THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

★★★★★ Final

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Air Line Monopoly

The story of Pan American Air Line's successful campaign to put its international competitors out of business is related by Marquis Childs today in his column on the editorial page, 4-A.

ENEMY AVOIDS FIGHT WITH ALLIES

West To Ask Soviet Views On Parley

U. S., France Britain To Deliver Note

Would Talk Over World Problems

By JOHN M. HIGHTOWER

WASHINGTON— (AP) — The U. S., Britain and France will call on Russia this week to state its attitude toward sitting down with them to talk over a wide range of world problems.

The Western powers' note, carefully worded, will be delivered in Moscow probably Tuesday. It will be the fourth in a series of exchanges between Russia and the West on the idea of holding a Big Four meeting.

The curious thing about this exchange is that none of the Governments involved seem to feel that a Big Four session actually would result in substantial agreements and thereby lessen world tension. On the contrary, some authorities here feel that tensions at the end of any such session might be worse because of its failures.

Nevertheless, the three Western governments, and particularly the British and French, seem to think it is necessary to go through the motions of meeting and talking things over for two main purposes: First, to prove an interest in leaving no possible avenue to peace unexplored; and second, to gain whatever propaganda advantage there may be in the course of the talks.

REAL ISSUES

Because those are apparently the real issues there is likely to be considerable sparring over details which among friendly nations interested in solving problems would be quickly worked out or passed over.

The exchange started late last year when Russia proposed that the Big Four Foreign Minister Council should meet on the question of German demilitarization. This was regarded in Washington as an effort to throw a monkey wrench into the developing plans of the Western allies to build up Western German strength against that of semi-militarized East Germany. Yet it did show Russia as willing to talk.

The Western powers countered with a proposal that the four foreign ministers — but not necessarily as a council — should get together and talk about all the world's problems which, the U. S. said in effect, Russian troublemaking and aggression have created. The idea in having a meeting of the foreign ministers rather than of the "council of foreign ministers" is that China is a member of the council where Far Eastern problems are concerned and the Russians would undoubtedly try to bring in the Chinese Communists.

In the third note the Soviets agreed to the West's suggestion for a preliminary meeting to talk about what subjects or agreements the foreign ministers themselves might discuss. Russia said they should discuss only what topics should come up: the Western powers said they should explore what solutions might be found.

The West had suggested the preliminary meeting be held in New York; Russia suggested London or Paris. The Western powers are prepared to concede that point.

RANGE UNKNOWN

But on the important issue of whether the Soviets are willing to talk about the whole range of world problems the latest Russian

See WEST TO on page 3-A

UN TROOPS ON SNOWY FIRING LINE

Allied riflemen seek out enemy targets from positions on snowy ridge in Wonju section during recent U.N. offensive on the central front. (AP Wirephoto.)

Stabilization Officials Wait Order

White House To Define Duties

By MAX HALL

WASHINGTON— (AP) — Eric Johnston, Michael V. DiSalle, and Cyrus S. Ching, the Government's new first-string line-up for stabilizing the economy, looked to the White House today for an order spelling out their assignments.

President Truman was due to act shortly — maybe today or tomorrow — to set up Johnston as a general umpire and policy supervisor of the stabilization program, including prices, wages, rents, and credit controls.

Last week the President appointed Johnston as administrator of the Economic Stabilization Agency (ESA) to replace Alan Valentine.

Another prospective mobilization move — which officials said might be forthcoming during the day — would assign more steel to defense users.

PRESENT REGULATIONS

National Production Authority (NPA) regulations now say that no steel company is required to accept defense priority orders for shipment in any one month in excess of certain percentages of its average monthly shipments during the first part of last year. These percentages vary from 5 to 25 per cent for different steel products.

Officials said these percentages will be raised because of the increasing volume of defense-rated orders for steel.

Mr. Truman, in the executive order spelling out the duties of the stabilization officials, was also expected to split the 500 employees of the ESA sharply into two separate operating agencies:

1. The Office of Price Stabilization (OPS), under DiSalle, the plump, witty, 42-year-old former mayor of Toledo, whose staff may eventually reach the peak OPA strength of 60,000 though he says he hopes not.

2. The Wage Stabilization Board (WSB), of which Chairman is Cyrus S. Ching, the former vice-president of the U. S. Rubber Co., who is more than a foot taller than DiSalle and 32 years older.

Johnston has taken a nine-month leave of absence from his position as president of the Motion Picture Association. He is a former Spokane (Wash.) manufacturer who won national prominence as a four-term president of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce.

Johnston will not officially become stabilizer until the Senate approves the nomination. Approval is expected.

FREEZE SLATED

DiSalle's OPS is preparing a nationwide freeze and rollback of prices, hoping to issue it before the end of this week but not too confident that all the necessary clearances can be obtained that soon. Jan. 1 is a possible, but not certain, date for the rollback.

The drastic order, besides requiring the O.K. of Johnston and his superior, Defense Mobilizer Charles E. Wilson (and they aren't now expected to block it), has to

See STABILIZATION on page 3-A

OPTIMISTIC

That's something in his eye, not tears, that Gen. Hoyt H. Vandenberg dabs at as the Air Force chief of staff testifies before a Senate Preparedness sub-committee. He and other high Pentagon officers told the Senators they believe American forces in Korea can hold and that no withdrawal is being planned. (Acme Telephoto.)

Four Columns Stab Through Red Curtain

TOKYO—(AP) — Four powerful Allied columns looking for a fight thrust deep into Communist territory today but Reds on the Western Korean front didn't answer the challenge.

The motorized columns were bolstered with tanks and mobile artillery. They returned to the main Allied lines late Monday afternoon after blasting several Red patrols in minor skirmishes.

The columns ranged across a 50-mile span of the Western front and pushed within less than 25 miles of Red-held Seoul. Termed officially a "reconnaissance in considerable force", the scouting patrols were charged with taking Red prisoners and obtaining information on Communist troop build-ups.

"I guess they saw us coming and ran to the north to hide," an Allied intelligence officer said.

"They seem to be willing to stay and fight when we send out small patrols. But when we beef one up and hunt them out with it they run away.

"Then we pull out and they filter back into their former positions."

On the central front, Allied forces retook Wonju airstrip and nearby hill 233 Monday after a three-hour fight. A Communist regiment had held the commanding hill for two days.

RIDGWAY VISITS FRONT

Lt. Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway landed at the field a few hours after the fight. The Eighth Army chief said the central front situation "is perfect and getting better all the time."

Wonju is the road and rail gate to the heart of South Korea. Allied forces withdrew last Monday after a fighting stand there one nearly three weeks but strong patrols returned last Friday. They have fought in and around the city for the past four days, usually retiring a short distance to the southeast each night.

Ridgway praised the Second Division for its dogged Wonju stand and lauded French troops fighting with it.

He cited specially a "magnificent bayonet attack" by the French battalion earlier this month and said he would be happy when other Eighth Army troops used the cold steel with such deadly results.

An Eighth Army communique Monday night said the Second's stand at Wonju starting Jan. 8 apparently had checked a planned Communist offensive through the mountain passes south of Wonju. But it added:

"Late reports indicate the Communists are again building up strength in the Wonju area for another offensive."

Along the western front, where the Reds also were reported massing troops for a new drive, the four Allied combat patrols met virtually no opposition.

One column drove straight through enemy-held Kaesong north of the town. Osan, 28 air miles south of Seoul, is the place where the first American soldier of the Korean war was killed. There the green U. S. 24th Division began its

See ALLIES on page 3-A

M'Mahon Urges Global Plan

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Senator McMahon (D-Conn) today renewed his call for a $50,000,000,000 global peace plan and asked that it be linked to a Senate resolution expressing friendship for the Russian people.

The chairman of the Senate-House Atomic Energy Committee said the United States is "losing ground" in the battle for the minds of men. He said the Senate should immediately undertake "a ringing declaration of America's intentions."

In a speech prepared for Senate delivery, McMahon outlined this three-point program to carry out his objectives:

1. That the United States spend $10,000,000,000 a year for five years for economic aid to all countries, including Russia, in exchange for (A) general acceptance of an "effective" international atomic energy control, and (B) an agreement that all countries earmark two-thirds of their present armaments spending for "constructive" purposes.

McMahon first outlined this plan in a Senate speech last Feb. 2.

2. That the Senate pass a resolution "expressing friendship for the people of Russia by the people of the United States," and ask the Soviet rulers to make it known to their people.

3. That the United Nations assert its right to operate its own radio station in the Soviet Union so that the UN deliberations could be made known to the peoples behind the "Iron Curtain."

McMahon said Russian refusal to permit this would "glaringly expose" the "sham and duplicity" of Russian propaganda.

He said he would continue to support all legislation which increases the nation's armed might, while still working for a just and honorable peace.

"... unless we act boldly and immediately wrench history from its present course, war is inevitable," McMahon said.

Bradley Sees Little Danger Of Invasion

By EDWIN B. HAAKINSON

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Gen Omar Bradley told Congress today the military forces the United States is planning "are sufficient in my opinion to avert disaster for our country."

Testifying before the Senate Preparedness Subcommittee, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said bombing of American cities might be possible but "there is little real danger now of the continental United States being invaded and overrun so far as we can see."

Bradley said U. S. air defenses, "combined with the efforts of the Canadians," could avert "complete disaster" but "if a determined enemy is willing to expend the effort, some bombers will get through."

BACK DRAFT CHANGES

Bradley was before the committee to endorse the Defense Department's proposals for drafting of 18-year-olds and extending the period of draft service from 21 to 27 months.

He gave the committee in addition a briefing on how the services plan to meet any attack.

"The initial retaliation against an enemy by strategic bombing will be provided if the air power and the necessary Army and Navy support to seize and hold the bases from which to operate are in our hands the moment an emergency arises," he said.

"The closer the bases are to the enemy the easier it will be, and the less costly it will be, to provide a sustained retaliation air attack.

"Our strategy does not include a retraction of all of our military power to the continental limits of the North American continent when we are attacked."

Some Senators are questioning the proposal to draft 18-year-olds.

Senator Hunt (D-Wyo) said he felt Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower's views on the need for this step should be secured before Congress votes on the issue.

"I'm pretty certain that the public is somewhat confused on these questions right now," he told a reporter. "General Eisenhower has broad experience as both a military commander and head of one of our largest educational institutions.

"I know the public has great confidence in his judgment and I believe the Congress should know his views."

Hunt, who says he is convinced that 18-year-olds must be drafted — and for 27 months' service instead of the present 21 — is a member of the Senate Armed Services Subcommittee holding hearings on military manpower legislation.

Hunt said he will ask that the subcommittee solicit Eisenhower's views, either by cable or in direct testimony after the general returns from Europe. Eisenhower, on leave of absence as president of Columbia University, is studying his new duties as commander of a projected international army to defend Western Europe.

Baby Perishes In Fire Here

A seven-months-old baby was burned to death early this afternoon in a flash fire which consumed the frame house at 416 E. 5th St.

Firemen identified the child as Phillip Paul Brooks, son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Brooks.

The fire started when an oil tank at the rear of the residence exploded. The baby's crib was located next to the tank, and intense flames prevented the parents from rescuing it.

When headquarters equipment arrived in response to an alarm at 12:20 P. M. firemen wearing Scott air-packs attempted to enter the house, but the raging flames forced them back.

Firemen estimated the damage to the single-story eight-room dwelling at several thousand dollars.

Five of the rooms were completely gutted by the flames and the others were damaged by smoke and water.

The house is owned by Mrs. Mary Pickard and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Brooks and Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Mullis.

Mrs. Mullis and Mrs. Brooks were in the house when the fire broke out. Mr. Brooks had just left, firemen said, although he had returned when they arrived on the scene.

Fleet Commander Talks To MacArthur

TOKYO —(AP) —Adm. Arthur W. Radford, commander of the U. S. Pacific Fleet, arrived Monday to confer with General MacArthur and to inspect fleet installations.

The admiral plans also to visit the U. S. First Marine Division in Korea. He expects to remain in this area five days before returning to Honolulu.

Intelligence Reports Encourage Pentagon

By ELTON C. FAY
AP Military Affairs Reporter

WASHINGTON — (AP) — The personal reports of two top intelligence officials just back from the Far East may account for some of the Pentagon's current display of confidence in the Korean war outlook.

Gen. Walter B. Smith, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, and Maj. Gen. Alexander Bolling, chief of the Army G-2 intelligence division, are now back in Washington.

Their trip to the Far East coincided with that of two members of the joint chiefs of staff, Army Gen. J. Lawton Collins and Air Gen. Hoyt Vandenberg.

Collins on Saturday made a sudden appearance at an otherwise routine military briefing for reporters. Secretary of Defense Marshall called him from a meeting to make the surprise visit at the briefing.

UN LIKES STRONG

Gen. Collins, abandoning some of the previous cautious statements of the military, declared flatly that U.N. forces in Korea would punish severely any Communist attack in strength on the defensive line at the main center of the west. He spoke of the U. N. tank and artillery preparations, mentioned a curious absence of any movement by the Chinese and North Korean Red forces in the northeast and referred to failure of the enemy to show any disposition to launch major attacks on the main front.

This was the purely military picture presented by Collins. But when analyzed it appeared to be predicated to a great extent on negative reasons. It seemed to be some deeper, underlying reason for the almost aggressive attitude in the Pentagon.

Rad Smith and Bolling brought back from their visits to the war some information that, taken together with that of the two staff chiefs, caused Washington to shed some of its previous grim attitude?

While the primary function of Bolling's G-2 is the collection and assessment of military intelligence, the mission of Smith's CIA includes every field of intelligence, political as well as military.

It is quite possible, therefore, that out of his conferences in the Far East Smith found information which prompted a revised estimate of such things as Red China's politico-military intentions and capabilities. Because of the broad nature of CIA interest, it is likely, too, that Smith's interest would go beyond the Korean situation alone and would include Formosa and the Southeast Asia perimeter of defenses against Communist aggression and subversion.

The trip of the two intelligence chiefs also provided opportunity for reviewing estimates made by General MacArthur's field intelligence two or three weeks ago on the strength of Communist forces fighting or standing by two fight fronts in Korea. Those estimates may have been too high, too low

See REPORTS on page 3-A

Bulletin

Explosion Rocks S. Blvd. Firm

A fire set off by an explosion early this afternoon was sweeping the Oil Equipment Service Co. in the 2100 block of South Blvd.

The Fire Dept. had a number of pieces of equipment at the scene, and eyewitnesses said the firemen were beginning to get the flames under control. Two alarms had been answered by 3 P. M. Three ambulances were also on the scene.

Preliminary reports said at least one man was burned to death, but these reports were not immediately verified.

A Hankins-Whitting Ambulance driver told The News he understood one man was trapped in the building. It was this man that the reports said had perished.

The emergency room at Memorial Hospital said it was treating a man for serious face, hand, and foot burns. He was not identified.

Business men nearby said they heard a dull explosion about 2:30 P. M., followed immediately by the flames.

Falling Rock Crushes Woman

LESAGE, W. Va. — (AP) — A huge boulder weighing tons plunged down a hillside today into the home of an elderly spinster and crushed her.

Miss Bess Christy, about 60, still was conscious but apparently in great pain when frantic rescue workers got the big rock off her several hours later.

She was taken to a hospital at nearby Huntington.

How badly she was hurt could not be determined immediately.

State police, sheriff's deputies and others released her about 11 A. M. after struggling with the boulder more than two hours.

Postmaster W. W. McFann, among the first at the scene, said Miss Christy's feet, legs and hips were pinned under the rock. Her voice was still strong, McFann reported, and she cried out: "It's mashing me to pieces."

Stormy Debate Expected On New Coliseum's Fate

RALEIGH — (AP) — The State Legislature launches its fourth week of activity tonight amid indications that plenty of stormy debate is in store on several controversial issues.

The first debate is expected tomorrow when a special investigating committee is slated to hold a hearing on the proposed $1,250,000 coliseum at the State Fairgrounds. Work of the committee may bring a halt to the big project.

STUDY IMPROVEMENTS

A joint appropriations subcommittee was scheduled to meet at 2 P. M. today to begin a study of approximately $44,000,000 in permanent improvements at state institutions for which contracts have not been awarded. Funds were appropriated by the 1947 and 1949 Legislatures.

The subcommittee will scrutinize the projects with an eye toward eliminating some and transferring the funds to other projects to meet increased building costs.

Assistant Budget Director D. S. Coltrane has pointed out that approximately $15,000,000 would be needed to complete all the projects because of the rise in costs of building materials and labor.

The Senate and House will meet in regular session at 8 o'clock tonight, then will go into a joint session at 9:30 to hear the North Carolina Little Symphony orchestra.

Several Agriculture Dept. and state fair officials are expected to present their side of the picture at the special hearing tomorrow on the 9,000-seat coliseum.

Agriculture Commissioner L. Y. Ballentine and State Fair Manager Dr. J. S. Dorton have termed the structure one of the greatest needs of livestock and agriculture" in North Carolina.

Work already has begun on the nitrogen - modern structure which would have a flexible roof suspended by cables from two concrete arches. The project was approved by the 1949 Legislature.

Some lawmakers, however, have voiced themselves as opposed to carrying out the project in view of the present national situation.

SEVERE HEARINGS

Hearings may start late this week on the $459,500,000 state budget proposed by the Advisory Budget Commission for the next two years.

The Joint Appropriations Committee is now conducting an item-by-item study of the entire budget and is expected to wind up this part of its work within the next two or three days.

When budget hearings start, the head of various state departments, agencies and institutions joint committee to outline their budget requests for the next biennium.

Other Europeans Still Missing

Snow Avalanche Fatalities Reach 170

By LYNN HEINZERLING

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND—(AP)—The death toll stood at 170 with many still missing Monday as rescue workers in the Alpine countries continued to dig through snow and debris left by disastrous week-end avalanches.

Austria had at least 95 dead, Switzerland 60 and Italy fifteen as a result of great slides crashing down Alpine slopes for the past three days. Whole villages were buried, houses broken like kindling wood and families entombed by the thundering snow.

In Austria, where an untold number of persons still are missing, Interior Minister Oscar Helmer said the government is considering appropriate aid measures for the victims.

The semi - official Swiss News Agency said that the disaster struck at least fifteen localities in Switzerland. Besides the 58 dead, it said, twenty others were missing and another twenty were reported seriously injured.

In Italy, in addition to the dead, at least 50 persons were injured, many of them caught beneath roofs crumpled by the weight of the snow.

The snow still was falling on the Italian side of the Alps, causing fears there would be more avalanches.

On the Swiss side the number of avalanches appeared to be decreasing, but officials warned that there still was danger.

Thousands of British and American sports lovers were temporarily isolated at swank ski resorts. Among the marooned were 500 British and 70 Americans at Davos, Switzerland.

None of the resorts were believed to be in any danger, however. They were said to have ample food stocks.

The unusual number of slides resulted from heavy snows last week. Avalanches are not uncommon in the Alps, but the week-end number was believed a record.

Throughout the night rescue workers toiled fervishly in an effort to save some fourteen men and women still buried at the Swiss village of Vals, 4,000 feet up in the Alps.

21 BURIED UNDER SNOW

A great mass of snow roared down into the little hamlet Saturday night, knocking over five houses and burying 21 persons. Twelve were brought out alive Sunday and five dead, including three children.

The village was cut off from communication with the outside world most of Sunday, but the army of rescue workers reached it late in the day.

Four cantons in Southeast Central Switzerland were the most severely hit by the slides. They were Graubuenden, Uri Glarus and Alais.

At Safien-Neukirch in Graubuenden a family of six was buried to death a mass of snow Sunday. The parents and two children were later found dead. One child still is missing. The other lived, badly injured, to describe the terrible experience.

More than 500 workers managed to free one track of the main line railroad from Eastern Switzerland to Italy, through the Gotthard Pass.

The mountain railway connecting Davos, St. Moritz, Arosa and other resorts with the outside world still is badly crippled. Officials hoped of open the line from Arosa Monday, but said that it would take several days to get through to St. Moritz.

Railway officials said all travelers who were forced to delay their journeys because of the snows, were being well cared for.

Our Weather

Fair and cold tonight, expected low 26 degrees. Tuesday, partly cloudy and warmer.

Sunrise, 7:28 A. M.; sunset, 5:41 P. M.

More Weather Data on Page 3-A

HOME-MADE SNOWFLAKES

You've probably read of artificial rain-making in the classroom by the use of dry ice. To make the rain, the scientists first make snowflakes which melt and fall as rain. You can perform the same experiment right in your home, if you have a deep-freeze cabinet. To make your own snowflakes, blow your breath into the deep-freeze until it forms a cloud. Then drop a piece of dry ice through the cloud. Tiny ice crystals, or snowflakes, will form. You can see them best against a background of dark material, under a strong light.

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