

SCANNING THE WEEK'S NEWS
of Main Street and the WorldU. N. Forces Near 38th Parallel;
Johnston Wants New Parity Ruling

WHERE TO NOW?—Grim, pipe-smoking Douglas MacArthur took time out from directing a war in Korea and his duties as top man in Japan to tell newsmen U.N. forces were insufficient in numbers to hold a line at the 38th parallel. He pointed out that there are no natural defense features anywhere near its immediate proximity.

The general's statement brought to the front again the question of what happens now that the Chinese have abandoned their last great defense center below the parallel and have retreated into North Korea. Do U.N. forces advance beyond the line and continue their campaign?

The British government has insisted for weeks, as a political matter, that the parallel was as far as U.N. forces should pursue the Reds. This view was backed by a number of United Nations members.

In Washington the situation was put like this: If the U.N. succeeds in smashing the next expected Communist offensive and the Reds then continue retreating, how far north should the U.N. forces go?

Prodding, hard-working Matthew Ridgway, commander in Korea, wanted a quick answer as his troops stood poised along the line. If his advance was stopped it meant a stalemate in the war and the dirty business of preparing a defense line on unfavorable terrain. If he was given the go-ahead signal it meant more of his slow but thorough tactics of "operation killer."

MEAT MAKERS—A big man in a pearl-gray ten-gallon hat stiffened, turned purple, and brought his polished boots from desk to floor with a crash: "This is the most outlandish thing those fools in Washington ever thought up," he exploded.

One of 2,500 ranchers attending a cattle raisers meeting in Dallas, he was expressing the view of fellow cattlemen who had just heard a government plan to roll back cattle prices 10 to 20 per cent.

That view of the government's attempt to hold down inflation and to regulate prices was not confined to his group. The automobile industry, labor, grain farmers, steel, and numerous others continued their screams. The cattlemen were just a little more colorful.

Cattlemen said a roll-back of prices would force curtailment of production and encourage black markets. Like farmers throughout the nation, they argued that production costs have advanced and that increased supply will regulate prices.

Said one rancher: "You can't control what the public is willing to pay for meat."

FOOD PRICES—Eric Johnston, the former fair-haired boy of the movie industry, lately turned economic stabilizer for the government, sent word to the White House he had found the way to hold down food prices.

Smiling Eric reported that the "parity extension" provision is the key to inability to keep food prices in line. So long as he and Michael DiSalle, the chubby price controller, cannot touch a food price until it gets above a "parity" that moves in a rapidly ascending spiral, they cannot control inflation.

This, Johnston said, is the heart of the problem. Unless food prices can be held and rolled back, there will be no holding wages. And if wages continue to go up, industrial prices and "parity" will keep on climbing and the economy will be torn apart.

Johnston has about as much chance of getting congress to repudiate parity as he would of getting Iowa to stop growing corn. Nevertheless, he recommended: (1) A change in the "parity exemption" provision of the present law; (2) authority to use subsidies to hold prices in line; (3) extended licensing powers; (4) adequate authority to handle labor disputes.

THE HOT SEAT—The hottest spot in the U.S. the past several weeks has been the witness chair at the senate crime investigating committee's hearing in New York. Occupying that seat has been gambling kingpin Frank Costello and handsome William O'Dwyer, former mayor of New York, now U.S. ambassador to Mexico.

The committee was trying to prove that Costello controls a gambling syndicate that reaches to the Main Streets of America. As for O'Dwyer, the committee wanted to know if there is any connection between gambling and big-time politicians in New York.

The hot seat really got hot when Senator Tobey, balding and acid-tongued member of the committee, asked O'Dwyer why such a "prominent man" as he should trot to the home of Costello to ask his advice and counsel.

O'Dwyer said he was carrying out an army assignment, adding, "They say there's a lot of it (bookmaking) in New Hampshire."

"Well, we haven't a Costello in New Hampshire," Tobey roared.

"I wonder," O'Dwyer retorted, adding that Tobey had sent to New York for campaign funds.



The realities of the Korean war are shown in the picture of two waifs, perched on a haystack, calmly waiting for U.S. troops in the background to fire a heavy mortar. Ask yourself this question: How would you feel if it was acted out in the U.S. and the waifs were American kids?

His usual blunt and straight-forward way, attempted to kill the story. His statement said "the President has never mentioned to me any political possibilities of 1952 whatsoever."

That should have been that, but rumors persist that Eisenhower will be available in 1952 to one of the major parties. As things stand now it would appear he could win hands down.

RENT CONTROL—A 90-day extension of the rent control law was passed by the house after heated debate. The measure already has been enacted by the senate. It was sent to the White House where the President was expected to sign it without delay. It becomes effective April 1 and expires June 30.

House members pushing the measure argued decontrol would interfere with recruiting workers for defense production and lift limits in defense and military districts.

CROP PROSPECTS

1951 Production May Set New Record

With a break in the weather, American crop production in 1951 may set a record, but whether the peak output is the answer to spiraling food prices is the big question, even for the nation's farmers.

One favorable trend is the growing number of beef cattle and hogs, sources of a major item in the country's diet. Cattle numbers are now at 84,200,000 head, compared

with a low of 78,000,000 in 1948. Stocks of wheat and corn, raw material for meat and dairy products, are ample and without acreage restrictions. Winter wheat planting is up one-sixth over last year. Indications in the midwest corn belt point toward another bumper planting this spring, officials of the department of agriculture said in a recent report.



Spring Offensive

IF RUSSIA follows the doctrine of the famous German war strategist, Count Karl von Clausewitz, as it has in the past, it would seem likely that Moscow would order an attack on Yugoslavia some time this spring, for Clausewitz taught that the time to make war is when you are strongest and your potential enemy is weakest. The moment your enemy begins gaining strength, according to the war theory followed by the Germans and Russians for the last hundred years, then it's time to strike.

A careful, cold-blooded diagnosis of Russian strategy in the past shows rather definitely that they expected the United States to fall apart at the seams economically after V-J day in 1946. The depression which even some American economists expected after the war was banked on by Moscow to start unemployment, unrest and riots and either bring the United States into the Communist orbit without war or else make military victory easier for the Russians. Certainly the expected depression, Moscow figured, would bring communism to Europe.

And there was a time, late in 1947, when this strategy almost succeeded in Europe. This was when droughts, plus a Communist-inspired strike of Italian harvest hands, plus French railroad and shipping strikes, plus riots and general war discouragement had certain European democracies near the tipping point. It was at this crucial time that such American aid as the friendship trains, followed by a special session of congress which voted food for hungry Europeans, followed by the Marshall plan broke the back of the Communist drive to take over Europe.

Since then the pro-American democracies in Europe have been getting stronger while the Communist movement is getting weaker. Moscow definitely missed the boat in those immediate postwar years and now is faced with the quandary of whether it may miss the boat again or whether it should cold-bloodedly precipitate a war, for the beginning in earnest of European rearmament under General Eisenhower means that the military advantage now enjoyed by Moscow soon must pass from its hands. Unpleasant as the contemplation of those facts may be, nevertheless they are facts we have to face and no country need contemplate them more carefully than the one nation which dared to thumb its nose at Moscow—Yugoslavia.

Tito Knows Russian Traits

When talking privately, the man who now bosses Yugoslavia is extremely frank about the danger of an attack on his country this spring.

Tito also expressed the view that, if the Russians attack, they will drive through the British zone of Austria, skirt one side of Trieste, and advance down the unguarded Dalmatian coast. This would cut off all Adriatic seaports and make it impossible for the United States to send military aid to him.

Simultaneously, Tito predicted, the Bulgarian army would advance from the opposite direction to cut off the rail line from Yugoslavia to Salonika (Greece). He added that, in anticipation of such an attack, he had established a series of hidden forts in the hills along the Dalmatian coast—forts that are well stocked with food and ammunition and could hold out for some time.

"I am not worried about an attack by satellite armies," Tito said. "The Hungarians, Poles and Czechs will not fight. The Bulgarians will fight better because they have been promised Macedonia. However," he added, "if the Red army itself attacks, that is something else again."

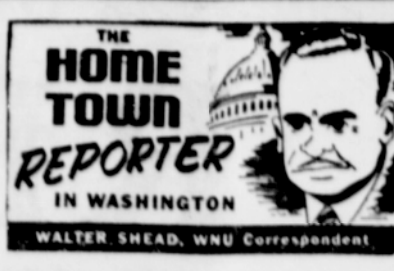
Tito also expressed the opinion that Moscow did not want the Korean war to spread and actually had tried to hold back the Chinese from taking the offensive against the U.N. forces there. He based this view on his own experiences with the Kremlin; also because the Russians had sent Yugoslav, Polish and other satellite nationals to work in China in an attempt to cement the Soviet orbit through an exchange of personnel. Some of these Yugoslavs, he said, had reported their impressions of Russo-Chinese relations back to him.

Vigorous in his denunciation of Russia, Tito said "We do not propose to become an appendage of Russia." Then, to his American friend he added, with a smile, "nor of America, either."

Well-Trained Troops

Perhaps the most important fact about present American aid to Yugoslavia is that, in effect, we are buying the support of 32 Yugoslav divisions. This brings up the all-important questions: are they prepared and will they last longer than the Yugoslav army in 1941?

The answers are obviously difficult. However, American military observers recently have been permitted to inspect Yugoslav troops and consider them well trained.



Inflation Battle

THE QUESTION of whether we are winning the inflation fight, which is an integral factor in the fight against communism, is probably the most discussed topic in the nation today, especially here in Washington.

From the political angle, it depends on which side of the fence you are standing; from the economic angle it depends on whether you are looking at the picture from an immediate dollars and cents angle or from the perspective of the long pull.

The most important question, however, is whether the American people are really trying to win this fight, whether they are back of the program now in effect wholeheartedly, or whether they are standing aside and watching the men placed in charge of the controls agencies bet their heads ineffectually against a stone wall.

Allan Kline, president of the AFBF, says, "We are opposed to price, wage and ration controls." Price and wage controls are in effect. He further says the real cure lies in increased production, strict government economy, pay-as-we-go taxation, effective credit controls, and sound management of the public debt. We have increased production. We have credit controls and a pay-as-we-go tax has been asked for by the President. Whether we have strict government economy or sound management of the public debt, is another moot question.

Labor leaders have walked out of the controls picture. They call it a "lockout." Walter Reuther, UAW-CIO president, says the "so-called price control order is a fraud on the American people." Thus we have leaders of the two largest segments of the people opposed to efforts now being made to halt price rises and inflation. Certainly there is no spirit of cooperation manifest there.

Now comes Eric Johnston, the director of economic stabilization, who says both labor and farmers are wrong. Johnston admits in the seven weeks he has been boss of the stabilization program nothing spectacular has happened, that cost and wage increases have not stopped. But, he says the rate in increase has been stopped and "that's the first victory in battling inflation."

Admits Mistakes

Johnston admits he has made mistakes, that he will make more, that he has much to learn, that he has stepped on toes, but that his choice has been between making painful progress forward, step by step, or being frightened to a standstill by people who yell "ouch." Johnston says he believes the farmer wants fair treatment and equal consideration, that industry wants the same thing, that labor wants that too, that all farmers, labor and industry are equally determined to do what is necessary to preserve a free America. But what they seek is only what THEY consider fair treatment for themselves. So what is fair treatment, he asks? No group is going to agree exactly with the others, or with him. But there must be an umpire. So umpriling will be his job and he's going to "call 'em like I see 'em."

Washington Silhouettes

One of the most venerable figures around Washington and the national press club is an old-timer—tall, lean, white-thatched Earl Venable, who came down here as a young newspaper man as secretary to Senator Borah back in 1908. For the past twelve years he has been secretary to the national Republican congressional committee. Before coming to Washington he was editor of the Idaho Statesman at Boise, and his father, Bert Venable, was a printer and publisher of the weekly Payette Independent, where Earl cut his newspaper teeth. Only recently Earl was retired as active secretary of the committee, although he is retained in a consultative capacity. Senator Malone of Nevada has introduced a weed control bill. While the senate crime investigating committee is investigating gambling and horseracing, some members of congress almost daily visit the race tracks near Washington—these include Laurel, Bowie, Charlestown and Pimlico.

More Agents Needed

FBI boss J. Edgar Hoover has asked congress for an additional \$26,000,000 to hire more agents. Hoover says Communists are "underground to a greater degree than ever before but that the FBI knows pretty much what they are doing."

Victory Gardens

Apropos of rising food prices, the senate agriculture committee says that more food can be purchased with the pay of an hour of factory labor today than in either 1947-48, or in pre-war years. And remember the victory gardens during the war? The department of agriculture is fostering the planting of thousands of home gardens to grow more food during the defense mobilization emergency.



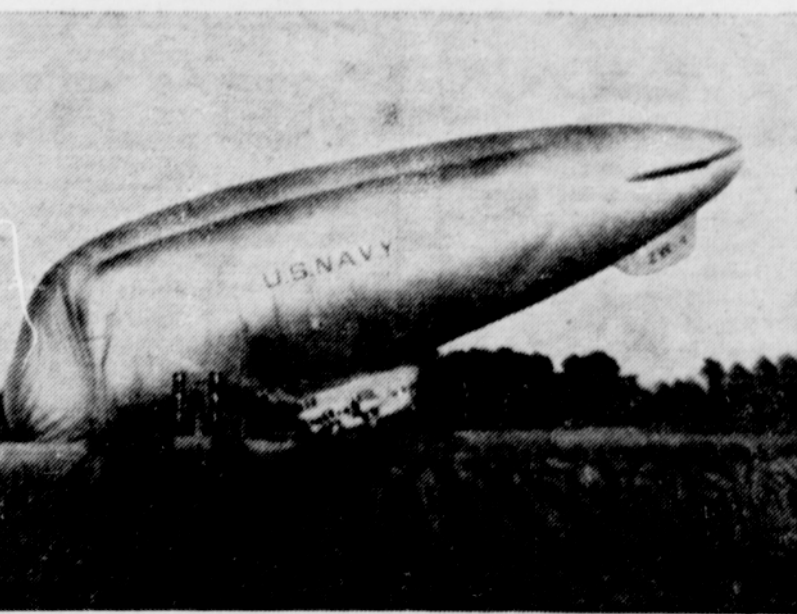
ROUND-THE-CLOCK EVACUATION WORK IN KOREAN WAR . . . A dramatic illustration of the heroic role being played on the battlefields of Korea by the transport evacuation planes which fly over the front lines, pick up the wounded of the United Nations forces and wing their way swiftly and safely to emergency hospitals with their precious cargoes. Here, somewhere over the Korean front, one such transport is shown flying through a cloud of smoke rising from the burning wreckage of another plane.



RED RADIO STATION IS IN BRITISH SECTOR OF BERLIN . . . One of the many incongruities in divided Berlin is the fact that the Communist Radio Berlin, sending out anti-western propaganda, is in the heart of the British sector. The British authorities have erected the sign warning the unwary that Radio Berlin is Red. This was made necessary after reports that a number of East Germans came to West Berlin to contact a western station to give valuable information on Soviet conditions only to find they were reporting to the Soviet-controlled Radio Berlin. They were arrested by secret police and whisked away to the Soviet sector.



A HORSE AND A FIDDLE . . . Tete-a-tete with Mrs. Hans Dittsheim at the "Bal des Chapeaux" in New York is Rene Jean Teillard, sporting a horse's head as fancy lid. Her bonnet is a violin. Society turned out in a big way for the event, staged for the benefit of the student ticket endowment fund of the New York Philharmonic Society, enabling public school children to get eutrate concert tickets. The motif of the evening seems to be "Hi diddle diddle, a horse and a fiddle."



BLIMP HAS BAD TIME . . . This U.S. navy patrol blimp crashed into the Pasquotank river near Camden, N.C., hurling Pilot Lt. John Vaughn into the water. He swam ashore. The craft rose with the rest of the crew and crashed a second time. Crash crew tried to take the blimp in tow, but it broke away. It finally came to rest in a corn field after drifting helplessly for two hours. After temporary repairs, the blimp was re-inflated and flown back to its base at Weeksville, N.C.



ENTERS RFC PICTURE . . . Rep. Wayne Hays (D., Ohio) charges that Republican National Chairman Guy Gabrielson (above) had obtained an 18.5 million dollar loan for his company, Carthage Hydrocol, Inc.



LOOKS FOR LOOT . . . Sylvia Shepherd will be only woman in 12-man crew that will sail from England soon in search of Captain Kidd's treasure. She holds a couple of Kidd's silver buttons. Her husband will lead expedition.