

U.S. Believed To Be Nearer To War Than At Any Time Since Reds Crossed Yalu

TAIPEH, Formosa (AP) — There is a strong feeling here that the United States is closer to war than at any time since the Chinese Reds stormed across the Yalu River into Korea in 1950.

The next few days will tell the story. The decision is squarely up to the Chinese Communists. But this time American commanders are determined there shall be no "Yalu River sanctuary."

That feeling is expressed throughout this tense but unpanicked capital of Chiang Kai-shek's Chinese Nationalists.

If the Reds want war, there is a good chance they can have it here. However, the United States is banking on the theory the Reds do not want war — at least now. Here is the reasoning on Formosa:

The United States and the Nationalists will in a matter of a few days—as soon as formalities clear away—begin the evacuation of soldiers and civilians from the small Tachens Islands, Nationalist-held outposts 2 miles north of here, and only a few miles from the Red China mainland.

The operation undoubtedly will be covered by planes and ships of the U.S. 7th Fleet. If the Reds want to challenge the evacuation—and some observers here bet they will—they can throw swarms of Russian-type MIG jets against the American cover planes and ships.

The Communist air force, newly built with Russian aid, is at its peak in the Tachens area, which is near Shanghai.

If the Reds choose to fight here it would probably be only a matter of hours before American planes are plastering Red Chinese air bases on the hitherto inviolate Chinese mainland.

If the crisis passes — and the Reds do not attack American planes and ships—the thinking in most high quarters is that the troubled Formosa situation will

simmer down, at least for a few months.

However, high quarters here make it clear that such a situation would represent only a lull in the Reds' ultimate plans to "liberate" Formosa.

Starlings Invade Portland Area

PORTLAND (AP) — Beware of the starling invasion. It has finally come to Portland, and experts say other Western cities can expect it, too.

For the first time starlings have become a nuisance here. Thousands of them congregate nightly in a Southeast Portland area, disturbing sleep with their night-long chattering and littering the area with droppings.

Residents say they no longer leave their automobiles parked outside, and some residents will not walk outside without an umbrella after 4:45 p. m., when the birds come to roost on trees of the neighborhood.

Peris for years in the East, the starlings have been increasing gradually in the West. A few were seen in Northern California in 1942. Five years later a few were reported in Southern Oregon. They recently have become bothersome in some Eastern Oregon areas.

Five years ago the first starling was reported in Portland.

Residents of the affected neighborhood say the first flock appeared three years ago in January. The flock left in March. The flock was bigger the following year, and still larger last year, when the birds stayed until May.

This year thousands showed up. They fly away about 8 a. m. daily, presumably to feed in the country, but flock back in the evening.

U. S. railroads operate about 3,000 mail cars.

Mails Shifted From Railroads

WASHINGTON (AP) — The mails will be shifted from rails to the highways in parts of Washington, Northeast Oregon and Western Idaho about March 1, the Post-Office Department announced.

The department said it plans to provide a scheduled service with Highway Post Offices and trucks between Spokane, Wash., and Lewiston, Idaho, between Lewiston and Pendleton, Ore., and between Lewiston and Stites and Grangeville, Idaho. The department also

will provide a direct express truck service between Seattle and Walla Walla, Wash.

The Northern Pacific Railway, under contract with the department, will supply and operate the highway trucks.

The service will replace the present train-highway delivery system in which both Northern Pacific and Union Pacific took part.

The department said improvements in the road system made the new service possible.

Geography Quiz

ACROSS

- Harbor, Maine
- Cod, Massachusetts
- What a desert is
- Winglike part
- Land measure
- Give forth
- Possessive pronoun
- Sea food
- Place
- Assistants
- Metric measures
- Color lightly
- Retain
- River crossing
- That girl
- Melodie
- Custodian
- Married woman
- Taro roots
- Furtive
- Cautious
- French novelist
- Unclose
- Chum
- Tidal wave
- Less frequent
- Karakul
- Actress West
- Whip
- Formerly
- Donkey
- Auction
- The — East
- Seine

DOWN

- Dip out water
- Singing voice
- Rogues
- Throws
- Hurt
- change
- Lamprey
- Suit
- Among
- Ascend
- Anglo-Saxon letters
- What Pilgrims did at Plymouth Rock
- Fervor
- Annoyed
- Pork cuts
- Color lightly
- Barrier
- Political parasite
- Pay attention
- Gauche
- Lathered
- Allan
- Poe
- Demoted
- Declaim
- Sickler
- Recedes
- Region
- Aim
- Type measure
- Comfort
- Repose
- Weight measure

FROM NINE TO FIVE



Decisions, decisions, all day long! Now I have to decide which side of my toast to butter!

FUNNY BUSINESS



"Wilbur! Now I know why you like to come to masquerades as a hummingbird!"

MODEST MAIDENS



"She's really not as bad as she's painted!"

Edith Green Will Get Second Committee Seat

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rep. Edith Green, freshman Democratic congresswoman from Oregon, thought she was fortunate when she was assigned to the House Education and Labor Committee—her first choice of committee assignment. She got a surprise Thursday. She said House Democratic leader, have advised her she also will be



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