

EDITORIAL PAGE

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Sitting on Top



TODAY'S TEXT

Though he were a Son, yet learned He obedience by the things which He suffered.—Hebrews 5:8.

Realism and the Japs

Thinking people are likely to be virtually unanimous in their agreement that, if the end of the war in the Pacific is to mark the beginning of an enduring era of peace, the allies—and Americans most of all—must be completely realistic in their attitude toward Japan.

They must face the fact that not once through all the surrender negotiations was there any expression or any action of any kind from many responsible Japanese source—from the emperor on down—which suggests that the Japs might be experiencing anything akin to repentance for their crimes against humanity and civilization.

If they are sorry at all—and doubtless they are—it is not because of what they were attempting when they struck at Pearl Harbor nearly four years ago. Their regrets are not because of what they tried to do, but solely because they failed in their attempts.

The Japanese war leadership is just as treacherous today as it ever was at any previous time. It is fully as arrogant, as demonstrated in the various grandiloquent, pompous expressions that have come from Hirohito. It is just as ambitious, just as fanatical as it ever was.

The most elementary logic compels the belief that, given the opportunity and their own conviction of a reasonable chance of success, they would embark once more tomorrow on another

war of aggression and enslavement.

A realistic view of the enemy demands full recognition of the fact that, even in defeat, Japan still is potentially a very powerful nation. Manpower losses have been negligible. Indeed, it is probable that the population of the home islands left to Japan is larger today than it was four years ago. That means something like 70,000,000 people—intelligent and ingenious people who are wholly without principle in their dealings with other nations.

True, it may be supposed that Japanese industry has been heavily damaged and that the enemy has been, or will be, stripped of tools of war. But industry and all the machines of war can be rebuilt—and it would be the height of foolishness to believe that the Japs won't rebuild them if given, or if they can contrive, the opportunity.

America and civilization will be safe from Japan only so long as the Japanese are held in restraint. The only way to be sure that the Japs won't do harm is to deprive them of the materials they might use to the harm of other people.

Even in surrender, there is no trusting the Japanese. Presumably the American and Allied leadership is aware of this fact. Presumably their actions and policies will be appropriate to that fact. Otherwise, the Japanese peril will be as great, if not greater, than it ever was.

Let us hope that the peace treaty will not become a second Versailles document that will give excuse for a future Jap Hitler to inflame his people for another war.

Funny Business



"He used to dish out the mail in the army!"

SO THEY SAY

A living God-Emperor (Hirohito of Japan) certainly has no place in this era of freedom and enlightenment.

—Dr. Maximo M. Kalaw, minister of public instruction, Philippine commonwealth.

You can't even get a man to talk in millions any more. It labels him as a small-time critter, dealing in peanut money.

—Reading, Pa., Times.

These kids (on Okinawa) are anxious to learn American ways and pester me with questions all the time.

—John W. Fowler, navy shipfitter, stationed on Okinawa.

There are many things a prospective farm buyer ought to know about the business he proposes to enter. The first one is how to value the land which will be his capital investment.

—Fort Smith, Ark., Southwest American.

Washington Merry-Go-Round

By DREW PEARSON

(Ed. Note—In Drew Pearson's absence, Fred M. Vinson, secretary of the treasury, contributes a guest column on one of the most important problems of the treasury—tax evasion.

By FRED M. VINSON
Secretary of the Treasury
WASHINGTON—Drew Pearson has offered me his Washington Merry-Go-Round column to present any subject of interest to the treasury department and to the American people. I know of no subject of more immediate concern than the treasury's campaign against tax evasion.

Here, in a nutshell, is the situation: In 1940 there were 4,999,999 individual taxpayers. Today there are more than 50,000,000. In an effort to handle the vastly increased task of processing returns and collecting taxes the personnel of the bureau of internal revenue was increased from about 22,000 to about 50,000.

With the manpower shortage the bureau could not expect to increase its forces proportionately with the number of taxpayers. And in many respects bureau employees found their work increased out of proportion to the number of returns. Under the withholding program, a large part of the work formerly done by the taxpayer is now done in the bureau. The processing of wartime tax relief provisions also threw much additional work on the bureau. Under these conditions the normal investigative work of the bureau inevitably suffered.

The bureau has always proceeded upon the theory that the average American is honest, and that a small but efficient force could deal with the dishonest.

No city, however small, can afford to be without a police force. And no city, which has experienced a population increase of more than ten-fold in a five-year program, would think of trying to get along without enlarging its law enforcement groups.

That is why the treasury is building up its investigative forces.

Protecting Honest Taxpayers
This will be no gestapo. It will be a taxpayers' law enforcement group protecting the government's interest in taxes, and at the same time protecting the honest taxpayer against the black market operator, the racketeer and every other kind of tax evader. And it will be good business, too. We expect to collect \$20 for every one spent.

When taxes are evaded the honest taxpayer loses, since every dollar evaded increases by that much the burden borne by other taxpayers. In many cases, the honest taxpayer has special reason to welcome the tax-

evasion campaign. A reputable furrier or jeweler, for instance, could not continue in business if a next-door competitor should be permitted to sell furs or jewelry without collecting excise taxes. Any business firm which cheats the government by failing to pay for the services which government provides is engaged in dishonest competition. Taxes are high, but they must be collected fairly. And so long as any substantial portion of the taxes due remains uncollected, it operates to defer the reduction of tax rates.

One Billion Evaded
The answers to the two questions go together. The treasury is gathering, from many sources, information that will give the entire picture of tax evasion. That same information will serve as evidence to bring tax evaders to justice. The treasury is enlarging its investigating powers, as I have noted, to handle a tremendous backlog of fraud cases, accumulated during recent years and the cases now piling in. My predecessor, Secretary Morgenthau, who set the machinery in motion for this tax-evasion campaign, estimated that a minimum of one billion dollars in additional taxes now being evaded would be collected when treasury forces could be expanded, and new workers could be trained and get on the job.

More recently, we have strengthened the drive by intensifying cooperation with other government departments and agencies interested in stamping out black markets, rackets and tax evasion. An inter-departmental committee, with representatives from the treasury department, the department of justice, the office of price administration and the department of agriculture, has gone to work to coordinate information and activities. We intend to be in a position to hit hard.

Take, for example, the black market operator. He uses currency in an effort to avoid making a record of his violations of the price control act, and because he thinks his profits cannot be traced he does not report them on his income-tax return or under-statement.

Only a novice boxer telegraphs his blows. We are not going to tell the black market operators and other tax evaders, in advance, what we are going to do or how or when or where we are going to do it. But a moment's reflection should convince anyone who has engaged in tax evasion there is no future in it. What can a man do with illegal profits? He can buy land or jewels, but he cannot avoid leaving one or many traces that can be discovered and followed up whenever the treasury and other agencies have enough men to do the job.

WE, THE WOMEN

By RUTH MILLETT

The pretty young beauty operator talked as she worked: "It's going to be hard to get used to having to stop and consider somebody else before I do anything. Jim's been overseas two years, and I've been used to coming and going as I please."

Wives of servicemen who have been away from home a long time must adjust themselves to a new way of life. But instead of anyone's recognizing that fact, or warning the GI of it—all the talk is the other way. And in addition to doing her own adjusting the wife is being held responsible for helping her husband work out his problems.

Take that beauty operator, for instance. She has worked ever since her husband has been overseas. And she likes working. But chances are that when her man comes home he is going to want her to devote her entire time to being a housewife.

From being independent, she'll have to go back to being dependent. Jim may not like her new friends, either. Husbands often don't. While she has been lonely in his

absence, she has planned her time primarily to suit herself. She doesn't feel in the mood for cooking dinner. Okay, she has a sandwich at the corner drugstore. But try suggesting anything like that to a husband, and there'll be trouble.

She has spent money without anyone's okay. So having a husband question the amount she spends for a dress may come as a rude shock. She's plenty fed up with staying at home, and the quiet evenings which may seem like heaven to Jim may not fit in with her ideas at all.

Women are being well-prepared for the adjustments their returning husbands are going to have to make. But do the husbands know that even the most faithful, loving wives are going to have to do some adjusting themselves? That even for them a husband's homecoming may not be the whole answer to life? They ought to be told just as the wives are being told, what to expect and what not to expect of their husbands.

Behind Scenes in Washington

By PETER EDSON, La Grande Evening Observer Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON, Aug. 21—President Truman's official announcement of VJ day doesn't mean Mrs. John Doe can start crossing out days on the calendar for the next six months because her husband's commission or enlistment reads "for the duration and six months thereafter."

The legal end of the war does not occur when the president announces to the public that the fighting has stopped. Legal end of World War I was not until three years after the armistice and was the subject of much controversy. Nobody appears to know much about the official termination of World War II either.

It's an important question which vitally affects each U. S. citizen. Is the war over officially when treaties with all the belligerents are signed? Is it over with the cessation of hostilities? These are some of the undetermined possibilities.

The hastily drafted legislation which put this country on a wartime footing and gave the president extraordinary powers is controversial and vague on this point, permitting different interpretations.

The soldier and sailor civil relief act which protects servicemen from certain civil court actions expires when "war is terminated by act of congress or a treaty of peace." This could mean it could be in effect for years.

Most vague is the espionage act which is in effect "when the U. S. is at war." The war labor disputes act terminates itself with the "termination of hostilities or a declaration by the president."

The important first war powers act ends with "an act of congress or presidential proclamation."

Thus it can be seen that if congress wanted to delay in a declaration of official end

of war, and the president failed to make an official proclamation the U. S. could legally be in a state of war for many years. All the emergency powers would continue in the hands of the executive.

And official declaration of VJ day by the president doesn't constitute a presidential proclamation. The latter is a formal legal statement made in a special form, not a radio talk or press release.

In addition to men getting out of the service on the basis of "the duration and six months," billions of dollars in the way of contract termination and continuance of federal authority is all bound up in this one point.

It is believed, however, that Truman will officially proclaim the end of the emergency in a few months. Then everybody can start counting off their six months. He will probably wait long enough to see that reconversion is progressing satisfactorily.

Legal minds here suggest a possibility for congressional action if the president is slow in making such a proclamation. It could be done by a "concurrent resolution" of congress. This action does not need a presidential signature. Some war legislation provides for this.

Following World War I congress passed a "joint resolution" in May, 1920, to declare a legal end of this war but that device required the signature of the president and Wilson, for political reasons, vetoed it. It was not passed over the veto.

Again on March 3, 1921, congress passed a similar joint resolution. Being his next to last day in office Wilson signed it for the purpose of terminating the war laws.

The final treaty with Germany wasn't ratified until October, 1921.

Side Glances



"Yes, that's the call Sonny put in from Hawaii—\$80 does seem a lot, but it took us quite a while to round up all the neighbors who wanted to say hello to him!"

McKENNEY ON BRIDGE

By WILLIAM E. MCKENNEY America's Card Authority

THIRD TRICK TELLS OF COMING SQUEEZE

Peter Leventritt of New York, one of the youngest life masters of bridge, played today's hand in masterly style. Usually we consider that a slam contract is a good one if one of two finesses has to work in order to make the

♠ A Q 10 9 6			
♥ J 5 2			
♦ 8 3			
♣ 9 5			
♠ 8 5 4 3			
♥ K 9 7 6			
♦ 2			
♣ J 10			
♠ N	W	E	♠ K 3
♥ S			♥ 4 3
♦ Dealer			♦ 9 7 5 4
Leventritt			♣ 7 6 4 3 2
♠ J 7			
♥ A Q 10 8			
♦ A K Q 10			
♣ A K 8			
Duplicate—Neither vul.			
South	West	North	East
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
3 N.T.	Pass	4♠	Pass
4 N.T.	Pass	5♣	Pass
6 N.T.	Pass	Pass	Pass
Opening—♠ 3. 22			

from the West hand. Leventritt realized that if West also held the king of hearts, he was going to be squeezed. He cashed the four diamond tricks, discarding a heart from dummy. Then he ran the spade suit, discarding all his hearts. He was down to the king-eight of clubs in his own hand and the heart jack and club nine in dummy.

West found he could not hold the queen and jack of clubs and the king of hearts. When he discarded the jack of clubs Leventritt won the last two tricks with the king and eight.

IN FORMER YEARS

30 Years Ago

Fire destroyed Th. H. Stover saw mill on Little Catherine creek yesterday afternoon. The loss is placed at \$2,500, about \$1,000 of which is represented by the lumber consumed.

Charging and free use of the hands, two tricks that candidates for football are usually slow to acquire, will be taught in a practical way in La Grande this year.

15 Years Ago

Three-block pavement contract for Eighth street leading up the hill to the Eastern Oregon normal school was awarded last night to Hargreaves and Lindsay of Eugene, who offered to do the work for \$19,925.83.

After two score years of successful operation in La Grande, the Sacred Heart academy has been closed and today nine sisters of the St. Francis order left La Grande for Pendleton, later to go to Klamath Falls.

10 Years Ago

Local wheat prices surged up to 56 cents bulk today, representing a three and a half cent gain in the last three days, and put the price on par with the previous high for this month, established Aug. 1.

Probably no development during the last few months has brought more optimism as to the immediate business future of this section than the announcement by the I. C. C. in Washington of a new 72 percent freight rate on lumber from the Pacific northwest to points east of Chicago.

This Curious World



Quoting Odds

LOUISIANA FARMERS RAISE CANE WHEN THEIR CORN CROP FAILS. BY CORPORAL ARVIL C. SMITH, Camp Livingston, Alexandria, La.



WATERMELONS AND CANTALOUPE WERE NOT KNOWN IN THE U.S. UNTIL 1818, WHEN INTRODUCED FROM THE SOUTH. T. H. REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.

Next: Insect suicide flyers.