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VULNERABLE CRITICS

By CHARLES V. STANTON

The American press has come under severe criticism from two sources during the week.

Major General Charles A. Willoughby, General Douglas MacArthur's former intelligence chief, vigorously berated six newsmen who reported the ill-fated Yalu river campaign in October 1950 as a "disaster."

President Truman at a news conference Thursday angrily rebuked the press for stating that cessation of fighting on the Korean front, following the signing of preliminary cease-fire negotiations, originated from "the highest sources, possibly from the White House."

The general public, we believe, will not be misled. The public, we anticipate, will be inclined to agree with Arthur Krock, chief Washington correspondent for the *New York Times*, who said in his editorial column Friday that "whenever the Truman administration gets confused about major events, it tries to blame the free press."

Truth Withheld From Public

Innumerable instances could be cited of deliberate withholding of information from the public. Censorship in Korea has been on and off like a traffic signal. The press was very critical of intelligence errors which gave no warning of Red China's entrance into the Korean war. Our forces, which had swept to an inspiring victory in the Yalu campaign, were driven back with terrible losses. War correspondents wired tragic stories of the sufferings connected with that heart-breaking retreat. They were extremely critical because hopes of the fighting men and the nation had been lifted by MacArthur's "Home by Christmas" declaration, and because, through some disastrous error, intelligence forces had not discovered Red China's preparations for participation. General Willoughby understandably could still be smarting from criticism leveled by the press at intelligence failures. He is responsible for another failure in intelligence, however, when he attacks the accuracy and ethics of the veteran correspondents who contributed to the Yalu story.

President Irked By Errors

Nor is it difficult to understand the President's pique. Someone blundered by calling a false truce in Korea. It was denied at first that the truce was ordered officially. But evidence to the contrary is too strong to permit such denial to stand. Someone is again guilty of endeavoring to spread official misinformation. To cover up the blunder and provide an alibi, the President continues his efforts to discredit the press.

The Truman administration has not felt kindly toward a free press and free speech. It has attempted to belittle the press and to destroy public confidence in the press on frequent occasions. The President has written angry letters to reporters and critics. He recently attempted to permit his vast bureaucracy to set up arbitrary censorship.

The administration has attempted to serve the press with politically-inspired propaganda handouts. These handouts frequently withheld information to which the public was entitled and often were based on political expediency.

Editors throughout the United States protested this system and ordered more probing behind the scenes on the part of reporters to gather true facts. Undoubtedly probing by newsmen has contributed in at least some measure to exposures of graft, corruption, thievery and debauchery within the decadent administration. Perhaps there is reason why the press is in disfavor with the President.

We believe the public wants the truth. We believe the public is entitled to the truth. Certainly anyone with normal intelligence is aware that the administration has been neither truthful nor honest in furnishing the public with information.

This nation's newspapers during the last war subscribed voluntarily to a code protecting national security. There were virtually no departures from, or infractions of, this code. The press proved it was capable of protecting national security. It still is capable and is so doing.

But the press also desires to be truthful and honest. Because the press operates through the medium of human beings, it is subject to human error. It may make mistakes. But those mistakes usually are quickly discovered and quickly rectified.

Vituperation is not apt to hurt the press, coming from such very vulnerable sources as this week's highly-placed critics.



MENDING BASKET

Vahnett Martin P.O. Box 874, Drain, Or.

Nowadays one has little concern about a coast-to-coast trip unless it be the price of the ticket. But in 1839 when the "52 persons, sixteen of whom were children, collected together on the quarter deck of the Lausanne which then lay quietly in the bight, betwixt the east coast of Jersey and Sandy Hook," it was a different story.

And compare the modern bon voyage with the send-off they received. "Two hundred and fifty persons, who had endeared themselves to our very hearts by their kindness and solicitude for our welfare, accompanied us on the steamboat, when we embarked. . . . It was precisely fifteen minutes past ten o'clock when the signal was given for the boat to leave the wharf, and in a few minutes we were alongside the Lausanne, while the multitude that lined the shore were invoking many blessings on our enterprise, and by words and signs were bidding us a last farewell.

"The ship was immediately fastened to the boat, and we were gliding down the beautiful harbor of New York, first looking back upon the city, whose hundred gilded steeples were flashing in the sunlight, and then upon the immense shipping crowded for miles up and down the East and North rivers. . . . everything within our range of vision was gazed upon with so much the more interest, as they belonged to our own native country, and in all probability we were to see no more."

Gustavus Hines was one of the party recruited by Jason Lee and led by him back to the Oregon mission field. He continues describing the last farewells between the 250 well-wishers on the small boat escorting them out to the Lausanne: "The conversation was fraught with the most intense feelings and anxiety, which were manifested ever and anon, by floods of tears, and expressions of the most ardent wishes for our welfare and



Fulton Lewis Jr.



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WASHINGTON REPORT

WASHINGTON — From here on in the State department will function almost totally as a political arm of the Democratic party. President Truman assured us taxpayers of this fact, when he challenged the Republican party to an election year fight on foreign policy.

Nobody in the White House, for instance, is smart enough to answer Senator Robert Taft's criticism of U. S. diplomatic blundering. But a staff of State department experts are tearing Taft's recent book on foreign policy apart, for the President's exclusive use.

There is even talk that Secretary of State Dean Acheson will take the stump next fall on the President's behalf, but for his own safety Acheson ought to confine his speaking to radio and television studios. He will be shielded from ripe tomatoes if he does.

When Mr. Truman talks about tampering with the GOP on foreign policy he is not speaking about the Far East. He is talking about Europe solely. And it must be kept in mind that he won't be discussing any of the Democratic party's wartime dealings that gave Russia half of Europe and most of Asia, but just those events which transpired after he became President. Even so, the President will have his hands full.

For instance, as of today, Italy and France are on the rocks financially, despite the assistance of American billions and the advice of U. S. economic planning experts. Communism in those countries is on the rise again and huge amounts of rearmament money must be diverted into the consumer economy of both nations if the present governments are to survive.

This, naturally, will set back Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower's master plan of rearming European armies, including the Germans in the Western zone. In fact, right now new delayed deadlines are being set by Western defense leaders, who have been wrung dry of their early optimism concerning a rapid buildup of anti-Russian armies. With luck, Eisenhower will have a fighting free force by the end of 1954, instead of 1952 as initially planned.

This fact is a stinging political reality to Eisenhower, who needs a quick and successful military alliance in Europe as a backdrop for his political ambitions at home.

The general can thank President Truman's Korean war for his plight. This extended fighting has siphoned off most of the new weapons produced, that initially were supposed to be handed over to European armies.

All of these factors limit Mr. Truman's foreign policy latitude, ground to the narrow corridor of what he will claim is super-successful economic aid to Europe. The State department will plan the strategy of keeping American eyes off the fiasco in Korea and

elsewhere in Asia. The big pitch will be that the Russians would now be resting on the banks of the English channel if Mr. Truman and Acheson had not been master planners against Soviet inroads in Europe. In doing this the President and Acheson will be required to apologize for Gen. Ike's slow progress, and this isn't likely to endear the general to Republicans.

One stumbling block has the President and Acheson jittery. Gen. Douglas MacArthur is still around and anxious to keep talking about why we are taking such a pasting from the Reds in Asia. The general's strategy is as simple as the Truman-Acheson strategy is devious. He can simply keep pointing to the Korean dead while the President and his prime minister, Dean Acheson, keep ducking. A truce at the 38th parallel in Korea won't bring back U. S. troops by next November. Nor will it bring back the 100,000 casualties intact, including the 8,000 U. S. fighting men who were butchered by the Communists.

Hear Fulton Lewis Daily
On KRNR, 4:00 P.M.
And 9:15 P. M.

New Dept. Will Save Oregon Big Sum, Meet Told

SALEM — (AP) — T. Lawson McCall, administrative assistant to Governor Douglas McKay, told delegates to the Oregon Farm bureau convention here, that Oregon's newly created department of finance and management will save the taxpayers \$4,000,000 to \$5,000,000 a year when it "really begins to roll in about four years."

He said this would be accomplished through better management practices, streamlining and elimination of paper work and duplication.

The department, set up by the last legislature, already has eliminated a property control unit which cost \$45,000 every two years and saved \$3500 annually on printing the game commission bulletin, he said. It also has reduced the state's \$65,000 light bulb bill by 5 percent, McCall added.

State Sen. Den Walker, Independence, defended the state's tax structure. He said an additional source of revenue was needed to meet expenses.

Walker criticized state officials he said had not been willing to accept inflation controls. This was an obvious reference to attempts to sell bonus bonds which have been ruled inflationary by federal authorities.

Growth of the Oregon Farm bureau in the past year was reported by Cliff Wright, state organization director. He said a gain of 1060 brought membership to 5436 farm families, compared with only 1000 a year ago.

Ten counties reached membership goals this year he said. Among them were Baker, Douglas, Josephine, Klamath and Umatilla.

Senators Wayne Morse and Guy Cordon appeared at the convention and Morse spoke briefly.

License For Dam On Cowlitz Faces Stiff Resistance

SEATTLE — (AP) — Fisheries and conservation interests said here they will continue to "fight with every legal means" to block the city of Tacoma's newly authorized hydroelectric project on the Cowlitz river.

The state department of game and the Washington State Sportsmen's council said there will be no letup in the battle against the dam, for which a 50-year license has been granted by the Federal Power commission.

The state fisheries department also has opposed the Cowlitz river project. There was no immediate comment from Robert Schoettler, the department head.

John Biggs, newly named state game director, said the department would use every legal means to prevent construction of the dam.

"... They propose to sacrifice one of the finest streams in the state to alleviate a temporary power shortage," he said. "Furthermore, these dams cannot be built in time to have any effect on the present, temporary shortage."

A spokesman for the sportsmen's council said the council "may go clear to the U. S. supreme court before we are through."

The power commission announced Wednesday it has granted a 50-year license to Tacoma, Wash., to build and operate a hydroelectric project on the Cowlitz river in Washington state.

The commission conditioned the authorization on the city making further tests, and obtaining commission approval, before constructing any permanent fish handling facilities or fish protective devices.

Estimated cost of the project is about \$135,000,000 plus an additional \$7,000,000 which the city plan to spend for fish passage facilities.

In The Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

(Continued from Page 1)

Eighth army, would have gone that far out on the limb in a matter of such importance. Things like that are far over the heads of mere army commanders.

General Ridgway, our Far Eastern commander, is the next step above General Fleet. He has a lot of authority. But "cease-fire" orders reach too far up into the stratosphere of international politics and negotiation to be safely monkeyed with by even such exalted military commanders as Gen. Ridgway.

The assumption yesterday was that the order to quit shooting came from the White House, but that is denied by the White House press secretary who says that no such thing happened.

That leaves only the big brass in the Pentagon—which so far has remained as silent as the far-famed clam, doubtless on the theory that under the circumstances the less said the better. But it seems a bit unlikely that even the Pentagon brass would have issued such an order without consulting the President, who is the commander-in-chief.

But SOMEBODY put out the order. Somehow it got to the troops out on the front lines. They quit shooting — for a blessed little interval. Then, for some reason, it appeared to somebody that calling off the shooting wasn't a good idea and the order was recalled and now the guns are roaring again.

In an interpretive dispatch from Seoul, in Korea, this morning AP Correspondent John Randolph says: "It is now known that the orders (to stop the shooting on the ground) were classified as TOP SECRET — the highest government category of secrecy. As required by regulations, they went only to officers directly concerned with the action required — in this case, the chain of command."

Well, that's fair enough. BUT—

How are you going to KEEP A CEASE-FIRE ORDER SECRET? When the order is received by the troops and they obey it and quit pulling triggers somebody is going to know that something happened.

You can't keep top secret the fact that guns that have been firing for long months after long months have stopped firing.

So, after a cease-fire order has

been issued and obeyed and the firing on the ground lines has stopped and everybody knows it and the fact can't be successfully denied, why deny all the way from the top to the bottom that such an order was ever issued?

Personally, it seems to me (without, of course, knowing all the facts and all the circumstances involved) that the stop-shooting was a good idea. Why should our men go on killing Koreans and getting killed themselves while a truce is in the making — an armistice that if it went through would RENDER FUTILE all the deaths that occurred in the meanwhile.

But, if such an order was issued, why not stick to it? Why make a holy mystery of it? Why shake everybody's confidence IN EVERYTHING AND EVERYBODY by denials all around that anybody ever did issue such an order?

What wouldn't I give in these critical days when the future of our nation hangs in the balance for leadership at the top that I could trust and believe!

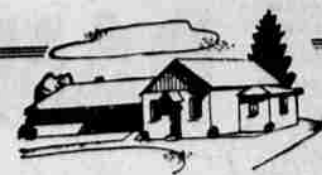
For me, that would change the whole face of affairs.

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