

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

Quick Agreement in Korea Unlikely; Control Fight Confused Main Street

A LONG WAY FROM PEACE—As much as the people in the home towns of the nation desire peace, the majority approved the United Nations' flat refusal to talk about withdrawal of allied troops from Korea. The UN pointed out, and rightly so, that the question was purely political and could not be discussed at the preliminary talks.

Most observers are inclined to believe the Reds will withdraw their demand that the issue be put on the agenda. If they don't withdraw, it is almost a certainty that truce talks will collapse.



Red General
General Nam Il, head of Communist delegation to peace talks in Kaesong, issued demand of withdrawal of foreign troops from Korea.

Even if the troop-withdrawal issue is solved, however, home towners should realize it will not necessarily mean a cease-fire in Korea. It will be merely an agreement on what subjects to discuss in seeking a cease-fire.

The issue of withdrawing all foreign troops from Korea will come up again in the main talks. As a result, there is only one logical conclusion the home towners can draw; the world is a long way from peace.

SHADOWS OF 1952—The long shadows of 1952—the presidential election year—again fell across the national scene with a speech by Sen. Robert A. Taft.

In an address described as the jump-off for his bid for the 1952 GOP presidential nomination, Taft described the Korean conflict as "a useless and expensive war brought about by the Truman administration."

Despite the fact he approved intervention in Korea, Taft charged that the United States is involved in a "useless and expensive war."

Besides attacking the administration's foreign policy, Taft promised that the GOP would restore "honesty and integrity to government" after the 1952 election and end "the low moral tone, the dishonesty and the inefficiency" of the Democratic administration.

CONTROL FIGHT CONFUSING—To most home towners the battle over the price control bill, which should by this time be the law of the land, has been a fight of confusion. The house and senate versions of the bill differed in many details. And even one representative, when asked how his amendment to the bill would work, replied he didn't know.

For the average American, it has been much the same. He has been unable to understand the many details of the bill and the conflicting viewpoints of the proponents and opponents of price legislation. Only one thing he understood: the administration wanted a stiffer price control law, but seemed doomed to defeat.

The administration contended that old controls should be extended and strengthened. That the old law was inadequate, particularly in controls of food prices, rents and credit. A stronger law was needed in the face of government defense spending during the coming months.

These arguments, however, did not impress congress. Opponents of the administration argued that the President just urged stronger controls as a "power grab." Skillful lobbyists for business interests also battled to weaken controls.

Just before the final version was due out of the house-senate committee, observers believed the administration would be thankful for any kind of bill and that it would be signed immediately upon receipt by the White House.

TRAINING PROGRAM OVER—Thousands of World War II veterans in the small towns and big towns of the nation received educational benefits under the GI bill that expired last week.

And despite the abuses of the program, educators, congress and the veterans administration agree that it has produced benefits the nation will feel for a long time to come. Thousands of veterans reaped educational benefits that they could not have otherwise afforded.

Approximately 7,600,000 veterans received training for an average of 15 months each. They drew \$3,700 billion in subsistence. The rest of the \$12,400 billion cost went for tuition, fees, equipment, books and counseling. Veterans college enrollment hit its peak in December, 1947, when 1,158,000 discharges crowded back to the campus. To date, a total of 2,500,000 veterans have studied in institutions of higher learning. But even more—3,300,000—have taken courses below college level in nearly 38,000 grade schools, high schools, vocational, trade, business and correspondence schools.

SPECIAL FLOOD APPEAL—For the first time since 1938, the American Red Cross launched a general disaster fund appeal in an effort to raise \$5,000,000 to help 45,880 families affected by the midwest floods.

Flood waters of the Missouri river caused millions of dollars of damage in Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma and Illinois. It was possibly the most costly flood in the history of the nation.

In the four-state area, the Red Cross was reported housing 17,500 flood victims in 80 shelters and feeding 42,600.



King Is Assassinated

Prince Naif (left), was appointed regent of Jordan after the assassination of his father, King Abdallah (right). The king was shot as he entered a mosque in his capital of Amman. In center is King Faisal of Iraq.

PRICE WARS END—According to a senate report the price wars that started in New York after the Supreme Court's "fair trade" decision have all but died out.

The report said cutting of fair-trade merchandise occurred in 43 of 123 leading trade centers throughout the country. In the 43 cities, only 825 of 77,241 stores set prices on one or more items of merchandise below the resale price recommended or set by the manufacturers.

The report showed Denver leading the list with price cuts in 300 stores, Detroit second with 175, and New York third with 100.

JAPANESE TREATY NEAR—The possibility of a quick Japanese peace treaty became evident last week when the United States invited 50 nations, including Russia, to join in signing the agreement at a conference opening September 4 in San Francisco.

Missing from the invitation list were the Communist and Nationalist governments of China, South Korea, and Italy.

Although the Russians were invited, they are expected to refuse to sign the treaty, which the Soviet has denounced. In all likelihood, however, the Russians will send delegates to the conference to attack the treaty.

APPROPRIATION

Senate Group Approves Farm Work Fund

A bill calling for \$751,000,000 in new cash and authorizing \$262,000,000 in loans for various farm programs was approved by the Senate appropriations committee. The group, however, ordered a department of agriculture payroll reduction of 10 per cent below President Truman's budget.

Besides the cash and loan money, the bill authorizes the spending of some \$172,177,264 automatically set aside by law for use by the department farm programs. The \$751,000,000 in cash is some \$34,400,000 more than the amount voted by the house, but is \$69,000,000 below the amount the President requested.

The boost in cash came chiefly in a \$24,000,000 increase in funds for soil conservation.



Chinese Profiteer

AMERICAN truce negotiators in Korea have noted with interest that the Chinese Communists are using American jeeps. The American public has also wondered not only how the Communists were able to obtain American equipment, but why the Nationalist government was driven out of China.

The sub-rosa operations of the Chiang Kai-Shek family may be one of the answers. Another of their operations has just come to light—a move by a Chiang brother-in-law, with other wealthy Chinese to corner the soybean market at the expense of the American public.

The brother-in-law is T. L. Soong, brother of foreign minister T. V. Soong, who formerly handled much of the three and a half billion dollars worth of supplies which the United States sent to China during the war. The soybean pool netted a profit of \$30,000,000 and shot up the cost to the American consumer \$1 a bushel.

One of the strange things about the soybean manipulation was that its operators knew exactly the right time to buy up the world's soybean supply—a few weeks before the Communists invaded Korea.

Recently this column told how Eugene Soong, son of T. L. Soong, together with L. K. Kung, son of Dr. H. H. Kung, another brother-in-law, sold a huge quantity of precious tin to the Chinese Communists. As a result Secretary of Commerce Sawyer has now barred this group, together with three law partners of Ex-Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson, from getting export licenses to trade with any country for three years.

It was the father of Eugene Soong, T. L. Soong, who bought up half a million bushels of soybeans before the Korean war in May, 1950.

GOP Targets for '52

A frank outline of GOP campaign strategy for 1952 was presented to key Republican senators' assistants by A. B. Hermann, the energetic national committee executive director, in a private meeting the other night.

The tall, banjo-eyed Hermann, one-time big-league ballplayer, confided: "We won senate seats last year wherever we took our gloves off. There were only two states we should have taken and didn't and that was because our nominees refused to punch hard—Missouri and Connecticut."

"Why," complained Hermann, "we had to bootleg speakers like McCarthy into Connecticut."

The "prime targets" in 1950, he said, were Scott Lucas in Illinois; Francis Myers in Pennsylvania; Elbert Thomas of Utah, and Millard Tydings of Maryland.

Turning to Frank Smith, assistant to Sen. John M. Butler, who defeated Tydings, Hermann continued: "We did a beautiful job in Maryland and Utah, Frank. I don't see why the Democrats yelled so much about the composite picture in your campaign, when, by comparison with the anti-Thomas newspaper in Utah, your publicity was like a country gentleman's."

He referred to the fact that in Utah, a supposed "congressional record" with statements attacking Thomas as a pro-Communist was circulated to all mailboxes in the last hours of the campaign—so late that Thomas had no opportunity to reply.

"We all know Senator Thomas was not a Communist," Hermann explained, "but these tactics were necessary to balance the pseudo-liberal newspapers which were for him."

Pointing to Dick Cardall, administrative aide to Sen. Arthur Watkins of Utah, Hermann continued: "There's the fellow who gets a lot of credit for that victory. Senator Bennett (the Republican who beat Thomas) is very much indebted to him."

The 1952 target areas, Hermann indicated, were to retain all Republican seats in the New England and Atlantic states, and pick up new senators in Arizona, New Mexico and Wyoming.

"We have Republican governors and some patronage strength to put on real scraps," he explained.

"Also, we have a fighting chance of picking up seats in Maryland, Kentucky, West Virginia and strengthen our position in the south."

"On the other hand," he said, pointing to a map behind him, "we could lose four or five senators."

Oil and Gold

Ex-Sen. Sheridan Downey of California recently met radio correspondent Rudy Block in a capitol corridor. Downey, who rose to political fame on an old-age pension scheme known as "ham and eggs," a number of years ago, is now lobbying at \$3,000 a month for tide-lands oil.

"Well, Senator," said correspondent Block, as they shook hands. "I see it's from ham and eggs to oil and gold."



Yes and No Taft

SENATOR ROBERT A. TAFT of Ohio has made another of his now famous Yes and No speeches, this one a recent radio address on the subject of controls. The Ohio solon set up every known obstacle to the imposition of price controls, even going back to a statement by President Truman in 1947 in which the latter referred to wage and price controls as "police state controls."

Senator Taft listed wage and price controls as ending free collective bargaining, as ending free competition in industry, commerce and manufacturing.

"The best way to get prices lower for the consumer in the long run is to encourage unlimited production, and, of course, prices held below normal by government decree discourage such production over any long period of time. Certainly we don't want to give the federal government power to regulate every one of a billion transactions a day in the United States and every detail of commerce and wage payments unless it is absolutely essential." And then in the next breath Mr. Taft says:

"I happen to think that today it is essential, but there are a lot of people who conscientiously do not think so."

Then Senator Taft, in his next paragraph, listed those who oppose price and wage controls, such as the national manufacturers association, the united mine workers, the carpenters union, the American farm bureau federation, the national grange, the United States chamber of commerce, the American retail federation and many individual businessmen. Then he points to a poll of Ohio farmers showing 71 per cent are opposed to any price and wage controls, and continues his Yes and No picture by saying:

"Nevertheless, I have come to the conclusion that we must continue wage and price controls for the present. I think the people who oppose them do not allow for what is going to happen in the next few months."

Continuing along this fence straddling, Mr. Taft declares the need for controls "arises out of the tremendous mobilization program, which we have undertaken to meet the threat of Russian aggression, the danger of which was brought forcibly to our attention by the Korean war." Then despite the fact that President Truman has again and again, starting in 1948, asked for price and wage controls and a strong defense production act, Mr. Taft blames inflation on the President, not congress, for the reason he says, that the congress finally passed the defense production act of 1950 in September of that year, and the President did not exercise his powers under the act until four months later.

Big Business Benefits

Then Senator Taft takes up the line followed by a large segment of big business when he declares that because the President asks for powers to build plants, if necessary, and to license business under the act—that is nothing but straight socialism. The fact is that the language of the bill asked for by the President follows almost word for word the same section which was in effect during the war, under which all business was licensed and under which the government built such additional facilities as aluminum plants, steel plants, rubber plants and what-not. And this was so socialist that today most of these government-built plants have been taken over by big business at bargain prices and are being operated today—not by the government, but by American business under the free enterprise system. But we needed more aluminum and synthetic rubber, and more steel . . . and got it during the war through this method.

GOP and Dixie

Mr. Taft then deftly sidesteps any responsibility for what may happen by pointing out this congress is a Democratic congress and that the President's fight is with members of the Democratic party, not with Mr. Republican. The facts are, however, that Senator Taft and the Republican minority is playing "footsie" with the southern Democrats in a coalition move, with an eye single to 1952.

Flood Relief

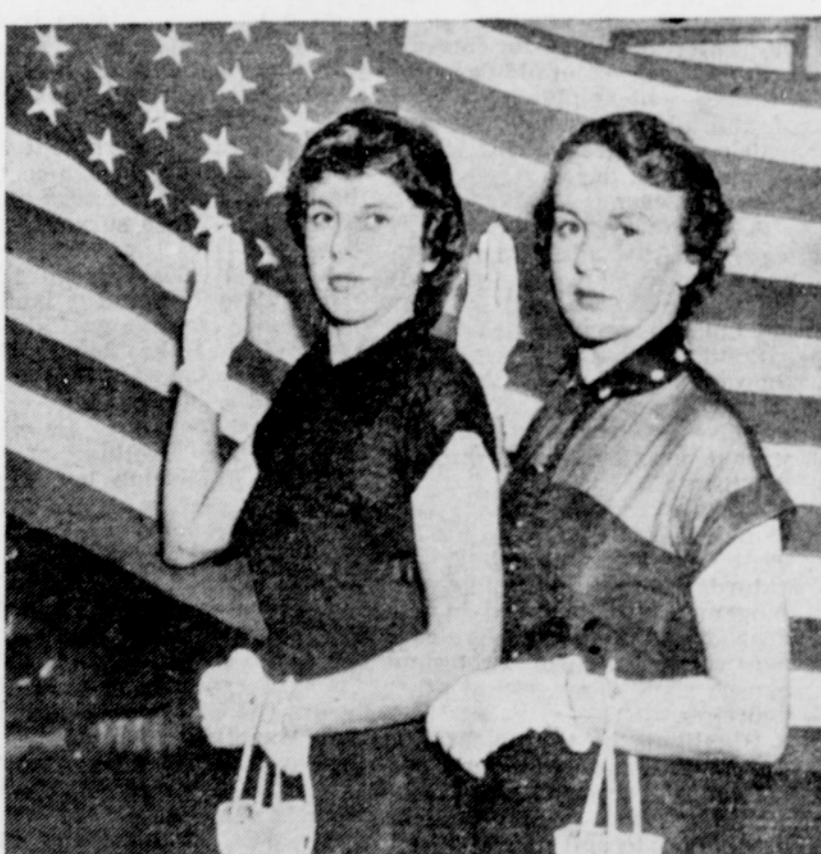
The losses in the tragic floods in Missouri and Kansas prompted Senators Kem and Schoeppel to plead for some remedial action. The congress quickly passed a \$15,000,000 relief bill. Senator Kem could not refrain from pointing out that his Missouri taxpayers were "pouring lavish gifts of dollars down foreign ratholes" for flood control in Holland and other countries, while nothing was done for the Missouri valley.



TIME OUT FOR CHOW . . . Vice Admiral Turner C. Joy (left), head of the United Nations delegation at the truce talks in Kaesong, and Major General Henry I. Hodes pass an armed Communist Korean guard on their way for chow during a recess in the truce meetings. Note marked hostility on guard's face. The big point that was holding up negotiations at this time was the question of removal of foreign troops from Korea. The North Koreans and the Peiping radio were asking complete withdrawal of all foreign forces from the war torn land and a dividing between north and south at the 38th parallel and a buffer zone.



TREAT FOR G'S IN TRUCE CITY . . . Six American GI's, part of the auxiliary personnel inside the armistice city of Kaesong, Korea, for the truce talks between U.N. and Red officials, reach into a box of candy offered by a girl in a North Korean army uniform, playing host to the United Nations soldiers. The Communists called off the talks for a few days for what U.N. officials believe was a chance to communicate with Peiping and Moscow. Big issue raised between the negotiators at the time this was taken was the Communist demands that all foreign troops be removed from Korean soil.



TWINS COMMISSIONED . . . Jane (left) and Joan Van Scoy, first twins to be commissioned in women's medical specialist corps, pose before flag in New York City shortly after they were sworn into the army as second lieutenants. They will begin a 12-month physical therapy course at the Medical Field Service school, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, followed by clinical practice at a large army hospital. Women's medical specialist corps, established in 1947, is the army's youngest corps in operation today.



STANDS AND WAITS . . . Gen. Matthew Ridgway, U.N. commander, stands alone on banks of the Imjin as the lead jeep of the U.N. truce caravan heads for the city of Kaesong and another conference with the Chinese and North Korean Reds.



MAY BECOME SPANISH KING . . . Rumors in Madrid say Don Juan (right), pretender to the Spanish throne, may renounce rights in favor of his son, Juan Carlos, 13 (left), if Franco will allow a boy to be crowned. General Franco set up a new government recently in a move for better relations with the west and has promised to re-establish the monarchy. Franco declares the monarch will have to be Spanish, male, at least 30 years old, and a Roman Catholic.



ALLEGED PLOTTER . . . British foreign office has received report that Arab King Abdullah's assassin was Mustafa Thakir, allegedly employed by the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem (above), who claims leadership over Palestine Arabs.