

TRANSCRIPT

INTERVIEW WITH GENERAL MAXWELL D. TAYLOR,
CHIEF OF STAFF, U. S. ARMY
BY SENATOR KERR OF OKLAHOMA
ROOM T-42, BASEMENT OF SENATE WING, CAPITOL BUILDING
THURSDAY, JULY 28, 1955 - 1:45 P.M. (EDT)

SENATOR KERR: I have with me in the studio today one of the nation's distinguished soldiers, General Maxwell Taylor, the new Chief of Staff of the United States Army. He has just recently returned from Japan to take over this new post and over in Japan he was our Commander-in-Chief in the Far East and Commander-in-Chief of the United Nations Command. A West Point graduate, General Taylor, although only 53 years of age, has had a long and distinguished career as a soldier, diplomat, field commander, linguist, and educator. After WW I (sic) he returned to the United States to serve as the Superintendent of our great military academy at West Point. General Taylor, I would be very happy if you would kind of acknowledge here that I haven't gone too far afield in claiming you as an Oklahoman.

GENERAL TAYLOR: Senator, I'm very proud to be claimed as an Oklahoman. As a matter of fact my parents, Mr. and Mrs. John M. Taylor, have been citizens of your state for many years, living in both Muskogee and now in Oklahoma City. Consequently, I have many good reasons to visit your state and spend extended periods of time there.

SENATOR KERR: Well we claim your son as an Oklahoman who is now a cadet at West Point, also.

GENERAL TAYLOR: Well, I was very happy indeed to have him represent your state, sir.

SENATOR KERR: General Taylor, in this atomic age we hear a lot of talk and argument about the new look and the new concept of our fighting forces. To put it quite bluntly, do you think the foot soldier is on the way out?

GENERAL TAYLOR: Well, absolutely not, Senator. First, your question suggests that the foot soldier is not a part of this atomic age. He definitely is, because the Army that we are going to have, in this country, is an atomic army which has the weapons built into our foot organizations just as, in the old days, the gunpowder and cannons were built in. I can assure you that we are thoroughly aware in the Army of being progressive and moving forward in these scientific fields.

SENATOR KERR: Well, that means that Fort Sill, the magnificent installation at Oklahoma, does have a great future as the Artillery Training School of the Army.

GENERAL TAYLOR: It does indeed. Our actual artillery pieces, of course, will change with time, but the requirement, the function remains; and Sill will always be that center.

SENATOR KERR: Do you think there's chances for its expansion and growth, General?

GENERAL TAYLOR: Well, I think you know better than I do, Senator, of our land requirements at Fort Sill. Our new weapons have ranges which require more room for firing and for that reason we are seeking about 30,000 additional acres. As an old field artillerian yourself, you will understand the military necessity.

SENATOR KERR: Yes, I do. Now you know we regard in Oklahoma the military installations and programs as our greatest industry. In your judgment, will those programs be continued and expanded, or impaired and minimized?

GENERAL TAYLOR: Well, certainly the main facility -- Fort Sill -- will be retained at present level, expanding as the requirements for our new weapons become a more pressing problem. With regard to the inactive installations, such

as Camp Gruber, I don't foresee any present requirement for them. But, of course, I don't like to talk about Oklahoma in terms of installations. I think of the fine Oklahomans who are in the Army -- the requirements for them in greater numbers always exist.

SENATOR KERR: Well, thank you very kindly, General Taylor, for being with me and saying these words to our mutual friends in Oklahoma.

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