

MacArthur

Lowell Thomas CBS Networks,
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before Congress today
The MacArthur speech had an enormous audience on radio

and television - probably the greatest ever.) So what more is there to say to you who listened, and maybe looked? Well, from my own view, sitting in the press-radio box, I couldn't help thinking of it in the terms of one who works day in and day out on the job of the spoken word.

What I noted, first of all, was the MacArthur - dignity. Until his arrival there was a lack of stately formality. It was a rather hurly-burly scene. But with the entrance of General-of-the-Army-Douglas MacArthur ~~immediately~~ dignity entered that Hall of our Congress.

I noted the quality of dignity, too, in Mrs. MacArthur. I happened to be sitting not far from her. Wearing a black dress with a large white flower, she displayed all her graceful charm, with smiles of greeting for people she knew. I myself, had been a guest at her Tokyo home a couple of years ago - when on my way to Tibet. And she greeted me across the corner of the gallery.

I had expected to see young Arthur MacArthur with his mother, but his place was down on the floor of the house. I'm

~~told that this was the General.~~

told that this was the General's decision - that his thirteen year old son should sit with "old comrades in arms" of the General - like Wainwright of Corregidor. I noted that there, among the grizzly warriors the boy ^{too} displayed that same quality of ~~MacArthur~~ dignity.

(The MacArthur style of eloquence was one of restraint, no shouting, no thunder.) He spoke, for the most part, in a monotone - as Winston Churchill does. (He got some of his best effects by lowering, not raising, the voice - as when he spoke of the American soldiers in Korea. This lowering of the voice was the method for the supreme effect, so tensely emotional at the end of the address - so tensely emotional with the line from the old barrack room ballad "Old Soldiers Never Die, they just fade away." MacArthur picturing himself as an old soldier fading away.)

One thing that struck me was -- the choice of vocabulary.

We've been inclined to think of the MacArthur eloquence as - flowery with a flood of fine words. But today the ^(impression) ~~impression~~ was just the proper word. Time and again we had to admire the well selected vocabulary, with skillful construction, as when MacArthur said: →

"The Asian peoples have the right to shape their own destiny. What they seek now is friendly guidance and support, not imperious direction, [!]dignity of equality, not the shame of subjugation." He said they want, in his words: "The opportunity for a little more food in their stomachs, a little better clothing on their backs, a little firmer roof over their heads - and the realization of ^{the} normal nationalist urge for political freedom." That was expressed with simplicity and precision, and one was reminded sometimes of Winston Churchill and his gift for the terse, accurate phrase.

It was one of the great addresses of our time, with enough military phraseology to make it sound like a general - and not enough to make the military part of it dry and obscure. There was no tone of bitterness and resentment, and MacArthur never once mentioned his dismissal as the supreme commander by President Truman. There was a magnanimity about it; the high chivalrous manner.

The case for the MacArthur ideas could not have been presented more lucidly and impressively - though, of course, the conflict of ideas still remains:— Whether it is wise to extend the war in Korea by bombing the Red Manchurian bases, and by launching a Chinese Nationalist attack on the communist mainland, or whether it is better to try to keep the Korean war - localized. Which is the better in the business of avoiding a third world war?.

What will the effect be? well, there's sure to be a large emotional response to the figure of the old soldier fading away, as the General pictured himself - "old soldiers never die, they just fade away." Many an American who will not want him to fade away, as he says he's doing.

In response to the gallantry today, President Truman *should make,* might make, a handsome gesture, and offer the ousted supreme commander to some post worthy of his reputation. What could it be? maybe chief American delegate in the conclusion of a peace treaty with Japan. Maybe our first ambassador to the new Japan. *Or what?*

~~Original~~

On my way out, I happened to be near an official of
C. B. S., an intelligent handsome woman. She remarked that
the General said he was fading away - but he looked like
the most vigorous vital man in the whole place, *- not even using glasses to read his speech - at 70* Then I
happened to be talking to an old time senate attendant, who
said it was the most stirring speech he had ever heard.
He went back to history, noting Washington's farewell, when
he laid down the command of the army at the close of the
Revolutionary war. At that time, Washington seemed to be
fading away, *- in fact said he was* old and tired; but he went on to a greater
fame, as the first president, *for 8 years more.* →

(end) ——— 0 ———

TRUMAN FOLLOW MACARTHUR SPEECH

Yes, the radio, television audience today was the greatest ever - and world-wide. With one outstanding personality - not included. President Truman has a big television set in his office, but he didn't turn it on. Instead, at twelve-thirty, when the MacArthur address began - the President went into conference with Secretary of State Acheson . They talked on matters of foreign policy, while the T V remained dark and silent. Or that's what we are told. If true, well, they missed one of the great speeches of our time.

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PARADE FOLLOW TRUMAN

The crowd ~~that turned out~~ in Washington, ^{today} may not have been

an all-time

a record-breaker. But the MacArthur turn-out was the most emotional within memory. Huge crowds heard the speech over public address systems, and tears and sobs were noted everywhere, in response to that moving valedictory "an old soldier never dies."

The drove from the Capitol along Pennsylvania Avenue, culminated with a ceremony at the Washington Monument - where a quarter of a million more Washingtonians roared their greetings.

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VANDENBERG

(After the MacArthur celebration today, Congress turned to a ceremony of mourning - for Senator Vandenberg of Michigan.) There were eulogies almost without precedent, in memory of the Michigan senator, who stood for a non-partisan foreign policy against Red aggression.

He died last night after a long illness,) and today President Truman designated two cabinet members to represent him at the Vandenberg funeral - Secretary of State Dean Acheson and Secretary of Commerce Charles Sawyer.

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KOREA

News from Korea tells of fighting at only one place - in front of a mountain fortress called Kumha. There, a suicide squad of Reds made a desperate stand, and had to be routed out with flame throwers, hand-grenades and bayonets. But they were only rear guards, covering a retreat of the main communist force. Red retreat - that was the general story all along the line, as the UN forces advanced, even.

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Korea-Baseball

The war news also brings baseball news, a dispatch from Korea stating that the "foxhole league" has begun its Nineteen Fifty-one season. When troops from the front line are pulled back to rear areas for a rest - they just automatically start pitching, catching and batting a baseball. Games are arranged between various units and they sure do play "money baseball." This week, two companies of infantry put up a pot of a thousand dollars -- winner take all.

The main trouble is a scarcity of equipment - bats and balls - fielders gloves and catcher's masks. But they are also short of something still more important -- a diamond. Its sandlot baseball, but the sand lots are Korean rice paddies - and they are a nightmare for baseball. A rice paddy consists of furrows, which, between harvests, are dry and hard -- and what happens to a sharply hit grounder is diabolical. The ball goes bouncing among the furrows and glancing off the mounds - and the infielders never can tell where it's likely to go. An outfielder, chasing a long fly - is likely to wind up flat on his face.

But, anyway, it's baseball, and the G I's will play the game even on rice paddies.

MacArthur -

SUBSTITUTE AND

Small Thomas Broadcast
Thurs. Sept. 19 - 5/1

Wash. D. C.

Pentagon

(has just come)
A headline ~~came out of~~ the Pentagon; ~~Building tonight.~~

The statement ~~is made~~ that President Truman, in dismissing General Douglas MacArthur, acted on what his statement calls "the unanimous recommendation of his principal civilian and military advisors including the joint chiefs of staff."

At the Pentagon the spokesman said that this declaration was made with the express authorization of the President.

(This is in direct reply to General MacArthur's own insistence that his views were shared by the joint chiefs of staff in Washington - those views which led to his dismissal as supreme commander in Tokyo.) Tonight there was an overwhelming congressional demand for an investigation -- because the MacArthur statement was in direct contradiction to what ~~was~~ was told to Congressional committees by members of the joint chiefs of staff. A couple of days ago General Omar Bradley, chairman of that highest military body, spoke out in opposition to the MacArthur demand for the bombing of Red bases in Manchuria and the use of Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalist army.

(more)

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Pentagon

He said that this might lead to a third world war.

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We do not know quite how to square all this with today's
declaration by General MacArthur -- and the whole thing is
more confused by tonight's announcement at the Pentagon --
bringing -- that MacArthur was ^{recalled} fired by Truman on the
recommendation of his advisers, including the Joint Chiefs
of Staff.

(end)

Pentagon - 3

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Senator Russell of Georgia, chairman of the Senate Armed Services and foreign relations committees explains tonight that "no man in his right mind, would differ" from General MacArthur from a "military standpoint." But, the senator adds: "When you get down to political consequences, they present an entirely different question."

There is so much hullabloo about all this tonight that it is well to take ^{another} a look at what General MacArthur had to say. His words were as follows: "From a military standpoint, the above views have been shared by practically all military leaders, including our own joint chiefs of staff." Note the words "military standpoint". Also - "have been shared". The phraseology might be in harmony with an assumption that the joint chiefs of staff, right now, disagree with MacArthur's views - on political grounds.

(more)

~~SECRET~~
Pentagon - 4

The Congressional reaction to the address is favorable - in general. Nearly all the Republicans are entering - though Senator Wayne Morse of Oregon declares that MacArthur's own statements, in the words of the senator, "completely prove President Truman's case that General MacArthur so thoroughly disagreed with the policy of the United States that his dismissal was necessary.‡ "

and, The democratic reaction in congress is favorable to a large extent. Democratic senator O'Connor of Maryland says; - "an unsurpassed presentation by one of the greatest Americans of all times."

Tom Connally of Texas, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, gives his opinion in these words: "It was comprehensive, and covered many aspects of the pacific situation." ~~It was quite interesting~~

Other Democrats, while applauding the eloquence of the speech, disagree with the basic contention - and say the ⁺MacArthur proposals would land us in an all-out war with China. *Of course Gen. Mac Arthur said that so far as the*

~~Leaf 3-8~~ 5.
Pentagon

Chinese ~~stress~~ effort is concerned as its
all-out war now. China in it to the full extent
of China's power. ~~—————~~

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ENDING

Getting a cab for the long trip from the Capitol to the business section of Washington, was quite an assignment today. I have never seen such crowds in this city. When I got one the driver, a negro, said he didn't know how he could ever get me to my destination. He explained further than his regular cab route was somewhere on the outskirts of Washington, D.C. "Boss," he remarked, "It seems that whenever I comes to this part of town I finds myself in a parade." As for General MacArthur, it looks like life for him is going to be just one parade after another, for as long as he is willing to stand it. ~~And alone now, as we~~
~~start~~ back to New York to get ready for a record breaking

Macarthur parade ^{up the canyons of old Broadway and 5th Ave!}
~~there~~

~~Nelson, do you love a parade?~~