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Strategic Intelligence Scored by Byrd and Bridges as Inadequate

Both Urge Changes;
House Prepares to Act on
Increase in Arms Budget

By the Associated Press

Criticism of the Nation's intelligence setup was voiced today by two members of the Senate Armed Services Committee, while legislators in the House looked forward to further large increases in the military budget.

Senator Bridges, Republican, of New Hampshire, told a reporter he thinks all available information shows that this country was caught napping by the Communist invasion of South Korea. He said he will suggest that a Senate Armed Services investigating subcommittee of which he is a member look into intelligence operations with a view to suggesting changes.

Senator Byrd, Democrat, of Virginia, like Senator Bridges a member of the full Armed Services Committee, said events of the last few weeks have indicated to him that some drastic revisions in intelligence operations ought to be undertaken.

"The whole intelligence setup probably ought to be reorganized on a war basis," he said in a separate interview.

Better Evaluation Sought.

Senator Bridges said he hopes intelligence reports from other parts of the world are evaluated more effectively than were those from Korea.

The Senate Appropriations Committee inquired briefly into the nature of intelligence reports from Korea a few days after the Communist invasion. Rear Admiral R. H. Hillenkoetter, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, said then that his agency has reports dating back a full year to show North Korea was massing troops and equipment along the border.

But Admiral Hillenkoetter said

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his agency merely passed these reports on to other Government departments without evaluating them.

Senator Byrd said he is particularly disturbed because American military leaders apparently thought the North Koreans had committed most of their troops to the fighting 10 days ago but now find that additional reserves have been poured into the battle.

Without referring to intelligence reports, Senator Tydings, Democrat, of Maryland, said in a weekend radio broadcast that top military leaders are confident, despite the evident ability of the North Koreans to concentrate more and more troops, that Communist advances in Korea have been slowed down.

Weak in Ground Forces.

But Senator Tydings, chairman of the Armed Services Committee, added: "There's still a long way to go and there's bloody fighting ahead."

He also said that the Western powers, with "a large (United States) stockpile of atomic bombs as compared with what Russia likely has," probably enjoy "great predominance over the Soviets in airpower."

But he said the reverse is true of ground forces, and that this country should do all it can to build up its military manpower. He said the United States should persuade friendly Western European nations to "put on more and

more speed in their rearmament program" and help them with money.

Meanwhile in the House Chairman Vinson of the Armed Services Committee said he expects the armed forces to ask for "considerably" more money in January, including \$500 million for another Marine expansion.

The military budget has soared in two weeks from \$14,679,000,000 to \$26,722,000,000.

Marines Have 74,200.

The extra half billion dollars for the Marines would enable the corps to increase its strength to 174,000, have two fully equipped combat divisions and an air arm of 18 squadrons, Mr. Vinson said. Latest recruiting figures of June 30 gave the Marines a strength of 74,200 and they now have 16 air squadrons.

On July 26 the Navy told the committee it planned to allow about \$270 million from its share of President Truman's recent \$10,487,000,000 emergency military request to stepping up Marine strength quickly to 128,000.

Mr. Vinson said that allotment would enable the Marines to have one and a half divisions ready for combat with tanks and guns.

Of the \$500 million expected to be sought in January, \$100 million would go toward equipping the two additional air squadrons with planes.

The Government operations budget for the fiscal year ending next June 30, still pending in Congress, contains for the armed services \$13,294,000,000 in cash and \$1,385,000,000 in contract authority, a total of \$14,679,000,000.

\$26 Billions Asked.

On July 24 Mr. Truman sent up his first emergency supplementary increase for \$10,487,000,000, and then last Friday he asked for an additional \$1,556,000,000—a total so far of \$26,722,000,000 for the military.

This second emergency supplementary increase includes \$170,930,000 for additional military public works. This would go toward covering building projects already authorized by Congress, Mr. Vinson said.

He added that the Defense Department might rush up before Congress recesses a request for authorization of additional building projects, "relating to air fields."

He declined to elaborate, but said the Defense Department was at work on the matter.