

January 14, 1954

From Atlanta, Georgia

SOCIAL SECURITY

President Eisenhower's recommendations for changing the social security law - are intended to liberalize that law. He wants about ten million more persons to be covered, raising the total number to about eighty million. His proposal would allow a beneficiary to earn two hundred a month for five months of the year - without losing benefits. Also the amount of payments to be raised.

In presenting his proposal, Mr. Eisenhower declared: "The human problems of individual citizens are a proper and important concern of our government." That's why he wants the Federal Government to work with a more liberal social security law.

RIDGEWAY

Our Army Chief of Staff reveals that we have the military strength to attack Red China - if the Communists resume the fighting in Korea. General Ridgeway, speaking before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

The Committee is considering a mutual security pact with South Korea. General Ridgeway recommended approval of the pact. He said it would be a warning to the Reds that we would act immediately, in case of another invasion from the north.

During his testimony, our Chief of Staff noted that our strength in Korea has not been reduced by withdrawing two divisions. He said that we are stronger now - because our troops have greater mobility. The General, explaining what he meant by saying that our commander in the East will not have so many forces tied down in one area.

However, Ridgeway admitted that Mao Tse-Tung also has greater mobility now - and he has withdrawn some of his troops. Ridgeway estimated the Red troops in Korea at about one million. Both sides, withdrawing some troops - without weakening themselves.

Will the Reds renew the fighting? That's the real question. In General Ridgeway's opinion - the answer is "No". In his words: "We do not see evidence of any intention on their part. to ^{hostilities?} renew

PRISONERS

India will return unrepatriated prisoners to the sides that captured them. So stated at Pan Mun Jom by General Thimayya. The General reveals that the transfer will take place on Wednesday - three days before the prisoners were due to be released under the terms of the Korean armistice. Thimayya adds that he wants both the allies and the Reds to hold the prisoners - until a peace conference decides what to do with them.

The U.N. is expected to reject this request. We want the prisoners released in agreement with the armistice. Our command, already arranging to set the Koreans free in South Korea. With the Chinese going to Formosa.

Chinese nationalists are pleased with the new Indian announcement. They are urging the allies to transfer the former soldiers of Mao Tse-Tung to the authority of Chiang Kai-Shek right away. The nationalists also say that they will oppose any attempt to hold anti-Communist Chinese in South Korea.

No word about what the Reds plan to do with their prisoners - including the twenty-one Americans who still say they prefer Communism.

(Vincent working)

BIG_FOUR

The Soviet Commandant in Berlin - asks the Kremlin for fresh instructions. The reason, that deadlock in the negotiations about the site of the conference of the big four foreign ministers.

An East German newspaper declares that Commandant Sergei Dengin has thrown the problem back to Malenkov. This, because the allies refuse to accept his demand that half of the meetings be held in East Berlin. Dengin lumped America, Britain and France together - asking that half the meetings be held in West Berlin, and half in East Berlin. We say that each of the four powers should be considered independently - that they should have three meetings to one for the Soviets.

That's the problem Dengin wants ironed out by the Kremlin. At least, so says the East German newspaper.

Allied officials in Berlin are described as pessimistic. Because the Soviets have refused to compromise even on minor details. The West agreed to compromises. For example, we proposed that the meeting be held in Lugano, Switzerland. And then changed to Berlin, because that's what the Russians wanted. So far, the Kremlin has not been willing to make any similar concessions.

But in Washington, a spokesman for the State Department says he expects the meeting of the Big Four foreign ministers to be held - on the twenty-fifth of this month as scheduled. He believes that details will be worked out in Berlin before then. In other words, our officials at home are not so pessimistic as those on the spot in Berlin.

INDO-CHINA

In Indo-China, "The Jungle Fox" is attacking a French stronghold less than two hundred miles from Hanoi. "The Jungle Fox" - Red General Giap. The title, given to him by the French, because he hits them unexpectedly, so often - then vanishes.

His forces are moving toward the defenses around the town of Dien Bien Phu. His patrols, crawling through mine fields and ~~gun~~fire, probing toward the main defense line.

French authorities declare that General Giap is hoping for a "prestige victory" - this, to strengthen the Red position if peace talks begin. "The Jungle Fox", described as ready to sacrifice thousands of troops to take that town.

One French commander says that the rebels are using equipment supplied by Red China. Equipment like heavy artillery and "Molotov type" trucks. Also, Chinese technicians are said to be with the artillery training the Viet Minh rebels to use the guns.

The French say that they will probably stop "The Jungle Fox" - throw back his attack on Dien Bien Phu. Planes are blasting the reds with bombs and ~~gun~~fire gunfire, around the clock. And all of the rebel patrols have been driven off by loyalist troops.

In the meantime, a French spokesman reveals that the Reds have suffered more than twenty thousand CASUALTIES - IN THE PAST SIX MONTHS.

CRASH

That tragic plane crash near Rome happened just after the pilot swerved away from an area of apartment houses. Captain Ira Broome, avoiding that crowded area. A second later his luxury transport, with two engines dead, crashed into a wheat field. The impact, so terrific that the plane and all on board were smashed to bits. Wreckage littered over an area the size of a football field - with no piece larger than three feet. The crash, blasting a crater thirty feet deep into the wheat field.

Some witnesses declare that the plane exploded before it crashed. And that one wing appeared to be on fire.

Pilot Broome, coming in for a landing at Ciampino Airport with his plane in bad trouble. Turning suddenly to avoid that residential district. And then crashing into the field nearby.

AVALANCHE

Today, Austria has a "Death Valley" - that area near the Swiss border, which was hit by a series of terrific avalanches. More than a hundred deaths reported there along. And many inhabitants still missing.

Helicopters are shuttling in and out of the new "Death Valley." American and Swiss egg beaters, carrying the injured to hospitals. And dropping supplies to snow-bound villages.

A rescue army on skis is moving through the valley. Working by searchlights, trying frantically to reach the rest of the injured. They're aided by U.S. Army snow tractors - the famous "weasels", which can go almost anywhere in the mountains - if the mountains are not too steep.

Many miraculous rescues reported. A farmer was found alive after being buried in the snow for three days. Even more astonishing - a year old baby was rescued after more than two days and nights in the snow.

The Swiss Weather Bureau reports that the acute danger is past. That Austria's "Death Valley" has already suffered the worst. Which is bad enough - with the whole area now in a state of mourning for the dead.

MAU MAU

A dispatch from Nairobi, Kenya, tells of a British planter and his wife standing off a Mau Mau attack all last night. T. F. Grimwood and Mrs. Grimwood - shooting back at the terrorists, who assaulted their home.

First of all, the gang set fire to the houses of African workers in the district. Then they began to circle the Grimwood home. Firing rifle bullets into the building. Spraying it with submachine gun fire. And hurling hand-grenades.

It was like something from the days of the Wild West in America - with Indians circling the encampment of the white man. And the Grimwoods fought back, just as our frontiersmen did. They killed three of the Mau Mau. Wounded several others.

It was an all-night siege. And the terrorists got so close, that they were attempting to pry off the roof of the house - when the police finally came up. Then the Mau Mau fled - with Mr. and Mrs. Grimwood unharmed. After standing off the dramatic siege all through the night.

TEXT BOOK

The Indianapolis lady who objects to "Robin Hood" - also objects to Alfred Noyes' poem, "The Highwayman."

Mrs. Thomas White is a textbook commissioner. Recently she called "Robin Hood" - Communist propaganda. Mrs. White said that the famous story of the outlaw of Sherwood Forest - followed the Party line. Because it showed Robin Hood and his Merry Men stealing from the rich, and giving to the poor. So Mrs. White said she wanted "Robin Hood" banned from Indiana schools.

Now Mrs. White says that the famous Noyes poem, "The Highwayman", is also objectionable as reading material for kids. It appears in a text book, "Adventures for Readers." Mrs. White doesn't like that poem because, in her words - "The hero is a robber, and the villain is the law." So she thinks that text book ought to be banned from the schools. Moreover, the book contains stories by Sherwood Anderson and Irwin Shaw - and Mrs. White doesn't like either of their stories. She charges that the one by Anderson encourages kids to ~~play~~ play hookey. And that the one by Shaw, tells them how to steal a boat.

That's the latest pronouncement ~~from the Indiana~~ from the Indiana text book commissioner. She declares that her opinion is strictly concerned with Indiana. In

fact, says she, "It's no one's affair outside of Indianapolis."

The text book was selected over Mrs. White's objection. And the State Superintendent of Education declares that the choice was - "Excellent."

Mrs. White doesn't agree. She thinks "The Highwayman", like "Robin Hood", is no kind of reading to give school kids.

HOLD-UP

Here's the story of how an innocent bystander captured a hold-up man. Howard Smith, an ex-Navy man works for a rubber company in Miami. He was in a drug store, when suddenly a hold-up man entered, and robbed the place at point of a gun. Then the robber fled in a car.

Right after him came Howard Smith, who jumped into his own car, and gave chase. The two cars went careening down the street, through residential sections - until finally they were stopped by a dead end. Smith estimates that the hold-up man fired eleven shots at him during the chase,

When the cars came to a halt, Smith jumped out and shouted: "The cops are right behind you."

That didn't faze the gunman. Said he: "You think you're smart." And he hit Smith over the head with his automatic.

Here's how Smith describes what happened after that: "I thought he was going to kill me. Then I ~~xx~~ saw he didn't have his finger on the trigger. And I grabbed for the barrel of the gun."

So what did the bold robber do then? Well, in Smith's words: "This guy began to yell at his girl friend to come help him. I finally got the gun - and started hitting him."

In a moment the bandit was down on the ground, with Smith standing over him - holding the gun. That's how the scene looked when the police finally came up.

The hold-up man turned out to be Elton Irvin of Houston, Texas. Who was unlucky in his choice of a place to rob - unlucky that a chap named Howard Smith happened to be a customer there at the time.

I've been travelling so fast I'm not quite sure where I am tonight. There's an attractive young lady sitting here. I'll ask her. Miss, would you tell me where I am?