

The Washington Merry-Go-Round**Optimist Heads MacArthur's G-2***By Drew Pearson*

FOR a long time, criticism of General MacArthur in the Pentagon Building was almost like criticizing George Washington. It wasn't done.

However, some mild criticism is now being expressed privately about MacArthur's faulty intelligence which estimated there were few Chinese units in North Korea on Thanksgiving weekend, and a few days later suddenly 'discovered' 200,000 Chinese troops.

This was an error of disastrous and major proportions. For it was based on this intelligence that Washington authorized MacArthur to advance toward the Yalu River as quickly as possible.

The man in charge of MacArthur's intelligence is Gen. Charles A. Willoughby, 58, born in Germany and whose original name was Tschepewiedebach. After trouble over a Prussian duel while in officers' school, he escaped to this country and took the name of his mother, who was an American.

Intensely devoted to MacArthur, Willoughby has long been in charge of Mac's intelligence and is one of the hero worshipers around him who tends to tell the "Supreme Commander" what he wants to hear rather than the disagreeable facts.

Willoughby is such a hero worshiper that he even copies the garb of his boss, brandishes a swagger stick, tucks a scarf inside his open-throated shirt, and a few weeks before the Korean attack last June dismissed Korea "as not important."

"You must keep your eye on the Reds and know what they will do next," Willoughby expounded to a Washington visitor. "You can take it from me, Iran is the place to watch. An attack very soon, old boy."

Despite this, MacArthur continued to put complete faith in Willoughby's intelligence reports, sometimes with disastrous results.

For instance, it was faulty intelligence which first caused United States troops to get embroiled with the Chinese. About the third week in October, MacArthur reported there were few enemy troops between him and the North Korean border and asked permission to send South Koreans into this area to maintain order.

Though it had been previously agreed at Wake Island that there would be a 40-mile neutral zone between U. N. forces and the Manchurian border, nevertheless Washington consented to MacArthur's request. South Korean troops were then sent north and were promptly overwhelmed by an enemy which MacArthur's intelligence did not think existed.

Then MacArthur asked permission to send United States troops north to rescue them. This was when the Chinese first crossed the Yalu River en masse and retaliated.

ORIGINAL STRATEGY of the anti-Acheson bloc before the Korean war looked so serious was

to use the Yugoslav aid program as the first test of its own strength. The plan was to demand Acheson's resignation before voting aid to Yugoslavia despite the fact Red Army troops are on the Yugoslav borders.

The idea of blocking the proposed 35-million-dollar loan developed in informal talks between Nebraska's Ken Wherry, the Republican floor leader; Virginia's Harry Byrd, his silent partner, and Dick Russell of Georgia, master strategist of the Dixie-GOP coalition.

After the heavy Chinese attacks in North Korea, however, the bloc decided to water down its strategy to a grueling cross-examination of Acheson and his policies in both the Appropriations and Foreign Relations Committees.

"It will take more than George Marshall coming up here and balling Acheson out to get this aid through," remarked Senator Byrd to a friend.

WHILE PRESIDENT TRUMAN talks consistently about helping Little Business, he operates with almost equal consistency to help Big Business.

Latest illustration was when the Civil Aeronautics Board handed down a decision against Colonial Airlines, a small line, in favor of American Airlines, one of the biggest operators in the country, to fly from New York to Toronto.

After the CAB prepared its preliminary report, it was sent to the White House for approval. And for several weeks Truman held it up. Finally, CAB Chairman Delos Rentzel, who used to work for American Airlines, went over to the White House, after which the President signed the order favoring the company for which Rentzel once worked.

NOTE—One good White House friend of American Airlines is Matt Connelly, seen from time to time in the cocktail lounges with American's lovely vice president, Carlene Roberts.

THE SENATE McCARTHYITES are planning to give Margaret Chase Smith, the efficient Senator from Maine, a political spanking—because of her forthright speech last summer criticizing Joe McCarthy's "smear tactics."

Ever since she was elected in 1948, Mrs. Smith has been standing in line for an assignment to the Senate Armed Services Committee. Having served on both the House Naval Affairs and Armed Services Committees, she is considered well-qualified for this committee.

But because of her criticism of McCarthy, his cohorts in the Eighty-second Congress plan to block her from the Republican vacancy and offer it to either McCarthy or raucous Bill Jenner of Indiana. Jenner's assistant, Albion Beverage, who once hung the Japanese and Nazi flags from his pulpit, ran against Mrs. Smith in Maine and is pulling backstage wires to spike her appointment.