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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1950

HINDSIGHT VS. FORESIGHT

WE NOTE with considerable pleasure that the Republican Senators are losing some of their initial enthusiasm for Senator Byrd's proposal to demand Secretary of State Acheson's resignation. If this indicates a growing realization that the Secretary is not the main culprit in the international debacle, it may open the way to a less frenzied analysis of the critical situation.

What is fundamental in the international picture is that events throughout the world in the past two or three years have not been of our own making. Without doubt our leaders, including Mr. Acheson, have made mistakes. But the mistakes have been in the last 1,500 years who was above error, we have not heard of him.

We should remember, also, that the assumption that mistakes were made implies that there were alternative actions. But we can only speculate on whether or not those alternatives would have resulted in a different result. If there is any one consistency in the international Communist movement, it is the inconsistency of the party line. Communism is a flexible movement, taking one course today and another tomorrow. It is this flexibility in situations that confront it. And if we had

USEFUL CONFERENCE

THE trouble with the world, many wise men have said in our century, is that we do not know each other well enough. In the old days it didn't make much difference to the average American how a citizen of Prague or Belgrade felt about us. Today, in the broadest sense of the term, it makes all the difference in the world what they think of us and what we think of them.

It is for this reason that the Mid-Century World Outlook Conference opening at Bob Jones University in Greenville, S. C., today is of great importance. Delegates from many of the nations of the world—Israel, Poland, Egypt, France, Korea, Germany, Greenland, Puerto Rico, Sweden, Armenia, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Iraq, the Philippines, the Netherlands, England, Belgium, Pakistan, Finland, Estonia and China—will be present.

The University and the president—Bob Jones Jr.—are to be highly commended for a contribution to better understanding in the world. The world is, as Dr. Jones said in his opening speech today, much smaller.

"Science with its new means of communication and methods of transportation has made our world smaller in the last 50 years," he said, "but as science has brought the world closer together physically, they have grown farther apart in understanding. Though the nations of the earth are closer neighbors than they were 50 years ago."

HOW THEY VOTED

ALTHOUGH there were no highly controversial measures before the Senate last week, North Carolina's new junior Senator, Willis Smith, gave his constituents their first opportunity to gauge his political opinions.

There were two roll-call votes in the Senate, both of them on rent control. The first was an amendment offered by Senator Flannery (R-Vt.) to make rents on houses in the same as average ceiling on comparable non-controlled housing during March-May 1950. This amendment was defeated 29-83. Senator Smith and Hoy both voted against it. Then the Senate returned to the measure to extend Federal rent control from Dec. 31, 1950, to Feb. 28, 1951, thus giving the new 82nd Congress a chance to examine the situation in January. Senators Smith and Hoy again teamed up, this time favoring the bill.

Over in the House the North Carolina Democratic delegation stood solidly behind the measure.

From The Raleigh News & Observer

PERILOUS

DR. CLAUDIUS T. MURCHISON, economic adviser of the American Cotton Manufacturers Institute, has stated that the present short supply of raw cotton is "perilous."

Of course, this country needs an adequate supply of cotton; a commodity which is greatly increased in time of war. However, what constitutes a "perilous" condition in the supply of cotton on hand depends greatly upon the point of view. Almost continuously between World War I and World War II there was a mass exodus of cotton growers from the South. The heavy surplus was cut down during World War II, but another surplus appeared in 1945 as the building unit fighting began in Korea.

Cotton growers should, and doubtless will, produce enough cotton to supply the nation's need in the years immediately ahead. But cotton growers should not forget that cotton is a perennial crop.

Russell Bailey isn't going fishing every time you see him driving his car with a box on top. He just leaves the boat there, just in case he decided to go fishing—Greensboro County (Meck. Weekly).

MacArthur's Big Offensive Should Have Been Overruled

By JOSEPH AND STEWART ALSOP

WASHINGTON
WHEN HIGH and trusted officers have made a disastrous error, the right policy is not to raise an outcry of defense and blame. The right policy is to find out what actually happened, and to see how the same mistakes can be avoided in the future. The different parties played in the Korean disaster by President Truman's civilian subordinates, the Joint Chiefs of Staff and General Douglas MacArthur, have been examined, calmly and candidly.

The first problem is to isolate the error that produced the disaster. This was, undoubtedly, the "home by Christmas" directive issued by General MacArthur last month. Our small and divided force was banded, from the first, to suffer shattering reverses in this operation if they encountered serious opposition. On the other hand, if our forces had consolidated and our commanders united, the fortified positions on the narrow neck of Korea, where air power, tanks and artillery could have played their proper roles, we could have hoped to inflict a bloody defeat on any attacking Chinese Army, however numerous.

What is now seen as the wrong decision, to launch the "home by Christmas" offensive, was reached after the Joint Chiefs of Staff, one of the first Chinese units in the Korean fighting. This first unit, the Chinese 38th Army, crossed the 38th parallel in October, causing immeasurably more concern in Washington than in Tokyo.

In Washington, the greatest worries were received from the Chinese intelligence about the Chinese capabilities and intentions. But in Tokyo, General MacArthur had expected the American intelligence without protest from Washington. He was aware of the Chinese intentions, but his own G-2 staff section and its independent agent net. By this time, it is now known, the Chinese and Russians caused a wholly false picture of the Chinese intentions, conveyed to General MacArthur, and thus enticed him into an enormous error.

Because of the warnings received in Washington, it can now be stated that the Joint Chiefs of Staff were filled with apprehension when MacArthur sent them the plans for the "home by Christmas" offensive. This apprehension, plus the representations of the Chinese government, in turn led the Joint Chiefs to send an anxious message to Tokyo.

In this message, the Joint Chiefs pointed out to Gen. MacArthur that

almost the whole existing forces of the United States had been committed to him. They stated that full-scale involvement with the Chinese would be a disaster. The air force, they were quoted as saying, it would not be more prudent to consolidate in the narrow neck of Korea, at least until the general position was more clear.

General MacArthur replied to this significant inquiry in an equally significant manner. If, he said, he took off his hat as an American theater commander, he put on his hat as a general of the United Nations command. He declared that his projected offensive was only intended to fulfill his directive from the United Nations. And he inquired whether the Joint Chiefs of Staff wished to alter or amend this UN directive.

The question of the Joint Chiefs' subsequent reaction, and of the President's handling of the problem of MacArthur's offensive, has been guessed from a single authoritative reported episode. Both the smallness of our forces for the projected offensive, and their division geographically and under different commanders, meanwhile greatly troubled certain of President Truman's civilian advisers. They urged the President to discuss the matter carefully with the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Omar Bradley.

The President accordingly took the matter up with Gen. Bradley. Bradley, who was frankly reticent to the President that he should not, in his opinion, approve the UN directive was also answered by the Joint Chiefs. And thus the great error was made and disaster followed.

It is unfortunate that the fact remains that the decision to launch the "home by Christmas" offensive was made in a very small group of men. It was a great political and strategic decision, which has now brought us to the very edge of general war. Legally, and constitutionally, such decisions are the prerogative of the President. And, if it would be hard to find anything more disquieting than this set of circumstances, which I shall not repeat, we are now in a situation of our leadership in this time of dire peril.

Mediator Terms Squabbling Between Sexes Unnecessary

By ROBERT C. RUARK

WHILE THE JACK was turned, a pretty battle broke out between the two sides. The Jack was turned, a pretty battle broke out between the two sides. The Jack was turned, a pretty battle broke out between the two sides.

NAUGHTY CHILD
Mrs. Ferguson, for instance, says a man is a naughty child. The naughty child is a naughty child.

These arguments seem a little silly, too. I have been an admirer of the Jack since I was a little boy. I have been an admirer of the Jack since I was a little boy.

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People's Platform

Reserves Treated Unfairly

EN ROUTE TO JAPAN

Editors, The News:
I AM writing this letter not so much for my benefit, but for the benefit of the people of this country.

It is a well-known fact that the military reserves are being sent overseas under a set of circumstances which I shall not repeat.

The first place, in light of our present predicament, it seems that the Army originally intended to send the reserves overseas under a set of circumstances which I shall not repeat.

The men in this group received their recall to active service in the form of orders to report to Camp Hood, Texas, for a brief period of training.

In the latter part of October, the Army informed the reserves that they were to be sent overseas under a set of circumstances which I shall not repeat.

Enlistment in the ERC was requested of service veterans at the time of their discharge. The reserves were to be sent overseas under a set of circumstances which I shall not repeat.

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