

L.J. - Senoco. Tuesday, August 14, 1945.

LEAD

The Japanese reply is ^{now at} ~~is~~ the White House - and President Truman is considering it. That's the gist of the news tonight about the biggest subject on earth - the surrender of Japan.

This afternoon word came from Berne, the capital of Switzerland, saying that the Swiss Government had received the message from Tokyo, and had transmitted it to Washington. The bulletin stating this represented a scoop for N B C Foreign Correspondent Max Jordan, ^{who} stated that the Tokyo reply, a long document, had gone through to America by R C A transmission at four-twenty - two this afternoon Eastern Wartime.

In his account, which was the first to come through on the subject, Max Jordan used a phrase that made one look with a bit of scrutiny. He said the word in ~~Wx~~ Switzerland was that the Japs had accepted the surrender conditions - "in principle." Often, that diplomatic quibble, "in principle" can be a ^{slippery} ~~slippery~~ sort of thing - trying to evade an issue more or less.

However, the N B C Correspondent in Berne ~~xxx~~ spoke with a large tone of jubilation - indicating that the Japanese reply, in principle or otherwise, was an acceptance of the surrender terms, and meant - the end of the war.

We are still waiting for a White House announcement - and, of course, for President Truman's official proclamation of the coming of peace. The Presidential proclamation may not be forthcoming until signatures and formalities - maybe not for a day or so.

Or it may come right in the midst of my period - in which case I will switch you to Washington - or the news room at Radio City.

DELAY

One of the exasperating things about the whole Jap surrender business has been the delays - something happening, and then an unexpected lapse of time before the next development came along.

After all, there wasn't much negotiation in the surrender of Japan. Tokyo said - "we accept the Potsdam ultimatum, if you let us keep our Emperor". Washington, speaking for the Allies, replied "You can have your Emperor, if he does what we tell him". And then Tokyo completed the dialogue ~~xy~~ by saying, "we surrender".

With modern radio communication, ~~tx~~ that exchange of talk could have been accomplished in a few minutes -- always allowing for the time needed for people to make up their minds. It didn't take long for the Allies to arrive at their decision about Hirohito. The Japs went through a longer period of deliberation in responding. We don't know what happened in Tokyo, but maybe they didn't like the proviso about the Mikado taking orders from the American commander. That of course was implicit in

the Potsdam ultimatum - but perhaps they didn't enjoy having it so open and definite.

Some details from Tokyo today were curious, that is to say very Japanese. The Tokyo radio described crowds gathered outside the grounds of the imperial palace and bowing to the Emperor in grief - Japanese people expressing their regret, with obeisance and tears, because they ~~didn't~~ hadn't been able to do better for their Mikado -- they taking upon themselves the blame for the loss of the war, and the consequent indignity to the Son of Heaven.

Japanese radio broadcasts, picked up on this side of the water, were full of odd antique expressions of homage to Hirohito, calls for loyalty - these mixed up with radio messages that obviously were preparing the Japanese armies for the order ~~of~~ to surrender.

However, it wasn't the hesitations in Tokyo that put all the puzzle in the delay. That was largely a matter of communication. For example, this morning

at two o'clock, the official Tokyo radio stated that the Japanese reply, an acceptance of surrender terms, was being forwarded. Then hours went by, nothing happened.

Half a day went by, and nothing was definite. It was only ~~at~~^{at} about five o'clock this afternoon, some fifteen hours after the Tokyo radio announcement of last night, that the Japanese reply was received at the White House. We remember, that ~~and~~ it was much the same thing when the Jap radio made the original surrender bid early last Friday morning - long hours elapsed ~~and~~ before the Tokyo communication was received in Washington.

We are accustomed to ~~the~~ the miraculous rapidity of radio communications, so the question is - why all these delays? The answer ^{seems to be --} ~~is~~ - diplomatic protocol. As we know, the messages between Tokyo and Washington were ~~and~~ relayed via Switzerland and Sweden. They were sent in code, and this had to be deciphered. And the messages had to be handed from one diplomatic

representative to another in the process of detouring communications that could be sent directly in a matter of minutes.

Translating the whole thing into plain terms of ordinary life, it goes something like this:- The United States and Japan, being at war, don't speak to each other, ~~not on speaking terms~~. So if the Japanese radio makes an announcement, President Truman can't take any notice of it, officially, because that would be rather like entering into a direct conversation with Japan, with whom we ^{are} ~~is~~ not ^{on} speaking terms.

Hence the communication delays in this historic business of the surrender of Japan.

WAR

Today a series of hot headlines came blazing across the wire, taking up a lot of space, and the echo was - so what! Moscow sent a whole batch of detailed war bulletins about sensational Red Army advances into Manchuria and other nearby sections, victorious drives against the Japs. I could recite a whole list of exotic place names, towns captured, and all interspersed with the names of Soviet Marshals -but the reflection would seem to be "what's the use?" With the Japs surrendering, the Soviets would only have to wait and take over. But, they must have their big military parade. It rather reminds one of a football player who gets into the fourth quarter just as the final whistle is about to blow, and with his own team way out in the lead you'd think from the way he goes at it that the game were not half over - so he goes plunging, bucking and rampaging, in a way that doesn't mean a thing.

From the American side, too, we had some war bulletins today - carrier based planes of the

fleet continuing their bombing of Japan. This was undoubtedly calculated as a measure to help the Japs make up their minds about putting the finishing touches on their surrender. However, even though today's bombings may have been useful, there's no agitated interest in the ~~XX~~ enumeration of the planes or the tonnage of bombs hurled or the places hit.

And, the Chinese continued the war on this day of surrender - which might seem to come under the heading of "So what!" Except for one very sharp point. Today's Chinese hostilities had a meaning - definitely - and maybe not such a bright and rosy meaning.

The Chinese drives announced today were accomplished by the Communists, the Chinese Red Army. This - in spite of the fact that Chiang Kai-Shek had ordered them to hold their places, and make no move - during the period of Jap surrender negotiations.

Presumably, the Chiang Kai-Shek idea was to keep the Communists from pushing in and grabbing a lot of

territory from the ~~XXXXX~~ surrendering Japs. ^{Well,} The Chinese
Reds put their own meaning on the Chiang Kai-Shek order
- saying it was their duty to fight the Japs and it
was not patriotic for Chiang Kai-Shek to forbid them
to assail the enemy.

So today ^T the Chinese Red Army announced
a lot of victories, and the Communist leaders called
upon Japanese Forces to surrender to them. All of
which may add new twisters to the feud between ^{the}
~~Chiang Kai-Shek~~ ^{Generalissimo} and the Communists. It would seem as if
the Chinese Reds intend to take over all they can in
the Jap surrender.

OCCUPATION

One of the things to wonder about is the kind of occupation that we will establish in Japan. Of course, there is the precedent of Nazi Germany; - but then we understand Germany a lot better than we do the Japs, with their Asiatic characteristics and curious turn of mind that is all their own.

Nazi or no Nazi, such cities as Berlin, Cologne, Hamburg or Munich ^{are} ~~is~~ part of the western world, and we can figure the reactions of the people - villainous or otherwise. (But Tokyo, Kobe ~~and~~ or Osaka will be something else again, with American officers in charge and American soldiers on guard amid a population whose thoughts and habits of mind are so strange to us.

We've been having a lot of rumors about how the United States intends to operate the occupation of Japan, and here's the latest word from Washington, which tells of a schedule that has been drawn up - an offic' l program for the occupation.

That program is said to be what the Washington news dispatch calls - "corrective but punitive". That is, the purpose of the Allied occupation is not to inflict punishment on the Japanese people, but to eliminate those factors, both political and economic, which have caused the Japanese nation to go on war-like adventures.

One thing will be - to break the power of the Zaibatsu. That's the ruling economic group, the Zaibatsu being a clique that controls wealth and power in Japan, runs industry and is tied up with the military and naval officer caste. This outfit has been at the back of the various Japanese aggressions.

Another vital thing will be to revise Japanese industry -- make Japan concentrate on the production of stuff needed for a peaceful way of life, like food. As things stand, Japan produced only about seventy-five per cent of the foodstuffs consumed by the teeming Japanese population. That has been a driving force behind Jap ambitions of conquest. Instead of devoting their energies to the production of food,

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they have been turning out war materials for the conquest of food. So one major purpose of the occupation of Japan will be to turn the economy of the islands to the production of more food, so that the Japs can live on what they grow.

Today's word about the occupation program for Japan emphasizes the fact that it is very different from the control that has been established over Germany. It won't last in such a big way for so long. The full scale occupation of Japan will be shorter - on the assumption that the Germans are much more formidable than the Japs, and will require a lot more watching. *I wonder?*

ATOMIC BOMB

The atomic bomb was a subject of discussion in congressional circles today, with a proposal that the weapon of elemental destruction be abolished

How abolished?

forever - as an instrument of war. Congressman Ludlow of Indian^a urges that the United Nations should put a ban on the atomic bomb. The Congressman wants

international action to prevent its use in war. "The atomic bomb", said he, "may become the greatest blessing or the greatest curse mankind has ever known in all the tide of time". And his idea is to take

the curse out and obtain the blessing - *just by resolving it that way. Whereas, the atomic*

He says the United States should take the

lead in world collaboration to develop atomic energy as an instrument of peace - "so that," says he, "it will become the benefactor, not the destroyer, of civilization."

Well, the same probably was said of gun powder when it was invented. And how about TNT and fire? TP Congressman Ludlow states that he intends

to incorporate his ideas into a resolution, which he will present to Congress - his contribution to the congressional discussion of atomic energy.

is there any of the before - -

The future of the atomic business ^{may be up} ~~is up~~
to Congress ^{to a considerable} ~~in large~~ degree - the secret of the bomb
being the exclusive possession right now, ^{we have been told,} of the
United States, Great Britain and Canada. President
Truman has announced that he will seek action by
Congress setting an American policy on the subject of
the atom and its forces.

In this, Congressman Ludlow will represent
one point of view: - abolish the atomic ~~for~~ forces as
an instrument of war! Others think that the United
States should hold the weapon in reserve against future
unforseeable developments in the world - an atomic
bomb partnership with Great Britain and Canada,
giving these English speaking countries greater
authority in the things of the future. ^{Others want it}
^{turned over to the Security Council of The}
^{United Nations.}
From Oak Ridge, Tennessee, the great atomic
bomb factory, we are told today about attempts to get
vital information by means of espionage. The Nazis
^{try} to find out about bomb, but fail ^{today}.

The secret was guarded by a specially

trained unit of the counter-intelligence corps of the Army, and one phase of the work was dramatic indeed. Here it is, as presented in the formal phraseology of an Army announcement from Oak Ridge: "With the success of the project depending upon the safety of a few key scientists", the Army statement relates, "elaborate measures to protect their identity and whereabouts were instituted. And agents of the counter-intelligence corps were assigned as constant bodyguards".

There you have material for melodrama. The identity of the key scientists concealed from possible Nazi espionage. Their whereabouts kept hidden - lest enemy agents try to seize them. And bodyguards - to thwart any attempt to kidnap those men of ultra-modern physics and mathematics, who carried in their heads the secret of the atomic bomb.

That there was an enemy effort to get information is definitely stated, the Army announcement from Oak Ridge speaking of what it calls "a planned

attempts". Just what kind of ~~XXXXXXXX~~ scheme or conspiracy the Nazis tried, is not disclosed. But, anyway, the Germans failed.

We are told that the secret was so well guarded that the Hitler people believed, only a short time before they surrendered, that the American research had not got very far. Nazi espionage was so completely checked, that the Germans were all wrong about the whole thing - and thought that American atomic research had not got beyond the early stages in the development of the bomb.

The Germans never knew how near they were to being hit with the elemental cataclysm - the atomic bomb striking its blow a mere three months after the end of the war in Europe.

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