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## Time To Walk Out

It was clear, before the Pearl Harbor investigation began, that the Republican members were bound and determined to range far beyond the military events of the tragic Sunday morning. It was, of course, necessary for them to do so, for they were openly engaged in an effort to pin the blame for the catastrophe on Franklin Roosevelt and his Administration, and, whatever else Mr. Roosevelt may have been, he was not in Hawaii when the shooting started.

If the Republican investigators had been content to rest with charging the Commander-in-Chief with some part of the purely military responsibility for the fiasco—such as his alleged failure to warn the commanders on the ground—the investigation might still have stayed within reasonable bounds. But it soon became clear that the failure to alert the Hawaiian command, if there was such a failure, was only the tip of the iceberg. The War and Navy Departments and the late President could be condemned only in a general way for not exercising closer supervision over the military leaders under his command.

Thus it has been necessary, in order to carry out the preliminary indictment of Mr. Roosevelt, to investigate the entire foreign policy of the United States. And, although they have tried diligently, after the manner of prosecuting attorneys, to fix the blame for the whole two-continent war on the Administration, the Republican members have not been able to get on with the task of restoring the old isolationist argument that divided American opinion before Pearl Harbor. To those who believed, and believe, that the United States could have stayed out of World War II, the doubt that the Republican members have managed to stay out as long as we did, the inquiry has proved nothing except a degree of military unpreparedness of

which we were all painfully aware by noon on Dec. 7, 1941.

It is small wonder that William D. Mitchell and his entire legal staff have announced that they would withdraw from the inquiry. They had agreed to investigate in an orderly and limited investigation of the military aspects of the Pearl Harbor disaster, but before the public hearings were two weeks old it was clear that the Republican majority on the committee would not rest with an investigation of the life and times of the entire Roosevelt Administration, an irrelevant procedure that would certainly consume months and probably years.

Even if the Republicans were not motivated by a blind and unreasoning malice, even if they were in good conscience trying to plot the diplomatic course we followed in those troubled years before Pearl Harbor, it is clear that such a task would be beyond the capabilities of a Congressional committee. In their present role of vindictive prosecutors they have succeeded only in nullifying the real good the inquiry might have accomplished.

And this is tragic, for, in between rounds of purely political sparring, evidence has inadvertently cropped up that proves, for instance, that army-navy coordination was virtually non-existent at the time of the attack on the military Pearl Harbor. The discovery that might have been derived from the investigation, lessons that would have served us well as we set out to overhaul our entire military establishment. They are lost now, submerged in the mire of the Republican effort to discredit the civilian and military leaders, who, despite the mistakes of Pearl Harbor, finally brought us to victory.

When Mr. Mitchell and his colleagues walk out on January 1, we recommend that the Democratic members of the committee follow them. There are too many other pressing matters at hand to waste valuable time on an investigation that has no higher purpose than the desertion of a dead President's grave.

## A Shameful Memory

A few days ago the new Al Smith stamp issue, that remarkable tribute to a man who never held Federal office, went on sale in North Carolina, and, in a familiar face, staring up at the heavy holiday mail, brings up a host of memories of 1928, the year of the state's greatest shame.

It is fitting enough that the homely features of the Happy Warrior should adorn envelopes bearing the Christmas cards for 'untill last, bitter years, he was a sentimental man who believed in peace on earth and good will among men. He had smiled his way from the East Side to the Governor's Mansion in Albany, treating lightly and with great skill through the morass of Tammany politics and keeping his own skirts clean and his honor bright. And, until 1928, there had been no reason for Al Smith to suspect that the United States was not the land of joy and glory where the humblest Irishman could mount the throne.

Nobody could censure him too heavily when, in his declining years, he hung his brown derby alongside the silk hats in the foyer of the Liberty League. He had had a shattering experience, one fortunately unique in the annals of this

nation's politics. He had been defeated as a candidate for the Presidency of the United States by the bigotry of millions of common men with whom he had always identified himself.

The nomination of this pious and humble man was the signal for a wave of religious intolerance the like of which had not been seen since the all its checkered history. Throughout the South there was no discussion of Al Smith's public record; liquor and the Catholic Church, to which he belonged and of which he was proud, were the two issues that he had to face. He ended his honesty cost him the Presidency.

In North Carolina 348,992 Republican votes cast their time trying to fix the G.O.P. for the first time since Reconstruction. A maximum of 250,000 of those voters were honestly following the Republican Party line; the other 100,000 were motivated by bigotry.

Well, Al Smith was a punster, and we think it fitting enough to point out that the 100,000 who licked Al Smith in 1928 now find themselves licking him again. We trust the sharp taste of the glue on the back of his memorial stamp will remind them that history has a way of vindicating the men bigots so readily condemn.

## A Basic Problem

In the latter days of the war it was generally believed that the physical examination provided by the average draft board consisted largely of feeling the prospective draftee to see if he were still warm, but, cursory though they may have been, these examinations were, by the end of 1945, rejecting 37.35 per cent of North Carolina's white registrants. The average rejection for Negroes stood at 33.28 per cent.

Examining these latest rejection figures, the University of North Carolina turns up some other findings as startling as the high overall percentage of physical unfitness. The variation between counties, for instance, indicates that life on the farm is far less healthy than life in the city, popular theory to the contrary. Furthermore, there were fewer rejections among farmers engaged in subsistence farming than there were among those engaged in commercial agriculture. The highest rejection rate in the state was 46 per cent in Greene County, and there were white and Negro rates was considerably higher than the Negro rate.

Kie Sebastian, analyzing the figures in the University News Letter remarks: "The relationship between place of residence and occupation is obvious. When people live in the country they are more likely to work on farms. We are only too aware that educational and health services for rural people lag far behind those for the urban population. A note that last year 73 out of the 100 counties spent less than 15 cents per capita for full time public health service, and that twelve counties had no full time public health service, is an association between education and rejection, we are impressed with the need for such service in rural areas. As well as increasing and improving educational facilities for children.

It takes a war, and its attendant re-

lative service, to turn up figures like these. Virtually every theoretically able-bodied man in the country has been examined by competent physicians, and per cent of half of them (44.68 per cent) were found unfit. If this isn't sufficient to frighten us into some sort of co-ordinated health program nothing will, and the time to get it under way is now. The problem is basic—schools and roads and courts mean little to a people whose health is such they cannot pick up an army rifle and walk ten miles.

Asiatic statesmen, says an onlooker, spend most of their time trying to fix the American policy. Darned clever—those orientals—but not that clever.

Mr. Attlee would dearly love to hand us the Palestine problem. We believe Clem ought to be told that rates for baby-sitting are everywhere on the rise.

The absolute limit in futility has never, perhaps, been ascertained, but passing a law against the atom bomb would be close.

Two shootings by mistake in one north woods hunting party are traced to over-indulgence in the bottle and not knowing the gunner was loaded.

In a scenario which we are cooking up at Hollywood—care—the romantic strangers meet via two walkie-talkies on the same beam.

## Jap General Is Given Look At Douglas Plant

WASHINGTON—Last week this column revealed that in 1939 Douglas Aircraft had sold the DC-4A plus blueprints to Japan, despite previous denials and despite the plea of Cordell Hull for a moral embargo against selling airplanes to the Japs.

The Douglas official who handled this transaction was V. E. Bertrand, later promoted to be a major general in the U. S. Army. Recent representations by the Justice Department pointing to his past record of co-operation with the Japs.

This column is now able to reveal further evidence regarding the pre-Pearl Harbor cooperation of Douglas Aircraft and General Bertrand—a letter from Bertrand to Mitsui & Company, arranging for an inspection trip by General Terauchi, prominent Jap air commander, to the Douglas plant at Santa Monica, Calif.

This was at a time when Douglas was still selling the DC-4A to the U. S. Army. It was also two months after the war broke out in Europe had started. In many U. S. Newspapers were reporting that Japanese entry into the war was inevitable. The letter follows:

"October 23, 1939.  
"Mitsui & Company, Ltd.,  
350 Fifth Avenue  
New York City  
Dear Sirs:—

We wish to acknowledge your letter of October 17, Engineering Department—M. S. Saksaka, relative to the proposed visit of General Terauchi and party. Your Los Angeles office has already contacted us in regard to this matter, and we undertake the pleasure of General Terauchi and party will visit our factory on the morning of October 30.

"Please be assured that we shall do everything possible to make General Terauchi's visit a pleasure to him.

Very truly yours,  
V. E. Bertrand  
Vice-President"

OUTFOXING MACARTHUR  
Here is the inside reason why the Japs were able to outfox General MacArthur in his decision to go to Japan by boat instead of by airplane.

When the commission called General MacArthur for permission to come, he called back that he was busy carrying the state for one or two at a time. MacArthur said there were no accommodations for the Japs. He said, so he wanted them in dribs and drabs.

The ten nations on the commission were not to be fooled. They got them split up into small groups so they couldn't function together. They got them split up into small groups so they couldn't function together.

MERRY-GO-ROUND  
Jesse Jones is reported looking around to find a big banking job for himself. He is looking for a boss, who so many Truman advisers hope will soon leave Washington.

President Truman may not be interested in the early days of the New Deal was when Chester Davis, Secretary of the Federal Reserve Agency, purged Jerome Frank, now judge of the second circuit court of appeals, from his post.

Now, Gentlemen: you're the guiding light of the young people of the country. You know it or not (and I think you realize it fully) it is your responsibility to guide and lead by your own good judgment. The people of Charlotte are good people, and they are in favor of helping unprivileged children because of contributions to this endeavor are heartily submitted.

A few days ago your Miss Dorothy Knapp and the employer who was having trouble "holding" veteran help. His complaint was the effect that the returned service men were restless, did not report for work after the first furlough, and were getting more money and wages than the rates that obtain in general.

It is plain that all these things are true. This idea has been

Only time President Roosevelt really saw anyone was when he fired Jesse Jones, Secretary of Commerce and Federal Loan Administrator. Ever since Truman came into office, however, he has shut one eye to the fact that the Federal Reserve is running the powerful Federal Loan Administration by remote control.

Meanwhile, Stuart Symington, though given the title of surplus property administrator, is actually has little to do with its disposal. So Symington, fed up with getting the blame for the surplus property snarl, finally went to reconstruction boss John Snyder and asked that he be given full responsibility by taking over the RFC, himself. Symington didn't say so in those words but he is tired of having the secret hand of Jesse Jones running surplus property and the loan agencies while he gets all the headlines.

Snyder, as usual, was noncommittal. Being an old pal of Jesse's, he isn't anxious to make a change. However, the final decision is not up to him—but Truman. If the latter doesn't one day decide to write it down that his old friend Symington will not carry the burden of the surplus property administrator.



## The People's Platform

## A City-Sponsored Club For Juveniles

By DURANTE W. PARKER

Charlotte  
Herewith, an open letter to be read to members of City Council at their next meeting:

No doubt you have read in the newspapers and heard in many radio broadcasts, the increasing tendency of a national all out crime wave from which Charlotte is not immune. Now, let us analyze just a few of the causes of such a tendency.

First, there is a psychological first-aid after months of tension about the war. People under stress are more likely to be misled by those who are those older. Most crime-spots which have the nation's police and other authorities on their guard are engaged in by people slightly older than youngsters, and usually younger than twenty years of age.

Second, money is gradually getting "tighter" for the average family and less for the young. Youngsters just won't stretch like they did when the war was going on and the younger members of the family would have extra money for the asking. Today, and later on when things get even tighter, these teenage youngsters will begin to resort to other sport since they have no money and have had for the past few months.

So, with nothing better to do, they mean the trouble. Only in a few cases will parents be in control and guide their children by their own example. Many times, it is these petty crimes that begin an otherwise innocent and good boy or girl on a long career of crime in which he finally winds up in the prison or in the penitentiary.

Now, Gentlemen: you're the guiding light of the young people of the country. You know it or not (and I think you realize it fully) it is your responsibility to guide and lead by your own good judgment. The people of Charlotte are good people, and they are in favor of helping unprivileged children because of contributions to this endeavor are heartily submitted.

So, as to what is needed, there are many things which we would like to see. . . . parks, better school buildings, beautification programs for the city, enforced trunk laws, . . . and many others. It is plain that all these things are true. This idea has been



"The opera of course is happy to have you as a sponsor Mr. Potnik—but for the stars to sing commercials for Potnik products—NO! NO! NO!"

tried and has successfully worked in all of the principal cities of the United States. The Army employed the same idea overseas, and it worked. The City of Chicago went all-out for the idea of a Service Men's Center and the result was a five-story building containing a mass of entertainment and craft rooms, games, social activity, and other occupying activities. As a result, the Army's report on provost marshal cases in Chicago lists less cases than Starke, Florida, a town of 5,000.

The suggestion: China is a centrally located place such as the basement of the City Library, or another building or even a building from an individual. In this building, establish a regular " USO " or hobby center, properly supervised, fully equipped with a mass of entertainment and craft rooms, games, social activity, and other occupying activities. As a result, the Army's report on provost marshal cases in Chicago lists less cases than Starke, Florida, a town of 5,000.

Such crafts as woodworking, complete with a large shop containing all the tools down to the last screwdriver, with adequate instructor. Leather craft, complete with all the materials and equipment. Art center, with instructor to teach useful commercial and domestic arts. Music appreciation, with instructor to teach useful commercial and domestic arts. Music appreciation, with instructor to teach useful commercial and domestic arts.

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## Over-Sold Propaganda

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things. The idea being to keep the young people busy and provide a place for them to go, and things for them to do. For your information, every piece of the equipment needed to install the kind of center I have just described, can be got absolutely free from the U. S. Government. The up-keep will naturally be the responsibility of the City, and in certain cases the individual can be asked to purchase his materials to work with. Now then, one can get down and said materials being sold at cost by the Superintendent of the City.

Let me remind you, Gentlemen, without efficient supervision, the Center will be a detriment. On the other hand, it can be the biggest asset the city ever had. We have here in Charlotte a place for the example for hundreds of similar cities. . . . and very likely result in abolishing most of the delinquency and crime which is so prevalent and becoming more so.

figure out many excuses for not doing a thing, enumerate all of the handicaps, and then, in the name of the City, and even pass the responsibility on to the Churches. . . . and very likely result in abolishing most of the delinquency and crime which is so prevalent and becoming more so.

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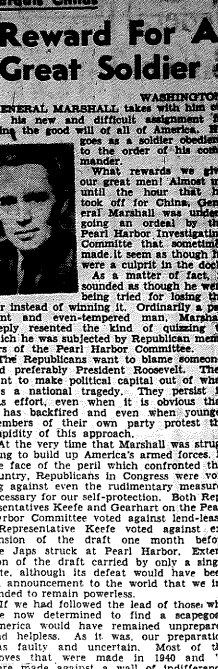
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## Reward For Great Soldier

WASHINGTON  
GENERAL MARSHALL takes with him a new and difficult mission to China. The good will of America. It goes as a soldier obedient to the orders of his commander.

What rewards we give our men? Ordinarily a period until the hour that he took off for China. General Marshall's mission to China is going on a mission by the Pearl Harbor investigation. The Republics want to blame someone, and preferably President Roosevelt. They want to make political capital out of what was a national tragedy. They period. This effort, even when it is obvious that it has backfired and even when younger men are protesting, they protest their stupidity of this approach.

At the very time that Marshall was struggling to build up a new government in the face of the perils which confronted this country, Republicans in Congress were voting against the Pearl Harbor investigation. The Republics want to blame someone, and preferably President Roosevelt. They want to make political capital out of what was a national tragedy. They period. This effort, even when it is obvious that it has backfired and even when younger men are protesting, they protest their stupidity of this approach.

Representative Keefe voted against extension of the draft one month before the Japs struck at Pearl Harbor. Extension of the draft carried by only a single vote, although its defeat would have been an announcement to the world that we intended to remain passive.

If we had followed the lead of those who were determined to keep America would have remained unprepared and helpless. As it was, our preparation for the attack on Pearl Harbor was made, that were made in 1940 and '41 were made against a wall of indifference. If not for the action of the Japs.

## Labor And A Third Party

NEW YORK

ORGANIZED labor has broken with the Federal Administration, for the first time in almost thirty years. The situation is so new that it will take months, perhaps cooling-off period, before it is as clear as it is now. We have become so used to the idea of a labor movement which had complete faith in the head of the Federal Government, that it is a little bit of a shock to find that it is willing to go where he went to do as he bade.

What next? Well, the fortunes of the Democratic Party are heavily involved. The Democratic Party has a number of national elections, while the Republicans have hardly bothered even to make a serious bid for votes. What has happened is that both Mr. Truman and the labor movement have lost out. The conservative wing of the party has taken control, and the labor movement is a narrow basis. Few votes from conservatives and from persons who want to keep the status quo. The new line is to see which wins these votes, while an enormous political no man's land has been created between the two warring wanderers at the moment, slightly lost.

It would not be surprising, then, to begin to hear third party talk, at least from the left side of the labor movement. It would be a labor federation with a deep interest in politics, and then become a labor federation with a deep interest in politics, and then become a labor federation with a deep interest in politics, and then become a labor federation with a deep interest in politics.

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