

SCANNING THE WEEK'S NEWS of Main Street and the World

Truman Relieves Gen. MacArthur From All Commands in the Far East

MACARTHUR RELIEVED—To millions of small-towners across the nation to whom Gen. Douglas MacArthur has become something of a legend, his removal from all of his commands by President Truman was a shock not easily understood. The action pointed up the seriousness of the break between the general, the White House, and UN statesmen which had raged for weeks over the conduct of the Korean war.

According to grim, stubborn MacArthur, he was fighting Europe's war with arms in Asia while Europe's diplomats continued to fight communism with words. In his blunt, barbed way, he wrote Joseph W. Martin, Jr., house majority leader: "It seems strangely difficult for some to realize that here in Asia is where the Communist conspirators have elected to make their play for global conquest."



Grim-Faced MacArthur
For him the war ends.

That statement struck at the administration's very basis of how to defeat communism. It threw European diplomats into a tizzy. It brought demands in congress that a special bipartisan committee be sent to Tokyo to hear the general's foreign policy views. It brought rumors of the breakdown on MacArthur which the people on Main Street could not believe would ever happen.

The action has produced a shock that may have serious consequences. In the next few weeks congress may possibly be involved in bitter debate as the general's cause is championed by the Republican party.

But above all, it has caused confusion and uneasiness in the mind of the average Main Street citizen whose common sense tells him there is no end in sight for the Korean conflict. It does not answer the question in the minds of millions of people in the home towns: How are we going to get our sons and brothers and husbands free of the blood and filth of Korea?

GRAPES OF WRATH—The people in the big cities of the nation know little about the "Okies" so vividly described in John Steinbeck's novel of the depression, "The Grapes of Wrath." But to the people in the small towns and rural sections of the nation, they have long been a problem—and a necessity.

There are millions of them in the United States, working from the south toward the north as the crops ripen for harvest. And as the harvest nears they are welcomed and just as anxiously the community awaits their leaving. They are poor, often underfed and inadequately housed. They present a problem on the home town level that the individual community is unable to solve.

At last, much to the relief of millions of home towners, the federal government has stepped in and made a survey of their problems. The committee that made the survey has recommended legislation on migratory farm labor that may solve wage problems, establish labor camps, extend social security, public health and education programs with the aid of states and local communities.

Of all the problems that faced the home towns of the nation, that of the migratory worker was one of the most serious. Its solution will be welcomed.

ATOMIC SPIES—In what was probably one of the most dramatic and moving scenes in a federal court in the history of this country, Judge Irving Kaufman sentenced Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, husband and wife atomic spy team, to die for treason.

Said handsome, 41-year-old Kaufman, one of the youngest judges on the federal bench: "I have searched my conscience to find some reason for mercy. It is not in my power to forgive you. Only the Lord can find mercy for what you have done."

Never before in a civil court of the United States had native-born spies been sentenced to death.

Morton Sobell, 34, fellow conspirator, was sentenced to 30 years in prison. The fourth member of the conspiracy, Mrs. Rosenberg's brother, David Greenglass, 29, was sentenced to 15 years in prison.

Thus ended another episode in the constant battle to keep the home towns of America free.

KEEP 'EM ON THE FARM—The old question of "how are you going to keep 'em down on the farm" showed up again in preliminary figures from the 1950 census of agriculture.

The census bureau announced that the tentative count of the number of farms in the country came to 5,379,043, a "real" drop of at least 280,000 for the first five postwar years and at least 500,000—or about 8 per cent—for the last decade.

The bureau put forth three major reasons: (1) A trend toward combining small farms to form large ones. This was most pronounced west of the Mississippi. (2) A trend away from production of food for home use or sale. (3) Rural people taking jobs in nearby city industries and dropping production of food.

THE LEVELING OFF—Michael V. DiSalle, price director, said in his latest statement that his ceilings have brought "some stability" into view, but that higher taxes and tightening of money and credit supply are needed.

The question in the minds of home town housewives was whether or not the line will hold, or whether there will be another upward spiral in late summer as predicted by many economists.

In defense of controls, DiSalle said: "We had to start price controls. It was a psychological move to combat the factors that were driving us toward a serious inflation."



Labor Policy Committee
At Truman's invitation labor returned to the Defense Board.

U.M.T. DROPPED—The house armed services committee dropped efforts to write a universal military training program that would have reached into the home of every family in the nation. The senate had previously approved establishment of a U.M.T. program in connection with pending draft legislation.

The committee adopted an amendment by which congress agrees to consider recommendations to be made later by a five-man U.M.T. commission. Legislators who approved of U.M.T. said they believed universal military training will be enacted within a year.

THE HIGH SCHOOL PROBLEM

Large Numbers of Students Quit Classes

According to a national survey of home town high schools, boys and girls are dropping out of their classes at an increased rate. The study revealed clear danger that the trend may reach proportions comparable to the exodus of students during World War II.

Educators in the high schools of the country are being urged to conduct a "stay-in-school" drive to

persuade students to remain until the completion of their courses.

Major reasons for school-leaving were said to be increased employment opportunities, expectation of the draft, economical need, lack of interest in academic work, and restlessness, insecurity or social maladjustment. In the case of those awaiting draft summonses, their grades often suffer.



Increased Taxes Urged

THE Committee for Economic Development, a business organization long regarded as sound and eminently fair in its outlook on governmental affairs, has submitted a tax program for the congress which calls for a reduction of \$6 billion in the 1951-52 federal budget and \$10 billion pay-as-you-go tax increase.

In carrying out this program the committee makes the following recommendations: (1) an additional 5 per cent tax on taxable income after present exemptions and the present tax, (2) a corporate profits tax which would bring the combined income tax rates on profits in excess of \$25,000 to 50 per cent as compared to the present 47 per cent; (3) an increase in the manufacturers excise tax on automobiles to 20 per cent from the present 7 per cent, and on refrigerators, television sets and other consumer mechanical durable goods to 25 per cent from the present 10 per cent, an increase in the present federal excises on alcoholic beverages, tobacco and gasoline; a new excise of 5 per cent retail sales on items not now subject to federal excises, excluding food, housing, fuel utilities, and certain other items difficult to tax. The main categories subject to tax would be clothing and household furnishings; (4) a number of other tax revisions to increase revenue including taxation on interest of future issues of state and local securities, collection at sources of individual income tax on dividends and taxation of cooperative businesses.

The committee stressed the need for quick action on taxes and warned that the nation faces a shift from a surplus in fiscal 1951 to a deficit estimated in the budget at \$13 billion in 1952.

Farm Net Income Down

As a matter of fact, all the statistics, of both the departments of labor and agriculture show that farm net income in 1950 reached a low of approximately \$5 billion under 1947, about a billion under 1949 and 3½ billion dollars less than 1948. The per capita income of farmers also shows a tremendous decrease as compared to incomes of the city folks. In the face of over-all increase in national income from \$209 billion in 1949 to \$215 billion in 1950, the net farm income dropped to \$13 billion, or a billion dollars under 1949. A report of Sen. Allen Ellender's committee on agriculture says in terms of dollars with a 1945 purchasing equivalent, farmers in 1950 had a net income of only \$8.5 billion as compared to \$12.8 billion five years earlier. But that would be true, of course, of any segment.

Farm Parity Fight Indicated

There is every indication that a bitter struggle will be waged in this congress for and against repeal of the farm price support legislation. And strangely enough, although all four major farm organizations here in Washington oppose it, the New York Farm Bureau Federation recently expressed its willingness to do away with the program in a full page ad in the Wall Street Journal.

The ad, however, was sponsored by the committee for constitutional government, a more or less questionable outfit. But the move to abolish farm supports is said to be gaining adherents in the senate under the theory that the price support program and the parity system in some manner is causing high prices and aiding inflation.

Labor Opposes Sales Tax

Insofar as its \$10 billion dollar tax increase is concerned, the committee may have hit on about the right sum, although the President asked for a \$16 billion dollar increase. It is believed, however, that the chief executive is now reconciled to the fact that congress will not take that big a chunk out of the income at one stroke. But where the CED is in for strong opposition is its recommendations for a sales tax and a tax of the patronage dividends of cooperatives. Labor always has been traditionally opposed to a sales tax in principle, although the CED proposal exempts food, housing, fuel, etc. And farm organizations are equally opposed to the tax on coops.

Washington Silhouettes

Decision to defer some boy from military service because he gets better marks in his school work than another, is not going down so well. . . . Mike DiSalle, price stabilizer seems determined to go ahead with plans to bring live cattle and hogs under price ceilings. . . . Federal Trade Commission has ruled Carters Little Liver Pills has been using fraudulent and misleading advertising, that they have no therapeutic effect on the liver.

Contented Cows

Expert Says No Such Thing

COLUMBUS, Ohio—For the farmers of the nation the University of Ohio has a new message, specifically, there is no such thing as a contented cow.

The university's cow psychologists said in a recent report that bovines are sensitive creatures churned by emotional conflicts.

Ohio State scientists are working on a cooperative pasture study with the University of Minnesota.

According to the scientists cows are constantly affected by social arrangements of the herd. Every herd has a queen cow. Competition for the top run in cow society causes unsuccessful social climbers to become embittered and maladjusted with consequent loss in milk production.

Ku Klux Klan Cross Stirs Small Town; Leftists Attacked

RICE LAKE, Wis.—Two leftist groups recently offered a reward of \$200 for information that would lead to the arrest of persons who placed "huge Ku Klux Klan crosses" on two Barron (Wisconsin) farms.

The reward was offered in an advertisement placed in the Rice Lake Chronicle by Stanley Jones, secretary of the People's Progressive party. The money was raised, the advertisement stated, by the party and the Civil Rights congress. The congress has been labeled a Communist front group by the United States attorney general.

The first cross, with a noose attached, was placed on the farm of Herman Olson, two miles west of Rice Lake, on Jan. 10, 1951. The second, with a butcher knife inserted, was erected Feb. 20 on the property of Lumir Subrt in the town of Bear Lake, Wis.

Subrt is secretary of the Barron county chapter of the Civil Rights congress.

Sheriff Harry Jensen was reported investigating both cases and sent both the noose and knife to the Wisconsin crime laboratory at Madison for study.

The Communist party, it was reported by Barron officials, has been working for several years to gain a foothold in the Rice Lake area. Membership in the county, however, was believed to be small but well organized.

As an outspoken critic of Communism, the Chronicle by the civil rights group, Attorney Sam P. Rigler of Rice Lake, over whose door a swastika flag and a noose were draped last year after he made an anti-Communist speech, has also been criticized by the civil rights group.

The advertisement announced the \$200 reward in connection with the crosses on the Olson and Subrt property said that the crosses were "a threat." If such threats are continued, it stated, "we face years in which the traditional freedoms of America embodied in and symbolized by the bill of rights will be abandoned."

Ord Taxpayers Send Trousers to Washington

ORD, Neb.—The seven taxpayers from this small community who mailed their pants to congress recently may have started something. Business men and Republican leaders throughout the state joined in acclaiming their action.

The men each sent a pair of trousers to their congressmen to emphasize their stand for economy in government. Along with the trousers they sent a picture of them posing behind a sign which read: "Congress—Here's Our Pants."

Ord, population 2,240, may find itself the source of the most significant taxation protest in years.

Earl A. Virden, Ordawa, Iowa, in a telegram to the mayor of Ord, said: "The most significant taxation protest since the Boston tea party. Let's make it a national movement. Am down to my last pair, but they go tomorrow."

The movement gathered large support throughout Iowa and Nebraska. Owen Cotton, secretary of the Nebraska Small Business Men's association, expressed the view of many in the state: "A good stunt, that dramatizes something that's a very real problem. I've got an old pair congress can have."

Large Livestock Claims Paid to Illinois Farmers

VANDALIA, Ill.—Fayette county, Illinois, recently paid \$2,885.50 to farmers in thirteen of its twenty townships for livestock killed or injured during 1950 by marauding dogs. The claims, paid out of the dog tax receipt, was the largest amount for several years.

However, under the present high market prices of meat, the owners of livestock do not often recover full value for their losses. Illinois law, for instance, places the maximum for loss or injury of a sheep at \$15.

The largest Fayette county claim paid was to John Hopkins of Vandalia township in the amount of \$452. The second highest claim paid was to Chester Halford of Hurricane township for \$70. In all 32 claims were paid.



COMMUNIST SURRENDERS TO U.N. FORCES . . . A Chinese Communist prisoner, who has been hiding in the field alongside this road, crawls along the road just after creeping from his hiding place to surrender to soldiers of the United Nations forces. This incident occurred near the 38th parallel, as the U.N. forces were extending their beach head across the parallel in the face of a tremendous Communist buildup. At the time this picture was taken, U.N. officers were expecting the outbreak of a new spring offensive by the Red hordes gathered in North Korea and across the Yalu river in Manchuria.



A FRENCHMAN RETURNS FROM INDOCHINA . . . Blinded in battle and lacking his right hand, also lost in battle, a soldier of France arrives back in Paris from the wars against the Communist rebels in French Indochina. Two of his buddies carry his baggage and aid the disabled veteran to a waiting bus which will carry him on his journey home. This veteran was one of a group of 91 wounded French veterans of the Indochinese fighting who arrived in France from the foreign battlefield recently. They have given good account of themselves, forcing the Reds to revert to sniping after a full-scale offensive.



"MISS HOME FIRES" . . . Voted by the first marine division fighting somewhere in North Korea as "the girl we would most like to come home to," Miss Home Fires shows all us folks back home what the leathernecks mean when they want to come home to a girl. Their female "destination" is Miss Betty Gray of Chicago, Ill. Miss Gray's fame was spread by Corporal Clark Kelly. The World War II practice of voting girls various titles is in full swing in Korea.



WANTS AMBASSADORSHIP . . . Miss Marie Geneau, assistant of senate sergeant at arms, made a two-month study of Haiti and asked for job as U.S. ambassador there when the present ambassador retires after 30 years service.



CAUGHT SHOPPING . . . James Dunbar stands still as a dummy in a haberdasher's window in Times Square, New York City, while patrolman encourages his immobility with a gun. Standing in left background (face hidden) is Leonard Brown, allegedly Dunbar's helper. Dunbar entered window through hole in glass to the right of the doorway, with the intention of passing out merchandise to Brown. But Patrolman Hayes ruined the act.



WILL PRESIDE . . . Mrs. John E. Hayes, Twin Falls, Idaho, president of the national congress of parents and teachers, will preside over the group's 55th annual convention, May 21-23 in the municipal auditorium, Miami.