

SUB LEAD LT-RG Wed. April 11th - '51.

(I suppose that nearly everybody listened to President's Truman's address tonight by radio and television.) Surely, there has never been a more striking instance of submitting a great affair to the people -- (than in this defense of the dismissal of General Douglas MacArthur as our Supreme Commander in the Far East.)

The President said what was only to be expected -- that the Administration ~~is~~ policy, and that of the United Nations, is to prevent the bringing on of a Third World War. That -- an all out conflict with Communist China might probably spread into a general conflagration in this atomic era.

---0---
~~NOTE~~

Which boiled itself down into the following Truman contention -- "the cause of world peace is more important than any individual" said the President.

(He declares that General MacArthur did not agree with the administration foreign policy of trying

to keep the Korean war isolated - keep it from spreading into widespread hostilities. So, therefore, he removed General MacArthur from his command in the Far East. To avoid what the President called - a very grave risk of starting a general war.)

Whereupon, he went on to suggest a peaceful settlement of the war in Korea, saying: "The door is always open. We may achieve a settlement in Korea which will not compromise the principles and purposes of the United Nations."

Thus the President of the United States went on radio and television, after the dismissal of General MacArthur had provoked a storm of protest, the White House deluged with telegrams ~~many~~ mostly critical.

And as you no doubt heard he made only a passing reference to Gen. MacArthur.

MACARTHUR - REPUBLICANS

One phase of today's all important news was dramatized by a quick meeting of Republican Congressional leaders, in the office of the House Republican leader, Congressman Joe Martin of

~~Massachusetts~~^{TP} The dismissal of ~~General Douglas~~
^{was of course} MacArthur ^{today -} as an international headline, blazoned all around the world, ^{with} ~~and also~~ the greatest possible significance in the world crisis. But every American

knows that it is equally portentous in the realm of domestic politics. ^{TP} The Truman ousting of the Supreme Commander in Tokyo fell like a bomb shell today in the clash of Democrats and Republicans -- with next

year's presidential election in the offing.) So, it is

^{not} surprising that the news was a signal for a tense conference of top level Republican leaders. They gathered in ^{Republican Leader Congressman} Joe Martin's office, and the meeting promptly produced big time headlines of its own.

One - General MacArthur will return to this country in about three weeks, and the Republicans will try to have him address a joint session of Congress.

Another, the G O P conference discussed possible impeachment proceedings against President Truman.

The palavar began with dramatic action. No sooner had the Republican leaders gathered, than Congressman Joe Martin said to his secretary: "Get me General MacArthur in Tokyo." So there was telephoning half way around the world again. At first, they were unable to get MacArthur on the Trans-Pacific wire. Then they succeeded, and the gist of the conversation was stated, later on, by Congressman Martin as follows: "I just talked with MacArthur, and he said he would return in about three weeks. I am going to suggest now that he be invited to address a joint session of Congress. He said," "the congressman went on, "that he would be delighted to address such a session." Later Congressman Martin stated that he had all this, not from General MacArthur personally, but from Military Secretary General Whitney, in an authorized statement.

(The word got out that the Republican leaders were ~~planning a~~ planning a

Congressional investigation on the firing of MacArthur
-- and the whole question of American foreign policy
in the Far East. With that, there was mention of the
dramatic word - impeachment, ~~The G. O. P. leaders were
said to have talked about a possible impeachment of
President Truman, for his dismissal of the Supreme
Commander in Tokyo.~~

Then came an official statement, which Joe
Martin handed to the news reporters. The ^{is} statement read,
"At the conference it was agreed -- first, that the
whole question of the conduct of foreign policy be
investigated by Congress in the light of the latest
tragic development. Second, that Congress should
have the complete views of General MacArthur, and
he should be invited to return for that purpose
forthwith. In addition", the statement concluded,
"the question of possible impeachment^s was discussed."

The word impeachments, ~~in the~~ plural, ~~form,~~
raised immediate wonder. Joe Martin was asked about
it and said the plural form was correct. But he
would not say what officials were meant -- beside

President Truman. We can only note that Republican fire all along has been aimed at Secretary of State Acheson. The whole controversy has focused around the two personalities -- Acheson Vs. MacArthur - and today's dismissal of the General is regarded as a resounding victory for the Secretary of State.

The question of possible impeachment might seem puzzling. Nobody doubts the constitutional right of the President, as Commander in Chief, to remove any military officer - even a five star General of such immense prestige. (~~MacArthur, of course, has been Commander in the Far East not only for the United States, but also for the United Nations - and the President is on solid ground there, too. The United Nations resolution authorizing military action in Korea stated specifically that the United Nations Commander was to be named by the United States.~~)

In the realm of our own domestic politics, the issue is clear cut. Today found the Democrats and the Republicans divided along party lines. Nearly

all Republicans denounced the removal of MacArthur in bitter terms. Taft of Ohio, G O P leader in the Senate, called it "a terrible tragedy". Former President ~~Herbert Hoover~~ Hoover said:- "A strong pillar in our Asian defense has been removed". However, a few Republicans in Congress are in favor of the Truman action. Like Senator Duff, of Pennsylvania: "It is regrettable" said he, "that this had to take place. But if this is the only way to get unity, then it had to be done."

(Nearly all the Democrats have rallied to the President.) Their views are expressed by Senator Robert Kerr of Oklahoma, who declares: "In order to insure victory, our military leaders must work as a team. When MacArthur got there he wouldn't do that."

~~Congressman Overton Brooks, of Louisiana, says:~~

~~"A man in the service has got to be able to take orders, as well as give them".~~ All of which echoes

President Truman's own statement - that General MacArthur refused to work in accordance with the world policies of the United States and the United

Nations.

As we ~~will~~ go into the political battle leading to the next presidential election, General MacArthur will come home ^a political figure of towering stature, and some will think of him as a presidential possibility. ~~However, a United Press dispatch from Washington states: "Though MacArthur, at seventy-one, will not figure personally in the choice; ~~and~~ ^{but} presidential nomination in Nineteen Fifty-One, the policies he has advocated will be an issue in dictating the Republican choice."~~

~~Which would seem to mean that, while MacArthur may not figure as a possible Republican candidate, he and his policies are likely to play a part in dictating the Republican nomination.~~

MACARTHUR - SURPRISE

One striking feature in the dismissal of MacArthur was - the surprise of it all. In Washington, the news correspondents had not the slightest inkling ~~of what was coming~~ -- or at least, that it would come so suddenly. They were in bed, or most of them -- when they were summoned to the White House, ^{known} ~~conference called at that unearthly hour~~ ^{at} one o'clock in the morning. When they assembled, the Presidential Secretary handed them the Truman statement, announcing the removal of MacArthur, and giving a long explanation ~~of the reason why.~~

~~This~~ ^{my} revealed the fact that the Supreme Commander in Tokyo had been repeatedly warned not to make declarations on military or diplomatic policy, without an okay from Washington. But he disregarded these instructions - in the case, for example, of his famous offer to negotiate with the Communist Commander in the field. Also his more recent call for the use of the troops of Nationalist China in a war against the Chinese Reds.

In Tokyo, ~~the time difference being what it is~~
the news reached General MacArthur at three-
thirty P.M. He was at lunch -- it being his habit
to have a late lunch and then work into all hours of
the night. He was ~~at the table~~ with Mrs. MacArthur
and their ~~thirteen year old~~ son, when he was handed
the order, removing him from his command. How did he
take it? ~~Well, there is no intimation that he knew
what was coming but, whatever the surprise, his~~

His military Secretary, Major General Courtney Whitney,
said later: "I have just left the General. He
received the word magnificently. He never turned a
hair. His soldierly qualities were never more
pronounced. I think this was his finest hour", said
General Whitney.

(Headquarters in Tokyo was stunned by the
news, as were the Japanese -- among whom MacArthur has
been like a God. Similarly in Korea, where the G I's
gaped in amazement.) Same story at the headquarters
of the Eighth Army Commander General Ridgeway, where

the staff officers heard it on the radio -- that MacArthur was being superseded by their own boss. General Matthew Ridgway - now the Supreme Commander. The staff officers immediately telephoned to Tokyo, where the word was confirmed.



The successor to General Ridgway as the Commander of the Eighth Army is Lieutenant General James Van Fleet, who is now in the United States. He was not even in Washington when the news broke. He was in Florida on a vacation, and was ordered immediately to return to the Pentagon - on his way to take over the command of military operations in Korea.



At the United Nations there was equal surprise -- delegates to the United Nations declaring that they had no advance notice. In the western capitals, like London and Paris, high government officials ^{say} declare that they had no surmise of what was coming.

The surprise was all the greater, because, only yesterday, word from the White House had been that President Truman, himself, would take no action in the MacArthur controversy - he would leave the whole question up to Secretary of Defense George Marshall and Army Chief of Staff General Lawton Collins, MacArthur's military superiors. Possibly it was they who made the decision, Truman acting ~~on~~

~~on their recommendation.~~ -- The speculation is that the sudden move may have stemmed out of the conference in Tokyo between Secretary for the Army Frank Pace and General MacArthur. It may be that, in these talks, the Supreme Commander refused to back down from his position -- that the war should be carried to Red China proper, ^{and that we should use Chinese Nationalist troops.} So the decision was formed to remove MacArthur. Whatever the reason, the decision came so suddenly that it was a shocker.

MACARTHUR - FOREIGN REACTIONS

Our western allies - approve. In London, British government officials pay their respects to the brilliance of General MacArthur as a soldier, but say that his interventions in the realm of international policy-making were threatening the unity of the West. The British are dead set against any notion of all out war against Red China, and that was exactly what MacArthur wanted to do. The same opinion is expressed in other European countries.

(A dispatch from London predicts that the removal of MacArthur will be followed by a new attempt to end the Korean war by diplomatic negotiations.) ~~fa~~

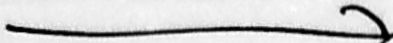
~~fact, we hear a peace plan was to have been put forward some short while ago, but was blocked by the attitude of the Supreme Commander in Tokyo . So now the way is clear to renew the scheme to offer proposals to Red China. The appointment of General Ridgway to succeed MacArthur is applauded, because he has been quoted as believing that the Korean war should be settled by diplomatic action.~~

But that is not all from Europe. On this headline day, London chimes in with something that would blaze across the front page at any ordinary time. The British government proposes, that, in the writing of a peace treaty with Japan, the Chinese Communists shall be included. Red China - to be taken into the conference that will make formal peace. Also, still more startling -- we are told that Britain has

proposed that Formosa be turned over to the Chinese ^{Reds}
More appeasement.

~~Today~~ These views are said to have been sent to Washington about ten days ago, Britain urging large concessions to Communist China -- take the Reds in on a Japanese peace treaty, and give them Formosa.

In Washington, meanwhile, Congressman William Jennings Bryan Dorn, of South Carolina, stated today that General MacArthur told him ^{last} Friday that Formosa was absolutely necessary to American defense. The Congressman quotes the Supreme Commander as arguing that the island was as vital as France and all western

Europe -- if not moreso. So there we have a new
clash of ~~st~~ opinions -- on that much debated question
of Formosa. 

FOLLOW MACARTHUR - FOREIGN RELATIONS

In Washington, late today, a spokesman for the State Department indicated that the United States will oppose suggestions made by the British government -- will cold shoulder the concessions to Communist China.

KOREA

Meanwhile, during all this furor at the highest level, the G I's were having a tough battle on their hands in Korea. Attacking along a fifty mile front they ran into - the heaviest Chinese resistance in two months.

Only slight gains are reported -- along a line from a point north of Seoul to the Hwachon Reservoir. (American tanks plunged forward and were met by a storm of enemy fire. Even the elements opposed the attack - rain, snow and hail. Slippery mud through which the infantry floundered, and a thick overcast of clouds that halted air support.)

Further east, however, United Nations troops thrust forward against light opposition - plunging deeper into Red Korea.

STONE OF SCONE

On this day of the biggest headline in a long time, we have (the Stone of Scone) with us again. It (has been recovered, handed back.)

The scene -- Abroath Abbey, Scotland,) where six-hundred-and-thirty-one years ago a Scottish Parliament met and proclaimed the independence of Scotland -- defying England. (Into the ancient Abbey today, two men carried the coronation stone)-- which English King Edward-the-First took from Scotland long centuries ago, and which was stolen from Westminster Abbey last Christmas morning. ^{two men} They placed it on the altar of King William the Lion, the great Scottish monarch, who in Eleven-seventy-eight dedicated the Abbey.

Over the Stone of Scone was draped ^{the} St. Andrew's flag of Scotland; - (and, with it, were left two letters.) One - addressed to King George-the-Sixth. The other - to the general assembly of the Church of Scotland. (These ~~missives~~ missives declared that the Stone of Scone was taken as a way of calling attention

to demands for Scotland's self-government.) Also -
the demand was made that the historic slab of rock be
kept in Scotland.

Well, we don't know about that. Because,
later in the day, the symbol of royal coronation was
taken to police headquarters ~~in~~ in the town of
Aberdeen. Maybe it will be sent back to the royal
throne in Westminster Abbey; - but we don't know.

*And now let's switch to N- to see
what he knows.*