

C. J. - P. & G. Friday, June 1, 1951. (2)

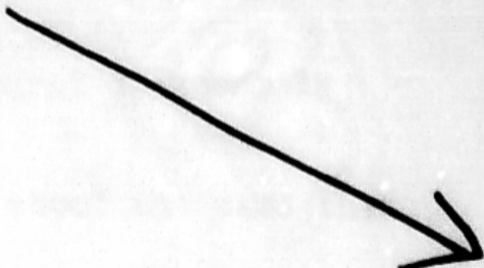
(The appearance of Secretary of State Acheson before the MacArthur Investigating Committee today) turned into an unexpected affair of sound and fury. Fireworks had been anticipated of course, Republicans on the Committee having been so anxious to get at the Secretary of State and give him a going-over on the subject of American policy in the Far East. So the prospect was - a blaze of questions, Dean Acheson put through the wringer of a hostile inquisition. But nothing like that happened. Instead of going after the Secretary, the Senators on the Committee got into a violent wrangle among themselves. Acheson sat there, waiting to be questioned, but he kept on waiting - while the Committee had a battle of its own. This occupied all the morning session, and part of the afternoon.

The quarrel was ~~about a secret document~~ about a secret document, which has been discussed a lot - a State Department paper on the subject of Formosa. Should be it made public? ~~Acheson~~ Acheson was ~~opposed to publication~~ opposed to publication -

the Republicans in favor. Today the secret document was handed to the Committee, so the Senators could read it. Then - to publish or not to publish? That was the question - as Shakespeare would have said. The Committee said it, pro and con, with an angry debate among the Senators. After hours of controversy, a vote was taken this afternoon - fifteen to nine in favor of releasing that State Department message. Five Democrats joined the Republicans in voting - yes. One Republican joined other Democrats in saying - No.

The oddity about the whole thing was the fact - that the gist of the secret document was on the news wires a year and five months ago. It was sent out by the United Press on January Third, Nineteen Fifty - and made public from Coast to Coast.

That inspired me to go back to my broadcast notes of the day in question. I



looked up Nineteen Fifty, January, Tuesday the Third, and here's what I said: "The most beguiling object in the day's news is - a secret document. What would the realm of mystery and romance be, if it were not for that good old standby, the hidden paper?" After which the broadcast report went on to say: "It is, we are told, a set of confidential instructions advising American diplomatic officials to prepare for the fall of Formosa to the Chinese Reds. So, the American public should be sold on the idea that the big ~~pattern~~ island a hundred miles off the China coast is of little strategic value - although hitherto the vital importance of Formosa has been played up."

~~So that's the way the gist of the secret document was given on this program in January of last year - the hidden paper, subject to such an uproar today, and now being published.~~


~~That's the broadcast version of State Department~~

attitude toward Formosa. So now the secret document is published, and what does it say? Just about the same thing,

with background material.

One point in the hidden paper reads: "Loss of the island is widely anticipated, and the manner in which civil and military conditions there have deteriorated under the Nationalists - adds weight to the expectation."

Another point belittles the significance of Formosa in these words - "mistaken popular conception of strategic importance to the U.S. defense in the Pacific."

The argument was that Formosa belonged properly to China - and the State Department seemed resigned to the supposition that ^{the} Chinese Reds would get it. 

ADD ACHESON

Later, under questioning Secretary Acheson argued that the document did not represent State Department policy -- he said it represented an attitude intended to minimize the damage, if Formosa should fall -- as was expected.

KOREA

The principal advance in Korea today was at the eastern end of the line - where the town of Kumhwa is an anchor base of the "iron triangle." Two American armored forces lunged forward in a double drive and smashed ahead more than two miles - driving on Kumiwa, and threatening ^{that} ~~a~~ vital point in the powerful defense system of the Reds.

The Chinese Communists are contesting every inch of the ground, protecting their "iron triangle" - and at Yunchon, ^{they} held off American assailants for the fourth straight day. ^P The Hwachon Reservoir was crossed today by North Koreans, who gained the northern bank of the big lake - with little resistance. The Hwachon Reservoir is the scene of a ~~trap~~ trap, in which thousands of Chinese Reds were caught. It ~~isn't~~ isn't clear how many were able to get away - fleeing through a bottleneck at the eastern end of the reservoir, at the town of Yanggu.

Today, U.S. troops captured Yanggu, after they had been thrown out of that place yesterday. That would seem to

close the bottleneck, and at last reports the Yanks were pushing on to the north - without being able to catch up with the fleeing Communists. These are traveling too fast.

From Washington we have figures for the losses of the Reds in their big offensive. The Chinese and North Korean Communists are estimated to have suffered nearly a hundred and sixty-three thousand casualties. That figure applies to the two weeks, beginning May Seventeenth - when they launched their ill-fated human sea. Their losses in those two weeks alone are two-and-a third times the total of American battle casualties for the entire Korean War.

AIR BATTLE

The war news tells of an air battle fought within ninety miles of the warfront. Meaning, that Red planes, based on the Manchurian sanctuary, are venturing further and further south. Today marked the deepest penetration they have made thus far - the combat in the sky occurring ten miles below Pyongyang, the Red capital. It began when some B-29s were making a bombing run - and twenty-five enemy jets assailed them. Two American Sabre Jets ~~were~~ nearby, took a dive at the M.I.G's, and four other Sabre Jets joined in immediately afterward. The ponderous B-29s wheeled southward - the M.I.G's in hot pursuit. At the same time [—] striving to fend off the Sabre Jet attacks.

The U.S. planes were outnumbered, but they shot down two M.I.G's over Pyongyang - and the tail gun of a B-29 downed another. Two Superfortresses were damaged, but got back to their bases. None of the Sabre Jets was hit.

(Earlier in the day, there was a previous tangle, when four American Jets were making a low-level strafing attack on

IRAN

President Truman has sent a personal appeal to Britain and Iran - urging them to reach a prompt, peaceful settlement of the oil dispute. Today, letters from the President were handed to Prime Minister Attlee in London, and Premier Mohammed Mossadegh at Teheran. The Iranian Premier called an emergency session of his Cabinet - and the word is that the Truman letter will be presented in the Iranian Parliament tomorrow.

The contents were not made public today - save for the understanding that the President asks the two countries to settle the oil dispute as quickly as possible.

(At Teheran, U.S. Ambassador Grady denied local rumors that President Truman was offering economic aid to Iran in return for Iranian ~~new~~ concessions in the oil dispute - American money assistance, if the Iranians will be reasonable. Nothing to it, said the Ambassador - ^{add}~~saying~~ that the United States is not opposed, in principle, to the nationalization of the oilfields. But he argued that only the Anglo-Persian Company

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could operate them properly. Grady said he was "optimistic" about a settlement of the uproar.)

IRELAND

(In the Irish election the final figures are in. DeValera fails to win control. His party is by far the largest, but he does not win an outright majority) which he sought.

He has a total of sixty-nine parliamentary seats. The four-party coalition supporting Prime Minister Costello comes in with sixty-four. The Independents win fourteen, and they ~~are~~ expected to ~~support~~ support Costello. So that combination of parties and Independents gives the Prime Minister a total of seventy-eight. ^{which} ~~that~~ makes a majority of nine. (So, apparently, the most famous Irishman in the world fails to take over the government of Ireland.)

KING

(In London, King George has a slight inflammation of the lung. So announce the royal physicians, who have ordered His Majesty to cancel all appointments for some time to come. Last week, the monarch was hit by influenza - not believed to be serious. But the flu has developed into what the doctors call - "a catarrhal lung inflammation.")

They are the more careful about this, because (the health of George VI has never been too robust. A couple of years ago, he was found to be suffering from "Buerger's Disease," a malady that causes a congealing of the blood in the arteries.) At that time, the King's condition was so serious, they were afraid he might have to lose a leg. He made a good recovery, but the malady that affects the circulation of the blood is always potentially dangerous.

Today the royal patient had to cancel a ceremonial greeting to King Haakon of Norway, who arrives in London on Tuesday for a visit. The plan had been for King George to sail out in his cabin cruiser and meet the Norwegian sovereign,

arriving by ship. There was to have been an exchange of royal courtesies on the Thames - but that's out.

And, of course, King George was unable to accompany Queen Elizabeth and Princess Margaret on their visit to

North Ireland, ^{where} They arrived in Belfast, today, and received a

thundering ovation. ~~There was a little bit of thunder of another kind - when Irish Nationalists exploded bombs at two customs posts on the border between Northern and Southern Ireland. One was blasted and set on fire. The other - undamaged by the bombing.~~

~~But this minor terrorism by Irish extremists did little to discourage the ovation for Queen Elizabeth and Princess Margaret in Belfast. ~~It~~ What the news dispatch calls -~~

Northern Ireland
"the biggest welcome ever accorded visiting royalty."

SOCIALIZED MEDICINE

In Britain, Socialized Medicine has turned back the hands of the clock -- back to the days of the barber-surgeon. That is -- under Socialized Medicine, the surgeon is no better off than the barber. Such is the complaint of the doctors, as the British Medical Association gets ready to do something about it -- or try to.

Today's protest, printed in the Medical Journal, comes from Dr. A.K.P. Tobin, who gives a reminder that several centuries ago, a surgeon was also a barber. He performed operations, set broken bones, gave shaves and haircuts -- all in a day's work. Which, I believe, is the origin of the familiar barber's pole, with its spiral stripes of red and white -- symbolizing the ~~back~~ blood and bandages of the barber-surgeon.

Dr. Tobin complains that, in fact, in Britain, the barber is better off than the surgeon. He gives figures. The barber gets one shilling sixpence for a haircut -- which gives him eighteen shillings a year

from a customer who has a haircut once a month. The doctor averages sixteen shillings ^(a year) per patient under Socialized Medicine.

The doctor goes on with other statistics, showing that the barber is better off than the surgeon -- all part of an argument which the British Medical Association is going to put forward in its next meeting. The physicians demanding -- a raise in pay under Socialized Medicine.

FRANCE - WINE

In France, a new move for national defence, re-armament, General Eisenhower's West European Army. The military wine ration is being doubled. Heretofore French soldiers have been issued a pint a day -- the old Vin Rouge. But now Pierre and Jean will get a quart of wine a day.

This has been voted by the National Assembly in Paris.

SWINDLE

A new kind of racket is reported at Oil City, Pennsylvania, where the police today gave a warning to storekeepers - telling of a swindle so simple it's wonderfully ingenious. Chief of Police Ira Joslin describes it as follows:

"The crook walks into a store, picks up an article, walks over to a clerk, and asks for a refund on the item - which he never purchased."

So the warning is, ^{Nelson} - be on the lookout for that.