

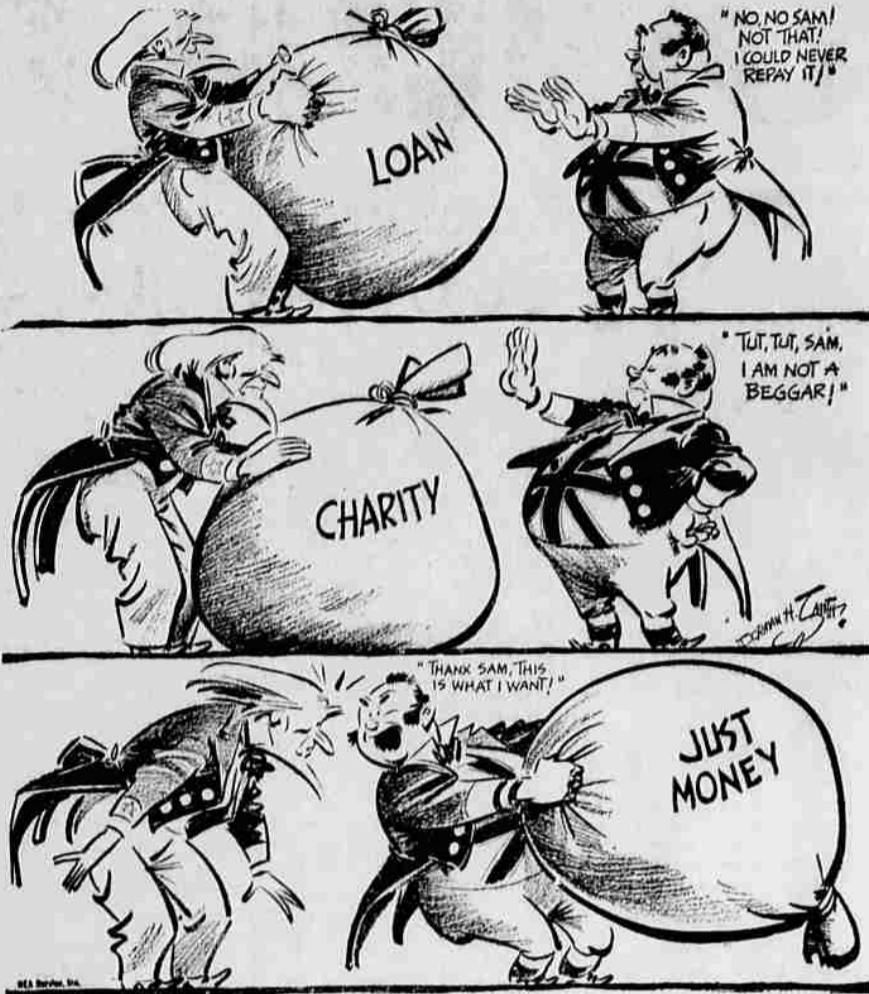
EDITORIAL PAGE

La Grande Evening Observer
Frank Schiro, Publisher

SATURDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 22, 1945

Page Two

Our Changing World



Message That Wasn't Sent

So it turns out now that Lieut. Col. (then Major) James Devereux and the marine garrison on Wake island didn't send that radio request for "more Japs."

There is yet no indication of the message's source. It's most unlikely that it was circulated as a joke, for Heaven knows the American people and their armed forces weren't feeling jovial in December of 1941. More likely it was an instantaneous and inspired bit of propaganda designed to bolster morale and typify the American spirit in the face of difficulties.

It was a courageous, audacious message — but it wasn't as complimentary as intended. The marine on Wake showed a bravery that equaled and surpassed the sentiment of the message they didn't send. But it was a desperate and doomed bravery.

Overwhelmed by superior force and superior equipment, they weren't foolhardy enough to radio for more Japs. But it is evident from Colonel Devereux's story that they considerably reduced the number of Japs confronting them in spite of frightful odds, and would have kept on doing so as long as there was a man left to fire a gun if their commanding officer had permitted it. As it was, Colonel Devereux had to give the cease firing order three times before it was heeded.

Perhaps "Send us more Japs" served its purpose in 1941. It showed the quality of our comparative handful of

Pacific defenders. It gave us at home a moment of pride and cheer. It exemplified, for all the fictional, melodramatic bravado so out of key with the true situation, the spirit which was so evident all along the bitter road to victory.

There came a time when our men could perhaps call for more Japs. But before it came there must have been many times when the real cry was "Send us more men and guns and planes and ships."

That request surely was in the minds and on the lips of Wake's defenders. And because it could not be granted, there were Americans who died needlessly and tragically there and at other Pacific outposts, or died a slower and more painful death in Jap prison camps, or survived the enemy's torture and starvation for nearly four years.

So "Send us more Japs" will not go into the history books with other military epigrams. But history will record the true American situation in the Pacific in December, 1941. And that situation will be, or should be, remembered by all of us when the inevitable agitation for a small army and navy and a small military budget begins again.

It will be, or should be, remembered by our military leaders when opposition to a unified command increases, and pleas are heard for continuing the separate services whose confusion, conflict and lax operation led to the horrible awakening at Pearl Harbor and the urgent necessity of uniting as a team to save the country.

Funny Business



"He can't stand the rattle of dishes—he did so much K. P. in the army!"

SO THEY SAY

The foresighted owner will count upon his old car lasting at least another two years and will guide his driving speed and plan his trips accordingly.
—San Antonio, Tex., News.

Schools of all countries have an obligation to help build a better world by nurturing good will and co-operation in the hearts, minds and actions of the young.
—John E. Wade, superintendent of schools, New York City.

As head of the government (of Brazil) I have promised free, honest elections. I shall preside over them with absolute loyalty.
—Getulio Vargas, president of Brazil.

Having had a prolonged taste in wartime of what it would be like to be managed and mismanaged by bureaucrats, Americans are better conditioned than ever to call the bluff that government should be given responsibility for managing everything.
—Canton, O., Repository.

Washington Merry-Go-Round

By DREW PEARSON

WASHINGTON—Of all the millions who contributed to the defeat of Japan, none perhaps is more entitled to credit than the venerable statesman who yesterday celebrated his 78th birthday and his last week as secretary of war.

He had begun fighting Japan as secretary of state under Hoover, 14 years ago this week. And he never stopped.

Even after he had stepped out of the state department following Roosevelt's inauguration in 1933, Stimson came down to see the new president of the United States about Japan.

He and Roosevelt did not particularly like each other. They had been political enemies since 1910. That was the year which swept Roosevelt into the New York senate and Stimson into defeat as candidate for governor of New York.

Stimson, older than Roosevelt both in age and in manner, regarded him as an ostentatious young whippersnapper, didn't like the way he wore riding boots in the Albany legislature, considered him a poor imitation of his cousin Teddy. "Charming, but without stamina," was the way Stimson described Roosevelt.

Nevertheless, Stimson urged Roosevelt not to recognize Japan's conquest of Manchuria, which he, Stimson, had fought so bitterly.

Leaving the White House after the interview, Stimson's face glowed. A friend, who knew what his mission was, asked what the new president had said about recognizing Japan's puppet government.

"He said," replied Stimson, "I won't even discuss it with the . . .!"

Stimson's Long Fight

The story of Stimson's long battle to stop Japanese aggression in China has never been adequately told.

But this columnist, who traveled with Stimson on some of his trips abroad remembers vividly how Stimson was one of the few who realized the minor skirmish on the tracks of the south Manchurian railroad of

Japan's well-laid plans for the conquest of Asia.

Many others at that time thought Stimson was wrong. Baron Shidehara, the Japanese foreign minister, emphatically told him so; and judging by the way the war lords kept Jap diplomats in the dark, Shidehara probably thought he was telling the truth. Some of Stimson's own state department advisers also told him so. So did the British foreign office; and so also did the French, with the exception of Aristide Briand.

Finally, even in his own cabinet, Herbert Hoover felt Stimson was unduly alarmed about the Japs, while mid-western members of the republican national committee nearly had conniption fits when Stimson ordered Prentiss Gilbert, U. S. consul in Geneva, to sit as an observer with the league of nations.

In fact, it was pressure from mid-west republicans which forced Stimson to withdraw Gilbert from league sessions and replace him with that clowning diplomat, Charlie Dawes.

Era of Peace Dies

An age was dying, an age of international optimism, goodwill pilgrimages, and Harding normalcy, the aftermath of the war to end war. An age was dying, and Henry L. Stimson struggled almost alone.

Leaving a sick-bed in the spring of 1932, he sailed for Paris, determined to warn the statesmen of Europe of impending disaster. Renting a villa at Geneva, he called in Ramsay MacDonald, Chancellor Bruening, Dino Grandi, Andre Tardieu and pointed out that aggression in faraway China could be a greater threat to peace than the menace of big guns in Europe.

There came a time several years later when France was pushed out of Indo-China, when Britain called for American help at Hongkong, Singapore and India. But at Geneva in 1932, Stimson was branded as naive and idealistic. The leaders of Europe were "practical men."

WE, THE WOMEN

By RUTH MILLETT

Perhaps I ought to share this letter with the women who are trying to decide whether to try to hang onto their jobs or go back to making the job of being a wife and mother a full time career.

It is from a man and concerns only one marriage. But it may throw a revealing light on one side of the "work to get ahead" ambition of a great many women.

"My wife and I have been married for nearly 30 years and have one child. From a financial viewpoint we are 'well-fixed' due to hard work and saving on both our parts. For a long time we both worked in a factory, then I took the plunge and went into business for myself. She continued to work. My business grew and I made money, but we had little time for each other. She continued with her factory friends and I made business acquaintances who became my friends.

"A few years ago she quit work and 'settled down' to housekeeping. I had looked forward to it for years. For the first time in her life she had time to do the things the wives of my business friends did—entertain, belong to good clubs, read good

books, keep up on current happenings—in other words to be a good companion. Then I got the shock of my life.

"I discovered that she wasn't the least bit interested in the things I had learned to enjoy. I tried taking her places where she met interesting, intelligent women and she was bored to death and showed it. She had not one thing to contribute to the evening and sat awkward and silent.

"I encouraged her to take good magazines, go out more, but she simply said she was satisfied and made no effort to improve herself. She took not one good magazine, read nothing but trashy fiction, and had no conversation but gossip—and liked it.

"I stood it as long as I could and then in desperation asked for a divorce . . ."

Isn't what happened to that woman's marriage a threat to all women who stifle the duty to be real companions to their husbands in order to add to the family bank account?

At least it is an angle women should consider when they are deciding just how important their pay checks are in the family set-up.

Behind Scenes in Washington

By PETER EDSON, La Grande Evening Observer Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON—While there is nothing final or official about it, government thinking on the proposal to break up the great aluminum company of America has been in the direction of creating half a dozen competing companies, each built around a cluster of existing plants. For instance, the plants around Mobile, Ala., and the Tennessee group might be made into one company. The Arkansas group in another, the Oregon and Washington plants into a third. The Massena, N. Y., group into a fourth, and the various mid-western sheet-plate, bar and shape plants in Pittsburgh, Chicago and Detroit might be grouped into several manufacturing competitors with comparably equal resources. In forming these companies, the idea would be to supplement Alcoa's existing privately owned plants with government-owned facilities. These are the pawns which the government must use in playing this dissolution game. What the government is primarily interested in is disposing of its 670 million dollars worth of surplus plants.

Attorney General Tom Clark's recommendation to congress that Alcoa be dissolved to create greater competition within the industry has an interesting parallel in what happened to the Standard Oil company when the courts ordered it dissolved in 1911. Many people argue today that this was the kindest "punishment" the Rockefeller's ever got. For after the dissolution, the Standard Oil company grew and grew and grew.

In 1911, the parent Rockefeller company, Standard Oil of New Jersey, was a 90 million dollar corporation. This company owned the capital stock of 42 subsidiaries. Capitalization of all 43 was 184 million dollars in round numbers.

By 1930, the capital stock of the "dissolved" standard companies was 569 million—three and half time greater than in 1911. The number of companies had been reduced from 43 to 29. Some had gone out of business. Others were absorbed by competing Shell, Sinclair and Cities Service groups. By 1944—which was the last time anybody in the department of justice took the trouble to

add up the figures—the number of companies had been reduced to 24. Their combined capital stock was 4,600 million dollars. This was about eight times greater than the 1930 figure, and 25 times greater than in 1911.

Total today would be even greater. Some of the dissolved Standard companies are bigger than the original Standard Oil of New Jersey which the courts "dissolved" in 1911. As the capitalization of the entire U. S. oil industry is estimated at 18 billion dollars, the Standard companies with a total capitalization of less than five billion represents about a third of the industry. 1939 report of the congressional temporary national economic committee estimated the Rockefeller holdings in the bigger Standard companies ran from 24 to 36 percent. This included stock held by members of the Rockefeller family, their trusts and foundations. It is not considered a monopoly.

The Aluminum company's setup is, of course, different from Standard's and in that difference Alcoa does have some valid objections to dissolution.

Any unfair division of plants might destroy property—property values worth millions of dollars.

Dividing up Alcoa's stock might also develop losses. Stock ownership is not as wide as in some other big corporations. Forty percent of this stock owned by 17 stockholder as of 1941.

Division of key "know-how" personnel among competing companies is said to be a problem so acute the company having first choice of management of brains would beat its rivals.

The problem in dissolution is so involved that only a few people can begin to understand it, and would probably take years of court action to straighten it out. That applies to the whole question, but it has been argued even within Alcoa's management that if the company could find an equitable formula for dissolution, its long series of court battles with the government might come to an end.

Side Glances



"Mother won't let me wear makeup to the party, Grandmother—does she expect me to wait till I'm as old as you?"

McKENNEY ON BRIDGE

By WILLIAM E. MCKENNEY America's Card Authority

HASTE TO PICK UP TRUMP OFTEN LOSES

Mrs. Richard H. Adams of New York, who won the President's Cup event this year, was one of

Freisinger, will be in it. They arrived at six spades on today's hand without employing an ace-showing convention.

While the play of the hand looks simple, nevertheless most pairs failed to make the contract. Mrs. Adams won the opening lead with the ace of diamonds, cashed the ace and king of hearts and discarded her losing diamond. At this point, most players made the mistake of picking up the trumps and hoping for a favorable break in clubs. However, Mrs. Adams now cashed the ace and king of clubs and led a small club. She was then able to ruff her fourth club with the ten of spades, cash the spade king, and return to her own hand by ruffing a diamond, with nothing but good spades left in her hand.

♠ J 3	♠ A Q 9 8 4 2	♠ 7 6 5	
♥ Q 9 3 2	♥ N	♥ J 8 7	
♦ 10 4 2	♦ A 3	♦ K Q J 8	
♣ Q 10 9 8	♣ A K 7 4	♣ 6	
	Dealer	3 2	
	Freisinger		
	♠ K 10		
	♥ A K 6 5 4		
	♦ 9 7 5		
	♣ J 6 5		
	Duplicate—Neither vul.		
South	West	North	East
1♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	5♥	Double
Pass	Pass	6♥	Pass
	Opening—♦ K.		24

IN FORMER YEARS

Thirty Years Ago

The Union county automobile club met last night and issued a warning to all automobile drivers to be careful and inspect the road on Wallowa hill and in the canyon when driving into Wallowa county. It is claimed that there are many high centers in the road, and owing to the heavy dust, a driver may not realize his danger until his high center collides with his machine.

The forest fire situation on Eagle and Catherine creeks and vicinity is not improving any, in fact the reports indicated last night the most serious fires for several years past confront the forestry employes and fire wardens.

IN FORMER YEARS

Fifteen Years Ago

Actual work on the construction of the distribution plant of the Natural Gas corporation of Oregon will be started next week, with 120 men employed on the project.

T. B. Lumsden today became manager of the La Grande branch of the United States National bank of Portland. He was formerly affiliated with the Oregon state banking department.

Ten Years Ago

George A. Bean today was the new president of the Union stake, Later Day Saints church, which embraces six wards.

George A. Bean today was the new president of the Union stake, Later Day Saints church, which embraces six wards.

This Curious World



10,000 CHIMNEY SWIFTS
ROOSTED IN A DEPARTMENT STORE CHIMNEY AT ARDMORE, PA., NEAR PHILADELPHIA.

Quoting Odds
"WHEN YOU WORK OVER A CAR, YOU SOMETIMES WORK UNDER IT."
ELLEN COBB,
Gilmer, Texas.

NEXT: How much is one horse-pewer?