

LOOKING AT WASHINGTON

By HUGO S. SIMS, Washington Correspondent

Chinese Complaints Linked With Wallace's Journey

President Henry Wallace, it is reported, has gone to China to silence the complaint that no prominent official of the American Government has paid a visit to that country.

It is also reported that the Chinese are somewhat dissatisfied with the amount of assistance rendered from the United States and there are suggestions, both from India and China, that more American troops should be dispatched to help in those areas.

These items bring to mind the fact that there are about seven hundred million people in the areas included in India and China and that it seems reasonable to expect them to build an army to adequately deal with the aggressors of Japan. It is readily understood that extensive assistance in the form of weapons and supplies will be necessary but it is more difficult to understand why there exists a great necessity to contemplate the dispatch of a large American army into China or India.

Will Pacifists Junk Navy After War?

The Congress of the United States has passed a bill appropriating \$32,000,000 to the Navy and there is satisfaction that this country will have a combatant strength equal to the rest of the world by 1945.

The people of this country should overlook the fact that, after the first World War, the United States

was building the greatest navy in the world. It ran aground of the Harding-Hughes disarmament conference, with the result that warships which cost hundreds of millions of dollars were scrapped.

Unless the nation has learned its lesson, there is danger that the same process will be repeated when the present war ends. "Hardheaded" business men will demand economy in order to lower taxes, pacifists will proclaim again that armaments produce war and muddle-headed idealists will announce the arrival of permanent peace.

Unless somebody resists the pressure of these propagandists, the Navy will be junked again.

Congress Has The Power To Curb Any President

Senator Robert M. La Follette, of Wisconsin, admits "grave doubt of the ability of the legislative arm of the Government to maintain its proper position in the struggle for power with the executive branch" unless "constructive action is taken to better prepare the Congress to meet the complex problems of the war and post-war period."

This observation, properly interpreted, means that the Congress divided into two houses with 533 members, is not organized, equipped or able to handle certain problems that inevitably arise in the life of this country.

Very wisely, the Constitution places the conduct of foreign affairs

and the direction of warfare in the hands of the Chief Executive who, at least, is able to make decisions and make them effective. Imagine 533 politicians, debating and jockeying for political benefits, trying to direct, in minute detail, the foreign policy of the nation or directing the over-all strategy of the present war.

The Congress of the United States has considerable power to check the Chief Executive. It must make all appropriations, which power effectively controls domestic policies and could, if necessary, exercise influence upon foreign affairs. In addition, no chief executive could long persist in a foreign policy which was opposed by the majority of both Houses and no treaty can be made without the consent of two-thirds of the Senate.

Hines Advises Congress To Delay Veteran Action

Frank T. Hines, Veterans' Administrator, recently opposed legislation increasing the pensions of veterans of World War I and II from \$40.00 to \$50.00 monthly.

Mr. Hines told the Senate Finance Committee that more than 100,000 veterans have been added to the pension rolls during the present war. He suggests that Congress defer action until it knows more about the number of veterans to be paid pensions as a result of the present war.

The United States, as a Government, has always paid liberal pensions to the veterans of its wars. This is a political certainty as long as candidates for public office expect to receive the votes of veterans. What the nation will be able to do for veterans at the end of this war will naturally depend upon the number of veterans to be pensioned.

No American citizen objects to generous treatment of wounded American servicemen. We naturally believe that the Government should also compensate dependents of those who lose their lives in the service of the nation.

The responsibility to the wounded and the dependents of deceased service men represent a prior obligation of the nation. These groups should be cared for first and, afterward, the nation should do what it desires in regard to other service men.

King Says Complete Fleet Could Not Have Saved Manila

Among the interesting statements made by Admiral E. J. King, Commander-in-Chief of the United States Fleet and Chief of Operations, in his recent report, is the assertion that our fleet could not have saved Manila, even if the Pearl Harbor disaster had not occurred.

The Admiral also makes it plain, that, even without the losses sustained at Pearl Harbor, the Navy could not have carried the war to the enemy, because neither the Army nor the Navy was sufficiently expanded for such an offensive task.

Admiral King emphasizes that a Navy cannot be built overnight nor men to run it trained in a few weeks. He counted the years of peace and disarmament, when the United States did not even build up to the Treaty limits and pointed out that it was not until 1933 that we really embarked on a building program.

Results of War Effort Makes Criticism Absurd

One of the most amazing developments of the present war is the undercurrent of criticism directed against the magnificent effort of the United States.

In World War I, the nation transported a large expeditionary force over the Atlantic, one-third of our tanks and our Allies represent one-fifth of our military vehicles. The contributions made to the war effort included more than 800,000 other military vehicles, more than 25,000 tanks and the aid given our Allies also included more than 30,000 planes. Lend-Lease, more than 30,000 planes, shipped to Allied nations, under the world's largest air force and has created the United States has created the world's largest air force. In addition, our effort in 1917-18. These contributions vastly exceeded Axis.

practically alone in fighting the war. The British fleet was Atlantic where the British fleet was to add considerable strength in the ships to overwhelm the Japanese and has almost miraculously created war-oversas than in the first war. It has a larger force of fighting men already in this war, this nation, French, Russian and Japanese fleets, which included the British, Italian, its contribution to Allied seapower, weapons they used. The Navy made foreign countries for some of the to Europe but had to depend upon tank-destroyers, trucks, jeeps and

other critical military vehicles. Truly, American production has been miraculous and the growth of our fighting power on land, sea and in the air has been amazing. Beside the record, the carping criticism of the critics sounds absurd.

Full Truth About War Would Cost Many Lives

Some critics of the War Department advance the simple suggestion that truth-telling should be the guide in regard to all war news.

Upon the surface, the principle seems sound but any analysis re-

veals that it is poppy-cock. No army in the world has ever told the complete truth about any war and it would be stupid for any chief-of-staff to permit the promiscuous peddling of pessimistic rumors and inevitable errors.

Much has been made of the failure of the Army to reveal the loss of our transport planes, shot down by our forces in the Mediterranean. We are unable to understand how earlier revelation of the accident would have improved the conduct of the war or prevented similar unfortunate

occurrences. Certainly, there is no room for argument against the dictum of Prime Minister Winston Churchill, who, referring to censorship to prevent pessimistic journalists from proclaiming their misgivings, insists that if the pessimism is warranted, the enemy should certainly not be advised and, if the pessimism is unwarranted, the lamentations should not be printed.

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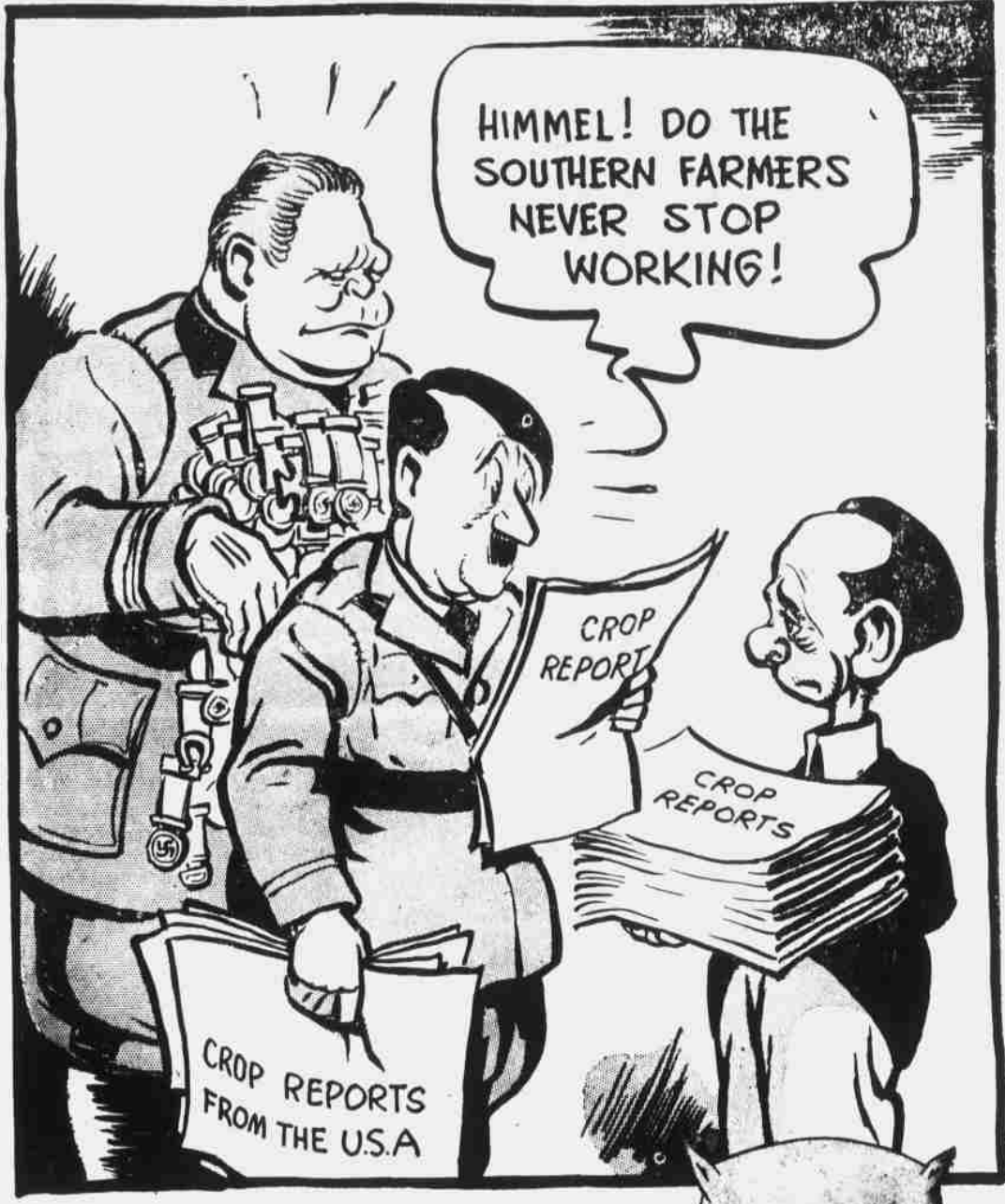
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