

### They Always Make It Sound So Wonderful



### The Rebellious Annamites

It is a tragic misfortune that violence has broken out again in East Asia where peace was restored so recently, and that lives have been lost, including that of an American officer. But perhaps it would be wise to curb the impulse to condemn the rioting Annamites of Indo-China. For it may be that they are slightly confused by recent events.

Four years ago the Japs moved in to replace the French as overlords of Annam and the other Indo-Chinese colonies. This was done with the connivance of France which, being then a colony of nazi Germany, had no choice in the matter.

Now France, having been rescued only recently from her degrading colonial status, has moved in to resume her former place as ruler of Indo-China.

Perhaps the Annamites had been so carried away by wartime talk of freedom and democracy and liberation that they forgot they are supposed to be an inferior people incapable of self-rule.

Perhaps they even remembered the words of two former heads of state who met in mid-ocean during the darkest days of nazi tyranny and wrote such words as these:

"They (the heads of state) desire to see no territorial changes that do not accord with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned. . . . They respect the right of all peoples to choose the form of government under which they will live; and they wish to see sovereign rights and self-government restored to those who have been forcibly deprived of them."

Perhaps the Annamites recalled that, in January of 1942, all governments then at war with the axis had subscribed to this "common program of purposes and principles embodied in the joint declaration of the president of the United States and the prime minister of the United Kingdom . . . known as the Atlantic charter."

The Annamites may have noticed that the heads of a good many civilized governments are full of repentance, loving kindness and political morality when confronted with disaster, but that they have a way of reverting to their old ways of thinking and doing once peril is past.

And the Annamites, being less sophisticated and self-deceiving than some of the world's tribes, may have decided that the only way to independence lay in strong action—even if that meant fighting a coalition of the French, the British, and the recent common enemy of all concerned, the Japanese.

### Courtesy to Rats

A New York magistrate fined a man \$5 for letting his dog kill some rats that he had caught. "Even a rat is entitled to certain courtesies," the magistrate said. "If you want to rid the neighborhood of rats, trap them and drown them."

We agree with his honor. If the nazi and Jap war lords, and the murderous butchers of the nazi and Jap torture camps are assured of a trial and, at most, a swift, clean hanging or shooting, certainly a four-legged rat merits equal courtesies. In fact, probably more.

### Funny Business



### SO THEY SAY

Whatever opinion we may have had of Germany and Japan, it's going to be hard for us to stay angry enough to maintain in those countries the occupation forces we have considered necessary. —Fort Smith, Ark., Southwest American.

We heard of a Reidsville girl who lost her new hat and didn't find it till she combed her hair the next day. —Reidsville, N. C., Review.

You can't do that (centralize power in Washington) and have a people's government, and a people's government is needed to make certain we wield our power for the benefit of mankind. —Charles F. Taft of Ohio.

Carrier task forces are a unique creation of the United States and are one of the most powerful forces in existence in the world today. —James V. Forrestal, secretary of the navy.

## Washington Merry-Go-Round

By DREW PEARSON

WASHINGTON—Now President Truman is having his troubles with General MacArthur, he probably looks back on an off-the-record session of his Truman committee where MacArthur was a topic of discussion. The question was whether MacArthur should be publicly spanked in a Truman committee report for his negligence in losing 300 planes on the ground in Manila, after the Pearl Harbor attack had warned him to be prepared.

A brief reference to this was contained in the Truman committee report scheduled for release March 4, 1944. Copies of the report were in type and circulated confidentially to all committee members. The criticism of MacArthur read as follows:

"Censorship is an insult to the patriotism and intelligence of the American people. In the past, it has led to many unwise acts, such as the concealing of facts known to the enemy, and even the dissemination of distorted information. For example, the Japanese knew perfectly well the destruction they had wreaked upon our airplanes in the Philippines, but for two years the war department requested that it be kept secret from the public—300 planes were destroyed on Philippine airfields a number of hours after the attack on Pearl Harbor was known."

"The loss was only recently made public, and there is at least a suspicion part of the reason for requesting the committee to consider the information 'secret' was the desire to avoid resentment by the public of the loss of 300 planes which would have been so valuable to defense."

When this came before the full Truman committee, however, two democrats, Hatch of New Mexico and Connally of Texas, objected, with one republican, Ball of Minnesota. They did not believe the committee should criticize MacArthur.

Truman, on the other hand, felt MacArthur's being caught with his planes on the ground at Manila was even more serious than at Pearl Harbor, since he too had had advance warning.

However, in deference to the three rebellious senators and following his principle of courting committee unity, he yielded.

Note — The Pearl Harbor report now shows that General Marshall telephoned Manila on the morning of Dec. 7, to beware of a Jap attack, though he only warned Pearl Harbor by slow commercial cable. In other words, all the fears of the general staff were Manila would be bombed first. Thus, MacArthur had two warnings, General Marshall's and when the Japs hit Pearl Harbor ahead of the Philippines.

G. I. Chaff

One naval station where they really grease the discharge skids is Wildwood, N. J., carrier aircraft service unit. Twelve percent of the navy men at that station were discharged in a single month. Men who have almost enough points for discharge are given medical examinations in advance, then sent home immediately when they get sufficient points.

Joe O'Connell joined the 413th infantry just outside Aachen. He fought all the way across Germany. Luck was with him. His wife and two children rejoiced that he never got hit. But the other day at Camp San Luis Obispo, Calif., his outfit was ordered to fire mortars—in other words to repeat their basic training all over again with live ammunition. Mortars are treacherous. A shell burst just after leaving the muzzle and now Joe O'Connell is dead. He bled to death, as there was no ambulance or doctor on the range. Two others died with him, plus 15 injured. In a few more weeks, they would have been discharged. . . . Down at Fort Jackson, S. C., Lt. Col. E. V. H. Bell, commander of a mortar battalion, opposed the unnecessary risk of having his men fire mortars. They had fired 39,000 rounds in combat and he felt had earned a rest. But Bri. Gen. George Van W. Pope, inspector for the second army, was furious. Many men are getting apathetic, wish they could spend their time in education if they must remain in the army.

King Carol of Rumania no longer plays bridge in Mexico City, now cools his heels in Rio De Janeiro, the pawn in the queerest international tug-of-war.

The Russians, believe it or not, want him back in Rumania. The British and Americans don't.

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### Side Glances



"Well, we lived through the first world war and now the second is all over, but we've still got the same old range and icebox—it makes me wonder sometimes what we were fighting for!"

### McKENNEY ON BRIDGE

By WILLIAM E. MCKENNEY America's Card Authority

#### THREE-ONE BREAK NEEDS THIS PLAY

In Atlantic City recently I saw the genial co-chairmen of last year's fall national tournament,

♠ 872	♥ 86	♦ A J 85	♣ Q 9 8 3
♠ J 8 3	♥ 4 3	♦ Q 9 6 3	♣ 7 4 2
♠ N	♥ W	♦ S	♣ Dealer
♠ Q 10 5	♥ J 10 9 7	♦ K 7 4	♣ 8
♠ A K 9 4	♥ A K Q	♦ 10	♣ A K J 10 8
Duplicate—Both vul.			
South	West	North	East
2♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
7♠	Pass	Pass	Pass
Opening—♦ 3.			

Mrs. Kelly is doing fine work among the wounded soldiers at England General hospital, and she promises that several of her pupils will participate in the forthcoming national tournament if they play as well as one of them did with today's hand, they should make a good showing.

Declarer won the opening lead with the ace of diamonds in dummy, and took two rounds of trumps, only to discover the three-one break. He realized then that, in order to have a three-three break in spades, he led the third trump, cashed three rounds of hearts, discarding a spade from dummy, cashed the ace and king of spades and ruffed a spade. If he had attempted to ruff both spades, he would have lost the contract, as the third heart would have been trumped.

### IN FORMER YEARS

Thirty Years Ago—Considerable more than 50 babies are now entered for the eugenics contest which begins promptly at 1 p. m. at the fair grounds Oct. 8, and for which a suitable prize either in the way of a loving cup or medal will be awarded.

The final plans for the YMCA membership campaign have been perfected and all indications are that when the results are counted on the last day it will be found that the desired number of members have been secured.

Out of the 45 Bulgarians located in lumber camps about La Grande, it is not expected there will be any material reply or response to the expected call to colors of reservists by King Ferdinand, tsar of all Bulgarians.

Fifteen Years Ago—W. C. Perkins won his way into the finals of the country club golf championship tournament this weekend by defeating Chase Bohenkamp 2 and 1. Perkins will play Charles H. Reynolds for the championship.

Ten Years Ago—A reduction in the tax requirements for the 1936 Union county budget of \$47,552 was made by the budget committee at its annual meeting in Judge U. G. Couch's office yesterday.

### This Curious World



### Quiz Corner

IN "DR. JEKYLL AND MR. HYDE," WHICH WAS THE EVIL CHARACTER?



ANSWER: Mr. Hyde.

NEXT: Why is the thermometer misnamed?

## WE, THE WOMEN

By RUTH MILLETT

"It may appear glamorous to marry a wounded soldier, but it will be unpleasant to become the breadwinner of the family and be denied the social enjoyment of married life."

So decided members of two Catholic women's organizations which recently met for a state convention in Rochester, N. Y., and voted to warn women to wait a year before marrying servicemen who are "shellshocked, maimed, or in nervous condition."

What are they trying to make out of American girls—a bunch of selfish softies?

Certainly marriage with a man on whom the war has left its mark won't be all smooth sailing. But because of that, are such men to go through life without a wife and children?

So a girl says to a wounded or ill service-

man: "No, I won't marry you now. I'd like to wait a year to make sure you won't ever be a burden to me."

And what is that going to do to him? Has any group of untrained persons any business telling girls what to do about marrying shell-shocked and maimed men?

Isn't that rather a job for the trained psychiatrist? And shouldn't any girl who isn't sure whether such a marriage has any chance of success go to a psychiatrist to find out what he says about it?

Certainly it is not fair to the servicemen who carry the mental and physical scars of war, for a group of women to lump them all together as bad marriage risks and warn girls of the dangers of marrying them.

They are individuals—and so are the girls with whom they are in love.

## Behind Scenes in Washington

By PETER EDSON, La Grande Evening Observer Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON — Economic pioneering Senator James E. Murray of Montana has just tossed into the hopper another planning bill. This one is intended to stabilize the U. S. construction industry. It is offered as a first practical step to supplement Senator Murray's full employment bill, just passed by the senate, and make it a working law.

In addition to that, this proposed construction stabilization bill is important because it strikes out in new directions by putting public works construction in its proper place. The bill abandons completely the old idea that the entire national economy can be supported by public works spending alone. That was one of the great fallacies of the depression era. It has now been openly thrown in the ash can and this fact refutes the oft-heard criticism that the bill was merely a plan to provide 60,000,000 jobs by unlimited spending on public works projects. It is now admitted that the most public works can do is stabilize the construction industry and that is what this bill proposes.

To understand how this construction stabilization bill would work, you first have to get a picture of the U. S. building industry. It has two main divisions. New construction and repair. There are no known data on the repair and modernization business, so the only thing to stabilize is new construction.

Over the 20 year period from 1920 to 1939 all the new construction was divided into approximately even thirds — one third private home construction, one third commercial and industrial building of new factories, office buildings, stores and railroad construction, one third publicly financed construction. Bear in mind that these are the averages which would have been reported if the building industry had been stabilized over the 20 year period. Actually, it showed no such pattern for the fluctuations in the building industry have always been notoriously irregular. Some years showed building booms and other years there was practically no new building.

The amazing part of this record of fluctuation is that public works constructions has usually gone up in periods when there

was a lot of private construction. Conversely, public works have been curtailed when the private building industry was in the dumps.

What the new Murray bill proposes is simply that the public works third of the construction be timed so that it would level off the ups and downs of the private industry. When financed building was in a boom and doing more than its usual two thirds of the business, public works projects would be held up. In reverse, whenever the privately financed building business hit the skids, the idea would be to cut loose on public financed construction projects so that these public works would take up the slack in the industry, keep the lumber and brick yards people going, keep the carpenters, electricians, masons and other building trades steadily employed.

If the idea behind the Murray bill is sound and if this neat trick of stabilizing the building industry can be pulled off, the 11 percent of the national economy represented by the industry may be levelled off and cured of its extreme peaks and valleys. But, at best, it will stabilize only 11 percent of U. S. business. There is no idea it is a miracle bill to stabilize all business.

Spade work on this new bill was done by the senate small business committee, of which Senator Murray is chairman. The committee has been investigating the construction industry since last May, when it held public hearings. The committee's own staff has been aided by experts loaned by trade associations in the industry. So, it is a business-backed proposal that has the endorsement of working contractors and builders, not just a pretty theory.

If the industry can be stabilized in any degree, small business will be benefitted immeasurably. At times, there have been as many as 500,000 firms in the contracting business. In 1939 the number dropped to 215,000 and of these, less than half did more than \$5,000 worth of business a year.

If the industry took care of its 11 percent of 60,000,000 jobs it would account for something over six and a half million works.