

SCANNING THE WEEK'S NEWS
of Main Street and the WorldEisenhower Says He Would Employ
A-Bomb Under Certain Conditions

DECISION—"To my mind the use of the atomic bomb would be on this basis."

"Does it advantage me, or does it not, when I get into a war? Now, if I felt that the material destruction that I was going to accomplish was not equal to the moral or great reaction otherwise to this act, then I would abstain."

"If I thought the net was on my side, I would use it instantly, because I proceed from this basis: The United States is not going to declare war or conduct an aggressive campaign. It is merely going to defend itself, and if someone, in spite of its peaceful purpose, jumps on it, I believe in using what we have in defending ourselves."

With these words Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower told the world—friend and foe alike—just how far he would go to defend western Europe. It was the kind of clear-headed, logical reasoning that people in the home towns of the nation could understand. It reaffirmed their faith in the man chosen to fill the most important post in modern history. It is this kind of reasoning and determination that the Communist nations of the world understand. And if the world understands this reasoning, it could mean another step toward the preservation of peace.

18-YEAR-OLDS—It would be difficult to say at this point who was more surprised by the 79 to 5 senate vote that passed the bill to draft 18-year-olds, opponents or supporters of the measure.

For weeks the debate had raged in the senate over lowering the draft age from the 19-year-old limit. And although the bill must go to the house for action, it appeared that much of the pressure against the administration's defense plans has been relieved. Most observers were inclined to believe the bill will eventually reach the President's desk.



Striving desperately to make peace between labor and the administration, Eric Johnston (center), economic stabilizer, met several times with union leaders in Washington. Shown with Johnston (left to right) are: Meany, AFL; Leighty, RLEZ; Hayes, IAM; Murphy, presidential council; and Goldberg, CIO.

The senate vote caused considerable speculation across the nation. In the first place, the man on main street wanted to know is it possible for five senators—the number who voted against the measure—to bombard the U. S. senate with so much propaganda that it completely ties up important legislation for weeks? Second, what happened to the other senators who had ranted and raged against drafting the 18-year-olds? And third, were the statements by opponents that the mothers of the nation flooded Washington with telegrams against the draft entirely true?

NO! NO! NO!—After a full week of conferences, watched anxiously by the "average man" who does not understand very clearly the niceties of diplomatic language and maneuvers, the foreign ministers' deputies of the United States, France, Britain and Russia, meeting in Paris, had nothing to report.

The only statements were "no, no" issued by Russia's Andrei Gromyko to every proposal put forth by the western powers.

Gromyko first gained the attention of the home-town of the nation as the "no" man of the United Nations.

The main point of difference between the west and east remained the subject of rearming Germany.

KOREAN BATTLE—Slowly, methodically United Nations troops advanced in Korea, storming the hills, digging the Communists out of foxholes with bayonets, stopping and breaking a Red attack at other points, but always pushing toward the 38th parallel.

U. N. commanders continued to expect a spring offensive by the Reds, scheduled for some time during the last part of March or April. Meanwhile, the Chinese suffered severe casualties as U. S. troops pushed ahead, estimated by some observers at 20,000 to 30,000 in two weeks.

There were reports that the Communists had 200,000 men in the front lines below the parallel. In addition they were reported to have 100,000 more troops in immediate reserve in North Korea and a great reservoir, perhaps more than 300,000, across the Yalu river in Manchuria.

RUSSIAN ARMS—According to Russian reports the Supreme Soviet (Parliament) has adopted a 1951 budget of 451½ billion rubles, of which 96 billion would go for defense purposes.

Russia has placed a value on the ruble of four to the American dollar, but since there are so many imponderables involved, the rate does not reflect the true position of the ruble. If the rate is taken, it would indicate a total defense budget of \$24 billion.

However, Soviet production, through use of forced labor and purchases from dominated countries at extremely favorable rates, is considerably cheaper than that of the United States.

A NEW JOLT—The administration's price stabilization effort which has been called nearly everything, including "fraud", received another jolt, this time in the black and white of the wholesale price index.

The bureau of labor statistics' index hit an all time peak of 17 per cent above pre-Korean war prices and 20.2 per cent over a year ago. The bureau said all major commodities advanced except building materials.

The new figures wiped out any hope that the stabilization effort had finally started taking effect and a leveling-off was about to take place. The figures also brought renewed charges from labor that it would take a law "with teeth in it" to stop the inflation spiral.

Michael V. DiSalle, price director, told worried housewives in a television speech that it would be three more months before ceiling prices on food will be posted in stores. It couldn't be done sooner, he reported, because food prices vary by localities.

LAST HOPE—The supreme court refused by a vote of 6 to 0 to review the case of Alger Hiss, convicted of giving government secrets to a Russian spy ring before World War II. It was Hiss' last hope of escaping a five year prison sentence.

The Hiss trial made headlines in the nation's press for months. A guilty verdict and prison sentence was returned after a second trial. The slender, brilliant attorney has stubbornly denied the charges of giving away government secrets.

COST OF LIBERTY

1,000,000th Man to Die for Country

The cost of liberty is high for this Republic.

As mothers and fathers throughout the nation ponder over the world's ills and worry about their sons in service, or soon to join the armed forces, somewhere in the mud and filth of Korea the 1,000,000th soldier to die for this nation may already be a casualty.

Adding in the Korea casualties, 995,100 men have died in defense of this Republic. This total, however, is not up to date since reporting of Korean casualties is two to four weeks behind. The latest Korean total stood at 52,448. Of these, 8,853 were dead of all causes and 9,899 were missing. The remainder were wounded. This amounted to 300 weekly since the war started last June.

The Washington
MERRY-GO-ROUND
by DREW PEARSON

Little Iron Curtain

FOR MOST of one day I have driven along what is sometimes called "the little iron curtain"—the border where Yugoslavia and Albania meet, for Yugoslavia enjoys the unenviable distinction of being squeezed between two sections of the iron curtain with Bulgaria and Hungary on one side and Albania on the other.

How tiny, primitive Albania—chiefly a Mohammedan country—happened to fall for Russian communism has always been a mystery to me. I lived on the Albanian border for two years after the first World War, once crossed it on horseback, and its people at that time were rugged individualists who hated all governments, including their own, with the passion of Pennsylvania's high-tariff Joe Grundy. Perhaps the explanation is that Albania is a nation of extreme poverty where the people have nothing to lose by trying new experiments plus the fact that any nation torn by a never-ending series of wars is an easy mark for communism.

At any rate, the border between Russianized Albania and anti-Russian Yugoslavia now is studded with armed guards, and strangers are not permitted within 20 kilometers (about 12½ miles).

I managed to remember enough of the local language to talk my way past the first guard in the restricted zone and thereafter managed to talk my way past guards who stopped our jeep every half hour until we had passed through the old Turkish Albanian city of Prizerend, the border town of Jakovitz, and Deceny monastery—one of the oldest in Serbia, but it now bristles with armament.

Denounce Russians

My purpose in visiting this isolated, desolate part of the Balkans was partly sentimental, partly to see whether the United States is getting credit for its good program, partly to gauge Yugoslav sentiment toward Russia and the United States in an area far from the official blarney handed out by the diplomats in Belgrade.

Regarding the food program, the United States has given the Yugoslav government \$1,000,000 worth of flour with the understanding that they sell it through their regular ration system but making it clear that the flour comes from us. Its distribution was organized under Richard Allen of Carmel, Calif., a former Hoover food man who has also arranged for American inspectors to travel through the country. I traveled part of the time with one of these inspectors—efficient George Trett—as he interviewed local officials and local farmers and it appears the United States is getting credit.

Lesson for U. S.

Thirty years ago I had charge of 100 Bulgarian prisoners in a diminutive Serbian village called Dobro Do, which means good valley—but the valley wasn't good, because it had been burned out by the Bulgarian army and my job was to rebuild the homes of Serbian widows, using Bulgarian prisoners for labor. We also had a transport company of 100 mules and 100 conscripted Albanian mule drivers who every night sat around campfires—the Albanians, the Bulgarian prisoners and their Serbian guards discussing war and what caused war.

That was in 1919 and they recalled that in 1912 Serbia and Greece had fought Turkey, then in 1913 Bulgaria had fought Serbia and Greece, and in 1914 the World War started. Thus for six long years the Balkans were plunged in war—war which neither the Serbian guards nor the Bulgarian prisoners nor the Albanian conscripts wanted. Their hope, they said, was Woodrow Wilson—he was going to proclaim a new world in which there would be eternal peace.

Well, the years have come and gone since then. Woodrow Wilson tried and failed, and Dobro Do since then once again was ravished—this time by the Germans, later by the Italians—and then liberated by the Russians who, at times, acted more like conquerors than liberators.

This is the history of a typical Balkan village and when you look round at the poverty which always follows in the wake of war you understand why there is communism in the Balkans, for people who are poor, who are bled white, who have nothing to lose, turn in their desperation to desperate remedies.

Rental Racket

A new racket has sprung up in crowded west coast cities, such as San Diego and Los Angeles. Rental agents are trying to cash in on the housing shortage by selling leads to apartment hunters. A fee of five or ten dollars is charged for rental leads, which usually turn out to be apartments already rented.

This practice may not be illegal. However, in San Diego, the better business bureau has privately warned some rental agents.



UN TROOPS RELEASED BY CHINESE COMMUNISTS . . . A group of United Nations soldiers rests at a medical clearing station somewhere in Korea following their release from capture by Chinese Communists. They are, left to right, P.F.C. Robert Duncan, Dayton, Ohio; P.F.C. Joseph A. Collins, Selmer, North Carolina; Cpl. Lawrence Buckland, Sydney, Australia; Lieutenant Angus MacDonald, Brisbane, Australia; and First Lieutenant George E. Dowrie, Brunswick, Ga. They were held in the custody of the Chinese Communists for a total of 17 days.



ARMY PLANE CRASHES . . . Two officers of the United States air forces, one with a walkie-talkie radio set in his hand, stand by what remains of a B-29 which crashed and exploded eight miles north of Woodland, Calif., recently. Eight members of the nine-man crew parachuted to safety, but the fate of the ninth is unknown. He is known to have left the plane safely, but it is feared that he may have landed in the Sacramento river. Eyewitnesses at the scene of the disaster said the big bomber was afire before it crashed and burned in this sugar beet field. Note the long ditch dug by the wreckage which still burns.



NINA WARREN WALKS . . . Nina "Honey Bear" Warren, 17, daughter of California's Governor Earl Warren, takes her first public steps since an attack of poliomyelitis several months ago. She walks between her smiling parents. She is recuperating in Arrowhead Springs, Calif. The governor also plans to take mule baths for his ailing right arm, which shows signs of arthritis. Nina has been taking a few steps daily, but this is the first time she has appeared for photographers.



NABS STEPSON AS BURGLAR . . . John Simerlein, retired policeman of New York, captured his stepson, Louis De Ford, as the latter tried to burglarize the Simerlein home. Acting on a hunch, after a series of minor robberies at the Simerlein home in Jamaica, the former policeman hid in a hall closet and nabbed the youth when he entered the house. Simerlein (left) looks on as police search the youth shortly after his arrest by his stepfather.



HONEST NETTER IN ARMY . . . Junius Kellogg, Manhattan's center who refused a bribe and set off New York's basketball inquiry, passes through a line at Fort Meade, Md. He's so tall the army doesn't have a suit to fit him.



WINS DEBATE . . . Senator Lyndon Johnson (D., Texas), floor manager of bill to draft 18-year-olds, wipes brow after the senate passes the bill and raises the induction period to 24 months. Bill authorized U.M.T.

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Omitted Sins

The pastor was examining one of the younger classes, and asked the question: "What are the sins of omission?" After a little silence one young lady offered:

"Please, sir, they're sins we ought to have committed, and haven't."



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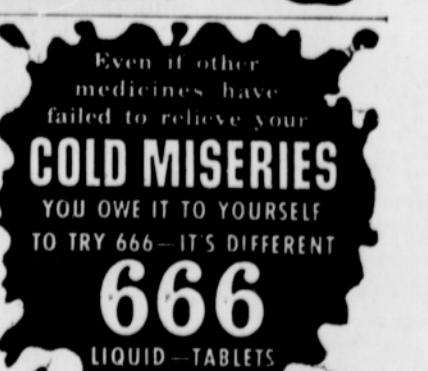
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