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THE WEDEMEYER REPORT

AFTER many months of gossip and speculation about its contents, the famed Wedemeyer report on Korea was finally brought out in its own week. It did not support the sensational rumors that had been floating during its long and ill-divided "secret" classification.

It is true that General Wedemeyer forewarned the possibility that the puppet government of North Korea might at some future date use force to turn South Korea to Communism. But a close reading of the text does not bear out news stories that he "predicted" an invasion.

The report was prepared in 1947. It spoke of the "machinations in South Korea of the Communist groups openly hostile to the United States." It said that the political and economic disputes between the United States and South Korea are "potentially dangerous to United States strategic interests."

General Wedemeyer went on to recommend the organization, equipping and training of a South Korean security force, composed of American and American "officers throughout by Americans" that "should be of sufficient strength to cope with the threat from the North." The report added:

"The creation of an American controlled and trained Korean security force, sufficient in strength to cope with the threat from the North, is required to prevent the forcible establishment of a Communist government after the United States and Soviet Union withdraw their occupation forces."

As no place in his report did General Wedemeyer hint at an invasion, or give any approximation of the time to which such an invasion would take place.

HIGHWAY COMMISSION CHANGE

FORMER House Speaker Kerr's CRAIG Ramsey of Rowan County (issued a suggestion to the Charlotte-Knoxville Club yesterday that merits a close study. The Tennessee State Highway & Public Works Commission, said Mr. Ramsey, ought to be set up on a staggered term basis, with the terms made by the Governor and confirmed by the General Assembly.

As it is now, the Highway Commission members are appointed by each incoming governor, for a term of four years. No confirmation is required. Commission members serve at the pleasure of the Governor and are completely beholden to him. He can fire or will any member who declines to follow his bidding.

Such complete power over members might not be amiss in some of the State's multiple agencies and commissions. The Highway Commission falls into a somewhat different category. That body is charged with the

SENATOR DICK RUSSELL

THE Congressional seniority system is often criticized, and just as often producing committee chairmen of limited ability and dubious longevity. But the same rule of seniority sometimes works the other way and produces chairmen of unusual ability.

Such a man is Senator Dick Russell of Georgia, who automatically rose to head the Senate Armed Forces Committee following the defeat of Senator Tydings of Maryland last year.

Russell, a 53-year-old bachelor, is the fifth man in seniority in the Senate, having taken his seat in January, 1923. As leader of the Southern Democratic bloc (known as the "Solid South") in the Presidential nomination in the 1948 Democratic convention, the Georgian is generally considered to be the most powerful man in the Senate today. The loyalty of his Southerners gives him the

balance of power, so that his influence is greater even than that of the Majority leader, Senator McFarland.

Russell is the ideal man for directing the Senate investigation into foreign and military policy. He stands in the middle between the 100 per cent isolationists and the 100 per cent internationalists. He is faithful to the High Tariff remnant services, but has a great zeal for the nation's security. Quick-witted, intelligent, suave, Russell will undoubtedly keep the investigation on the proper plane.

The issues posed by General MacArthur are fundamental. They should be examined calmly and reasonably in an atmosphere free of melodrama and emotionalism. Senator Dick Russell offers one excellent reason to believe that the investigation will not degenerate into a political sideshow.

From The Washington Post

VAN FLEET'S INSPIRATION

COURAGE, faith, humility—these are the qualities that stand out in General Van Fleet's first message to his troops. In simple language the new commander of the Eighth Army in Korea has brought encouragement to his soldiers in the face of the Chinese onslaught. He has done more, however, than praise the skill and determination of the United Nations forces and cite their superiority in all but numbers.

With a directness which gains additional eloquence by the fact that it comes from a battlefield, he has summarized the larger issues in the fighting:

You are fighting to stop armed aggression and maintain peace not only in Korea but in your respective homelands. The present battle is for the preservation of life, liberty and the right to the pursuit of happiness of all free men. These are fundamental in the rights of man—the rock upon which our civilization is founded—and they are the first rights which Communism denies its own people.

The time has come when all men of the free and decent world must steel their souls to face the desperate, bitter and uncon-

As Secretary of State Acheson pointed out, all of General Wedemeyer's recommendations were followed except the creation of the security force. For some time not yet revealed, the Defense Department chose to send a 500-man military mission to Korea to supervise the organization and training of the South Korean army.

The report produced another absurdity. Republican Senator Styles Bridges said, "If Republican members of Congress had been told of (it) they might have forced action." If we remember correctly, it was almost solely by Republicans that defeated the first aid-to-Korea measure, and Republican opposition to the second aid bill was strong.

How much stronger would it have been if economy-minded Republicans had read this part of the report:

"A five-year rehabilitation program starting in July, 1948, and requiring United States financing at a cost of \$667 million, has been proposed by the military government. The program's preliminary estimates indicate that the proposed annual rehabilitation cost would be substantially greater than the relief program of \$137 million which was tentatively approved for fiscal 1948 but later reduced to \$92 million. These preliminary estimates of cost and the merits of individual projects need careful review. It is not considered feasible to make South Korea self-sufficient, if the United States elects to remain in South Korea support of that area should be on a relief basis."

Senator Bridges' party has furnished the bulk of the opposition to all of this nation's postwar recovery planning. The Republicans fought the Marshall Plan, even though that enterprise was designed to help indebted European nations get back on their feet. They have fought Point 4 projects. Would they have approved an annual "relief" program for far-away Korea, which, as General Wedemeyer said, it would never be self-sustaining.

We hardly think so. Senator Bridges' current opinion to the contrary notwithstanding.

Bladenboro

Supports MacArthur

EDITH, that I, being a veteran of World War II, and having served under General MacArthur for three years, may as well add my two cents' worth to the Truman-McArthur war. I do not think Truman's punch-you-in-the-nose attitude will win this or any other war. Neither will it bloody anyone's nose.

I see the same thing here in Mecklenburg. I live five miles from Charlotte on York Road. It is strewn with empty liquor bottles and beer cans. In my younger days we had what people called old drunks and old sots. Now they have changed

Drinks And Sots

I READ Eric Brandeis' column almost daily. I enjoy reading his column. The one he wrote about North Carolina being a state is misleading. Anyone that did not know would think North Carolina a purely dry state. There are about 200 wet counties. While Eric Brandeis was down here he was in wet counties. He had been to Wilmington.

His column was written in Asheville. I don't doubt the debauchery, the drunks and the broken glass he saw.

Before Charlotte got liquor stores we did not have much of it. It is true we had some of it, but not near so much. We did not have any beer cans strewn along the road sides.

Pineville

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

NINE months before the Korean war General MacArthur predicted that the Chinese Communists could be "easily kept out of any major attack on the art of warfare."

These amazing statements, exactly the opposite of what MacArthur now professes, were made by the South Korean report to President Truman, submitted by Congressman Charles Deane of North Carolina in September, 1949. Deane was head of a Congressional delegation which called on MacArthur in Tokyo to get his views.

Deane reported MacArthur as believing that the "Chinese Reds were greatly overrated and could be easily defeated in any major conflict." Also that the "Soviet were powerless to conduct a full-scale war on the China mainland."

'How Good A Security Risk Is This Guy?'



People's Platform

Letters should be brief, written on one side of the paper. The writer's name must be signed, but may be withheld from publication in the discretion of the Editor. The News reserves the right to condense.

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Hatred Of Administration Hurting Taft's Chances

In the course of time, everybody who has a bellyache or a sore tooth from any cause will have talked to the neighbors. In the same way, the worshippers of General MacArthur will begin to discover any day that the name of Senator Taft will be the biggest frog in the pond sitting on a log and waiting to be crushed. By that time something else will have happened. Truman, in good faith, has promised to resign. It will be President till January, 1953.

If Taft and MacArthur succeed in saving us into a war with China and Russia the country will wake up to the folly of the man who led us into it and they will go down the political drain. If President Truman succeeds in limiting the lead us into it and they will go down the political drain. If President Truman succeeds in limiting the lead us into it and they will go down the political drain.

MR. TAFT now wants to investigate everything back as far as the Yalta Conference. He is still trying to dig up the corpse of President Roosevelt and claw it out of the grave. He is probably proud that it was Roosevelt and not Hitler that started the last war and that was Roosevelt who attacked Pearl Harbor, not the Japanese at all. When a man gets mental cross-eye as Senator Taft has, he is capable of seeing anything backward.

Ruark Trembles At Prospect Of Working For His Living

By ROBERT C. RUARK

THIS IS a peculiar NEW YORK dogwood bloom, hope springs eternal, and the editors migrate to Washington and New York to do some investigating and diagnose their business plans.

There are many topics for editorial dissection. One of them is the writers. At this time of the year a syndicated writer is an abomination. He is a man who has been under the Springsame antipathy, because I am one of the writers myself, and I am possibly prejudiced. I have been known to bleed when cut and when I am writing, and the laws still apply.

We note from two news magazines that a veteran syndicator publisher has done his cut out for his shoves again. He prides on a "A1" list of the things he has done. He is a man writing the same piece for several papers.

CUT TO THE QUICK "I have just read with a great deal of personal interest the compelling editorial, 'Architect of Unity,' which appeared in the 19 April issue of the Charlotte News."

I have seen no more fitting editorial tribute to the memory of my late uncle, Senator Arthur Vandenberg. I feel you have done very many readers real service with this clearly-written and objective account of a great statesman.

Thanks and best wishes. HOFF, S. VANDENBERG, Chief of Staff, United States Air Force.

MacArthur's China Predictions Recalled

Note: In a separate memo attached to Deane's secret report to the President, the North Carolina is also explained about Maj. Gen. Charles Willoughby, MacArthur's chief intelligence officer, who has now asked to be removed from the post. Deane reported that Willoughby had a full colonel as a messenger boy to juggle the charts and snapped his fingers every time he wanted the Colonel to remove a chart. Deane also complained that Willoughby seemed to be on the tennis court when the Congressional delegation was looking for him.

Interesting Quotation

President Truman was all set to answer General MacArthur with his own words at a press conference called just after the General was fired.

Mr. Truman had an interesting quotation from MacArthur neatly typed out on a piece of paper and tucked inside his coat pocket when the press conference started. He planned to read it if someone asked him whether he would be on the tennis court when the Congressional delegation was looking for him.

However, here is MacArthur's own statement about the supremacy of the President and the determination of the most read, and which was made by MacArthur in 1952:

"The national strategy of any war—that is, the selection of national objectives and the determination of the means and methods to be applied in attaining them, as well as the development of the broad policies applicable to the prosecution of the war—are decisions made by the President. The Co-ordinating Army and Navy effort could not be delegated by the commander-in-chief to any subordinate authority. Any such attempt would