

SCANNING THE WEEK'S NEWS
of Main Street and the World

Progress Reported in Peace Talks; Republican Accepts Clean-Up Job

PEACE TALKS—After weeks of stalemate and pessimism, an expected feeling of optimism surrounded the Korean peace talks. There were reports of a possible early settlement. However, the hard core of disagreement on fundamental issues which have delayed an armistice have been shoved aside only temporarily and must be settled eventually.

On three issues the Communists and Allies have reached agreement: (1) Red Cross teams from Allied countries will work jointly with national Red Cross representatives from Red China and Red Korea in handling the prisoner exchange; (2) The Communist clarified their stand on parolles. The oath would require only that prisoners refrain from participation in the Korean War, instead of all "acts of war"; and (3) The Communists agreed to return U.N. military prisoners—about 11,500 men—within 30 days after an armistice.

There was one development on the world scene, however, that could hurt future peace talks. Jacob A. Malik, Soviet representative in the United Nations general assembly, in a final attempt to frighten U.N. members into agreeing to immediate discussion of the Korean question in the assembly, charged that the Anglo-American block is not only preparing a third world war, but "this world war has in fact begun."

Why should Malik make such a statement if agreement in Korea is near? A number of observers are wondering if the Chinese have finally determined to have peace in Korea, even over the objection of their Moscow masters? And, is it an indication of the much rumored split between Russia and China?

The diplomats may speculate and express their hopes, but the people in the home towns of America remain skeptical about the whole thing. In their minds there are too many unanswered questions. They are inclined to believe there will be peace when the documents are signed, the prisoners exchanged, and their sons are returned home.

TRUMAN HEADLINES—President Truman caused two recent headlines in newspapers across the nation that raised considerable speculation in the home towns of the nation. The first was his announcement that he would not take part in the New Hampshire primary and calling the present system of presidential preference primaries in the states so much "eyewash". The second was his appointment of Newbold Morris, a Republican, to head his long-heralded cleanup against government corruption.

As for his first statement, President Truman was correct to a certain extent. As far as he is concerned personally the state primary system is "eyewash". A president can usually get the nomination before the actual balloting begins simply by announcing he will take it. This seems to be the case with President Truman. However, for the party out of power, state primaries may accurately define the trend of thinking in the home towns and bring added strength to the winning candidate.



PRESIDENT TRUMAN

The President's statement was further highlighted by the fact that a few days later he completely reversed himself and ordered his name not be taken from the primary ballot. In a letter to the New Hampshire secretary of state, Truman explained he had been urged by the Democratic party to leave his name on the ballot. The letter was also something of an apology to New Hampshire voters who party officials felt might be offended by Truman's "eyewash" statement.

As for the second headline, home towners who have become skeptical about any cleanup of Washington corruption, where asking themselves just what is the true significance of the appointment of Morris, a highly respected lawyer and a self-styled Abraham Lincoln Republican, to the job that has been refused several times.

Generally, the reaction was mixed, depending on which side of the political fence the observer was on. Republicans, voicing suspicion, said they hoped it was not a plant on the part of the administration to use Morris as a window dressing while sabotaging his efforts to clean house. Democrats praised the appointment, saying his selection should be reassuring to the people.

BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN—The State department has issued a report of conditions behind the Iron Curtain that will be of interest to every home town. It has wondered just how the "little people" in Soviet controlled territory feel. The information was accumulated from interviews with refugees and has been set out in six points:

- (1) Most of the refugees disliked Stalin and other Soviet leaders and most of them denounced the Communist chiefs "in terms of unmeasured abuse".
- (2) They appeared to believe that war between Russia and the United States "is almost inevitable" and could be prevented only if the men in the Kremlin feel it would be suicidal for them.
- (3) The sorest nationality problem in the Soviet is anti-Semitism.
- (4) The ultimate goal of world domination held by the Kremlin is considered to be unchanged. But the means by which the Red command moves toward that goal is highly flexible and involves "secrecy, deception and terror as basic ingredients."
- (5) The standard of living in the Soviet Union is so low as to arouse discontent and is responsible for much crime and other social problems.
- (6) Although dissatisfaction with the present regime exists, a serious problem would exist in Russia if the Communist regime were to collapse or be overthrown. It would be necessary for the Russian people to undergo a process of re-education.

BRITAIN—Great Britain, beset by economic woes and the breaking down of relations with many former subjects in far corners of the Empire, has entered a period of mourning for King George VI who died February 6.

Only a few days before his death, King George made his first public appearance after a long and serious illness, to wave bon voyage to the plane that was to carry Princess Elizabeth and her husband, the Duke of Edinburgh, on their commonwealth tour.

King George VI was one of Great Britain's most beloved monarchs. And it was during his reign that the British Empire struggled through its greatest crisis—World War II and the years of economic strain that followed. Elizabeth now becomes Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh her Prince Consort. Their son, Prince Charles, is heir apparent.



Egyptian rioters are shown after they surrendered to British troops in the Suez canal zone. During the past few weeks all has been calm in Egypt as the new Premier conducts talks with the British in an attempt to settle the Suez and Anglo-Egyptian Sudan problems.

THE PUBLIC DEBT

Each Individual's Share Is \$1,829

As congress battles over a new budget, the public's debt nears an all-time record with federal, state and local governments together owing a total of 282.3 billion dollars. Of this sum, 255.2 billion was federal, 6.4 billion state, 20.7 billion local.

Since 1946, when the public debt was 285.3 billion, state and local debt has climbed 70 per cent, it was

estimated. Figuring the public debt across the nation on a per capita basis, every man, woman and child is in the red \$1,829, due to the combined indebtedness of federal, state and local governments. Each American "owes" \$1,653 because of Uncle Sam's debts, \$41 for state indebtedness and \$134 due to the borrowing of local governments.



Taft Strength Falls

IMPARTIAL GOP observers, who watched the jockeying of Taft and Eisenhower forces at the San Francisco Republican strategy meeting, came to the conclusion that Taft lost ground. There were three reasons for their conclusion:

1. Taft did not show up to greet the politicians. The senator had become irked at Chairman Guy Gabrielson for opening up the conference to all candidates; so ended up by giving the gathering the cold shoulder. If he had attended, shaken hands, slapped a few backs, been one of the crowd, he might almost have sewed up the nomination.

2. Vic Johnson moved Taft's headquarters from the Fairmont hotel where the main meeting was held, to the Mark Hopkins hotel. It rained most of the time and a lot of the politicians did not go outside the Fairmont.

3. Dave Ingalls' speech against "glamor" and "sex appeal" candidates left a bad taste with the more moderate Republicans, especially the women. Though the speech was aimed at Eisenhower, it happened that Gov. Earl Warren of California, a statuesque and handsome figure, sat on the platform at the time of delivery, and many people thought it was also directed at him. There was considerable sympathy for Eisenhower and Warren as a result of Ingalls' speech.

During the San Francisco meeting it was also noted about Taft had lost considerable strength, including Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas, and Indiana, which he has been listing as "sure."

Some G.O.P. politicians think that Taft has reached his high point and that the slide downward has definitely begun. Others counter that the Eisenhower forces are poorly organized and it will take a lot of fumbles on Taft's part to lose.

Military Waste

The full scandal hasn't been told, but three U.S. air bases in French Morocco have suddenly been abandoned in the middle of construction. Over one million dollars had already been spent on the three bases—when suddenly the Pentagon changed its mind and decided not to build them.

The senate preparedness committee is quietly investigating who is responsible for this expensive boner. One report is that the airstrips weren't built on solid ground and sank into the sand; another report is that the rainy season flooded out at least one base.

Stalin Gets Mad

If we get discouraged over government waste and inefficiency here at home, it might pay to look at an official report from Moscow that Marshal Stalin has secretly visited Russian shipyards in the Baltic to find out what's holding up his plan to build a powerful fleet of super-battleships.

American observers report that Stalin was furious at the excuses his admirals have been giving for Russia's failure to turn out a single new battleship since 1939.

Therefore, accompanied by 200 secret police, he personally inspected the naval installations where three 50,000-ton battleships are under construction. The inefficiency and blunders he saw, especially at Gdynia, infuriated him even more, and Stalin has now ordered a complete purge of the Russian admirals responsible.

Well-Suited Congressman

Some strange things have gone on in the offices of congressmen.

There was the late senator from Florida, Park Trammell, who slept in his office, never rented a hotel or apartment in Washington.

Then there was his opposite number from New York, Charles A. Buckley, who became known as the "phantom congressman," because he was rarely in his office or, for that matter, in Washington. Buckley is still in congress, but his attendance record is much better since he became chairman of the public works committee.

Other congressmen have used their offices, furnished free by the taxpayers, to promote personal enterprises or as propaganda mills for lobbies, while, during prohibition, several house members were accused of boot-legging.

However, Congressman Pat Sutton of Tennessee has come up with a brand new twist.

Sutton has made a profitable sideline of selling men's suits in his capitol hill sanctum. The Tennessee gets the suits wholesale from his father-in-law, who has a store in Lawrenceburg, Tenn.

Washington Pipeline

Attorney General McGrath has not held one single press conference since he took office. Many editors wonder why he isn't willing to answer questions like other officials.



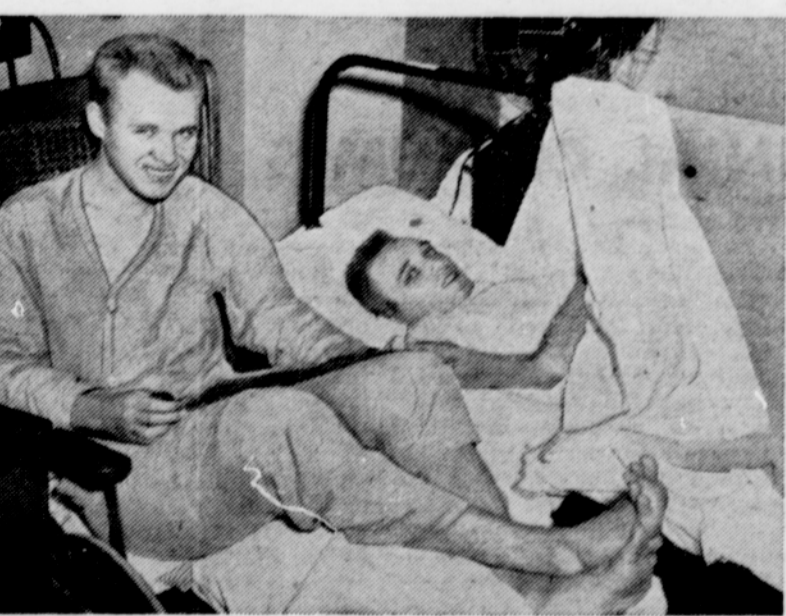
AMERICANS IN RED PRISON . . . Four Americans, held by the Reds in an unidentified Communist prison camp in North Korea, pass their time writing letters. This photo is one of several obtained recently by I.N.P. staff correspondent Dave Cicero from Red sources in Korea and flashed to the United States by radio. According to the caption accompanying the picture, the four are identified as follows: Roy H. McClain, Rochell, Ill.; Quincy Moore, Farmersville, Calif.; Robert Gorr, Sheboygan, Wis.; and Billy Brown, Houston, Texas. It is not known whether the names were given in left or to right order.



JEWISH VETS COMMANDER MEETS CHIANGS . . . In Taipei, Formosa, Paul Ginsberg, national commander of the U.S. Jewish war veterans, chats with Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek and the "Missimo" during his recent visit to Formosa as part of his far east tour. After his Formosa visit, Ginsberg said at a Hong Kong press conference that he believes there will be a cease-fire and armistice in Korea. He said also that Chiang told him that he believed the use of 30,000 Nationalist troops in Korea would help overcome the language difficulties which at present prevent Chinese Communist troops from surrendering to the United Nations forces.



NATO NAVAL COMMANDER AND STAFF CHIEF . . . Admiral Lynde D. McCormick (right), newly-appointed supreme commander of the North Atlantic treaty naval forces, and Admiral Cato D. Glover, named McCormick's chief of staff, look at a world globe surrounded by miniature flags of NATO nations at the NATO naval chief's headquarters in Norfolk, Va. McCormick's appointment makes Norfolk, Va., the naval equivalent of Paris, France, in the NATO command setup for the defense of the free world.



SKIN GRAFT SUCCESS FOR TWINS . . . In San Antonio, Texas, Pvt. Leonard Kojowski (in wheel chair) visits bedside of his identical twin, Leo, who suffered severe burns from a phosphorus bomb in Korea. Leonard gave Leo a new lease on life in a skin graft of 210 square inches. Doctors flew Leonard back from Korea for the operation because skin grafts from one twin to another are permanent and do not slough off. Both had a bandage check and are reported doing well.



PLAN WEDDING . . . Eddie Crisanello is in jail in San Pedro, Calif., on a burglary charge, but that isn't a barrier to plans for a new life. He was visited by Marlene Eason, who told him, "I love you and want to marry you." Her mother has given consent to their marriage.



GOVERNOR ACCUSED . . . Governor William Beardley of Iowa was accused in Washington of being guilty of tax fraud and of being given "preferential treatment" by the government. The charge was made by Rep. O'Brien (D., Ill.)

Modern Stadiums Dwarf Colosseum

The Colosseum at Rome, largest and most famous of Roman amphitheaters, had a seating capacity for between 40,000 and 50,000 spectators. It was built by the Flavian emperors and opened for use about 80 A. D. Largest amphitheaters in America today are the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, which has a seating capacity of 105,000 and Soldier Field at Chicago, with 101,180 seats.

Lady Bullfighter Marries Lionhunter

Consuela Cintron Verrill, a darling young lady bullfighter with 800 slain bulls to her credit, made world headlines recently by marrying a lionhunter from a wealthy and titled Portuguese family. Young girls, as supple and pliant, as fearless and strong as boys engaged in the dangerous and spectacular sport of bull-grappling on the ancient Island of Crete, more than 4,000 years ago. Unlike their modern counterpart, Conchita Cintron, who carried a deadly weapon into the ring, they entered barehanded, their skill and wits their only defense against mortal danger.

Quick Thinker

During the war the English told a story about a reluctant conscript asked by the army oculist to read a chart. "What chart?" asked the draftee. "Just sit down in that chair and I'll show you." "What chart?" asked the man. Defered because of bad eyesight, the draftee went to a nearby movie. When the lights came on, he was horrified to discover the oculist in the next seat. "Excuse me," said the conscript as calmly as he could, "does this bus go to Shipley?"

Warning

Notice in a rural weekly: "Anyone found near my chicken house at night will be found next morning."

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