

SATURDAY, MAY 8, 1954

### The Men Of Dien Bien Phu

MOST Americans, we suspect, heard the news of the capture of Dien Bien Phu with mixed emotions...

Admiration for the courage and stamina of the French and Vietnamese troops who held off the screaming hordes of Communists for two months, who stood up without breaking under the incessant artillery and mortar fire from the hills around their fortress...

Worshipment that the men at Dien Bien Phu had the stomach to fight at all with a government at home weakened by dissension, and with military strategists who had served them badly by staking them out in such an untenable position.

Dismay that the free world, after the historic example in Korea and the subsequent talk of "united action" in Indochina had been unable to agree on a plan of direct military assistance for the besieged garrison.

Uncertainty, the gnawing kind, over the psychological results of the defeat, not only in France but all over Southeast Asia...

Memories of Munich and Bataan and the "loss" of China... Humiliation at the awareness that the men at Dien Bien Phu were really fighting for us...

Concern for the survivors, if there be any, who face cruelty and torture and brain-washing... Determination that somehow their sacrifice will atoned.

Yes, Dien Bien Phu has fallen. But the pallid fight will not have been in vain if the epic display of raw courage renews the faith of the free world in the cause of human freedom, and creates the will to resist further Communist aggression.

### At 70, HST Is Mellow And Confident

By DORIS FLEESON  
WASHINGTON

THE MAN from Independence always wears a sea collar and his 70th birthday finds him with his faith comfortably intact, his spirit free and his roots as staunchly anchored deep in American earth.

Harry Truman, having reached the Biblical allotment of three score ten, has mellowed under his new freedom. To those who come to him for counsel and advice he preaches his confidence in the ultimate good judgment of the American people.

"Let the river run its course," he says. "Trust the American People."

Mr. Truman's lack of bitterness is the more remarkable because of the sharpness of the attacks upon which continue to a lessened degree to this day. His relaxed attitude and good humor arises not so much from sentimentality as from his admitted shrewdness as a down-to-earth politician who once made one of the greatest combats in American political history.

STILL A FORCE  
What he thinks and says is of importance because he is still a living force in national politics, a fact as disagreeable to some Democrats as it is to Republicans.

While avoiding personalities, Truman does not keep it precisely a secret that he believes a certain poetic justice is at work in the present administration of the Republican administration. They are doing badly, he says bluntly.

For example, he sees in President Eisenhower's difficulties in Indochina a reflection of the same logical problems that beset him in China and Korea. And he adds with a wry smile:

"The President can be very certain I won't take a trip to Indochina."

Still jealous of the dignity of the office of president, Truman is happiest time of public service, he says.

"You want to know how a Communist victory in Indochina will affect the situation here," said Sir Gerald Temple, the brilliant leader who turned the tide in the struggle against Malaya's Communist guerrillas.

"I can easily tell you that, too," he replied, with still greater grimness. "All the doctors here will agree no longer. The support for the jungle guerrillas, which we have managed to cut down to nothing, will immediately and very greatly increase. We shan't be able to hold it."

"FATHER MAO COMING"  
"And, by the same token, the morale of the Communists, both guerrillas and the underground, is now at rock bottom, but it will immediately go to a new high. After all, their slogan is, 'Father Mao is coming to give us the victory.' Even last year, at the time of the Communist invasion of Laos, we could see the reaction to a Communist success in Indochina on a small scale but very plainly. But you talk of a real victory of Indochina being actually surrendered to the Communists."

"Well, my best estimate is that before very long I would need three additional British divisions to prevent the Malayan situation from getting thoroughly out of control. I think it's justifiable to call that a real victory, but it is as the British divisions don't exist."

So spoke Sir Gerald, biting off the last words with visible distaste. When he talked last November to one of these reporters, he reminded us of the hardest practical importance. For a supporter of Indochina to the Communists is clearly in the making.



"It's like in the politics, Signore... You stand here, she leans to the left, you stand there, she leans to the right, it all depends where you stand."

### Southeast Asia First Payment The Cost Of Surrender

By JOSEPH & STEWART ALOP

WASHINGTON  
The practical outlook is plain. Nothing can prevent a surrender, any longer, except direct American intervention in the Indochina fight. It will be called the surrender of Czechoslovakia to Hitler. But it will amount to a surrender all the time, and it is time to come its cost.

The desperate danger in Malaya that Temple so succinctly described is only one item in the price that will have to be paid. In Indonesia, for example, the Communists are a small minority, yet they have deeply penetrated the ruling party of Indonesia, the Nationalists. In recent months, a most hopeful tendency has developed for the wiser Nationalists to try to avert a Communist takeover.

But in Burma, too, can hardly survive the shock of the great disaster that is probably in store; and Burma is South Asia's other key.

One other remembered conversation will be enough to complete the computation of this price that will have to be paid. The place, this time, was the Tokyo equivalent of the head office of the National Association of Manufacturers.

One speaker, small, shrewd and vigorous, was Ichiro Ishikawa, the leader of this anything but a labor organization of Japan's biggest businessmen. He had been discussing how to prevent the Chinese from using the trade level to promote communism in Japan. But what would happen in Japan, he was asked, if Indochina and South Asia fell to Communists in the end.

JAPAN'S PROBLEM  
"Oh then," he said, with an apologetic smile, "oh then all of us, all Japan will really have to turn Communist. If South Asia is Communist, how else can we live."

Malaya, Burma, Indonesia, with Japan—they make up a ugly bill of lading. Yet this is only the statement of the tab that history will present to us. No such upset in the world balance of power can possibly occur without forcing upon the free world that same choice that was finally forced upon the United States because of the British renege that got the United States was set to put down communism by the Korean fact that the British realize the necessity to win the allegiance of peoples by slow, painstaking efforts not just for a few years but for decades. This is unfair in that it underrates the far-reaching assistance programs.

Again, in Burma, the struggle is close-balanced. The courageous leaders of the present Burmese government are stoutly anti-Communist, but they are also personally closer than any other Asian leaders to Jawaharlal Nehru. These Burma leaders have just shown how they estimated the effects of a surrender in Indochina. At the recent Colombo Conference, they boldly took the lead in opposing their friend Nehru's proposals for Indochinese appeasement.

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Quote, Unquote  
The first signs of spring fill a man with many thoughts—the regeneration of life, the coming of hope after a period of despair, the eternal possibility that this year his golf score will be better than it was last year.—Greenwood (Miss.) Commonwealth.

One thing about hiding the eggs for the chickens of Eastern Europe is the only way you can find the last few of those you hid last year.—Florida Times-Union.

A capsule definition on economics might well be read with interest in Washington. It was recently coined by the chairman of a Negro farm meeting: "If our money is not coming in, we are down." — Savannah Morning News.

### 'China Gulf' Separates U. S., Allies

By MARQUIS GENOVA

THE DIFFERENCES between America and the other Western allies over what course to follow in Indochina have become sharp during the past 10 days. They have been much sharper than the anti-Chinese language of public speechmaking would indicate.

It gets down to this: Most of America's allies and friends in both Europe and Asia believe it necessary to recognize the fact of Communist control of the great land mass of China. They believe that however grim and hateful the prospect may be, the West must somehow accommodate itself to the tremendous alteration of power that this represents.

The dominant view in America both in Congress and in the executive has been exactly the opposite—China must be isolated and the Communist regime broken down. It is no secret to informed Europeans that pressures such as a coastal blockade should be maintained over a long period of 50 years or more to prevent the industrial and military development that have made Soviet Russia one of the world's super powers. The same view is held by Assistant Secretary of State Robertson in charge of Far Eastern Affairs. It is the view of Sen. Knowland and many other influential Republicans and Democrats.

MERELY FIRST STEP  
Among the British and the other Commonwealth powers represented at Geneva a strong suspicion exists that the intention is to "save" Indochina would be merely the first step in a larger American war waged against China. Americans are well aware that this suspicion was unjustified and unworthy of a friend, but it was an important factor in the discussion. Against that background of mutual suspicion and distrust the American position is not so suspiciously on Allied reluctance to respond to the Indochina call—Communist strategy is to isolate America and at the same time trying to win away American's adherents. If the Communists succeed in this, they will come here at Geneva, that familiar strategy has a greater chance of success than at any time since the end of World War II.

President Eisenhower's press conference in Geneva was a necessary step for "an arrangement" with communism in Southeast Asia may, of course, have come to a head. The British and the other Commonwealth officials here were privy to the hearing. The British are refusing to go along with intervention in Indochina. Delegates with whom this reporter talked here are of the opinion that Eisenhower remarks were recalling that it was less than two weeks ago that the British had been saying "communism must be stopped in Indochina, if necessary with American troops."

APART FROM THE HUMAN TRAGEDY, America has been providing war material for the French at the rate of \$100 million a month. It may be possible to retrieve part of this material before it falls into the hands of the Communists. In fact, tentative discussions to this end have already been made by the British and the Communists. In fact, tentative discussions to this end have already been made by the British and the Communists.

Increasingly it has seemed to many that the United States was set to put down communism by the Korean fact that the British realize the necessity to win the allegiance of peoples by slow, painstaking efforts not just for a few years but for decades. This is unfair in that it underrates the far-reaching assistance programs.

### At Last, The Seaway Nears Reality

THE proposal to construct the St. Lawrence Seaway was first advanced seriously in 1895.

It has had the support of Presidents Wilson, Harding, Coolidge, Hoover, Roosevelt, Truman and Eisenhower.

It has been backed by business, industrial and agricultural interests in the Midwest, and fought by railroads, Atlantic and Gulf ports, coal producers and private power utilities.

All arguments for it and all arguments against it were used and re-used over the years until they were worn thin. Yet, until this week, a bill to enable the United States to join Canada in constructing the seaway could never get by Congress. On Thursday, the House voted for a measure previously approved by the Senate. Now only minor details must be ironed out in a conference committee before the bill is signed into law.

President Eisenhower's insistence on the seaway as a national defense need finally tipped the scales in its favor. The President has voiced concern over the depletion of the Mesabi Range iron ore reserves in the Lake Superior region. In Labrador, there are vast new iron ore fields ready to be tapped. The seaway will permit the cheap transportation of this ore to the steelmaking centers of the Great Lakes area.

Another barrier was removed when the generation of power was separated from the seaway project. Congress did this recently by authorizing the State of New York to join with the province of Ontario to construct a 600 million dollar hydroelectric project at the site of the swift rapids near Ogdensburg, N. Y.

Proponents of the seaway believe that its construction will cause a major industrial and commercial revolution throughout the Midwest, and they are quite likely correct. Transportation is one of the most dominant factors governing the industrial development of any area, and the seaway will cause a basic change in the transportation pattern of the area it traverses.

Canada was all set to go ahead with unilateral construction of the seaway, a proposition that found favor with a good many Americans. It will be better in the long run, we believe, to make it a joint venture, thus cementing even more tightly the bonds that have held the two great North American nations together.

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### Let 'Em Eat Each Other Up

MCCARTHYISM is coming home to roost. The senator and his followers, long suspicious of those who opposed them, are now getting suspicious of each other.

In the current Washington hearing, the senator has denounced and questioned the motives of several persons who formerly supported him.

The current issue of HEADLINES, published by Joseph P. Kamp's Constitutional Educational League Inc., attacks CONGRESS, another right-wing publication.

"Even COUNTERATTACK Helped Foes of McCarthy and McCarthyism," charges HEADLINES. "By building up certain Socialist Reds it helped the cause of Marxism, and by suppressing certain titles which would have exposed Red infiltration and techniques it contributed a bit to the success of communism."

One of the right-wing organizations, the Congress of Freedom, met in Omaha recently and the delegates got into a big hassle. One of the "patriots" was Sally Stratton, who writes a syndicated column. She reported that while everybody agreed that the U. S. ought to get out of the U. N., abolish the draft, repeal the income tax amendment and pass the Bricker amendment, other issues created pandemonium.

"There was bitter wrangling and name calling," she wrote. "Delegates accused each other of being hatchet men... I see little hope for the success of such an organization where the foundation is built upon suspicion, selfishness and jealousy."

"I think," he said, "the four-minute mile has been overrated." And like the mountain climbers, he pointed out that it was others who made his victory possible; "I could not have done it without Chataway and Brasher" who led him at a fast pace for the first three laps. Which was precisely the same thought Hillary and Tensing expressed when they were pressed to say which man reached the top first.

And so it goes, man helping man, as records fall and new fields are explored. And there are many more "Everests" and "four minute miles." On to the moon, Mars, cancer cures, the seven foot high jump, and peace.

### On To The Moon And Mars

EVEREST has been scaled, the sound barrier broken, the atom split. Fliers have beat the sun across the continent. Pole vaulters have cleared 15 feet and more. By one of the difficult goals which man set for himself have been reached.

This week yet another was attained. No longer will high school children dream their dreams of becoming the first man to run the four minute mile. The honor went Thursday night to a lanky English middle student, Roger Bannister timed at 3:59.4 in Oxford.

His reaction was similar to that of other "firsters." Like Hillary and Tensing, who topped Mt. Everest a year ago, he was humble, modest.

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### From The Greensboro Daily News

#### STANDING CUSTOM

IN A LETTER to Louis Graves of the CHAPEL HILL WEEKLY Walter Pritchard Eaton joined Albert Coates in advocating a "crusade against the idea that a man must always stand up when a lady enters the room."

The gentlemen may have something there, but we doubt it. They were led to their conclusion when they "observed" a lady in the Carolina Inn Cafeteria pause to chat at a table where a couple were seated. The man, of course arose and stood there helplessly while the two women chatted and his food grew cold. No doubt the caller had him at a disadvantage; he felt it was ungentlemanly to do so, just as he would have felt it ungentlemanly not to get up in the first place.

Almost every man has been caught in that circumstance. It is not pleasant usually the intruder realizes the inconvenience and departs quickly. That is some compensation for the stance, although scant.

Usually the intruder realizes the inconvenience and departs quickly. That is some compensation for the stance, although scant.

We think the old standing custom is cumbersome and awkward sometimes, but what is the alternative? Should men be invited to a conversational circle stay slumped in their chairs when a lady enters the room? Should they make no signs of recognition?

We don't like cold food and we don't like standing in silly poses while women talk; but we do like the little distinction between men and women—even if they are "a hang-over from the age of chivalry when we kept women in her place by pretending she was a queen."

And we don't mind standing occasionally, if only to get the crinks out of our bones.

### Drew Pearson's The Merry-Go-Round The President Evasive On TVA

WASHINGTON

WHEN congressmen from the Tennessee Valley states left the White House the other day, they appointed Congressman Jerry Cooper of Tennessee to issue a press statement that their conference was amicable.

Actually, it was just the opposite. Every time the congressmen tried to get down and brass talk regarding the reappointment of Gordon Clapp as TVA administrator, the President changed the subject.

"They tell me the fishing's good down your way," he remarked as Congressman Cooper and Percy Priest of Tennessee started to discuss the reappointment of Clapp, a nonpolitical career man who worked his way up the ladder to become head of the nation's biggest power project.

Congressmen Joe Evins of Tennessee, Tom Abernethy of Mississippi and Henderson Lanham of Georgia agreed that the fishing was fine. But they politely reminded the president they had come to talk about Clapp, not fishing.

He then was asked if he felt that the theory of state or local control of hydroelectric power should apply in cases where a river ran through a number of states, as in the Tennessee Valley.

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(Editors Note: The following statement was issued by the Associated Press, in reply to the Pearson charge made in the preceding column.)

We have been advised that Drew Pearson, in a syndicated column, quoted Dr. Alton Ochsner of Tulane University, that the Associated Press recalled Pearson's desire to carry a news dispatch from Denver in 1950 when the doctor "put the finger on the relationship between lung cancer and cigarettes."

No exact dates were given by Pearson of the alleged incident so a check of files can not be made. No one who would handle such a story can recall any such news-gathering story, properly attributed to a responsible source, such as Dr. Ochsner, was recalled, eliminated or killed at any time.

The known facts are recalled by Dr. Ochsner, a recognized expert in the field of cancer research has been quoted frequently in reports of the Associated Press since 1950 or before on the subject of cancer and cigarettes. On July 17, 1950, AP recalled the dispatch from Paris, written by AP Science Writer Alton Blakeslee, quoting Dr. Ochsner as saying "The danger of cancer in their analysis of cigarettes and lung cancer before the Fifth International Research Congress. In that report, three teams of scientists, among them Dr. Ochsner, blamed smoking, especially cigarettes, for apparently causing part of the increase in lung cancer.

Additionally, Dr. Ochsner has been quoted liberally in AP stories on the subject since then. The same is the case with the wrap-up of the lung cancer-cigarette situation by Charles Mercer of the AP for Sunday of Jan. 24.