



By Ruth Taylor
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Peace is here at last—but if we expect peace to solve our problems, we are in for a sad awakening. The problems of peace are no less urgent than the problems of war, and we will not have the high tension of national necessity to weld us together.

There is no doubt that in the days ahead we will be faced with critical situations. We will have to reshape our lives, to readjust our plans, to develop, in many cases, new work.

Now is the time to find out what we have learned. Now is the time to capitalize upon our experiences in the war years. In the cold light of peace, our successes and our failures are made plain to us. If in the past years we have done our job well, if we have made our work an occasion for learning new things and developing new skills, it will serve us in good stead.

Sure, the immediate future undoubtedly will be hard. But what we must do is to tackle our immediate problem with the same intelligence with which we tackled our war job, to stand on our own feet and to rely upon ourselves and our ability and willingness to work hard at a constructive task.

Browning wrote:
The common problem, yours, mine, every one's, is—not to fancy what were fair in life. Provided it could be—but finding first. What may be, then find how to make it fair. Up to our means.

We cannot spend our time wishing for things that are not. But we can find out what we can do best, what we can make of our lives, and then work

THE WORLD ABROAD

(Issued by Cross Country Reports)

New York, N. Y.—With the spectacular surrender ceremonies on board the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay, and with President Truman's proclamation of V-J Day, World War II came to its official end.

It was exactly six years after the German Army had purged across the frontiers of Poland, more than eight years after the "incident" at the Marco Polo Bridge had inaugurated the Japanese attempt to conquer China, and fourteen years since the Japanese seizure of Manchuria had sent the world spinning toward the disaster of another major conflict.

Two days after the surrender ceremonies, Emperor Hirohito opened the session of the Japanese Diet. He appeared in person. He spoke of the "cessation of hostilities", but did not mention defeat or surrender. A day later the Japanese Premier addressed the Diet. He did not hesitate to refer to the Japanese defeat. He analyzed its causes at some length. But he failed to indicate in any way a recognition that Japan had committed a wrong in starting the war, or even that it had acted unwisely.

The Japanese Government has now called an election in January. It acts in all respects as a continuing sovereign government.

These conditions provide a strange contrast to those prevailing in Germany, where no German Government exists and no German sovereignty of any sort is recognized.

Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek addressed an interesting V-J Day message to the Chinese people. In it he promised "to introduce democracy and constitutionalism" and to "restore the power of government to the Chinese people."

Unless these are empty words—and we have no reason to suppose that they are—Chiang's promises foreshadow the end of personal dictatorship and one party (Kuomintang) rule.

Chiang also promised the "unification" of China which means reaching a satisfactory understanding with the Chinese Communists of Yanan. If the Generalissimo proceeds promptly in the direction of "democracy and constitutionalism", there is a good chance that he will be able to come to terms with Yanan. Hao-Tze-Tung, the Chinese Communist leader, is now in Chungking conferring with the Generalissimo.

The toughest obstacle confronting the two leaders is the question of what to do with the powerful Chinese Communist Armies, which have for years successfully defended large parts of China against the Japanese invaders. Chiang insists that "private armies" cannot be tolerated in the new democratic China. Mao will undoubtedly want to be assured that the new China will actually be democratically

A Hurricane of Destruction Sweeping Across The Nation as Tired World is Waiting-Watching and Listening, America.



at it. We must face the days ahead with courage, not with repining. Is there one of us who is not grateful the war is over? Is there one who would not have the struggle of peace-time living, with its building for the future, rather than the quick money and long hours of war-time work?

Decide what you want out of life, decide what you are best able to do. But remember that in working for yourself, you have to consider your part in the whole. No man can work for himself alone—and keep anything for himself. Shooting stars always come down.

Peace is here—with its problems and its opportunities. What we make of it is up to us and to us alone. So let's go to it!

OVERTONES

(BY AL HENINGBURG)

CHAIRMAN GEORGE OBJECTS:

Chairman George and the Senate Finance Committee have completely rejected the Kilgore Bill, with its provisions for paying up to twenty-five percent and that the Chinese Communists will be treated fairly, before he agrees to disarm and disband the Eighth and New Fourth Route Armies.

Chiang's treaty of alliance with Moscow gives him the high trumps in these negotiations. If he plays them wisely, Chinese unification may at last become a reality.

Had President Roosevelt lived to proclaim the victory for which he gave his life and toward which he contributed so greatly, the world might have been the richer for an inspirational message that would rank forever alongside of the great words of Abraham Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address—"With malice toward none, with charity for all..... let us bind up the nation's wounds....."

President Truman may lack great eloquence. He does not lack courage or common sense.

In announcing that a large part of our Lend Lease contributions to our Allies would have to be written off as part of this nation's share in the cost of the war, the President bravely grasped a political nettle. He was at once attacked, not only by Republican leaders, but by members of his own party. He was accused of throwing away the bargaining position of the United States.

It may turn out, however, that President Truman's forthright facing of reality may give the United States greater prestige and a better bargaining position than would a more technical insistence upon legal rights. Actually, the Lend Lease Agreements with our Allies clearly state that they shall repay only to the extent and only in such manner as shall not "burden commerce between the two countries" but shall "promote mutually advantageous economic relations" and the "betterment of world wide economic relations."

The President is therefore not proposing to give away any legal rights. He is merely reminding Congress of the meaning of its own action in carrying out Roosevelt's policy of "taking the dollar sign out of our contribution to victory." He is reminding Congress that much water has flown over the dam since the days when an American President expressed the sentiment of the times by saying: "They hired the money, didn't they?"

This Business of Living

BY SUSAN THAYER

MUCH TO DO
A talented young relative of mine is wearing a discharge button now, and was grabbed up instantly by a firm of industrial designers. What he is doing is working out for manufacturers new and improved designs for about everything from fountain pens to air planes.
He mentioned one household gadget in particular—I can't say what, for it's a secret—that we all own and have used for years. It's in for revolutionary improvement, and when it's announced we'll say, "That will make life easier!"
As I look about my house, almost everything I see seems susceptible to improvement. But it's safe to say some manufacturer has taken a good look too, and is doing something about it.
I feel mighty hopeful when I see so many things to be improved on. It means there's a real job of work to be done, that will keep us all busy.
When everything's perfect—well, by that time we'll have fixed so nobody has to work!

Business is like a wheelbarrow—if you don't push it, it won't go.
—Kreolite News

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dollars per week to unemployed workers during the reconversion period. George's plan provides for paying benefits to such workers up to twenty-six weeks, but at the prevailing state rates rather than at the twenty-five dollar maximum. This means in practice that southern workers will receive much less than those in the North, and also means that states with the largest Negro population will have the lowest guaranteed benefits. Thus it will happen as it has already happened with federal aid to education. Those who most need it will have least chance of getting it. And yet many southern politicians profess inability to understand why Negroes and whites are still leaving the South in a steady stream.

BALANCE DUE:

Andy Gump fans are laughing this week over a very human occurrence, and one with which many readers of these lines have been caught short. Andy, in his customary generous manner, gives Min a mink coat costing four thousand dollars, on which he has made a down payment—of fifteen dollars. Friend Andy smiles with the same childish optim-

WASHINGTON R. F. D.

WASHINGTON, DC.—Real significance of the full employment bill now before Congress lies in its recognition that full employment is a public responsibility and that a procedure for assuming it has been written down.

Full employment, until recently, has been an unwritten article of faith subscribed by progressives. The Wagner-Murray-Patman bill makes a written creed of this faith. It erects a framework program corresponding to a church where the faithful may repair—if they wish—to translate the creed into good works.

The bill does not abolish unemployment any more than the church abolishes sin. It represents another forward step in building a more prosperous society, in that it gives an opportunity to do something more than just talk about the evils of unemployment.

If the bill passes—and this is generally conceded—every legislative program of every branch of the government will be tested in advance for its bearing on full employment. It will represent a notable change in official outlook, for full employment will be a criterion for every major official act.

The unemployment compensation bill by Senator Kilgore (D. W. Va.) is having heavy going and its passage is in doubt. This is the case advanced against it:

- (1) The matter should be left to the states.
- (2) It would tend to raise wage standards. Said Rep. Knutson (R. Minn.): "If we pay a man \$25 a week for not working, how much do we pay him to work?" It is a rash assumption that people want to work."
- (3) "It puts a premium on loafing". Rep. Doughton, (D. N. C.)

The case for the bill is stated by Reconversion Director John Snyder:

- (1) The return to peace is part and parcel of the war. The human as well as the material costs of transition are costs of war.
- (2) Those who stuck loyally to their war jobs until the defeat of Japan will be hardest hit by unemployment.
- (3) The country as a whole has a stake in adequate unemployment benefits. Prosperity demands maintenance of purchasing power.
- (4) The government has provided reconversion aid to business (tax refunds, loans, removal of controls); to farmers (two year postwar farm price

ism that marks people all over the country who think they've bought something when they have managed the first down payment. Pretty soon oily-voiced salesmen of old cars and what-have-you will be calling at your door, and if you don't watch out bills will pile up out of all proportion to your ability to meet them. And then you'll have exactly what Min now fears most—balance due.

TOKYO ROSE:

When you read about Tokyo Rose, born and educated in America, who stoops to the low level of playing traitor to her country; or when you read about any other known traitors, you always notice that they happen NOT to be Negroes. These traitors just happen to belong to that race which up to date has had everything its own way in these United States.

TOO MUCH MEANY:

George Meany, AFL delegate to the British Trade Union Congress, probably had the shock of his life the other night when Englishmen resented his attack on the CIO and the Russian trade movement. A good guess is that Meany was talking on his own rather than from a prepared manuscript, for it is hardly conceivable that the AFL Council would permit him to put his foot in his mouth in that fashion. Whether George Meany knows it or not CIO, has been the most liberalizing influence in the entire labor movement in this country. And Englishmen labor leaders don't need any American to come over to tell them what is going on in Russia. Meany was hitting below the belt, and the boos and cat-calls of his audience must have made him feel very mean indeed.

DON'T WAIT TOO LONG:

Not nearly enough Negro veterans are taking advantage of the education benefits available to them. Perhaps they don't understand this business any too well, or perhaps they want to rest up a bit before tackling the serious business of returning to school. There are probably a number of good reasons, but just the same there is danger in waiting too long. Most of the men will never again get a chance like this, and everyone who is interested in the welfare of the men should be quick to see this and point it out to those concerned.

THERE ARE SUCH PEOPLE:

I had looked long and hungrily at several choice cuts of meat as the butcher skillfully prepared them for sale, but no soap—there was absolutely nothing to be bought without points. And a woman of another race, whom I had never seen before and never expect to see again said: "Well here are some red points. Maybe they'll help you out."

NO MORE SHILLINGS:

There'll be no more shillings and pence in England if a plan now being discussed materializes, for a move is on foot to use metric standards in all measurements. If England soon makes the change we shall shortly see an end of feet and inches in this country.

supports); to veterans (GI Bill of Rights). War workers have no protection.

(5) State unemployment compensation is too varied and too often inadequate to cover the reconversion period to be satisfactory.

Senator Barkley, majority leader in the Senate, put it another way: "We passed a Reconversion Act last year providing financial assistance to owners of corporations and no state came in here and claimed it was their job. The states didn't object to federal crop insurance or highway aid from the federal government, or offer to take over. But when it comes to human beings, the states claim it is their sacred ground."

Senator O'Mahoney (D. Wyo.) has prepared charts to show the cost of unemployment and depression. They indicate that during the period from 1929 to 1941 depression cost business \$355 billion in sales. It cost workers \$175 billion in wages; corporations \$69 billion in profits; farmers \$24 billion in earnings.

The Senator also has a chart on the "mass market for American business! It shows that the broad profit base for business is supplied neither by the very rich nor even by the comfortably well to do, but by persons who make less than \$4,000 a year. Last year's income tax returns show that 47,000,000 persons received less than \$4,000, while 3,800,000 received more than that.

Concludes Senator O'Mahoney: "There is more profit for the shoemaker in selling one pair of shoes to each of the 47,000,000 than in selling three pairs to each of the 3,800,000. The best way to make business good for every business man is to make certain that involuntary unemployment shall not be tolerated in America."

Until jobs are assured for all who want them, the employment problem will be confused by the federal court ruling that veterans have super-seniority over all others. More than a two-way controversy between veterans' and labor organizations looms up.

Many employers privately admit their skilled labor force would be shot to pieces if the rule were fully applied. Labor union leaders assert the rule won't help veterans a year hence when they will need it most. They are sure the U. S. Supreme Court will reverse the lower court, but not in time to avert bad feeling.