

News Report From Washington

Quemoy And Matsu Islands—
The British View—
Knowland Center Of Tug—
Demo Boom For Johnson—

Washington — The United States might well have adopted a much more dangerous line in the Formosa area with Secretary of State John Foster Dulles' two-edged explanation of our position concerning the Matsu and Quemoy islands.

Up until the recent speech by the Secretary, it had been assumed this country would not fight for any island in the Formosa area except Formosa itself and the Pescadore islands, just west of Formosa, formerly held by Japan.

But now that the country's policy in the area includes an unclear position regarding the Quemoy and Matsu islands, perhaps for reasons of possible negotiation advantages, or perhaps as part of a bluff, to help Chiang Kai-Shek keep these islands, a serious threat of military action is immediately brought into being.

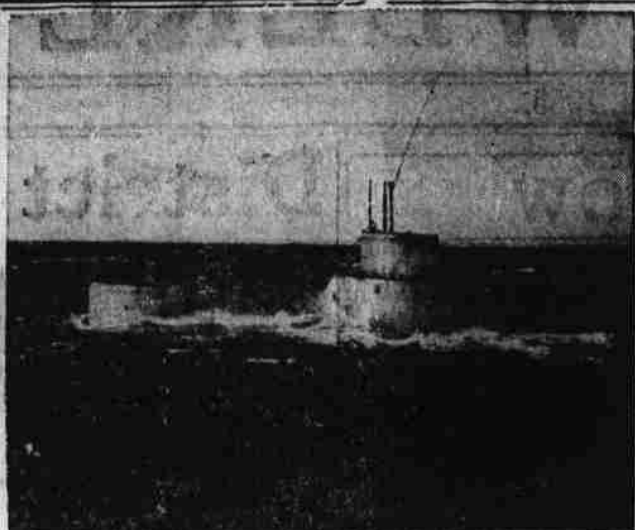
Unlike Formosa and the Pescadores, these islands (Quemoy and Matsu) are almost under the noses of the Communists on the mainland, being something less than fifteen miles from the nearest mainland point. Quemoy is in a strategic position as far as the port of Amoy is concerned.

Matsu is in a similar location regarding the port of Foochow. Both islands are more than a hundred miles from Formosa. Thus it would be far more difficult for the Chinese Nationalists to reinforce these two islands, in a major battle, than it would for the Chinese Reds.

Quemoy is over one hundred miles due west from the Formosan west coast while Matsu is about the same distance from the northwestern tip of Formosa, in a northwestern direction. Military observers feel that the Communists will be able to take both of these islands once they build up sufficient forces, unless the United States goes all-out to hold them, with air, naval and land forces.

There seems to be little reason to believe the United States will send land forces to defend these key islands so close to the China mainland. What worries some students of foreign affairs is the fact that the U. S. position concerning the defense of these two strategic islands is now hazy, and a Chinese Red occupation of them would therefore appear to be a major Communist victory over the United States.

There is some thought that the United States might eventually resort to the use of land forces if necessary to hold Formosa. But this is not a certainty and there are many military strategists who feel that we should never get into land fighting with the Chinese again. They argue that we should use our superior air and naval forces to curb Communist aggression.



The hunter-killer submarine USS K-1 breaks the surface after setting an accumulative record of 1,481 hours submerged during the past year to claim the unofficial title "most aquatic submarine" in the U. S. Navy. (FHTNC)

Land fighting with a nation of 600,000,000 people would be foolhardy, they say, and just what Russia wants.

There are few observers who think we will use ground forces to defend Quemoy and Matsu, mainly because of the poor tactical position we would have to operate from in such an undertaking. Secretary of State Dulles has said that we are not committed to defend the islands but he also said—in the next breath—that we might defend them!

The British feel that putting up a bluff over these two islands is unsound, that the Reds will take them anyhow, that they are islands which should be under the control of the Chinese mainland government, by tradition, and that when the Communists take them by force it will appear to be a U. S. setback.

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ators because of Knowland's leadership.

On the Democratic side, some members of the majority party are trying to touch off a presidential boom for Lyndon Johnson. But the choice of Chicago as the Democratic convention site doesn't help the Texan's chances. The general feeling is, too, that Johnson, a Southerner, faces the same insurmountable tasks which face any southerner with presidential aspirations, that of getting the vote in eastern metropolitan areas despite a civil rights philosophy which runs head-on into that of the eastern and traditionally Democratic city masses.

Poise is that state of consciousness which is at rest and peaceful when no one praises, and undisturbed when censured, opposed, or misunderstood.

—Clarence H. Howard.

Ruling Given On Soybean Grading

The Perquimans County Farm Bureau requested Congressman Herbert C. Bonner and Senatorial representatives to oppose the proposed changes in policy regarding the Soybean Grading Standards. The Congressional representatives reported they had strongly opposed this action and due to opposition the following statement was released from the Department of Agriculture:

"The Department of Agriculture told North Carolina members of Congress that it has dropped its plan to downgrade state soybeans because they give soybean flour a greenish cast."

This action, in itself, according to R. M. Thompson, County Agent, will mean many dollars of income to farmers of eastern North Caro-

lina and will save the farmers of Perquimans County from a loss of approximately \$85,000 annually. It does not mean, Thompson pointed out, that the grade changes on moisture, heat damage and foreign matter will not be in the proposed

State Congressional leaders are opposing any change in moisture content, but this is not expected to be as damaging as downgrading due to the greenish cast.

opposed to any of these proposed changes at the present time and will attempt to keep its members informed of any legislative bills that will affect local economy.

TRY A WEEKLY CLASSIFIED

Minority Senate Leader William Knowland is finding out now that direct opposition to the White House, which he has so often exhibited in the field of foreign policy, is paying off dividends.

The dividends are not welcomed by Knowland, however, for they come in the form of rumbblings and meetings of pro-Eisenhower Senators, some of whom are not satisfied with Knowland's leadership in the upper legislative body.

Others in the pro-Ike group say they will continue to support Knowland even though they think his foreign policy statements often ill-timed. Another group, a sizeable one, is with Knowland in his differences with the White House.

It is the first outward manifestation of unrest among G.O.P. Sen-

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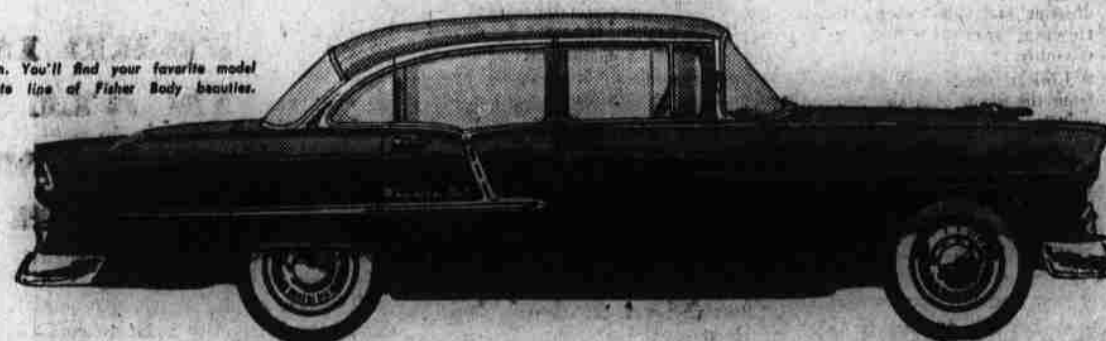
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