

Washington Digest

Courteous Japs Kow-Tow To Victorious Americans

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Recently, I had two experiences which melded.

I ran into my colleague, Kenneth Romney Jr., son of Kenneth Romney Sr., sergeant at-arms of the house of representatives. Young Romney recently has taken up his duties in radio again after a belated discharge from the military service, the latter part of which was spent with the "cloak and dagger" boys, the Office of Strategic Services.



Baukhage

Casually, he told me how he landed in Shanghai. He had been serving in China. Shortly after V-J Day he was ordered, along with some hundred other American officers and soldiers, to Shanghai. It was known there were no Chinese troops in the city. Shanghai had been in Japanese hands since the beginning of the war. The civilian population had become none too co-operative.

Hence, the Americans (even the "cloak and dagger" boys) arrived in full battle dress.

Their plane landed, and little brown men came forward toward them. The Americans had their rifles at "ready." Some fired. But the Japs, undeterred, came forward, bowing deeply, smiling. It was a Japanese ground force, ready and anxious to service the American planes.

Later came Jap officers with a whole fleet of limousines. The Americans were guests, not conquerors. The conquered enemy were hosts—not just the conquered. They offered to find accommodations and the trimmings. A little confusing, the Americans thought, but that was, after all, the Orient—China, another world.

Now the scene shifts to Washington again. I witness the meeting of a husband and wife. Plenty of such meetings these days, still. It was touching. The man had dropped out of the Far Eastern skies. It seemed only yesterday that I had heard he was in a city in the Netherlands Indies where the American corporation he represented had one of its great plants. He was the first American to visit it since the territory had been won back from the enemy.

But had it been won back? When I heard his story, I wondered. It seems that when he reached the gates of the American-owned plant, he found a Japanese on guard. He identified himself. In a few moments, a smiling and bowing Japanese officer, still wearing most of his uniform and speaking understandable English, appeared.

They began a tour of the property, the Jap most deferential but offering no word of explanation or apology for the fact that he, a late enemy, was in charge and not in jail. In fact, the Jap was very loquacious on the subject of the excellent work that he and his helpers had done to put the plant back into repair and operation.

He showed my friend the various places where the buildings and machinery had been damaged—evidence, he pointed out, smiling, of the excellent marksmanship of the American air force. He demonstrated with particular pride how excellently the repair work had been done, obviously expecting (and receiving) well-deserved praise for the technical skill the Japanese repairmen had shown.

Very nice, of course. But American industry still reaps no benefit from that plant, and although the Japanese gain no profit therefrom, this American property is still, literally, in the hands of the enemy.

Loads of Mail

Commentator's Lot

For one whole week, I saved all the things that came to me by mail which I hadn't asked for—except personal letters. I have just counted them, and there are 233 separate pieces in all. The total number of pages I am expected to read adds up to nearly a thousand.

The one on top is "the back of the book" from Omnibook. A collection of amusing stories. But Omnibook itself is better still and I believe I have every issue, beginning with Vol. 1, No. 1.

Next comes "News From Sweden," a mimeographed collection of feature paragraphs from the American-Swedish News Exchange. I recall when the Swedish minister here consulted me about the founding of such a publicity bureau, back before we got into World War I.

The next is one of the UAW-CIO regular releases, and then the CIO News, a 16-page weekly, printed, I suppose, for their membership.

Then one of the valuable National Opinion Research surveys put out by the University of Denver. This one is a poll of American opinion on the Germans and Japs and how we think they got that way.

More Business Weeks, and "Program Information" from my own American Broadcasting company. A printed letter from the Payroll Guarantee association with an enclosure on "civilized cats, mice and cheese." The American Feed Manufacturers' association handout saying the feed shortage is over.

General Motors sends me the ninth in a series of production reports. (What could have happened to the other eight?)

The release from the National Planning association announces that Leon Henderson and the official of a big corporation have been added to their board of trustees—and if you want to know about the distribution of fats and oils by the department of agriculture, you can have my copy of the second interim report from the Committee on Small Business pursuant to H. Res. 64.

Or Maybe You'd Prefer Rail Loadings

Maybe you'd rather have freight loadings of the week from the Association of American Railways, or perhaps you want to bid on the purchase of 15 or fewer Landing Ship Tanks (LST) type vessels? Or perhaps you'd prefer some all-wool American flags, or a BK steel beam for dry or liquid cargo? No? Well, no harm in making the offer.

Next exhibit is "News From France" from the French Information service. I'll admit I asked for that, along with the attractive magazine, "La Republique Francaise."

Here's the state department's weekly bulletin which is Part Three of that interesting series on the present status of German youth. I was planning to write an article on that subject myself, but they tell me the magazines are overbought on Germany. Won't buy another thing.

Just two pages of mimeographed material from the "Friends of Finnish Democracy." Cruel irony here. Remember when it was "brave little Finland"? Remember when Finnish Minister Procopce couldn't go anywhere without being applauded? Finland paid her war debts! She even managed not to duck after the war! Well, Finland's friends are protesting now over the reparations demanded by Russia... heavier in proportion to population, they say, than are any other nation's. To pay the reparations bill, the statement claims, every man in Finland would have to work eight hours a day for seven years. It would take four-fifths of Finland's normal exports.

Here's a speech by Senator Taft from his office, "not printed at government expense." Stuck together is a news-print pamphlet called the "Poll Tax Repealer," and that blast from the Republican national committee on the President's budget message. A very neat little booklet (additional copies will be furnished) by Standard Oil of New Jersey, entitled "Steps to Security."

Now a tissue carbon labeled "Midnight Cry" with a series of Biblical texts shrieking doom. Seven familiar bright yellow pages from the National Highway Users association, which is one of the real, hard-working publicity bureaus. The CIO's "Economic Outlook," which often has statements that can't be overlooked.

Now we come to an attractive 12-page tabloid newspaper, "The Progressive and LaFollette's Magazine." I am glad to note it is still progressive, regardless of the changes in the LaFollette activities and proclivities. The first page has a nice cartoon of a garbage can labeled "War contract scandals." Looks interesting, but WAIT A MINUTE. I think they want me to PAY for it. Here's a return card saying "25 weeks' subscription, \$1." Oh dear. It must have gotten into the wrong pile. I'm not going to look any further. I might find more of that kind.

BARBS . . . by Baukhage

Four of the goats used in the atom bomb test seem to have partially recovered. There will be a lot of human goats, if the bomb gets into general use.

Pvt. Donald Callahan won a prize offered by the army for an essay on "Why I Joined the Army." Part of the prize was a date with two showgirls. Is that why, Donald?

The secretary of state has a new assistant in charge of research and intelligence. The more he has of the latter, the less he needs of the former.

The Army Times thinks Gen. Omar Bradley may resign as VA head. It's not the work but the words. He has to make too many speeches to suit him.



MOHAMMEDANS GO BESERK . . . Members of the All-Indian Moslem league are shown demonstrating in London for "Pakistan," an All-Moslem independent state in India. The following day bloody riots broke out in Calcutta, India, between Moslems and Hindus. Some two thousand persons were killed and other thousands injured. British troops in armored cars fired repeatedly on mobs of looters, but street battles went on unchecked.—Sound Photo.



BRITISH TROOPS GUARD TROUBLED HAIFA . . . British troops guard the barbed wired streets of Haifa, Palestine, during the outbreak which followed when immigrants from Europe, seeking entrance into Palestine, were transferred to British ships and transported to the island of Cyprus and detention camps. Three Jews were killed and many injured during the demonstration.



BATTLE FLAG OF BATTLING SHIP . . . Before a large gathering, the battle flag of the battered but still afloat USS Nevada was presented to the state of Nevada. The presentation was made by Rear Adm. Francis W. Rockwell (right), former commanding officer of the Nevada, to Gov. Vail Pittman, accepting for the state. This is the first time in naval history that a flag of a major battleship has been returned to a state.



MIDDIE TRAINING MANEUVERS . . . Four hundred and forty Annapolis midshipmen and 315 West Point cadets make two amphibious landings as "invasion troops" near the Virginia capes. A few veteran marines in each landing craft led the middies and cadets ashore in the war games. Photo shows, left to right, Secretary of Navy James Forrestal, Amd. Aubrey Fitch, and two West Point cadets "digging in" the beach.



DIGS GRAVES . . . Denna Barthel, 19-year-old North Liberty, Ind., miss, is believed to be the only girl grave digger in the U. S. Her eagerness to obtain a musical education led her to hire out as a grave digger at Sauknoton, Ind. She was proclaimed "Girl of the Year" by Guitar guild.



DERBY WINNER . . . Gilbert Klegan, 14, San Diego, who won the 1946 All-American Soap Box derby at Akron, Ohio. More than 65,000 spectators watched the event. Racers from all sections of the country participated.



RUSSIA'S BIG MISTAKE

WASHINGTON. — If the Soviet government had deliberately set out to make mistakes it couldn't have made more than it has piled up in the past year. In the one year that has passed since V-J Day, Russia has won the ill will of her neighboring countries in Europe, has lost virtually all her friends in the United States and has turned most of the world against her.

In considering our present strained relations with Russia, this is all-important. It indicates that time is running on our side, that Russia's own policies are playing into our hands, and that war can be avoided.

One year ago Soviet Russia was considered the great savior of the world. In Europe, the Russians were given credit, far more than the United States, for liberating the occupied countries, were even hailed by some as the pioneers of a new world order. In the U. S., most Americans had a genuine admiration for the heroism of the Russian people and looked forward to a period of friendly co-operation.

Today that good will has vanished. In all of Russia's satellites, with the possible exception of Finland and Czechoslovakia, the Soviet is extremely unpopular, even hated. Romania and Bulgaria would bolt Russia in a minute were it not for the Red army. Hungary and Austria, which Russia hoped to win over, voted overwhelmingly against the Soviet. In France the strong Communist upsurge now has hit the downgrade. Even in Yugoslavia, where Tito is supposed to be supreme, the Russians are not popular.

Most interesting fact is that the countries nearest the Russians usually dislike them most. Thus in more distant France, there is more pro-Soviet sentiment than in the adjacent Balkans.

Finally, in the American-British zones of Germany, Germans are fearful lest the western allies eventually evacuate and Russia walks in.

U. S. STOCK GOES UP

Thus the world has turned against an aggressor nation. Thus also, the world has turned toward a nation which has no selfish axes to grind and which is attempting to co-operate with the rest of the world.

This is what Secretary of State Byrnes has sincerely tried to do at Paris; and as far as this observer could ascertain, his patient, fair-minded policy is paying dividends. Part of the world, once ready to sing Russia's praises, has veered toward the United States.

Therefore, the No. 1 point of American policy should be to work things out within the family of nations; to put Palestine and other controversial problems under the United Nations; not to let the British drag us into separate alliances. This is our greatest danger. If we become the tail on the British kite, we can be eched into war with Russia — exactly where the British foreign office imperialists want us. But as long as the smaller independent nations of the world are convinced of our unselfish motives, as long as we remain aloof from both sides, our strength as a world leader is secure.

TENSION INCREASES

However, this alone may not head off war with Russia. As this is written, censored diplomatic dispatches from the Far East report three days of rifle skirmishing between American and Russian troops along the Korean border. This is the first time U. S.-USSR troops have deliberately fired at each other. Another censored dispatch from London reports the British general staff meeting daily to plan strategy for defending the British lifeline in the Near East.

In other words, certain belligerent elements in Russia are quite willing to risk war now; and certain elements in England believe a showdown is better now than later. In a charged atmosphere like this, one spark can cause tragedy.

However, this observer's experience in watching foreign affairs convinces him that seldom does any nation provoke an incident if it knows that incident means war; thus the best way to prevent war is to let a prospective belligerent know he will get it in the neck if he sticks his neck out.

In other words, if Russia knows categorically and definitely that she will be at war with us if she becomes an aggressor against the United Nations, then the chances are 100 to 1 Russia will risk no war.

COULD HAVE STOPPED HITLER

To illustrate: If Adolf Hitler had known he would have been at war with France and England when he sent his troops into the Ruhr and Rhineland he never would have given them marching orders. As it was, fearing war, he gave them two sets of orders, one to advance and the second to retreat if the French resisted. Likewise, Hitler never would have sent his troops into Austria if he hadn't known the Allies were unprepared. He was right as later events proved.



Does your mixing bowl move away from you under the beating and stirring you do? Set it on a damp cloth and it will remain steady. A tea towel works fine for this.

Wear can be distributed on large and small-sized rugs by turning them around from time to time.

Cutting one-fourth-inch notches in the edges of bacon or smoked ham with the scissors will keep it from curling when cooking.

Children should have some time for rest before each meal. Before breakfast and supper they can sit quietly and look at books until the meal is on the table, but at dinner time, after they have been playing hard all morning, they should lie down to rest for about 15 minutes.

Go over your scuffed white shoes with the beaten white of an egg. This pastes the broken pieces down and fills the spaces with a transparent filler that can scarcely be noticed.

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