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**MAX CAMPBELL** Editor  
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### LOOKING AT WASHINGTON

By Hugo S. Sims, Washington Correspondent

#### Soviet Press Mentions "Allies in The Pacific"

In explaining the new agreement with Japan and referring to relinquishment of Japanese rights to coal and oil in Sakhalin, Izvestia, official organ of the Kremlin, says that it is "advantageous to Russia and her allies in war."

The Soviet newspaper goes further, explaining that the demands were made in 1941 but not conceded and that the present surrender of Japan indicates not only the strength of Russia but "consideration of the special interests of our allies in the Pacific."

This, so far as we know, is the nearest that the Russians have come to recognizing an interest in the war in the Pacific. The reader will recall that Teheran was necessary because Stalin would not go to Cairo where Chinese, British and Americans discussed the war in the Far East.

At no time has a declaration come from Moscow, either in Izvestia or from official sources, intimating that Russia might join in the war against Japan. The statement discussed, for the first time, recognizes "allies in the Pacific" and seemingly paves the way for additional pressure against the Japanese at the proper time.

It would be unwise, perhaps, to read too much in the Izvestia statement, or to jump to the conclusion that the Soviet will attack Japan when Stalin thinks the timing appropriate. Just the same, the past relationship between Russia and Japan would encourage the suspicion that if Japan gets weaker, the Soviet will attempt to use the opportunity to straighten out the situation in Manchuria and elsewhere.

#### By-Elections Reveal Little Despite Political Experts

There is something ludicrous in the efforts of politicians and political commentators to discover a momentary trend in various elections which occur throughout the country.

The most recent example is the Oklahoma election held recently. Of this election, the Associated Press said: "Both sides had agreed in advance that the election would be a test of New Deal strength."

Previously, the political experts "interpreted" the results of eleven special elections. Most of the oracles viewed the trend according to their political preferences, which, it seems, is the chief ingredient in political prophecies.

In the twelve special elections accepted by Allied military leaders because of questions of grand strategy rather than because of the acknowledged difficulty of dislodging the Nazis from Cassino. The disappointment might have been avoided and so might possible unfavorable political reactions on the Continent, had the Allies not seemed to commit themselves to the capture of Rome. However, their drive on that capital may have been the only bid which would have diverted heavy German forces from operations elsewhere.

Even at this moment, and with War Secretary Stimson frankly, indeed almost ostentatiously admitting that the simple fact is that the Germans "stopped us," the Italian campaign must be written on the credit side of the Allied ledgers. The fall of Mussolini, the disruption of Fascism, the knocking of Hitler's most important satellite out of the war, the acquisition of air bases for raiding the Nazi bastille from the south—these are all tremendous political and military assets.

If they are not to be capitalized as expected, that is because greater things are to be undertaken elsewhere. One wonders, in fact, whether Mr. Stimson's observation could have been even franker—whether he might not just as truly have said, as a member of top Allied councils, "They stopped our left hand."—The Christian Science Monitor.

eight have not resulted in the unseating of the party in office. In three districts, the Republicans gained seats held by Democrats and in one district a Democrat took the seat of a Republican. The net result was a gain of two seats for the Republicans.

It would be almost impossible to gauge the outcome of the presidential election by the results of congressional elections. The issues are hardly ever the same. Local matters are usually transcendent in congressional districts. Moreover, in the case of a strong President, such as Franklin D. Roosevelt, the pulling power of the Chief Executive inevitably strengthens the party ticket because he is stronger than his party.

#### Attack On Palau Shows Jap Fleet Is On The Run

A magnificent example of miscalculation and misunderstood "island hopping" is the attack of the U. S. Fleet upon Palau Islands, which are only 550 miles from Mindanao, one of the Philippine Islands.

From Kwajalein to the Palau islands is more than 2,000 miles. That our ships disregard Truk, about halfway between Kwajalein and Palau on their mission proves that, for the present, the Navy dominates the central Pacific.

Many Americans do not yet know the vast offensive which has been launched against the Gilbert, Marsden and Caroline island groups carries out the plan of warfare devised by the Navy many years ago. The Navy postponed execution of its strategy until ships could be constructed.

After Pearl Harbor, when peculiar Americans were asking, "Where is the Navy?" few stopped to think that, if there had been no sneak attack, the American fleet was not strong enough to mount an offensive against Jap positions in the central Pacific. This was due to the parsimonious policy of Congressmen who considered it foolish to build warships.

The attack upon the Palau islands carries forward the announced strategy of Admiral Nimitz to blast a way to China, via the Philippines. Once a base is established, the Jap fleet will have to fight or Japan will surrender its island empire, which in former years was administered from the Palau.

The Palau Islands are 6,605 miles from San Francisco, 4,995 from Honolulu, our pre-war naval base, and 1040 miles from Manila. They are northwest of Guadalcanal, 2,110 miles away, and 1,775 miles from Nagasaki, one of Japan's great seaports which is protected by a high island from whose steep heights many hundreds of Christians were once thrown to death.

Interesting are other distances from Palau; Truk, to the southeast, 1,175 miles; Gaum, to the northeast, 810 miles; Wake, also northeast, 2,305 miles; Shanghai, slightly northwest, 1,845 miles; Hong Kong, northwest, 1,695 miles and Tatanan, Mormosa, 1,435 miles.

#### Mishaps Inevitable In War; Publicity Not Advisable

There seems to be underway, for motives unknown, an effort to make it appear that the Army and Navy withhold vital information from the American people and that the censorship is operated for ulterior purposes.

In addition, certain publicists, columnists, commentators and politicians go into oratorical convulsions whenever an item of news is reported from London prior to publication in this country.

We do not believe that these protests are made with the deliberate intention of undermining confidence in official statements and communications. They are made for partisan and political purposes, which cannot be served, however, unless they tend to create doubt in the minds of our

people as to the accuracy of the news and announcements.

Some weeks ago it was revealed that some of our air transports were shot down by mistake in the invasion of Sicily and that the accident had not been cleared by military officials. Subsequently, the incident was confirmed by our leaders, but it is difficult to see where the press or the public has been benefitted by the publicity given to the matter.

Recently, the War and Navy Department have shown a desire to forestall criticism by releasing news of accidents which occurred in the course of warfare.

The War Department told how an American transport plane, unidentified by a British aircraft carrier, was shot down by the fighter planes of our ally, with a loss of six members of the civilian crew.

The Navy announced that, during operations at Eniwetok Atoll, a destroyer accidentally shelled three American landing craft, killing thirteen men and wounding forty-six others.

Anybody with ordinary intelligence knows that such accidents have occurred in every war and that they will occur in all future wars. While responsible officials always conduct investigations in order to ascertain the causes of such accidents and, if the facts warrant, to fix the blame for carelessness or inefficiency, it is questionable whether the interest of the country requires that the details of such mishaps be given general publicity.

Frankly, we know of no advantage gained by the widespread publicity given to the incident of the Sicilian Coast and we can see no benefit whatever from the publicity given the other incidents.

#### Big Business Promoting Slick Propaganda Racket

We hear much about "preserving free enterprise" and the "freedom of opportunity" but the suspicion arises that these slogans are being used as camouflage to conceal the effort of reactionary big business leaders to lower taxes on corporations, to secure unjust enrichment from war contracts and to secure control of the post-war economy of the nation.

Everybody is in favor of economic freedom for individuals, except possibly some of the big business organizations which have persistently throttled competition and monopolized certain fields for themselves. The propaganda for "free enterprise" stems from business groups that have attempted to throttle free enterprise in their own economic fields.

Much the same comment applies to the demand that the "Government stay out of business." This line of argument is advanced by the same business interests and for the same ultimate purpose. It is a principle that is violated with impunity by business itself which is everlastingly and eternally seeking legislation designed to restrain competition or to protect investments.

Obviously, if the Government must get out of business, it must sell its plants to the highest bidders. The experience of the nation after World War I, creates more than a suspicion that the bids will be few and often

the result of collusion.

Another favorite theme of the reactionary business group is that the Government should, within thirty days after cancellation of a war contract, settle with the contractor and pay him in full. While this may be practicable in the case of small corporations, it is obvious nonsense when applied to larger corporations which hold most of the war contracts.

If the Government is compelled to make a settlement that is conclusive

and final without thorough investigation, the chances are that the Government will be taken to ride. Many of these contracts were made by officials of big business drafted for the war emergency.

Lindsay C. Warren, U. S. Controller-General, discussing laws now before Congress, says that they provide for the settlement of war claims virtually on the say-so of the contractors. Mr. Warren pulls no punches. (Continued on Page Four)

THE LONG VIEW PROVES THIS: But the liberal deviseth liberal things; and by liberal things shall he stand.—Isa. 32:8.

### False Alarms And Feints

The people of the United States, along with those of other Allied countries, are intensely interested in the cross-Channel invasion which is expected to deliver the final blow to the German Army.

While the day of invasion approaches, no person except those in the highest positions of leadership, knows when the advance will be sounded.

Meanwhile, there is little profit to be had through speculation as to when General Eisenhower will move his men. Winston Churchill, in his recent radio address, warned his listeners that, "to deceive and baffle the enemy, there will be many false alarms, feints and dress-rehearsals."

### A Minority Of Racketeers

What's wrong with the United States?

That is a question that the politicians attempt to answer in one breath while shouting their heads off about the superiority of the American system in the next breath.

There is no patriotism in being ignorant and intelligent Americans know that there is much wrong with the United States. This does not mean that our nation is worse than other nations or that the writer is ignorant of the great blessings that belong to the American people.

If anybody wants to know some of the things wrong with this country we will cite a few instances from the news:

(1) Three shipyard workers arrested in Maryland for fraudulently checking the welding done by an estimated 700 workers, each of whom paid \$1 for the overcheck which added as much as \$15 a day to the welder's pay.

(2) A New Yorker arrested for selling certificates to business men, enabling them to buy cigarettes at a rate established for shipments overseas. This fakir operated a "patriotic, non-profit group" but the district attorney says he made \$11,000 in four months.

(3) A North Carolina man, convicted of having 2,558 gasoline coupons, two-thirds of which were allegedly counterfeit.

(4) Forty men in Los Angeles arrested in connection with the sale of drugs which enabled men to evade induction by causing them to develop temporary symptoms of mental and physical unfitness for military service.

Let's stop the list, which could be lengthened. The criminals are not the individuals mentioned in the stories alone. In practically every instance there were hundreds, or thousands, of people who were just as guilty as the men arrested. No crook can operate for a profit unless he contacts other crooks.

Here we have a nation at war, fighting two dangerous enemies at the same time. While millions of Americans loyally support their country and seek to obey its laws a few sharks take advantage of conditions to graft and get what they are not entitled to have.

What is your reaction to this recital? Do you condemn the user of the fake gasoline coupons along with the crooked seller? Do you condemn the welders who robbed the government through the aid of the crooked checkers?

### Italian Stop-Over

When the first attacks were made on the Italian mainland by the Allied forces, this newspaper and other observers pointed out that Italy was geographically a blind alley. If the Allies drove northward far enough they would come up against the Alps. Italy did not look like the road to Berlin.

The stalemate there is a disappointment nevertheless despite the fact that it seems to have been ac-



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