

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1941

Echo From Berlin

Hitler Gives Useful Formality to the President's Hostile Declaration

It is something of an unusual courtesy that der Fuehrer has paid us. We are the only nation upon which he has declared war before loosing a full attack. He has attacked us, to be sure, but with restraint dictated by some hope of our non-belligerence. Beside his declaration, and that of his dog-cropper, Mussolini, only gives formality to the state of hostilities existing between Germany, Italy and the United States. No longer ago than Tuesday night the President recognized the enemy between us as openly hostile words: "Remember always that Germany and Italy, regardless of any formal declaration of war, consider themselves at war with the United States at this moment just as much as they consider themselves at war with Britain and Russia."

As far as Hitler's prosecution of the war is concerned, there is little that he can do save to intensify his submarine warfare— that, and one thing more: to conceive and to execute a foray of great audacity against the continental United States. Being forewarned, we shall be ready.

Red Silence Three Views

Stalin Shows No Sign of Aiding Us Against Japan

Why isn't Russia fighting Japan? That is the most important question in the Pacific war—indeed in the whole World War—and it has not been answered. Rather, it has been evaded, cautiously and almost cowardly, by Stalin and his emissaries. Ambassador Litvinoff chose his words too carefully in extending his "personal" support to President Roosevelt. His choice of words gave not the slightest indication that Russia would become our active partner against Japan. The Kremlin has been silent—too silent for comfort. Today Russia and Japan are friendly powers, signatories to a trade pact that still has four years to run. It may be that Russia does not care to take on Japan and Germany at the same time. But it is also certain that a Soviet air attack on the Japanese mainland, combined with a land offensive against Manchukuo, would be of decisive importance in distracting the Japanese from their murderous drive southward toward Singapore. A similar agreement between Moscow and Tokyo, a double-dealing pact that has permitted Japan to leave her northern outpost unguarded for aggression against Britain and America? London watches it of continued German retreat all along the Russian front, of a surprising new element—Soviet air supremacy over the Luftwaffe. Hitler readily admits that no further drive will be undertaken against the Russians this winter. Why? Is he preparing to invade Britain, or to march through Spain into Africa? Or has he made a deal with Stalin, promising to let up on the Russians if, in turn, the Soviet Far Eastern commanders are ordered to hold back against the Japanese?

Bob's More Nearly Match the Jap's Than the President's

Last Sunday in proclamance against the United States, the Emperor of Japan gave his version of the causes of the war. Last Tuesday, the President of the United States, after having intimated an official declaration of war against Japan, gave his reasons why the war had come upon us. Now Bob Reynolds has issued a detailed press release of his own views which makes clear that, until the attack at Pearl Harbor, he had rather slighted the Emperor's statement of the case than with the President. There can be no doubt about it. Listen: Hirohito: "Ever for the realization of their ambitions to dominate the Orient, both America and Britain, by supporting the Chankung (Chiang Kai Shek) regime, have aggravated disturbances in East Asia. Moreover, these two powers, inducing other countries to follow suit, increased military preparations on all sides of our empire to challenge us." Roosevelt: "The course that Japan has followed for the past ten years in Asia has paralleled the course of Hitler and Mussolini in Europe and Africa."

Now hear Reynolds: "For years past I, with other members of the United States Senate, have advocated the relinquishing of all our interests in the Philippines, the withdrawal of material interests in the Oriental sphere, recognizing at the time that the future might involve us in a blood conflict which I was anxious that we might avoid there or elsewhere. (But we have been attacked, and no matter what has been the view of any American in the past, we cannot tolerate this attack.) We shall never know, now, whether or not Japan would have attacked the United States if we had taken Bob's advice and got out of her way in the Pacific. But it is apparent that Bob would have done his best to avoid such an attack by giving Japan a free hand in the East, and all the tremendous hope that with growing strength her lust for power and possessions would have subsided. It is as well, we think, had as it may be, that the President has followed other counsel and attacked the Japan of her present size and strength."

In Washington, an angry solon moves to eliminate fat commissions on war contracts. Always, there are a few such who would reduce a supreme national effort to the ignominious level of patriotism.

What is this dark forboding? After next March 15 we don't expect to feel any change in my pocket.

Tradition Of Infamy

The Baltimore Sun

ALTHOUGH there are suggestions of Nazi tutelage in the manner of Japan's sudden and treacherous attack on Hawaii and other American and British possessions in the Pacific, Japan's long record of aggression and conquest is filled with instances of swift and unannounced seizures at what the Japanese considered the moment.

THE TREACHEROUS JAPANESE "NEELON"

Go back to the Japanese war with China in 1894 and you find Captain Hethersford Togo, the hero of the naval war against Russia, is now known as "the Nelson of Japan."

THE ERA OF CHINESE STOOGES

During the period between the end of the war in 1918 and the attack on Manchuria in 1931, the situation appeared to have been stabilized by means of the Twenty-One Demands in 1915, when Japan agreed to respect Chinese integrity in return for the right to expand her naval ambitions. Whatever they were, the Japanese imperialists were making out in China, and doing so mainly through Chinese war lords and stooges, whom the Japanese had been training since they fell down on their assignments.

CHIANG KAI-SHEK

For several years Japan's aggressions in China retreated to the field of intrigue, while the United States and other "moralistic" nations insisted on exclusive rights in China. Various plans to separate the five northern provinces as puppet states were attempted; but the Nanking regime, which Chiang Kai-shek was organizing, refused sufficiently to break up these efforts. Imposing, sponsoring of the puppet states in Japan's puppet areas, and corruption were weapons the Japanese continually used to seduce the Chinese. It had become so intolerable that the Communists, who favored reuniting China, were in open revolt. The civil war seemed to endanger Chinese integrity. That was the year that the infamous agreement between the Japanese and the Nanking regime and the Red Army leaders in China.

WE COULD NOT HAVE EXPECTED IMMUNITY

Now that the United States has been made for the moment a victim of this treacherous aggression of our people is dead or maimed from Japanese bombs, it is incredible that we have been immune from it. We have been violating agreements with Japan since the time when the League of Nations was being assembled, in collusion with Germany, for no other purpose than to attack the United States. The attack has now been made with all the elements of treachery which obscure Japan's relations with other nations might have led us to expect.

Now It Is America

By Dorothy Thompson

SO it had come. There was nothing unexpected about it. The world states that we had, waking and sleeping, for two years now: more than apprehension, the realization of something that was certain one had faced and come to terms within one's mind—even with a realization, sometimes a fury, that everybody else didn't see how certain it was. "We shall be attacked," they had been saying, "and we shall be surprised and ill-prepared." Just like all the others. "Purious and unbecomingly delicate and nervous" was the catch-phrase of the day and the acting as though the danger were not here, coming closer and closer. Well, now it was here.

A BOND BETWEEN ALL MEN ATTACKED AT HOME

It happened the day before and now the President was going to speak. There was even something of an antipathy about it... and something of a dread. Just like Hitler and we were kept the Great United States. Just like Hitler, we were thousands of miles away. Oh, how often! Who cares for millions among you who are not? We will gain the inevitable triumph... Yes, God help us. "God bless us every one said Tiny Tim" says Great America.

A friend, sitting next to me at the radio, said, "Well, at least you are not shocked." "No," I said, "I am not shocked."

Yes, but I was. I had that one word, "I was being shocked." Over and over again the same pattern and always the surprise. And I felt it too. "Not to us. This can do that to us." Even those who had known all the time that they could, and they would. Know it in the bones, where things are things best. But still the surprise.

So it was here. And now the President was walking into Congress and the radio said we were describing his entrance... The President.

My President, Senator Pepper's President. Senator Vandenberg's President. Senator Fisher's President. The President of the United States of the United States. America!

INFAMY, BUT SUCH PERFECT INFAMY

Why did one cry like that? Why did those words, "Infamy, but such perfect infamy," come into the United States? Now it had come and it was going to be decided. But the way some of the radio commentators had said and the editorial, "The 'Infamy' Bill" and "we'd wipe up the oceans with them 'Infamy' Bill." Infamy. But so well planned, so well calculated, so efficient, so most admirable the infamy... one after another... the great and the small... death and wounds; heartbreaks and suffering; all the grumbling, weeping, fighting, haggard anxiety, the irritating privations... all the unbearable things... what Rebecca West called "The Minor Horrors of War."

SENATOR SNIPE SAYS

Who remembers the old-fashioned bill of fare you could run an eye down until you came to 15 cents? Fortunately that song has passed, and not more are permitted. Senator Snipe says the Bill with Rostov on the floor. It came an extra 10 per cent this year to buy the wife a fur coat to keep her warm, or quiet. The Scripps Editorial will take up the interlocking bill as passed by the House. The 'box will mark up a few prices, to see if it moves.

Under One Banner

By Herblock



AMERICA MAKES ITS OWN RHYTHM

Listen how they were applauding; how they were cheering! Not that democratic one, my friend Sir! Another rhythm America! It's good that the President. And some of them had hated him; and many of them had fought him; and they had elected them: Joseph Bailey and Carter Glass; Senator Wheeler and Senator Austin; Senator Borah and Senator Hiram Fish and George Allen... All the states... the North, the South, the Middle West, the Southwest, the Far West... So near the Far East... The United States... Our side, our team. Our fight. Our victory. Their voices roared in the great cry of the Free! What did you say, Wall Whiteman? So help us God! "Protect us by Thy might, 'Great God our King!'" That's a telling 'em who our King is! "Americans! Conspire! For the sake of the, oh, democracy!" For thee I am singing these songs."

Letters To The Editors: Daniel Webster's Advice

Editor, The News:

We have been having a good deal of thinking about "prow" and "shaking the shackles of the Japanese attack on our possessions" prompted me to try to set down my impressions... Now that practically every great nation in the world is engaged in this contest, many are wondering with no small degree of apprehension just what it is to become the world's... Said Daniel Webster in his last public address: "And let me say, gentlemen, that if we and our posterity shall be true to the Christian religion—if we and they shall live in the fear of God, and shall respect His commandments, if we and they shall maintain just moral sentiments, and such conscientious convictions of duty as shall control the heart and life, we may have the highest hopes of the future fortunes of our country."

Agreement Without Stalling Defense

Editor, The News: Your editorial of Dec 2 commenting upon the settlement of the railroad wage dispute, has been brought to my attention. While we appreciate the high regard you have for the "benefits and share-sharing" of railroad labor, we do not believe we should not adhere all their demands, they succeeded in negotiating an agreement in a peaceful manner without interrupting vital national defense services. A. F. WHITNEY, President, Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, Cleveland, Ohio.

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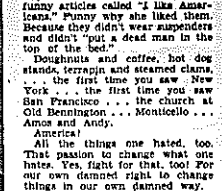
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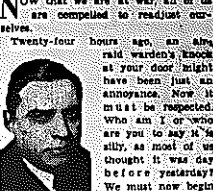
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