

BILL FERRIS'S "WINDON OF WASHINGTON"

In a play with the Honorable Ernest

McClure and Dirk

the State of Illinois

NBC Television
Washington, D. C.
Sunday, June 21, 1935

MR. HENRY: Senator Eugene Dickson of Illinois
has just come back from a whirlwind trip to the Pacific.
He has brought back a report which he has presented to
President Eisenhower. In fact, he had breakfast with the
President, one morning and lunch with the Secretary of
State giving him the information he has first-hand information
which he picked up on this trip through the East.

Senator, how far did you go? Is that length of
trip?

SENATOR DIRKSEN: Bill, we have gone about
10,000 miles and traveled 12,000 miles, which is just exactly
around the earth, so that is a lot of mileage to compress
into that period of time.

MR. HENRY: And you saw a lot of important
people?

SENATOR DIRKSEN: Yes, I went to Korea, to
Japan, to Formosa, to India, to meet all the leaders,
both our own representatives and the native
representatives, so I think we got a very good briefing

on what is happening in the Far East at the present time

MR. HENRY: The question is, possibly, what is the probable outcome in Korea?

SENATOR DIEBSEN: Well, I am confident, and I am hopeful, of course, that we will get a cease-fire and get through but, of course, this unfortunate release of prisoners has stymied the matter for a moment, but I think it will not be too long and I am still hopeful, although I don't say it will eventuate that on the third or, at least, the beginning of the Korean conflict, that we may establish a truce.

MR. HENRY: That is done this week.

SENATOR DIEBSEN: That is right. You can also take the 25th of June when the Security Council met on the 27th when the troops moved in in 1950.

MR. HENRY: There have been many reports from Korea, Senator, giving the impression that whether they are in this country and in Europe what Mr. Rhee did was to do a complete re-orientation of the Far East.

SENATOR DIEBSEN: That Bill, I think, was a captain in the Korean War, Sergeant Rhee. He is now nearly 80 years old. He has been a revolutionary for nearly fifty years. His heart is set upon the unification of Korea. He doesn't want to see a single opportunity and that is why I think he has an appreciation that the bourgeois is

running out and so you have to make allowances for that because they were Korean prisoners. They were his own people that were released and that, of course, we can understand.

MR. HENRY: Well, now what effect do you think how closely is this whole Pacific situation including Indochina, for instance, tied in to the Korean problem?

SENATOR DIRKSEN: Well, I would say very definitely because after a release of troops and a release of planes and one thing and another in Korea, who should say when they should be moved to the southern border of China and make them be available for what happens in Indochina? And that, of course, is a very interesting incident. I was going to say a very interesting adventure.

MR. HENRY: What is your impression of the situation there in Indochina?

SENATOR DIRKSEN: Well, of course, we have been investing about \$500,000,000 a year. The thing has been going on now for the seventh year and there has been no resolution of the issue. As a matter of fact there is no battle line in Indochina. The Franco-Union troops, as they call them, meaning the French and the Viet-Nameese seem to prevail in the city areas and in the delta by daytime and the Viet-Minh forces prevail at night, so this is one of those seesaw operations and it could go on for a long time.

MR. HENRY: There doesn't seem to be an end to

it at all?

SENATOR DIRKSEN: No, unless the ideological issue is resolved there and that is something, of course, that I should want to report to the Senate Appropriations Committee, to the Republican Conference and I did mention it to the President but it is a very delicate and tiffy issue that has to be resolved before you have a foundation on which a victory can be built.

MR. HENRY: Well, you went over, did you not, at the instance of the Appropriations Committee?

SENATOR DIRKSEN: That is right. This was a sort of joint mission in a sense that we were commissioned by the Appropriations Committee to make this venture since Mutual Aid and the whole foreign aid program and policy are coming on for action and then in addition thereto I think I would be at liberty to say that there were one or two things that the President thought I ought to do and ought to look into, so in that sense it was sort of a joint mission.

MR. HENRY: Well, now everybody in this country is waddled about the situation in Formosa. Now, what did you find out about Chiang Kai-shek and his troops?

SENATOR DIRKSEN: Frankly, we saw just about everything. We briefed with the generals of the Nationalist Army. We had three or four sessions with Chiang Kai-shek and Madam. We saw their economic picture. We saw our

own people over there and so far as time permitted we went inland thoroughly. As a matter of fact we even had this idea of going to Kiamma Island, which is in the straits between Formosa and the Chinese mainland only 2,000 meters from the mainland and that particular island was shelled by the Chinese Reds the afternoon before we got there.

MR. HENRY: I understand that that is one of the islands that has been very strongly held by the Nationalists ever since they left the mainland.

SENATOR DIRKSEN: That is right. There was one major invasion back in 1950 and the casualties were enormous but it is still in Nationalist hands and they are going to defend it to the death. I am sure.

MR. HENRY: Do you get the impression that Chiang Kai-shek is anxious to invade the mainland and try to restore his government to China?

SENATOR DIRKSEN: Frankly, I think that has been his hope, that has been his ambition. China is his love, of course, and he awaits the day when he will be strong enough and the opportunity will be appropriate for an invasion of the Chinese mainland. Whether it will eventuate that way, of course, is another thing that only his eye can determine but certainly that is in his mind and in his heart.

MR. HENRY: Well, Senator, I would gain from what you say that you feel that when they get around after they

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have a cease-fire in Korea, which we hope they will have, that after that they have got to discuss not just Korea but this whole Pacific situation.

SENATOR DIRKSEN: That is right, and maybe some good will come out of such a conference but the fact of the matter is, and I want to make this point emphatic because the mail is enormous on this whole subject, how can you very well get around to the political issues that are involved until you get a truce? The killing has got to stop. The blood letting has got to stop. I think our own people in the main demand it and when that is done then, of course, men can sit around the table and we hope in the spirit of good will and good fellowship bargain about the issues that must be resolved and, of course, they are difficult and there are many of them.

MR. HENRY: Did you get any other impressions on your trip now, Senator when you came home as I understand by way of the Middle East and France? Did you have a chance to see anything along there?

SENATOR DIRKSEN: Well, that was a rather quick trip all the way home. The highlight is, of course, we were in the air a long time; 22 hours from Saigon to Rome and then another 24 hours from Rome to New York and that is about as much as anybody could want in the air for a sustained period. But I have crisscrossed in nearly all the literature, all

The reports including the reports of the fifty-five businessmen who were sent abroad in the form of 14 teams to those various mutual aid countries and so I have developed some conclusions and impressions that I probably will articulate on the Senate floor and elsewhere as we move along in the consideration of this whole policy and foreign aid question.

MR. HENRY: Well, I take it Senator, that that is the major thing that is now coming up that you will give your report to the Senate?

SENATOR DIRKSEN: That is right.

MR. HENRY: And you will do it to the whole Senate or just to the Appropriations Committee?

SENATOR DIRKSEN: Well, I think first to the Appropriations Committee because they would have the main on the report; secondly to the Republican Conference which meets on Tuesday morning and then there will be an opportunity to express as best I can on the Senate floor in the course of the debate the conclusions and impressions that I gained while on this trip.

MR. HENRY: Well, Senator, I am quite sure you are fully capable of giving them a good report on it and, incidentally, on the same subject, the Secretary of State had something to say about the situation in Korea.

SECRETARY DULLES: This action was in violation of the authority of the United Nations Command to which the Republic of Korea had agreed. On behalf of the United Nations we have conducted our negotiations for an armistice

in good faith. We have acted and are acting in good faith. President Eisenhower is communicating with President Rhee in this sense.

HOLLIES:

Why are men so unwilling to run for Vice President? Can anything be done to make that important office more attractive?

DIRKSEN:

Well, I don't know whether people are particularly unwilling to run for Vice President or not. Of course, he's the presiding officer of the Senate. And you may recall that when Governor Warren took the Vice Presidency, he insisted that he have some Cabinet functions along with it. I suppose that some duties could be placed upon the Vice President that would enhance both the romance and the glamour and the importance of the job. But when you do, you see, you run into that rather twilight area of mixing executive and legislative functions ... and it's not the easiest thing in the world to work out.

ANNOUNCER:

Twenty-five dollar defense bonds are being sent to the persons just named for submitting the three prize-winning questions on this evening's broadcast. Each week our listeners are invited to send in questions. Next week, our guest is going to be the National Campaign Manager for General Eisenhower, Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr. The writers of the three most interesting and timely questions about the Eisenhower-for-President Campaign will each receive a twenty-five dollar defense bond. Simply send in your question for Senator Lodge, about the Eisenhower campaign, on the back of a postcard, and address it to Reporters' Roundup, Mutual Broadcasting System, Washington, D. C. Be sure to print plainly your full given-name and your complete street address. Do not use initials for your given name. The decision of the board of judges will be final. And in case of duplication, we will award the prize to the writer whose postcard is received first. All questions remain the property of Reporters' Roundup.

HOLLIES:

I want to thank Senator Dirksen for being our guest on tonight's Reporters' Roundup, which came to you transcribed from the Radio Gallery of the United States Senate in

Washington. My thanks also to the reporters who served as members of our panel: Robert L. Riggs of the Louisville Courier-Journal, William Moore of the Chicago Tribune, and Robert D. Byrnes of the Hartford Courant. Be sure to send in your questions about the Eisenhower campaign for next week's program when our guest is going to be the National Campaign Manager for Eisenhower, Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr. And be sure to listen again next week, same time, same station, for Reporters' Roundup. This is your moderator, Everett Holles.

ANNOUNCER:

This broadcast of Reporters' Roundup will make news because its guest was one of the headliners of the week. Next week, and each week thereafter, Reporters' Roundup will seek out the top news and the man who makes it. You'll get the story behind the headlines as our guest speaker answers the questions of Everett Holles and a panel of three veteran reporters. This program is produced by Hollis M. Seavey. Fred Fiske speaking.

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