

RIDGWAY DUE FOR NATO JOB

by Marquis Childs

WASHINGTON. — Plans are being completed to replace General Eisenhower as supreme commander of NATO, looking to the not-too-distant date when Ike will take off his uniform and come home. Contrary to widely printed reports, the changes will be more extensive than had been expected. Contemplated is a reshuffle of the top command.

Eisenhower will be replaced, as now planned, at SHAPE headquarters outside Paris by Gen. Matthew Ridgway. It was Ridgway who replaced General MacArthur in the Asiatic command at a time of great uncertainty. Under instructions from the Pentagon he has been directing the long-drawn-out negotiations with the Communists in Korea.

His patience and skill in conducting this frustrating business have won him a great deal of admiration not only in Washington but in other United Nations capitals. Blame for the fact that the negotiations have been prolonged through more than eight months can not rightly be placed on Ridgway. His role has been to follow the instructions given him in the chain of command from the Joint Chiefs of Staff in the Pentagon.

Sometimes in messages back and forth between Tokyo and Washington he has protested these instructions. But when his protests were overruled, he has faithfully followed orders from the top. In Japan he has taken a most active and energetic part in the field in connection with the training of American troops stationed there.

Due Back in U. S.

Recent speculation has assumed that the NATO post would go to Eisenhower's deputy, Lt. Gen. Alfred M. Gruenther. Gruenther is Ike's own choice for his successor. As now planned, however, Gruenther will stay on at SHAPE only during a transitional period while Ridgway is working into his new command.

After that Gruenther will be brought back to the United States and given the command of field troops in training in this country. He will then be in line to become chief of staff of the Army, succeeding Lt. Gen. J. Lawton Collins when Collins' tour of duty ends in August 1953.

One of the outstanding planning brains of World War II, Gruenther has had comparatively little field experience. This is the reason for the proposed assignment, which would help to make up for that lack. The chief of staff's spot is, of course, the capstone of a professional Army career.

In charge of training field forces in the United States at present is Gen. Mark Clark. Clark is to be sent to Tokyo to replace General Ridgway. As have so many of our top soldiers, Clark has had high-level diplomatic as well as military experience. That is why he is being chosen for the assignment in Japan, which will call for a great deal of tact now that the treaty of peace has been ratified.

American troops in Japan will no longer have occupation status and privileges. They will be garrisoned in a friendly country in the interests of the mutual security of the two nations. To bring about this change will take a lot of doing since our occupying forces have enjoyed some pretty fancy privileges since V-J Day. At the same time the Japanese will be increasingly aware of their sovereignty, with hostile political forces of right and left seeking to exploit the presence of American soldiers on Japanese soil.

Did Outstanding Job.

In June of 1945 Clark was named United States high commissioner for Austria. He did an outstanding job there. In 1947 in London and Moscow he sat in with the council of foreign ministers at the start of the effort to get big-power agreement on a peace treaty with Austria. That effort has been frustrated by Russian tactics of delay and opposition through the years.

The responsibility resting on soldier-statesmen in the troubled years since the end of the war is something quite new for America. Among many people it causes no little disquiet, since often it seems that military men are usurping the functions of civilians. This same disquiet is likely to be a factor if Eisenhower becomes the presidential nominee of the Republican Party.

But for these particular tasks that include military command but also much more than command in the old-fashioned sense this country has been singularly fortunate in having men equipped and ready. The outstanding example is MacArthur's administration of Japan with the far-reaching reforms that he carried through.

The final steps have not yet been taken in the pattern of change outlined here and that pattern may still be altered. But it is indicative once again of America's continuing responsibility in the four corners of the globe.

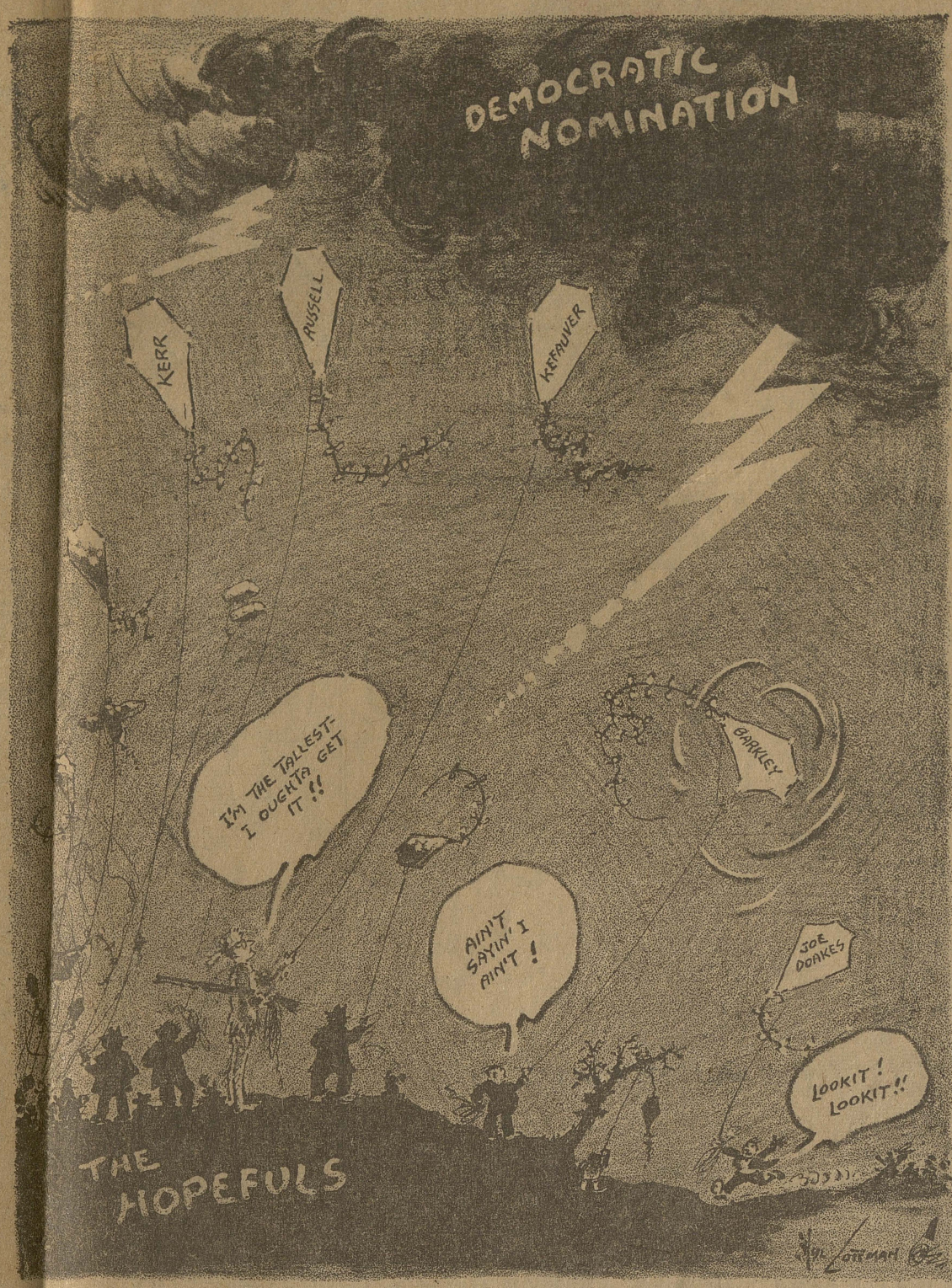
Opinions expressed by Marquis Childs in this article are his own and not necessarily those of the Star-Telegram.

THESE FUNNY PEOPLE.

Mr. Henpeck (to boss)—"Sir, I think it's about time I got my raise."

Boss—"What are you talking about! Why, I put a raise in your envelope last week."

Mr. Henpeck—"Oh dear! Why doesn't my wife tell me these things!"



Hal Coffman's cartoons appear exclusively in the Star-Telegram.

Did President Close the Door?

Writer Thinks Truman Might Change His Mind

BY DAVID LAWRENCE.

WASHINGTON. — Anybody who thinks that the question of whether President Truman will or will not run is absolutely settled can not be sure of it till the Democratic national convention has cast its final ballot.

For, while the President sincerely says there is no chance of his changing his mind, events could cause him to feel otherwise. Lots of things can happen between now and July, including a sudden turn for the worse in the international situation. If a real crisis arose, continuity of policy would be an argument advanced to urge him to run again.

Meanwhile, the fact that there will be a wide-open race for the Democratic nomination doesn't mean that the President is out of it either. If there is no agreement on any single candidate at the convention, and the factions do not feel anyone is as strong as Truman could be as a candidate, the inclination of the delegates—hand-picked administration supporters—could be to nominate Truman. It would be a compliment to him to be tendered a nomination despite his disinclination to run and, if he finally turned it down, there would still be time to select someone else or for him to help decide on a compromise candidate. Also, in July things may look different so far as Truman's popularity is concerned, and the tender of a nomination may appear at least at that time to be more spontaneous than it would have been if Mr. Truman had not said what he did on Saturday night about declining to run.

Effects on Situation.

Assuming that there will be no "draft" of Truman, the following effects on the whole political situation may be enumerated:

1. The Democratic Party has been given a chance to solidify. It now can reach a compromise on a "civil rights" plank in the platform that will be satisfactory to the North and South. The South is in the saddle now.

2. While this correspondent has maintained for a long time that any Republican could beat Truman in 1952, but that any Republican could not beat any Democrat, there is only one Democrat now in the race who could give General Eisenhower a real run, and that's Senator Russell of Georgia. He is presidential caliber in every sense and would make a great president and do more to make the Democratic Party harmonious than could anybody else whose name has been mentioned for the Democratic nomination.

3. The biggest single obstacle usually cited by those Republicans who have felt that Truman would be the strongest Democratic nominee has been removed as far as the followers of Taft are concerned. They are encouraged. They have been up against the argument repeatedly that Taft couldn't beat Truman. But that argument would not receive as much support hereafter as against some other Democratic nominee.

Afraid of Eisenhower?

4. The Eisenhower followers will be stimulated. They will say that Truman isn't running because he's afraid Eisenhower would defeat him. They will say that much of the Truman following will support Eisenhower rather than Taft, and that Truman's

withdrawal makes an Eisenhower victory doubly sure in November if he is the Republican nominee.

5. If the Republicans turn down Eisenhower, a strong movement will arise among the Democrats to "draft" the general for the Democratic nomination and the argument for this will be intensified if the Republican platform has alienated the international-minded voters of the Republican Party.

6. Truman's speech at the Jackson-Jefferson Day dinner will become a textbook for campaign speakers of the Democratic Party. It has some strong points, but its weakest point can be epitomized thus: "The Republicans are worse crooks than we are." That kind of comparison is bound to leave the voters rather saddened by the low plane of American politics.

Also, the contention that it's more important to stop communism abroad than in the United States isn't very persuasive. Too many Americans are convinced that communistic influences, cleverly manipulated, caused us to lose Asia and get caught in Korea without a firm policy of prevention. Likewise, the claim that the anti-Communist agitation is just a "red herring," which Mr. Truman, in effect, repeated last Saturday night, will not sit well with the public when it is reminded of the misbehavior of men like Hiss and Fuchs. The less the Democrats try to minimize the anti-Communist issue the better for them. Truman was strongest in his speech when he analyzed the ultra-reactionary prejudices of certain Republicans and the isolationist tendencies of others and called attention to the lack of accord among Republicans on international policy, in respect to both Europe and Asia.

Decided Long Ago.

Just why did the president announce that he would not run? This writer learned several months ago, and printed in one of these dispatches that family reasons were most persuasive, and that after the attempted assassination of the President by the two Puerto Ricans in November 1950, the family's apprehensions grew. Truman made up his mind long ago, but was troubled as to when and how to announce the decision. It comes early enough now for other candidates to get into the race, but it is also early enough for them to demolish each other's chances and for the party to throw up its hands finally and in desperation say: "Let's nominate Truman after all." Any other candidate would have to run on the Truman record, anyhow.

Did Truman close the door? He sincerely intended to do so. He did, however, use the word "shall" which is a mere prediction. It would have been much more persuasive if he had used the word "will" which is a pledge or a definite commitment. "I will not accept renomination" is firmer phraseology than "I shall not accept," which could be construed to mean: "I do not now intend to accept." I may be Mr. Truman was utterly unaware of such technical differences when he wrote in longhand the secret paragraph which he withheld from everybody until the last moment of his address. But something in

the confused situation in the two parties and the possibility of events arising that are not now foreseen compels this writer to observe that the last word on whether or not Mr. Truman will run again will not be spoken and the last question will not be answered until the Democratic convention has adjourned during the week of July 21 next.

Opinions expressed by David Lawrence in this article are his own and not necessarily those of the Star-Telegram.

JUST FOLKS

by Edgar A. Guest.

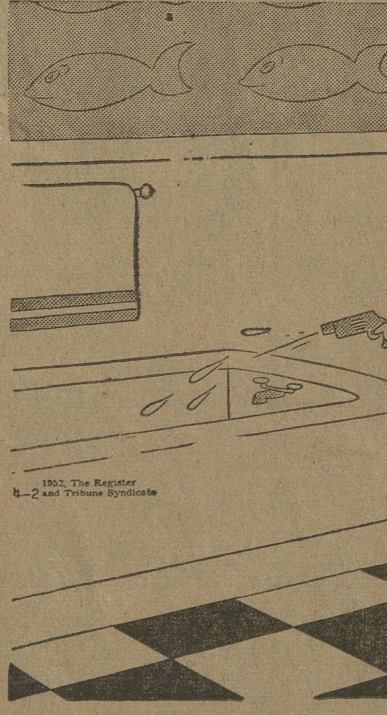
UNDERGROUND.

Never need freedom's defenders be found
Slyly concealing themselves underground.
But out in the open, face front and erect,
Honest, above board, forthright and direct,
Daring the challenge whatever it be.
Shame leaves no stain on the will to be free.

Liberty's enemies fear to be known;
Hiding in cells where no light can be thrown.
Cheating, pretending and whispering lies,
Plotting and scheming as tyranny's spies.
Freedom's defenders have consciences clear;
Nothing to hide from, and no one to fear.

Freedom's defenders step out with the crowd.
Free men devoted and valiant and proud;
Glad to be listed and glad to be known,
Standing with others or standing alone;
Ready to rise at the first trumpet sound.
Scornful of all men who go underground.

OFF THE RECORD



"I AM filling it up..."