

SCANNING THE WEEK'S NEWS
of Main Street and the WorldTruman-MacArthur Fight Continues;
Chinese Launch Spring Offensive

HOW DIVIDED THE NATION—There was no sign of a letup in the great quarrel on whether President Truman did right or wrong when he fired Gen. Douglas MacArthur from his Pacific commands. If anything, the man on Main Street was hotter under the collar than ever before following the general's impressive speech before congress. The line of dispute was clearly drawn: The general's supporters believed his proposed plan of action in Asia the only possible realistic one; his opponents were just as positive his plan of action would mean world wide war. The great controversy caused many in the home towns to wonder just how divided can a nation become and still effectively battle communism?



Ticker-Tape Blizzard

Never before in the history of the U. S., or possibly in the history of the world, has a returning hero received such acclaim as Gen. Douglas MacArthur as he drove through a ticker-tape blizzard to the shouting of 7,500,000 people in New York. It was the climax of welcome home celebrations which began in San Francisco when the general returned to his native land for the first time in 14 years.

plain the conduct of the Korean conflict. The testimony will blow hot and cold. It will be up to the home-town to sift it and find the truth.

THE UNITED NATIONS—Members of the United Nations, whether they were in agreement with General MacArthur's policy in the far east or not, were almost as impressed by the general's address as were members of congress.

But the general did not gain any votes in the U.N. for following his policy. His speech confirmed many delegates in the belief that a yawning gulf separates his concept of the way to defeat Communist imperialism and that of the United Nations. Only on one point was there any degree of accord—his demand for an intensified economic blockade of Communist China.

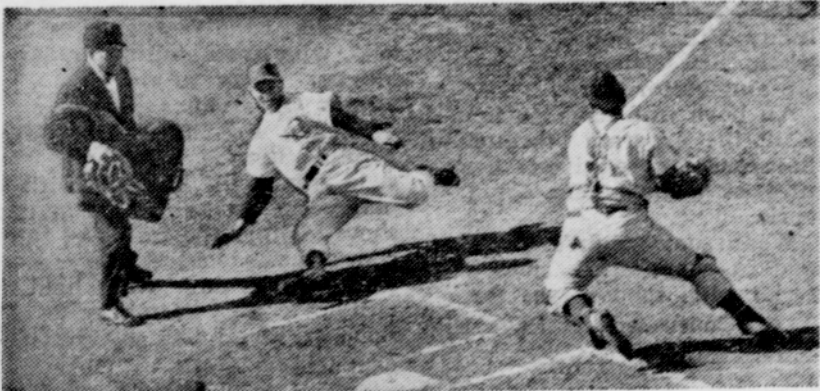
ON THE FRONT—And while the politicians ranted over how the Korean conflict should be conducted, the North Koreans and Chinese Reds opened their long awaited spring offensive. First reports from the front indicated a break-through in the mountainous central sector of Korea by an estimated 400,000 enemy troops. Approximately 300,000 others were reported attacking in other sectors of Korea.

First withdrawals amounted to as much as 15 miles. Allied officers reported, with the Chinese suffering heavy casualties. Nearly 9,000 Reds were killed or wounded by artillery alone on the first day of the attack, the eighth army estimated. Swarms of planes claimed an additional toll of nearly 2,000.

SALES TAX—The Committee of Americans, reportedly a nonprofit, fact-finding research-survey organization covering all 48 states and Hawaii, reports a recent survey indicated the majority of the nation's businessmen favor a retail-sales tax on the federal level.

The organization said it sent questionnaires to some 30,000 businessmen, of whom more than 15,000 replied. The businessmen were said to favor the sales tax by 62 per cent; 12 per cent for a tax at the manufacturer's level; and 26 per cent opposed to any sales tax.

Whether or not the survey reached to the Main Street businessman was not indicated, but it could hardly be conclusive unless he was consulted.



Take Me Out to the Ball Game

Neither wars or threats of wars, politics or the acclaim of a conquering hero could dim the opening of the baseball season on the sandlot of the home towns to the major leagues. Sport-minded Americans took time out for the greatest game of them all.

MAIN STREET BUSINESS—Hardware, dry goods and general merchandise, and jewelry stores on Main Street enjoyed a dollar sales increase during March of 1951 over the same month last year, the census bureau reported.

Hardware stores recorded a 22 per cent sales rise; dry goods and general merchandise stores a 20 per cent rise and jewelry stores a 15 per cent rise.

The agency said its figures were based on reports from about 10,000 independent stores. The department gave out no actual sales figures.

PROBER HAILS PRESS—Senator Kefauver, speaking before the American Society of Newspaper Editors, said his committee's celebrated investigation into crime could not have succeeded without the support of the nation's press.

The senator restated his theory that the place for "action against gamblers and other underworld elements is Main Street, not Pennsylvania Ave., Washington."

All the press joined in the effort of exposing crime, Kefauver said. "That spark was instrumental in setting off the explosion that has followed."

MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE

1950 Marriage Rate Climbs 6 Per Cent

The U.S. public health service reported recently the marriage rate rose and the divorce rate dropped in the United States during the past year.

The agency's figures show the number of 1950 marriages—1,669,934 in all—rose nearly 6 per cent over 1949, the first increase since 1946. The total of 1950 divorces—estimated at 385,000—was the smallest

since 1943. The drop was 3 per cent from the preceding year and marked the fourth successive year of declines. The agency gave no explanation for the increase in marriages or decrease of divorces.

Statisticians calculated that 11 out of every 1,000 men, women and children in the nation got married last year. Only 2 1/2 of each 1,000 found it did not work out.



GOP Strategy

AT AN explosive Republican senatorial strategy meeting, the big GOP guns warned against tying the Republican party too closely to MacArthur's kite.

One of those who led the warning was Senator Taft, whose friends have been worried that MacArthur might crowd him as the GOP presidential candidate in 1952.

"We don't know what MacArthur is going to say when he gets here," Taft told the strategy meeting. "As a political party we should keep out of this."

Senator Millikin of Colorado chimed in that occasionally past "conquering heroes" had come home and put their foot in their mouths. He recalled that Admiral Dewey, the conqueror of Manila, got a hero's reception and was presented with a free house, then transferred the house to his wife. Millikin also cited Charles Lindbergh, who came home to a hero's welcome and later made some remarks that offended religious groups.

However, the sharpest Republican fire was concentrated on Senator Cain of Washington for putting the Republican party on the spot with his resolution declaring war on China.

Senator Wherry of Nebraska, who has been Secretary of State Acheson's bitter foe, actually snorted: "As far as the Cain resolution is concerned, I am on Acheson's side."

Senator Young of North Dakota warned that declaring war on China would do "more damage than anything that has happened in the Republican party in five years."

Cain Argues However, Cain tried to defend his position by arguing that his real purpose was to "pin this war on Truman as Truman's war."

He pointed out that the President in his April 11 speech mentioned war 21 times. However, Cain's colleagues failed to follow his reasoning.

In the end, Cain insisted that he had promised to introduce the resolution and intended to go through with it. However, he agreed to make a statement that his only purpose was to focus attention on the China issue, since Truman had already got the country into war.

The most explosive outburst of the closed-door meeting came from Indiana's wild Senator Jenner. He was spurred out of his seat by a remark from Senator Taft that "no responsible Republican senator would advocate impeachment."

To this Jenner shouted angrily: "I may not be part of the responsible Republican leadership, but I have my own opinion."

He demanded immediate impeachment of President Truman and used considerable profanity in demanding it.

Sensor Ecton of Montana tried to soothe Jenner by explaining that it was up to the house to bring impeachment proceedings and the senate was supposed to act as a jury. Ecton cautioned that it would be improper for a senator who was supposed to sit on the jury to express advance opinions about impeachment.

Beating Enlisted Men It has been hushed up by the navy, but the Norfolk, Va., shore patrol has been officially accused of kicking and beating servicemen and throwing them into the brig without their shoes.

These shocking charges were made in a confidential report by Rear Adm. F. N. Kivette, who was skipper of the aircraft carrier Midway until his promotion to admiral last month.

Kivette ordered his own investigation of the Norfolk shore patrol and sent a sharp report to the navy, charging that the Norfolk SP's were "arrogant, dictatorial, arbitrary, sometimes abusive and occasionally brutal."

Kivette's investigation was conducted by Ensign Robert E. Kenyon. Commenting upon his subordinate's report, Admiral Kivette declared: "I believe these to be true and not isolated cases."

The admiral also added: "The very few but brief reports I have had concerning the condition of the shore patrol brig are calculated to induce nausea without a visual inspection."

Merry-Go-Round Marriner Eccles, who has threatened to resign from the federal reserve board several times, now tells friends he has definitely made up his mind to leave the board on June 1. (A mistake—the government already is painfully short of good men.) . . . Al Hayes, president of the Machinists Union, is talking to other labor chiefs about publishing a daily labor newspaper. Jointly sponsored by the AFL and CIO, it would present the trade-union viewpoint on national issues.

Volunteers

Pastors Join Fire Force

MECHANICSBURG, Pa.—The Rev. Darrel F. Stone and the Rev. Duncan K. MacPherson have joined Mechanicburg's rescue hook and ladder fire company and also serve as volunteer drivers of the company's ambulance.

Although neither of the clergymen has any special qualifications for driving the big modern ambulance through traffic with siren screaming, each volunteered because of a driver-shortage and is doing a fine job of delivering the sick to and from hospitals.

In addition either one answers emergency calls at all hours of the day. In summing up their volunteer duty, the two ministers say: "It gives us a chance to practice what we preach from the pulpit, and it contributes to the welfare of this community."

Ministerial Groups
Fighting Gambling
On the Local Level

CONNEERSVILLE, Ind.—Taking to heart Senator Kefauver's admonition to halt crime at the local level in the home towns of the nation, ministers and ministers' committees in a number of small towns in the midwest toured their communities in search for gambling in recent weeks.

In Connersville, Ind., a ministers' committee toured the town one entire afternoon hunting for gambling and that night submitted to the city council names of establishments where it claimed slot machines and punchboards were operated. The group brushed aside demands by the council that the ministers submit affidavits.

"No detection is needed," the ministers' statement said, "as the gambling offenders are open and notorious. This becomes obvious when one policeman is observed playing a tip jar."

In Galesburg, Ill., twice the population of Connersville, two ministers tried to place a test bet on a horse race.

The Rev. Frederick L. Gilson and the Rev. Alan Jenkins reported they visited a club in the business district. They said they tried to place a bet, but that the wager was not accepted. However, they said, they saw other bets being placed.

The ministers then went to the police. They asked that the club be raided, but the police said they couldn't raid without a warrant. So the two pastors went to the office of the state's attorney and swore out a warrant. Then they accompanied police and sheriff's officers to the club. By that time—6:30 p.m.—the establishment was closed and locked. The raiders broke in and found some horse race tickets.

A wave of such action was being reported across the nation in the smaller cities and towns.

Tempo of Civil Defense Increases in Home Towns SHAKOPEE, Minn.—A stepped up tempo of civil defense in small towns through the midwest has been noted in recent weeks. Two such communities who have set up extensive programs are Shakopee, Minn., and Harvard, Ill.

Shakopee recently staged a practice blackout with wardens standing duty in each block of the town. Violations of the blackout were reported to the town's civil defense headquarters.

Businessmen of the community cooperated by turning off night lights in their establishments before the test was held.

In Harvard a detailed shelter plan was worked out at a recent mass meeting. Cards were distributed to all block captains to gather information vital to civil defense from each household in their block.

"Survival Under Atomic Attack", an official government booklet, will be distributed by block captains to every home in the community. The town of Harvard paid for the booklets.

According to the latest census Shakopee is a community of 2,400. Harvard is listed as having 3,100 population.

Family Farm Exhibit Attracts Record Crowd BRIDGEWATER, S.D.—The largest number of people to attend any one event in the history of Bridgewater recently viewed the family farming exhibits. A counting machine tallied 1584 persons passing through doors of the Legion Hall where the exhibits were arranged. Bridgewater's population is 800.

The group of eleven booths describing and explaining improvements for the farm and home was a product of the South Dakota State College extension service and was brought to Bridgewater through the cooperation of the McCook county extension service, County Agent R. B. Kelton and the Better Bridgewater Club.

Observers reported the most enthusiastically studied were booths on correct installation processes for farm sewage. Others gathering a good bit of attention were crop rotation, nitrogen and the soil, and the booth explaining the advantages and profits to be gained by feeding balanced rations to poultry.

The exhibits were scheduled for showing in thirty-nine communities in South Dakota.



Great Debate Not Over

IT SEEMS that the "great debate" in congress over foreign policy is not over, it is just getting started.

But what is hard to understand is this—during more than three months of debate, the Republican leadership in congress opposed sending troops to Europe on the theory that to do so would arouse the Russian Bear to the point of war, that it was a calculated risk that should not be taken and that our main line of defense should be the western hemisphere.

And almost over-night this same band of leadership has switched from a western hemisphere defense to demands for an aggressive war on Red China which would take a million American boys and all the planes and ships and guns we could muster to send across the Pacific.

The rhyme or reason in this thinking is certainly not clear, and the only interpretation which can be placed on such a metamorphosis is politics, pure and simple. The Democratic administration was for sending an army to serve under General Eisenhower in continental Europe to implement the Atlantic pact, so politically, the Republican leadership must oppose and they did, but lost. The Democratic administration was opposed to making any aggressive war on Red China, seeking to confine the fighting in Korea, so the political fight for Republican leadership to do was to oppose it, so they are opposing, some going even as far as asking for an immediate declaration of war.

What has happened to the proposal of ex-President Hoover, to withdraw behind our two oceans? What General MacArthur thinks about this is not even important insofar as this congress is concerned, for the simple reason that what he says before a joint session or before any congressional committee will not change a vote one way or another. Minds already are made up beforehand. Does any one believe for a minute that anything General MacArthur might say would change the minds of such senators as Taft, Wherry, Jenner, Cain and Kem? Nor do you think they will heed for one instant whatever General Collins, or Admiral Sherman, or General Bradley or General Marshall will say, or what General Vandenberg, or Admiral Nimitz or even General Eisenhower might say on the subject in these committees?

What has happened is unfortunate, particularly for General MacArthur, and it is unfortunate for the country, for it is having the effect of driving deeper and deeper the wedge of disunity into the marrow of the nation, and it is permitting politicians to make a scapegoat of MacArthur, when the General's return should mean only a tribute to his military feats of valor.

MacArthur Deserved Honors General MacArthur, setting foot on U.S. soil for the first time in 14 years deserved all the adulation and honors heaped up on him by the American people. A lot of it was overdue, but that is the characteristic American way—do it up brown if you do it at all.

But after all the shouting dies down and the emotional hysteria has worn off—remember the man who withstood most, and who exhibited the most personal courage and just plain guts in this whole affair, was the present occupant of the White House—Harry S. Truman, President of the United States.

Truman Clears the Way And it was the President who cleared the way for MacArthur's formal Congressional appearance, and it was the President who canceled his own public appearances so there would be no counter-attraction to the MacArthur's day in court in Washington and permitted government offices, the schools, the whole town to turn out to greet the general on his return after 14 years abroad in the service of his country.

President Truman is now at his lowest ebb of popularity. If you are interested, however, watch his popularity barometer start climbing. His two most recent talks to the American people were more forceful and contained more plain common American horse sense than any in many months.

Europe Approved One thing appears to be certain, if the MacArthur position insofar as Asia is concerned is ever maintained or supported by this government, we will wind up behind the international eight-ball without a single ally in Europe or the United Nations with the exception of Gen. Chiang Kai-shek, now holed-up on the small island of Formosa. It is significant that every allied nation without exception approved the removal of MacArthur.



Send Another

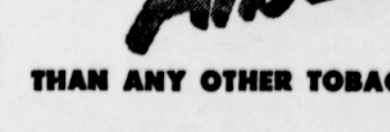
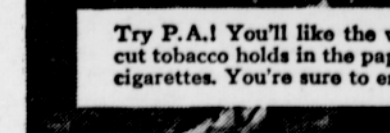
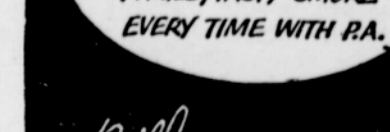
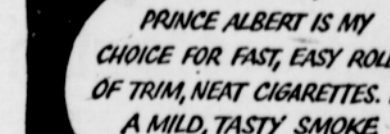
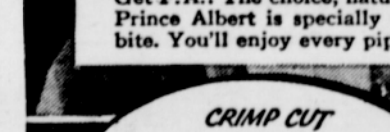
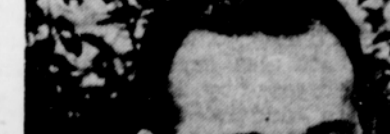
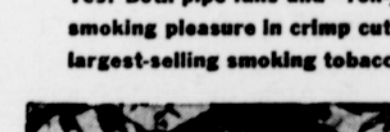
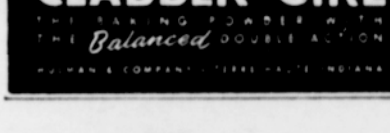
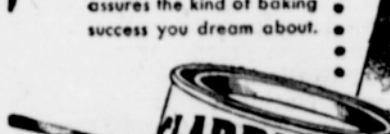
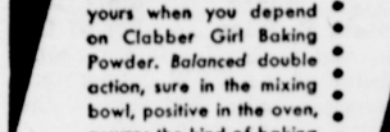
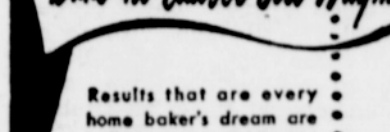
Teacher—"Now, Tommy, suppose a man gave you \$100 to keep for him and then died, what would you do? Would you pray for him?"

Tommy—"No, sir; I would pray for another like him."

Love Triangle

Teacher (in grammar class)—"Willie, please tell me what it is when I say 'I love, you love, he loves.'"

Willie—"That's one of them triangles where somebody gets shot."



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