

# THE DANBURY REPORTER

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## Editorial Slant On the News

### TRAILING THE SABOTEURS

In his New York district last week Ham Fish was overwhelmingly renominated for Congress.

Willkie and Dewey, national leaders of the Republican party, sounded a warning. They said Fish, resting under grave political and personal charges, was unfit to sit in Congress and that he would be a serious liability to the Republican party.

The warning of Willkie and Dewey flew off at an angle of some 45 degrees and was lost in the sound and fury of the triumphant satellites.

Is it a dangerous symptom in the body politic that there are citizens who are so steeped in political prejudice or blinded by malicious hate for the leaders of government, that they will jeopardize the fate of the nation to gratify their venom?

Fish's isolationist record in Congress, and his shady connection with the operations of George Sylvester Viereck, the German spy, burned fresh in the memories of the people, and about this time came the expose of the Washington Post, a Republican newspaper, that Fish had pocketed a \$25,000 fee from the Dominican Republic in 1939 which he had failed to include in his sworn income tax return.

These little incidents only served to increase Ham's majority of 3 to 1.

The Internal Revenue department and a federal grand jury are working now to get more light on the interesting subject.

Fish, it will be recalled, was one of the topnotchers in that perverse group of Roosevelt haters in the 1939-40-41 Congresses whose votes and influence were always antagonistic to the nation's defense.

His pals were the bitter Wheeler, the malicious Nye, Taft, Vandenberg, Reynolds, Johnson, and Clark, and a number of others.

These men were animated by either ignorance, prejudice or malice, or were on the pay-roll of the German Bund.

There is no question in the minds of intelligent people that the sinister and sinuous track of Hitler's propaganda did not lead through the Senate and Congress halls.

Today in the echoes of Pearl Harbor and in hearing of the sobs of disconsolate mothers for their boys who have died in the distant strand, these men must shoulder their responsibility as accessories before the fact in America's most appalling tragedy.

And when history is written in the future they must endure the baleful halo of guilt that will enshroud their names.

No use for them to affect government support for victory now since Pearl Harbor. Every military authority and every citizen of honesty and intelligence knows that Japan would never have attacked the United States but for our criminal unpreparedness, and that the unpreparedness was the fruit of the obstructive tactics of our disloyal Senators and Congressmen.

### WHERE TO PUT YOUR MONEY

The safest investment in the world today is U. S. bonds. As the gold tide soon begins to set in this way, remember that, farmers.

When you buy U. S. bonds you not only help to win the war but you insure for yourself the return of your principal with interest and your independence of want in the future.

### THE OFFENSIVE BEGINS

The Eagle screams across the waters of the Coral Sea and above the yellow rats of Nippon.

The great American offensive has begun, with the invasion of the Solomon Islands where our marines and soldiers have landed and are digging in.

Already they have occupied and are holding valuable strategic ports and bases.

The Japs are making a desperate defense, knowing that the Americans have already captured points to protect American sea lanes as well as to threaten the Jap flank westward in New Guinea and the Dutch East Indies.

At the same time the American position stops any early attempt to attack Australia.

In military strategy to seize the initiative is almost equal to winning a battle. The enemy is thrown on the defensive and never knows where you will strike next. He is at a serious disadvantage.

The Jap fleet came out to meet and destroy the allied naval power, but soon got badly battered and fled for cover.

The attack of the allies was supported in both air and water. MacArthur's land-based planes played havoc with the Jap Zeros, and kept the enemy from reinforcing its troops who were giving back from the marines.

No definite reports have yet been received of the losses on either side which necessarily have been heavy.

But the fact that at last the movement has been started to blast the Japs to their lairs will hearten the people of all the United Nations.

It shows Uncle Sam is about ready to exert the power and skill which is bound to win.

### STOKES TAX RATE TAPERING OFF

Although living expenses of every conceivable kind are constantly rising, our board of county commissioners somehow are able to make a reduction in the tax rate on property.

In a meeting here Wednesday Messrs. Gibson, Johnson and Joyce reduced the 1942 rate from 1.63 to 1.60.

Although the reduction is small, it is welcome, especially in these war times when many other counties are revising their rates upward.

Owing to the fact that there are no great corporations or manufacturing enterprises in our county, the property consisting mainly of farm lands, it is difficult to reduce the tax rate with only agricultural sources of revenue at hand.

### SAVE YOUR SCRAP TO SWAT THE JAP

The government is very urgently requesting everybody to save scrap iron and send it in to help win the war.

Although the nation's steel and iron production is colossal, it does not equal the program of war production.

Turn in the old plow points, wagon tires, barrel hoops, wires, stove joints, and disused metal implements of all kinds.

Maybe you think your collection is too small to be of use, but remember that if small piles are salvaged from millions of farms and homesteads, you have a mountain of scrap that may be converted into airplanes, tanks, guns, and all kinds of material for battle.

As the old woman remarked when she made her historic contribution to the wide ocean: "Every little bit helps."

### RUBBER SITUATION BAD

In another column the Stokes county tire board tells of the very serious rubber situation, it being much worse than ever before.

The farmers are going to experience difficulty in marketing their tobacco crops. The board advises doubling up of loads to market and close co-operation with the owners of trucks and cars.

Happily the occupation of the Solomon Islands is a step in the direction of rubber, as the world's chief supply of the material is in the Dutch Indies now in the hands of the Japs.

It is no doubt in the plans of the United Nations to soon make the drive to win back the rubber country.

But this consummation is a long way off and cannot be depended on now.

The transportation problem is soon to become a real headache, not only in Stokes county but throughout the nation.

### THE SECOND COMING OF THE HONEYSUCKLE

Along the guard fences of the highway you may have noticed that the honeysuckle is in bloom again.

This vine is first in flower about the middle of May. Three months later as if conscious of the welcome that awaits it, it springs into blossom for the second time in the year, not so profuse as in the spring, but still beautiful and fragrant.

But the honeysuckle is not only a thing of beauty and fragrance. It is also a thing of great utility on the highway or the farm. Nothing holds the banks so well or prevents the erosion of land. It will cover bald places on the plantation and soon make them rich. It is also food for cattle. It is hardy and hard to kill, and its dark green, white and yellow combination is very pleasing to the eye in rugged ugly places.

### HOME, SWEET HOME

When the boy is far from home, lonesome and maybe sick, nothing can cheer him and warm the cockles of his heart like a letter from home.

The next best thing is the old home paper giving the news items that will be interesting to him.

The Danbury Reporter will be sent to your son, your brother, sweetheart or friend anywhere in the United States or wherever our armies are located, for the small sum of \$1.00 per year.

Do you think he would appreciate it?

We believe he would.

### ADIEU, TOM FRANK

We pause to give the tribute of our affection and our tears for Tom Frank Webster, who is dead.

He was long a prominent and successful warehouseman of Madison. His friends in Stokes county were legion. Tom had many faults, just like you and I have. But his faults were obscured by his virtues. His memory is cherished in our hearts. He was always a friend to the newspaper man, and the newspaper man was his friend. Being close to the farmers, the newspaper man took pleasure in helping build that loyalty and good will that contributed to Tom's success in his chosen field—tobacco.

Adieu, Tom Frank.