

They Were Expendable



EVENING OBSERVER'S PROGRESS PROGRAM

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

TODAY'S TEXT

Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.—Luke 21:36.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY

Revenge is a kind of wild justice; which the more man's nature runs to, the more law ought to weed out.—Bacon.

Japs Must Pay

Civilized peoples of the world stand aghast before the gradually unfolding story of barbaric acts committed by the Japanese against allied prisoners of war.

The U. S. state department has revealed that no less than 19 protests about inhumane treatment of Americans were conveyed to Japan after June 21, 1944. Publicity was withheld until yesterday, since the enemy had indicated that "atrocity campaigns" would interfere with negotiations for movement of relief supplies to American captives.

Starvation, bestial torture, deliberate murder—all of these offenses have been laid on Tokyo's doorstep. Tokyo must answer just as Berlin must, and will,

answer for the criminal acts of the nazis.

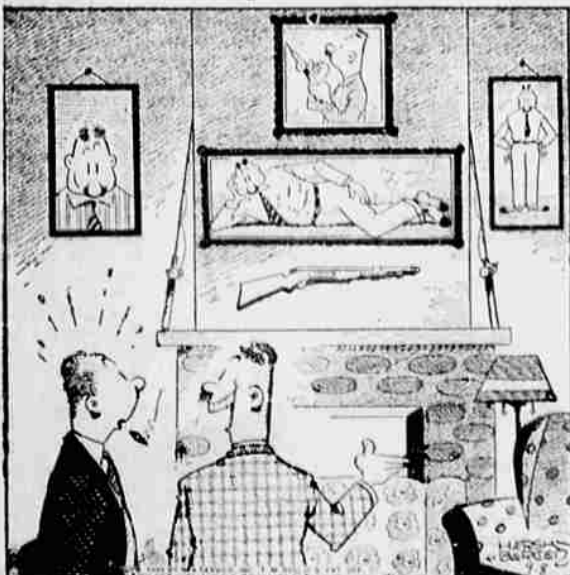
Tracking down, convicting and punishing the Japanese who participated in these outrages may be difficult, but the allies must firmly resolve to carry on the task relentlessly until every war criminal is made to pay in full for his misdeeds.

"The punishment must fit the crime"—the allies must decide whom to blame and to what extent the policy of brutality filtered down from the high official sources. Field commanders could not have allowed their men to commit many of the barbaric acts unless it was understood that approval, actual or implied, existed on a higher level of authority.

Whether the men themselves are to blame should be a matter to be decided by circumstances. At the close of the European war the Russians insisted that the private who pulled the trigger, no less than the officer who gave the order, is trained with the blood of a war crime. The British tended to uphold the theory that the officer is chiefly to blame. It will likely be shown that in some instances Japanese atrocities were practiced by troops giving expression to an innate streak of sadism.

Drastic and sure punishment of all on whom the finger of guilt descends is a vital part in any educational program designed to fit Japan into an orderly, civilized family of nations. To leave the task unfinished, to permit any war criminal "to get away with it" is to invite secret nurturing of a philosophy that bathed the world in blood.

Funny Business



"I couldn't catch any fish for my trophy room — so I put up pictures of myself!"

SO THEY SAY

The interests of nations and groups of nations, whether in atomic bombs or strategic bases, must be made subordinate to the well-being of mankind.

—Dr. O. Frederick Nolde, dean, Graduate School of the Lutheran Seminary.

The Soviet Union could for many years be a huge market—perhaps the largest—for products of American heavy industry.

—Dr. John T. Madden, director of the Institute of International Finance, New York University.

We can't maintain the present-size navy. It is too big, too much of a drain on the country.

—Adm. Raymond A. Spruance, commander, U. S. 5th Fleet.

If the world is once again to know the value of cultural and spiritual inspiration, we Jews in America must preserve and expand our institutions.

—Prof. Albert Sinsin, ...

Washington Merry-Go-Round

By DREW PEARSON

WASHINGTON—No secretary of state in years has inherited greater responsibilities than Jimmy Byrnes. No man in history carries with him, as he goes to London or about his daily work, greater hopes of all mankind.

Dimly at first, but definitely now that the horrors of the atomic bomb are known, the mothers and fathers who sent their sons to war and the wives who suffered at home and the men who fought the war, realize what would happen if there should be another war. And their hopes and fears center on the one man who must pilot our foreign affairs through the tangled skein of misunderstanding, international jealousies, rivalries, clashing interests and personalities—to the elusive goal of permanent peace.

Some of Jimmy's old friends on Capitol Hill will tell you that he is ambitious, is an opportunist, is always out for Jimmy Byrnes, that he undermined the late Senator Pat Harrison of Mississippi with F. D. R. Some senators preferred having co-operative Ed Stettinius as secretary of state and weren't at all enthusiastic about Byrnes, even though they reluctantly went through the motions of endorsing him.

Has One Drawback

Despite their criticism, however, Byrnes is ideally suited to be secretary—except for one defect. He has no first-hand, intimate knowledge of foreign affairs. He will have to take the word of his foreign affairs experts.

This is going to be Byrnes' greatest problem. Will he, despite his fine qualities, get sucked in by the career experts who have made a specialty of taking new secretaries into camp?

For instance, here is what happened to Cordell Hull. During the first months of his administration he ran into a personal feud with Professor Raymond Moley, brain trustee whom Roosevelt had made assistant secretary of state and who rushed to London for the avowed purpose of "rescuing" the London economic conference. Hull was a leader of that conference and felt he didn't need rescue.

The man who helped Hull at London was the state department's chief of protocol, Jimmy Dunn. whose job was to make hotel reservations and arrange place cards at din-

ners. Dunn is one of the most likeable men in the department, and makes up in charm for what he lacks in brains.

But Hull never forgot Dunn's help. And later, when Jimmy piloted Hull through the Pan-American conference at Montevideo, he became a permanent fixture as closest adviser.

Careerists Tie Hands

As such, his influence was almost always thrown against Russia, even after she became an ally, and for Franco Spain, even when it was obvious that Franco was kept in power only through the axis.

What diplomatic observers are watching as the chief barometer of Jimmy Byrnes as secretary of state is whether Dunn can take him into camp as he did Cordell Hull. The betting odds so far are in favor of Dunn. Newshawks, whose job it is to watch every move of the secretary of state, are betting strong that Dunn once more will emerge as the fair-haired boy, again to run the state department.

Also the society ladies are gossiping about the close friendship between Mrs. Hull and Mrs. Byrnes and how, because of petticoat rule, Byrnes will eat out of Hull's hand.

However, this columnist, who has watched Byrnes for many years, has a different opinion. When Byrnes became war mobilizer, it was reported that Bernie Baruch would control. But he didn't. Byrnes went his own sweet way, to such an extent that Baruch went around telling people what a mess Jimmy was making of things.

So this columnist is betting that Byrnes will eat out of nobody's hand—neither Hull's nor Dunn's nor anyone's. Byrnes will rely on his own judgment in his difficult job of trying to achieve the hopes and ambitions of mankind.

Under the Dome

Several army posts with personnel constantly decreasing have been notified their quota of physicians and dentists has been raised. Discharged point scores for medical specialists remains at 120, with 110 the point score for general practitioners, meanwhile with the shortage of doctors for the civilian population expected to continue, the veterans' administration is having extreme difficulty recruiting doctors for its hospital staffs. Pay is too low, the medics say.

WE, THE WOMEN

By RUTH MILLETT

The wife whose husband is on his way home from overseas said: "I want us to completely forget these awful years of separation, to erase them from our minds as though they had never happened."

But they shouldn't be forgotten. They should have taught every couple lessons they wouldn't forget if they could. The years of loneliness and fear and sacrifice are bound to have made them think often: "If we are ever together again..." And the way that sentence was finished each time it was thought should go into a pattern for their new life together.

Every experience in life teaches its own lessons. And no matter how painful it was at the time, it can be reckoned as a rich

experience if the lessons are remembered and carried into future living.

So the families of servicemen should get out not to forget the past few years—but to remember. To remember the plans for a better, happier life, to remember the promise never to worry or fret again over trivialities.

Forgetting an experience leaves that experience a total blank, a hardship gone through with for nothing. Remembering it makes one wiser and consequently capable of building a better life.

Let's not forget—let's remember. That way, at least, we can salvage something from the waste and sorrow and suffering of war.

Behind Scenes in Washington

By PETER EDSON, La Grande Evening Observer Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON—A hundred highly controversial postwar puzzles dealing with the future life of every U. S. citizen face the returning congress.

If the record of past congresses is anything to go by, there will be much jawing, a great deal of high powered oratory and extending of remarks about the atomic bomb and our brave boys. But there will be very little action for many weeks. Then there will be a frantic rush to crowd through a lot of important stuff in the last days before the Christmas holidays now only a little over three months away. The whole list of things to be done is longer than a Christmas shopping list and twice as difficult.

While private industry appears to be going ahead as fast as it can under existing law and regulations, plenty of postwar plans are hanging fire—waiting to see what peace-time policies congress lays down for the reconversion rat race. Trying to take care of everything at one swoop is an impossibility. If congress, in the next 100 working days, would do the job that has to be done, however, it would make out a high priority list and then, taking up one issue at a time, handle it, check it off.

There will, of course, be many times 100 bills presented by well meaning souls who believe that their pet projects offer solution for all that ails this country. But putting all these to one side, if congress concentrated on its 25 top priority issues, it would have to knock off one of these items every three or four days, or say two a week, to get the country in a firm peace foundation and ready to start the bright new year right.

The problems of business and labor are well deserving of first consideration. Shall the government try to attain and support full employment? Shall unemployment insurance rates be raised to \$25 for 26 weeks in all the states? How shall labor disputes be settled—through such compulsory legislation as the Ball-Burton-Hatch bill, or voluntarily through a government-labor-business conference now being arranged by secretary of labor Schwelbenschack?

What shall postwar tax rates be? Wartime reorganization of the government itself must be considered as an aid to the

reconversion process. President Truman's request for authority to re-organize the executive departments has been on file with congress for several months inacted upon. Congress has a joint committee studying its own streamlining. Changes in surplus property law and administration are urgent. Disposal of government operation of the big war plants must be approved by congress. Further aid to small business is a must.

The shooting war may be over, but peace-time military policies demand immediate attention. Shall army and navy be united in a single department of national defense? Shall the United States adopt compulsory military services for its young men? Selecting service needs overhauling to meet the needs of the armies of occupation. The GI bill of rights and all veteran's legislation needs correcting. Shall congress demand a showdown on Pearl Harbor responsibility? The atomic bomb raises a whole new series of problems.

Social legislation could probably wait, but won't be pushed aside easily. There is the Wagner-Murray-Dingell bill to expand the present social security coverage. Senator Claude Pepper of Florida is pushing a board program of federal aids to health, material and child welfare. Repeal of the poll tax and settlement of fair employment practice policies are recurrent questions. Various proposals to create more valley authorities like TVA have strong backing and bitter opposition.

Agriculture is pretty well taken care of with guarantees of parity prices on farm products for two years after Jan. 1, 1946. But farm prosperity depends on urban, industrial prosperity and purchasing power, so farms have a stake in every national issue.

Unless repealed sooner by congress, daylight saving stays till "six months after the termination of the war." Whenever that is. But with no rationing on petroleum products, there is no restriction on congressional burning of the midnight oil to get some of these great fights from capitol hill wrapped up and in the mail before Christmas.

Side Glances



"The house is a fright, dishes in the sink and things strewn all around—we'd certainly be embarrassed by visitors if we didn't know you so well!"

McKENNEY ON BRIDGE

By WILLIAM E. MCKENNEY

America's Card Authority

THREE-SPADE CUE BID COPS HONORS

The national men's pair championship was won this year by

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Lee Hazen and Sylvester Gintell of New York against what I consider the strongest field ever entered in this event.

BARBS

The honeymoon is over when he thinks she is skinny instead of slender.

A beach guard at a Wisconsin resort saved the same girl three times. How can a fellow be so dumb?

Fish never realize what a terrible time some folks have getting bait.

A lazy, impudent clerk is the worst combination in restraint of trade.

A California doctor says thousands have died from kissing. Just think how many are dying to be kissed.

Keep looking down and you find the world is the limit—look up and the sky's the limit!

Uncle Sam reports there is no butter shortage. We just checked our refrigerator and report there is no butter.

Four Illinois men grew seriously ill from drinking bootleg booze. Stills still still because fools still fool fools.

Gintell's cue-bid of three spades on today's hand was the bid that helped them get into the game contract.

The spade king opening held and the ace of spades was continued. Hazen (East) duffed in dummy, came back to his hand with a triumph and ruffed another spade. Returning to his hand with the ace of diamonds, he led a small club. When South played low Hazen went up with the king, picked up the trumps, then went over to the diamond by leading the three-spot. On the other good diamond he discarded his losing spade. Now all he had to do was to concede two club tricks to his opponents.

IN FORMER YEARS

Thirty Years Ago
Two grazing reconnaissance parties last week completed their field examination on the last of three seasons' work over a million acres of the Blue Mountains of Oregon.

Water in the reservoir south of the city has reached a level but a few inches from the overflow. This will permit a freer use of water for irrigation, though it is not deemed safe to turn the supply loose for O-W consumption, which is heavy.

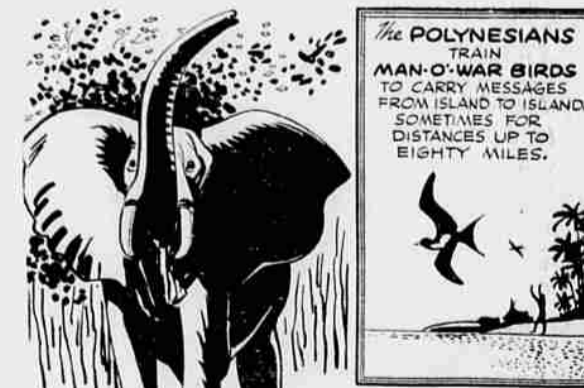
Fifteen Years Ago
Ways and means to finance the Mt. Emily road—for which crews have already started surveying and grading—will be discussed by the Union county chamber of commerce.

Senator Fred E. Kiddle won the Sacajawea Inn trophy yesterday at the La Grande country club when he defeated Fred Spaeth. Kiddle shot a 93, getting a net 73 on a 20 handicap.

Ten Years Ago
J. H. Ackerman training school opened today, temporarily in the Normal school building. It is expected occupancy of the new training school building will be possible at an early date.

The Union county Amos L. Helms first aid car fund is growing steadily, and committee members believe the goal will soon be reached.

This Curious World



CONTRARY TO POPULAR OPINION, AFRICAN ELEPHANTS CAN BE TRAINED!
IN FACT, THERE SEEMS LITTLE DOUBT THAT HANNIBAL'S FAMOUS ELEPHANT ARMY OF SEVERAL HUNDRED ANIMALS WAS MADE UP OF THE AFRICAN SPECIES.



ANSWER: A balloon, named for the Montgolfier brothers, inventors of the first successful hot-air balloons.

NEXT: Mother Earth's curves.