

U.N.

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(Clifton Fadiman)

GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY:-

Here's the headline of the day: The Soviets offer to reveal how many atomic bombs they have, if any. Actually, there's nothing new about the Moscow proposal. The new angle is the change of circumstances -- the disclosure that there's been an atomic explosion in Russia, which is taken to mean that Stalin has the bomb. In the past, the Soviet delegation to the U.N. has been demanding that all nations should give information about the number of atomic bombs they had. But formerly that applied only to us. Now the Russians propose a mutual exchange of figures on who has how many bombs. Kind of interesting.

SUBSTITUTE NAVY

Tonight in Washington Admiral Blandy testified-- and he did not belittle ~~the~~ atomic warfare. ^{ON} ~~the~~ the contrary -- he spoke of the A Bomb with the highest respect. The Admiral was director of the atomic tests at Bikini, and he was called before a Congressional Committee after a series of naval officers, bitterly attacking the Airforce, had been saying that the atomic bomb was over-rated. Admiral Blandy, in sober words, admitted that a powerful American Airforce capable of striking heavy atomic blows was something an aggressor would not want to fool around with. But he warned that a war with Soviet Russia would not be won by ^{an} atomic blitz, but would require other weapons, including a powerful Navy led by aircraft carriers of the latest type, including that sixty-thousand ton supercarrier, ^{THAT} ~~which~~ the Navy wants.

NORWAY

Figures have been coming in from the general election in Norway, and the latest returns show a decisive result. With half a dozen parties in the race, all gained - except the Communists. All the others increased their voting strength at the expense of the Reds, whose count dropped to about half, as compared with four years ago. They polled about five per cent of the votes.

This is all the more to the point, because remember that Norway is the first of the Atlantic treaty nations to have a general election. Remember also that the Communist Party was the only one that attacked the Norwegian government for joining the line-up of the West.

FRANCE

France has a new Premier. Tonight in Paris, an invitation to form a ministry was accepted by the Socialist leader Jules M_och. Since the resignation of Premier Queuille last week, France has been without a Cabinet. Well, they seem to have pulled a rabbit out of the political hat at last.

Socialist leader Moch - that's M-o-c-h - accepts the post of Premier and says he's sure he can get a majority in the French Parliament to support a middle-of-the-road coalition government.

TUCKER

In Chicago the Tucker trial has been called off.

Preston Tucker and his associates are accused of having spent twenty-eight million dollars of other peoples' money in fraudulently promoting the Tucker "Torpedo", a miracle motor car that never got into production.

Today, after the court proceedings had gone on for a week, Federal Judge Walter Labuy declared a mistrial. While giving testimony, a witness identified one of the top officials under prosecution, as an ex-convict once convicted of embezzlement. The defense attorneys objected, arguing that the former embezzlement conviction had nothing to do with the case. The Judge agreed, dismissed the jury, and ordered a new trial. It begins next week.

ESCAPE

This really is news -- a prisoner making an escape from an airplane in the sky, an escape by parachute. The exploit was accomplished by a military prisoner, Howard Shinneman, who was being transported by plane from an airfield in Kansas to face a courtmartial in Louisiana. He was one of several G.I. prisoners, all charged with that familiar army crime -- AWOL. They had parachutes on, and somebody said -- I dare you to jump. So Shinneman did -- managing somehow to get out of the door of the plane without the guards knowing it. He landed in a patch of Arkansas woods, was scratched a bit, and captured by local farmers.

- ANTI-CLIMAX -

PRECEDE RECORDING

Today Lowell Thomas is undergoing medical examination in Calcutta, India, to determine how badly he was injured after being thrown from his horse in Tibet. Folks, you'll be glad to know that apparently he's okay, and will just limp a bit for a while, from torn thigh muscles and a severe ^{sprain} ~~injury~~ of the hip. Meanwhile, we have another recorded broadcast that he made in the mystery city of Lhasa, and this one tells about a man from an even more mysterious city -- Hollywood.

FOLLOW RECORDING

("And so long again from Lhasa")

That's a strange story that Lowell Thomas just told. It interests me ^{especially} ~~because~~ because I, too, knew Theos Bernard. A few years ago when I was Editor of the publishing firm of Simon & Schuster, Theos Bernard tried to sell me that book on Tibet, but I was dubious about it. I didn't know as much about Tibet as Lowell Thomas now knows, but I just couldn't believe in this smooth-talking Lhama from Hollywood. Even his beard didn't quite convince me -- and so I turned his book down. Well, maybe I should have taken it. Lowell says it did okay.

Tomorrow we'll have a Lowell Thomas interview with the Dalai Lhama, the fifteen-year-old living Buddha who rules the land of Shangri-la. And now something much more familiar and American -- Nelson Case.

As Lowell Thomas says - so long until tomorrow.

NAVY

Those rumbling echoes you hear from the direction of Washington are the broadsides of the Navy, still being hurled against the Air Force. Today, Rear Admiral Ralph Ofstie set off a jumbo firecracker under the whole Air Force concept of strategic bombing -- which, said he, was a failure in World War Two. He says it wrecked cities, and killed a lot of civilians -- but did not cripple the fighting power of Germany.

Well, there's to be a special session of the Congressional Committee tonight, to receive testimony from Admiral Blandy, who directed the atom bomb test at Bikini. Admiral Blandy is a key witness, because of the way other naval officers have been belittling the atomic bomb.

This naval cannonade against the bomb draws a counterblast from Senator McMahon of Connecticut, Chairman of the Atomic Energy Committee. "Sour grapes," says the Senator to the Navy. That is, the grapes that once were sweet turned sour when the giant aircraft carrier was cancelled,

the sixty-thousand-ton monster on which the Navy had set its heart. "They wanted the super-carrier," says Chairman McMahon, "in order to deliver A-bombs -- and, now that they haven't got the super-carrier, they don't find the bomb very good."

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Today brought a climax of terror to Red Czechoslovakia - with hundreds of arrests. For a week the Communist government has been filling the jails in a drive to wipe out the middle classes. The government radio quotes Lenin, the apostle of Communism, as saying that the class war must be pressed to a finish. This explains the mass arrests of doctors, lawyers, former property owners, small business men. They're being sent to concentration camps by the thousands. This is known in polite Marxist language as the liquidation of the bourgeoisie.