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Help For Holland

To most Americans the Dutch have always seemed a quaint people with their windmills, wooden shoes, tulips, storks, wide starched caps and wider breeches. We've chuckled at them and their queer clacking language, but we have also admired them for their industry and neatness, their apple-cheeked health, and their resourceful battle against the encroaching sea.

Perhaps the average American's picture of the Netherlands has been a little distorted. The Dutch have known bitterness and unrest and bleak poverty. Yet in the main our impression of a healthy, happy people has probably been accurate. At least it was until May 10, 1940.

On that day, nearly five years ago, commenced what is doubtless the most tragic chapter of Dutch history. The Germans invaded the Low Countries to "protect" them from the Allies. Four days later, after the Dutch armies had capitulated, the Luftwaffe flew over the great city of Rotterdam unopposed, and bombed it to rubble.

From then on the night of terror grew blacker. The Nazis, early convinced that their brutality was not forgotten or forgiven by their Dutch neighbors, resorted to cruelty. The stout-hearted Dutch fought back as best they could with sabotage, passive resistance, disobedience and ridicule.

Last fall release seemed imminent. Allied armies drove up from Belgium to free the southern Netherlands provinces. Then the Germans held. And for the greater part of the country still in Nazi hands, the worst was only beginning.

The Germans opened dikes and dams and poured the bitter brine of sea water over land made sweet and fertile by the toil of generations. The important source of food thus lost cannot be reclaimed, it is thought, for at least ten years. Starvation thus was added to indignity and fear.

Now at last the day of liberation is at hand—not only for the Dutch but also for the English, as the Germans are driven from the V-bomb installations on the Netherlands coast. And there is nothing in all the present tide of Allied victory that brings greater cause for solemn rejoicing.

Relief organizations apparently are prepared to move in quickly once the Nazis are driven out. And there is urgent need for haste. The little country whose markets once abounded in golden butter and cheese, rich cream and other enticing food is now without even sufficient bread for most of its people. Each day's delay in bringing food to them will mean the death of hundreds more.

It is, in part, for such people as the Dutch that the President has asked us to tighten our belts. As we think of them we might reflect on the meagerness of the sacrifice we are asked to make.



Drew Pearson Says:— Wallace lauds Hoover as commerce secretary; FDR really runs U. S. foreign affairs himself; Buckner family views changed surrender.

WASHINGTON— Believe it or not, but Secretary of Commerce Henry Wallace has been carefully studying the work of Secretary of Commerce Herbert Hoover, and has paid private tribute to him.

One of Hoover's closest advisers, when he was secretary of commerce was Dr. Julius Klein, director of the bureau of foreign and domestic commerce, later assistant secretary of commerce.

Twice, Wallace has called Klein in to ask his advice on the reorganization of the new commerce department.

Wallace also dropped a significant remark to business callers the other day about Hoover. He said that Herbert Hoover unquestionably was the best organizer and had the greatest vision of any secretary of commerce in recent history.

It is predicted by some of those around Wallace that he will go back to a lot of Hoover's ideas about running the commerce department. This probably will mean a clash with the state department on the important point of foreign trade.

Hoover had his own experts stationed abroad to report on foreign trade. But Harry Hopkins let this be taken over by the state department. Many businessmen have urged that it be transferred back.

Ex-Senator Gillette Testifies One of the most tiresome things about congressional hearings are the monotonous statements made by witnesses. Pages long, they are usually less illuminating than ten hot questions.

Chairman Guy Gillette, of the Surplus Property Board, for 12 years a senator, knows this, but when called to testify before the senate Small Business committee, he found himself with a very long statement on his hands.

Senator Wherry, of Nebraska, who was acting as chairman of the hearing, asked Gillette if he had a prepared statement.

"I have a prepared statement," replied Gillette, "but I believe it might be well to leave it with you without reading it unless you insist on it. I haven't read all of it myself."

"You think you'll agree with it?" asked Wherry joshingly.

"Yes, I do," replied Gillette flashing a broad smile, then pro-

ceeded to answer the committee's questions.

F. D. R.—His Own Secretary of State Just after the new millionaire team of state department executives was appointed last December Mrs. Roosevelt telephoned her husband, then at Warm Springs, expressing her strong disapproval. She felt that they did not represent her husband's philosophy on foreign affairs. F. D. R.'s reply, briefly put was: "If they don't behave, I'll fire 'em."

The president also reminded Mrs. Roosevelt that he was running foreign affairs himself. There is no question but that the president is anxious above all else to avoid the failure of his old chief, Woodrow Wilson, and has set as his most cherished goal the winning of the peace after the war. But today, with many other problems to watch, the president cannot devote all his time to foreign affairs. In addition, his periods of rest and relaxation necessarily have become longer, so that he is not in Washington as much as formerly.

Since the November elections, actually the president has spent not much more than two months in the White House. He went to Warm Springs shortly after elections, then to Hyde Park for Christmas, then to Yalta two days after his inauguration, then immediately after his return he went to Hyde Park, and now is away at an undisclosed place again.

During one important part of his time, the trip to Yalta, the president was giving his time exclusively to foreign affairs. And also he keeps in touch with things by courier and cable. However, it is impossible for him to watch everything, and the snubbed invitation to General De Gaulle, is a case in point.

State department career diplomats, by inference blame the president for this serious blunder in our vitally important relations with France. They infer that they were merely carrying out orders from F. D. R. to invite De Gaulle to come to Algiers—French territory—which was like De Gaulle inviting Roosevelt to be De Gaulle's guest in Puerto Rico.

SECURITY AT YALTA But a strong state department would have saved the president from this error. Sumner Welles, as under-secretary, never hesitated to stand up for what he thought was the right policy. If he saw the president getting off on a tangent he battled it out. He had known FDR since he served as page at the Roosevelt wedding and he wasn't afraid to say what he thought.

Unfortunately, Ed Stettinius and the new state department aids have no experience in standing up to the president and probably are afraid to. They were hired on the basis that if they didn't behave they'd be fired and they owe everything to him. It is generally known for instance, that Stettinius did not approve of the three-vote deal at Yalta, and that he also favored open publicity on this and other things. In the end, when the clean light of publicity was focused on the three-vote deal, the

American position was corrected. But Stettinius either wasn't strong enough or didn't have courage enough to put across his views with the president in the first place. If so, it might have saved a lot of headaches.

That is why some of FDR's most genuine well-wishers are hoping that he will see the importance of bringing stronger men into the state department—and do it soon.

General Simon Bolivar Buckner Prisoner of War Camp Near Clarinda, Ia., April 9. —(AP)— "There," said the colonel, "is the completion of the axis."

He pointed to a group of approximately 50 Japanese prisoners of war digging ditches inside the barbed wire of this southwest Iowa prison camp. A smaller group of German prisoners of war supervised the ditch diggers.

"The two groups don't like each other," mused the colonel. The American officer, Lt. Col. George W. Ball, 53, Martin's Ferry, O., is in charge of the camp. He doesn't like Japs. In the tough little colonel's salty vocabulary the Japs are "monkeys," or just plain "yellow bellies." Ball served in the last war, and entered service again on the afternoon of Dec. 7, 1941.

"We adhere to the Geneva convention regarding treatment of prisoners of war insofar as the Japanese standard of living applies," Colonel Ball said. "We're humane, but we don't coddle them. We are firm and just. We treat the prisoners so that the Japanese government will have no cause to mistreat our men who are prisoners in Japan."

Approximately 500 Japanese prisoners are located at the camp which originally housed only German prisoners. Most of the Germans have been transferred to make room for the Japs. The remaining Germans, approximately 200, have special skills which are not found among the Japs, such as bakers, electricians, and carpenters.

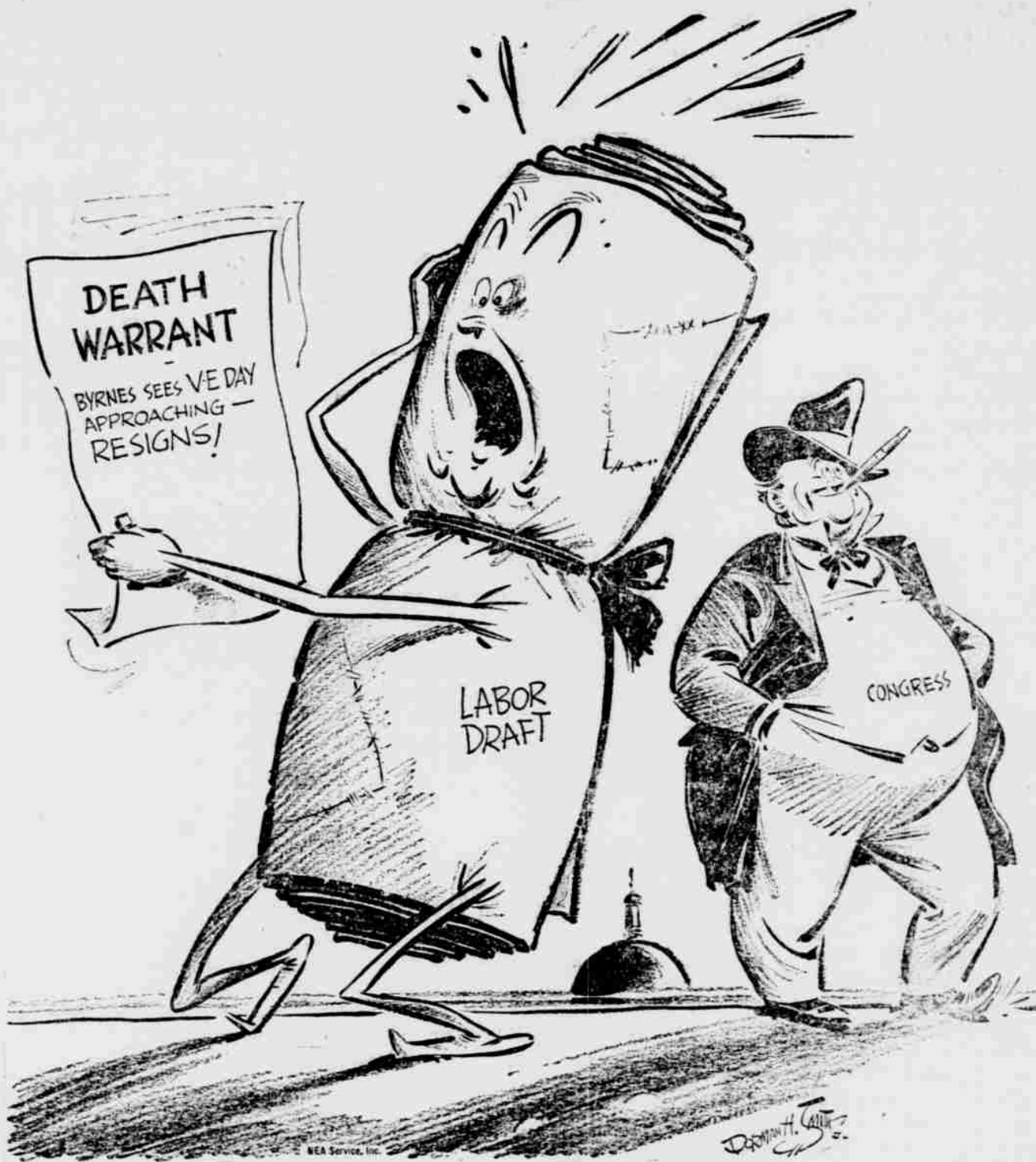
A group of newspaper men went through the camp and inspected every part of it. We saw no evidence of mistreatment, and no evidence of coddling. But when American officers and guards spoke through Nisei interpreters the prisoners reacted with alacrity. The colonel has a rule of "No work, no eat." The Japs work.

The barracks were clean and warm even though a sharp wind whistled across the plain. The prisoners, good physical specimens, were dressed adequately in POW denims a few in army olive drab. They appeared to be well-fed.

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Read It and Weep!



EDSON'S WASHINGTON COLUMN

BY PETER EDSON NEA Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Average citizens probably know little about the workings of the approximately 800 Industry Advisory Committees and Labor-Management Advisory Committees functioning in Washington today, but they're here nevertheless and going nobody knows for sure just where.

The idea of calling in a batch of citizens having highly specialized knowledge of one kind or another and asking them to tell their government how things should be done goes back to 1863 when the National Academy of Sciences was given a federal charter in which it was stipulated they should give advice whenever needed.

The four-dollar, polysyllabic, political science name for this sort of thing is "functional group representation." It was rather slow to catch on but from a number of quarters it is advocated there should be more functional group representation to correct what's wrong with your government. Labor organizations keep needing for more of it and so do the business and farm pressure groups.

EUROPEAN countries have experimented with this type of thing in various ways. France, Czechoslovakia and even Germany under the Weimar Republic had such a set-up. In Italy it was highly developed under the corporative state.

Growth of the idea from 1863 on has been slow but steady. Up to War One only 60 such advisory groups had been created. Bernard Baruch is the real daddy of the modern Industry Advisory Committee. He created some 400 of them when he was Chairman of the War Industries Board in 1917 and '18.

In the year 1933 a Business Advisory Council of businessmen was organized for the Department of Commerce. It is still functioning. It was responsible for the creation of the Committee for Economic Development, admittedly the best of the postwar planning agencies. Just after he was named Secretary of Commerce, Henry Wallace put the Council to work on the problems of small business.

FOREIGN ECONOMIC ADMINISTRATION has a Trade Relations Staff which has done much to keep America's exporters and importers alive during the war years.

The Petroleum Industry War Council took in the whole oil production, refining and marketing industries in a tight little organization under Petroleum Administrator for War Harold Ickes. Such an organization would not be permitted for a minute in peace times under the anti-trust laws, but here it is as a war-time phenomenon, functional group representation in government developed to its possibly highest degree.

That raises the big controversial question on this whole issue. Are government advisory groups democratic? Do they bring government closer to the people and vice-versa? Or do they merely give vested interests legal standing by inviting their lobbyists right into the council chambers of government?

OUT OUR WAY

By J. R. Williams



"Many of them were in bad shape when they arrived," Ball said. "We had to fish out shrapnel from a lot of them. None has died since reaching the camp."

Few of the Japs speak English, although several understand it. The colonel said. Shortly after the prisoners arrived he asked a question through an interpreter. The prisoner answered in English and said he formerly lived in Los Angeles.

"So you went back to Japan and got mixed up in this mess," the colonel said. "I got in the wrong army," the prisoner replied according to Colonel Ball.

None of the prisoners wished to communicate with their relatives in Japan. They explained they were considered dead by their own people. Some expressed a desire to be allowed, after the war, to go to some Pacific island, away from Japan, and settle.

Pvt. Danny Jackson

Writes from Germany

Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Jackson have received word from their youngest son, Pvt. Danny Jackson, who is now located in Germany with the American forces.

For a period of several months Mr. and Mrs. Jackson had failed to hear from Danny and are pleased to learn that he is well. He has been overseas for some time and was first located in Northern Ireland then sent to England onto the front lines in Europe.

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