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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1950

KOREA—A RECONNAISSANCE IN FORCE

THE stunning events of the last few days have given critics of the Administration's foreign policy a glorious opportunity to question the original decision to conduct a reconnaissance in force against Communist aggression. In virtually every edition of the newspapers there are hints or insinuations or outright charges that President Truman erred in committing the United States so irresponsibly to what has turned into a military disaster.

The long casualty lists, and the prospect of other thousands of American casualties in the days ahead, create a fertile atmosphere for these critics, and we may expect them to grow bolder as time gives them more and more hindsight.

The implementation of that original UN Security Council decision on Korea may have been imperfect. Perhaps we should have insisted on greater participation by other UN members. Perhaps the intentions of Communist China were grossly miscalculated. Perhaps we have been sorely hurt by faulty military intelligence. But the decision itself was right. There could have been no other.

It is not difficult to imagine what would have happened had the UN failed to move promptly to meet aggression in Korea. The UN itself would have been so weakened as to be almost impotent.

POLITICS AS USUAL

WE SHALL NOT at this time examine in detail the excess profits tax measure passed by the House of Representatives this week, other than to note that the original Administration request was amended extensively by Chairman Robert Doughton's Ways & Means Committee to include a 10 percent increase in the rate. We propose to say more about it when the Senate Finance Committee gets to work on the measure.

The most interesting thing about the House action was the display of politics in the vote on the measure. For days Republican members of the House had been denouncing the whole principle of an excess profits tax. They did not object to the amount to be raised, and they admitted that the Ways & Means Committee bill was considerably better than the Administration bill. But they repeatedly argued principles, and made out a very convincing case against the whole idea of an excess profits levy.

AMERICAN JUSTICE

WE FREQUENTLY we run across interesting examples of justice at work in the United States. We can't, of course, comment on them all, but the reversal of the conviction of Miss Opolon is such a remarkable illustration of the fairness of U. S. law that we would like to call it to your attention.

Miss Opolon was convicted March 9 of transmitting documents relating to the national defense to Russia. She was sentenced to fifteen years in prison. She appealed her case to the United States Court of Appeals and, this week, the Court reversed the conviction.

'THE THING'

A LONG LAST, the man on the street found an ideal woman in the kitchen—has a long and paradisiacal prospect of a long-needed target for all our frustrations.

The jolly thing about The Thing is that it can be anything we want it to be. If we're labor, The Thing can be management. If we're management, The Thing can be labor. If we're Republican, The Thing is Democrat. And vice versa.

Our pleasure in seeing The Thing shunted from the bum on the street to the

to be virtually useless. The remaining free peoples of the Far East, and indeed of the whole world, would be cringing in terror at the spectacle of unrestrained and successful Communist aggression. And the international Communist movement would be immensely stronger and bolder and more provocative.

The current retreat does not represent the failure of a mission. Even if the UN force and finally forced to evacuate Korea, entirely the enterprise will now have been in vain. Though nothing can compensate for the lives given and the blood shed by UN soldiers in Korea, one considerable and vital result has been obtained.

The Korean mission will go down in history as a failure only if this nation and the other freedom-loving peoples of the world fail to plan their future course on the basis of the information now available.

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PATIENT AS USUAL

CHARLIE WAS, as always, patient. He said he understood that he was charged with getting out more information, but there were difficulties in the way of it. He would take it up with the President.

Now that he is dead, the memory of his unflinching patient and cheerful manner comes back. I remember scenes on the Truman 1948 campaign trail when Charlie was subjected to a kind of Indian torture for days on end. Wouldn't he just have been a good deal more patient?

In the extraordinary aftermath of that campaign Charlie showed a desire for revenge. It was characteristic of him that the habit of public office and public behavior was never far from his mind.

MR. BERNIE BARUCH, a discredited statesman (discredited by the Truman Administration), who still employs Harry Vaughan and Dan Achenbach, has returned triumphantly from the southland.

MR. BARUCH, who just past his 80th milestone, has just reported, over the signature of four witnesses, the deaths of fifteen bobwhite quail with thirteen shots. For a 70-year-old man, this is a record. It is a record that is impossible to equal.

But it seems to me that there is a wonderful analogy between Mr. Baruch's record and the record of the Truman Administration. Mr. Baruch's record of success is a record that is impossible to equal.

PEARLY GATES and then on down where such "things" belong is great. And everyone can play.

For the man of the house, it's the first of the month—bill day. For the seven-year-old, it's the clock on the wall that forces him to bed. For the woman in the kitchen, it's the coconut cake that wouldn't rise. For the junior high, it's a stocking with a run in it. For the sports minded male, it's the last minute touch-down on the other side scored. For the editorial page writer, it's a hole in the editorial page at the last minute.

Yes, indeed The Thing can be anything.

WASHINGTON

There is an opportunity here, in my opinion, to make the new start which is urgently needed. We are now in a position to make a new start which is urgently needed.

On the day that Charlie Ross died, while he was in London, he had a talk about the possibility of getting more information about the Truman Administration. He was often in the past, it seemed to me that not only was it possible to put out more information, but that it was possible to put out more information.

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Korean War Aftermath

BY JOSEPH C. HARTSECK
The Christian Science Monitor

WHEN national policies fail as disastrously as our Korean policies have failed, it is time to re-examine our policies. We are now in a position to make a new start which is urgently needed.

What were we trying to do in Korea? Whatever the purpose was, beginning the purpose by the time General MacArthur launched his last drive against the Communists, we were in a position to make a new start which is urgently needed.

There was little doubt about the desirability of achieving our purpose. We were in a position to make a new start which is urgently needed.

But what were the means at our disposal toward building a strong base for our diplomacy on the frontier of China and Asia? We were in a position to make a new start which is urgently needed.

Should the ratio of our efforts in Korea to our efforts in the rest of the world be a ratio of three to one? We were in a position to make a new start which is urgently needed.

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ACHESON: HIS PARTY'S GREAT ASSET

AND what did President Truman's political friends say of the man and his message? It would be pleasant to hear the Democratic Party in Dean Acheson's Democratic Party had its noblest asset.

TO OUR knowledge, and we should be happy to stand corrected, not one campaigner spoke of the record of Acheson's foreign policy in the five-term years. Not one defended the man and his message.

Not one Democrat seems to have reminded us that China has never been out, in low or gain, that Acheson has never been out, in low or gain, that Acheson has never been out, in low or gain.

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POLITICIANS who bewail the 'low China' of the United States Army... are men for the most part ignorant of the history of the United States.

Some of the cruelest and most degrading issues of our pre-election battle were fought around the person and policy of Dean Acheson.

The sources which carried this type of campaign victory were not slow to claim that their hero had done a noble thing.

No one man and no one nation can solve the problems of the world or stop its tracks on the terrible and simple upward progression of human and national, that this complex century has set before it.

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THE EUROPEAN FRONT

This September meeting in New York broke down the barrier between the United States and German rearmament that the United States and Britain considered necessary.