



THEY'RE READY—Vice Adm. Alfred M. Pride (left), U. S. 7th Fleet commander, studies base map of Formosa and Tachen Islands with Capt. O. D. T. Lynch, plane commander of the fleet. They are in the operations room of the flagship, the cruiser USS Helena, at Taipen, Formosa. Ships and aircraft of the 7th Fleet await only word from Washington to begin evacuation of the Tachens, prepared to defend themselves against any attack from Red Chinese.

### A Nichol's Worth of . . . Comment On This and That

By HARMAN W. NICHOLS  
United Press Feature Writer

Washington—(U.P.)—A hundred years ago this week, the weather was nasty in Washington. Congress and other people were losing hair. And the front pages of the newspapers were advertising cures for baldness and diseases worse, also pills to conquer the sniffling.

Franklin Pierce was president. And his "Veep" was William R. King. The big issue of the day was the "Kansas Question." Whether to open Kansas to settlement under the "popular sovereignty" formula. A severe test was in the offing, but you could not tell it by the newspapers in the first week of February of 1855.

In those days, the type was small and the copy on page one was mostly advertisements, and the "mama please come back" sort of personal notices.

The main item on page 1 of the Star for Feb. 1, 1855, had to do with the "high-panders" party for benefit of the poor. The announcement was paid for and was cushioned among the ads for the aid of belly miseries.

The charity deal was for society only and was to be held in the "Assembly Room" and tickets were one dollar a copy.

Horses were well-behaved in those days, or must have been. There were no reports of carriage accidents.

Reports of the Congress were on the inside pages. If President Pierce had a calling list, it wasn't in the paper.

The Star reported that "after we went to press" the previous day, the Army appropriation bill "was further considered and passed." There was no mention of how many hundreds of dollars the measure called for.

A little down on the same page, it was revealed that the Senate passed a bill by "Mr. Mallory which increased the efficiency of the Navy." The measure was to take care of the old and disabled, "who could remain ashore while awaiting orders."

High Finance  
On Feb. 5 the Washington Intelligence printed part of the treasury report for a couple of days before. No balance was mentioned.

"Payment of treasury debts \$45,729.80; For Customs 10,916.54; For War Department 1,570.27; Interior Department 228,251.33."

The papers of the days gone by are a little hard to read today, even though some of them are microfilmed.

The editor of the Star, searching the exchanges for things to print, fell back on a colleague, Mr. Horace Greeley, who made some pertinent remarks in the New York Tribune about a shipment of "new white beans for hominy and soup." The editor said that the event had no political significance, but added that he was happy to pass along the word.

There was entertainment in the capital 100 years ago. The Star mentioned a clown named

## 'Keep 'Em Guessing' Is U.S. Policy for Asia, Lodge States

Washington—(U.P.)—United Nations Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge Jr. indicated after a conference with President Eisenhower Saturday, that U. S. Far Eastern policy for the moment is "to keep the other fellow guessing."

Lodge talked with the President for about an hour over breakfast and spent another discussing the Formosan crisis with the President's White House aides.

Administration sources had indicated the United States is considering a U. N. showdown with Russia on a Formosa cease-fire. It appeared certain that Lodge discussed the Formosa crisis, what the United Nations is doing about it, and a wide range of possible future actions. But he gave no details.

Skirts Plane Incident  
"If the other side holds its peace for a long period, sometimes it is advantageous to us, too," he told reporters. "Sometimes it is best to keep the other fellow guessing."

Neither Lodge nor other U. S. officials would discuss for the time being the shooting down of two Communist MIGs by American fighters over the Yel-

low Sea west of Korea.

New strategy on cease-fire moves was considered necessary now that Red China has rejected an invitation to discuss the matter at a U. N. meeting. The State Department let it be known Friday that it opposes any big international conference outside the U. N. on all Far Eastern issues.

Lodge attended a cabinet meeting at the White House Friday and then talked later with Sen. H. Alexander Smith (R-N.J.), a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Without going into details, Smith said Lodge outlined privately possible future U. N. developments on the Formosa problem.

Smith said he feels the United States is in a "very fine position" and that he was impressed by Lodge's report of U. S. determination to "be firm."



WEeping as he embraces son, Harold Lewis, 25, Los Angeles denies in Chicago that he threatened to blow up self and Gary after abducting son from estranged wife. (International)

PET TREE  
Kent, O.—(U.P.)—Crispus, ancient Rome's eminent orator, probably would be known as "Old Splinterlips" today. He had a beech tree he loved so much that he embraced it, kissed it and watered it with wine, according to Davey tree researchers.

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## February Sky Review

By J. HUGH PRUETT  
Astronomer, Extension Division  
Oregon Higher Education System

If courage in facing the morning "dews and damps" is one of your outstanding characteristics, be sure to crawl out of your downy bed at the "crack of dawn" the next clear morning and look toward the southeast for the gorgeous planet Venus. Several have written me expressing their great delight at seeing the brilliant little sky lantern.

If you venture out, look also rather low in the south for yellow Saturn. For morning observations this weekend, the big moon about to set in the west will add to the dawn grandeur.

Jupiter Striking Sight  
For the spotting of the planets and bright stars of the evening sky, let us observe about 8 p.m. A little southeast of overhead the planet Jupiter is a striking sight. Nearby and almost in line with Jupiter are the stars Pollux and Castor in the order named from the planet. Mars is the reddish, nontwinkling object in the west. Mercury is now too near the sun to be seen.

High in the south the fine Orion group is very conspicuous. Note the three stars in a short line marking Orion's belt. Higher the red star Betelgeuse in his shoulder is prominent. Lower than the belt, blue-white Rigel twinkles brilliantly.

Almost due east of Betelgeuse, bright Procyon in the Little Dog is the only star to attract attention. Much lower than Orion and near the south-southeast, a glorious star is scintillating. This is Sirius, the dog star, the brightest real star in the evening sky. Sirius is almost as luminous as Jupiter.

Fairly well above the eastern point of the horizon, blue-white Regulus glitters. A little inspection of this region will show that Regulus is at the lower end of the handle of the Sickle, a

figure composed mostly of rather dim stars.

Bright, yellow Capella is almost overhead. Considerably south and a little west of Capella we note a small letter V composed of stars, all dim with the exception of orange Aldebaran at one of the upper points.

A little farther west, the charming tiny group of the little stars of the Pleiades appear almost like a flock of flying lanterns.

Low toward the north-northwest bright Deneb is at the top of the Northern Cross. And do not forget to look well up in the northeast for our familiar Big Dipper as it is balancing precariously on the end of its starry handle.

Within a few nights from now the full moon will be out of the early evening heavens, and, if clear skies prevail, a good opportunity will be offered to see the faint zodiacal light extending upwards and somewhat southward from the western horizon as soon as the last traces of twilight have faded. A dark observing location is needed.

DELAYED MAIL  
Salisbury, N. H.—(U.P.)—Harry Twombly received a letter nearly 40 years after it was mailed. The letter had fallen behind a local store sometime in January, 1915. The new store owner discovered it while making renovations.

### PICK DAISY'S



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## Cooper Nomination Okayed by Senate

Washington—(U.P.)—The Senate has approved the nomination of former Sen. John Sherman Cooper of Kentucky to be U. S. Ambassador to India.

It also confirmed the appointment of Donald R. Heath of Kansas to be Ambassador to Lebanon.

Other nominations approved: Phillip D. Rice, associate justice of the Hawaiian Supreme Court.

Edward J. Devitt, U. S. district judge for Minnesota.

Russell B. Wine, U. S. attorney for the western district of Texas.

Philip D. Reed of New York and Edward D. Canham of Massachusetts, members of the U. S. Advisory Commission on Information.

George Glenn Killinger of Virginia, member of the Federal Parole board.

## U.S. Officials Want End of French Crisis

Washington—(U.P.)—High-ranking American officials hoped Saturday a new French government can be formed quickly and that it will press ahead to win ratification of the German rearmament agreement.

Officials said the fall of Premier Pierre Mendes-France means a temporary setback to the new West European defense plans which would include a rearmament of Germany. But they said

his ouster by no means kills chances for final French approval of the plans.

They hoped Mendes-France's successor will carry on the fight for ratification.

But officials conceded privately that if there is a long impasse over a new government and France fails to act on German rearmament, the result would be a tremendous victory for Russia.

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