

# TODAY and TOMORROW

BY WALTER LIPPMANN

## War Information

THERE have been, it seems to me, two main sources of trouble in the government's dealing with war information.

One of them might be called the aftermath of Pearl Harbor: for the first few months there was nothing but bad news of serious reverses and, put to this very hard test, the government flinched and then handled the bad news badly. This has caused a general sense of anxiety and uncertainty.

The other source of trouble has been in the field covered by the temporary war agencies and more specifically in the President's curious failure to set them up efficiently. This has caused the confusion about rationing and similar measures which depend upon popular understanding.

Mr. Elmer Davis is taking charge at a time when the real situation in the Pacific has become much more favorable as a result of the campaign in the Coral Sea and of the battle of Midway. But the effects of the earlier period remain in that the credit of our official war news has been impaired. It will be Mr. Davis's first task to restore its credit.

This is not a matter of publishing information not now known about what happened at Pearl Harbor and about what happened the same day to the American air force in the Philippines. For the essential information about these disasters is known. It is no longer a secret to the enemy or to a host of Americans. The problem now is how to square the official accounts in such a way that henceforth official accounts will be read with confidence.

This can be said, and I think, must be said without taking too critical a view of what the service departments did under the shock of the dangerous and humiliating surprise in the first phase of the war. The full extent of a damage done at Pearl Harbor could not be disclosed until the damage had been repaired and the defenses of that critical position made secure. The initial disaster in the Philippines could not be talked about while the American and Filipino armies were making their tremendous stand on Bataan and at Corregidor.

It would have been better, no doubt, if no attempt had been made to discount the somber reality of the opening phase of the war by magnifying and ballyhooing small tactical successes. But in the main what is wanting now is the kind of confession which is good for the soul: a candid disclosure of the defeats we suffered.

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Whatever Mr. Davis decides to do about the past which he inherits, one thing we may count upon. Unlike those who have carried the burden of the first dark months, Mr. Davis will be leading from strength rather than from weakness. Though we may suffer reverses, the position should never again be so dangerously exposed as it was in December and January. Therefore, circumstances should not impose upon him an almost impossible hard choice between truth and dire necessity.

But Mr. Davis will almost certainly have a difficult task when he comes to making intelligible the government's information on internal affairs. The root of the trouble here is that the President has not recognized the necessity of giving Mr. Nelson, Mr. Henderson, and now Mr. Davis, the authority and the standing which men with their responsibilities ought to have.

The fact that their authority rests on vague executive orders and on personal contact with the President is exceedingly awkward and a constant source of embarrassment. The Constitutional ground under their feet is not firm when they are dealing with the regular departments, when they are dealing with Congress, when they are dealing with the public. They have to administer their jobs not by well defined authority but by influence, and it is here that the conflicting statements about rubber, gasoline and the rest are generated. How could Mr. MacLeish, how now can Mr. Davis—neither of them with cabinet rank, neither of them confirmed by the Senate, both of them personal Presidential appointees—edit and vet the speeches and public pronouncement of, let us say, Mr. Ickes and Mr. Jones and Mr. Henderson? Have we not just seen that it needed the President himself to silence the babel of voices on the subject of rubber and gasoline?

If we look still more closely at the position of the emergency offices, we shall find, I believe, that the fundamental defect is that the President has placed at their head technicians and not experts rather than public men, statesmen and politicians. Now indispensable as are technicians and experts, they cannot successfully conduct government. The technicians and the experts need to be led and they need to be protected by public men.

Take for example, the Army and the relation between General Marshall, the military technician, and Secretary Stimson, the public man. Suppose General Marshall were at the head of the War Department; it would be General Marshall who would have to conduct the relations of the Army with Congress, with the general public, with the other departments of government. General Marshall would have very little time and energy left to organize and command the Army, and he would be wracked by a thousand disputes and pressures that now are absorbed by Secretary Stimson and the civilian staff of the War Department.

Now Mr. Nelson is a technician; he has no political experience. Mr. Henderson is a technician; he has never held a political office, elective or appointive. Mr. Davis is, a technician; a very distinguished absolutely reliable professional journalist; but he has never been in public life. I submit that these men ought to have the same kind of political guidance and political protection as Secretary Stimson gives to General Marshall and as Secretary Hull gives to the State Department. For only now and then can the President find time and energy to guide and protect his political orphans. They have to be in political hot water before they are taken care of at the White House.

What is the use of pretending that it is not necessary to understand politics in order to conduct a government? Yet because the President does not like to alter his Cabinet, he has set up outside the Cabinet, expose naked to all the political weather men like Nelson, Henderson, MacLeish and Davis. These men are not politicians but they have to do the work of politicians. They must do it, more Secretary Hull gives to the State without the prestige of rank as per-over, without the insignia of office, astonishing that they attract to themselves all the rancors of politics and must face them without the armor or the training of a politician?

We shall, I suppose muddle through. But if we do, it will be because the press, understanding the plight of the orphaned experts, takes them under its protection and sees them through their ordeal.

Search Made For Car Stolen From New Bern

NEW BERN, June 17.—Local officers and highway patrolmen are searching for the automobile of H. C. Waldrop, which was stolen here June 11. It is a brown, four-door Plymouth sedan, 1937 model, and bears state license tag 351097 and city tag 1176. The car had a flat tire, and the key was left in it.

## 3 Chamber Of Commerce Committees Appointed

Three standing committees of the local Chamber of Commerce were appointed by President E. A. Laney Tuesday at a meeting of the board of directors.

Mr. Laney announced the following appointments, explaining that others will follow shortly:

Advertising and Publicity—F. E. Little, R. A. Dunlea, George L. Stearns, J. L. Allegood, D. J. Herpin, R. C. Fergus and George McFarland, Sr.

Agriculture—J. K. Bannerman, S. A. Cross, R. W. Galphin, G. S. Curran and T. H. Wright.

Port Development—N. E. Drexler, T. D. Love, Jr., H. E. Boyd, J. B. Brinkley, N. L. Foy, and B. B. Cameron.

The board adopted a resolution looking to action in Washington relative to the recent movement to secure additional sugar for the Wilmington area. The acting secretary was instructed to write Senators J. W. Bailey, Robert Reynolds and Rep. J. Bayard Clark, attaching copies of the resolution adopted several weeks ago, and seek their aid in the matter.

The offices of the Chamber of Commerce and staff will be offered to the Community Chest movement during the organization period, it was decided by the directors.

They also endorsed the USO campaign for \$28,000 and expressed the hope that it will be carried through successfully here.

## JAPS CAPTURE SHANGJAO CITY

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Attacking in the wake of the capture of Changshan, on the Chekiang-Kiangsi border, was recaptured by the Chinese.

The Chinese reports told of fighting south of Shangjiao, southwest of Kweiiki, and in central Kiangsi province as Chinese forces struck at the extended Japanese flanks. The high command said one Japanese force of about 1,000 men was wiped out last Sunday near Tengpu but Japanese reinforcements were sent up and fighting continued.

In central China, meanwhile, the Chinese said they had recaptured the Yangtze river port of Hoshuch, in Hupeh province, 24 hours after the Japanese took the city. The Japanese sought the port as a shipping center.

## House Group Discloses Building Two Million Tons Fighting Ships

WASHINGTON, June 17.—(AP)—The House Naval committee disclosed tonight that this nation has 1,009,245 tons of fighting ships built since 1934 in service and 2,646,606 tons under construction.

The \$8,550,000,000 fleet expansion measure would add 500,000 tons of aircraft carriers, 500,000 tons of light and heavy cruisers, and 900,000 tons of destroyers and destroyer escort vessels, together with 1,000 smaller craft, 800 of which would be sub chasers and torpedo boats.

In a formal report on the expansion bill, the committee declared it was intended to "utilize the country's shipbuilding program to the fullest extent which does not cramp or hinder other war programs through the calendar year 1944."

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## A Toy From Midway



Mrs. Helen Buckner, wife of Capt. Jean H. Buckner, commander of a marine corps anti-aircraft battery which helped repulse a Japanese raid on Midway, holds the first toy sent by Captain Buckner from the embattled island to their five-months-old son, David Nelson Buckner, whom the father has never seen.

## Women Ready To Take Pay Cut If Savings Go To Government

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J., June 17.—(AP)—The International Ladies Garment Workers union (AFL) offered today to work on war contracts for lower wages than are now paid on private contracts, provided manufacturers of war goods passed the savings on to the government.

The union's general executive board, in voting the offer, suggested no specific percentage of wage reduction on government work, but appointed a five-man committee to discuss the matter with representatives of the government and manufacturers.

The War Production board has promised to let the women's apparel industry make 20 percent of the Army and Navy uniforms, but that will provide work for only 3,000 of about 10,000 I. L. G. W. U. members in the New York area.

Five hundred smaller dress manufacturers are planning to pool their machinery and resources in an effort to get contracts for such war goods as gas masks, parachutes, field jackets and sand bags. The union's offer to accept lower wages if necessary was made to further that plan.

MAGICIAN MACARTHUR  
LOS ANGELES, June 17.—(AP)—Gen. Douglas MacArthur accepted membership today in the Society of American Magicians. To a cable from the Southern California assembly of the society, signed by Mrs. Harry Houdini and proffering an honorary life membership, General MacArthur replied: "Delighted and honored."

## WELLES ADVOCATES COOLING-OFF TERM

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become partners, with full equality of status, in a new world understanding—an economic understanding, open to the participation of all other nations of like mind—and economic understanding which may well become the nucleus of a United Nations organization for the relief and economic reconstruction of the post-war world.

Welles said that during the transition between the end of the war and the final conclusion of peace there would be a vital need for such an organization because: "Millions of the world's peoples will be homeless; in Europe and in Asia transportation systems will be ruined, production facilities destroyed, farms laid waste, cities devastated; we shall all of us be confronted with the gigantic task of converting to peace-time uses whole industries now producing munitions of war.

"There must be agreement upon the objectives to be attained; machinery for carrying out the agreed action of the United Nations; and cooperative effort of the highest order among all of the United Nations, to which the oppressed peoples of the earth may look with hope when they have cast off their chains."

## WEATHER

(Continued from Page One)

WASHINGTON, June 17.—(AP)—Weather Bureau report of temperature and rainfall for the 24 hours ending 8 p. m., in the principal cotton growing areas and elsewhere:

Station	High	Low	Prec.
Asheville	77	62	0.00
Atlanta	85	68	0.00
Boston	87	50	0.00
Chicago	77	52	0.00
Denver	82	52	0.00
Detroit	77	56	0.00
Fort Worth	95	75	0.00
Galveston	88	80	0.00
Jacksonville	91	70	0.06
Little Rock	88	68	0.14
Miami	91	72	0.00
New Orleans	92	75	0.00
New York	70	64	0.58
Norfolk	90	70	0.00
Portland, Me.	50	47	0.04
St. Louis	74	57	0.00
Tampa	94	73	0.06
Washington	80	67	0.00
Wilmington	88	71	0.00

## RAF FLIER SOARS OVER PARIS STREETS

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cause there were too many civilians about—of whom most were waving at us.

"One very fat Hun shook his fist."

The French who waved recognized the RAF symbol on the wings.

The air ministry news service said Gatward at one stage of the flight crossed a German airfield only 20 feet in the air, ducked once under high tension power lines and came home with a dead rook jammed in the radiator. The bird had been swept off its feet.

Sergeant G. Fern, observer-gunner, remarked that a few bullets were fired from a rooftop gun post on the outskirts of Paris, but that otherwise "it was like a peacetime flight."

## TEACHER COMMISSIONED

RALEIGH, June 17.—(AP)—Dr. Howard N. Nahikian, assistant professor in the Department of Mathematics at State college, has been commissioned as a lieutenant, junior grade, in the U. S. Navy and gone to Chicago for officer training. Dr. H. H. Fisher, head of the department, reported today.

## WAKE UP YOUR LIVER BILE

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GENUINE PANAMA HATS

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