Today and Tomorrow

By Walter Lippmann

The Improbable Treaty

Mr. Dulles is in London, it appears, to find a respectable common position on which the West can stand after the conference adjourns and while the West Germans hold their elections. There are at this point no signs that we are any nearer to an agreement with the Russians. There is indeed much evidence that while the London talks have been going on, the positions taken publicly by both sides have become harder and less negotiable. Both sides seem to regard the existing military and diplomatic stalemate as more acceptable and as less dangerous than a substantial negotiation.

Walter Lippmann

One question which we are bound to ask ourselves is why we are disappointed. Did we ever have any right to hope that what has always failed before — namely, world disarmament by international agreement — had some chance of succeeding now? Men of experience, all the old hands in diplomacy, have known as a matter of course that nations engaged in a cold war will not disarm themselves. Why then, could so many of them have taken seriously what has been going on in the London talks?

Some, no doubt, have taken it seriously because they have been determined that if or when the disarmament talks fail, the blame would not fall on them.

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BUT there has been another and a more interesting reason. It derives from the fact that modern armaments have reached a size and a destructiveness which makes them intolerable and incalculable. The race of armaments is so swift that weapons are obsolescent about as soon as they come into mass production. The result, on the one hand, is that no one really knows what is a safe limit on the expenditures for armaments, and the military budget is really a kind of blind wager with the national security. On the other hand, in the military establishment there is no stable strategical doctrine by which the services are bound to act together.

Because modern armaments have become different in kind from any that existed before the second World War, it has not been foolish to think that an agreement on armaments might be possible. There is no doubt that both in Moscow and in Washington there are men in high places who feel, as does President Eisenhower, that modern war can no longer be a rational and effective instrument of any political policy. What we are seeing, however, is that there is a great difference between a tacit understanding, such as has existed since the summit meeting at Geneva, and an open, formal agreement in cold print.

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IT IS possible to have a tacit understanding that nuclear war is intolerable. But when we reach beyond that for a treaty to spell this out, every separate interest concerned with every unsettled issue rises up to block it. As these issues cannot within the foreseeable future be settled, as so many of these interests involved are irreconcilable, the real choice is this: shall we keep the tacit understanding but without a treaty, or shall we risk a breakdown of the tacit understanding in the vain attempt to translate it into a treaty? Indeed, it may be well that the President, who is the author of the tacit understanding, may find it necessary to save it from being torn to pieces during the pulling and hauling about a treaty.

The declaration of Berlin, which was published on Monday, is part of this pulling and hauling. For all practical purposes, it is a commitment on our part not to try to negotiate a significant treaty on armaments. For this declaration gives Dr. Adenauer the power of veto until the Soviet Union agrees to German reunification on terms which amount to unconditional surrender. At present, to put it mildly, the unconditional surrender of the Soviet Union is not in sight.

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THIS declaration will no doubt be useful to Dr. Adenauer in his election campaign. But it amounts to an extraordinary concession for a great power to make, to give to another nation such a privilege and such a preference in dominating the conduct of its own foreign policy. Let us hope we do not learn to regret it.

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SOMETHING FOR NOTHING

Chicago (AP) — Someone will be paid $5 a pound for something he, or she, doesn't have Sunday. That's when the winner of a diet contest at the Chicago Free Fair will be announced.

Oil consumption in the U. S. has increased by about 30 times since 1900.

Congressmen from West Urge Federal Contracts on Coast

Washington—(AP) — The entire congressional delegations from the 11 western states were urged Friday to support a move to get more federal contracts for West Coast shipyards.

Reps. Thomas B. Pelly and Thor C. Tollefson, both Washington Republicans asked for the support of fellow congressmen from throughout the West. Sens. Warren G. Magnuson and Henry M. Jackson, Washington Democrats, made a similar plea to all Western senators.

Pelly and Tollefson made their request in a letter to Rep. William S. Hill (R-Colo.), "dean" of the western delegation in the House. They called for a "high level campaign for a drastic increase in government shipbuilding, repair and conversion" in Coast yards.

Economy of States

They said they were basing their action on "the importance of ship work to the economy of all neighbing states through subconracting and the purchase of materials."

"Shipyards in other areas are busy, but Pacific Coast private shipbuilders have not been successful in securing adequate contracts to keep employed the necessary pool of skilled labor essential for a mobilization base" the congressman said.

They said the situation "is "further aggravated by apparent government opposition to major ship work on the West Coast on the grounds that adequate facilities are lacking."

"West Coast builders emphasize in response that private shipyards cannot install, maintain and improve facilities unless they have reasonable workloads which provide a fair 'profit,' they added.

"Furthermore, superior East Coast shipyards were paid for by the federal government in World War II and this fact now increases the competitive advantage of eastern yards in relation to western yards."

Pelly and Tollefson said the western represenatives and senators should ask the Maritime administration and the Navy "to give particular emphasis to this problem."

Coos Bay Man Killed In Accident Friday

Coos Bay — (AP)— Wayne Herbert Kelley, 25, Coos Bay, was killed Friday in a dump truck accident at the Georgia-Pacific mill.

Kelley apparently had stopped the truck with the body in the air to take a look at the muffler. The truck bed fell and crushed him.

On The Side

By E. V. Durling

(Distributed by King Features Syndicate, Inc.)

While being interviewed recently, an actress objected to being referred to as "a star of the silent film era." The reason is obvious. To have starred in silent films an actress must be around 50 years of age. Women who are sensitive about their ages have to be very guarded in their conversation or they will date themselves. For example, suppose a woman recalls visiting "speakeasies" during the cocktail hour in the yesteryear. How old would you say she was? Or suppose a woman recalls participating in a "Charleston" dance contest? What could her age be?

Among the Married

Should the husband of a working wife be required to do 50 per cent of the housework? Such is a constantly discussed query. A husband should do little or no housework. A wife with a job outside the home shouldn't do much housework either. A cook and housekeeper should be hired to handle that angle. This domestic employee should be paid from the wife's salary. When a girl marries the understanding is that her husband will support her and that she will take care of the home and child rearing when necessary. If she wants to work outside the home, the wife should provide a substitute for the housekeeping.

Over There

There are quite a few organizations of stout women. The object of such clubs is usually to combine in a weight reduction effort. As for example, the popular club known as "TOPS" which initials stand for "Take Off Pounds Sensibly." However, in France there is an organization called "The Sympathetic Club For Stout Women." The members of this club don't want to take off weight. They want to stay just as they are. They get together not to deplore being fat but to count their blessings such as not being on a diet, enjoying their food, being in good humor, etc. The members of the S.C.F.S.W. also claim that generally speaking stout women have better looking husbands than thin women. The president and organizer of the S.C.F.S.W. is Madame Mag of Paris who weighs 242 pounds. The club has over a thousand members.

Please Note

So you consider yourself a well-informed baseball fan. All right, smart boy, tell us quick as half a flash why the Detroit American League team was nicknamed the "Tigers." Also what is the origin of the nickname 'The Braves," which the Milwaukee team inherited from the Boston Braves. And why was the Pittsburgh National League team nicknamed "The Pirates"?

Smokers

Ninety per cent of the extremely necessary revenue provided for Great Britain by the tobacco tax, comes from cigarette smokers. Hence, the decision of the British Government to sponsor research that will make cigarette smoking less harmful is readily understandable. The tax from cigarette smokers is not without its importance in this country. The originator of a highly effective filter or some other method of decreasing the alleged ill effects of cigarette smoking will certainly find himself very much in the chips.

Singers

In the latest "Top Ten" list of best selling recordings in Great Britain appears discs of Johnnie Ray, Nat King Cole, Presley, Bing Crosby and the King Brothers. But not one recording of a feminine vocalist. Only two women were listed on the last "Top Ten" list in this country. What's wrong? Are no good popular songs being written for the female singers, or is the current crop of feminine vocalists below par?

Still Hope

Is your wife in her forties? Don't tell me, it is none of my business. However, if you think you are never again going to pace the waiting room floor of a hospital waiting for the nurse to tell you whether your spouse has given birth to a boy or girl you may be mistaken. In fact the nurse may appear on the scene and say, "Congratulation, sir. It's triplets." That's what happened recently to the husband of a 42-year-old woman in London. Yes, sir, the lady was 42 and she gave birth to triplets, all girls. I might add, her husband is not of Irish birth or descent. Her name is Mrs. Rose Cohen.

Engineer Brigade To Return to Area

Members of the 417th Engineer Brigade headquartered at Medford will return home by Aug. 4 after completion of their 1957 summer camp United States Army Reserve training.

The men have been training at the Yakima, Wash., Firing center, taking part in the operation of a large headquarters, which would be involved in the administration of construction of many large projects in case of active duty.

Types of projects the brigade would affect include airports, rail installations, highways and port repairs, according to Maj. T. M. Gerow, public relations officer.

PASTORAL SYMPHONY

Pentwater, Mich. (AP) — Dairyman Claire W. Nelson says the radio blaring in his barn conditions his cattle to frightening noises and strangers. "I keep it on so the cows will hear all sorts of noises — from women's screams and gunshots to rock 'n' roll," Nelson said. "Then when a stranger comes into the barn, they aren't upset because they've heard everything on the radio."

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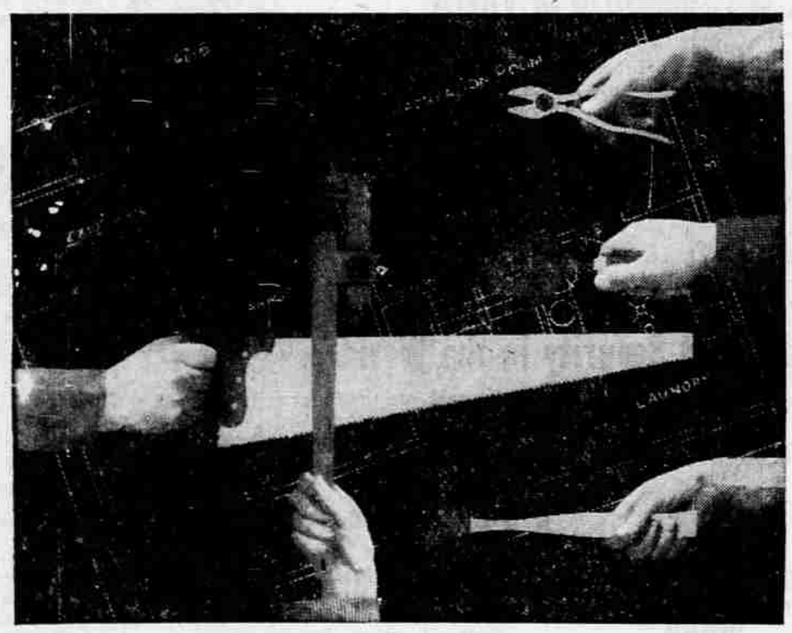

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