

The Service Set

Wilson Turns Up With Some Answers

By Winzola McLendon

"WE DON'T want to step in and tag those fellows out. Or, we won't have a friend left." Secretary of Defense Charles Wilson answered last evening when asked if the United States would discontinue military aid to Great Britain and France.

"We have a right to take time to think this over," he continued. "We've always considered everyone our friends — everyone except the Russians."

The Secretary made his remarks while attending a party given for the Secretary and Mrs. Wilson by the Commandant of the Marine Corps and Mrs. Randolph McC. Pate.

When asked if any of the United States airborne troops were "on alert," he said the service always figures on "what could happen . . . not that we expect it to," and they are ready for anything.

HE ALSO said the United States Naval ships which left the Netherlands Wednesday under secret orders, have gone to the Middle East to help the Sixth Fleet evacuate United States citizens.

Will the Sixth Fleet pull away from the danger zone after the evacuation? "That," replied Mr. Wilson, "is a good question. It's one of the things we're working on now."

THE RECEPTION at Commandant's House yesterday wasn't at all like Gen. and Mrs. Pate had planned. First there was to be a snappy Marine Corps Sunset Parade. But, the rains came.

In place of a parade, Mr. Wilson (and a few top Pentagon officials) stepped over to the Band Barracks for a few minutes while "honors" were rendered to the Secretary.

The second "unplanned" thing was an unexpected Joint Chiefs of Staff meeting which kept the host away from the party.

Standing in the receiving line, pinch-hitting for his boss, was Lt. Gen. Vernon Megee.

Unexpected meetings and business at the Pentagon took its toll from the guests, too. Secretary of the Army and Mrs. Wilber Brucker came by but left early, because the Secretary "had to get back to the Pentagon."

Incidentally, the Bruckers take off today for a three-day campaign swing to mid-western states. And, speaking of campaigns, Mrs.

out her husband, the Secretary of the Navy. He, too, is on the speech-making-for-Ike circuit.

Another lady alone was Mrs. Arthur Radford. She said Adm. Radford, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, was either "at the Pentagon or the White House."

Add to those "soloing" Mrs. Donald Quarles—her husband, Secretary of the Air Force—was at his Pentagon desk.

DEPUTY Secretary of Defense and Mrs. Reuben Rob-

ertson (her slim, black wool sheath was topped with a stunning sapphire blue satin hat) came to the reception, as did Under Secretary of the Army and Mrs. Finucane.

While red coated members of the Marine Band played in the green-carpeted entrance hall, guests milled around in the two drawing rooms, on the "veranda" and in the dining room. There, they found a buffet with chafing dishes filled with chicken livers and Swedish meat-balls in sour cream; turkeys and

hams, and other delicious cocktail fare.

Spotted in the crowd were Secretary of Commerce and Mrs. Sinclair Weeks, Vice Adm. and Mrs. Murrey Royar, Assistant Secretary of Defense and Mrs. W. J. McNeil, and Assistant Secretary of the Navy and Mrs. Garrison Norton.

Then there were Gen. Gerald C. Thomas, Mrs. Charles Cabell (wife of Air Force Lt. Gen. Cabell), Lt. Gen. and Mrs. C. F. Schilt, Lt. Gen. and Mrs. Alonzo P. Fox, and many, many more.