

Inactive Status Permits Gen. MacArthur To Voice Political Blasts At Will

By JAMES MARLOW

WASHINGTON (AP) — Anyone who has followed Gen. MacArthur's career for the past year may be a little puzzled by the rumpus over his making the keynote speech at the Republican national convention in Chicago.

There is an Army rule that an officer like MacArthur, on active duty, cannot participate in "activity at political conventions, or on political committees, the making of political speeches."

When Gen. Eisenhower came home to campaign, he went on the retired list. This left him free to run for the presidency or make political speeches since the Army rule covers only officers on active duty.

Last week Sen. Taft gained control of the GOP national convention machinery through appointments made by the Republican national committee which at the same time picked a Taft supporter for keynote, Gen. MacArthur.

This at once raised a question which, to those who have watched MacArthur or listened to him for the past year, might seem more academic than real.

It was this: Would the Army—or the Truman administration—let MacArthur, an officer on active duty, get up before the convention and make a political speech, perhaps plugging Taft for the presidency?

Truman, Pentagon Mum

The President has kept hands off, at least publicly. It would hardly be bright politics if he slapped MacArthur down again and in so doing not only created fresh sympathy for him but votes for the Republicans.

The Pentagon showed no eagerness to rebuff him, either. Tuesday it disclosed how it could let MacArthur, an officer on active duty, do what the rule book says an officer on active duty can't do: Make political speeches.

The Pentagon said that while MacArthur technically is on active duty, he is really in a retired status—like Eisenhower—although not formally, because he has no command and no present military responsibility.

In the light of MacArthur's previous speeches, there's a question still not answered:

When is a speech a political speech? Only at a convention? Or is it political whenever it's made if it attacks a political party in an election year and the speaker not only supports the opposition but might even be its candidate?

Singing Speeches Made
Since his recall from Japan MacArthur has made eight major speeches. The tone has been increasingly critical of the Truman administration without mentioning Truman by name.

MacArthur never left any doubt whom he had in mind. He has blasted the Truman administration across the board, not only for its foreign policy but for its political and economic philosophies and practices.

In the last of the eight—to the Michigan Legislature, May 15—he had such comments as these on the administration:

"Faltering leadership... fiscal instability... political insecurity... moral jeopardy... narrow-minded petulance... financial irresponsibility... reckless spendthrift policies... defeatist attitude... deplorable indecision... through... the

long tenure of one group in public office, the disease of personal power has become deeply rooted."

Now, while the Truman administration might consider that a very political speech, MacArthur took pains to say he didn't, which was like taking out a little insurance in case the Trumanites tried to knock him down for that one.

He assured the Michigan Legislature: "There is no politics in me, nor none intended in what I say. I plead nothing but Americanism... I have been impelled as patriotic duty of simple citizenship."

Ten Douglas County Students Get OSC Awards

CORVALLIS — Ten students from Douglas County were among the 1176 seniors and graduate students receiving degrees at the 83rd annual commencement exercises at Oregon State College June 9.

Thirty-four doctor's degrees, a record number, were granted this year. Of the total of 1176 graduates, 964 won bachelor degrees and 212 earned advanced degrees.

Dr. A. L. Strand, OSC's president, conferred the degrees. Candidates represented 27 states, 17 foreign countries and possessions, and 35 of Oregon's 36 counties. Students from Douglas County and the degree they earned include:

Graduate school — Kathryn Harkin Smith, Roseburg, master of education. For her advanced work she minored in education. She earned her bachelor of science degree in 1949 at the University of Oregon.

School of agriculture — Charles Olcott Bailey, Roseburg, and William Hammond Ashley, Myrtle Creek, bachelor of science. Bailey was also commissioned second lieutenant in the artillery of the United States army. Ashley received an ensign commission in the United States navy.

School of business and technology — Barton David Feldkamp, Donald Knoos Gerretsen and Robert Joseph Hercher, all of Roseburg; bachelor of science. Feldkamp was commissioned second lieutenant in the United States air corps.

School of education — Barbara June Young, Sutherlin, bachelor of science.

School of engineering — Richard Frederick Lytle, Roseburg, bachelor of science. He also received a second lieutenant commission in the United States army engineers.

School of forestry — Leon Verne Olson, Roseburg, bachelor of science.

School of science — George Leslie Downing, Roseburg, bachelor of science.

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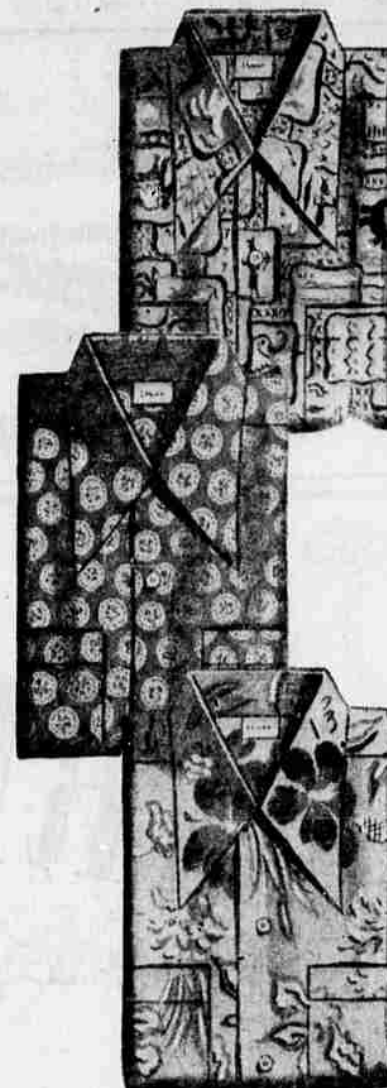
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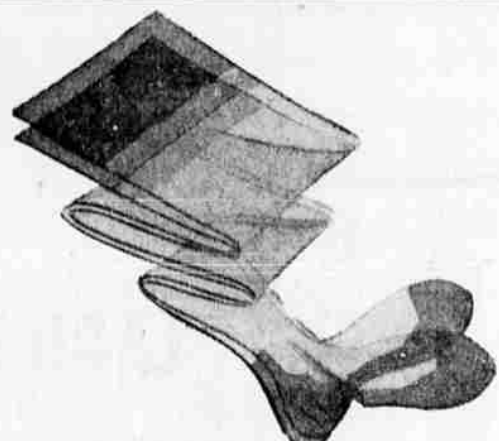
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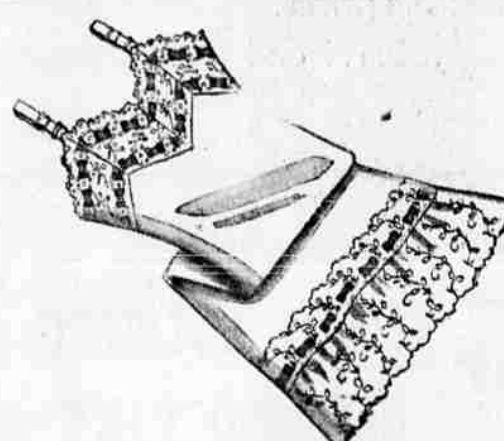
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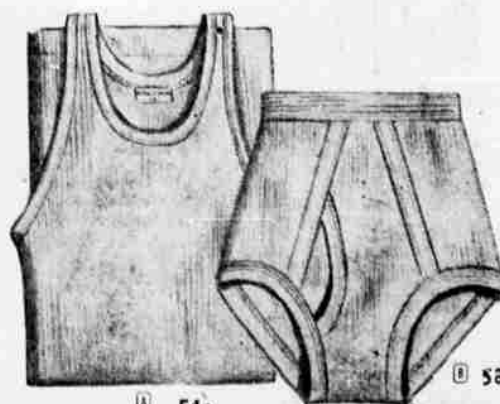
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