

By STEWART ALSPO

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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1950

CROWDED CLASSROOMS

THE FIGURES cited in a story in yesterday's News afford clear evidence that Charlotte simply must increase its city school facilities in the shortest possible time.

Only eight of the 32 city schools have enough classroom space to handle their present enrollment. At the other 24, the overcrowding ranges from Morgan School where the enrollment is 101 per cent of capacity to West Charlotte where 830 students are being cared for in space for 390—or 212 per cent of rated capacity.

As a result of the heavy enrollment, many makeshift arrangements have been made. There are double sessions in some schools and staggered sessions in others. At Plaza Road, two classes are now being

held in a space formerly used for a cafeteria. In the new Chantilly School a teachers' rest lounge has been converted into a classroom.

All over the city the story is the same—and it is a story of great and urgent need. Charlotte's population has grown faster than its school system. During the war years, it was impossible to do anything about it. Since the war, we have not built new schools fast enough.

The situation in the County is just as distressing, and the need there is fully as great. The \$5,320,000 school bond issue to be voted on Sept. 30 will help materially to catch up with our school building program. The welfare of our children demands its approval.

NO SANCTION

THE City Police Department and City Recorder Curtis made it clear that individuals will not be permitted to take the law into their own hands in Charlotte. The court has fined and meted out suspended sentences to eight men who sought to execute a lynch law. The men carried out their intention in the approved Ku Klux Klan manner—by burning a cross.

It is not important who the men were or who was intimidated. What is important is that the police acted swiftly in rounding up the culprits and the court was quick in imposing punishment.

This action by the police and the court was urgently needed. It must be recognized that there is, in some sections, strong sympathy for the Klan. There are bigots and little men in Charlotte and it is the duty of the law to protect the innocent.

TO THE COMMON DEFENSE

THINGS are looking brighter in Korea and perhaps a little optimism about the Far East can be justified this week. We are getting too optimistic if it turns our eyes to the Atlantic for a moment.

"Things" do not look at all bright in Europe. We're overwhelmingly outnumbered—even by the East German Army. The Russian, though, has decided to attack Western Europe now we couldn't stop them, short of the channel—if we could stop them there.

Meanwhile, we are reminded by Gen. Omar N. Bradley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, writing in this month's *Reader's Digest*, that:

"The enemy is likely to overcome us unless he first possesses Western Europe, which is still the strategic pivot of the world."

AN UNFAIR CHARGE

THE editorial from *The New York Times* reprinted elsewhere on this page makes a point that has largely been overlooked by those who have criticized the appointment of General George Marshall as Secretary of Defense. The point that Marshall's effort in China was honest and sincere, and that his failure "was not his own fault" is the whole body of thinking that sent him out to do what was not only unwise but impossible.

Our erroneous assessment of the Chinese Communists has produced tragic results. But it is not the first time that we have made diplomatic mistakes in the current era. Many Americans thought for a long time that we could do business with Hitler and Mussolini. We totally underestimated Japan's intent and ability to wage war. We thought—after Stalingrad—that we would be in the same world with Russia. We even underestimated the Communists at home, looking at them as a handful of

THE HIGH COST OF ORATORY

THE *Congressional Record*, bless it, is a wondrous document, and we needn't be caught on a Bermuda vacation without it. But the amusement and edification it affords its loyal readers are not for free. The U. S. taxpayer, who bears his many burdens with resignation, foots the bill for *The Record*.

When the Senators and Congressmen are saying something worthwhile, the outlay for reproducing their oratory for posterity is justifiable. And they often say something worthwhile. However, the ends of History would be served equally well—at a savings to the taxpayer—if their political prattles were permitted to wait for the upper corners of the Capitol and then die.

From The Lancaster News

THE PFC WAS OUTSPOKEN

LAST WEEK in a television news program was an interview with a Private First Class of the United States Army who was in Walter Reed Hospital with a machine gun bullet in his leg. He told how he received it while in Korea. He said he couldn't understand the interview by stating, "I don't understand why we have to go to Korea to fight the Communists when we don't fight them here in Washington."

We think that is the most significant comment since President Truman branded the trial of Communist spy Alger Hiss a

red herring, and Secretary Acheson said Hiss was still his friend.

"The News is interested in learning the fate of this bold PFC. We have secured his name and address and intend to contact him. Being a Private First Class he cannot go much lower as far as rank is concerned. He is not in command of anything; so he cannot be relieved. He is not a Cabinet officer; so he cannot be reprimanded. He is not a General; so he cannot be forced to resign."

We think that maybe this statement will have to stand on its own merits.

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PHOTO INSINUATIONS AGAINST SEC. CHAPMAN



Background Of A Mission

Marshall In China

(An Editorial From The New York Times)

THE naming of General Marshall to the post of Defense Secretary has already touched off the beginning of what will doubtless be a long and perhaps acrimonious debate about his role in China.

It is therefore wise and just that this role and the events that followed it be brought before the public in a clear, honest, and fair manner. The country will be helped by a full and frank discussion of the facts and the issues involved. The country will be helped by a full and frank discussion of the facts and the issues involved. The country will be helped by a full and frank discussion of the facts and the issues involved.

General Marshall was called from his post in 1945 to act as a special emissary of President Truman to China. He was instructed by the President to bring to bear the influence of the United States to effect the unification of China by peaceful means. He was also instructed to work for a cessation of hostilities in North China.

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People's Platform

Graham Salted Away

Editors The News
WELL, IT seems Frank Graham is to be called away in another and snail. Caesar would be nice now, it's Russian.

Head of the American Red Cross is a plumb job, but his service as an adviser for the nation of a possible security risk.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

IN the most important report yet given Congress, Army Chief of Staff Joe Collins promised no more retreats in Korea and predicted the Chinese Communists would not attack Formosa.

General Collins summed up the Korean situation for the Senate Armed Services Committee last night. To the best of his knowledge and judgment, he reported, "there will be no more falling back."

He pointed out that Japan was short of training grounds, because every available inch was under cultivation. The Army would be likely to give combat training under actual battle conditions, using the explosion charges. Think shells, he said, would be used in training to condition men for war. Collins added that the Army would be likely to give combat training under actual battle conditions, using the explosion charges.

The Army's chief problem is not lack of manpower, but lack of equipment. The Chief of Staff cited the fact that the Army had more than 100,000 men in excess of the equipment we have to supply them with.

Collins added, however, that the equipment was now beginning to come in. He said that the Army had more than 100,000 men in excess of the equipment we have to supply them with.



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THE NEWS from Korea is good. The news from China is good. The news from Korea is good. The news from China is good. The news from Korea is good. The news from China is good.

This is the strategic situation of the United States and its allies in the Pacific. The news from Korea is good. The news from China is good. The news from Korea is good. The news from China is good.

PAPER DEFENSE

There is one way to understand just how indefensible our situation is while the defense of Western Europe remains a paper defense. This is to ask the best informed of the strategic planners for their best estimates of the course of a general war breaking out in the near future. There is, perhaps, nothing particularly surprising about their answers. But just a reminder of where we really stand, may be worth repeating these answers in capsule form.

First of course, just about everything the United States has, this country's air force, the inadequate continental air command and its air bases in the West, is now committed in Korea. It is difficult to see how a major attack on the Soviet Union, even by the Persians, could be launched.

Second, the planners accept the view of Winston Churchill of the position of the British Isles, if the continent is overrun. From the bad days of 1940, Churchill said recently he had "good bones" that England would survive even if it were bombed to ruins. But now, he continued, "I cannot see the same sense of courage anywhere."

Fourth, southeast Asia already is a battlefield. The news from the East is not good. The news from the East is not good. The news from the East is not good. The news from the East is not good.

Press Helped Truman Realize That He Isn't Right Always

By ROBERT C. RUARK

THE AMERICAN press has not been particularly powerful, to say the least, in influencing the realm of Mr. Truman, whose negated decision in his appointees has degraded his status to the people who elected him. But in the shaking of Defense Secretary Marshall, I think the press at least takes a heavy ax.

The President's decision to remove Mr. Marshall from his post as Secretary of Defense is a heavy blow to the prestige of the office. The President's decision to remove Mr. Marshall from his post as Secretary of Defense is a heavy blow to the prestige of the office.

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This means it means a United States, for the first time in its history, is in a position of being regarded as effective allies only with Canada, New Zealand, and Australia, plus whatever allies could be found among the Latin American countries.

This is the assumption which must be made, at least for planning purposes. There is, of course, another side to the picture. As of today, according to the best estimates of the best informed of the strategic planners, the Soviet Union could launch a surprise attack on the American West coast by atomic bombardment. On the other hand, the Soviet Union could be turned back to the Middle Ages."

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