what about Nixon? Today, Mr. Eisenhower said - he has not had any talk with the Vice-President on that subject. No discussion with Nixon - about Nixon's future.

There ~~is~~ also talk about <sup>was also some discussion of</sup> Chief Justice Earl Warren.

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he has rejected any notion of re-entering politics. The  
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SAN FRANCISCO

Today, the National Republican Chairman, Leonard Hall, said - "I am a little disappointed." / ~~To which we can only groan and no wonder!~~ ^ The G.O.P. Chairman is in San Francisco, which fair metropolis will never disappoint you. Unless - you happen to be connected with arrangements for the G.O.P. National Convention in August. Engaging - living accommodations for that army of politicians and newsmen, who will attend.

Chairman Hall says - there won't be enough hotel accommodations. The estimate is - that ninety-five hundred rooms will be available. Which is five hundred fewer than the Republican Committee says it needs.

In addition, there will be no end of traffic problems - getting the crowds to the Cow Palace, where the Convention will be held. Interesting name - the Cow Palace. <sup>While</sup> ^ In Chicago, the Democrats will gather at the Stockyards. ~~Sounds like cattle. Overtones - and aromas - of cattle - at~~ ~~But not at all - heaven forbid.~~ ^ The gatherings will consist <sup>the</sup> of political leaders and statesmen.

BUSINESS MACHINES

One of the greatest lines of commerce - is being broken up. International Business Machines - agreeing to discontinue the renting out of tabulating machines. The Company owns ninety per cent of all - in use. Adding machines, comptometers - and so on.

This is by arrangement with the Anti-Trust Division of the Department of Justice. Which charged - that ~~American Business Machines~~ <sup>IBM</sup> had virtually eliminated competition. The practice of renting calculating machines, instead of selling them - was criticized in particular.

So now the Company will sell - instead of renting. New machines - to be purchased by the customers. Those that are now in offices on rental - to be made available for purchase.

Moreover, ~~International Business Machines~~ <sup>IBM</sup> will release a number of its patents. Some - free. Others - on a royalty basis.

The gadgets in question range all the way from a simple manual ~~card punching~~ "card punch", which now rents for

about two-hundred-and-fifty dollars a year. To vast  
"electronic brains", which have been costing a rental of -  
half a million dollars a year.

## GENERAL MOTORS

Figures today show -- a record-breaking attendance at the MOTORAMA. In six days, two-hundred-and-seventy-five thousand people crowded into New York's Waldorf-Astoria -- to see the big General Motors show.

All of which is taken as -- an omen. Today, President Harlow Curtice of General Motors said -- the figures ~~are of public interest in the automobile industry~~ confirm him in the opinion he gave last week. That Nineteen Fifty-six will be another <sup>banner</sup> big year for American business.

## TONNEL

Here's a headline with a formidable sound --  
the Hudson River <sup>breaks</sup> ~~broke~~ into <sup>a</sup> ~~the~~ tunnel. The flood  
poured <sup>ing</sup> into <sup>the</sup> ~~a~~ tube they're building -- the new Lincoln  
tunnel for vehicles, from Manhattan to New Jersey.

They're <sup>a</sup> digging from both the New York and  
Jersey sides, the two sections to meet eventually. At  
the Manhattan end, where they're <sup>a</sup> boring through rock,  
something went wrong, and water came in so fast - that,  
in a brief time, a hundred feet of the tube was flooded.

Luckily, no lives lost. But it will cause a  
delay of three weeks, before pumps can clear out the  
water. The break in the rock -- sealed up.

## TRAGEDY

Here's as tragic a story as I've ever had occasion to recite on this program. At Prattville, Alabama, last night - a fire in a home. Mrs. Annie May Roper - awakened by a shout from her husband, Giving her the terrifying word - the house was ablaze. Mrs. Roper thought only - of the baby in bed beside her. Her small son, six months old.

In terror, she reached for the child - and, with the burden in her arms, rushed out of the house. Which now was being swept by the flames.

Outside, imagine the mother's relief - until! Until she noted that, in her arms, she was holding <sup>a</sup> pillow.

In her fright, she had picked up a pillow - instead of the child. And the child perished in this episode of bitter tragedy.

## ELECTRICITY

In Korea, the police have unraveled the mystery of Chung Kyung Hi. Who was electrocuted - when he touched a high tension wire. Chung Kyung Hi was <sup>high up there</sup> up at the top of a transmission tower at the time. Why had he climbed up there? That was the question.

They found - that Chun Kyung Hi was out to steal some wire. So he climbed up the tower, and reached for a high tension line. Which was no way - to commit a theft.



## HENRY THE EIGHTH

In London, today, the Archbishop of Canterbury issued a statement concerning that exceedingly dubious character - Henry the Eighth. In the course of which the Archbishop, Dr. Geoffrey Fisher - disputed the Encyclopedia Britannica.

The question was - did the Church of England sanction the divorce of the Bluebeard King from two of his wives? The point being raised - because of church opposition to divorce in the case of Princess Margaret.

The Archbishop attended a luncheon given by the Foreign Press Association in London - and the newsmen, before attending, had consulted the Encyclopedia Britannica. Which said - that Henry the Eighth had six wives. Divorcing two - and beheading two. One dying of natural causes - the other outliving him.

When that record was placed before the Archbishop, he denied - the divorce part of it. Saying: "The King had marriages annulled, which is quite a different thing - from divorce. Annulment," he went on, "says - that there was no

marriage at all, and therefore you are free to marry." So the Church did not sanction any divorces of Henry the Eighth - because there weren't any.

All of which is technically correct. They were cases of - annulment. However, historians usually do use the word - "divorce."

PRINCESS

Here's a familiar phrase - "the long and the short of it." Which was illustrated in London when Princess Margaret attended an American play - and went back stage for a visit.

There she met one of the performers, a Broadway showgirl, Shirl Conway, who is tall, mighty tall, more than six feet. Princess Margaret stands <sup>— around</sup> ~~a little less than~~ five feet. They shook hands - and that was the long and the short of it.

"I don't think," says Shirl, "the Princess believed what she saw." Well, <sup>-Henry -</sup> probably not. ~~I don't believe it~~

Said the gazelle, gazing up at the giraffe:- "Hey up there, I don't believe you are real!"