

Washington Report

from

Congressman

STEVE NEAL



WASHINGTON — There are no prospects in South

Indeed, we should never become involved in

about the possibility of renewed conflict between North and South Korea.

That war, believe it or not, has never formally ended. It has been neutralized for more than 20 years by an armistice agreement and continued peace negotiations. A flare of diplomatic tempers, or a careless border incident, might touch off the armed hostilities again.

Meanwhile, the United States has continued a substantial military presence in South Korea. Under a mutual defense agreement with that nation, we have guarded the 38th Parallel, which divides North from South, and now have about 40,000 troops stationed along that frontier.

North Korea's violation of the 38th Parallel ignited the Korean Conflict in 1950. Today, there are rumblings that another charge across the parallel is in the making. If it occurs, U.S. forces are exposed to the initial assault. With the firing of the first shot, we would be in another war.

I am very concerned about the South Korean situation. My apprehension arises from the administration's "cocked gun" policy of exposing our forces to such a threat, and the nation to the dire consequences of another land war in Asia.

On top of that, Secretary of Defense James Schlesinger has threatened to use "limited" nuclear weapons against North Korea if it blitzes the parallel. The introduction of such weapons, I believe, might trigger nuclear retaliation, possibly against the continental United States.

The situation, as I see it, is highly volatile and fraught with danger. Surely, we need to examine the alternatives to such strategy, lest we be plunged into another useless and costly war, quite possibly by accident.

Last week, I spent the July Fourth recess in the Fifth District, working in and from the district office in Winston-Salem. I commented extensively — through the media and in person — on the South Korean situation. Basically, this is what I said:

We should not become involved in another land war on the continent of Asia.

We should examine our treaty obligations to South Korea. The mutual defense agreement contains no clear-cut provision that we must provide troops to repel an invasion. The terms of the treaty would be clarified and a definite policy of response established.

We should reexamine our entire policy toward South Korea, and should determine whether we need to continue the treaty. It can be canceled with one year's notice. South Korea has a highly-trained, well-equipped army and its people are unified. The country is militarily superior to North Korea and capable of defending itself.

We should consider the internal politics of South Korea, which no longer is the "free" country we supported in war. Its government is corrupt and oppressive. Its press is muzzled. Free elections have been suspended. It is drifting toward dictatorship from within. Should we support such a "friend?"

Most important, we should pull American troops away from the "trip line" along the 38th Parallel. To leave them exposed is to wipe out all our options in the event of an attack.

Frankly, I do not have all the answers to our plight in South Korea. But the questions I am raising are valid and need to be answered. I believe we should not risk another South Vietnam experience through a "hot gun" diplomacy which may backfire.

Some questioning, probing and planning at this point might spare us the regret of blundering into a war which would cost us dearly in lives and national resources.

(Please share your opinions on the foregoing subject or any other issue with me. I need your opinions to represent you well here in Washington. Please never hesitate to call or write whenever you need help with any problem you may have concerning the federal government. Write or call: 502 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515, Telephone (202) 225-2071; or 2217 Wachovia Building, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27102, Telephone (919) 723-9211).

Center

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summer months, are working with "an estimated 150 children a day, and over 1,000 a month," they said.

Mr. Robert Walker fills-in for the staff. "He assists in all the programs," Mrs. Hughes said. The staffers keep in touch with the

neighborhood by conducting surveys three times a year. "We go around and check for new neighbors, or see if anybody has moved out and generally to let the people know we are here," the manager for two years said.

Needy

Continued From Page 1
mostly social in nature. "This is not true," the article states. "It is true that the budgets of many of these groups reflect large amounts of money spent on social affairs. It is also true that some of these groups spend only a small portion of their

article. Omega men have made many attempts to plan and implement programs to help the needy. But, "many of these programs have not been effective because people on which they were focused did not respond." The fraternity is calling for people to respond and make them aware of their needs. "Maybe we are not aware of some of the real emergency needs of people and groups. Our fraternity is involved in this city's life, work and leadership, but we are willing and able to do much more than is being done." If you have a request for help, the group urges you to contact Mr. Rudolph V. Boone, Basileus, Psi Phi Chapter, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., 3151 Butterfield Drive, Winston-Salem, N. C. 27105.

Prisons Need Racial Balance

Continued from page 1

for the system to work well there must be top-to-bottom racial balance," he suggested. "Until this occurs we are losing some of our resources."

The Bar Association mem-

crimes was concerned. "In some cases," he added, "they were very harsh."

Erwin, who stated he had no goals set except being a good legislator, now says one of his primary goals is to

prison sentences. This, he feels, contributes to the over-population in the state's prisons. "Neither the long sentences nor the death penalty is a deterrent to crime," he said.

The Howard Law School grad said the Nixon-Mitchell law and order years had a large effect on the attitude of the people and courts toward crime. He said he is opposed to the death penalty

and added that the General Assembly is waiting for the U.S. Supreme Court to rule on the death penalty before it takes any action. (This state has 81 people on death row—more than any other state in the union.)

The first term representative said the General Assembly was very punitive as far as the punishment of

NEXT WEEK: The Equal Rights Amendment and the N. C. State Budget.

Editor's Quote Book

If a man never contradicts himself, it is because he never says anything.

— Miguel De Unamuno

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