

L. T. - P. & G. WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1948.

GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY:

In Frankfurt, Germany today, the United States and Great Britain turned over the heavy industries of the Ruhr Valley to the Germans. Two industrial boards, under German direction, have been set up, with orders to produce as much coal, iron and steel as possible. These boards to be controlled by German Trustees; they to have all the functions of ownership except the distribution of profits and the right to sell their holdings.

This new set-up for the Ruhr has brought a stern protest from France. French Foreign Minister Robert Schuman today told the American and British Ambassadors in Paris that France cannot accept it. France solidly opposed to an industrial Ruhr.

MOSCOW MISSION

The Moscow newspapers are carrying reports today that President Truman may visit Russia, to talk things over with Stalin. All this in a dispatch under a Washington dateline -- sent from this country by the Soviet official news agency, Tass.

And where did Tass get that idea? It quotes an American newspaper writer as saying that Mr. Truman may go to Europe before the opening of Congress.

Diplomatic observers in Washington are wondering why such a dispatch based on anything so vague, is given such importance in the Soviet press? Is it a straw in the wind? Does it mean the men in the Kremlin are impressed by the result of our elections, and that they would like to see Mr. Truman in Moscow. Presumably they couldn't come to him, because they seem to be virtual prisoners behind that great Kremlin wall.

Diplomatic observers even see Foreign Minister Molotov's comment on the election as an indication of a change of attitude towards us. Molotov saying

Dewey was defeated because the majority of Americans rejected his reactionary and aggressive program.

Further, when our Ambassador Bedell Smith and Mrs. Smith attended the diplomatic corps party in Moscow to celebrate the anniversary of the Republic of the Soviet, Molotov, so we are told, greeted them both as fold friends, with unusual warmth. So, to quote the United Press correspondent in Moscow, there may be something up. Maybe Stalin is warming up the official Samovar in the hope of welcoming the President of the United States.

Here's some later, ^{news.} Just what we expected:

The White House denies it all, emphatically. Mr. Truman has no intention of going to Moscow. Although the President does still stand on his oft repeated statement that he will be glad to see Stalin any time the Soviet leader wishes to call at the White House.

It being Stalin's turn. Just as a matter of simple courtesy - it should be up to Uncle Joe to visit Washington -- or I wonder if they might meet at Key West -- just as F.D.R. went to Yalta, in the Crimea?

WINDOW

In Vienna, the Russians have another out-of-the window case on their hands. An Austrian chauffeur jumping from the third floor window of the Soviet headquarters building, under circumstances similiar to those of the now famous ^S Kasenkina jump in New York City.

The chauffeur, Frederick Boehm, who formerly drove for the U S Army, was arrested for assisting Soviet Army Personnel to escape to the West - *escape from behind* ~~beyond~~ the Iron Curtain. This while driving Russian officers. So the Soviet Secret Police shanghaied him, and kept him in their headquarters in Old Vienna. Where he tried to jump to freedom.

~~no news so far as to whether he survived~~

American military police report that the Russians quickly placed a cordon around the neighborhood and carried what looked like a dead man into the building.

PALESTINE

(A news dispatch from Palestine tells of Israeli shock troops in an all-out assault on an Egyptian stronghold) thirtytwo miles south of the Israeli capital. That would be on the Mediterranean coast (between the ancient biblical seaports of Jaffa and Gaza.) The Egyptian base of Faluja.) Surrounded by Israeli troops, and cut off from reinforcements. So hard pressed ^{that} its defenders are expected to surrender shortly.

In Haifa, the U N Truce headquarters announces that Israeli police have arrested two U N observers, on the southern Palestine front. The U N truce observers had heard firing, and decided to check. They were accompanied by Israeli liaison officers. When they arrived on the scene they found a battle going on - a full scale Israeli attack on Egyptian positions.

The Israeli officers said it was too dangerous for the U N observers, to stay in there; they hinted they might get hurt. When the truce observers insisted on staying, the Israeli liaison

officers called the Jewish military police, who arrested the U N ■■■■ representatives and took them to Tel Aviv, under armed guard where they were held overnight, without explanation.

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Meanwhile in Paris, Russia has demanded that the United Nations Security Council once again order the Jews and the Arabs to negotiate-work out some sort of formal peace. This Soviet demand was made at a closed session ■■ of the Security Council, which met to consider ways of bringing about an Armistice in the Holy Land - a plan submitted by U N mediator Dr. Ralph Bunche, which the Soviet delegate promptly attacked.

Dr. Bunche wants the United Nations to demilitarize a large part of the Hegeb, the desert area in southern Palestine which is now ■■■■ occupied by Israeli troops. This idea was supported by ■■ the United States and Great Britain. But the Soviet delegate objected.

ADD CHINA

(From Shanghai tonight come the news that Generalissimo Chiang has placed all China under martial law:) and established a rigid censorship. A curfew in Nanking, assembly prohibited in all cities; the military to have power of search and arrest without warrant, as the military situation in the north becomes more critical.

(From all parts of China news of rioting - rice riots in Nanking, Peiping and Shanghai,) some people killed, many injured. The price of rice so high now - five hundred American dollars for a hundred pounds. ~~▲▲▲~~ A fantastic figure far above the reach of the average Chinese who earns about two hundred and fifty American dollars a year.

From Tokyo we learn that General MacArthur has ordered three army transports to Shanghai to pick up Americans wanting to leave China. Our State Department is advising Americans to take advantage of this opportunity, leave now.

CANADA

(In Ottawa, McKenzie King announces next Monday as the date of his retirement. The veteran Canadian Prime Minister ~~xx~~ has been in failing health for some time.)

As McKenzie King announces that he is through with public life the Ottawa Government prepares to discuss that proposed western defensive alliance, with us, and with the five western European Union nations that want Uncle Sam and Canada to join them in a fifty year Security Pact against Communism.

ARCTIC FLIGHT

In Spokane Washington tonight Colonel Bernt Balchen, famous Arctic airman, stopped on his way to Alaska where he is to be special military adviser to the Alaskan air defense command. Balchen called back to active service by the Air Force; because of his unique and expert knowledge of Arctic flying. He probably knows more about flying in the polar regions than any other living American.

Tonight in Spokane, Balchen said that our Air Force is probably better prepared than any other country. "It is my personal experience," he added, "that America is further advanced than Russia; unless they have something we don't know about."

ADMIRAL KIMMEL

This morning, in the New York Herald-Tribune I read a bit of news that interested me so much that ~~immediately~~ I decided to follow it up. Not having seen the story on the press wires I called the United Press and they said they too were trying to get a line on it.

Well, the news item was this: (Admiral King announcing ~~ing~~ that) it was all a mistake and that ~~he~~ (he was withdrawing his condemnation of Admiral Kimmel. The wartime Commander of the Navy changing his mind about all that blame heaped upon the Commander of the Fleet at Pearl Harbor.)

And this of course having to do with what has now become an historic affair: why were the Japanese able to succeed so disastrously in their surprise attack? As we know, (Admiral Kimmel was charged with negligence. So was General Short, Army Commander in Hawaii.) But there was great controversy about it at the time.

Right after the war ended, there was a Pearl Harbor investigation and a report was issued. So far as the Navy was concerned, the burden was placed

once again - on Admiral Kimmel. Also, on Admiral Stark was was our Navy head at the time of Pearl Harbor. And that report was endorsed by Admiral King, the Navy Commander when it was issued.

All of which is what Admiral Ernie King now repudiates. So said the story in the New York Herald-Tribune. That paper went on to tell how it had discovered that Admiral King, now retired, has written to the Navy Department saying that he was -- "in error" that he has changed his mind in the light of what the newspaper calls "a more detached viewpoint.

Admiral King is represented as now of the opinion that the report was wrong and that the Pearl Harbor disaster was ~~caused~~ caused by "sins of omission, rather than Commission." Therefore Admiral King wants to withdraw the official condemnation from the records of Admirals Kimmel and Stark.

The Herald-Tribune states that Admiral King's letter ~~ix~~ informing the ~~xxxx~~ Navy of this was written

seven months ago. Which would seem to indicate long months of secrecy.

And that was the story I tried to run down through regular news sources today. No result! So I tried something else. I telephoned to Admiral Kimmel in New London, Connecticut. He told me that he, too, saw The Herald-Tribune story this morning, but that he didn't know any more about it either. He, himself, had heard nothing officially or otherwise about ~~the~~ Admiral King withdrawing his endorsement of the report that blamed Admiral Kimmel for the tragedy of Pearl Harbor.

So that's where the matter stands tonight. I myself, can only add one thing. Before the end of the war I made an around-the-world trip visiting the battle fronts. I saw considerable of the Navy in the Pacific, talked to a lot of officers out there, and sounded ~~them~~ them out on that question of Pearl Harbor. The universal opinion seemed to be that Admiral

Kimmel had been treated most unfairly. That he was not to blame. And now comes this dramatic new twist -- Admiral King said to have reversed himself on the report that placed so much of the burden on Kimmel. Reversed himself months ago, and still nothing done about it.

ADMIRAL KIMMEL

Here's later word: Tonight, the Navy confirms the story and releases the letter from Admiral King to Navy ~~Secretary~~^{Secretary} Sullivan. Written on July Fourteenth. Admiral King not only is quoted as asking that the Navy record be changed with regard to Admiral Kimmel and Admiral Stark, but he adds that Admiral Stark should receive a second distinguished service medal for his good work in the European theater - after Pearl Harbor.

"The purpose of this letter" ~~xxxx~~ wrote Admiral King to Navy Secretary Sullivan "is to terminate as far as possible at this time any continuing injustice which may have resulted from my original endorsement of the investigation report."

BALCONY

We are all going to have a chance to see that balcony built to Mr. Truman's specifications, on the southern portico of the White House. The Truman balcony is being added to the engraving of the White House on the back of the Andrew Jackson double saw buck. Our present twenty shows the White House as it was in twenty-nine. No balcony. So Treasury Secretary John Snyder is bringing the twenty dollar bill up-to-date, the White House to be pictured with the Truman balcony.

SHIP

Our Navy tonight sent airplanes, from San Francisco, flying west with bales of waterproofed food for starving passengers aboard a ship in Mid-Pacific.

A ship in distress tonight -- far out in the Pacific, fifteen hundred miles from San Francisco's Golden Gate -- where she's heading. The Navy today picked up as strange an S.O.S. as was ever heard on the Seven Seas. The captain of the S.S. Swarthmore Victory calling for help, because his passengers have been forced on quarter rations, and are threatening mutiny. His ship, said he, is in danger of being battered to pieces, as the angry passengers smash at her decks and hurl themselves savagely against her bulwarks.

And who are these mighty passengers, strong enough to batter a ship to pieces? They are six elephants, destined for American zoos. The Swarthmore victory has run out of food. And the pachyderms are kicking the ship to pieces. Maybe those elephants have been listening to the radio and heard about the outcome of the election. That was enough to madden any elephant, don't you suppose, Nelson?