

EISENHOWER

L.T. Kaiser. Monday, Jan. 18, 1954.

President Eisenhower, today, sent a "special health message" to Congress, featuring, a "re-insurance" program.

A scheme whereby the federal government would give financial support to private health insurance groups, which are *already operating in existence.*

The White House message argues that the best way for most Americans to assure themselves of good medical care is - "to participate in voluntary health insurance plans." These, *says the President,* ~~he said~~ have made "striking progress" in the past ten years, and should be helped. So ~~the President~~ ^{he} asks Congress to put up twenty-five million dollars, with which to back up the private health insurance groups. The government - to finance some of the benefits extended. "Re-insurance," as the message puts it.

The President speaks against "socialized medicine," and rejects compulsory health insurance, which was advocated by the Truman Administration. Instead of this, he proposes government backing for private health insurance groups.

In addition, the White House calls for an increase

of government medical research, a program of aid for hospital building, and a new approach to the problem of federal help for states, in improving public health. ^P The first ~~Congressional~~ Congressional reaction is favorable. The Republicans approve, and the Democrats are not critical.

Along the line of private enterprise for health, there's the March of Dimes, which, this year, is making, what may be a culminating and decisive effort, in the battle of infantile paralysis. The March of Dimes - launching a nationwide program to try out a new serum - which might win ^{the} victory. It's a costly program, and it needs urgently - the support of the public. ^{So} This year, the "Dimes" has a greater meaning than ever - in the fight against polio.

~~(Note for Mr. Thomas - They requested this, and everybody, it seems, is joining in the publicity.)~~

AGRICULTURE

Secretary of Agriculture Benson proposes to ship a billion dollars' worth of American farm surpluses, to anti-Communist countries in the next three years. Today he asked Congress to authorize the measure. Pointing out - that the surpluses are becoming a menace - they're so enormous. Piled up through government purchase - in support of agricultural prices. So why not send surpluses to friendly countries - which would back up our foreign policy?

The Secretary was testifying today before a Senate Committee - arguing in favor of President Eisenhower's farm plan. ~~Those flexible, instead of rigid, price supports.~~
~~The price problem being connected with all these mounting surpluses.~~

CITIZENSHIP

And, Today President Eisenhower sent to Congress his proposal to take American citizenship away from persons convicted of conspiring to overthrow the government, or advocating a violent overturn. Directed, of course, against ~~convicted~~ Communists. In the House, a bill was introduced, immediately - to cancel citizenship of convicted Reds.

PRISONERS

At Panmunjon, U.S. officials are all set for the task of turning loose ^{the} prisoners-of-war. Liberating the Koreans in South Korea - and sending the Chinese to Chiang Kai-shek on Formosa. This, in spite of ~~the~~ ^a warning from Indian General Thimayya - that the liberation of the prisoners would be a violation of the Korean armistice.

The custodial commander is going ahead with his intention - to hand the prisoners back to the forces that captured them. But he thinks they should still be held in detention - until a peace conference is held.

We, however, do not accept his interpretation of the armistice terms, and today General John Hull, our Far Eastern Commander, said - he'll go right ahead. ~~with his plan.~~ He'll set the captives free, as soon as the Korean and Chinese anti-Communists are handed over. Which will happen - tomorrow.

ITALY

Italy has a new government tonight - although it still needs an okay in the National Assembly. Premier Fanfani has formed a new Cabinet - which he presented to President Einaudi, today. The Cabinet consists of Christian Democrats, and is much like the one headed by former Premier Pella. That is - pro-Western. Strongly in favor of the line-up of Western powers.

Premier Fanfani tried to bring in Right Wing Socialists, but they rejected his offer. However, the word in Rome, tonight, is - that the new Cabinet will get a majority when it goes before the National Assembly next week.

INDO-CHINA

Violent fighting in Indo-China -- where the French Union forces have begun an offensive to trap an army of Communists. It's a two-pronged affair, two columns driving, trying to encircle some sixteen thousand crack troops in the kingdom of Laos. That's the Red force which cut across the narrow waist of Indo-China -- reaching the border of Siam.

"We are taking back the initiative," said a French military spokesman today.

(~~The key point is a highway down town, which, dominates the Red line of communications. That's where the heavy fighting is going on -- the Reds rallying to hold the vital center.~~)

VOLCANO

News with an infernal sound comes from Indonesia.

Dispatches telling how people were literally destroyed by clouds of incandescent gas. Blasts - of white hot vapor.

This occurred in a volcanic eruption. Mount Merapi - blowing up. That crater stands on a plateau, studded with volcanoes - a collection of dangerous fire mountains at the eastern end of Java.

The cataclysm began with two earthquake shocks, and then the entire top of Mount Merapi was blown off. ~~with~~
~~shattering~~ A stupendous blast of heat hurled clouds of burning vapor down the mountainside, ~~incandescent gases~~
~~enveloping several villages~~. Twenty-five ~~p~~ victims reported to have been caught in clouds that were like a furnace.

Then came streams of white hot lava, ~~pouring down~~
~~the mountainside~~. Villages engulfed - inhabitants fleeing in a wild panic. The Indonesian government rushing Army units to the scene of the disaster.

(But This eruption was not unexpected, Some while ago,

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experts on volcanoes predicted that Merapi was getting ready to explode with record-breaking violence. A prediction - now borne out.

ARMY

The Army announces the cancellation of half a billion dollars in contracts - to take effect by June Thirtieth. The orders washed out will include everything from G I socks - on up the line. The reason -- the Army has such enormous amounts of stuff on hand, already. So why buy more? Why not use up what they've got? Tonight in Washington, Deputy Under Secretary Harold Pearson said -- that ~~it~~ is all the result of war-time squandering and years of neglect. During which time -- masses of goods piled up, and are stored away in warehouses. He declares that, right now, the Army has about thirty billion dollars worth of inventories, scattered around the world. Which does not include real estate and material now being used by combat units.

So they are starting to use up a lot of that thirty billion dollars worth. "The Army," says Pearson, "has ~~been~~ begun to live off the pantry shelf on the biggest scale you ever saw."

COURT

The Supreme Court issued a ruling today - striking at the censorship of motion pictures. In passing on a couple of appeals, the high tribunal held that a film could not be banned on grounds of morals, or because it pictured crime. In this country their being freedom of the screen, as well as freedom of the press.

Today's decision, however, did not touch on the question of banning motion pictures on grounds of - obscenity. Movies can still be prohibited, if considered - obscene. The Supreme Court saying - nothing about that.

ACTRESS

Over in Italy, today, Hollywood Actress Shelly Winters gave an account of the trouble she's having with her husband - the Italian actor, Vittorio Gassman.

At Genoa, Vittorio Gassman played Hamlet - and, immediately, Shelley left him. Sounds as if she didn't like Vittorio's way of acting the tragic Prince of Denmark. In fact, the story was put out that there was a violent quarrel - because she criticised his Hamlet. But, the actress now says, the trouble was all because of Ophelia. In the performance of Hamlet, the part of the mournful Ophelia was played by a seventeen year old actress, Anna Maria Ferrero.

Today, Shelley Winters told how she went to Genoa, and her husband gave her a surprising bit of news. "He told me," she relates, "that he was having a sentimental relationship with Anna Maria Ferrero, and did not want me to stay there because it interfered.

"Vittorio," says Shelley, "denies the affair in public - but admits it to me." Which sound like an in-

teresting formula - don't tell anybody but the wife.

So what does Shelley Winters intend to do about it? Well, she wants to make Hamlet marry Ophelia. Which, by the way, is not in Shakespeare at all.

Today she told a news conference at Rome: "I do not think a seventeen year old girl is a toy. I think, as soon as I get a divorce, Vittorio should certainly marry her." And it all grew out of a performance of Hamlet.

DORIS DUKE

In Switzerland, ^{at Davas} Doris Duke makes it - official.

She's not going to marry the French nightclub singer, Charles Trenet. The tobacco heiress gives her formal reply, ^{today,} in a telegram to the United Press, and it's a sharp reply: "Because of this cheap, ridiculous publicity stunt, on the part of Charles Trenet, you may quote me," wires Doris Duke.

The quotation is as follows: "I have never met Charles Trenet, nor do I ever care to." ^P A few days ago, Trenet hit the headlines with a statement - that Doris Duke wanted to marry him. But he couldn't make up his mind - because of her money. After all, she's regarded as the richest woman in the world - and he shrank from espousing all that American cash. Then, later, he told news reporters in Paris - that he had finally decided. Yes, he would marry the richest woman in the world, in spite of her money!

So it looked like another one of those international weddings of an American heiress. But, alas, we have Doris Duke's answer today. Calling the romantic talk

of the night club singer - "a cheap, ridiculous publicity stunt."

Well, many a lady has turned down a marriage proposal with a soft - "No." Or maybe, a loud angry - "No." Doris Duke says it with bells - not wedding bells, but cow bells. ~~She~~ never met the guy, and doesn't want to.

BURTON HOLMES

Now here's a bit of news that will interest many thousands - Burton Holmes is going traveling again.

At eighty-four, he'll make another trip abroad.

He says: "I'm going, but I know I'll be disappointed. I know I won't like it - because Americans have ruined travel."

This he clarifies with a mournful exclamation:

"Tourists, tourists. The natives all want money, money."

That will be echoed by any of us who go roaming in foreign parts. But Burton Holmes will understand - better than most.

He has been known for years as - "the king of the
— *originator of the word Travelogue.*
travel lecturers." He set out when he was sixteen - and,

in 1893, took the lecture trail with travel talks illustrated
Later turning to motion pictures.
by slides. So he knows how it was - traveling in the old
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days.

Today, Burton Holmes related: "In Venice, I stayed at the best hotel for three dollars a day - including meals. Now," he goes on, "all those tourists *pour out* ~~pay~~ so much money."

How right he is! In one of those fine hotels on the Grand Canal, the tourist ~~will~~^{now} pay^s ten or twelve dollars a day - without meals.

Ten years ago, Burton Holmes felt he was getting old, and gave up. They said his roaming travels abroad were at an end. Two years ago, he gave up lecturing - because of his health, turning over the job to ~~several~~^{Walter Everett} ~~of~~^{several} ~~able~~^{able} assistants.

But now, at eighty-four, Burton Holmes has the itching foot again. He says that, first, he will visit Paris, his favorite city. But he has no illusions about Paris, ^{Mike} as he exclaims: "Tourists, tourists, the natives all want - money, money!"

PLANE

The British Navy is ~~beginning what seems to be - a~~
~~salvage operation deeper than any before.~~ They're trying to
bring up the wreckage of the jet airliner that came to
disaster off the island of Elba, eight days ago. Purpose -
to make a study, try to find out what made the Comet, with
thirty-five persons aboard, plunge into the Mediterranean.
Thus far - a mystery.

The shattered airliner lies on the floor of the
sea, at a point four hundred and fifty feet deep. They'll
try to send a diver down to the wreckage. Hitherto, the
deepest dive ever directed by the British Navy was - two
hundred and forty feet. (~~That was in Nineteen Fifty One -~~
~~attempting to locate a sunken submarine. In this case of the~~
~~Comet airliner, a special type of diving suit will be used~~
~~for the quest at the bottom of the sea, off Elba.~~)

Today, British warships were on their way to the
scene. The operation placed under the command of Admiral,
the Earl of Mountbattan - Royal Navy Commander in the
Mediterranean.)

ADONIS

New Jersey gambler Joe Adonis was, today, convicted of lying - when he claimed to be a native born American citizen. The charge - that he had a "fraudulent" certificate, giving Passaic, New Jersey, as his birthplace. The prosecution - producing evidence that he came to the United States from Italy.

So now, the gambling boss faces another prison sentence. In addition - to a previous jail term of from two to three years.