

# Terrific Blast Kills 33 In Mine Near Birmingham

## 9-Power Invitation Accepted

WASHINGTON, Oct. 16 (AP)—The United States formally accepted today an invitation to participate in the nine-power treaty conference over the far eastern crisis at Brussels on October 30 and designated Norman H. Davis to head this government's delegation.

Secretary Hull, in announcing the acceptance a few minutes after the Belgian ambassador had delivered the formal invitation, told his press conference the delegation probably will sail the middle of next week.

Other members of the American delegation were announced by Hull as follows:

Dr. Stanley Hornbeck, special political advisor to the secretary of state on far eastern affairs.

J. Pierrepont Moffet, chief of the state department's European division.

Robert T. Pell, an attache of the European division, and Charles E. Bohlen, also attached to the European division.

## AFL Agrees To Confer With CIO

DENVER, Oct. 16 (AP)—The American Federation of Labor accepted today the CIO's proposal for a peace conference Oct. 25 at Washington, D. C.

The federation's executive council addressed the following telegram to Philip Murray, chairman of the CIO peace committee:

"The committee of the American Federation of Labor composed of Vice Presidents Harrison, Woll, and Bugniet will meet your committee Willard hotel Washington, D. C., Oct. 25 10 a. m."

William Green, AFL president, said he regarded the CIO's proposal as "a full and complete acceptance of the proposition made by the AFL during the past two years."

When the federation suspended ten rebel CIO unions, the executive council named a special committee headed by George Harrison, president of the railway clerks, to try to make peace.

Green emphasized that the peace conference would be held "without conditions or stipulations." The AFL had turned down two CIO proposals this week because federation leaders interpreted them to mean that the AFL should go into the conference recognizing the CIO had been right in labor's big civil war.

Murray's proposal today, calling for a conference "with or without conditions," changed their position.

## \$100,000 Fire

## Bodies in Auto Bare 2 Murdered; Me. Boy Confesses

NORTH ARLINGTON, N. J., Oct. 16 (AP)—The bodies of an elderly physician and his wife, beaten to death with a hammer in Maine days ago and then driven leisurely through the New England states to New Jersey by a young high school boy, were found today in a parked automobile.

The high school boy, Paul Dwyer, 18, of South Paris, Me., who had stopped the machine with its gruesome cargo to get some sleep, confessed the double slaying, Bergen County Prosecutor John J. Breslin announced. "Double murder," he termed the case.

The victims were identified by police as Dr. John G. Littlefield, 64, and his wife, Lydia, 64, both of South Paris, Me. The physician's body was stuffed into a trunk on the back of the car. His frail wife was crammed under the rear seat. It was only by chance that police stumbled upon the slayings.

The youth, travel weary, was asleep at the wheel of the car, which he had parked in a vacant lot. Two patrolmen noticed him, becoming suspicious, they awakened him and took him to headquarters for routine questioning about a sum of money in his possession. Another officer meanwhile started examining the car and the slayings were discovered.

Chief of Police George Shippee said young Dwyer, a junior in the South Paris High school, talked readily. When the finding of Mrs. Littlefield's body was reported to headquarters, Shippee said, the youth directed them to look in the trunk where the physician's body was discovered. The place the car was parked is not far from Newark and only several miles from Jersey City and New York.

**Killed Doctor First**  
In Dwyer's own home, where the doctor had gone to examine him, the youth choked Dr. Littlefield and then beat him to death last Wednesday after the latter "made a crack about my girl," Shippee quoted Dwyer as saying.

Cramming the physician's body into a trunk, Shippee said the boy placed it in Dr. Littlefield's car and drove to his home. The chief said Dwyer then told him he induced Mrs. Littlefield to gather all the money she had and drive with him to Boston, where he told the woman her husband had fled "after killing two people."

Unknown to the gray-haired Mrs. Littlefield, her husband's body was in the very car in which they "searched" for him fruitlessly two days in Boston and Concord, N. H. Then, as they headed back toward home yesterday, Mrs. Littlefield became suspicious and threatened to call a policeman at Graham, a community south of Portland, Me., the chief said.

"Oh, no you don't," Shippee quoted Dwyer as saying.

## 5 Killed In Indiana Cars Crash

RUSHVILLE, Ind., Oct. 16 (AP)—Five persons were killed and another injured critically near here this morning in a head-on collision of a passenger automobile and a heavy truck.

Two of the dead were identified from papers in their pockets as Edward A. Beckett of Camp Point (Adams county), Ill., and John H. Hoke, also of Camp Point. Two women, believed to be the wives of the men, and a small boy also were killed.

Estel Johnson of Indianapolis, driver of the truck, suffered a fractured skull and physicians said he may die.

Rush county officials were unable to learn exactly how the accident occurred. The passenger automobile was traveling north-west.

## Four Conn. Auto Deaths; One Is Burned

ORANGE, Oct. 16 (AP)—Charles Turpin, 27, of Chester, Pa., was injured and burned fatally today when his automobile overturned and burst into flames on the Milford turnpike after being in collision with two large trucks.

A companion, Oliver Brown, 28, also of Chester, was hurled from the machine by the crash and was taken to New Haven hospital for treatment of a fractured pelvis. Attendants said he would recover.

Three men lost their lives on Connecticut highways last evening and last night.

George Gordon Hull, Jr., of Utica, N. Y., a Hobart college student coming to Hartford for the Hobart-Trinity game this afternoon, was killed last night in Warehouse Point when his car and another machine collided head-on.

Albert J. Warner, 33, of Norwalk, suffered fatal injuries shortly after

## Man Escapes But Can't Tell Of Experience; Rescue Crews Locate Bodies

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Oct. 16 (AP)—A terrific explosion killed 33 trapped men deep in Mulga coal mine near Birmingham early today.

Rescue crews battled heroically through smoke and dangerous gases to bring out the blackened and mutilated bodies.

Only one elbow of the mine was affected. Had the blast occurred near the mine entrance, all of the 350 workers at Mulga would have been trapped.

Mangled and burned, the bodies were brought up from the depths in coal cars. Approximately 500 spectators, including distraught wives, children and parents, watched the grim proceedings.

**Coal Gas Blamed**  
The detonation was heard in sections of Birmingham, more than 12 miles from the scene. Fire Marshal Sam Williams blamed coal gas for the blast.

Forrest Kelley, a miner, was first to reach his stricken fellow workers.

"Some of them must have been killed by 'black damp,'" he said. "They might have been saved if they had remained in a small pocket which was not demolished."

Many of the victims were covered by debris and identification was difficult. The grime-streaked rescue crews pulled the torn bodies from the wreckage of a working approximately four miles from the mine entrance.

**One Man Escapes**  
One man, Ivan Fox, escaped death in the blast. He suffered major burns and was unable to tell of his experience.

The bodies were taken to undertaking establishments at Bessemer, 13 miles from here, where a list of the dead was being compiled.

R. M. Marshall, vice president of the Woodward Iron Co., operators of the mine, said the victims were about equally divided between whites and Negroes.

Chief Deputy Sheriff Charlie McCombs said "most of the men apparently were thrown against the sides of the shaft with great force. Their gloves were burned off their hands, in many instances."

Marshal Williams said Mulga was "known as one of the 'hottest' mines in Jefferson county."

He explained that a "hot" mine is one in which coal gas collects rapidly. Despite this tendency, he said, the Mulga mine has not experienced an explosion since the Woodward Iron Co. began its operation. However, explosions in Mulga mine have claimed the lives of 56 men. A blast on April 20, 1910 took 39 lives, and 17 more were killed Oct. 5, 1914.