

MACARTHUR

C.I. P+G Monday, April 9, 1951.

(The MacArthur controversy was taken up at a White House meeting today, when the President gathered with Democratic leaders in Congress.) What transpired is shrouded in deep concealment - most of the Congressional Democrats not even admitting that the question of General MacArthur came up. ~~But~~ Congressman Sam Rayburn, Speaker of the House, declares that they did not go into that question, which has now become an international sensation.

From other sources, (we hear that the President party leaders in Congress have assured him of full Democratic backing, if he should decide to curb the Supreme Commander in the Far East,) and compel him to stop making statements in matters ^{that involve} ~~with a slant on~~ international politics. Some angry Democrats are said to believe that the General, by attacking diplomats and politicians, is playing the game of the Republicans over here. There is no indication ^{of} what the President may do. The impression given by today's conference at the White House is that he has not made up his mind.

On the other side of the Atlantic, meanwhile,
(Great Britain and France are described as much annoyed
by the MacArthur declarations. Particularly his
latest - that he favors the use of the Chinese
Nationalist soldiers of Chiang Kai Shek against the
Reds in Korea.) The British are particularly angered
by this since they have given diplomatic recognition
to Red China, ^{and} are dead against any suggestion of full
scale war against the Chinese Communists.

On Saturday Minister of State Kenneth
Younger decried what he called "MacArthur's
irresponsible statements". Today another member of the
Cabinet joined in the chorus - Home Secretary James
Chuter Ede. He said: "We cannot control MacArthur
because we do not pay him". To which he added: "I
regret that the U.S. government has not told him that
they, as states, look after policy -- and he, as a
soldier, should look after the fighting and take their
orders." In the hullabaloo there are ~~■~~ demands that
MacArthur should either keep quiet - or be removed.

A late~~r~~ story from London states that (the British and French governments have instructed their ambassadors in Wash^{ing}ton to make an informal protest against the statements that General MacArthur has been issuing.)

RAYBURN

The Speaker of the House of Representatives, Congressman Sam Rayburn of Texas, repeats the grim warning he gave the other day. At that time he startled the country by intimating that Soviet Russia had masses of soldiers in Chinese Manchuria as if intending to take part in the Korean conflict. To which the Congressman added that there was alarming peril of a Third World War.

Today he said "We are in terrible danger". He explained that by declaring the Soviets are building up powerful forces in various parts of the world. He put it in these words: "The concentration of Russians building up, here, there, and everywhere - in a great many places."

Rayburn stated all this after emerging from a White House Conference with President Truman. But *he* said his warning did not emanate from the conference. Was not discussed at the White House.

Secretary of Defense Marshall said today

that the best we can ^{hope} for is what he called - "A prolonged tension, rather than an all out war."

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War would be the worst. Tension, the cold war, the best we can anticipate -- and Secretary Marshall said it was likely to last ten years.

From which he drew this conclusion: "We would be perfect fools to relax our military strength," said he, in an interview with the magazine, "U.S.-News-and-World ^{Report}". Marshall declares that he is much troubled by the public apathy. He said that interest in our American armament program has been dulled and blunted by recent military successes in Korea.

KOREA

The Chinese Reds have abandoned their stronghold at Hwachon - and that's dramatic news. Because in an effort to stop an American advance they took a desperate measure - they opened the flood gates of the Hwachon Reservoir. U.S. troops, driving forward, were approaching the huge artificial body of water, when the deluge was let loose.

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The Hwachon Reservoir is the third largest in Korea, ^{which is} a land of great hydro-electric developments built by the Japanese during their occupation. The water impounded by the Hwachon Reservoir figured at nineteen-and-a-quarter-trillion cubic feet - capable of creating an enormous flood down the valley. When the Reds opened the flood gates, the Pukhan River, which flows from the reservoir, rose rapidly. By midday today, the stream had risen seven feet.

Yet, the deluge ~~xxx~~ turned loose by the Communists was futile. There was plenty of inundation in the valley, but that did not stop the U.S. advance.

American troops continued their push against the enemy stronghold at Hwachon, where they expected a violent battle, but there was no battle at all. The Reds had fled. After opening the flood gates of the reservoir they cleared out. The deluge was in vain.

A later dispatch tonight explains just why the plan of the Reds failed so completely. The release of trillions of cubic feet of water from the dam created a flash flood down the Pukhan River, a wall of water rushing down stream -- engulfing everything in it's way. But the U N troops had warning, they simply scrambled up the hills along the river, let ^{ting} the crest of the flood ~~roll~~ roll by. After which, they pushed onward against the enemy bastion.

American officers tonight are saying that the ^{Communists} ~~Reds~~ gamble with the flood not only had lost but that it probably has cost the Reds their chance to launch the big spring offensive they were preparing. That is, an offensive in that area of the central mountains. By losing their fortified sector ~~in~~ at

Hwachon they have lost their springboard for an offensive.

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(Today brings news of another air battle of jets - twelve Americans against fourteen of the enemy. This followed the much bigger conflict of jets that was waged over the weekend. Once again, the results were nothing startling. In a conflict that raged from nearly forty thousand feet to three thousand feet, one Russian M I G 15 was shot down, another damaged, while no American plane was hit.) This makes a total of six enemy jets destroyed and fifteen damaged, during this month. A huge lot of air battle, with our jets inflicting small losses on the enemy, incurring no losses of their own, or even damage.

MILITARY TRAINING

(In Washington they've given up the attempt to put ~~the~~ universal military training into the new draft bill.) Today the congressional committee in charge of the matter, decided there was too much opposition and voted unanimously to limit the present bill to the business of drafting eighteen-and-one-half-year olds. Universal military training -to be taken up later.

~~Committee Chairman Congressman Vinson of Georgia, denies that the Committee has "scuttled" U.M.T. It has just taken it out of the present bill, and the ~~Chairman~~ Chairman believes that Congress will pass ~~the~~ Universal Military Training within a year.~~

MORMONS

At Salt Lake City the far-famed Tabernacle was crowded today, with eight thousand church dignitaries and members of the Latter Day Saints. They were gathered to elect a successor to their deceased Church President Smith. It all went according to expectations . It had been indicated that the new head would be David O. McKay, long-time assistant to the late President. His name today was placed in nomination. According to custom, nominations are made by the Council of the Twelve Apostles, and their choice has never been voted down. So it was today -- ratified unanimously, and David O. McKay became the Ninth President of the Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints.

PLANE

There is to be a Congressional investigation of the air crash at Morningside, Maryland, where an Air Force B-25 bomber hit a suburban home, killed two small children, and injured their parents. The bomber was abandoned by its crew, when there was a failure in the landing gear - the crew bailing out and reaching the ground safely by parachute.

Before they jumped, the pilot set the controls to take the B-25 out over Chesapeake Bay, for a crash into the water. In that way he tried to safeguard people on the ground. So states the pilot - but the abandoned plane, instead of taking a course out over Chesapeake Bay, swung around and went spiraling to the ground. Striking the earth, the ponderous bomber bounced along, doing a cartwheel for five hundred feet along the street, then plunged into the bungalow, knocking it off its foundation for twenty feet, setting the house on fire.

An Air Force board of inquiry is investigating, and popular outcry from the Maryland

BASEBALL

I am broadcasting from the Truckee California Railroad station tonight. In far-famed Donner Pass. So, the first thing today, I wanted to look at a local newspaper.

There is no great metropolitan daily here at Truckee, Reno being the nearest point for ^{that} ~~such~~ ^{The} ~~Sierra Sun~~, a flourishing weekly ~~scale journal~~ ^{doesn't come out until Thursday.} ~~The Reno~~

~~But, I found that the~~ morning paper ~~there~~ - the Nevada State Journal, does ^{not} publish on Monday. So, I procured a San Francisco paper, the Chronicle, and attention was immediately captured by the headline, a big streamer five columns wide. It read "Seals finally win ballgame." War news from Korea, the controversy over General MacArthur, were given a subordinate position, eclipsed by the sensational news.

The San Francisco Seals ~~are~~ finally ~~able to~~ win a game. It's really not so surprising, considering the way the pennant race has been going in Pacific Coast League - the season that started two weeks ago.

The Seals began by losing thirteen straight and winning not one- which must be a record for consistent futility. But, finally, they played a double header with Seattle, and lost the first game for ^{their} thirteenth straight. But they won the second, and the excitement was tremendous - as if they had just won the pennant.

The San Francisco Chronicle pictures the reaction of the mighty manager, Lefty O'Doul - and there might be a bit of imagination in this. Lefty is pictured as being in tears as he greeted his heroes. "Fellows," he sobbed, "you can't lose 'em all". So that's the big news in San Francisco; - even the Seals "can't lose 'em all."

TRIP - FOLLOW BASEBALL

We made the trip ^{all the way here} to Donner Pass, ^{in one day,} ~~yesterday~~

driving up from Palm Springs - and it was a new revelation. I have been travelling around this country of ours for years, and thought I had beheld all the fair sights that were to be seen - but yesterday provided something special.

~~We drove~~ From San Bernardino to Reno, ^{we took} ~~taking~~

the inside route, east of the Sierras; - ~~and~~, hour after hour ^{across} ~~over~~ the desolate expanse of the Mojave Desert, with the mountains on our left, travelling at the foot of the endless line of snowy peaks. No wonder the Spaniards of old called it the "Sierra Nevada", snowy range.

Then, as evening came on, the highway took us up over high passes into the lofty mountains. ^{with} The sunset ~~was~~ just right for the "purple shadows"; The long shadows of the mountains over the valley ~~were~~ vivid, ^{with} that tint of deep purple, which poets of the old West noted so vividly.

At one high point, we noted the most spectacular sight of all - the snow-capped mountains all agleam with light from the setting sun. ~~It was~~ the famous Alpine glow, Renowned from time immemorial in the Alps. - ~~But I~~ ^{doubt} ~~don't think~~ the Alpine glow can be ever more wonderful than in the Sierra Nevada, as we saw it last evening, the snowy summits gleaming gold and rose.

The final marvel was in the sky, as darkness came on, Venus and the moon, in the clear mountain air, ~~they were~~ like heavenly jewels - the evening star and the slim crescent of the queen of night. ^{Right} ~~They were~~ close together, Venus ~~seemed to be~~ gazing down at the sickle moon.

- Nelson - I wish you were out here with us to enjoy this magnificent country.