

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1945

Not Guilty

It now develops that nobody at all was to blame for the attack on Pearl Harbor, not even the Japanese. And if we persist in pushing the investigation in Washington we may discover that it didn't happen at all. Perhaps after all it was a Roosevelt trick, just as Hon. Ham Fish suspected on that fateful Sunday evening.

Well, there's the smiling little Kurusu, the special envoy who was soft-talking in Washington while Hickam Field was burning and the harbor was filled with terrible explosions. He's confessed now that he didn't know anything at all about the movements of the Jap fleet. Not a thing. The despicable war lords, who are strangely disappearing, kept the whole spy business a secret, even from top government officials.

And there is Konoye, blindingly telling us just now that he surely could have averted war and patched up the Pacific situation just perfectly, if he'd only been able to put through that conference with President Roosevelt. He could have wormed his way into the Imperial Palace and double-crossed the war-mongers, he said.

And here, even, is the German Admiral Paul Wenckier, naval attaché in Tokyo since his Deutschland seized the U.S. City of Flint in '39. And he is saying that he knew all along the Pearl Harbor assault was stupid. It hadn't a chance as a military operation, he says. He admits that the blow dealt for naught, because there was no intention to invade Hawaii at all. He adds, just for our benefit, that these Japs are most difficult to deal with, being suspicious of all white people. He sounds as if he'd like to form a combination against them.

Well, we're going to find, too, that just a handful of Japs made up the infamous Black Dragon Society — and that most of the Japanese people, like most of the Germans, are and have been good, simple, law-abiding citizens. It will happen that they were misled by a dozen or so malicious leaders, and that we need punish no more than a handful.

Our "Hospital"

In the past year a total of 144 "mental patients" passed through Mecklenburg's County Jail, so that we led the state by a wide margin. Leadership, of course, is not a matter for pride. For, whatever the circumstances, and however poorly assessed may be, the jail is no place for the mentally ill. Because this condition exists throughout the state — and in most others, for that matter — Mecklenburg bears no more than her share of the blame. But we should be about the task of providing some other means of caring for these patients during observation period.

Our new commitment laws, for which Tom Junison fought so hard, are causing confusion all over the state. Neither hospital administrators nor county officials seem to understand them yet, and the machinery is not functioning properly. The new laws are a definite improvement, but in providing for an observation period in county jails, of course, are confined to the hospitals themselves, but since this is impossible at the moment, we are continuing to do some of our "observation" in jails.

Guilford County, which had only 43 mental cases in its jail last year, has already moved to solve its problem on a local basis, without waiting for the State to build a central observation ward or hospital. Guilford has already begun construction of a 20-room addition to its county home, and future mental patients will be placed there. That scheme has obvious advantages over the present one, and though there are many objections to it, it suggests a possibility to Mecklenburg.

County officials seem to be trying to find excuses for our own high total, saying that all cases, even those involving drunks on the verge of the dais, were included; that many cases were cleared through Mecklenburg from other counties and states; that from any servicemen passed through here. Our

Statesmen At Work

(Serious, facetious and comic excerpts from the Congressional Record).

REP. ERVIN (N. C. M. Speaker) I would like to talk for a few minutes about the results of the recent election in England. In view of the recent election in England, now seems to be the proper time for Americans to pay no contemptible certain well-known facts.

There has been a worldwide trend toward socialism in recent years. Russia adopted communism by a bloody revolution in 1917.

Germany adopted national socialism, or fascism, with the rise to power of Adolf Hitler in 1933.

England adopted partial socialism in the general election of 1945. The most disturbing thing about the recent English election is that the majority party in England is pledged to "eventually nationalize

The Embargo

Representative Summers of Texas, who evidently is not well-grounded in the field of scientific research, and hasn't read up on the history of the atomic bomb, wants to exact the death penalty of any American who gives away the secret of our most terrible weapon of war.

We don't know that he wants to slap all our scientists into solitary confinement, or prevent all discussion of newly discovered atomic theories — but he sounds deeply serious. Perhaps he should be told that we can possibly hold this secret, and that a great deal of the most important work on the atomic bomb was not done by Americans at all. Perhaps he should be told that the atomic energy we hold over our nations is temporary at best, and that we can hold our own only by constant and continuing research.

We have no hope at all that the nations of the world will be able to outlaw this weapon, and hold all parties to the agreement, despite its terrible possibilities. Some aggressor of the future, whatever the chances of immediate retaliation, is going to be tempted to try the way and plunge us into the more horrible of war.

But Representative Summers, we fear, will not be able to stop that, nor will his proposal of secrecy prevent exchange of research throughout the world. He may, however, succeed in isolating our own scientists from developments in other nations, and thus commit the fatal mistake he seeks to avoid.

Hangers-On

The Japanese Diet, which last winter democracy in action, continues to offer despite the presence of American occupation forces in the home islands, and when Premier Hishiro Hara addressed the assembly last week he made no mention of new elections. This Diet is the same which was elected in April, 1942, in the final days of the bloody stand on Bataan. The House of Representatives was made up, at election time, of 377 members of the Government Party (characterized as anti-liberal, anti-individual and anti-Anglo Saxon) and 89 others. It was a war party, and its members may somehow be removed from the scene.

Even the naming of a new Diet would not solve the problem. Under the Jap constitution a ministry needs no support from the Diet to remain in office. The Emperor actually holds all legislative power — it is only delegated to the Diet by his will. And though the moderate party won the elections of 1930 and 1934, the militarists, after a wave of assassinations, took over the government. This is the central of the Diet means little or nothing.

And in our talk of giving the Jap people the blessings of democracy we take for granted that we can give them "free elections." Just how much that means is to be seen by the election machinery in effect. Though almost all males over 25 are eligible to vote for the House of Representatives by secret ballot, the all-powerful House of Peers is something else again. Its 400-odd members are chosen by the Emperor, Imperial family, then princes and marquises of 30 or over, then 125 life members named by the Emperor, then 150 nobles elected by the ruling clans, then six seven-year members elected by districts by the 100 largest taxpayers. And, finally, four members of the Imperial Academy of Science. This system, which Sumner Welles calls an "oligarchy of aristocrats," rules Japan today, and the chances of our giving it out seem slim indeed at this moment.

At least Quisling doesn't say that he was "playing a double game with the Nazis." It must be that this light fiction was copyrighted by Laval in all languages including the Scandinavian.

The Merry-Go-Round

By Drew Pearson

WASHINGTON
THIS column has not always agreed with good old Senator Connally of Texas, but here's something on the other side of the ledger. They talk to the order of Maj. Gen. S. G. Henry, assistant chief of staff, that "effective immediately all enlisted men with a point score of 85 or over will be sent to separation centers for immediate separation."

Best site in town is a 16-acre plot belonging to Ben Connally, the Senator's son who gave up his Houston law practice to enter the Army, where he still is. Martin residents were certain this site is what the Navy would want, since it was the only high land overlooking the town, yet near the town. Another site, less desirable and farther from town was selected as an alternative.

But for nearly a year Connally has refused to agree to let his son's land be purchased, insisting that it would appear that he had used his political position to turn a profitable real estate deal for the family. As a result the rumor sprang up that Connally was holding up the hospital until the Navy assured him it would take his son's land.

Investigation convinces this columnist that the appeal is the case. Only recently, after repeated pleadings from Representative Poage of Marlin, Connally grudgingly has consented to let the town condemn the Ben Connally property, and then let the Navy take its choice of the two sites.

Service Notes

Attention Surgeon General Norman Kirk, U. S. Army. Why is it that at Billings General Hospital you have doctors with over 140 points, 37 months overseas combat service sitting idle for three months—despite the shortage of civilian doctors? . . . Also, why is it necessary to compel Army surgeons to spend six days learning the nonessentials of the M.I. after a year or more in a combat, and the working mechanism of a hand grenade now that the war is over? Why is it necessary to compel 120 surgeons after a hour of 24 months overseas combat to appear on a rifle range and practice slow and rapid fire, while other surgeons are forced to sit in the target pit, musing and lowering the target?

About Time We All Did A Little Worrying



A Jimison Hospital?

(Editorial Tributes from state papers.)

The Concord Tribune
North Carolina has had plans to build new hospitals for her mentally ill, and then this program has been launched one of the institutions should be named "The Tom P. Jimison."

First, all adult male members of the Imperial family, then princes and marquises of 30 or over, then 125 life members named by the Emperor, then 150 nobles elected by the ruling clans, then six seven-year members elected by districts by the 100 largest taxpayers. And, finally, four members of the Imperial Academy of Science. This system, which Sumner Welles calls an "oligarchy of aristocrats," rules Japan today, and the chances of our giving it out seem slim indeed at this moment.

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Just Old Tom

The High Point Enterprise
OLD Tom Jimison is dead—and he was old despite the fact he was born only 39 years ago. Never again will the battered old square eye try to fit itself into another man's mind.

It would be easy to describe Tom Jimison as a "charitable genius." But this fact remains and stands out above all his other qualities: Tom Jimison throughout his life gave of himself to down-trodden folk who had but few resources. He was a man of the people, and for that he was more blessed.

We wonder if the board which controls the State hospitals for the insane or the new Legislature, has the courage to name a building or ward after a drunkard. We have so and think it would be deserved . . . The man who built a building or a ward after Tom Jimison—preferably one for the insane—would gain such recognition more. We think the old boy would get into a book of it—and also a home. We can almost hear him saying "Well, folks, I finally achieved fame. They've named a place for drunks and nuts after me."

But he would know, as his friends know, that it would be a final recognition of the fact that to those in need of a helping hand he always gave his hand.

And underneath the wisecracks Tom would be forever grateful.

Already a Monument

The Winston-Salem Journal
TOM P. Jimison, who died at a hospital in Spartanburg, S. C., this week, was a citizen of Winston-Salem for several years. Later he obtained his license

Field, Fort Myers, Fla.: Many men in your outfit, ranging from 80 points to 150, complain that they are kept polishing airplanes and picking up cigarette butts, when they should be doing something else. They point to the order of Maj. Gen. S. G. Henry, assistant chief of staff, that "effective immediately all enlisted men with a point score of 85 or over will be sent to separation centers for immediate separation."

Veteran's Grips

Politicians consider the servicemen's overwhelming vote for Roosevelt on the most important issues in defeating Dewey. But today the Truman Administration seems to be losing ground daily with war veterans. Here are some of the complaints servicemen are registering. They are more than grips. They are things the men feel deeply.

1. Servicemen must be convinced of the Army's need for keeping 2,000,000 men and the Navy 500,000 men, despite the atomic bomb, when our peacetime forces were only 120,000 in 1940 respectively.

2. They must be convinced that the Army and Navy are earnestly trying to speed the exit of those who have earned discharge.

3. They still have to be sold on the idea of a peacetime draft when they thought they were fighting a way to end military systems.

4. They must find that there are jobs for them when they return home, and that the various benefits and loans supposed to be available are actually to be had without going through months of Government red tape.

5. They must be shown that the so-called preference they are supposed to have in the purchase of surplus material from the Army and the Navy actually works. Thus far it hasn't.

For instance, thousands of veterans are now trying to purchase jeeps, trucks and other surplus items. But they find their applications frequently rejected and that eventually they go out and buy from dealers at higher prices.

Servicemen are puzzled about President Truman, because they thought that as a result of his experience in the last war he would be able to lead an honest Army-Navy brass hall. But they are getting disillusioned.

Simultaneously, Republicans are heaping their chips with joy.

SIDE GLANCES

By Galbraith



"I hope you give me better grades in English this year—I spent the summer reading ever so many comic books!"

Rub 'Em Out

By Marquis Childs

WASHINGTON
MOST Americans must be severely puzzled about the nature of the American occupation of Japan.

We come across a number of commentators, presumably with the assistance of a righting the terrible wrong done by the Japanese aggressors and demilitarizing the country, who are in a state of confusion. Yet they receive us as though we had come in from the invasion. One Japanese correspondent in the paper had the nerve to say that if we were to have a military government, they would prefer their own military.

The pretense is carefully maintained through all the propaganda channels of radio and press that the surrender came not as a result of Allied strategy but out of Emperor Hirohito's noble desire to save Japanese life. So far as we can tell, there is nothing that has been done to interfere with the military. The Japanese (and their American correspondents) complain bitterly that the official Japanese government is something of a puppet, but that the official Japanese government is something of a puppet, but that the official Japanese government is something of a puppet.

At the same time, we get evidence that the military is still in control. The military is still in control. The military is still in control. The military is still in control. The military is still in control.

The two simply do not go together. But side by side, the military occupation and the black record of cruelty create a feeling of frustration and helplessness. Perhaps it is merely that we need to know more about the ultimate goal. Even in his latest

Losing Friends

By Samuel Grafton

NEW YORK
WE are not going to have a friend left in the world pretty soon if we are not careful. Our relations with all

France, Italy, Greece, and the Balkans, these are even worse, for here it is a case of people living in two different worlds. One is the American world of plenty, staffed by aggressive and able individuals who are planning to supply the whole world with such-bribe and the other is a world in which there is no such thing as a free lunch.

It is hard to see why our Government should not be entitled to know off all or part of the interest rate, and charge the loss up to promissory, and the interest rate will tell you that that is a rate to pay for getting new business. It is strange how many Americans are so busy with their own affairs that they are not even aware of the fact that they are losing friends.

As for our relations with France and Belgium, these are even worse, for here it is a case of people living in two different worlds. One is the American world of plenty, staffed by aggressive and able individuals who are planning to supply the whole world with such-bribe and the other is a world in which there is no such thing as a free lunch.

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Quote, Unquote

THE many problems accruing through our transition from war to peace are not being solved successfully if the 46 State Legislatures adopt widely conflicting or competing methods of assistance and control. —Gov. Walter E. Edge of New Jersey.