

# THE CHARGE NEWS

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## BITTER, IDLE, HOMESICK REFUGEES

(This is the first of three special stories on the biggest single subject to a post-settlement between the new state of Israel and its Arab neighbors. It was airmailed from the Middle East by C. A. McKnight, editor of The News, who has been on a four-week study tour of that area—Editors, The News.)

**JERUSALEM.** Israel's flat, dusty plains of Jericho slant upward from 1,500 feet below sea level to the Dead Sea to the west. Mount of Temptation. During the heavy rains of the winter, the dust turns to muddy clay and washes down the numerous wadis to the Jordan River and the salt-filled sea. In summer, the sun burns hot on earth and man. The air hangs heavy and still.

Sprawled across one section of the plain, just a few miles from the recently-excavated wadis of Jericho, is the Agabeh Jaber refugee camp. It is the biggest of the camps. It has 25,688 former residents mandated Palestine, sliced from their homes by the Israeli-Arab war of 1948-49, and now waiting for an improbable chance to return.

Agabeh Jaber is the biggest of the refugee camps in the little constitutional republic of Hashemite Jordan. Before the Arab-Israeli war, what is now Jordan had some 700,000 residents. The war dumped an additional 800,000 refugees across its borders, creating insoluble problems of food, housing, education, sanitation, and clothing.

In all, there are over 800,000 of these refugees. Less than 250,000 of them are living in camps provided by the United Nations Relief & Work Agency. The rest live in tents or huts around the borders of Israel—in Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Jordan, and Egypt. In the winter, when the rains come and the winds are cold, they seek the shelter of mountains, they come out of the hills and swell the camp population, overtaxing its limited facilities.

All refugees, whether they live in the camps or in the hills, get a basic food ration of 1,600 calories a day from UNRWA. Those in the camps also get medical service, sanitary facilities, school teachers. Much of their clothing comes from private welfare and relief agencies with the Lutheran World Federation carrying the biggest load.

UNRWA helps in other ways, too. For instance, the refugees can build their own mud huts but from the plentiful clay, but they have to rely on the U. N. agency for wood, sawing, and the needs for the fragile roofs that hold back the sun but occasionally soften and collapse under the winter rains.

There are no Christians at Agabeh Jaber. All are Moslems, and there is a mosque for their religious rituals.

The tragedy of the refugee camps is the continued idleness of so many potential productive workers in an area where the production if it is to lift itself from a social and economic Middle Age into the 20th Century.

No one works at Agabeh Jaber except the UNRWA officials and the children, who have to go to school, where they get vocational training in addition to a limited scholastic curriculum. The Arab men while away the days in near-complete idleness, hating the Jews, hating America, hating Great Britain,

hating anyone on whom they can blame their troubles.

It would be impossible to select a typical refugee. They come from all cultural, social and economic levels. Some were landowners in pre-Israel Palestine. Others were the equivalent of the U. S. tenant farmers. Some were Bedouin nomads who, like characters straight out of the Bible, spend their lives on the move, tending their camels and their herds of sheep and goats.

But the story of All Ahmad Saleh, though he is by no means typical, would not differ in essential details from dozens of others.

All is a slight, bronzed man of some 50 years whose labor, white hands bear no marks of hard manual work. As he stood before the United States American Christian Palestine Committee study group, he nervously twisted the strand of large amber beads that many Arabs carry with them as a substitute for doorknobs.

All's home was in the Kubab Village in the Lydda district of what is now Israel. He owned 24 acres of land, some cattle and 80 beehives. He estimates his total holdings at approximately 6,000 Palestinian pounds—about \$18,000—a figure that has probably grown as he mulled his loss.

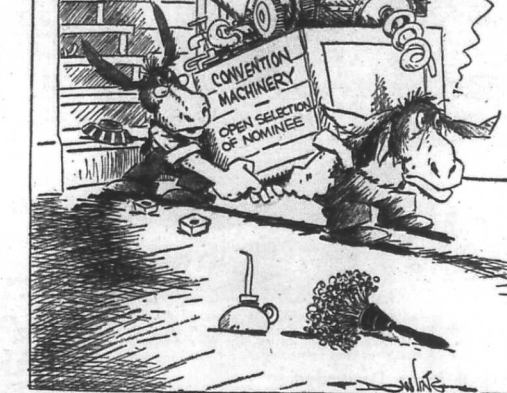
On the same night the British surrendered their Palestine mandate in May, 1948, All's village was invaded by Israeli forces. The nearest Arab troops were some three miles away, and were occupied with other fights. As the gunfire of the Israelis drew closer, All assembled his family, gathered together a few personal belongings, and fled to Arab-held territory. He has been there ever since.

Asked whether he would accept compensation for his property and resettlement in one of the fertile areas of Lebanon or Syria, All replied, "I will not accept compensation. I want my land back.

"I will not leave the Jews responsible for what the Americans and the British, who betrayed us. Even if they offer us compensation, I will not accept it. We want only our lands and our houses."

Halim Bera, young Jordanian official of the UNRWA, told us that All's unwillingness to accept compensation and resettlement in other Arab nations was typical of the overwhelming majority of the refugees. "They say they want only to return to their former homes, and I believe they mean it."

Thus is created the major impasse that blocks a permanent peace between Israel and its Arab neighbors.



## Rival Leaders Battle Textile Union Troubles

NEW YORK (AP)—The C.I.O.'s third largest union is on the ropes. At a moment when Phil Murray's steelworkers, with Harry Truman's help, seem on the point of getting the biggest wage boost in their history, and in a period when Walter Reuther's auto workers are quietly enjoying long-term contracts, Emil Rieve's textile workers are trying to fight off wage cuts while they battle among themselves.

Elected delegates of the Textile Workers Union of America assemble this week in Cleveland for their seventh biennial convention. They will face an admitted crisis. Their union's membership is declining. Elected delegates of the Textile Workers Union of America assemble this week in Cleveland for their seventh biennial convention. They will face an admitted crisis. Their union's membership is declining.

Against this dark backdrop civil war is flaring within the big brotherhood, which claims bargaining rights for 400,000 of some 1,200,000 textile workers in this country and Canada. One possibility: After the convention is over, instead of one king-size union arrayed against the mill owners, there may be two unions spending most of their time fighting with each other. And if T. W. U. A. does come back from Cleveland one piece, a bitter war of attrition may continue to impair its effectiveness as a bargaining agency.

Opposing general in this "brothers' war" are the year-old Mr. Rieve, who draws down \$16,000 a year as president, and George Baldanzi, 46, who gets \$13,500 yearly for his services as executive vice president. Both gentlemen operate from the eighth floor of the union's modern Manhattan headquarters. When they meet publicly in the elevator, the right to precede prevails when they talk about each other in the privacy of their offices their language drifts into unprintability.

These feuding leaders worship class harmony for many years. In the early 30's the body and rump Mr. Rieve, as president of the American Federation of Hoisery Workers, cooperated with the slight taller Mr. Baldanzi as president of the Federation of Dry, Finishers, Printers & Bleachers, another A. F. L. organization. In the late thirties when John Lewis got the C. I. O. rolling, they both helped found the Textile Workers.

In 1949, Mr. Rieve's associate urged Phil Murray to put Mr. Baldanzi in charge of a general C. I. O. campaign to organize workers in many industries throughout the South. At the time T.W.U.A. had close to 80 of its organizers on the payroll of the C. I. O. for the big push. But shortly after Mr. Baldanzi came drive director, Mr. Rieve began withdrawing these men from the general campaign. He confined them to organizing for the Textile Workers.

In 1950, at the last T. W. U. A. convention in Boston, the president abruptly attempted to purge his executive vice president. Mr. Baldanzi defeated the Rieve candidate, M. S. Bishop, vice president in charge of cotton and rayon activities, 1,250 to 150. Will another unseating attempt be made? Mr. Baldanzi thinks so.

## At Last Here's A Hotel Where Customer King

NEW YORK (AP)—It is not often that a hotel is built to please the customer. The new Hotel Green, which is now under construction in New York City, is being built to please the customer.

Man named Hank Green started out as a busboy in the hotel's dining room. He worked his way up to a position of assistant manager. He is now the general manager of the hotel.

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## END OF ANOTHER ERA IN JAPAN

SEVEN years ago this week Superfortresses from the Marianas attacked several airfields on Kyushu Island, Japan. U. S. carrier planes attacked targets in the Sakishimas.

That week Mussolini was shot and hung by the heels. The Americans and Russians joined on the Elbe and Stalin, Churchill and Truman hailed the junction. The San Francisco U. N. Conference began. Secretary of Commerce Henry Wallace had just received the Chinese administration of the mainland.

Viewed against this perspective, the end of the occupation of Japan and signing of the peace treaty yesterday are not startling. Attitudes, allegiances and alliances change quickly these days. The events of April, 1945, vivid in the minds of today's very young men and women, seem a part of an old and fading world.

Japan has come a long way since the days of the kamikaze and divinity of the emperor. The capital administration of General MacArthur, the negotiating ability of General Dulles, the statesmanship of Secretary of State Acheson contributed substantially, from this side of the Pacific, to the successful conclusion of the treaty and security pact.

The papers are signed, and the men who made possible Japan's return to the family of nations are deserving of great credit. But some of Japan's old problems, that contributed to her desire for conquest, are still with her, along with new problems. Trade and tariff wars increase their scope in the Pacific and elsewhere. Asia Japan's seeming millions continue to be forbidden permanent entry into many countries. Japan is under considerable pressure from the West, for good reason, not to trade with neighboring China.

The acid test of statesmanship will come in the meeting of the U. N. audience. If they are not successfully met, the treaty may become, as many treaties have, only a piece of paper of historical interest.

## MESTA WON'T MISS

THE career Foreign Service people can pick up some diplomatic pointers from Adam Pearl Mesta, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary from the United States to the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

Madam Pearl, who parlayed her fair for gracious entertaining and acquaintance with the right Democrats into a diplomatic assignment, recently extolled General Eisenhower's work in Europe to U. S. audiences. Some Democrats didn't like the way she was building up a strong Republican candidate.

## Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

A LOT of people are still speculating that Truman may change his mind and consent to be drafted by the Democratic national convention at the last minute—especially if the Republicans nominate Taft whom the President does not like.

A close friend of Mr. Truman's, who once served under him as an ambassador and accompanied him to Potsdam, has written a book on Truman's politics and is now himself in the position where he could not ultimately be drafted. The situation might be such, this elder statesman cautions, where the demands of the party would be too compelling.

"You know me," replied the President decisively, "I'm a mule. And when I make up my mind nothing can change it."

Truman's Word Reverberates  
HELP Bohlen, State Dept. counselor, walked in to the State Dept. staff conference at 12:30 last Thursday with a letter written over the usual news visagings.

## Truman Won't Decide To Run

JUST as such an ultimatum, the State Dept. worked for a long time preparing a diplomatic retortation of the President's refusal to run for a second term.

The State Dept. couldn't say so, but it was equally unhappy about the President's previous burble about the possibility of setting the pre-convention date.

Though he corrected this later, the State Dept. feared it might affect the fate of the freest and fairest newspaper in Bolivia, La Razon. The new government, which is pro-Argentine and has some Communist links, may well follow the example of Peron and seize La Razon exactly as he seized La Prensa.

U. S. For Free Press  
ON top of this, American diplomats for some time have been arguing in the U. N. for complete freedom of the press in Latin American governments.