

WILLKIE MAPS GOP WAR STAND

Suggests Party Urge Recall
Of MacArthur to Lead
Armed Forces.

BOSTON, Feb. 13 (U. P.).—Wendell L. Willkie urged in a Lincoln's birthday address last night that Gen. Douglas MacArthur be returned from the Philippines and placed "in supreme command of our armed forces under the President."

In a speech outlining what he believed the Republican Party's position should be during the war emergency, the 1940 Republican candidate for President charged that there are a few Republicans who would, "perhaps unconsciously, risk even national defeat in order to discomfit the party now in power."



His recommendation that MacArthur be brought back to the United States to take over all the military services was offered to illustrate what the Republican Party might work for as a "constructive force."

Objects to Deadwood

Asserting that the Government should eliminate obstructions of "deadwood, red tape, jealousies and prejudices" in the armed forces, Mr. Willkie told party members at a Middlesex Club dinner that "to bring about effective co-operation, one man should direct the military services."

Extolling Gen. MacArthur as "the man who almost alone has given his fellow countrymen confidence and hope in the conduct of this war," Mr. Willkie urged:

"Bring home Gen. MacArthur. Place him at the very top. Keep bureaucratic and political hands off him. Give him the responsibility and the power of co-ordinating all the armed forces of the nation to their most effective use. Put him in supreme command of our armed forces under the President."

Fliers Critical, He Says

The Republican leader said that young men of the air service are embittered because "air power is not being properly used" and "air officers have come up against stone walls of prejudice in the War Department" about the use of the nation's air fleet.

"The man who offers constructive criticism risks court martial," he quoted these air service men. "The Navy still believes that an air bomber cannot sink a battleship."

Recalling that "Lincoln's sufficiently difficult task was made vastly more difficult by purely negative opposition and criticism," Mr. Willkie attacked the traditional minority party role of "negation—or all-out opposition."

Calls for a Bevin

He called instead for "appointment of an individual respected by labor to deal with labor problems."

"In other words," he added, "we need a Bevin, not a Perkins," a reference to Ernest L. Bevin, British Minister of Labor, and Frances Perkins, U. S. Secretary of Labor.

After listing items "on the credit side" of the war's balance sheet, including appointment of a "supreme director of industrial production" as he had urged, the prospect that the aircraft industry will produce "at least 50,000 aircraft engines this year," and the scheduled launching in 1942 of 6,000,000 tons of merchant shipping, Mr. Willkie examined "the debit side."

Here, he said, "we have the startling fact that the Secretary of State, Mr. Cordell Hull, no longer is completely entrusted with full authority in the handling and enunciation of the government's foreign policy."

Recalls Knox Statement

"In his place, Secretary of Navy Knox has come forward as a ready volunteer. It is to be recalled that this doughty public servant was assuring the nation in the morning papers of Sunday, Dec. 7, 1941, in bold headlines, that 'the Navy is ready.'"

"In his spokesman's role, (whether self-assumed or Administration inspired) Mr. Knox made known to the other nations that we were fighting Hitler first, which meant we could not be so concerned about affairs in the Far East."

"Mr. Knox subsequently has found out that we are fighting everywhere. It is to be hoped that he will hereafter confine his attention to that of fighting, and leave statements of policy in regard to other nations, to our Secretary of State. The country, irrespective of party and the world outside, has confidence in Mr. Hull. Mr. Knox is another matter, even under censorship."

WOMEN TO FIGHT OIL FIELD FLAMES

GLADEWATER, Tex. (U. P.).—A women's fire-fighting brigade is being organized to prevent flames from destroying the East Texas oil field in case of incendiary bombing. Fire Chief O. B. Davis of Glade-water said the protection of the world's largest oil-producing area would be left largely to the housewives.

This system, said Chief Davis, was used successfully in London during the fire raids and will be used in this rich oil production center.

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