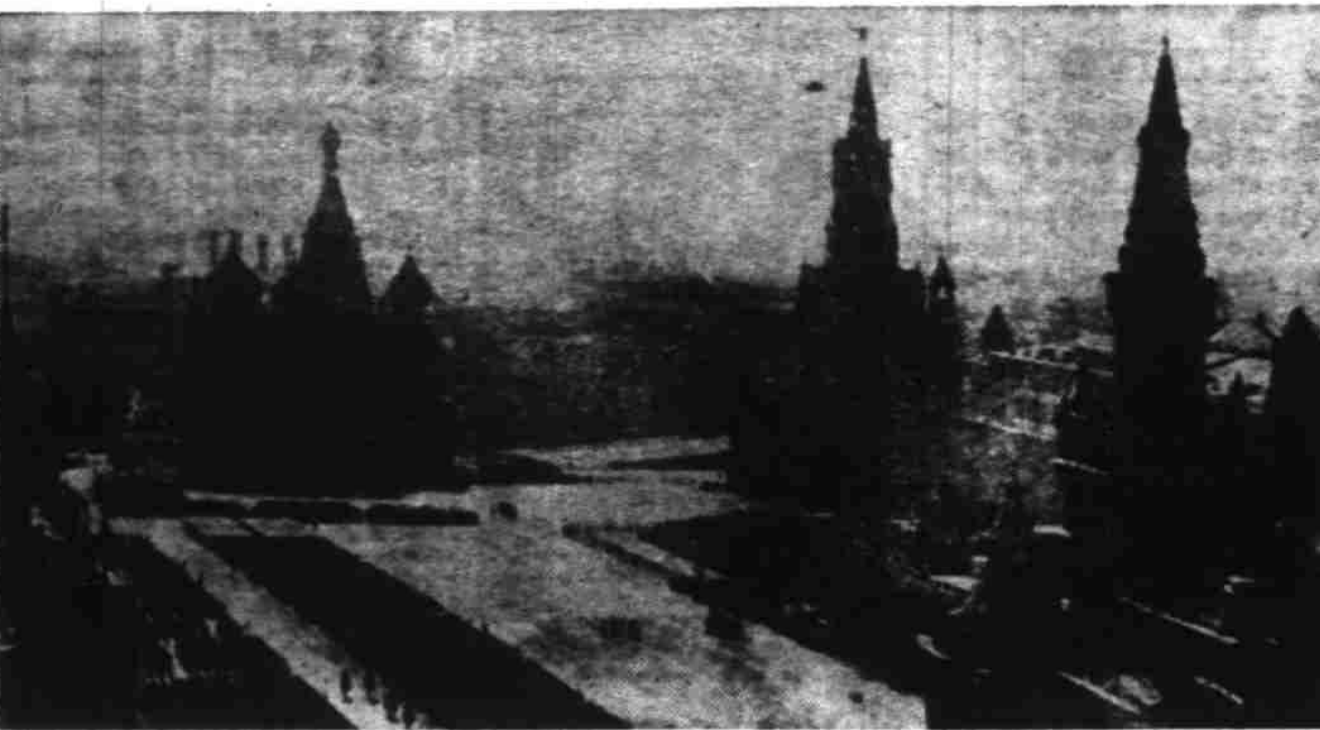




ENVOYS CONFER—Sir Alexander Cadogan (left) of Britain, Philip C. Jessup (center) of the U.S., and Jean Chauvelot of France discuss Russian offer to end the Berlin blockade.



MAY DAY IN MOSCOW—Soviet troops are drawn up in mass array before Premier Stalin in Red Square. The Lenin mausoleum from which Russian notables reviewed the parade is partially obscured by lower tower in right foreground. Stalin's son led display of jet planes.



SIGHTSEER—Britain's Princess Margaret arrives at the Isle of Capri on vacation trip.



SHANGHAI GESTURE—This Chinese Nationalist tank heads for waterfront where it boarded a transport for the south to escape advancing Chinese Communists. Panic reigned in the city.

Truman Labor Bill Beaten by Coalition

ORGANIZED labor's drive to wipe out the Taft-Hartley law has suffered a major setback in the House. Unless the trend is reversed in the Senate, which is not considered likely, it looks now as though any new labor legislation will have a strong Taft-Hartley flavor.

The House Democratic leadership made sweeping concessions to a Republican-southern Democratic coalition. But five amendments, which would have retained some of the Taft act curbs, failed to pull away from the coalition sufficient votes of the middle-of-the-road southerners and Republicans.

Crushing Defeat

It was the most crushing defeat for the Truman program thus far in the 81st Congress. Members turned a cold shoulder to a personal appeal by Speaker Sam Rayburn (D-Tex) for "the great thinking middle of the House" to support the compromise.

The Administration compromise defeated 211 votes to 183. Instead the coalition passed a substitute bill introduced by Rep. John Wood (D-Ga.) which would repeal the Taft-Hartley law and then reenact most of its major provisions. These would include the use of injunctions in "national emergency" strikes, the non-Communist affidavit, bans on secondary boycotts, jurisdictional strikes, the closed shop and union political contributions.

Wanted Wagner Act

Labor had been pressing for repeal of the T-H law and revival of the New Deal Wagner Act. Repeal of the Taft-Hartley law was one of the basic points in President Truman's political campaign last fall when he attacked the record of the 80th Congress. It would appear one campaign pledge the present Congress will not carry out for Mr. Truman.

Aerial

Safety & Costs

In President Truman's budget recommendations for fiscal 1950, the Air Force strength is cut from 59 to 48 groups. Last week in Indianapolis, Gen. Hoyt S. Vandenberg, the Air Force chief of staff, declared a 48-group Air Force "can guarantee no more than prevention of early defeat and hope of eventual victory in the event of war."

Before the President made his budget recommendations, Air Force leaders said they considered a 70-group Air Force an absolute minimum for safety and strength.

Meanwhile Air Force designers already have a successor on paper for the B-36 Intercontinental bomber but production is several years away.

At Frankfurt, Germany, a giant 71-ton cargo plane was undergoing tests on the Berlin Airlift. It is the C-97 Boeing Stratofreighter, transport sister ship of Boeing's B-50 "Lucky Lady II," which recently circumnavigated the globe nonstop with aerial refuelings.

The C-97 carries about 25 tons of cargo. C-54 Skymasters, which comprise most of the airlift planes, carry about 10 tons each.

Sidelights

• Russo-Yugoslav relations appear to be going from bad to worse. Yugoslavia, which won last year's Prague-Warsaw bicycle race, has been barred this year from competition. Belgrade has publicized that last year's winner has only received a photo of the motorcycle he should have received as a prize.

• In Quincy, Mass., two youngsters reported missing wound up by joining the search for themselves.

• On a transcontinental train, a desperate husband used a beer-can opener to pump the bellows of a broken iron lung for his polio-stricken wife. The accident happened as the train was crossing Wyoming. No repairs could be obtained at North Platte so Ralph Palmer crouched on his hands and knees for 10 hours pumping with the improvised handle until the train reached Omaha. There a fire department respirator took over for the virtually exhausted husband.

• Coconut milk, fed to little slices of living carrot root, makes them grow to 80 times their original sizes in three weeks.

The WORLD This WEEK

TRUCE: Is Russia Ready to End Cold War?

AUTHORITATIVE American sources in Germany incline to the belief that the Soviet Union wants not only to end the Berlin blockade but to shelve the cold war, at least temporarily, in the hope of lifting the economic iron curtain.

One top American source, who has been dealing with Russia continuously since the end of the war, expressed it this way:

"Russia has lost the battle for Berlin. She has asked for a truce. This truce is needed in order to regroup her forces and launch a new attack with new methods. Her aims have not changed but her tactics have."

Sweeping Concessions

This official or officials predicted that Russia would enter a new period of cooperation with the west. He said the counterblockade and boycott had shut Russia out of all western affairs from the Baltic to the Adriatic, and that to regain a foothold in western Europe the Kremlin may make concessions so sweeping the west may be embarrassed by them. He said:

"In Germany, she probably will agree to the western occupation statute and other proposals in order to set up a central German government in which she will have a voice. At worst Russia will have created a German buffer state. At best she has a chance to influence the German government and swing it into her camp."

Economic Starvation

Such concessions in Germany would be pointless unless they were accompanied by a lifting of the Soviet curtain on eastern Europe, this source pointed out.



UNTIL THE U.N. GETS A FIRE ENGINE

"Eastern Europe is starved for manufactured goods which Russia cannot supply," he explained. "Having made concessions in Germany the next step is to make others to relieve the plight of her satellites. "Russia will not loosen her political grip—only her economic one."

Gen. Clay to Retire

The American source was never identified in dispatches. A short time earlier, however, Gen. Lucius D. Clay, who will retire May 15 as American



FAR EAST TRAGEDY

military governor in Germany, had been quoted as saying in Berlin:

"I would assume that the Soviet attitude already displayed in negotiations in the United States means the Russians would be more reasonable at future foreign ministers' conferences than in the past."

No Change in Communism

"But we should remember even if a solution for the entire German problem is eventually reached, that does not change Communism. Com-

munist's objective remains the same—world domination."

Close students of Kremlin strategy do not expect that the Soviet will make all concessions at once. They anticipate skilled Soviet negotiators will try to sell each point for the highest possible price at the coming foreign ministers' conference.

It is certain that any proposals on a central German state will be examined with great care by the French who still fear a German revival.

ARGENTINA: Peron Speaks Up

Nationalized Industries
President Juan D. Peron told the new session of Congress in Buenos Aires last week that the government would continue to nationalize all public services.

He declared present owners would receive "prompt and adequate" compensation and the government would resort to forced expropriation only when owners "refused to accept reasonable solutions which we are always willing to propose."

Peron defined public services as transit, electric power plants, telephone, telegraph and water systems. Significantly, his list did not include meat packing houses and oil firms, of which a number are owned by United

States, British and Dutch companies. Packers and oilmen had feared they might be marked for eventual nationalization.

Foreign Fears

Foreign governments have objected not so much at the principle of expropriation but at the method of payment specified in Article 40 of the new Argentine constitution.

That article says the expropriation price shall be the original investment minus all profits made during the company's existence over and above a "reasonable profit." Some foreign investors feared this meant they might have to pay for the privilege of being expropriated.

Peron tried to reassure foreign business interests last week by declaring each case would require an enabling act of Congress and he did not propose to take unfair advantage of anyone.

The Peron speech, while made to Congress, undoubtedly was aimed at attention in the United States. It had been claimed in Buenos Aires that the U.S. State Department's objections to Article 40 constituted one of the principal barriers in negotiations for improving Argentine-American trade.

President Peron told Congress Argentina and Chile are capable of defending their claims in the Antarctic. The only other claim Argentina recognizes in the Antarctic region is that of Chile, he said.

Lay Off the Beef

Later in the week, Peron scolded his people for eating too much meat. Argentines, he said, are the world's greatest meat eaters, and eat so much that one out of every four has liver trouble.

His dietary experts estimate the average Argentine eats 240 pounds of meat a year and Buenos Aires citizens swallow nearly 365 pounds a year. The average annual meat consumption in the United States in 1946 was 162 pounds per capita.

President Peron wants his people to limit their meat consumption to 150 pounds a year.

If the new dietary campaign is successful, Argentina will soon have a greater exportable surplus of meat for Britain and other countries.

Dates

Tuesday, May 10

Confederate Memorial Day (N. & S. Car.).

Thursday, May 12

National Hospital Day.

Saturday, May 14

Paraguay's Independence Day, Peareness Stakes, Pimlico, Md., horse race.

Sunday, May 15

"I Am An American Day" (Citizenship Day), Anniversary (first), Israel independence.

Time

Margin of Error

Time—correct time—is almost a phobia in the United States. This is the land of the three-minute egg, daylight saving and 30-minute time checks on the radio. American scientists know absolute accuracy in the field of time is a goal which they may never attain. Yet they continue to strive for it.

Toward that end, the Naval Observatory has set up a new observatory in Florida to correct an error of four one-thousandths of a second a day. That amounts to a change of some three or four seconds a century.

The Naval Observatory, official U.S. timekeeper, is in Washington. But its new station at Richmond, Fla., because it has better weather, promises to cut the margin of error to one one-thousandths of a second daily—or one complete second every 500 years. That's not perfect, scientists admit, but it is a step in the right direction.

The mistake results from the fact that the earth, like all aging things, is slowing down.

Scientists measure time by checking the earth's rotation against the stars. Since the earth's rotation varies from year to year, it throws measurements off and makes your watch wrong.

The Navy telescope at Richmond, where visibility is clearer than in Washington, will be in a better spot to check up on the earth's erratic whirl.

Finance

National & International

Business and personal checking accounts dropped two billion dollars in 1948, the first annual decline in that category of bank accounts since 1937, reports the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp.

At Minneapolis before a conference of bankers of the Ninth Federal Reserve District, Secretary of the Treasury Snyder forecast that some of Europe's Marshall Plan countries may have to make their goods cheaper to American buyers before 1952 by lowering their exchange rates.

That year is when American recovery aid is due to end.

Snyder said that the U. S., in turn, must try to take more imports from European countries. Reducing trade barriers through international agreements is "part of our contribution to solution of the problem," he said.

Snyder noted that the exchange rates prevailing today were, for the most part, adopted during and just after the war. Since then, he said, there have been important changes in the world situation.

European countries might gain extra dollars by attracting American investments, the secretary said. He noted, however, that at the present time American capital is reluctant to go abroad, adding: "to the extent that the European Recovery Program is successful, the special risks involved in European investment will be reduced."

In Short . . .

Retired: Serge Koussevitzky after 25 years as conductor of the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

Observed: By Spanish Falangists, the fourth anniversary of the death of Mussolini, father of fascism, with a funeral mass in a Barcelona parish church.

Produced: By postwar German chemists, ersatz meat and ersatz milk, which have the same caloric value as the bonafide products at about half the price.

Cleared: By Baseball Commissioner A. B. (Happy) Chandler, Leo Durocher, N. Y. Giant manager, of a charge of assaulting a patron.

Canadian Election

THE Canadian Parliament, dominated by the National Liberal Party, has been dissolved and new elections will be held June 27.

Parliament might have stayed in session until August, 1950, its full five-year term, but Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent decided it was a propitious moment for his government to go before the people. He made the decision in Ottawa after a tour of western Canada.

Both the Liberals and their chief opposition, the Progressive Conservatives, go into the campaign with new leaders.

St. Laurent was chosen Liberal Party leader at a convention last August to succeed the retiring W. L. McKenzie King. Under the Canadian political system, the leader of the majority party automatically becomes prime minister. Canada has not yet had the opportunity of expressing its opinion of St. Laurent at the polls.

For Trade With U. S.

St. Laurent is a 67-year-old corporation lawyer, the son of a French-speaking father and Irish mother. He is a staunch advocate of closer trade with the United States.

The new Conservative leader is George Drew, handsome 54-year-old former premier of Ontario.

The Liberals, who have been in power since 1935, had a slim margin in the old House of Commons—125 out of a total of 245 seats. The Conservatives had 69 seats.

The new House will have 262 seats. Ten of the new seats stem from a redistribution of districts and seven from the new province of Newfoundland, which joined Canada March 31.

Canada elects only the House of Commons. Senators are chosen for life by the government.

Drew has attacked the government's financial policies, accused it of a lethargic defense program and urged negotiation of more trade contracts with Britain.

Bi-Partisan Foreign Policy

On such issues as the North Atlantic pact and the international wheat government, however, Conservatives voted with the Liberals.

One of the last acts of the expiring House was to ratify the North Atlantic treaty 185 to 0.

Two of the most important laws passed by Parliament were the Act of 1946 establishing Canadian citizenship and adoption of terms of union with Newfoundland. Previously Canadians had been considered subjects of King George. The addition of Newfoundland gives Canada its 10th province.

Coalition May Be Necessary

There is some feeling among political analysts that the Liberals may receive the most seats in the new Parliament yet fall short of a working majority and thus have to fall back upon help of the smaller factions.

Of these, the Socialist Cooperative Commonwealth Party is the largest with 32 seats. The Social Credit Party, which advocates monetary adjustments, has 12 seats.

The Communists had no seats in the old Parliament but they will enter the lists with several candidates, including their leader, Tim Buck.

Gov't

Public Payrolls

Payrolls of state and local governments reached a record high of \$795,000,000 last October after rising in every state during the preceding year, according to the Census Bureau.

The number of state and local employees—4,000,000, approximately double the federal total, not counting the armed forces—also reached a new high in October. Payrolls increased even more rapidly, reflecting pay boosts.

The average monthly earnings of state and local government workers were \$200 last October against \$185 for October, 1947.

For the nation as a whole there were 27 state or local government workers for each 1,000 inhabitants. This ratio varied in individual states from 20 per 1,000 in Arkansas up to 50 per 1,000 in North Dakota.

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ONE VIEW OF SOVIET SCIENTIFIC CLAIMS



Milnes, Teachers, N. Y. Herald Tribune

