

**VAN FLEET VISITS UN . . .** Gen. James A. Van Fleet, retired commander of Eighth Army in Korea, confers in UN headquarters with UN secretary general Trygve Lie (right), Andrew Cordier, assistant to Lie (left), and ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge, chief U.S. representative at UN.

**IN PERSON**



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*Scanning the News*

**T**HE ATTACKS by Russian planes on British and American aircraft in Europe are causing more concern in Washington than the general public realizes. The question is: What is the Communist objective?

A number of Western diplomats have indicated that it may be a deliberate get-tough pattern ordered by the Kremlin to feel out the West. Or it may be the means by which the Russian leaders hope to divert the attention of the Communist peoples from the recent death of Premier Stalin and their internal problems. In other words, a deliberate move to give the little Communists something else to think about.

Reaction in congress over the acts of violence have been of two rather extreme views. Senator Ferguson of Michigan represents one view and expresses it: "It behoves us and our allies to act with caution but firmness and to use wisdom and clear thinking rather than emotions. This does not mean that we must withdraw and appease, but it does call for an alert firmness."

The less cautious view is taken by Congressman Short of Missouri, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee: "When they come across the border in our territory we should shoot the hell out of them and if they fire on our planes from their own territory we should shoot back."

"As a result the United States has ordered its fliers to shoot back when fired upon. Washington naturally is worried because a few more of these incidents, shooting by both

sides, could set off another World War.

● Another big move to cut expenditures was the Eisenhower administration's order that the armed services reduce their civilian payrolls by 39,346 employees by the end of May.

According to the Defense Department the number of civilians employed by the armed forces at present is slightly more than 1,327,000.

Under the new program the Army's payroll will be cut from \$58,917 to \$31,000; the Navy's from \$74,682 to \$60,600; and the Air Force's from \$15,967 to \$20,600.

● Declining farm prices are now having the expected reaction in other fields, although many people are not aware of it at the moment. The farmers have taken a big tuck in their purse strings and are not buying tractors, feed, fencing, fertilizer and other agricultural necessities at the same rate as last summer. In fact, sales of most of these items have been off since last fall.

One of the nation's largest farm machinery makers reports that sales are off by about 10 per cent. Others in the field also report declines.

As this is being written, steers, choice grade are selling at \$24.50 a hundred in Chicago against \$37.25 a year ago. Grain prices have tumbled even with government price supports. This is the obvious reason for the penny-pinching now being practiced by the American farmer. And it is expected to continue for the time being.

U. S. citizens use approximately 26.8 pounds of cotton per year.

Two-thirds of North Carolina's forest is pine; one-third is hardwoods.

North Carolina has 3,800,000 acres of farmland.

As of February 13, the United States had certified for export 23,621,473 pounds of honey.

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Downy mildew disease has been one of the most serious threats to North Carolina's 7,000-acre cucumber crop.

U. S. non-agricultural exports increased 6 per cent during 1952 while agricultural exports dropped 15 per cent.

Well over half of North Carolina's peanut crop was dusted to prevent leafspot in 1951.

**Santa Claus In the Spring**

Santa is either late or early, but he is definitely working at Eastern Rulane Sales where customers have been loaded down with 45 free gifts and cash trade-ins on old ranges of \$50. It's all part of a Hardwick limited-time offer.

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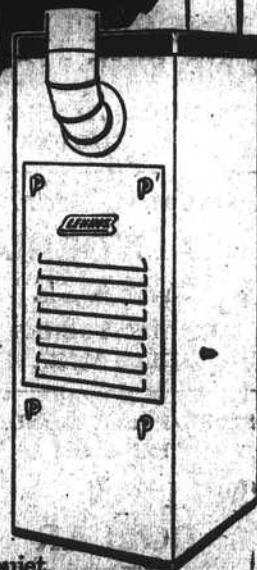
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