

EDITORIAL PAGE

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"Okay, You Win, in a Blast"



Washington Merry-Go-Round

By DREW PEARSON

WASHINGTON—The Japanese weren't the only ones hit by atomic bombs. When President Truman stepped off the cruiser Augusta at Newport News last week, he was hit by a veritable domestic atom bomb.

Waiting for him at the dockside was his old friend and new war mobilizer, John W. Snyder. Snyder had rushed down from Washington to give Truman an earful.

Snyder in three short weeks as war mobilizer has found the entire reconversion picture is paralyzed by exorbitant army-navy refusal to reconvert.

He told the president how congress has been screaming because the army won't release the few thousand men needed to run the railroads and mines. He also revealed how all his efforts to get the brass hats to cut back on manpower and procurement had met with failure. Snyder told Truman flatly that unless something is done immediately, the nation might have as many as 20,000,000 unemployed within 12 months.

Perhaps realizing Japanese surrender is imminent, Snyder reported the situation is so bad sudden peace with Japan might paralyze the entire civilian economy.

The war mobilizer complained that he had been called a man of inaction, but said it was impossible to act unless he had sufficient backing to overrule army-navy brass hats.

Next morning Truman hastily summoned Senator Harley Kilgore of West Virginia, asked him how bad the situation was. Kilgore reported it was terrible and likely to break wide open any moment. He also told the president army-navy manpower hoarding was the crux of the matter.

Truman asked Kilgore to get to work at once on passage of the legislative program which Kilgore long has advocated.

Meanwhile, piled up in the White House is a stack of indignant reports from businessmen telling Truman how the entire reconversion picture was being wrecked.

Meanwhile, also, some of Truman's best friends in the Democrat party say privately his chances of re-election are sure to receive a severe jolt as a result of reconversion delays. They point out as chairman of his old Truman committee, he was perhaps more familiar than anyone else with the inefficiency of the army and navy in planning for supplies, and that since he kept the same brass hats in office, he cannot dodge responsibility.

Note—Republican leaders have been putting their heads together to make the most of post-war economic dislocation when it comes to the 1946 and 1948 election campaigns.

Keeping Hirohito

Inside fact is, that the vital question of whether we should permit Emperor Hiro-

hito to stay on the throne was attended by weeks of backstage discussion, dating back to before President Truman went to Potsdam.

Spearhead of the Hirohito clique inside the state department is Under Secretary Joe Grew, for many years U. S. ambassador to Japan, and the man who convinced Roosevelt we should continue sending scrap iron and oil to Japan.

Chief opposition to Grew inside the state department was led by Assistant Secretary Dean Acheson. Acheson, however, fought a losing battle. Grew convinced Secretary of War Stimson and Secretary of Navy Forrestal he was right. He drew up a formula, later used as the basis for the Potsdam declaration in which Hirohito was not mentioned.

Grew's argument was that Hirohito could be used as a puppet by the allies, just as the Jap fascists had used him. It was also argued there would be chaos in Japan without the emperor. But the most effective argument was that Hirohito could order Jap troops in Manchuria, China, Singapore and the Dutch East Indies to surrender. Otherwise they might be fighting guerrilla warfare for months. This, it was argued, would save many American lives.

This latter argument especially appealed to President Truman.

Anil-Emperor Group

Dean Acheson, on the other hand, argued that the emperor had stood for a system of conquest which had enslaved a large part of Asia, that he was permanently identified with this system and we could not be identified with him or it. Acheson felt that the movements inside Japan, the labor and farm groups, should be given a chance to work out a new type of government, that they could not do this with the emperor on the throne and that unless Japan had a new governmental system we might have to fight another war in future years.

Finally, in order to convince Truman, Acheson asked him to discuss the matter with Owen Lattimore, one of the foremost American authorities on China and former adviser to Chiang Kai-shek.

Lattimore talked to Truman for 30 minutes just two days before he departed for Potsdam. The president listened most carefully but made no comment. It appeared, however, that he leaned toward the Grew theory of using the emperor as an American puppet.

Note—Lattimore is chiefly famous for having been an adviser to Chiang Kai-shek. He lived in China and all his work has been closely identified with China. But while he and Grew were in the White House anteroom waiting to see Truman, Grew remarked: "How long since you were in Japan, Mr. Lattimore?"

WE, THE WOMEN

By RUTH MILLETT

When Congresswoman Clare Boothe Luce decided to make her debut as an actress during the congressional recess, her constituents began to worry over whether or not it was fitting and proper for a representative to turn actress in her spare time.

Why there should have been any raised eyebrows is hard to understand. Surely, the voters who elected one of the country's most glamorous women to represent them didn't expect her to relinquish the title of "glamor girl"—just because they set her up as a lawmaker in Washington.

And with all the competition from pin-up girls, no fortyish woman is going to retain her glamor title and keep her picture smiling out of newspapers and magazines without working hard at the job.

So the folks who sent Mrs. Luce to Washington to represent them shouldn't have been at all surprised to see their congress-

woman making her stage debut during a congressional recess.

Nor should they be surprised at the next stunt the versatile Mrs. Luce pulls, when she thinks it is time to start people talking again.

They elected a glamor girl, and a glamor girl is what they are going to have, no matter how many years she stays in office.

For the voters who elected her to expect anything else, is as foolish as for a man to marry the town's most popular girl and expect her to settle down and be the shy, self-effacing little woman.

There are women who are born loving the spotlight and knowing how to keep it turned brightly on themselves. And if you marry one or elect one to congress—you can't expect to have her undivided attention. But you can expect to be entertained and diverted.

Behind Scenes in Washington

By PETER EDSON, La Grande Evening Observer Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON, Aug. 14—The end of war finds the government less prepared for the problems of peace than it was for war in 1941. As the country faces one of the most crucial periods in its history, here's a quick look at the situation: OPA and war production board, the biggest war agencies, most closely affecting each citizen, are in the middle of a big scrap over reconversion and what controls to keep. Other than meaningless vague statements, no decision has been made as to how much price control to keep. Treasury, labor, agriculture and commerce departments are in the midst of major reorganizations with new top men. Most of the officials at the second level are inexperienced men or about to lose their jobs. No machinery exists to do anything for the millions who will immediately be out of work except the various state social security agencies. On top of being out of work, a large percentage of the unemployed find themselves far from home. War manpower commission isn't equipped to do anything about it.

Quick reconversion of industry could solve many of the problems but the government hasn't given businessmen a chance to do any concrete planning. Statistical information which the government furnished business and industry as to markets, population, production, etc., during peace time was not gathered during the war. Vital for planning, these figures don't exist now.

Office of civilian requirements admits it doesn't have the remotest idea of what uncontrolled demand for civilian goods is. It only concerned itself with seeing that production didn't fall below basic civilian needs. Probably least prepared for peace is the vet-

erans administration. General Bradley, whose duties in Europe occupied him until a few weeks ago, hasn't even scratched the surface of what has to be done to that agency to prepare it for the job of getting about 8,000,000 men back into civilian life.

It's admitted now by all parties concerned that the GI bill of rights falls far short. But the changes that would really make it amount to something now lie in an idle congressional committee.

First thing the veteran is going to do when he gets back is try to get a job, his old one, or a new one. But, the government has this all fouled up.

The department of justice, selective service, and national war labor board aren't agreed on just what veterans re-employment rights are or his preference for a new job. The way it stands now, it is impossible for a vet to get a job in the automobile industry, for instance. Even OWI is caught flat-footed.

For many weeks before VE day, it had dreams of "now it can be told" information for the press and radio. It wasn't until the announcement of the atomic bomb that it dawned on them they'd better be getting to work on the VJ story.

Apparently, OWI, as well as the rest of the government agencies, believed the constant assertions of the war and navy departments that it would take months, maybe years to lick the Japs. This was done, of course, to keep up production and without knowing the atomic bomb was coming. It is difficult to assess the blame to their congress or the administration for the lack of adequate planning, but when the jubilation over peace and victory wears off, somebody is in for a lot of explaining.

Side Glances



"Bill's a nice boy, but remember, if you should have a little quarrel, call me up right away—I wish he weren't so used to shooting Japs!"

McKENNEY ON BRIDGE

By WILLIAM E. MCKENNEY America's Card Authority

GOOD OFFENSE IS GOOD DEFENSE

The bidding on today's hand was fast and furious. Dr. J. A.

None	53
K9	AQ743
AJ1097432	AQ743
A9	Q
A K J 6 4	5 3
2	W N E
3 8	S
6 5	Dealer
Q 10 3	A J 8 5
Q 10 9 8 7	
10 6 5	
8	
7 6 4 2	
Rubber—Neither vul	
South West North East	
Pass 1 4 5 4 Double	
Opening—4 5	15

Boyd of Stratford, Ontario, Canada, who sent me the hand, said

BARBS

It isn't only because of the atomic bomb that the Japs are seeing Red!

Singing columns of Red army men marched through Moscow on their way to war with Japan. As far as the Nips are concerned, that's where the harmony ends.

May we suggest that the allies leave at least one spot in Japan where the next Big Three meeting can be held?

A suggestion for the postwar auto: one that will stop and count 10 before hitting a pedestrian.

Most people can blame being disappointed on being disappointing.

Even the oyster gets a four month's vacation.

Dancing frocks have done much toward keeping us from being shocked by bathing suits.

When father gets out with the lawn mower on a sizzling day, watch out for cutting remarks!

Reduction of beef point values still leaves pork to beef about.

Just because you're noisy doesn't mean you've got a sound argument.

it was played at the Stratford club, and while he was dummy and lost on the hand, he nevertheless admired East's defensive play—and I agree with him.

North ruffed the opening spade lead and then ran off all the diamonds, bearing down to the king-nine of hearts and ace-nine of clubs. East was down to the ace-queen of hearts and king-jack of clubs.

Declarer then cashed the ace of clubs and here East made the nice play. Instead of following with the jack, he threw on the king. Thus when North led the nine of clubs, West was able to overtake the trick with the queen—and the defenders took the balance of the tricks.

IN FORMER YEARS

Thirty Years Ago

Eight automobile owners were today tagged and required to contribute \$10 apiece to the city treasury for violation of the tail-light statute.

At 3:15 o'clock this afternoon the fire department responded to a call on Madison avenue, where an old building owned by W. R. Kivette and leased by Stiles and Ollinger, was on fire. The hay in the building was a complete loss.

Fifteen Years Ago

The city commission, by a vote of two to one, last night at an adjourned meeting, passed a motion authorizing City Manager W. C. Crews to draw up a contract with A. A. Durant for the drilling of a third artesian well for the city system.

The annual two-day baby clinic being conducted at the La Grande high school building by the Union County Health association, is nearing a close this afternoon, with a large number of children examined and the clinic in general very successful.

Ten Years Ago

Contributions from the city Union, the state highway, and others added \$60 to the Union county Amos L. Helms first aid car fund today, bring the total in cash and pledges to \$1,115.85.

The second game of the kitten ball championship play-off between Greenwood and P. D. Q. club will be held tonight at the L. H. S. stadium.

This Curious World



NEXT: They lived a short time, but long ago.

EVENING OBSERVER'S PROGRESS PROGRAM

IRRIGATION—Complete the Grande Ronde Valley irrigation project.
LA GRANDE — A city of 10,000 — Extend the city limits.

No Earthly Paradise

On Aug. 6, 1945, there occurred, for the first time in history, an instantaneous revolution of human thought. One bomb dropped on one Japanese city, and the whole future changed. The minds of thoughtful men were confronted by both a blank wall and a new, limitless horizon suddenly disclosed.

There followed an epidemic of speculation. It was not the leisurely contemplation of a future based on established fact, but an urgent, bewildered groping. What was probably the preponderant question was stated thus by the science writer, Dr. Frank Thone:

"Will atomic power bring on an earthly paradise after it has swiftly finished its present job of raising concentrated hell?"

Even a beginning of the authentic answer will be a long time coming. The first clue will come from the mere handful of men on earth who have understood and harnessed for human use a little of that ageless, limitless, universal force which baffles the ordinary mind even more than it disturbs it. The next will come from those non-scientific men into whose control the use of this new force will pass.

Dr. Thone, being better informed than most of us, has a few pertinent questions on which the answer must rest:

How much potential danger lies even in the wise and peaceable use of atomic power? What will atomic power do to present world economics? Will an abundant source of such power be found which will render coal, oil and water power obsolete? Or will the new power's development be prohibitively expensive?

What of the political consequences? Will there be an international struggle for uranium (or a later and more plentiful source of atomic power) that will surpass all other fights for natural resources?

Being more brash and less wise than Dr. Thone, we are going to hazard an answer to his first and general question, for it is the only one to which past history offers any key. And the answer is: No!

No scientific discovery has ever produced anything resembling an earthly paradise.

Such men as Copernicus, Galileo, Columbus, Newton and Darwin helped to define for us the world we live in. Today, in spite of their legacy of scientific wisdom, much of the world lies broken under the greatest war that ever raged upon this planet.

If the world works with enough wisdom and prays with enough zeal, perhaps the future will be different. But as of today, the progress is definitely not for any earthly paradise.

Funny Business



"My girl's mother censored the letter!"

SO THEY SAY

Any realistic description of our civilization would exhaust our vocabulary of such words as pain, hardship, hunger, fear and despair. But while we live in a suffering world, it is one that is hopefully looking for some cure to help restore it to health and peace.

—Rev. A. Dale Fiers, Newark, O.

Whatever others may do, let's keep the United States of America democratic and make it work.

—Lynchburg, Va., News.

So long as the enemy asks for Japan's unconditional surrender, she will have to shed blood proportionate to the time and intensity of each battle.

—Jap Adm. Kichisaburo Nomura.

Homo Sap said that of course God could not bless America while Americans were out to get all they could while the getting was good.

—Stillwater, Okla., News-Press.