

UNITED STATES PLANS MUST EMBRACE TWO MAJOR WARS

United Nations Must Make Stand In Far East In Order To Win Fight Against Germany

(By Hugo S. Sims)

During the first six weeks of the war in the Pacific, the United States has suffered some loss of face, not only in China, the Netherlands East Indies and Australia, but in certain South American countries.

Obviously, no war can be successfully fought if generals and admirals are compelled to conduct operations on the basis of popular opinion. Just the same, a democracy at war, as in peace, has to give some attention to the matter of public opinions, as it is manifested at home and in the nations allied to its efforts.

Chinese Are Concerned

The Chinese, both in this country and in China, have expressed disappointment over statements by American and British officials describing Hitler as the No. 1 enemy of the United Nations. The censure which followed the outbreak of war between Japan and the United States and Great Britain has somewhat disappeared with American and British defeats in the first stages of the war in the Far East.

It is perfectly natural for the Chinese to be concerned lest they be relegated to the background while the war against Hitler proceeds in Europe and Africa. Nevertheless, they would be foolish to ease their pressure upon the invading Japanese. Moreover, they should understand that the country is now at war with Japan mainly because we refused to give Japan a free hand in China and the Far East.

United Nations Cannot Ignore Japan

Without pretending to know the distribution of the ships, guns, planes, tanks and manpower of the United Nations, and without any title to the role of strategist, we think that it would be an unfortunate mistake for the people of this country to believe that they can win the war against Hitler while ignoring the war against Japan. While the overthrow of Hitler would be followed, no doubt, by an early termination of the struggle with Japan, the burden of defeating Hitler might become incomparably greater if we permit Japan to make a clean sweep in the Far East.

At this time, as we see the situation, the main hope of defeating Hitler in 1942, or 1943, is the powerful Red Army of Soviet Russia. The Russians are fighting and killing the Nazis in a campaign which bids fair to be disastrous to Hitler's ambitions. The bright prospects of the Soviet, however, can be dimmed by events transpiring in the Far East.

Far East May Affect Europe

For example, if Japan captures Singapore, invades Burma and occupies the Netherlands Indies, large Japanese armies will be freed for operations elsewhere. Obviously, this would invite a Japanese attack upon Russia in the Far East, timed to coincide with another offensive against Russia by Germany. Forced to fight on two fronts, the Russians would face tremendous difficulties and they would be aggravated by the fact that we would be unable to exert any pressure upon Japan in the Far East.

Naturally we expect American soldiers to bolster the British position in North Africa and American supplies to play a tremendous role in the war efforts of Great Britain and Russia upon other fronts. Moreover, the war situation justifies prompt attention to both of these matters. Nevertheless, there is considerable anxiety among the people of this country lest the needs of the Far Eastern situation be overlooked.

Confidence In Our War Leaders

In stating these views, we are conscious of the fact that responsible officials in this country are thoroughly acquainted with the facts of the war situation in every sector and familiar with the potentials of power available for use in the widespread conflict.

We have every confidence that the war leaders of the United Nations, led by President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill, are intelligent, capable and deserving of our thorough support. Consequently, while we are willing to review the war situation, we are unwilling to criticize our leaders or attack the judgment of their competent military and naval advisers.

BOY, 12, SAVES FATHER

Chicago—Quick-thinking on the part of Arno Walter, 12, probably saved the life of his father, Gust Walter, 65. While watching his father as he tumbled a rug, the boy saw his father's hands become paralyzed on the vacuum cleaner's handle and fall to the floor unresponsive. Young Arno leaped from his seat and tore the wire plug from the wall socket. A short circuit had developed in the wiring.

Looking at Washington

(Continued from page one)

Charges of waste were directed to defense housing and cantonment construction. The committee says that "the Government has suffered considerable loss because of the failure to rent as many defense housing units and presumably may lose a substantial part of its capital investment."

Exhibits of waste in defense plant construction, blamed to a large degree upon inadequate Army planning, were ordinance plants which cost nearly \$50,000,000 as compared with an original estimated total of \$35,741,000.

Cantonment construction also resulted in costs that were double original estimates. This was blamed on the lack of adequate plans, organization and experience, the emphasis upon speed, increased cost of labor, abnormal working conditions and the use of a cost-plus-fixed fee arrangement.

The use of the free service of persons with "axes to grind" was criticized and the committee recommended that those working for the Government be given salaries and be required to give up private business and industrial connections.

It pointed out that the OPM which failed to perform as expected, obtained 255 \$1-a-year-men and 631 persons who received no compensation from the Government but retained their remunerative connections with companies "which lost them to the Government." The committee finds that they "had tendency to favor big business" whether intentionally or not.

The OPM was blamed for its failure to realize the productive ability of the automobile industry which was itself the target of a seething attack. The OPM decided that automobile plants could not produce tanks and planes, and recommended that new plants be built for the purpose of such construction.

Now, the report notes, emphasis is given to the speed with which such a conversion of industry can be made and calls attention to the production of cars in 1941. "Nearly as great as the total of 5,821,040 which were manufactured in 1939."

Labor comes in for its share of criticism. The defense program was seriously handicapped by the loss of more than 26,000,000 man-days of production through strikes in the defense industries, many of which "ought not to have taken place."

The Committee observed that "labor representatives believe that they owe a duty to labor that is just as real as the duty which industrialists owe to stockholders. The trouble is that too little attention is given to the duty they both owe to their country."

The "influence peddlers" were assailed by the committee which reported that big business has had its lobbyists in the form of \$1-a-year-men and W. O. C. (without compensation) men. Naturally, "small and intermediate business men have sought to obtain the same benefits by hiring those whom they think have influence." Handsome payments to individuals suggest that their employers "must have expected to receive added benefits" and cases where "no legitimate services" were rendered represent "compensation for influence."

A considerable section of the committee's report is devoted to aircraft, with the observation that after years of "frantic" production efforts, there are "too few airplanes" and only a "limited amount" of combat types considered equal to or superior to the best types manufactured abroad. Moreover, the prospects for future production are "not too good."

This is a very serious allegation. It strikes at one of the major war efforts of the nation. Nevertheless, the committee concluded generally that the present defense program "will produce sufficient supplies" for defense and eventually to permit an offensive and with the war. However, it is anxious that the nation win "as soon as possible" and at a "minimum expenditure of money and property."

In regard to lumber production, the committee says that two types of heavy bomber planes are in production by several companies and that they are generally considered as being equal to or superior to any such planes produced elsewhere. In other bomber types, we are producing as many "one model" of each type which is generally rated above similar types of foreign manufacture.

In the aircraft field, however, the committee is "less optimistic." It finds production "in the defense" and quotes General Arnold's criticism of a present ship which "will cost more than half of our total

aircraft production until the end of 1942." It asserts that on drawing boards, there are "many high-performing pursuit ships," but few of those to be produced in January, 1943, would be considered "better than mediocre" and that there are "no long-range pursuits," a type so vitally needed for our present operations.

"NINETEEN FAVORED COMPANIES"

Calling attention to the fact that since May, 1940, "the armed services have had more money for airplanes than they could contract to spend," the committee decried the tendency to put all the responsibility on "a few large producers" which were encouraged to expand "to the limit without regard to delivery date." The committee admits that the nineteen favored manufacturers of military aircraft are doing everything that can be done under existing conditions.

While the Government is still "plowing millions of dollars of orders" with these companies for planes to be delivered in 1944, or after, and has spent "almost a billion in financing their plant expansion," there has been an absolute failure to give any substantial place in the program to the sixty aircraft companies which are capable of producing "a minimum of 2,000 planes a month."

The above represents the main charges made by the Senate committee, and it is only fair to advise the reader that the findings of the committee, especially those in regard to pursuit planes have been the subject of much criticism. Specifically, the Aeronautical Chamber of Commerce says that in "every theatre of the war to date, our American-designed and built warplanes, including pursuits and bombers, have shown marked superiority on every occasion in combat with enemy planes and in other actions against enemy forces on land and sea."

It is quite likely that the Army, Navy and OPM will come forward with a detailed reply to the charges of the committee and this we will report in due time.

Washington Notes

FARM LABOR

According to the United States Department of Agriculture, sharply higher wages were paid to farm laborers at the beginning of this year as compared with one year ago. The farm wage rate index was up to 166 per cent of the 1910-14 average on January 1; one year previous the wage rate was 124. There are also 51,000 more farm laborers now than there were a year ago.

PREFABRICATED HOMES

The entire production capacity of the approximately 50 plants engaged in the manufacture of pre-fabricated homes will be needed to meet the new Federal Works Agency program to build 42,000 demountable homes for war workers.

COPPER

Recoverable copper output of the U. S. mines for the year 1941 was 9 per cent above the 1940 output. Last year's production was 957,294 short tons, valued at \$224,080,196.

EMPLOYEES

Federal old-age insurance records show that about 5,000,000 more employees received taxable wages during the past year than did in 1940.

STAMPS

The Treasury Department now bans the importation of postage stamps from Axis or Axis occupied countries. Axis presses have been catering to the millions of American stamp collectors, and, thus a great variety of stamp series have been issued. By selling stamps to American collectors, Axis agents have obtained \$20,000,000 in American dollars to carry on a program of treasury, sabotage, and propaganda.

ALLOCATION

A plan is being prepared to set aside one per cent of all available raw materials to keep small manufacturers from going out of business. The small businesses that can draw on this one per cent will be defined by industry committees being organized under OPM.

RUBBER

Rubber, chemical and petroleum industries are pooling patents, re-

sources, experience and technical skills in order to successfully offset our goal of 400,000 tons of synthetic rubber a year. The program is expected to result in the construction of about twenty new plants. By February 1 six synthetic rubber plants will be under construction.

BICYCLES

OPM has tested the "Victory Model" bicycle, and approximately 750,000 will be produced this year by twelve bicycle manufacturers. This model does not consume any copper, nickel, or plated work, and no rubber except for that used in tires. The "Victory Model" bicycle is aimed at adult essential requirements, and is not intended to replace children bicycles.

CAA

The Civil Aeronautics Administration has been absorbed by the Army Air Force. The title of Brigadier General Donald H. Oomally has been changed from Administrator of Civil Aeronautics to Military Director of Civil Aviation.

BLACKOUT

From the Engineer Corps of the War Department, it is revealed that the widely accepted blue light "is more easily observed from the air and is less helpful to ground activities than any other color." A deep red would probably be the most satisfactory blackout light if it were not for the limited supply of red glass and the possible confusion with tail lights. The use of low intensity white light, probably hooded, probably the most practical.

CONTRACTS

Since the outbreak of war with Japan, the War Department has let contracts to the automobile industry totaling three one-half billion dollars.

CONTRIBUTIONS

The United States Army will accept contributions from individuals, if the gifts are unconditional. However, if dollars earmark their gifts for special purposes, special legislation is necessary for their acceptance.

CIVILIAN DEFENSE

The Office of Civilian Defense has issued a bulletin describing the opportunities for young people to participate in civilian defense.

SUBS HUSBAND'S KILLER

New York.—Mrs. Louise M. Candara recently filed suit for \$100,000 damages against her husband's slayer, Salvatore Sabbatino, who was sentenced to serve from five to ten years for the slaying.

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FARMER KILLS SON AND SELF Rochester, Ind.—In a quarrel with his son, who was determined to leave the farm and work in a defense plant, Oliver Fisher, 65-year-old farmer, shot and killed his 19-year-old son, Orville, while his mother and 8-year-old brother looked on. Fisher then turned the gun on himself, ending his life.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Having qualified as Executor of the estate of Mrs. Bertha Joyner, deceased, late of Pitt County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased, to exhibit them to the undersigned executor, at Farmville, N. C., on or before the 9th day of January, 1943, or this notice will be

pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate settlement. This the 8th day of January, 1943. J. B. JOYNER, Executor. Mrs. Bertha Joyner Estate. John B. Lewis, Atty. JB-61 One mark of true greatness is the ability to praise others. Can you?

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