

Merry Christmas

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Jap Army Attache Denies Panay Was Machine-Gunned

Story Emanating From Foreign Office Differs From That Of Harada; Survivors Are Heard

Shanghai, Dec. 20.—The Japanese army today denied it had attacked the United States gunboat Panay, flatly contradicting official American reports Japanese troops had machine-gunned the sinking warship after it had been bombed by naval planes.

At almost the same time, Major General Kumakichi Harada issued the army statement in Shanghai, a foreign office spokesman in Tokyo reversed the government's previous stand and admitted Japanese army craft on the Yangtze river had fired on the Panay.

The report of Gen. Harada, Japanese military attache, denied virtually every statement previously made by American naval officers and British, American and Italian civilian survivors of the attack December 12.

The army version not only was at variance with that of the survivors and the Tokyo foreign office, but contradicted itself.

Harada was also scheduled to have reported his findings on the bombing of the British gunboat Ladybird, but after more than two hours of spirited debate with the openly skeptical correspondents at the interview, Harada postponed that statement until tomorrow.

When Harada said at the outset of his statement that he left for Nanking at 4 a. m., December 13, to investigate the Panay's sinking he was reminded the Japanese army had declared it was at that time ignorant of the incident.

Quickly Harada said his remarks had been mistranslated and corrected his statement to say that he had gone to investigate the bombing of the Ladybird.

His only explanation of why the Panay sinking was not reported for more than a week by Japanese troops, who he admitted had learned the ship was American, was that communication was difficult.

Choice Of Kennedy As Ambassador To Britain Expected

Washington, Dec. 19.—Speedy senate approval of the expected appointment of Joseph P. Kennedy as ambassador to London, seemed in prospect tonight, although there were some senators who thought him more valuable at home than abroad.

Members of the foreign relations committee, commending the choice, said the administration would lose a valuable business advisor, but took the view that the question of where Kennedy would be most effective was one for him and the president to decide.

"Kennedy is an excellent man anywhere you put him," commented Senator Pope (D., Idaho), a committee member. "He has been one of our best men on financial problems, but I think (turn to page five, please)

Buncombe County Minister Says He Will Run For Senate

Asheville, Dec. 19.—The Rev. A. A. Johnson, Baptist minister and former Buncombe county school teacher of Candler, Route 1, formally announced today that he will be a candidate next June for the Democratic nomination for the seat now held by U. S. Senator Robert R. Reynolds, of Asheville.

"We have tried every kind of man except a preacher in the Senate, now let's see what a preacher will do," said Mr. Johnson's announcement. "If I am elected to the Senate, I shall ask the ministers to meet and pray for the proper guidance on any given issues, then I shall be guided by their recommendations."

Mr. Johnson is a native of the Leicester section of Buncombe county.

Coalition Paper Read In Senate; Speeches Made

Washington, Dec. 20.—The "address to the American people," drafted last week by a bi-partisan group of senators received the acclaim of a half-dozen members on the Senate floor today.

While the Senate killed time waiting for its banking committee to complete action on the administration housing bill, Senator Burke (D., Nebr.), injected the subject into debate. He was questioned immediately as to the author or authors of the document, which urged thorough tax revision and other policies to hasten business recovery.

Senator Bailey (D., N. C.), among others, promptly claimed authorship and proceeded to read the statement. He added an argument that, unless prosperity were restored, the demand for a "collectivist" system would become overwhelming.

In general, it was a speech-making day at the capitol. Neither branch of Congress had any specific business before it, so a dozen or more members seized the opportunity to deliver addresses long clamoring for utterance.

Senator Vandenberg (R., Mich.), urged adoption of his child labor amendment to the federal constitution. His proposal is a modification of the amendment long pending before the states. Vandenberg said it eliminated objectionable features of the latter.

Senator Truman (D., Mo.), made a speech on railroad financing, and Senator Connally (D., Tex.), talked of the Sino-Japanese hostilities.

Over Connally's objections, Senator Barkley of Kentucky, the Democratic leader, arranged to postpone debate on the anti-lynching bill until the regular session beginning in January. Connally, an inveterate foe of that measure, protested that Barkley had not consulted him before reaching his decision.

PRACTICALLY ALL SPARTA STORES TO BE CLOSED SAT.

As is the custom, practically all the stores in Sparta will be closed Saturday (Christmas Day).

The Children's Day

Nineteen hundred and thirty-seven years ago three Kings came out of the East, guided by a star, seeking the cradle of a new-born child. They followed the star to Bethlehem, and there, before the manger in a stable where lay the infant Jesus, they laid the precious gifts which their caravans had brought.

Of all of the Biblical legends, this story of the Three Kings and their gifts on that first Christmas has the greatest appeal. It has been perpetuated through the ages in the custom of making the Christmas season a time for giving. Not all of the Christmas giving is done in conscious commemoration of the birth of Christ, but the custom does carry, even with the unthinking, something of the spirit of "Peace on Earth to Men of Good Will," which is the essence of Christmastide.

It is peculiarly meet and fitting that this should be, above everything else, the children's especial holiday. What parent does not rejoice in the privilege, on this annual festival, the greatest of all Christian festivals, of laying gifts at the feet of the children, as the Kings of the East laid theirs at the feet of One whom they recognized as the King of Kings?

The Child was King in Bethlehem. Now, for a season, the child is King again, and all the world lays treasure at his feet. For the child of today will be the man or woman of tomorrow, and who can say which one of them may become a King among his kind? This is the mystery of childhood, that we know the child will grow into something different but into what we cannot foresee. So let everyone pay homage and lay gifts at the feet of the children on Christmas day, as to newcomers lately arrived from another world who may change our world all over, as He, whose birthday we celebrate, did.—Selected.

State Officers Chase Payne And Turner In Columbus County Area

Raleigh, Dec. 21.—Captain Charles Farmer, of the state highway patrol, said two men he was certain were Wash Turner, alias Jack Borden, and Bill Payne, North Carolina desperadoes, had abandoned a car in Columbus county Sunday after kidnaping a coast guardsman and were "somewhere in the woods."

Captain Farmer said the kidnaped man was Russell Marlow, who was forced by the fugitives to drive them in his car toward the South Carolina line.

Captain Farmer said Marlow was left, uninjured, with the car when Payne and Turner took to the woods. The alleged kidnaping occurred near Shallotte at about 10:30 Sunday night, Farmer said.

Highway patrolmen and other law enforcement officers, the patrol official said, were being concentrated in the area, near Hallsboro, to corner Payne and Turner.

Captain Farmer could give no more information, as he said he was leaving immediately for Columbus county.

Payne and Turner and six other convicts escaped from Caledonia last February 15, kidnaping two prison officials and commandeering a laundry truck. Later they stole another car, kidnaped its driver and eluded more than 200 officers. The hostages were released uninjured.

Payne, wanted on charges of bank robbery, murder, kidnaping and highway robbery, has become North Carolina's No. 1 bad man. He and Turner are under indictment in Buncombe county for the slaying of George Penn, highway patrolman, near Asheville.

Boys Apprehended On Bicycle-Stealing Charge Recently

Within two hours after officers here had received information that a bicycle had been stolen from a Gunter boy in Sparta, the two young men who had taken it were apprehended and lodged in jail.

One was picked up as he was "thumping a ride" to North Wilkesboro, while his accomplice was arrested in North Wilkesboro with the stolen property in his possession. The boys are A. Taylor and Andrew Wagoner, both from Wilkes county.

Bailey Fears America Is Near To Collectivism

Washington, Dec. 20.—The Senate was warned today by Senator Josiah W. Bailey of North Carolina, that the nation stands at the cross road of continuing the American capitalistic system of free enterprise or turning to the old world collectivism of Hitler, Mussolini and Stalin.

The North Carolina senator said that only a congressional policy to encourage confidence of the investing public, such as enunciated in the recent heralded "address to the American people," would check the present "secondary depression." Unless this is done, Senator Bailey told the Senate on the eve of the end of the special session, the people in desperation will demand a collective form of government.

Senator Bailey's speech, which attracted wide attention at the Capitol, was unexpected and extemporaneous. He was brought to his feet after several senators had sought to ascertain who wrote the "address to the American people" which last week revived talk of a coalition between conservative Democratic senators and Republicans and which Senator Edmund Burke (D., Neb.), sought to have printed in the Congressional Record.

Senator Sherman Minton (D., Ind.), was the first to question Burke as to the authorship and signers of the document and was followed by Democratic Floor Leader Barkley who pointed out it was rather unusual to print in the Record an address to the American people without any signatures.

"Great historical documents are generally signed," observed Senator Claude Pepper (D., Fla.), and Minton insisted on knowing "who is the father of this address you propose to put in the Record."

Senator Burke would not divulge any information but said he wished he could claim credit for having written it, and he would be glad to sign such a paper.

But it was not until Senator Bailey took the floor to read the message into the body of the Record, instead of having it printed in the appendix as proposed by Burke, did the Senate learn that the document in the main was the product of the North Carolinian.

Bailey stated that he was deeply impressed with President Roosevelt's message to Congress calling for a balanced budget and a reduction of expenditures and he set out to prepare a statement.

U. S. Ambassador To England Dies In Baltimore

Funeral Services Held Mon. In Louisville, Ky.; Many Dignitaries Are Present For Rites

Baltimore, Dec. 20.—The victim of a rare and obscure disease diagnosed by an operation last week, Robert Worth Bingham, United States ambassador to Great Britain, died here Saturday at the age of 66.

The North Carolinian, who became publisher of Louisville, Kentucky's two newspapers—the Courier-Journal and The Louisville Times—and one of the first new deal diplomatic appointees, died in Johns Hopkins hospital of "abdominal Hodgkins."

Death came at 7:21 p. m. (est) after the diplomat had been unconscious for three days, following a diagnostic operation performed by Dr. William F. Riehoff, Jr., Tuesday.

Louisville, Ky., Dec. 20.—Robert Worth Bingham, U. S. ambassador to Great Britain, was buried here today with Episcopal funeral and burial services of ritual simplicity.

Members of the Bingham family, close friends of the ambassador and representatives of the United States and British governments—approximately 50 in all—witnessed the interment in Cave Hill cemetery.

Bingham was buried in the family lot beside his first wife, Mrs. Eleanor Miller Bingham, who died in 1913.

There was no additional ceremony, military or otherwise, in the cemetery except the reading of the burial ritual by Bishop Ameritus Charles W. Woodcock, of the Episcopal diocese of Kentucky and the Rev. Dr. Frank W. Elliott Baker, rector of Calvary Episcopal church where the funeral service was conducted at noon.

Those attending the funeral and burial included, Sir Ronald Lindsay, British ambassador to the United States, who represented his king and government; Marvin H. McIntyre of the White House secretariat, representing President Roosevelt; Hugh R. Wilson, assistant secretary of state, and George T. Summerlin, chief of protocol of the state department.

Sir Ronald delivered a message of sympathy from the king and queen of England to Mrs. Bingham.

A. F. Of L. Blamed For Defeat Of Wage, Hour Bill

Washington, Dec. 20.—The Committee for Industrial Organization tonight accused the American Federation of Labor of joining with "sweat shop employers and tory politicians" to defeat the administration's wages-and-hours bill which the House virtually killed last week.

In a scathing editorial to be published tomorrow in the "C. I. O. News" weekly newspaper (turn to page five, please)