

The Evening Herald

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NEWS BEHIND THE NEWS

By PAUL MALLON

WASHINGTON, Dec. 10.—Sumner Welles, the state undersecretary, wanted to bet an associate 10 to 1 a few days before the Jap attack, that there would be war. The vital Fourteenth street railroad bridge, (only rail connection east of the mountains between the north and south) was suddenly fitted with electric lights under its piers for protection against sabotage the day before war broke. An unusual war-like conference between the fighting service leaders, Knox and Stimson, was held with State Secretary Hull a few hours before the declaration of war came from Tokyo.

Other evidence, equally emphatic, can be found in the public utterances of Navy Secretary Knox the past few weeks that war with Japan was expected by this government. The only surprise then, was in the way the Japs did it. The only shock was the successful attack upon the American navy, snoring in the remote safety of Hawaii.

Thus, the most important of all possible questions has been raised at the outset of this war. Are we going to learn alertness the hard way, the way the British learned it? Are we going to get efficiency eventually from the blood and whitewash of defeats, or are we going to get it the right way by insisting upon the modern kind of fighting direction which will surprise the other fellow instead of letting us be surprised?

INQUIRY RAISED

This warning complaint is wholly impersonal. The same inquiry arose in many a congressional and official mind at the first break of the incredible news. In many quarters, you could hear talk like this: "Of course I do not like to suggest such things at a time like this, but someone should be court-martialed for permitting the Japs to get bombers over our fleet base."

Court-martialing will do no good. We had court-martials galore after the first Bull Run. They always wind up six months or a year after the damage has been done, with a printed record full of alibis, and a post mortem report.

The time to act is before the necessity for another court-martial may develop. Whatever corrective is needed, must be supplied at once.

We already have the men and the ships to do the job. Obviously the only kind of corrective called for are those which will assure a take-nothing-for-granted fighting imagination in management personnel. We have more men of that type than any nation in the world. All we need to do is to get them in the right positions.

The admiral who thinks the "Japs will be a cinch for us" will be no good to the navy. The one who is thinking along the line of how to plug them in their weakest spot is the admiral who will do the job.

AIR PATROLS

Even the preliminary facts available in this case show that patrol bombers in large quantities were dispatched to Hawaii months ago for the purpose of scouring the seas every minute. Their easy radius is 1000 miles from Honolulu.

Also we have an airplane listening device so good that we sent many to England along with mechanics to operate them. We had plenty of them at Pearl Harbor.

An anchored fleet should not be meat for bombers if the fleet has planes in the air, and certainly all ships at anchor are ordinarily protected from torpedo attack by screens of barges. The only excuse commonly mentioned at the outset here was that the attack was expected upon Manila, and not upon Honolulu—an excuse which only makes matters worse.

TIME TO TALK

To air much comments at a

RAINBOW
NOW PLAYING

2 FEATURES 2

HIT No. 1—
John Garfield
"SATURDAY'S CHILDREN"

HIT No. 2—
Lee Tracy
"Millionaires in Prison"

SIDE GLANCES



"He thinks I stood him up on our dance date—if he had stood up behind a counter all day, he'd know what the words meant!"

trying time, may appear to some persons (like the above-mentioned congressman) to be demoralizing. That attitude will find special favor among timid elderly ladies; politicians afraid to express their opinions and a few—very few—shortsighted government officials who desire to save the government from all criticism. The time to talk is now in order that pressure for correctives may be fully furnished at the earliest possible moment.

Censorship does not cover criticism. That is a point for which we are fighting this war. Every citizen is sacredly bound to conceal information concerning military movements. But his duty to speak his mind for the good of his country is equally sacred.

The greatest of all national health givers is honest, reasoned criticism. It gets results. The other kind destroys itself and needs no suppression.

Sometimes overly eager and sensitive government officials get these matters mixed, but not very often, and not for very long.

LONG WAR

An early end to this war is something to hope and pray for, but a long hard struggle of three or four years is what you had better plan on.

Only among the diplomats and the top political men of the fighting services do you now hear expressions that Berlin and Tokyo will collapse without a military defeat. Even a smaller few believe Russia can do the job on Hitler.

From military men who are planning the fighting comes an almost unanimous private expression that the struggle will last indefinitely. Our inability to get at Germany and Japan and vice versa, coupled with our lack of preparedness, forces that conclusion. Not before 1945-46 do they expect victory.

Gems of Thought

Q. How is the defense savings program for the sale of bonds and stamps carried on nationally?

A. Through volunteer defense savings committees set up in the states to enlist the cooperation of business, industrial, agricultural, labor, social, and other groups in stimulating continuous and systematic savings by everybody through purchase of defense savings bonds and stamps for national defense.

Q. What is one important reason why the government borrows money from the people through the sale of defense savings bonds?

A. The government wants ours to be a truly national defense endeavor in which everybody participates voluntarily, and the defense savings program makes it possible for all to share in the task of protecting American liberties.

Note—To buy defense bonds and stamps, go to the nearest postoffice, bank, or savings and loan association; or write to the Treasurer of the United States, Washington, D. C. Also stamps are now on sale at retail stores.

Courthouse Records

TUESDAY
Decrees
Marie A. Metcalfe versus Glen R. Metcalfe. Granted divorce. D. E. Van Vactor, attorney for plaintiff.

Justice Court
James G. Busby, parking on highway. Fined \$3.50.
William Boyd Davis, parking on highway. Fined \$10 or five days. Committed to county jail.

General De Witt Flays San Franciscans, Says 'More Damned Fools' in Bay Area

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 10 (UP)—Lieut. Gen. John L. De Witt, commander of the fourth army, warned a civil defense council meeting last night San Francisco has been in imminent danger of a Japanese attack. The Pacific coast, advised it is "in the war," prepared for all-out blackouts.

Angry denying Monday's air raid alarms were hoaxes, Gen. De Witt told the tense meeting that "death and destruction are likely to come to this city at any moment."

Rear Admiral John W. Green, endorsing Gen. De Witt's statement, said:

"By the grace of God, we were saved from a terrible catastrophe last night. If bombs had fallen, damage would have been worse than anything we can imagine. When the time comes, be ready."

"The people of San Francisco," said Gen. De Witt, "do not seem to appreciate that we are at war in every sense. I have come here because we want action and we want action now."

"Unless definite and stern action is taken to correct Monday night's deficiencies, a great deal of destruction will come."

De Witt said:

"Those planes were over our community. They were over our community for a definite period. They were enemy planes. I mean Japanese planes. They were tracked out to sea."

Turn You Over to Police

"Why bombs were not dropped, I do not know. It might have been better if some bombs had dropped to awaken this city."

"We will never have a practice alert. We will never call an alert unless we believe an attack is imminent."

"If I can't knock these facts into your heads with words, I will have to turn you over to the police to let them knock them into you with clubs."

Gen. De Witt said he could

not tell the people of San Francisco he could prevent bombardment and bombs here.

"But reinforcements are coming, and then I hope to be in a better position to do so."

Not Satisfactory

De Witt said there would be less chance for death and destruction in Pacific coast cities if all communities "will come to the realization a blackout means a blackout—that every light must go out."

"The blackouts (in San Francisco) Monday was not satisfactory. It is idiotic for anyone to assume that an officer of the standing of Rear Admiral Green-slade and myself would pull a hoax on our fellow citizens."

Gen. De Witt emphasized blackouts must be handled by civil authorities and declared:

More Damned Fools

"I might add they are not having this trouble in Oregon and Washington. The blackout in the Seattle area was excellent. San Francisco should be proud to do as well."

"I almost wish we could have pulled the switch (in San Francisco) that night because (referring to constant telephone calls) there are more damned fools in this locality than I have ever seen."

"This puts it up to you—the occupants of the buildings. When people go out for the night, they should leave houses dark."

"Some of you won't like some of this, but I don't care. We are at war and stern measures are necessary. Some will say 'I am going to lose money.' Better to lose their money than their lives."

He referred to scores of telephone calls he received asking: "Why weren't bombs dropped if those are Japanese? Why didn't you shoot?"

"I say it's none of their business. San Francisco woke up without a single death from

bombs. Isn't that enough?" His 100 civil defense listeners applauded.

Gen. De Witt, in a final warning, said:

"The cities from the Mexican border to Canada form a string of lights whereby Japanese bombers can be guided unless people take precautions. What good would it do if San Francisco were blacked out and San Jose lit up?"

Order Silences Oregon Airwaves

PORTLAND, Dec. 10 (UP)—For the second successive night Oregon radio stations were ordered off the air. The order, from the federal communications commission, went into effect immediately following the address by President Roosevelt. Meanwhile Portland was darkened for its second blacked-out night, starting at 12:30 a. m.

The radio blackout will not effect the operations of the local broadcasting system KFIJ and programs will run as usual during the nights until further instructions.

When a fellow is turned down by a girl because he isn't well off, he really is.

AN IDEAL GIFT
THEATRE SCRIP
BOOKS

SAVE 20%
The Pelican,
Pine Tree, Vox
and
Rainbow Theatres

STARTS THURSDAY

AS CO-PILOTS... THEY'RE CO-RIOTS!

They've got the whole Army Air Corps in a sky-high uproar... and sweeping the nation in fun-formation!



ABBOTT and COSTELLO

in
'Keep 'em Flying'

MARTHA RAYE
CAROL BRUCE
WILLIAM GARGAN
DICK FORAN
CHARLES LANG
SIX HITS

ENDS TODAY
"SWAMP WATER"

A Skyfull of Sunny Songs!
"You Don't Know What Love Is"
"The Boy With The Wistful Eyes"
"Pig Foot Pete"
"Let's Keep 'Em Flying"
"I'm Getting Sentimental Over You"

* ADDED JOYS *
"Information Please"
Cartoon
Sportscope
Paramount News

For Theatre Information * **PELICAN** *
Dial 4872

Feature Starts
Mat. 2:46
Eve. 7:46 - 9:59

FLY THE FLAG

KANSAS CITY, (P)—Mayor John B. Gage called on patriotic citizens to display the stars and stripes.

The following ad appeared in classified columns of today's Kansas City Times:

"Free to the public—I will install flagpole ropes and help you raise your flag. LI 4650."

Read the Classified page.

ORIENTAL EXPLANATION

CHICAGO, (P)—When patrons with meal tickets demanded admittance to a padlocked Japanese restaurant, its proprietor shouted "Police tell us no business as usual." Finally tiring of this explanation, he put up this sign in his window:

Closed for duessless time
By city mayor
Hold meal tickets
Until further notice.