

LOOKING AT WASHINGTON

By HUGO S. SIMS, Washington Correspondent

Will For Peace Is Hope Of Peace

The opening of the conference at San Francisco, where representatives of forty-seven nations aligned against Hitler are attempting to form an international organization to maintain peace and security, is a matter of tremendous consequence to free peoples of the world.

After some weeks of discussions, including wrangling and compromises, the delegates will present the results of their deliberations to a waiting world. The plan produced will not be approved in toto by any one nation and it is very probable that every individual will dislike some of the provisions proposed. This is to be expected by intelligent persons who, in spite of disappointment, must resolutely support the plan and program evolved at San Francisco.

The details of a world organization to maintain peace, establish security and promote prosperity throughout the world are not important. The significance of the conference does not lie in the phraseology of the pact to be agreed on but in the cooperative spirit of the nations engaged in the epochal task. Obviously, the hope of the future is in the willingness of nations to consult, to consider international differences and compose them in friendship and in peace.

The conference illustrates the power of one nation to prevent world cooperation by adopting a selfish attitude. It demonstrates that while it takes only two nations to wage war, a combined and cooperative effort of all nations is necessary to guarantee the maintenance of peace. To secure this boon for mankind, it will be necessary for every nation to make concessions, to yield somewhat to the opinions of other nations and to realize that, after all, no nation is entitled to, or can, speak exclusively for mankind.

Plan Outlined For Discharge of Veterans

Veterans, rounding out four to five years of service, will be discharged about the middle of the year, according to plans announced by the War Department, which points out that some men enlisted as early as May, 1940.

This brings up the question of our soldiers abroad and the plan of the War Department to discharge some of them when the European war ends. Obviously, regardless of our relationship to men abroad, veterans should be released substantially on the basis of their service in the fighting areas.

It is impossible to say, at this time, how many men will be released, but the War Department has worked out a demobilization formula under which men will be considered as individuals.

Credit will be given for the number of months in service, for service overseas, with additional credit for battle participation stars and decorations. Considerable weight will be given to the family status of the men involved, with credit allowed for each dependent child to a limit of three children. The rating system will apply to officers as well as enlisted men.

A summary of the situation as it affects various units follows:
(a) In the Army Ground Forces, soldiers not needed for warfare against Japan will be the first eligible for release. Demobilization will be somewhat retarded by the necessity for using shipping for shifting units to the Pacific.

(b) The Air Force, which has developed a system of rotation based upon flying hours, will not be demobilized appreciably upon the defeat of Germany. It is believed that the entire outfit will be needed for a specific aerial offensive against Japan, and eventually the Corps will use the same formula prepared for the discharge of other men.

(c) In the Service Forces, there is little prospect of early demobilization because the establishment of bases in the Pacific and the forwarding of supplies for a much larger force will require extraordinary exertions on the part of service personnel.

(d) In regards to men stationed in this country, there is little prospect of discharge unless they have served overseas, earning combat and overseas credit. The War Department recently announced that men in this country are earmarked for service broad as fast as possible.

While there is a natural desire on the part of loved ones of service men to get them home as soon as possible, every American should recognize the apparent justice of the demobilization formula prepared by the War Department. The possibility exists that the formula is not perfect, but demobilization must be made on the basis of service credits rather than pressure that can be exerted in half of a particular individual.

The fact that an orderly plan has been prepared to select the men eligible for earliest discharge should encourage mothers and fathers, wives and sweethearts of all men now in the service. Assuming that the formula is fair and that it is honestly applied, there can be no favoritism and every soldier, sailor and airman will come home in his proper turn.

Mrs. Truman Decides Against Press Conferences
Mrs. Bess Truman, wife of the

President, has decided not to hold press conferences during her stay in the White House.

This decision does not please the press women, who organized an association when Mrs. Roosevelt instituted her regular meetings with the press. Consequently, we read that "objective observers" believe that Mrs. Truman's decision not to have press conferences "may in the end react unfavorably upon the administration."

This conclusion is typical of the nonsense that often is uttered by reporters, journalists and commentators. Despite the fact that the people of the country might want to know about Mrs. Truman, she is well within her rights. If there are citizens stupid enough to oppose President Truman or to withhold cooperation and good will from him because of the absence of press conferences on the part of Mrs. Truman, there are people in the United States more stupid than we suspect.

When Mrs. Roosevelt began her press conferences, there was abundant criticism, on the ground that she was the wife of the President not elected to office and hence without the privilege of expressing her self on public issues for the benefit of the people. Now, with Mrs. Truman taking an opposite stand, we find her criticized for not expressing her opinions and advising the public.

Wallace Outlines Program to Make Competition Free

Secretary of Commerce Henry A. Wallace has outlined a four-point post-war program of government aid to small business, declaring that he aims to "see our American economic system competitively free" and to make the system "freer than it is today."

The Secretary of Commerce believes that the Government should

break down "all arbitrary barriers that prevent a small business man from entering the business of his choice," and says that newcomers are "artificially excluded" from business areas "through monopolistic pools of patents, monopolistic controls of raw materials, through monopolistic deals between rings of manufacturers and rings of distributors."

His second point is that small business shall have a reasonable access to credit.

His third proposal is to make governmental industrial research available to small business along the same lines that the Department of Agriculture and State agricultural colleges have developed aid to small farmers with no research facilities of their own.

His last point is tax relief, with the suggestion that the excess profits tax be repealed as soon as possible after the war, with lightening of the income tax and other tax burdens on small business.

When Domestic Issues Arise Truman Will Be Denounced

There seems to be general agreement that President Truman has got off to a very good start after assuming office under difficult circumstances and facing responsibilities as great as those faced by any previous President.

The fact is that the attention of the country is now turned to questions concerned with warfare and the ending of war. Little attention is being paid to domestic issues but as soon as the time comes to take them up, the "era of good feeling" now prevailing will disappear.

A bitter fight is brewing over the tariff, an issue certain to cause prolonged controversy in connection with the proposed extension of the Trade Agreement Act, with the power to make another cut of 50 per cent in the rates of the old Smoot-

Hawley Tariff Act in exchange for trade benefits granted us by other countries.

There is nothing whatever to indicate that Mr. Truman was merely talking when he announced his intention to carry out the policies of President Roosevelt. The opposite is certainly indicated by the prospect that Secretary of Commerce Wallace may have greater influence in the Truman regime than he would have had under President Roosevelt.

Mr. Truman recently transferred to Mr. Wallace the administration of the sale of some \$7,500,000,000 worth of surplus consumer goods, including trucks, jeeps, clothing, textiles, radio

equipment, food and other materials. It is well known that the former Vice President wants to use these goods to help small business and to give veterans a start.

In addition, the new President recently asked Secretary Wallace to study the misuse of patents to support unlawful monopolies in contravention of the purposes of the Anti-Trust Laws and to recommend appropriate legislation to remedy the situation.

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