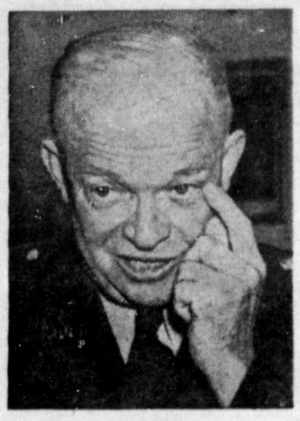
SCANNING THE WEEK'S NEWS
of Main Street and the World

Eisenhower's Political Statement Causes Stir in Republican Circles

POLITICS—Gen. Dwight Eisenhower has made a statement that many political observers say clarifies his political intentions. It has also caused a great stir in Republican circles. The general said, in effect, that he would not make any pre-convention fight for the GOP presidential nomination. He added, however, that he has always been a Republican and that he would probably accept a clear cut call to political leadership which is the duty of every American.

Eisenhower's statement was made after he was put on something of a spot during a recent news conference by Sen. Henry Cabot Lodge, during which the senator announced he was placing the general's name on the New Hampshire Republican ballot.



GENERAL EISENHOWER

Before Lodge's news conference, Eisenhower had repeatedly refused to make any comment on his poltical aspirations. By continued silence, he would have let it be known, in a negative manner, that he was willing to take the Republican nomination. While his statement was not as clear as some would have liked, it was noted that the general did not request his name held off the New Hampshire ballot. Eisenhower has assumed a unique, if somewhat confusing, position in American politics in the eyes of the average home town voter.

Almost as startling as Senator Lodge's maneuvering and Eisenhower's statement, was the announcement by The New York Times, one of America's oldest and most influencial newspapers, that it would support the general "enthusiastically" if he becomes a candidate for President. The newspaper has supported GOP presidential candidates only twice in the past 20 years.

Said The Times in a lead editorial: "We have given our support on those occasions to the Democratic candidate essentially because we were reluctant to trust the Republican party on issues of foreign policy and because we believe these issues to be the decisive issues of the campaign, towering high above all domestic issues—for the clear and sufficient reason that without a sound and courageous foreign policy the safety, the prosperity, even the very independence of this nation would be endangered.

"In General Eisenhower we have a man who shares this conviction. We are confident that he would be able to lead even the laggards among his fellow Republicans away from isolation and toward world responsibility."

KOREA—The Korean peace talks settled down to a series of name calling, bitterness, and increasing suspicion. Although some progress has been made toward peace during the long months of talking, it is becoming more evident that a final and lasting peace can not be secured in such an atmosphere.

The Russians, meanwhile, indicated they wanted a greater voice in the talks to settle a war they don't even recognize, by asking for a meeting of the United Nations security council to consider the armistice negotiations. The proposal was rejected at once by the United States, Great Britain and France. American officials said such a session—where Russia has a veto—would worsen the prospect of peace in Korea by bringing political issues into the negotiations.

ECONOMY—Charles E. Wilson, director of defense mobilization, has predicted a severe pinch in civilian goods for the first three months of this year. The prediction was made in Wilson's annual report of rearmament under the national emergency program.

He predicted: (1) Materials for consumer goods in general in the first three months of 1952 are sharply reduced from the levels of the first quarter of 1951. On the basis of present calculations the second quarter allotments will be even tighter; (2) Requirements of the military and atomic-energy programs for most materials will either continue at the same levels throughout 1952 or rise slightly; (3) After military and atomic energy needs are met in such strategic materials as steel, aluminum, and copper, the material remaining will be divided between industrial expansion, consumer goods, public services, limited export requirements, and stockpiling.

As for the past year, Wilson termed it one of great progress, but said more could have been accomplished.

CHURCHILL—Winston Churchill, who will go down in history as one of the great men of our times, arrived in the United States for a series of huddles with President Truman and top military brass. Mr. Churchill's agenda was almost as magnificent as his personal appearance. It included everything from economic aid to plans for joint defense of the west.

WINSTON CHURCHILL

The key to the talks was quickly revealed when President Truman met the 77-year-old Prime Minister at a Washington airport. Said the President: "I can't tell you when I have had more pleasure than I have this morning in welcoming you as a visitor to the United States of America." Replied Mr. Churchill, with the force and clarity of the Roosevelt days: "We have only to go along together, each doing loyally his best to understand the other's point of view . . . and we shall find ourselves safe at the end of the road."

There followed a series of meetings between the President and Mr. Churchill, and Mr. Churchill and top military brass. The complete results of these talks may not be known for years, but it is evident they have resulted in closer cooperation between the two countries. Churchill, no doubt, has received assurances of economical help so badly needed by Great Britain. Whether or not Britain will join in the European defense army with greater enthusiasm than previously indicated has not been announced. Most observers believed that was one of the Prime Minister's bargaining points.

SCANDAL—The second session of the 82nd congress had been in session just a few hours when it became evident the nation is in for more months of spectacular investigation.

In the senate and house there were committees and subcommittees in every corner screaming for more investigations of corruption in high places, income tax frauds, murder, and underworld activities. It was evident, too, that there would be more investgations of Communists in government and defense industries.

Meanwhile, Attorney General J. Howard McGrath continues his new offensive against organized crime in the nation. McGrath's drive started after Treasury department agents swooped down on suspected narcotic offenders and arrested more than 500 persons.

It was evident the two drives were a part of the administration's announced plan to clean up crime and graft. But in the eyes of most home towners, the administration's campaign is a little like locking the barn door after the horse has been stolen.

FARM ELECTION STRATEGY

Democrats May Stand Pat on Farm Policy

According to reports circulating around Washington, the adminis- [illegible] farm policy [illegible] to change its [illegible] proaching presidential campaign. The strategy, observers are reporting, will be to concentrate on the claim that a Republican victory in 1952 would endanger existing benefits of the farm program, and sidetracking any controversial issues that might arise.

Democratic adv[illegible] that the plan wo[illegible] 1948. In 194[illegible] tion pushed th[illegible] would have ma[illegible] of federal su[illegible] agricultural [illegible] farm organiz[illegible] sistance to t[illegible] get approva[illegible]

THE WASHINGTON Merry-Go-Round

BY...DREW PEARSON

A New Low

PRESIDENT Truman's relations with reporters at the White House are at an all-time low.

The boys in the White House press room, usually among his stanchest friends, resent the frequent cracks President has been making about the press generally. And they don't appreciate the bawling out they get when asking simple questions at the White House news conferences.

It didn't get into the papers, but Mr. Truman, who returned from Key West tired and crochety, almost took two more digs at the reporters recently. First, he wanted to lecture them for not emphasizing that the list of war prisoners put out by the Chinese Communists was unverified and thus probably inaccurate—something, incidentally, that all reporters already had stressed.

He also wanted to bawl them out for leaking the story that Judge Tom Murphy of New York had turned down the job of chief graft investigator. However, the President's press officers, led by able Jos Short, convinced Mr. Truman to forget about it.

Inside Hungary

Final decision to pay the ransom of the four U.S. fliers in Hungary was made only after significant back-stage debate which goes to the very root of American policy toward Russian satellites.

Inside fact is that the Defense department, not the State department, made the decision to put up the ransom money—for two reasons:

1. The four air force men were official representatives of the United States and specifically of the Defense department.

2. The joint chiefs of staff shied away from any threat of retaliation for fear Hungary might call our bluff.

This latter point gets down to the root problem of whether it is wise to provoke the Soviet. It has come up time after time in the past, and the joint chiefs of staff always shy away from any showdown. In general, so does the State department.

This was the issue involved in the question of bombing Manchurian territory beyond the Yalu river. It has also been involved in much milder matters in the cold war.

Propaganda Balloons

For instance, when this columnist last spring urged sending propaganda balloons behind the Iron Curtain, it was frowned on by military advisers and by some State department officials. They feared a violent reaction in Moscow.

But when the Crusade for Freedom was able to float balloons into Czechoslovakia and Poland, the freedom leaflets were mimeographed, tacked on telephone poles, mailed anonymously to Communist officials, and created such a furor that Communist newspapers, the Czech prime minister and Radio Moscow had to go into high gear to reply.

Public opinion became so riled inside Czechoslovakia that the Communists actually began looking for some way to free AP correspondent William Oatis in order to turn off the heat.

However, when similar balloon or propaganda projects have been urged for Hungary and other satellite countries, an official wall of discouragement has been erected by the pentagon and by some of the more timid souls in the State department.

The reason is partly illustrated by a story told by Gen. Bedell Smith, expert head of central intelligence, who recounts a conversation between Georges Dimitrov and Stalin.

"Are you afraid of war?" Stalin was asked.

"Yes," replied Stalin, "but not as afraid as the West."

Nevertheless, there are plenty of progaganda steps that can be taken with no danger of war. Furthermore, it remains a fact that the law of the jungle remains the law of the Kremlin. And when U.S. propaganda stirs the population of Czechoslovakia or Hungary to a boiling point, the Kremlin is much more likely to act with reason.

Military Playground

When senate investigators probed Army camps recently, they didn't seem to notice that, while Fort Belvoir, Va., has squandered thousands of dollars on fancy golf courses, it has let its living quarters run down shamefully.

The senate preparedness commit- [illegible] did rap Fort Belvoir for its [illegible]xurious" recreational facilities. [illegible] it overlooked the condition of the crowded temporary barrac[illegible] which have become fire haza[illegible] Meanwhile Fort Belvoi[illegible] [illegible]ously low on water [illegible]

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406

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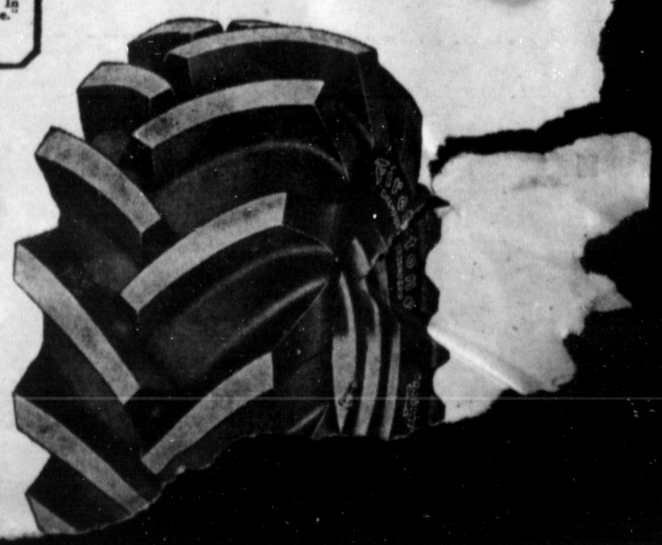
ORION, ILLINOIS



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