War Has Changed

THE 30-DAY "deadline" on the truce talks at Panmuniom has arrived and, as everyone knows, a completed armistice agreement looks a long way off.

The agreement to "freeze" the ceasefire line for a period made sense within the limits of the negotiations. The purpose was to free that issue from the ebb and flow of the battle line, so that the men around the bargaining table could move on to even knottier questions. But it has been unfortunate, though perhaps inescapable, that the deadline was so made to order for suspense stories—all the more so because it was connected fortuitously with the Christmas season.

Whatever hopes may have been cherished by those who read and hear only the headline briefs are now sadly shattered. But until and unless some other deadline arrangement serves the purpose of these hard-bitten negotiations, it may now be easier to see the truce talks in clear perspective.

And their progress is better measured by the facts which underlie the whole situation than by any mechanical totaling of agreements to date. The latter have a way of snapping back to some other point along the starting line the moment the Communists need leverage on the next issue. Since a full agreement has stalled, drawing the cease-fire line may again be up to the fighting men. The exchange of prisoner lists marked progress, only to have the Reds' leverage bear down upon the fulcrum of thousands of hopes, now specific but half fulfilled.

The quiet confidence around command headquarters at Taegu and Tokyo and around the Pentagon in Washington that truce agreements will be hammered out within the next couple of months stems rather from facts which say that an armistice serves the needs of both sides better than does continued fighting.

Those who steer the grand strategy for the United Nations know that, having halted aggression, they must keep Korea a holding action while they build strength along more vital fronts. And even an uneasy truce is less costly on every count than continual battles.

The Communists, on their part, know that, short of all-out Russian aid, they have no hope of throwing the UN out of Korea. So long as they try force of arms they lose men, trained soldiers (a scarcer item), equipment, and face, day by day. It would be too risky to assume they want a true armistice. But it is cheaper right now for them, also, to transfer the struggle from the battle front to the conference table. This offers at least an avenue toward an armistice—an avenue which the UN must exploit as stubbornly as do the Reds.

Will the opposing pressures now move back to the battle front? The fliers and the sailors will say it has never left there. As to ground fighting, much depends on whether the Communists believe they have accumulated enough strength to attack again with any hope of commensurate gain. It seems likely, however, they will recognize the fact of balance between the two armies, and agree to freeze the cease-fire line for another period.

In looking beyond that point one cannot repeat too often that the battle line across Korea is all of a piece with the Berlin airlift; that the prisoners behind barbed wire near the Qalu play the same part as the four American airmen in Hungary; that the pulling and hauling at Panmunjom has little significance apart from the pulling and hauling at Paris and at UN headquarters in New York. Fought with bullets or with words, it is all one—a kind of war which needs new definition and new understanding.

—The Christian Science Monitor

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Why worry about the Russians; after all, why can't the Russians worry about us?

Justice is the goal, not necessarily the product, of our courts.

The Battalion

Lawrence Sullivan Ross, Founder of Aggie Traditions
"Soldier, Statesman, Knightly Gentleman"

The Battalion, official newspaper of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas, is published by students five times a week during the regular school year. During the summer terms, The Battalion is published four times a week, and during examination and vacation periods, twice a week. Days of publication are Monday through Friday for the regular school year, Tuesday through Friday during the summer terms, and Tuesday and Thursday during vacation and examination periods. Subscription rates $6.00 per year or $.50 per month. Advertising rates furnished on request.

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Atcheson's Job Poor Training For President

By JAMES MARLOW

Washington, Jan. 1—(AP)—No one knows better than Secretary of State Acheson that his job is not a good one if you want to win a popularity contest.

Once upon a time becoming Secretary of State was like joining a gym to get in shape for the presidency. But one of our most eminent historians, Dr. Douglas Southall Freeman, doubts it will happen again.

Dr. Freeman, who has written extensively on Robert E. Lee and his lieutenants and now is publishing a huge life of George Washington, writes the foreword to a new book on Acheson.

Shows His Position

This book—"The Pattern of Responsibility"—is mostly a collection of Acheson statements, showing the secretary's position on our main problems. The author is McGeorge Bundy.

Dr. Freeman makes no defense, criticism or historical appraisal of Acheson as Secretary of State but does acknowledge the excellent quality of his mind and the difficulties of his office.

Dr. Freeman says:

"In the Firrnen decades of government under the constitution of 1787, six of the 15 presidents had been secretary of state under some other chief executive.

"Since James Buchanan, who served with Polk, no secretary of state has become president, though at least half a dozen have sought, and several have won nomination.

"For the future, the probability is that the office will not have a corridor leading to the presidency. The unpopular nature of much that a secretary of state must do in an era of inflamed passions may destroy his political 'availability.'

Mind Highly Specialized

"His duties, in addition, are going to absorb his energies so completely that he will not have time for building fences. More fundamentally, the qualities of mind demanded of a competent secretary of state must be so highly specialized that they literally may be a disqualification for the presidency."

Knowing what has happened to other men in positions of importance in this country, depending on how the wind blew, Freeman says Acheson will be made the scapegoat if his efforts for peace fail.

But if the "nation escapes that infinite catastrophe," Dr. Freeman says, "Dean Acheson will receive credit from future historians not only for what he did in negotiation but also for his courage, his wisdom and his patience in administration."

Hollywood Looks For Better Times

By BOB THOMAS

Hollywood, Jan. 1—(AP)—The movie industry faces the New Year with more optimism than it has dared in five years.

Bad times beset Hollywood a year after the end of the war. The entertainment dollar was cut into by inflation, and the general public appeared apathetic about the quality of movies. After the producers were forced to improve the product, the novelty of television arrived. More and more people began staying home for their entertainment.

Many industry thinkers hopefully believe 1951 was the turning point in the motion picture's fortunes. Film quality was up to its highest point in several years, and the novelty value of TV was passing.

That thinking appears to be borne out in film company earnings. Variety reported that the nine major studio and theater corporations took in a gross of $662,100,000 in a nine-month period of 1951. This was $26,100,000 or four per cent more than in 1950.

Last year was the first reversal of the downward trend that started in 1947. Every year since then had brought a decline in total movie earnings over the previous year.

Heartened by the figures, Hollywood is making optimistic plans for 1952. It is expected that film production will equal and perhaps surpass the 350 pictures made by Hollywood during 1951. Nearly every studio has issued glowing reports of important movies to be made this year.

TV also figures in the industry's plans. More theaters are being equipped with TV, which would bring sporting and political events to massed audiences. Joseph McConnell, president of NBC, has estimated that 4,100 theaters will be installed with TV by 1955.

LATEST LITTLE NUMBER IN FASHIONS

Texans Have Part In Shaping Events

By TEX EASLEY

Washington—(AP)—Texans in the nation's capital had a prominent part in the shaping of events in troubled 1951.

Because of the nature of the times, few of the problems tackled were of purely state or even regional interest. Probably of most interest. Probably of most interest to Texans aside from the question of peace or war was the tidelands issue. That, too, remains unsettled.

Speaker Sam Rayburn of Bonham, as presiding officer of the House, was responsible for steering national defense legislation through that side of the Capitol. Early this year, incidentally, he the history of the United States attained the distinction of serving as speaker longer than any man in Congress. He surpassed the century-old record of 8 years 4 months and 11 days set by Henry Clay.

Connally Presided

On the Senate side, Senator Tom Connally presided over the Foreign Relations Committee. The group has much to do with the determination of international policy.

Much in the lime light in recent weeks have been the delvings of the Senate Armed Preparedness subcommittee headed by Texas' Senator Lyndon B. Johnson.

As for the aidelands controversy, much discussion and a minimum of action occurred in 1951. The situation basically is as it has been for years. The prospects are not too good that anything definite will be done in 1952.

Has Paramount Rights

Since the U. S. Supreme Court ruled that the federal government has "paramount rights and dominion" over the oil-rich lands beneath the marginal seas a real deadlock has developed.

The states no longer can issue leases for development of the offshore property. But, neither can the federal government unless Congress passes specific legislation granting such authority. President Truman and his top administration leaders want federal control. Most congressmen favor state ownership.

A lot of debate is expected on the issue in forthcoming months, with little or no chance of a permanent solution being reached. At best, and remote too, is the possibility of a compromise to permit development of the submerged lands on a tentative basis with money receipts being impounded for disbursement when a final agreement is effected.

Dunlap Cooperative

The tax scandal probe is not without Texas angles—though in this case the Lone Star state can take pride. The Commissioner of Internal Revenue is John Dunlap of Dallas. He took over the position as the inquiry began and is cooperating in the drive to weed out the inefficient and dishonest. He has named Frank W. Lohn, 53, a native of Waldrip, head of the house cleaning program.

Another more or less regional problem which arose during the year, and which is of special interest to Texans, is the importation of Mexican farm laborers.

Strengthen Laws

The existing Mexican labor agreement expires in February un-

Official Notice

The Fiscal Office will begin taking fees for the Second Semester immediately after the Christmas Holidays, beginning January 4.

In order to hold the rooms they now occupy, for the second semester, students must pay fees and reserve rooms at the Housing Office in Goodwin Hall before January 22.

First installment fees for military students for the second semester are $75.20 and for non-military students are $48.80. Fees for the entire semester for military students are $244.60; for non-military, $92.85.

Truman May Clean House But Don't Bet On When

Washington, Jan. 1—(AP)—One thing 1952 appears certain to bring is some unusual action by President Truman to throw out any remaining rascals in his administration.

Don't bet on when this will happen ,however, or on what form it will take—unless you're strictly a long shot player.

It was two weeks ago last Thursday that the President, his administration spattered by the corruption in government scandals, told newsmen he planned some action to clean up the situation. He said it might come in a day or so.

White House Silent

Since then: Rumors, denials, White House conferences, long distance phone calls—but no action. As to when there may be action, the White House responds with a frosty silence.

Day after day, White House correspondents have been putting the questio nto Presidential Press Secretary Joseph Short. Day after day Short has bounced the question right back: "I have no information on that," or, "I'll let you know when there is something."

It has reached the point where the newsmen use a kind of shorthand in asking the question. For instance: "Anything today on the announcement we have been waiting for?'" Short knows what the reporter means. He says no, the matter will just have to go along on a day to day basis.

Yesterday a reporter tried to vary the routine. He asked if anything could be expected on "the Murphy Commission." Short blinked, looked annoyed and replied: "If you would rephrase that question, the answer would be a single 'no comment'."

"The Murphy commission," of course, refers to the open secret—never confirmed by the White House—that Mr. Truman asked Federal Judge Thomas F. Murphy of New York to head a special anti-corruption agency. Murphy reportedly was inclined to accept, then changed his mind and, as the gossip went, turned the job down.

New Methods Save Money By Reducing Labor Costs

A Texas Agricultural Experiment Station progress report says adoption of machine methods has greatly reduced labor requirements of producing peanuts in the West Cross Timbers area of Texas.

It concludes that savings gained through mechanization of the peanut crop increased its comparative advantage with respect to cotton and other crops grown in the area.

About 15 per cent of all U. S. peanuts are grown in Texas and about a third of the state crop comes from the West Cross Timbers area: the counties of Brown, Comanche, Eastland, Erath, Hood, Montague, Parker, Somervell, and Wise.

Within the last 10 years tractors have practically displaced work stock as a source of farm power in this area. The progress report, by M. N. Williamson, Jr.; A. C. Magee, and Ralph H. Rogers, says most of the 1950 crop (probably 90 per cent) was harvested by combines.

Williams and Magee are associate professors of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Sociology at the Agricultural Experiment Station. Rogers is an agricultural economist of the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Agricultural economics.

They write that the change in the West Cross Timbers area from complete use of stationary threshers to general use of combines has taken place in about five years.

They find peanuts the section's most important cash crop. The 10-year, 1941-50 average yield in the nine counties was 492 pounds an acre. Spanish type peanuts are grown. They are brought by Salters, peanutbutter manufacturers, and candy makers. Some are crushed for oil.

The report says the change from horse-drawn, one-row equipment and the general use of combine instead of stationary threshers for harvesting have affected an average saving of about 23 hours of man labor per acre, or about 69 per cent.

The total labor required per acre for the usual operations in producing peanuts in 1950 was only 10.5 hours. In addition an average of 5.8 hours of tractor and truck work was required.

Oil Production To Shoot Ahead

Philadelphia, Jan. 1—(AP)—A member of the petroleum industry predicts that record-breaking production for all of this year—barring such a drastic change in the international situation as total war.

Robert G. Dunlop, president of Sun Oil Co., said gathering momentum of the industry's effort to supply more of the world will carry it beyond last year's record breaking pace—both in production and consumption.

The U. S. Bureau of Mines has predicted a five per cent increase in demand for petroleum products in 1952. Total U. S. consumption in 151 exceeded 100 billion gallons for the first time in history.

That amount is equivalent to two gallons a day per man, woman and child, and compares with approximately half a pint a day per person for the rest of the world.

Expecting increased demand, Dunlop said, the industry has understood the most vigorous well drilling campaign in history, so that reserves are running well ahead of the corresponding period last year although the reserve crude oil capacity still is short of that period to World War II.

POGO — By Walt Kelly

POGO — By Walt Kelly

LI'L ABNER — Washington Merry-Go-Round — By Al Capp

LI' LABNER — HAPPY NEW YEAR ! ! — By Al Capp