

THOMAS L. ROBINSON... J. E. DOWD... B. S. GRIPPITH... C. A. McKNIGHT

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PREVENTIVE WAR TALK

IT IS indeed discouraging to hear "preventive war" still advocated. In Henderson the other day, Richard Sanderson...

In the first place, Russian propagandists lick heads in place of their fuel for their fires, at this moment from heaven.

A Washington commentator recently observed that most Americans have forgotten the "preventive war" suggestion of Navy Secretary Francis Matthews last August.

So with other suggestions to the same effect, a North Carolina legislator might be presumed to be beneath the Kremlin's notice.

Such talk also weakens at home. For one thing, it clouds our purposes. General MacArthur told the Congress, "the very object of war is victory."

MacARTHUR SIDELIGHTS. THE article by William R. Matthews elsewhere on this page brings out several points about General MacArthur that have some bearing on the current national controversy.

When the General made his historic address before Congress, he endorsed our intervention in Korea as being militarily sound. Yet he seemed rather wary that he wasn't consulted about it, a quite natural reaction.

Matthews relates that MacArthur, on the night of June 28, called the North Korean attack "an act of international banditry; inexcusable, unprovoked aggression."

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Prior to the General's address to Congress, Republicans had adopted "Truman's war" as a key slogan in their attack on the Administration. They dropped it quietly after the General spoke, and this further revelation of MacArthur's views on intervention should bury the idea for all time.

CONGRESS IGNORES HOOVER REFORMS

SIX weeks ago nineteen bills and one concurrent resolution to complete the unacted portions of the Hoover Commission recommendations were introduced in the House and Senate with strong bipartisan support.

These measures cover important reorganizations needed to reduce the cost of Federal services and improve their efficiency. Yet the Congress has been so intrigued with the debate on foreign policy that it has virtually ignored the domestic scene.

The Citizens Committee for the Hoover report asks if the recent questions before Congress are more important than these.

The pressing need for a strong, efficient government stripped of wasteful and duplicative activities.

The replacing of the worn-out Civil Service.

TEA is a perennial trouble-maker for British governments. Tea topped the government of one George over the late colonies. And tea has intrigued the wonderful theories of the government of another George.

This week the Labor government finally admitted that it could not manage tea. After eleven years as the sole buyer the government has handed the tea business back to the private market on a floating basis.

The Ministry of Food mused no words: "The price now considers the system of government purchasing... does not on the whole give consumers the widest possible choice of tea."

Food subsidies are now talked of as a device to hold grocery prices down. Showing that one subsidy always leads to another.

absence of war and freedom that is more than the absence of slavery. Full realization of this is a job not clear thinking about our current controversies.

As Paul Hoffman says in that dynamic, hopeful book Peace Can Be Won, "To wage a preventive war against the Kremlin would be to substitute emotion for intelligence, fanaticism for resourcefulness."

As Hanson Baldwin said in the New York Times, the preventive war doctrine is "the course of political bankruptcy and moral frustration which would lose for the United States the very values we are trying to defend."

Finally, all our military leaders (including it appears from the record of his pronouncements in the past, General MacArthur) are pretty well agreed that no quick victory over Russia can be gained even if we do strike first.

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Study In Changing Ideas

The Post-Korea MacArthur

(NOTE: William R. Matthews is editor and publisher of The Arizona Daily Star in Tucson, and has spent a great deal of time in the Far East. The current issue of "The Freeman," a fortnightly magazine of analysis and comment, has a long article on General Douglas MacArthur written by Mr. Matthews after four interviews with the General in Manila and Tokyo. The following is an excerpt from that article.—Editors, The News.)

AS LATE as June 25, 1950 the far-reaching destruction of modern war evoked upon MacArthur's mind. He remarked to my friend, Cecil McCordie of The Philadelphia Evening Bulletin, "Here I am in Japan, restoring a country I had to destroy."

On that historic evening he called the North Korean attack "an act of international banditry; inexcusable, unprovoked aggression," and added:

I hope the American people have the guts to rise to meet the situation. I know they have in it. I can't believe they will condone this felonious assault. It would be contrary to all of our history. If we do not meet this one, there is no war to be won.

When I asked him whether he still thought as he did in 1949 when he had told me that Chinese Communist strength was greatly overrated, he replied emphatically in the affirmative. At that time he had ridiculed in eloquent terms the idea that the Chinese Communists could maintain themselves for long in the mountainous regions of China.

IF I WERE to pinpoint General MacArthur's greatest weakness, I would repeat what I said in 1945: It is political. Events since last June 25 show that he has been unable to understand the Communists and then the Chinese Communists. In scoring the strength of the Chinese Communists, he made what he once told me was the greatest mistake that all political and military leaders make; and that is, to overestimate or underestimate their foes.

These questions answer themselves. The demands of the military preparedness program make it imperative that the regular costs of government be lowered to an absolute minimum. The Hoover Commission recommendations are sound. They will improve efficiency and reduce costs. More action and less talk in Congress will turn the trick.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

REPUBLICAN leaders in the Senate has not been too happy about General MacArthur's talks with W. Herbert Hoover. It began when they were not to get MacArthur on the telephone in Tokyo, and later learned that the General had several phone conversations with Hoover. Later, in Washington, their approaches to MacArthur about politics were politely ignored.

Hoover then gave MacArthur his own ideas about the Republican candidate for the Presidency in 1952 and went all out for Gov. Earl Warren of California. Hoover unhesitatingly declared Warren as the best qualified man for the entire GOP political spectrum. Not given much to think, Hoover almost waxed enthusiastic about Governor Warren.

Soviet-Chinese Conference

THE present Chinese attack in Korea was preceded by a series of top-secret Red Russian-Chinese conferences in Moscow, the Chinese demanding a large list of arms from Moscow.

MacArthur and Ridgway. THROUGH General MacArthur is now quoting three-star Lt. Gen. Ridgway to back his case, the inside fact is that MacArthur quietly tried to knife Ridgway's promotion to be a full four-star general.



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As a result of MacArthur's subtle opposition, the new supreme commander is no higher in military rank than that of his subordinate admirals and generals in the Far East.

Repetition of U.S. Errors In Iran Likely in Turkey

By JOSEPH ALSOP

COMING FROM Tehran, ANKARA is a dark cave into bright light. True, the Spring on the Iranian and Anatolian plateaus has the new beauty of clean air and flowers and where in Tehran the themes of the drama are decay and dissolution.

It would be pleasant to be able to repeat the same old story of difference between American policy in Iran, where we are now paying the price of a long series of failures and failures, and American policy in Turkey. Certainly great things, invaluable things, have been achieved in Turkey by the American aid program.

Turkish economy has been protected from the strain of the heavy military burden imposed by periodic Soviet menace. The formerly primitive Turkish Army has been transformed into a powerful fighting force of twenty-five divisions.

This is because the problem of Turkey's relationship to "THE A" is particularly acute. The State Dept.'s fear of Congress and partly by the almost equal reluctance to throw out great issues with our West European allies.

On the other hand, his warning of November 6, 1950 (Tokyo time) still stands. So serious did he consider the entry of Chinese divisions into Korea at that time that he made public his alarm, suggesting fear of exactly what happened two weeks later.

The entry of "alien Communist forces" — without notice of any belligerency — was one of the most offensive acts of international lawlessness of historic record. He added that there was "a great concentration of possible reinforcing divisions of the Communist army behind the privileged sanctuary of the adjacent Yalu River border."

At this time, when the American people are still confused over that our policy should be in the Orient, the gist of a conversation I had with General MacArthur in August 1949 may be helpful. He explained:

From the line we hold, beginning in Alaska and running from the Aleutians through Okinawa to the Philippines, we can with our air and sea power break up any amphibious operation of a predatory power embarking from the Asiatic mainland to the Philippines.

There is a contrast that needs some explaining. Why was so concerned on November 6 and so optimistic on November 24? I can not believe he would have changed his mind without good reason. Someone had made a tragic mistake in estimating the intentions and the strength of the Chinese. Someone had mistakenly calmed his fears.

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It's Really Rough On Kids Whose Paps are Demigods

By ROBERT C. RUARK

IF THERE IS one kid in the country for whom I feel very sorry it is little Arthur MacArthur, Jr. He looks to be a nice kid but his is the tragedy of being cheated of childhood. More of being denied a demigod is the roughest of them.

Childhood is a precious thing and should, so far as possible, belong to the child. Little Arthur's childhood is not his. He is a demigod in his father's eyes. He has become an unwilling celebrity, a second-hand recipient of the honors, pomp and pretension which are heaped on his old man.

When he went to the ball game the other day, his first in this country, it was a small party, consisting of his father's car and a few adult friends. But not a few of any action the boy was immediately turned into a sort of circus.

Reporters kept tabs on how many they had and their comments were quoted as a gospel. The Giant and Dodger managers were seen to be very hot stuff and deserve all things from all people, or two of them.

Living always in the shadow of the mighty, and dining daily on the most costly and costly of things, he is a young man of a famous father. That was a nice gesture, giving Arthur his first taste of Washington, but the watch was not really a present to Arthur MacArthur, Jr. It was a present of adulation for the boy's old man.

Now that the kid is home, in his own country, I sure hope the old folks put him in a school where his path will not be cleared by the color and the great attaches and guards of honor. I hope, before the year's out that he has earned his own living.

Two weeks later, the Joint Chiefs called MacArthur again, reminding him that he was holding up Ridgway's promotion. Then, instead of agreeing to an unqualified promotion, MacArthur recommended that Lt. Gen. Ridgway be promoted to full general, and as a matter of routine, called MacArthur for approval of his recommendation.

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