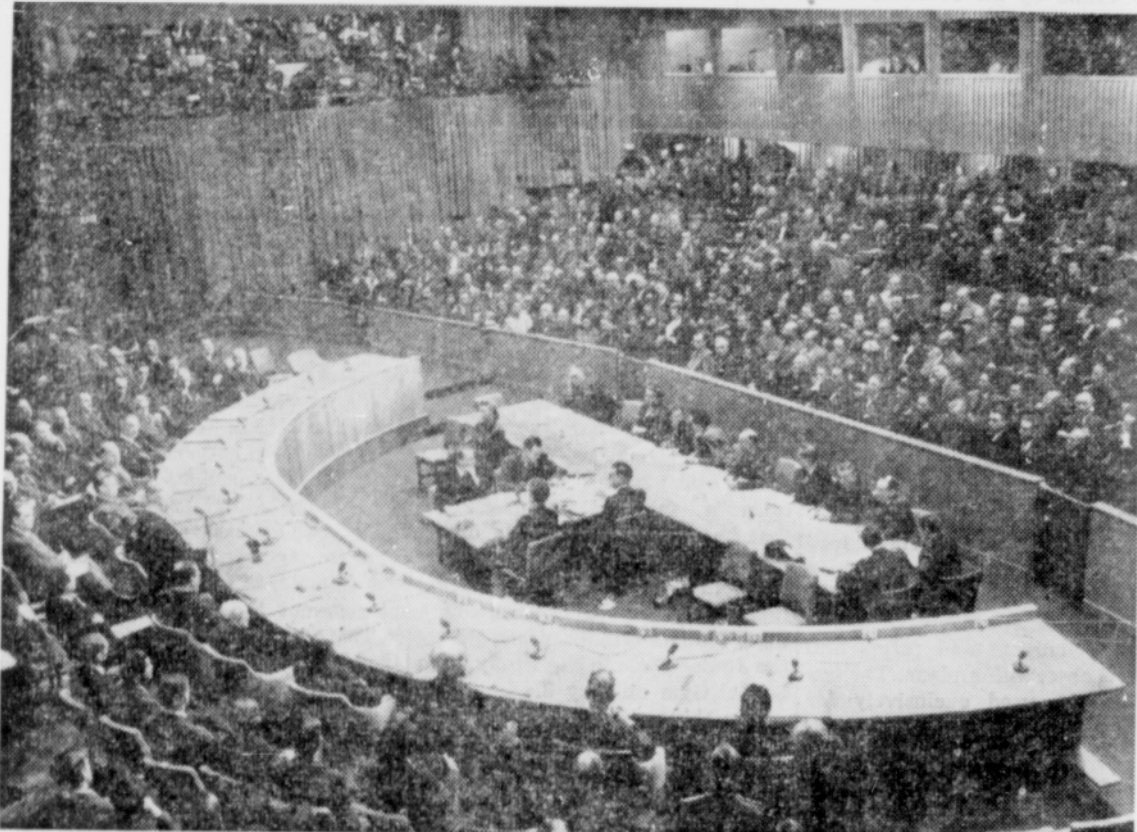




OKLAHOMA WINS NATIONAL BASKETBALL TITLE AGAIN . . . For the second year in a row, Oklahoma A. & M. college, Stillwater, won the NCAA basketball championship by conquering North Carolina at Madison Square Garden, 43 to 40. Photo shows the winning team circled around their coach, Henry Iba, as he accepts the St. Clair memorial trophy from Mrs. Jimmy W. St. Clair, widow of the late basketball committee chairman, in whose name the award is granted annually.



AT OPENING OF UNO SECURITY COUNCIL . . . A general view from the rear of the council chamber as the momentous opening session of the United Nations security council got underway at Hunter College, New York City. U. S. Secretary of State James F. Byrnes is addressing the delegates. He declared flatly that no nation has the right to take the law into its own hands. Governor Dewey welcomed the delegates.



SPRING HAS TRULY ARRIVED . . . When youngsters forsake the nursery for a day of fishing in New York's Central park lake. The gentleman, Bruce Fitzgerald, 2, has had nary a nibble as yet, but he doesn't fret so long as his lady, Eleanor Jessup, 3, is by his side. Eleanor has an apple in reserve, just in case they are not able to catch any fish for their lunch.



WORLD'S CHAMPION HEN . . . Ernest B. Parmenter, Franklin, Mass., shown with "Miss Massachusetts," Rhode Island Red hen, which established a new world's record at official egg laying contests by producing 351 eggs in 337 days. During the past 14 years, Parmenter's Reds have won 20 official egg laying contests from Maine to California. This champion may end up in the New England Museum of Natural History.



REUTHER ELECTED . . . Walter Reuther, former vice president of the United Automobile Workers of America, who was in charge of General Motors strike, defeated R. J. Thomas for the presidency of the union during a heated election. After election they both pledged united support to CIO.



URGES INCREASE . . . Bernard M. Baruch, 75, financier and counselor of Presidents, urged the granting of increased wages and prices as an immediate incentive to production.

NEWS BEHIND THE NEWS

By PAUL MALLON

Released by Western Newspaper Union.

SELECTION OF SMITH TO RUSSIAN POST WISE

WASHINGTON. — The condition of foreign affairs is apt to become more deeply involved before it gets better.

The military man, Lt. Gen. Walter Bedell Smith, selected by Mr. Truman to go to Russia as ambassador, has now been sent on his way to Moscow, presumably with new instructions on the course of Soviet-American affairs. My guess would be General Smith will enter into the confusing diplomatic fray with a purpose of establishing the usual direct non-political approach. Diplomats seldom say what they mean; military men speak directly. With them it is a question of "What do you want?" "What have you got?" and "What do you propose to do?" The West Point schooling always has taught practical considerations. For these reasons I judge the permanent mission of General Smith represents a fresh effort by this administration to establish some reasonable and practical grounds for future Russian negotiations.

IRAN DEVELOPMENTS REMAIN DEEP MYSTERY
This under - interpreted venture seems to me to be equally as important as the Iranian developments which are deeply involved in diplomacy. The filing by the Iranian government of a protest against Russia with the United Nations security council in its provisional nature, may have been too happily interpreted in this country. On its face, it represented a decision by the Iranian government to stand for its independence. This naturally has raised American hopes that a new stanchion has been built to resist the encroachments Russia has been making upon the basic peace doctrine of the four freedoms.

The wiles of diplomacy are such however, that this conclusion must be hedged. Some underlying doubts in the situation can be found upon analysis of the strength of the stanchion. In the first place, the new premier of the Iranian government was established after the Soviets had protested the resistance policy of the former government head. The protest of his minister here to UNO was made after his recent visit to Stalin out of which many rumors have grown. One story accredited to British circles is that the premier was told by Stalin not only that an appeal to UNO would be considered an unfriendly act — as announced—but his government would be replaced if he tried it. On the other hand, an unaccredited rumor here supposes that the protest will not be pressed before UNO as it occupies only a status on the provisional agenda of the council — that is, it may not be taken up. Regardless of rumors or reports on either side, the status of the protest, of course, is provisional. It can be taken up by a vote of seven members but a veto by Russia would shelve it. With matters in this involved diplomatic state, the dispatch of General Smith represents the most encouraging development, and a firmer one.

As nearly as I can judge, few authorities are being swayed by the appeasement efforts such as represented most conspicuously by the speech of Senator Pepper. Big Three gatherings were important from a publicity standpoint and were necessary when the foundations of peace had not been laid. But now that the agreements have been established, the problem is to put them into effect. My latest information suggests Russia has nothing of a military nature which we need fear. Specifically she does not have the atom bomb or early prospects of getting it. The bomb formula is so deeply covered by arrangements for secrecy made during the war, that it may be assumed to be safe. The need for appeasement in the face of Russia's threatening diplomatic position is therefore not apparent.

The bellows of diplomacy blow faster, hot and cold. Although President Truman stood by the side of Mr. Churchill when he proposed an Anglo-American alliance, State Secretary Byrnes celebrated St. Patrick's Day shortly thereafter with a definite rejection of the Churchill plan. He submitted the counter-proposal of maintaining sufficient armaments to enforce our influence in world affairs through joint co-operation of UNO. Mr. Churchill likewise dropped his firm manner and pinked Stalin with a needle dipped in humor.

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