

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

MacArthur Given Hero's Welcome; Divided Nation Questions Issues

AN AROUSED NATION—No one event in the recent history of the United States has caused as much comment among the people on the Main Streets of the little towns and big towns of the nation as that of the dismissal of Gen. Douglas MacArthur from his commands in the far east. It was a shocked and angry nation that gathered on Main Street when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. It was a happy nation that demonstrated at the end of World War II. But it was a divided nation that questioned the removal of MacArthur!

New Commanders



Lt. Gen. Ridgway



Lt. Gen. Van Fleet

With the removal of Gen. Douglas MacArthur from his commands in the Pacific, Lt. Gen. Ridgway has taken over MacArthur's posts in Tokyo. Lt. Gen. Van Fleet assumed command of the 8th army in Korea, succeeding Ridgway.

means less chance of total war. . . . Bonn—"Most Germans believe that at worst General MacArthur's impulsiveness would involve the United States in a general war."

THE PRESS—Back of the national scene the home town press took a more temperate view of the incident than expressed by the thousands of telegrams that were received by senators and congressmen. The home town editors were concerned about constitutional rights and which is more important to world peace, Asia, as believed by MacArthur, or Europe, as believed by Truman.

A survey of 78 leading newspapers in the daily field showed this division of opinion: Truman right, 38; Truman wrong 26; neutral, 14. The daily press, too, was deeply concerned over issues concealed in the first blast of tempers.

THE CONGRESS—And while the Truman-MacArthur controversy raged along the Main Streets of the nation, the debate reached the boiling point in the house and senate. It can be said with all truthfulness that the dispute reached the stage where those two bodies of men, representing the people of the United States, stripped themselves of what little dignity remained after three years of battling over domestic and foreign issues.

The debate, for the most part, was along party lines with the Republicans backing MacArthur and the Democrats plugging the President. Both sides hurled the label of "war party" at the other. There were indications, however, that the two parties might get together for a sweeping investigation of the administration's far eastern policy.

ANOTHER LONG WAIT—While the nation talked of the Truman-MacArthur controversy, the house passed its version of a draft bill. But the mothers and fathers in the small towns of the nation appear in for another long wait before they learn the fate of their sons.

The measure now goes to a house-senate conference committee that has the senate version of a draft. The conferees face a long and hard struggle to work out a compromise. Long-range training features of the two measures pose the greatest obstacle to quick agreement. There are, however, numerous other conflicts that will require time to adjust.

At the moment it appears very likely that a compromise bill might not become law much before July 9, the expiration date of the present selective service act.

FARM MACHINERY OUTPUT—The long-awaited cutback in farm equipment output is expected during the next three months, industry spokesmen reported, with production of about 75 per cent of the industry's capacity. Production of farm tractors for the first quarter of this year was higher than in 1950, but material shortages are expected to reduce schedules.

From January through March, 152,260 farm tractors were produced. In the corresponding months of 1950 the total was 147,972 units. The increase was attributed to use of materials stockpiled during last fall's strikes. Accumulated materials have been used up, however, and manufacturers are having difficulty securing quantities to keep pace with production schedules.

DEFENSE JOBS GO BEGGING—The people of the home towns of the nation are not rushing into defense jobs as fast as some government agencies desire.

Robert C. Goodwin, director of the bureau of employment security, reported that 50,000 unfilled jobs clog the rolls of state employment offices as the nation's defense program shifts into second gear.

The unfilled jobs are for workers in professional, managerial, skilled, service, clerical and sales, semiskilled, and unskilled fields. Thirty-six states reported openings.

DECISION SOON—Since March 5, when deputies of Great Britain, France, Russia, and the United States began meetings in Paris in hope of agreeing on an agenda for another foreign ministers' conference, the people in the home towns of America have waited patiently for an announcement that perhaps the big four could get together.

A decision should be reached any day now and the democratic nations believe the Soviet Union will agree to the conference. U.S. diplomats believe the Russians will agree for three reasons: (1) To stall, or at least put a brake on the accelerated defense programs of the free nations of the Atlantic alliance; (2) To exploit and widen whatever difference may still exist among the western powers and to divide them on important policy issues, if possible; and (3) To use the proposed conference, bound to be one of the most widely reported events in recent history, as an organ of propaganda for Soviet "peace aims."

FARM SECURITY TAXES

First Farm Social Security Report Due

The first social security tax and information returns for farm and household employees, together with payment of taxes, was due on or before April 30.

The social security tax and information return covers the quarterly period of January, February, and March, 1951. The farm and household employees involved those who were brought into the federal old-

age and survivors insurance system on January 1.

Whether or not a farm or household employee's wages are subject to the taxes depends on the number of days worked for the employer and the amount of cash earnings. If in doubt concerning taxes due, farmers are urged to see the nearest internal revenue collector at once.



WALTER SHEAD, WNU Correspondent

Truman Within Rights

SOBER reflection over the historic and dramatic action of President Truman's dismissal of General of the Army Douglas MacArthur; the President's unheralded fireside radio and televised talk to the nation; the political fireworks and wolf cries aimed at the chief executive and the repercussions throughout the world, lead to the following considered conclusions:

First, and most important—National leadership has again been firmly established in the White House at a time when people had begun to wonder about that leadership.

Second—The foreign policy of this nation, particularly with reference to the far east and Korea was made crystal clear by the President in simple, unmistakable language.

Third—Traditional supremacy of the civilian over military leadership in our democracy has once again been affirmed and made clear.

Fourth—General MacArthur, in the words of his fellow officers in the Pentagon, "had it coming to him." A lesser officer in MacArthur's own command would have faced a court martial for the same disobedience to orders.

Fifth—Certain Republicans, seeking to make political hay, will not stop at even making the aged national hero a political football. His real friends, such as Gen. Eisenhower, urge him to take his orders as a military man should, without a whimper. If he does this, he will go down in history as a great military hero with even some aura of martyrdom hovering over him. If he does not, and enters into a political controversy, congressional committees will tear him to shreds and make of him a political scapegoat, for there is no defense to disobedience in the military code.

Sixth—The congress likely will never vote a joint session to hear General MacArthur. As a matter of fact, he has never told anyone he would appear before a joint session. Neither will demands for "impeachment" of President Truman ever take shape. These demands on both counts, for MacArthur's congressional appearance and the President's impeachment, come from the same hard core of isolationists in the house and senate; from the same coterie of 21 senators who egged on the great debate on the troops to Europe and finally went down to defeat on that senseless issue 69 to 21. So there will be no impeachment of the President who is well within his rights and powers under the constitution. Folks must remember that the constitution, not the congress, gives the president his inherent powers as the nation's chief executive.

Seventh—American allies in the North Atlantic pact, members of the United Nations, except Russia, and her satellites, feel easier about prevention of a new all-out war as a result of the MacArthur ouster. The embassies and legations here have kept the diplomatic pouches and cables hot with messages relative to the whole picture and particularly the "new" Truman who spoke with such vigor and angry inflection over television and radio.

Eighth—Despite one's sympathy for General MacArthur, the President pointed out "the cause of world peace is more important than any individual." When and if MacArthur returns home, he will be given a hero's welcome, for he deserves it for his past performance.

Farmers Need Leadership

The American soybean association which publishes "The Soybean Digest" believes that the great midwest area is inadequately represented in congress at present.

Says the Digest published at Hudson, Iowa, "The great midwest area is directly in need of an agricultural statesman . . . a man who is the kind of leader around whom members of congress and farm organizations might rally when the occasion presents itself. He should be first of all, enough of a statesman to represent all the people of the nation . . . He must be strong, reliable, broadminded man of decision and action. The farmer of the midwest is very inadequately represented in Washington at the present. Members of congress from that area are without a strong man about whom they can rally."

Right now, this reporter cannot think of any one in congress from the midwest, who stacks up to the Digest measuring stick.

Tree Planting Too Slow

April 10 was the 79th anniversary of the first Arbor Day, with the tree-planting movement in the country stronger than ever before. Agriculture department reports last year a half million acres were planted to trees, of which 80 per cent was by private individuals and organizations. But about 60 million privately owned acres and four million acres in national forests need planting, which at present rate of reforestation would take a 100 years.



BY DREW PEARSON

The Midnight Statement

IT WAS not until about 11:15 Tuesday night that President Truman actually decided to issue his 1 a.m. statement firing General MacArthur.

The decision to make this momentous step had already been taken, but the timing was set for Friday, not Tuesday midnight. And the reason for the sudden nocturnal press announcement was a telephone call from Secretary of the Army Pace in Tokyo tipping off Truman that MacArthur planned to jump the gun and get out his own statement first.

The President was still smarting from an incident around March 24 when MacArthur had jumped the gun on him, so naturally he was leery. He had sent MacArthur a policy statement for his perusal and personal reaction—a policy which the White House planned to announce as a peace feeler to China. But MacArthur, without notifying Washington, issued the statement himself.

So when Secretary Pace called from Tokyo Tuesday night intimating that MacArthur might rush into print again, the President called Secretary of State Acheson and Deputy Undersecretary Dean Rusk to the White House where they prepared the MacArthur press release.

Prior to that, late on Monday afternoon the joint chiefs of staff held a highly secret session at which there was unanimous sentiment that MacArthur must go.

Bradley Gets Hot

Gen. Omar Bradley, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, and a most mild-mannered man, was hottest under the collar against MacArthur.

Adm. Forrest Sherman, chief of naval operations, and reported by some as favoring MacArthur's strategy against China, actually threw his weight behind Bradley. Though MacArthur's tactics included a naval operation against China, Admiral Sherman argued that we can't afford to get involved in a war with China, and that if you go into China just a little bit—as in bombing bases—you have to be ready to go in all the way.

Only military man who dragged his feet on MacArthur's ouster was Secretary of Defense Marshall, who has known MacArthur a long time, is 70 years old against MacArthur's 71, and who was in France as a World War I captain when MacArthur was a brigadier general.

Ridgway Can Hold

One highly significant exchange of information made between the pentagon and Lieut. Gen. Matthew Ridgway in Tokyo was a cable from Ridgway stating that no matter what happened, his troops could hold out for 60 days. Regardless of what was thrown at him, Ridgway informed the joint chiefs of staff, he could hold for two months.

This cable was in reply to White House fears that following MacArthur's removal, there might be a Chinese attack and a series of American defeats for which Truman, having removed the supreme commander, would get the blame.

Humble Harry

President Truman's usual peppery remarks have not been in evidence during the MacArthur controversy—not even to his personal advisers. The nearest he came to pepper was at last week's cabinet meeting, just after ex-speaker Joe Martin released the MacArthur letter.

"It's time to show the MacArthur, the Time-Life people and the Scripps-Howard newspapers who is running American foreign policy," he observed tartly.

Day after MacArthur was relieved, however, Truman received a call from ex-congressman Maury Maverick of Texas, who congratulated him.

"What you have done will make sure that my grandchildren will be free and that civilian government will continue in the United States," Maverick said.

The President was neither cocky nor apologetic. He looked a little sad, as if he had made a terrifically hard decision and knew that a terrible storm was going to break over his head.

"Thank you, Maury," he replied. And he wept just a little. "I do my best, I have to follow the constitution."

Rayburn's Ghost Troops

What Speaker Sam Rayburn had in mind when he told congress that "non-Chinese" troops were in Manchuria, was not Russian troops, but four divisions of Russian-trained Japanese troops . . . there has long been a small contingent of Russian troops in Manchuria used for purposes of turning Russian equipment over to the Chinese. But there have never been any Russian combat troops in Manchuria. Much more dangerous are the Red divisions massed around Siberia.



LONG TOM POINTS LONG NOSE . . . Troops of a self-propelled field artillery unit in Korea prepare to fire their Long Tom 155 mm gun, while P.F.C. Billy Head of Mena, Ark. (foreground), digs his foxhole near the gun to which he has been assigned. Front line dispatches were heavily censored as at the time this action took place. Lt. Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway was on his way to take supreme command of the United Nations forces and other duties from Gen. Douglas MacArthur, his deposed former chief. U.N. officers were studying the Communist lines for signs of an offense by the enemy.



BLOODSHED IN INDO-CHINA . . . French paratroopers count the bodies of Vietminh rebels who were slain during the recent battle at Mao-Khe in Indo-China. While United Nations forces are busy fighting in Korea, the French have their hands full battling Communist-led forces of Ho Chi Minh in Indo-China. The arrival of American aid and a new commander from France inspired the loyal French forces to counter-attack the Reds and make them abandon their concerted drive on the capital. They have reverted to sporadic sniping, and the country is considered safe from Communist domination.



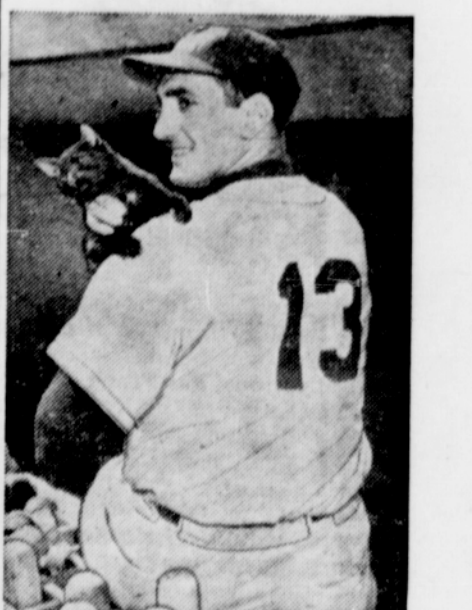
MYSTERY BOMB . . . Detective William Schmitt of the bomb squad lifts an aerial bomb from oilbath where emergency police had placed it after they found it in a hallway on 6th Ave., New York City. The bomb was found by Leo Simpson who notified police after the sanitation department refused to have anything to do with it. After the bomb was soaked in oil, it was turned over to the army ordnance center in Brooklyn for thorough study of its contents.



RIDGWAY SUCCESSOR . . . Lt. Gen. James A. Van Fleet, ordered by President Truman to take over the 8th army command from Lt. Gen. Ridgway, arrives at the Pentagon for conferences with the joint chiefs of staff.



CHECKS GERMAN FORCES . . . On his first inspection tour of allied troops in Germany, SHAPE commander General Dwight D. Eisenhower is seen with General August Guillaume, commander of the French troops in Germany. He attended maneuvers in Koblenz. When he heard that Truman had relieved General MacArthur, he said he hoped MacArthur realized a soldier must submit to certain inhibitions and would not try to stir up public reaction.



TEMPTS BAD LUCK . . . Bad luck signs don't bother pitcher Ralph Branca of the Brooklyn Dodgers who wears the number 13 on his back and holds a black cat. Incidentally, this picture was taken on Friday, the Thirteenth.