

Political Strife, Trouble In Colonies, Racks France

Editor's Note—In previous articles this week William L. Ryan has reported the story of the shaky French Empire as he found it in both Indochina and North Africa. In today's concluding article he returns to Paris and explores the explosive political situation in the nation which holds within itself many answers to the problems of Western unity.

**By WILLIAM L. RYAN
AP FOREIGN NEWS ANALYST**

PARIS — French politics has taken a robust and proud nation and turned it into the weakest link in the West's defenses.

The troubles of the French Empire have become the woes of the Western world, while French politicians wring their hands and tumble from bad to worse internal dissension.

A piece of the Empire already has slipped away — many say by default — in Indochina, and Western defense plans must be revised. And as France turns her attention to the rest of her overseas territory, much of it boiling, many a Frenchman openly admits the decline of the great nation's power.

In Indochina, France stacked the cards against herself. She permitted no political organization which would fill the vacuum that might have been left by French departure. Politically, all Viet Nam stands to be engulfed eventually by the Communists, whether the shooting war ends formally or not. Communism will have gobbled up another piece of real estate, largely by political means.

Farm Support Plan Rejected

WASHINGTON — The Senate Agriculture Committee rejected the administration's flexible farm price support program Thursday by voting 8-7 to extend rigid supports for another year.

The action came after the group turned down a 9-6 proposed two-year extension of the mandatory supports on the basic crops: wheat, cotton, corn, rice, tobacco and peanuts.

Chairman Aiken (R-Vt.) predicted after the closed door session that the Senate would reverse the narrow committee decision in favor of the administration's flexible price support plan.

Support for President Eisenhower's program, however, came from Sen. Eve Bowring (R-Neb.), who announced in her first Senate speech that she would vote for the flexible price props. She said she believes Eisenhower and Secretary of Agriculture Benson have "correctly analyzed" the nation's agricultural problems. Mrs. Bowring recently was appointed to the Senate to succeed the late Sen. Griswold (R-Neb.).

Airline Wins Safety Award

West Coast Airlines, receiving its seventh consecutive award, today was cited by the National Safety Council along with 39 other U.S. scheduled airlines in recognition of their contribution to safe air transportation in 1953.

In the seven years since its first flight December 1946, through the date of the award, WCA has carried 875,000 passengers 137,704,000 passenger miles. These figures include those of Empire Air Lines, which also had a perfect safety record until its merger with WCA in August 1952.

In a letter to Nick Bez, West Coast president, Paul Jones, director of public information for the National Safety Council, said: "We are pleased that you and your company had a part in making 1953 one of the safest years in air line history in receiving your seven-year aviation safety award."

Settlement

TOKYO — A Japanese Foreign Office official said Friday the post-World War II "honeymoon" is over in American-Japanese relations and urged quick settlement of problems such as those arising from recent U.S. hydrogen bomb tests.

He was Ryuji Takeuchi who until recently was Japanese minister in Washington.

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WOOL WAS A BIG ITEM when this picture was taken out near the present site of Olene. No identifications have been made on the picture, but some old timers think it might be J. D. Applegate's wool, and another faction holds out for the name of Dave Ellis. If any of our readers know, please let us know. We know there was plenty of mud on the road, anyway. Notice the hame bells on the lead team. — Picture from Leo Donovan

Actress Mary Martin Not Afraid Of Different Roles

By BOB THOMAS

HOLLYWOOD — Mary Martin is living proof of the theory that stars shouldn't be afraid of playing roles that have been done before.

A few years ago, her manager and husband, Richard Halliday, saw Ethel Merman in "Annie Get Your Gun" and told Mary: "You'd better not see it, you're liable to cut your throat. It's the kind of a role you've wanted all your life."

The singing star didn't heed his advice. She went to see the show. On the way out, he asked, "would you like a razor now?"

"No," she replied. "I'm going to play 'Annie' on the road."

And she did, much to the surprise of producers Rodgers and Hammerstein, she agreed to a tour throughout the United States. This startled Broadwayites, since Mary was a top star in her own right and didn't need to do road companies of Merman hits.

The Martin version of "Annie Get Your Gun" was an eye-opener. I can still recall the pleasant surprise of watching Mary, who had specialized in gentler things, throw herself into the raucous role of Annie Oakley. The show was a revelation for the producers, too. They had her in mind when they wrote a show called "South Pacific."

After playing Nellie Forbush for five years, Mary did a straight play, "Kind Sir." It was a dismal thing, although it did good business on the strength of its stars, Miss Martin and Charles Boyer.

Now she is literally taking a flier on "Peter Pan." A new musical version of the Barrie play is being put together by the Civic Light Opera for Los Angeles and San Francisco. Broadway? maybe — it depends on how well it turns out.

Mary is doing the show even though Jean Arthur played Pan with success only a few years back.

"Jean and I are good friends," said Mary. "She is godmother for my daughter Heller. We often talked about how we would like to play Peter Pan some day. Jean got her opportunity, and she was wonderful. Now I'm getting my chance."

"I see no harm in doing a role that has been done before. I felt that way about following Merman in 'Annie,' and I feel the same about 'Peter Pan.' Every once in a while there comes along someone who seems suited to play it—Maude Adams, Eva LaGallienne, Jean Arthur, to name a few. I want a chance, too."

"Besides, I've always wanted to fly under my own power. I've long had a recurring dream to do that. This is the fulfillment of a great urge."

Mary's hair is now orange and cut like a boy's, so she requires frequent trims. Heller, who is 12, is excited about her role.

TL Naval Pilot Wins Wings

Philip Robert Holt, son of Mrs. Viola M. Holt, Tulelake, was recently commissioned an ensign in the Naval Reserve and awarded the coveted "Wings of Gold" of a naval aviator in ceremonies held at the Naval Air Station, Hutchinson, Kansas, according to a recent U. S. Naval news release.

Ensign Holt specialized in multi-engine, land based patrol bombers and was transferred to photo school, Pensacola, Florida.

Prior to entering the Navy, Ensign Holt received a bachelor of arts degree at the University of Chicago.

Atomic Death Toll Raised

TOKYO — A leading Japanese radiologist agreed Thursday that an American doctor's estimate that the Hiroshima and Nagasaki death toll in the World War II atomic bomb explosions may have tripled the officially reported figure of 152,034.

Dr. Masao Tsuruki said the estimate made Wednesday by Dr. Stafford L. Warren of Los Angeles "can be considered true."

"He should know what he is talking about because he has specialized in this field."

Dr. Warren, dean of the school of medicine and director of the atomic energy project at the University of California at Los Angeles, was among the first Americans to study atomic bomb effects in Japan.

"Accurate figures for the death toll can never be made," Tsuruki said. "The victims are still dying. The published figures only show what was known from official records which presumed to give the number of persons in Hiroshima and Nagasaki at that time."

"I believe that more than 200,000 have died in the Hiroshima atomic bombing while over 100,000 perished in Nagasaki."

The reported toll was 78,150 at Hiroshima and 73,884 at Nagasaki. However, Hiroshima city officials said 280,000 persons were killed in that city alone.

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Fire Injures Two Employees

PORTLAND — A spectacular fire injured 10 men and caused damage estimated at a quarter-million dollars at an electrical and plumbing supply firm in downtown Portland Thursday.

Two of the men were injured in leaping from the second floor of the building, where they were trapped momentarily by the fast-spreading flames. They were taken to a hospital where their injuries proved not serious. Also suffering minor injuries were eight firemen.

Dense clouds of smoke rose over West Portland after the flames broke out about 2:45 p.m. Four hundred firemen were called to the scene, and controlled the fire within an hour. Spectators jammed the streets.

KF Gold Star Mothers Meet

Applications for membership were given to the group of women who attended a meeting Thursday at the Winema which had been called for the purpose of organizing a Klamath Falls chapter of Gold Star Mothers.

Mrs. James Cech, Medford, junior vice president of the Gold Star Mothers state organization, stated that a larger attendance had been expected. Absence from the city on account of vacation prevented some of the women who had expressed interest from attending.

Another meeting is planned for the future. The date of Mrs. Cech's return visit to Klamath Falls will be announced when arrangements are made.

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