

# THE ALAMANCE GLEANER

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## WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

### Japs Guard Against Uprising; Plan to Demobilize 7,000,000; Nation Shifts to Peace Economy

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(EDITOR'S NOTE: When opinions are expressed in these columns, they are those of Western Newspaper Union's news analysts and not necessarily of this newspaper.)

Following the joyous news of Japan's capitulation, many persons the country over recently made their way to church to offer prayers in gratitude for the cessation of hostilities. The crowd worshipping on the steps of St. Patrick's cathedral in New York City was typical, with a constant stream arriving to express their thanksgiving.



### PEACE: Tighten Imperial Grip

Even as General MacArthur arranged the complicated procedure for Japanese surrender and occupation, the U. S. prepared for the major readjustments looming ahead before the nation once again could tread the paths of peace.

With the Japanese government anxious to bring about a cessation of firing before the preliminary surrender parley in Manila, the conference was postponed to permit members of the imperial household to fly to the far-flung Asiatic battlefronts to enforce the emperor's orders to lay down arms.

Appointment of tough and able 57-year-old Prince Higashi-Kuni as Jap premier disclosed an effort to bring all of the weight of the imperial family behind the surrender acceptance to avert any outbreak of diehards which might upset the internal situation. A second cousin of the emperor and an uncle of the empress, Higashi-Kuni has had a long career in the Jap army, serving as chief of the military aviation board, commander of defense headquarters and a member of the supreme war council.

While it was expected that some fanatical officers may try to fight on, or commit hara-kiri, the great mass of Japanese were expected to give up peacefully. "There will be no trouble when American soldiers go to Japan if it is the wish of the emperor," said one Jap naval officer. "The army, navy and Japanese people exist only by the will of the emperor."

### U. S. Demobilizes

With the end of the war, the services' carefully prepared demobilization plans were scheduled to be put into effect, with the draft continuing for men under 25 years of age unless the President or congress ordained otherwise.

Approximately 261,000 enlisted men and 40,000 officers are eligible for release under the navy's newly announced discharge plan requiring 44 points for the enlisted men and 49 for the officers. Under the program, one-half point is allowed for each year of age up to the nearest birthday; one-half point for each full month of active duty since September 1, 1939, and 10 extra points for dependents regardless of number. Requirements for WAVES are about 14 points lower, with the same credit computations.

Designed to relieve men with the longest service, the navy program will permit release of about 2,000,000 men within the next 12 to 18 months, which, with the army's plan for discharging 5,000,000 G.I.s within a year, will result in a total demobilization of 7,000,000 by 1947.

Except for four categories of specialists, all army personnel with 85 points or more will be immediately released, along with men 38 years of age or over. Until such a time as the size of the occupation force needed in Japan can be determined, however, there will be no reduction in the present point system, it was indicated.

With G.I.s in the Pacific eligible for discharge due to be released, men with low-point scores in the U. S. or with only brief European

service must prepare to accept overseas assignments, the army declared.

### Ease Controls

Though five million people were expected to be discharged from war work following cessation of hostilities, industrial plans for a rapid reconversion to civilian manufacture promised early re-employment.

Fortunately, such basic industries as steel will be able to furnish civilian materials with little delay, and plans have been set up to continue government supervision over scarce items to permit more even distribution and prevent speculative hoarding and pressure for price increases.

With its financial position greatly bolstered by heavy wartime production, and with banking funds available before settlement of cancelled war contracts, industry generally is strongly healed for reconversion. Meanwhile, civilians have record cash balances and bond holdings,



Economic Stabilizer Davis (left) and Secretary of Labor Schwelb leave White House after reconversion confab.

and will be able to draw unemployment compensation to tide them over the early transition period.

While manpower controls were removed with Japan's defeat, wage checks were retained to prevent an inflationary spiral, and efforts made to minimize strike threats.

With another bumper crop on tap, farmers could look to continued heavy government purchases for the large military and naval establishments and foreign relief, and an uncertain domestic market dependent on the speed of the reconversion program. Under congressional legislation, however, farmers have been assured of federal price support for at least two years after the war.

Among the first effects of reduced military requirements was the removal of gas, fuel oil, canned fruits, vegetables and juices and other processed foods from the rationing lists. At the same time, price control was lifted from such items as jewelry, sports equipment, toys selling at 25 cents or less, cigarette lighters, pipes, luxury furs and garments, some photographic apparatus and notions.

Because of the shortage of supplies, and no possibility for immediate increases, rationing will be retained on meats, fats and oils, butter, sugar, shoes and tires.

In the case of tires, OPA announced, drivers of cars used for occupational purposes will continue to receive cards according to the importance of their work, and "A" card holders will be given consideration in cases of unusual hardship.

Though a check will be kept on shoes, men's and women's wear manufactured before March 1, 1944, and priced at \$3.50 or less a pair, will be ration-free through to September 28.

### CROPS:

#### Another Good Year

Owing to record yields of wheat, oats, peanuts, rice, peaches, pecans and commercial truck crops; near record prospects for hay, tobacco, soybeans, sugar cane, and large production for potatoes, sorghum grains and flaxseed, the department of agriculture predicted the 1945 harvest would be the third best in history.

With the wheat crop estimated at a record 1,146,283,000 bushels on the basis of conditions as of August 1, and with oats at 1,548,032,000 bushels, feed grain production was at a high level despite the estimated drop in the corn harvest to 2,844,478,000 bushels.

One of the bright spots in the crop picture was the estimated increase in sugar cane production to 6,976,000 tons, and rise in sugar beet output to 9,332,000 tons, promising to relieve the tight supply in the commodity.

#### Conservation Needed

After the most extensive study of farmland resources ever undertaken by any nation, the soil conservation service reported that more than 90 per cent of the country's farmland was in need of treatment to protect it from erosion and maintain fertility.

More than 3,600,000 man years of labor would be required for the huge task, the service said, along with 327,441 years of motor equipment; 1,089,978 years of horse-drawn facilities, and 2,544,106 tons of seed.

Of the 417,561,000 acres of farmland now under actual cultivation, the service said that 43,000,000 should be retired because of steepness, erosion, wetness and stone.

### LABORITE BRITAIN

With Great Britain and all the rest of the world awaiting the pattern of postwar life in the United Kingdom, King George VI presented the victorious Labor party's legislative program, with nationalization of the Bank of England and the coal mines heading the agenda.

At the same time, the king revealed that the war's end would not bring about a release of wartime restrictions, with the Laborites seeking power during the reconversion period to maintain control over materials and services to assure proper distribution at fair prices.

Besides nationalizing the Bank of England to promote employment and development, and socializing the coal mines as part of a program to integrate the fuel and power industry, the Laborites propose to reorganize transport; provide social security and industrial insurance; buy land for housing, and set up machinery for planning investments in new business.

### WORLD RELIEF: Needs Boosted

With the termination of the war in the Pacific expected to multiply its problems, the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration Director Herbert Lehman declared that more than two billion dollars in additional funds would be needed to help stricken countries before their restoration of stable economies.

Speaking at the third international conference of UNRRA at London, Lehman revealed plans for coping with the Asiatic relief problem, disclosing that plans already have been formulated for the shipment of supplies to China over the Stilwell road and through coastal ports. Of the 100 million Chinese reported destitute, many are expected to succumb even if relief should be offered immediately.

The London meeting was enlivened by Australia's demand to broaden the UNRRA control council to nine members instead of the present five. Four to provide smaller nations with greater representation in the allocation of funds.

### FRANCE:

#### Break Marshal

Leader of France's liberation movement, Gen. Charles de Gaulle spared the life of Marshal Henri Petain by commuting his death sentence for plotting against the internal safety of the country to life imprisonment.

Nevertheless, the jury's additional sentence of national indignity stood, imposed even after Petain's final assertion: "My thought, my only thought, was to remain with the people of France as I promised instead of abandoning them in their agony."

My honor belongs to your country. . . . Most controversial French case of the century, Petain's trial found the country sharply divided, with charges on the one hand that the old marshal had delivered the state up to the Germans, and counter-charges on the other that prewar politicians were using the proceedings to whitewash themselves.



### Nizer Ex-Rays a Columnist

By LOUIS NIZER

Attorney, Author of "What to Do With Germany," "Thinking on Your Feet," Etc.

I am afraid to write this column because a columnist must have many talents.

1. He must be a humorist, whose column wears a pun-stripped suit. As for example: Alimony is the high cost of leaving.

Sex magazines are the filth column of America.

Today we have many sulfa-conscious young doctors. True pals stick together 'til debt do them part.

He adored her and the feeling was nuptial.

Time wounds all heels.

2. A columnist must be a movie and theatrical critic who can create atomic bomb devastation with a phrase. As for example: It took the Curies 30 years to find radium; it took Sir William Ramsay 16 years to discover helium; it took this play only 2 hours to produce tedium.

3. A columnist must be a lexicographer who can invent new words which tickle the brain and surprise the eye. As for example: Bilboorish, Rank-in-justice, Teutonic Plague, guesstimate, syndicated column, kilocyclopedia, Emperor Fearhito, infatuation, Petainted.

4. He must be a philosopher who disguises his wisdom in simplicity so that he does not appear pretentious. As for example: It's better to give than to lend and it costs about the same. Suggested sign for a museum: "Touch as much as you like with your eyes, but don't see with your fingers."

I am afraid of Senators who have a difficulty for every solution. Love at first sight often ends with divorce at first sight.

Funny thing about temper, you can't get rid of it by losing it. Man argues that woman can't be trusted too far. Woman argues that man can't be trusted too near.

The President has the power to appoint and disappoint the members of his cabinet.

5. He must be a religionist who realizes that religion is sought, not taught. As for example: An atheist is a man who has no invisible means of support. The best reply to an atheist is to give him a good dinner and ask him if he believes there is a cook.

6. He must be an ironist who does not hesitate to master the art of insult. As for example: She dresses like a bad photograph—underdeveloped and overexposed. His mind is like his farm, naturally barren and made worse by mistaken cultivation.

He is addressing his speech to posterity, but his audience will be here before he finishes.

7. He must be an economist who knows that when a theory collides with a fact, there is a tragedy. As for example: Those who complain about rationing ought to remember that there was no sugar until the 13th Century, no coal until the 15th Century, no coffee until the 17th Century, no matches until the 18th Century and no gasoline until the 19th Century.

8. He must be an internationalist who keeps the conscience of the people boiling. As for example: A good motto for the war criminal trials is: "The prisoners, not the sentences, should be suspended." Don't relax. Germany has more intelligence per square head than any other nation.

International moral: President Lincoln saw a small boy carrying a child up a hill on his shoulders. He asked him whether the burden was not too much for him. The boy answered: "It's not a burden, it's my brother!"

Under fascism, the only virtue is strength. Under democracy, the only strength is virtue.

9. He must be a historian with a human interest touch. As for example: The spelling backward craze goes back a long way. In 1808 there was a political fight over Jefferson's embargo. His political opponents ridiculed him in cartoons as "O Grab Me."

## What My Community Should Do in Postwar Planning

By Geneva Bush Gibson

"GOING my way?" inquired the soft-voiced, smiling marine sergeant as we boarded the same train at our mutual home town station.

During the two-hour ride into the city we talked of many things including the fact that he wanted a small business of his own after the war perhaps on the Al-Can highway.

How I wish I might have said, "Before you make an Al-Can deal, get in touch with our home town Re-Employment Committeemen." I couldn't, however, for my community has not yet undertaken collective postwar planning.

Newton county, an agricultural county of 10,775 population in northwestern Indiana, has announced its Co-operative Planning, the result of a year's study by a committee of 25 comprising men and women representative of all phases of community life. Full-page advertisements paid for by various service clubs of the different towns were run in all of the weekly papers in the county.

#### Re-Employment of Veterans.

The ad began, "More servicemen will return home with the progress of the war. The Re-Employment Committeemen of Newton County, Indiana, in conjunction with its advisory committee and the Agricultural advisory committee, are on the alert. All citizens, both in service and not in service, should realize that the return of the servicemen will mean certain adjustments. This will be so whether he returns to his former civilian job or seeks a new civilian job.

"The servicemen of our country are asked to co-operate with the Re-Employment Committeemen and the citizens by marking the information questionnaires below. Please do not sign. Return to (name of paper)."

Under the general section were listed the following questions: "Do you plan to live in Newton county when discharged from service? Do you plan to seek employment in this area? Do you plan to go to school or take up a special training course under G.I. Bill of Rights? Do you plan to go into business as an employee, as an employer, as an individual, or as a partner? What business?"

"Do you contemplate establishing a new business or taking over an established business? Do you have previous experience in the business? Will you need any additional capital? What source do you contemplate using, private or G.I. Bill of Rights arrangements? Will you need a house? Household equipment?"

Under the agricultural section were these questions: "Are you interested in taking up farming as a landowner, renter, one-third share operator, or hired man? Have you previous experience? What size farm do you have in mind? What type of farm do you desire: livestock, grain, or general? Is there a house available? Do you have a farm in mind to rent or buy? Will you take over from father or relative? Will the farmer you replace retire, seek another farm, or share his operations with you?"

The advertisement concluded, "With the information thus assembled, we shall endeavor to anticipate your return home."

#### An Excellent Pattern.

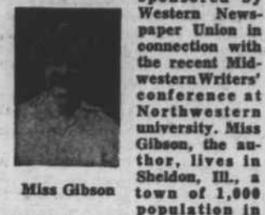
Surely, that is an excellent pattern that my community could afford to follow in starting postwar planning immediately. Instead of a county-wide basis, however, I would suggest that we use our high school district and our consolidated grade school district as the basis for our community boundaries.

Since our men's service organization is the Lion's club, the officers of that organization could ask the officers of the Women's Club, American Legion, and the Legion Auxiliary to meet with them to discuss appointing committees for postwar planning, such persons to be selected from the entire personnel of the community. These committees might well be three: Re-Employment, Memorial, and Education.

Seven members could constitute a Re-Employment committee: a business man, a farmer, the banker, the lumber man, a grain man, the Red Cross home service chairman, and a minister. I should prefer for the business man and farmer to be Legionnaires and to act as co-chairmen. To lend advice on the possible success of new business ventures is the reason for suggesting the banker.

The lumber man, on the other hand, can head a subcommittee of

Editor's Note: This article won the first prize in a contest sponsored by Western Newspaper Union in connection with the recent Midwestern Writers' conference at Northwestern University. Miss Gibson, the author, lives in Sheldon, Ill., a town of 1,000 population in Iroquois county, which is one of the leading agricultural counties of the Prairie state. After graduation from the school of journalism at the University of Illinois, she became a teacher of journalism at the Champaign, Ill., senior high school. At present she is a free lance journalist and chairman of public information for the Iroquois county chapter of the American Red Cross.



Miss Gibson

the building interests whose task it will be to supply the additional homes and business structures. As the grain man deals with farming interests, yet resides in town, he should be able to see both sides of the picture. The Red Cross home service chairman and a minister are recommended because of their contacts with servicemen.

When this committee has worked out an information questionnaire, it can be published in the local paper, for our weekly paper goes to all the boys and girls in the service.

With the questionnaires returned, the committee can begin to compile information. Then they can canvass the community to see what jobs will be available so that when Sam, who wants to be a partner in a grocery store, comes home, he can be sent to see Mr. Fuller who wants to retire from active work and become a silent partner.

On the second committee, the Memorial, I would have five members, all men interested in sports: the high school board athletic chairman, the grade school board athletic chairman, a business man, a farmer, and a veteran, the latter to be chairman.

#### Trees As Memorials.

Windstorms have played havoc with the beautiful trees for which our town is noted. What better memorial to our war dead than stately trees? I should like to see the village, which is now free from debt, plant American elms and hard maple trees in the parking: the American elm because it is a quick growing tree and the hard maple because it has the most beautiful autumnal foliage of any tree I know.

As a memorial to our gallant fighters who return, I should like to have a well-run sports program. A number of things may be considered, among them an outdoor swimming pool at the high school, with the school showers and dressing rooms available to the swimmers. The initial cost might well be met by popular subscription with the school operating the pool afterwards.

During the summer vacation, the pool could be open suitable nights from 7 to 11 with swimming classes scheduled certain afternoons from 4 to 6. The athletic coach should be the director. In the winter the pool could be flooded and used for ice skating.

Softball might well be revived, for the grounds are still available and it would not take long to hook up the lights. Four organizations such as business firms could each sponsor a team with one or two nights a week set aside for double header games. There should be no admission charge, but a collection should be taken to pay for the lights. Moreover, consideration should be given to reinstalling croquet courts in the park for the youngsters and marking off space for horseshoes for the oldsters.

My town faithfully follows high school basketball, which provides excellent winter recreation. A survey should be made, however, to see how the high school gymnasium may be used winter evenings for adults for calisthenics, volley ball, handball, basketball and folk dancing. In all of this sports program the goal must be to use available community resources to provide a varied program to reach the greatest number of people.

#### Educational Needs.

Last but not least is the Education committee which should consist of five members: the high school principal, the grade school principal, a town father who has children in school, a farm mother who has children in school, and a high school alumnus, the latter to be chairman.

The business of this Education committee should be to make a survey of the postwar educational needs

and make recommendations to the boards of education.

Perry L. Schneider, head of the evening elementary school division of the New York City board of education, says that there is a growing demand by adults for short non-credit courses in cultural subjects such as history, global geography, economics, current events, literature, music, art, crafts, and hobbies. He believes that it will be necessary to educate parents for reduction of juvenile delinquency.

Some of the courses Mr. Schneider suggests may be applicable to small schools. Perhaps the folks in my community will want not only the agricultural night classes which have proved popular but classes in manual training, personal typing, foods, sewing, interior decorating or child psychology.

For those adults who still enjoy taking part in plays, a community players' club might well be organized to meet once a week and to present one or two plays for the entire community. Those who like to sing might form a community chorus which could present concerts while those who like to play a musical instrument might form a community dance band to sponsor six dances.

Since our public library has a small stage, these three groups could easily use that as their meeting place so as not to monopolize the high school gym, which is a combined gym and auditorium. These clubs as well as adult evening classes should be considered a part of the high school teacher's work and enough teachers should be hired to take care of the demands.

Of even greater educational concern is the quality of the grade school and high school instruction, for servicemen will want good schools for their children.

It will be well to consider restoring to the elementary school the subjects that were dropped because no teachers were available: art, cooking, sewing, and manual training. Likewise attention should be given to possible new subjects.

#### "Every Day Living for Boys."

Perhaps eighth grade boys should be taught simple cooking, selection and care of their clothes, bedmaking, and room care in a course called, "Every Day Living for Boys." Both boys and girls might be taught simple gardening practices and encouraged to have their own garden plots during the summer.

As a part of the high school survey it would be right to consider if the history courses are providing the citizenship training we want and if the English classes in addition to teaching our young people to speak and write correctly are giving them the proper evaluating standards so that they will know how to judge a newspaper, magazine, book, movie, and radio program, thus discarding the trash and fastening their minds on the things worth remembering.

Since cooking and sewing were required of eighth grade girls, it would seem sensible to require of the freshman girls a home management course which could incorporate some principles of home sewing. Then during the three summer vacations of their high school days they might undertake such projects as canning vegetables, house cleaning and cooking, with credit to be given for such projects after due inspection by the teacher in charge.

A first aid course comparable to the one taught by the American Red Cross should be required of every boy and girl after he is 16 years of age and before he is graduated.

In a recent forum on divorce conducted by the Town Club of Chicago, Samuel A. Rinella, divorce attorney, declared, "Our schools train students in everything from carpentering to radio announcing but not enough, if anything, is done about instructing men and women in marriage."

Mr. Rinella's statement is so true that I think the Education committee should consider recommending a required semester's course in the senior year for both boys and girls in general sociology, marriage and the family.

In 1865 the folks of Pleasant Valley, a little village in the foothills of the Alleghenias, piled the relics of the Civil War that had just ended, the old brass cannon, the battered muskets, the broken swords, and the rusted bayonets into one heap. They melted them down and from them cast the gentle bells of Pleasant Valley to ring out over green fields and fertile farms as a memorial to their loved ones lost in that war.

Likewise, it is my hope that the Postwar Planning of the Re-Employment, Memorial, and Education committees will result in making my community a Pleasant Place in which to live.