

POLITICS LT. P. G. Wed. Feb. 13 - '52.

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L.T. -- P&G Wednesday, February 13, 1952.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

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~~They never had a chance to ask. Before they could open their mouths, ^{He} Feinberg, quoted President Truman as saying that he hasn't made up ~~is~~ his mind, and doesn't plan to make up his mind for some time. The effect of, which was to deny the remarks made by visitor number one. The guessing - right back in its original condition of complete indecision.~~

This was followed by a statement from Presidential Secretary Short, who discounted all the remarks made by all ~~the~~ White House visitors, all the time. He said: "Some people, in their enthusiasm, confuse their own remarks with those of the President." They say something, and think he said it, and all is left in a state of bewilderment.

~~On the Republican side, there's a row in Louisiana. Eisenhower backers are protesting the ~~the~~ cancellation of an election which was held last month - when Eisenhower candidates won ten of the twelve vacant ~~the~~ seats on the State Central Committee of the G O P. The partisans of Senator Taft have~~

~~nullified that, on the grounds that some Democrats had a hand in it -- and Republicans who like Mr. Ike are complaining loudly.~~

In Ohio, the Taft home state, the Republican organization in Hamilton County is backing Senator Robert Taft with all ~~its~~ its vigor. But today turned against his brother, Charles Taft. He wants to ~~run~~ run for Governor -- but, for years he has been a critic of the Republican organization. So now they support one Taft for President, but reject another Taft for Governor.

JETS

The Air Force disputes the statement that the Sabre Jets are inferior to the Soviet MIGS, (in Korea.) This in contradiction to a letter cited by the wife of our top ranking ^{jet ace, Major} Davis. His wife, says her husband described the MIGS in these words -- "they're so much better than the Sabres, that something must be done."

Air Force officials today, declared ~~that~~ that the MIGS are better than the Sabres in some respects, and not so good in others - making them about equal. The MIGS can fly slightly faster, but the Sabre Jets can fly further. The ^{at the} Sabres have a slight edge in combat up to twenty-five ^{thousand feet} ~~feet~~ above that, the MIG is faster and can climb higher. Which is explained by the fact that the MIG is lighter - the Sabres having several thousand pounds more of equipment and protection for the pilots.

So they're about equal ~~in~~ in combat as airplanes, although the Sabre Jets have shot down the MIGS at a ratio of eight to one. Which record of

victory is explained by the superior skill and training
of the American jet pilots, *especially the*
Texas ace - Major Davis.

KOREA TRUCE

In the Korea truce talks - more concessions. Steady progress - in settling points of dispute about an armistice. Which would be highly optimistic, if it were not for the fact that the progress is being made -- because they've agreed to shelve the two major points of dispute, prisoner exchange and Red airfield construction. These have been put aside for future consideration, while they go ahead and clear up other, and less important, points.

However, at Westminster Abbey, there's a tiny balcony with a screen, where the Dowager Queen might sit and be unobserved - attending her son's funeral in secret.

Today, she went to Westminster where the King lies in state, to pay her last farewell. With her - the Duke of Windsor, her son the former King who gave up his throne in the famous abdication. Together, they stood at the bier of her son and his brother.

KING

It is announced in London that Dowager Queen Mary will not attend the funeral of King George the Sixth. Doctors' orders - the Royal physicians declaring that, at eighty-four she should not be submitted to the strain, both physical and emotional, of the ceremony, so long and formal. Those participating will stand for hours, and London has a bitter cold spell for the funeral procession through the streets, which will take about two-and-a-half hours.

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BELGIUM

In Belgium - a flare-up of the political crisis over the Royal Funeral in London. Today, socialists and liberals walked out of both houses of the Belgian Parliament - protesting against the decision to send the King's younger brother to London, instead of King Baudouin himself. The Socialists and Liberals consider this a slight and an indignity to Great Britain -- and say they will boycott the Parliament until after the funeral of King George-the-Sixth on Friday.

AVALANCHES

In the Alps - new avalanches -- the death list rising to seventy-five today - after two more skiers ~~ix~~ lost their lives. In Switzerland, a whole skiing party was buried under tons of snow. All rescued - except one.

The warning - more danger than ever in the ~~next~~ next few days. Central Europe is having the heaviest fall of snow in thirty years, piling up immense masses of Alpine ~~summits~~ ^{slopes. Followed by the} ~~and these thunder down the~~ ^{leg} legendary terror of the avalanche. Yet, ~~ix~~ in spite of ^{this,} ~~all the~~ ^{reported} Alpine ski resorts are crowded.

WENDELL PHILLIPS

A news dispatch from South Arabia states that the ~~Wendell~~ Phillips Expedition - is safe. That the party, which includes fifteen scientists and technicians, has emerged from the desert of the Yemen - after having been in ~~serious~~ danger - *possibility of a major expedition tragedy.*

Several weeks ago, *I told how* ~~he had on this program~~ ~~an account of how the~~ ^a group of archaeologists, under the sponsorship of ^{a group called} The American Foundation for the Study of Man, was bound for the remote ^{ancient} city of Mareb, believed to have been the capital of the biblical Queen of Sheba. It looked like a thrilling adventure -- but we never guessed how quickly they ^{were headed} ~~came into~~ *for trouble.* ~~perhaps of dramatic peril.~~

The story came first in the form of two cablegrams. One - to President Truman, Wendell Phillips in an appeal to the President of the United States. "The expedition," he cabled the President, "is in desperate situation." ~~He said they were~~ *In* trouble with King Ahmed, Monarch of the Yemen. "Please

intervene personally," he asked the President, "and have King Ahmed hold off his tribal soldiers. Unless your immediate action is taken," the plea to the White House concluded, "American lives will be gravely endangered."

That was one of two cables, the second of which transmitted information to Sam Pryor of Pan-American Airways, to Admiral Nimitz and others interested in the Foundation for the Study of Man. The second cable made this request: "Impress on the President that we are surrounded, unable to escape, at the mercy of the wildest tribe of the Yemen." He went on to explain that they were "smuggling the cables out, by desert runner; but "we are completely cut off," he concluded.

So what had happened? Apparently the expedition, a most elaborate one, with a fleet of special cars from Detroit, had gone to Mareb with full permission from King Ahmed. But now the King was hostile. For an explanation, there's one line in the cablegram, a brief, cryptic line - as might be expected in a message smuggled out by desert

runner. It reads: "The Yemen divided in half between King Ahmed and Prince Hassam, and expedition is caught in between."

~~So~~ The key to the riddle, ^{trouble between} ~~is~~ - King Ahmed and Prince Hassam.

~~Which~~ ^{Which} doesn't mean much, until we go back to a dispatch in the news four years ago. Mighty little ^{- a remote part of Arabia} gets out of the Yemen, [^] called the Kingdom of Coffee - a longed principalality as barbaric, ^{today} as it was in the Middle Ages of Islam, a thousand years ago. But this news was of such spectacular sort, ^{that} ~~is~~ it was transmitted at length - and we had it on this program.

^{From Arabia in 1948}
That story, [^] told of an orgy of treachery, ~~was~~ violence and murder in the Royal Family of the Yemen.

The Ruler, called the Imam, was in his eighty-third year, and he had sixteen sons. From among them, Imam Yah-Ya selected Prince Ahmed as his successor. - ~~and~~

Others of the sixteen ~~sons~~ were bitter and jealous.

The result - a savage plot and uprising, in which the aged Imam was murdered.

The assassins took power - and oddly enough, a wealthy merchant of the Yemen was set up as King. But the Prime Minister was Prince Ibrahim, a son who had revolted against his Father, ^{and} they had not been able to kill Prince Ahmed, the son whom the Imam had designated as his successor. ~~and~~ He started a desert insurrection, ^{with} ~~an~~ another carnival of bloodshed, Prince Ibrahim was killed - and Ahmed became the King. He has been on the throne ever since; but, with Arabic variations on the ^told line - "uneasy lies the head that wears a crown."

The family feud lingered on [^] among the surviving sons of the murdered Imam Yah-Ya. ^{And leads} ~~in~~ Arabia are the real [^] McCoy. Which takes us to Prince Hassam, named in the cablegram from Wendell Phillips. He's another of the [^] ~~sons~~ ^{sons}, it would appear.

Today I talked on the telephone with William Terry, at Johns-Hopkins in Baltimore - who was a member of the [^] ~~expedition~~ ^{previous Phillips} expedition, which began excavations at Mareb two years ago. He says that, at the time, King Ahmed was

extremely favorable. ^{But that} Prince Hassam controlled the eastern half of the Yemen, where Mareb lies. So it would seem, that family feud broke out again - the American archaeological expedition now caught in the middle.

But the appeal of President Truman has worked out, apparently. Because the word ^{tonight} is that the State Department instructed the American Consul at Jiddah to intervene - Jiddah, the seaport of Mecca, having the only American Consulate in those parts. ^{But} It's a long long way from the Yemen - and presumably, the Consul communicated with the British at Aden, next door to the Yemen. In any case, the latest is - the ~~members of the~~ ^{have} Wendell Phillips expedition ~~has~~ got out.

So what will they do now - that large archaeological party, furnished with ^{such} elaborate equipment. ^{There should be} ~~well, there is~~ plenty of work for them to do in the territories adjoining the Yemen, ⁱⁿ the British protectorate of Aden, and the realms of other Arab ^{in that large area called the Hadramout.} sovereigns who are friendly. ^{So} they can stay right on

the archaeological job, until things clear up in the Yemen. And then maybe go back to Mareb, to further explore those ruins of what may have been the capitol of King Solomon's friend, the Queen of Sheba.

BABY

Milwaukee has a new version of an old line -
"Fireman save my child;" But the Milwaukee firemen
don't like it. - They did try to be heroes, and save
the child. ~~But~~ What happened?

A rooming house was burning, and a yell came
from a woman - who had been able to get out safely.
She screamed: "Get baby! - he's up there on the second
floor!" same old pathetic plea - fireman save my child!

So into the flaming building dashed several
heroic blaze battlers. They made their way through
flame and smoke to the second floor. But - no baby!
No sign of a child!

They had to get out - they might have been
consumed by the flames. So they went back to the
distracted mother, Mrs. Lucille Mitchell, who was
still wailing - "Get baby out!"

"How old is baby?" demanded Battalion Fire

Chief Carl Schuh.

"He's twenty-one," wailed Mrs. Mitchell.

Just then "baby" strolled up, a tall, strapping fellow, more likely to have a bottle of Milwaukee beer than a bottle with a nipple.

The disgusted smoke-eaters let out a few fancy words to amplify that old line, Nelson - Fireman save my child! Baby! 21!