

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

American Plan for European Army Endangered by Allied Bickering

EUROPEAN ARMY—The American plan for a united European army to check Communist aggression in Europe, to which America has...

The big question is how and under what conditions West German troops are to be included in the European army. The United States has...

The German view: She will agree to participate in the "integrated" force only if taken in as a full partner in the Atlantic alliance. In addition...

The French view: France would agree to inclusion of German units, but stipulates that they can not be recruited until after the five other participating nations have ratified the treaty. These nations are France, Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg, and Italy. This stipulation means a delay of months at least since ratification of a final treaty is a long process. In addition, the French want several other checks, particularly control of war production in Germany as a safeguard against the re-building of German military might.

The three big powers—the United States, Britain, and France—have already told the Germans they can not be included in the Atlantic alliance for the time being. There was a hint that if Germany signed the European army pact, however, and showed the Allies she could behave, then it would be a much easier job of selling western Europeans on the idea of bringing Germany into the alliance. The three powers did offer concessions, including a seat on a projected four-power appeal board that will have power to review and modify the sentences of more than 1,000 German war prisoners.

West Germany and France are still far from satisfied and remain suspicious of each other. The door is still open for a possible settlement, but the whole thing hangs by a thin thread. A few wrong words at the wrong time can still wreck the plan that has cost home towners of America millions of dollars. But more important, it could cost the west a united front against communism. It has been said that an European army can not work without West Germany and France. It is obvious, then, these two must compromise their demands for the good of the whole and world peace.

RECORD DIVIDENDS—The Department of Commerce reports corporations in the United States paid a record \$8,053,000,000 in cash dividends during 1951, a 2 per cent gain over 1950.

However, many corporations reported profits down during the last half of 1951, with a drop of 16 per cent for the month of December. It was partly attributed to increased tax payments.

Dividends were reported up in all fields except manufacturing. Automobile dividends dropped 25 per cent and electrical machinery and chemical goods manufacturers reported dividends down about 10 per cent.

The oil refining industry registered one of the biggest gains with 19 per cent, mining was up 16 per cent, railroads 10 per cent, and paper and printing 8 per cent.

ATOMIC TESTS—A new series of atomic tests will be held at Eniwetok atoll in the Pacific. It was announced by the Atomic Energy Commission. It was also revealed that further tests are planned for the near future in the Nevada desert near Las Vegas.

In keeping with the secrecy that surrounds such tests, exact dates and the type of atomic weapons to be tested were not announced.

Meanwhile, the British government has announced it will test its first atomic weapon this year in Australia. The British turned down an offer from the United States for a site for the tests and it was understood that no U.S. observers would be on hand to witness the experiment.

POLITICS—As the political pot begins to boil in earnest, the biggest question in the minds of most home towners remains: will President Truman seek the Democratic nomination? There seems to be little question but that the President can have it by simply saying so. Since January when most observers were willing to say, "I don't think he will run again", observations have gradually changed to "he might" and "he will".

But until Mr. Truman announces his intentions, the Democratic side of the question is wide open. There is increasing evidence that Senator Kefauver—although he is unseasoned as far as presidential timber is concerned—is gaining strength. His campaign is showing surprising strength at the grassroots level and if Mr. Truman suddenly announces he is not interested in reelection, he will have a great advantage over those "better-late-than-never" candidates who will come out into the open.

THE DRAFT—The armed forces will draft 19,000 men this month—15,000 for the Army and 4,000 for the Marine Corps. The April call brings to 894,000 the total of announced draftees since the draft was resumed in September, 1950. Also, the April call is the lowest since September, 1951, when 16,900 men were requested by the two services.

KOREA—The United Nations have agreed to the Communist proposal for a conference after an armistice is signed in Korea to discuss political issues concerning Korea. An armistice in Korea, however, is still a long way from an accomplished fact. At the moment there are three important unsettled questions. They are:

- (1) The Communists want Russia included as a neutral power to help supervise the armistice. This is unacceptable to the United Nations since it has been established without any doubt that Russia has trained and supplied Communists in Korea with arms of all kinds. (2) The Communists insist upon their right to construct airfields in North Korea during an armistice. The United Nations deny this right. (3) How, where and when the exchange of prisoners of war will take place.

When these questions are settled, the home towners of the nation can then begin to hope for an armistice.



The FBI, moving against night riders who have terrorized small communities and rural residents of southeastern North Carolina, arrested 10 former Ku Klux Klansmen on charges of kidnaping and flogging a white man and woman. They are, left to right, front row: James R. Hayes, Early Brooks, Steve Edmund, Pittman Strickland and Sherwood Miller. Back row: Horace Strickland, George Miller, T. C. Worley, Bob Brooks, and Ross Enzor.

CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Water Resources Legislation Proposed

President Truman's water resources policy commission has proposed legislation establishing a national water resources and related land conservation policy. The legislation was drawn from a recent report from the commission to the White House.

The proposed legislation would establish the policy of recognition of river basins as units of develop-

ment; define broad national objectives in safeguarding of essential resources and would affirm the duty of the federal government, with state and local agencies, in cooperation with people of the several basins, to bring about maximum utilization of water and land resources. The Budget bureau also is studying the commission's proposed legislation

THE WASHINGTON Merry-Go-Round BY...DREW PEARSON

THE HOME TOWN REPORTER IN WASHINGTON WALTER SHEAD, WNU Correspondent

Kremlin Fliers

IT ISN'T pleasant to contemplate, but the inescapable fact is that Russia is not only outproducing us in planes, but is building up a reservoir of battle-tested pilots to fly them. The blunt fact is that the Kremlin is using Korea as a graduate school to train Russian pilots how to fly against American planes.

Rotating "classes" of Russian pilots have been manning the MIG's over Korea and learning American combat techniques first hand. The present class showed up in Korea on November 1, is now about ready to graduate.

Each class takes the same prescribed course. The first month is spent making navigational flights across Korea. The second month is spent observing American formations at a safe distance. During this period, the MIG's will occasionally make a pass at a bomber formation, but it is all in practice. They never fire a shot. The MIG's also take care to keep out of the way of air force F-86 Sabrejets during their breaking-in period.

By the third month, however, the Soviet student-pilots begin to tangle with American fighters—preferably with slower F-80 Shooting Stars and F-84 Thunderjets. As the Russians gain experience, they mix it up with our crack F-86 squads.

The result is that the green Russians are shot out of the skies at the rate of 13 to our one. But the survivors become tough, skillful pilots, baptized by fire and able to hold their own against our best.

Note.—In contrast, we send only our crack pilots to Korea, give our new pilots no battle training. Reason is that we are so short of F-86's that we cannot risk letting greenhorns fly them in combat.

Messages to Moscow

A lot of schools all over the country are taking advantage of the arrangement whereby the school children of America can broadcast via the Voice of America to school children behind the Iron Curtain. Many newspapers are also cooperating.

In Charleston, W. Va., the Gazette is running a four-week contest among high-school children for the best "Messages to Moscow." The winner of each week's contest will be announced weekly, and at the end of the month the final winner will be given a trip to New York to visit the United Nations and broadcast personally over the Voice of America.

The Los Angeles News and the Wichita Eagle are cooperating with California and Kansas schools in running similar contests.

The messages should not be over 150 words, should tell about conditions in American schools, and how the youngsters of this country want peace and resent the artificial barrier to friendship imposed by the Kremlin. Since the youngsters of today will have to carry out the American foreign policy of tomorrow, this is an opportunity for them to help mould that foreign policy now.

Costello's Friends

For the first time in years, a senate committee will defy the unwritten code of congress and question congressmen.

Specifically, Arnold Bauman of the senate D.C. crime committee wants to know why certain congressmen have been so chummy with racketeer Frankie Costello's Washington lobbyist, Murray Olf.

T-men have actually traced long-distance phone calls to Olf from Costello's partner, Dandy Phil Kastel. Olf also kept racketeer Joe Adonis overnight in his hotel room while Adonis was hiding out from the senate crime committee. Olf himself has a criminal record.

Yet this same Olf has been living in style at the Congressional hotel, has entertained at least 50 congressmen at cocktail parties. A handful of congressmen have been extra close to Olf, and at least one has actually run errands for the racketeer.

Bauman intends to find out why. He personally will call on the congressmen and take their statements. Among those who can expect a visit are Congressman Morrison of Louisiana.

Note.—Fear that something like this would happen was one reason why the senate crime committee had a hard time getting its work extended.

Franco's Successor

Secret agreement has been reached among the principal advisers and supporters of Spanish Dictator Franco to make Martin Artajo, present foreign minister, the heir-presumptive to the dictator when the generalissimo retires—which will probably happen early in 1954.

Franco himself took the initiative in this decision and backed Artajo as his official successor. Until recently Franco dreamed of a dynasty.

Probe Violations

THIS column has repeatedly reported concerning the violation of civil rights of citizens who are called before congressional committees as witnesses in the many probes now going on. The utter disregard for these rights, the brow-beating of witnesses, the star-chamber sessions without reference to any rules or the justice of jurisprudence has become scandalous.

It remains, however, for a freshman senator to really rebel at the tactics used in these probes and administer a verbal lashing to his colleagues in the United States senate. He is Sen. Herman Welker of Idaho, a member of a senate crime investigating committee, elected for his first term in 1950.

Senator Welker was particularly incensed at the use of radio and television which has made a spectacle of many of these senatorial inquisitions. In a television forum sponsored by Georgetown University he charged that these probe committees have no rules of evidence, no rules of demeanor and could browbeat a witness and force him to testify about something he would not like to mention; that the committees are not governed by any sacred rules of law, admit hearsay evidence and conclusions; that the witness is subject to the whims of the men conducting the investigation and that such tactics invade the constitutional rights and the right of privacy of the witness.

He further declared that radio and television broadcasts were using the testimony of the witnesses in the hearings in commercial enterprises and for commercial purposes, certainly a violation of the individual's rights and for which the witnesses are uncompensated.

Said Senator Welker: "... here an unfortunate individual that some of our detectives or investigators want to bring before us have never perhaps seen a United States senator before. They are racked up before us, before these cameras and microphones and the august body of senators presiding, and they are nervous and it affects them, and by one slip of the tongue, they may become guilty of perjury, they might incriminate themselves, or they may find themselves in contempt of the body investigating them".

Continuing, the gentleman from Idaho said: "... we are putting on a good show, dealing with morbid curiosity of the people who like to witness these 'people before congressional hearings where we literally put the heat upon them... I say there has been too much mugging on the part of many senators who have enjoyed this limelight of being on the television and before the radio audience, and I say it is about time to get back to fundamental justice, and decency and get some courtroom judicial demeanor into this matter."

Harold Ickes

In the recent passing of Harold L. Ickes from the Washington scene, death has stilled one of the most powerful voices in the nation's capital against the persistent efforts by large special interests to grab the nation's natural resources.

During his more than 13 years as secretary of the interior the "old curmudgeon" had his sights raised above the petty chiselers in and out of government in a continuing fight to preserve the country's public lands, to preserve the natural resources in water and electric power, and to keep for the people generally the untold millions in wealth of the nation's oil-bearing tidelands.

But even as he lay upon his death-bed the big oil companies which he had held at bay, with the aid of a presidential veto and two supreme court decisions, were moving in again.

Settlement of this dispute, under the guise of states' rights, will be one of the major issues in this campaign. In two decisions, in 1947 and in 1950, the supreme court has held that coastal states have jurisdiction over submerged lands in bays, rivers and inlets and along the coast from high to the low-tide mark, but that farther out to the continental shelf, these submerged lands belong to all the people of all the states.

California, Louisiana, Texas and Florida have joined with the oil lobby in an effort to wrest this bonanza oil reserve from federal jurisdiction. There is now up in the senate a compromise bill, which is merely an entering wedge, which would give royalties from oil produced from these tidelands to the public school system.

Grain Investigation

Secretary of Agriculture Brannan is urging the senate agricultural committee to call as witnesses operators of warehouses from which government stored grain has disappeared... What movies have to do with price controls may be nothing, but the President went to the National Motion Pictures Association to get Eric Johnston and now he has gone to the Independent Motion Picture Producers Association to get Ellis Arnall to succeed Mike Disalle.



BANKING ON THE HONOR SYSTEM... The Central National Bank of Yonkers, N.Y., got tired of making change for its customers, so it did the next best thing—let the patrons make their own change. A wood table top fitted with four glass tops containing quarters, dimes, nickels and pennies was placed in the lobby of the bank. The customers drop their fifty-cent pieces or one or five dollar bills into the slots set back on the table, then scoop up their change and go their way. The bank president explained, "We don't watch them because we think people are honest." The bank has reported that the honor system is working perfectly.



DANGER AND TRAGEDY AT PARA-MANEUVERS... Tragedy struck at Camp Drum, N.Y., as the army's parachute maneuvers, "Operation Snowdrop," got underway. Paratrooper Clayton Whitner, Missouri, lies in the snow after he was injured in a jump. Two buddies try to make the injured trooper as comfortable as possible as first aid is awaited. At the time this happened two paratroopers had been killed in jumps and a cargo plane loaded with paratroopers had crashed on takeoff, killing three persons. The army is testing the stamina and skill of the jumpers under winter conditions and under situations simulating actual war at the front.



POSES NINE YEARS AS RED... Mrs. Bereniece Baldwin, Detroit, shown with Frank de Nunzio, justice department attorney, as she appeared before the government's subversive activities control board in Washington, D.C., revealed that she posed as a member of the Communist party and Red underground while serving as an FBI agent for nine years. The board is holding hearings to determine whether the Communist party should be required to register its members under anti-subversives law.



KILLS MOTHER, SISTER... With cigarette in mouth and carrying his luggage, John Schulz, 16, leaves a train in Milwaukee, Wis., that brought him back from Kirkwood, Mo., where he was captured. He admits killing his mother and sister in argument over family car.



NEW LITTLE AMERICAN... In New York City, Hans Meissnest and his wife, Irene, are enjoying a book of child's stories with Irene, a little German girl whom they are adopting. The pretty child, who came from Waiblingen, Germany, arrived at New York's Idlewild airport recently. She was obtained by the Meissnests through some of their relatives in Germany and an adoption agency. The new little American's new home from now on will be in Queens, New York.



PHILIPPINE VOICE... Voice of the U.N. in broadcasts to her native Philippines is that of Claudia M. Cruz, Manila. Her daily news programs are beamed to the Orient in Tagalog, national language of the islands.