



Scrap for Tanks—The Erie railroad delivers 11 old steam locomotives (background) which steel mills will junk for scrap metal. Erie says the aged engines will produce more than 3,000 tons of scrap, enough to make steel for 500 army tanks. The scrap steel may become part of tanks like the 19 new ones, fresh from the Cadillac tank plant, spotted on a Cleveland, O., siding. (AP Wirephoto)

Reds Illustrate Perfect Sense Of Timing in World Affairs

By PHIL NEWSOM

(United Press Foreign News Editor)
In their recent peace proposal for Germany, the Russians illustrated again their perfect sense of timing and their ability to seize the initiative in world affairs.

That they have done so is illustrated by British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden's remark that the proposal is being given "most careful consideration" and by the fact that the French and British foreign ministers talked it over in Paris Wednesday with West Germany's chancellor, Konrad Adenauer.

All this despite the fact that plans already are far advanced for West Germany's participation in Gen. Dwight Eisenhower's European army and the fact that West Germany soon is to be given practically independent status under which allied ambassadors will replace commissioners appointed by the occupation.

It is just that independence and cooperation with the west that Russia hopes to prevent. And it is at that point which illustrates the perfection of the Russian timing because it hits two particularly sensitive chords:

1. The natural German desire for the elimination of East and West Germany and a completely unified nation.
2. The French preference toward a Germany which could serve primarily as a buffer state against Russia rather than a rearmament Germany which some time might pose another military threat to France.

On its face, the Russian proposal seems straight-forward enough — a unified Germany under a central government, a strictly defensive German army and freedom of religion, speech, press and thought.

However, in considering it, the allies have both Russia's past record in dealing with its satellites and the fact that few, if any, of Russia's actions in East Germany have suggested a short-term occupation.

Politically, East Germany has been set up in the pattern of Russia and her satellites, including the single system election slate in which lip service only is paid to opposition parties. All suggestions that UN inspection teams be allowed to oversee East German elections have been refused.

Russia set up the East German democratic republic in 1949, and this government since has entered independently into treaties of friendship and trade with other satellite states; signed away some 45,000 square miles of German territory to Poland, and accepted the expulsion of

some 2,000,000 Germans from the Sudetenland by Czechoslovakia.

Industrially, also, East Germany has been integrated with Russia. Included has been an over-all five-year plan to increase German production for the benefit of Russia and an attempt to build up in East Germany a "Little Ruhr."

Despite Russian protest against formation of a West Germany army, the Reds themselves have set one up in the East. Some reports say the East Germans could put 25 divisions into the field in six months, as opposed to the 12 expected from West Germany for Eisenhower's army.

\$100 Million In Checking Bank Account

New York (AP)—Mrs. Sylvia Wilks, the wealthy eccentric who inherited nearly 100 million dollars from her mother, the fabulous Hetty Green, kept the tidy sum of 31 millions in just one checking account.

Most of her wealth will go to 63 charitable institutions. The banking practices of Mrs. Wilks became known Wednesday in an accounting of her estate by a surrogate court.

In addition to her big checking account at the Chase National bank, Mrs. Wilks kept five million dollars in checking accounts or in safety deposit vaults in another New York bank.

Mrs. Wilks, 80, died a year ago last month. Her mother, who died in 1916, amassed her fortune in New York realty investments and in Wall street securities.

S. S. United States, Finest Ship In U. S. Has Little Wood Aboard

By HARMAN W. NICHOLS

Washington (AP)—The finest ship this country ever built has very few hunks of wood aboard her. Specifically, the butcher's chopping block and a couple of pianos.

That's the word from the Maritime Administration and the U. S. Lines, which collaborated in putting the S. S. United States together.

The S. S. United States will be mostly steel and will cost around \$70,000,000. Launched last year, she will be on the high seas in the early summer.

The idea about no wood is very sensible indeed. Steel doesn't burn. Even the toilet seats are of non-inflammable plastic. The United States Lines purchasing department is shopping around for checker boards that won't attract a flame. There will be about 30 of these aboard.

Some of the samples which have been submitted are a departure from the usual kinds, which, as you know, are made of red and black squares. The samples without any paper or wood are of contrasting shades of gray.

The new vessel is being fitted for her maiden voyage right now at Newport News, Va.

Originally she was designed as a troop ship. Then along came the war in Korea and there was a wait to see if she would be needed immediately. It became apparent she wouldn't.

So the outfitting for passenger service began. But, the designers tell me that it would be but a matter of days before the United States could be dragged off the waves and reconverted for troop-carrying if the need arises.

There have been stories about

Tiny State of Bilaspur to Get Wiped Off Map by Drowning

Washington — States — geographical patches on the quill of the earth — often have been destroyed by war and treaty. India's tiny Bilaspur will lose its niche by drowning.

The small state on the Sutlej river in eastern Punjab is scheduled to pass into history some time within the next five years when the giant twin-dam project of Bhakra and Nangal in the Punjab is completed, says the National Geographic Society.

Then, all of Bilaspur's 453 square miles will lie beneath water and its 110,000 people will be redistributed on other lands in other states.

The sacrifice of the area, less than half the size of Rhode Island, is expected to open, through irrigation, a farming area larger than the state of Connecticut.

The Indian government hopes that the new agricultural acres will produce some 1,300,000 tons of vitally needed food each year and many thousand bales of cotton.

As an independent state, Bilaspur reached its modest peak of power at the turn of the 20th century. Then its own rajah, who had been accorded a dress of honor and an 11-gun salute by the ruling British, lived in a neat but unpretentious palace in the capital, Bilaspur Town, on the left bank of the Sutlej river.

He ruled some 90,000 people who lived in the state's one town and 421 villages.

Bilaspur's military force, though not large, was specific — 11 cavalrymen, 187 infantrymen (including gunners and police), and two field guns. Its people raised grain, opium, tobacco, and ginger, much as they do today.

Though life was not rich, it was at least more peaceful than

builders claim there shouldn't be any.

But that remains to be seen. I've been aboard ship when even the crew stuck a neck over the side.

All Aldermen Now Opposed

Mayor Al Loucks and all four members of the city council whose terms expire this year now have opposition for reelection.

This is the first time in many years that all city council offices have been contested in an election.

Alvin N. Whitlaw yesterday filed as a candidate for alderman from Ward 7 in opposition to Alderman Robert F. White. His slogan is "More consideration for taxpayers, more supervision for tax spenders."

Whitlaw lives at 2140 Yew street and for 25 years has been in the feed and seed business. He was one of the organizers of

and president of the South 12th Street Civic Improvement club. All present aldermen whose terms expire are candidates to succeed themselves. In the May 16 primary Alderman James H. Nicholson of Ward 1 will be opposed by E. W. Acklin. Alderman Claud Jorgensen of Ward 3 will be opposed by Clayton Jones. Alderman David O'Hara of Ward 5 will be opposed by Kenneth Hutchins and Wallace Bonesteel, Jr., and in Ward 7 Alderman White by Whitlaw.

Candidates may file up to April 1. Paul Hauser, city treasurer, and City Judge Douglas Hay so far have no opposition and it is not expected they will have.

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10 Departures Daily for Portland

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1:00 p.m., 2:15 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 5:00 p.m., 5:25 p.m., 10:00 p.m.

6 Departures Daily Southbound

8:25 a.m., 10:40 a.m., 12:37 p.m., 3:22 p.m., 5:15 p.m., 12:54 a.m.

3 Thru Buses Daily to San Francisco

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