

SCANNING THE WEEK'S NEWS
of Main Street and the WorldMac Urges Action Against China;
Farm Land Prices at Record Peak

MAN WITH A MISSION—At last, much to the relief of the average home-towner, the emotional thinking that manifested itself with the return of Gen. Douglas MacArthur to the United States, gave way to considerable sober reasoning as the general testified before congress concerning the cause and results of his removal as commander in the Pacific.

Stripped of the superficial, the general's testimony revealed him a man with a burning mission—to bring the Korean conflict to a swift and successful conclusion. His objective was no different from that of the administration, except by the method it could be reached.



Before the Senate

Testifying before the house and senate armed services and foreign relations committees, Gen. MacArthur pressed for a new far east policy and air attacks on China. His testimony was called a two-fronted attack on the administration by many Republicans.

THE OTHER VIEW—And after MacArthur presented his views of how to conduct the war in Korea, the one military man who in the eyes of the home-towner equals MacArthur in ability and popularity, Secretary of Defense Marshall, told the congressional committees that MacArthur's peace appeal to the enemy last March destroyed for the time being any chances of a Korean war settlement.

Marshall made it clear that in his opinion MacArthur's war plans would risk an all-out war with Russia, expose Europe to attack, and perhaps split the free world into two camps.

Step by step the 70-year-old Marshall disputed many of MacArthur's statements and warned against the general's proposal to step up the Korean war by bombing Red China and forcing a Communist surrender. It was MacArthur's outspoken call for this action—and the use of Chinese Nationalist troops—that led to his dismissal.

That is the other side of the picture. But the question remains—which plan for achieving peace will the nation follow. It is a question that must be settled in the mind of each individual American, not just in congress.

LAND PRICES HIT NEW HIGH—Main Street economy is built around the land and what it can produce. And any fluctuation in land prices and its products is a good indication of the economic future of the home town.

Good farm property is in demand because people think prices are going higher. Land is a good hedge against rising prices. With the government indicating there will be a good market for every thing produced, good farming land is a good investment.

The agriculture department measures rural land values by a national index. This index uses the years 1912-14 as the base period. With 1912-14 prices as 100, the index in March stood at the record high of 193. This was 14 per cent above a year earlier, and 9 per cent higher than the previous peak registered in November of 1948.

MIDWEST FEEDERS HURT—As expected, the OPS regulations roiling back beef prices raised a howl of protest from cattlemen across the nation. But of all the industry, the midwest feeder was hardest hit by the new regulations.

According to authorities in the meat industry, 85 per cent, or seven million steers slaughtered under federal inspection last year, came to market over the feed lot route. But the feeder is now expected to cut down on operations for a time because he cannot buy cattle at a price that will pay him to fatten them.

Fred Tomlin of Pleasant Plains, Ill., said in his case: "There is no reason for me to go out and pay 34 or 35 cents a pound for cattle with the prospect of selling them at 31 or 32 when fattened."



Communists Regroup to Attack

Beaten back in a slaughter that claimed as many as 75,000 casualties, Communists in Korea regrouped for another thrust to the south. UN commanders believed the fighting would stay in the area indicated in the above map.

THE BATTLE ISN'T OVER—The Communist spring offensive ended in the slaughter of approximately 75,000 Chinese and North Korean troops without any notable gains. But the battle isn't over. The Reds retreated into North Korea to regroup for the next phase which could mean another all-out attack at any point along the line.

It may well be that the second phase will begin at any moment. But UN commanders believe it, too, will end in slaughter unparalleled in history.

It was clear that UN troops remain in Korea because of superior air power, artillery and mobility. How long this superiority will remain on the UN side if the Chinese use their air forces in support of their troops, is questionable.

HOME TOWN BORROWING—The home town who thought his town might get that much needed road, school, water system, drainage or sewage-construction project in the near future may be in for a big disappointment.

Charles E. Wilson, mobilization director, has asked states, cities, and counties to get clearances before borrowing in excess of \$1,000,000. He made his requests on the need to halt inflationary spending and to save defense-needed materials and man power.

The mobilization chief also asked that soldiers' bonus payments, war memorials, recreational and other postponable projects be put off for the duration of the defense emergency—at least where funds must be borrowed to pay for them.

THE JUNE GRADUATE

Employers Disregard Military Status

Even if this year's college graduate rates 1-A in the draft, the big corporations are hiring him, even for a few months' work, if he is desirable employee material, and will have his job waiting for him when he returns from military service again. This is the prevailing trend reported by college placement officials in the annual employment survey made by Northwestern Na-

tional Life Insurance company. Smaller employers hiring only a few men, for specific vacancies, try to get draft-exempt personnel, the survey finds.

The big firms, however, feel the present cold war situation may last for many years and for that reason are hiring graduates regardless of possible military service within a short time.



Fulbright Backs Truman

ODDLY ENOUGH it remained for Sen. William Fulbright of Arkansas, who only recently was in the limelight exposing irregularities in the reconstruction finance corporation, to take up the cudgel in behalf of President Truman in the MacArthur affair. For in a major speech, the senator went all-out in favor of the President's position on foreign policy and the ouster of General MacArthur and provoked the now, notorious comment from Senator Taft that he thought the joint chiefs of staff nothing but stooges of the administration, a statement Senator Taft will live to regret.

It will be remembered that for the past three years Senator Fulbright has been in the so-called administration "dog-house" insofar as the President is concerned.

It was Fulbright, who, during the heat of the pre-convention fight of 1948, suggested that President Truman resign. Also, his exposures during the RFC probe brought to light some petty irregularities in the President's official family in the White House.

So members of the senate were amazed when the forthright Fulbright stated that he fully agreed with the foreign policy of our government and had complete faith in the military integrity of our joint chiefs of staff, as opposed to the MacArthur views on foreign policy and the general's demand for an all-out aggressive war against Red China.

After pointing out that the MacArthur views were opposed both politically and militarily, not only by our own government, but by the governments of the entire free world, Senator Fulbright had this to say:

"I do not know what the verdict of history upon Mr. Truman will be. His contemporaries, such being the frailties of human nature, are more likely to exaggerate his faults than to ascribe to him the virtues which he, as most men, has a full quota of both. I am not in his good graces. I have spoken with him on official business only once in several years. This, however, does not blind me to the fact that he has made decisions on a number of occasions that equal in imagination, courage and effectiveness any ever taken by an American President. Nearly all of these decisions are without precedent in our history. Some of them are: The dropping of the A-bomb on Japan, aid to Greece and Turkey, the Marshall Plan, the Berlin Airlift, the North Atlantic treaty, the sending of divisions of American troops to Europe in peacetime—troops under the command of General Eisenhower—, the going into Korea, a decision that at the time had the approbation of the nation and of nearly the whole of the free world."

Asks Objective Judgment

"No doubt," Senator Fulbright continued, "that, in the absence of some of these stupendous decisions, much of the present free world would now be lost to us and our struggle against Russia would be the more difficult. These momentous decisions are the President's responsibility, taken though most of them were with the advice and consent of the congress and the people and the approbation of the military."

Mr. Truman remains the President, and in these terrible times, I submit that it is necessary for us to keep him in perspective. Let us not permit his occasional lapses of speech or temperament or his misguided loyalty to unworthy friends to endanger a calm and objective judgment on the present controversy."

Fulbright Is Baited

Throughout his speech, Senator Fulbright was continually baited by interruptions by the same senators who have opposed every step of the way the very acts of President Truman which Senator Fulbright declares are the products of a courage, imagination and effectiveness without precedent in the history of our nation. They were Senators Taft of Ohio, Hickenlooper of Iowa, Knowland of California, Capehart of Indiana, Kern of Missouri, and Jenner of Indiana.

Those coming to the defense of Senator Fulbright and, incidentally, the President, included Senators Kerr of Oklahoma, Maybank of South Carolina, McMahon of Connecticut, Long of Louisiana, Humphrey of Minnesota, and McFarland, the majority leader.

Paper Criticizes Taft

Referring to Senator Taft's attack on the integrity of the joint chiefs, The Washington Star said: "One of these days Senator Taft will be ashamed of the attacks he has made on the joint chiefs of staff. It is not too much to insist that senators should not indulge in the reckless irresponsibility that characterized Taft's attack on the integrity of the joint chiefs."



Chiang Evidence

LOCKED IN the files of the house foreign affairs committee is some dynamite-laden evidence by a former adviser to Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek, which would be of great interest in the MacArthur-Truman debate.

Secret testimony was given on April 6, 1949, before the foreign affairs committee by Maj. Gen. David G. Barr, former military adviser to Chiang. At that time Barr testified, among other things, that Chiang's staff officers were incompetent, lazy, derelict and in some cases downright dishonest. He described the surrender of some Manchurian cities to the Communists by Chiang's generals as so suspicious as to raise possible doubts of a sell-out to the enemy. In some cases, Chiang's staff officers were not even present when the troops under them surrendered.

General Barr also told how great quantities of American Equipment which we supplied the Nationalist forces fell into Communist hands, and in turn made the Red conquest of China much easier and quicker.

In one case a big allied supply base at Chinchow was left virtually and mysteriously undefended. Considering the amount of American equipment stored there, the actions of the Nationalist Chinese had all the earmarks of a sellout to the Communists who shortly thereafter captured it. It was not long before all Manchuria fell.

General Barr testified that he believed Chiang himself was honest, but that his troops, lacking leadership, long ago had lost the will to fight. For a while the war against the Communists on the Chinese mainland simply depended upon how rapidly Mao Tse-Tung's men wanted to travel.

Taft and MacArthur

Friends of Senator Taft report that the senator's visit with General MacArthur at the Waldorf Tower, New York, netted only two things—Taft's firm conviction that MacArthur meant what he said about keeping out of politics, and second, that the general could out-talk the rather loquacious senator from Ohio.

Taft went to see MacArthur to find out discreetly whether the general had any political intentions; and second, if not, to lay some diplomatic groundwork so that the general might later get on the Taft bandwagon.

MacArthur was cordial, but politically negative. He gave Taft a shortened version of his congressional speech, quoting it in such verbatim detail that it almost seemed as if he had memorized it.

Taft's friends say that he did not tell the general that he, the senator, was a candidate for the presidency though he did hint that the Republicans were most grateful to MacArthur for what he had done and that they would certainly want him to be a leading defense planner if they won in 1952.

History Repeats

Herbert Hoover, who has been the chief confidante of General MacArthur during the present big debate, paradoxically was on the other end of a somewhat similar situation when he was President of the United States.

Hoover made the mistake of ordering the court-martial of Maj. Gen. Smedley D. Butler, a popular marine corps figure, after Butler had started a lecture that Benito Mussolini, then dictator of Italy, had run over a child with his car but failed to stop. General Butler's court-martial was ordered after Italian Ambassador Di Martino had protested officially.

But immediately there arose a tremendous outcry from the American press and public, and for weeks Hoover was the butt of possibly more scathing criticism than Harry Truman.

The situation was somewhat comparable to the present MacArthur debate in that the admirals did not like General Butler any more than some of the leaders in the Pentagon love General MacArthur.

It was also significant that Hoover's popularity at that time had sunk to an extremely low ebb, comparable to that of Truman's today.

In the end, Hoover did what Harry Truman has not done. He abjectly surrendered and called off General Butler's court-martial.

Droughtproof Crops

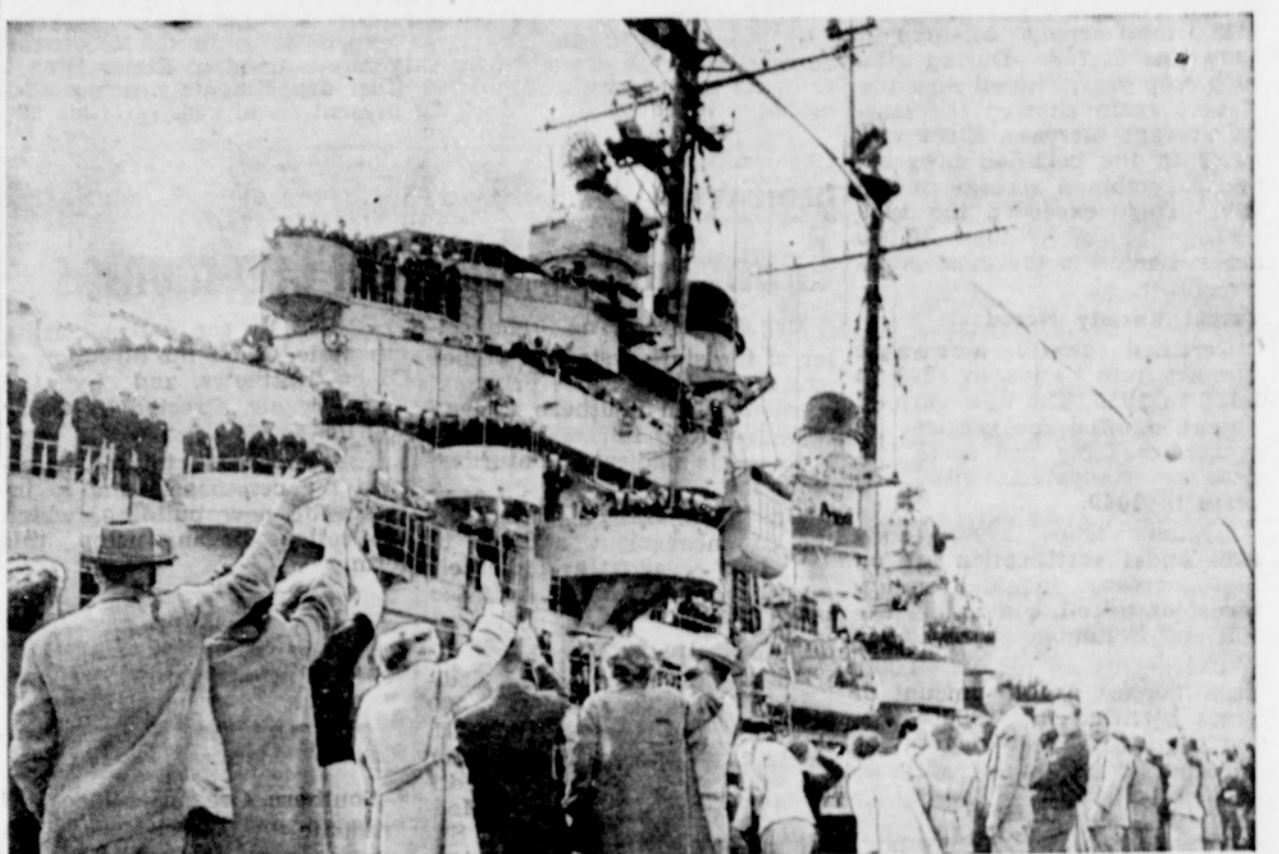
Most important experiments in modern agriculture in years are being conducted at the government's research laboratory at Beltsville, Md.

Beltsville scientists, though cautious in their comment, indicate that they are on the scent of a sensational discovery that may make farm crops droughtproof.

Briefly, the scientists are developing a chemical spray that makes plants capable of holding moisture for prolonged periods.



NEWSPAPER CLOSED . . . Police of Rome, Italy, have padlocked the front door of the Rome Daily American, an American newspaper in Italy, because, the excuse reads, "its flatpress makes too much noise." Jack Begon, the editor of the American newspaper, says, "It is obvious that the real issue behind the closing of the newspaper is not the noise. It is, I'm afraid, a modified version of the Argentina 'La Prensa' action." Two Italian workers on the closed paper are reading the order of closure on the front door of the plant. Journalists fear it is another attack on freedom of the press.



WELCOME HOME! . . . The anti-aircraft cruiser, U.S.S. Juneau, was welcomed back home from sea duty lasting one year recently at Long Beach, Calif. Streaming a balloon-supported pennant ribbon from the bridge, the fighting craft gets a tremendous ovation as she docks. Crew members shared pieces of the pennant as mementos of their year-to-the-day stretch away from home. Only a few days after South Korea was invaded by the Communists from North Korea, the Juneau was in the action, supporting the landing of United Nations men and supplies to combat the act of aggression. The Juneau is one of the first Korean veteran ships to be accorded an ovation.



IN ROCKET'S RED GLARE . . . A Thunderjet at Elgin airforce base, Florida, fires five-inch velocity rockets with split-second accuracy. The fighter first demonstrated its prowess in 1949 firepower demonstration by carrying and firing 32 five-inch rockets. The 600 m.p.h. planes have chalked up a commendable record in air strikes over enemy concentrations over Korea. They are equipped with triple-purpose electronic gunsight.



THE LIP DROOPS . . . With his team going down for 11 consecutive defeats, New York Giants Manager Lippy Leo Durocher, coaching at first base in the Polo Grounds, epitomizes the picture of defeat.



SUPPLY ROUTE ACROSS HAN . . . South Korean soldiers guard the northern end of the military pontoon bridge across the Han river as U.N. trucks shuttle between the north and south shores hauling supplies to U.N. forces holding a line north of Seoul. The Chinese Communist attempt to recapture the battered capital by May Day fizzled in the face of U.N. opposition here. Lt. Gen. James A. Van Fleet claimed a big victory.



MOTHER OF YEAR . . . Dr. Mary Sloop Crossmore, N.C., physician, was named "American Mother of 1951" by the mothers' committee of the Golden Rule foundation. She is 77, wife of a physician.