

GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY:

There's a story from Tokyo today that Emperor Hirohito is about to resign. Correspondents William McGaffin and Gerald Thorp sent the news exclusively to the New York Post and the Chicago Daily News. Hirohito will abdicate before the end of the year, cabled McGaffin and Thorp.

They have this on the authority of the best informed Japanese, who look upon it as a certainty. The explanation is that this will put the Mikado in the position of taking the blame for the war, and, will permit him a graceful retreat.

At present the Emperor is in the ironical position of being on the one hand a divine ruler, and on the other hand a war criminal. And, of course, it's a bit awkward for divinity to have to take orders from a foreign general.

The story goes on to say that ~~an~~ this isn't a scheme arranged by General MacArthur either. That there has been no pressure from us for the Emperor to get out.

The rule of Emperor Hirohito, we are told, will be followed by a regency. The Crown Prince, Akihito, is only thirteen, and the Regent will be one of the Emperor's three brothers; the most logical candidate being the eldest, Prince Chichibu. However, Chichibu is reported to be suffering from tuberculosis. So the regency may be turned over to his brother Prince Takamatsu. Chichibu, reputedly pro-Ally, has been in retirement all during the war, so we hear. Prince Takamatsu is best known as patron of the Japanese Red Cross.

JAPAN

This week many remarks have been directed at General MacArthur. First, the White House, then the State Department; and now the Australians. The Melbourne Sun editorializes that MacArthur's proposal to police Japan with only two hundred thousand troops will be cheered by bored and homesick American soldiers and their families. But, adds the editorial, such sentimental considerations should not override hard realities. It is exceedingly doubtful, continues the big Melbourne paper, that two hundred thousand soldiers could deal with the country that will be flooded with demobilized Japanese troops and discontented unemployed.

Australian papers are demanding that the Canberra government issue a statement on its policy.

About the only person who so far has spoken up on MacArthur's side is former Governor Landon of Kansas. Says the former presidential candidate, the State Department criticism of MacArthur showed up

the complete lack of any foreign policy in the Democratic administration. He says further that this has been to blame for the shamefully slow demobilization of our citizen army. "The administration," ^{says} /ex-Governor Landon, "lacks the courage to bell the cat." Then he points to Italy, which surrendered two years ago, yet the peace treaty is not signed and our soldiers ~~will~~ still occupy the country. Congress, says he, should no longer delay exercising its authority to force the speedup of demobilization.

General Marshall took steps today to defend the army from the torrent of demobilization program criticism. Inviting members of Congress to a special meeting in the auditorium of the Congressional Library today, he announced that the Army has a new plan. On October First, the number of points needed for discharge from the Army will be cut to seventy, and a month later down to sixty. These reductions, said he, will affect something like two million people. The Army expects to let four hundred and fifty thousand go in

September; five hundred and fifty in October.

After that, they will be let out at the rate of seven to eight hundred thousand a month.

The State Department announces that Uncle Sam has now completed a long-range policy for ~~the~~ the occupation of Japan. That is, the dispatch from Washington attributes the story to a State Department spokesman, who says that the outline of the policy was sent several days ago to General MacArthur, having ~~it~~ first been approved by the joint chiefs of staff.

This program calls for the destruction of all heavy war industries in Japan, ~~as~~ just as in Germany. The emphasis on Jap industry to be shifted to consumer goods for peacetime consumption. Also, specific control over the Bank of Japan, nerve center of all Jap financial matters. And, the Japanese Parliament must repeal all legislation limiting freedom of speech and assembly, as well as limiting the right of Labor to organize. Also, we are to encourage the formation of

trade unions among Japanese agricultural workers as well as factory workers.

Here is a telling line:- All high political officials and industrialists are to give up their present jobs. Also, ^{we are to} take over all technical and research laboratories.

We are to establish, of course, complete control over the Japanese press, radio, and all other forms of communication.

There are some two thousand officers in this country who for months have been taking special training for the job of running Japan. Many of these are on their way there now.

Remember
~~Remember~~ Field Marshal Count Terauchi, the supreme commander of the Mikado's forces in southeast Asia, the man who wiggled out of surrendering in person, at Singapore, on the ground that he was ill? The story from Asia today is that his illness is of the kind that comes out of a bottle. The report has it that when the Allied troops began winning in Burma,

the noble Count started taking to ~~his~~ liquid consolation -- and he has been at it ever since at an increasing rate.

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One American General, just in from Japan, disagrees with the opinion of Lieutenant General Bob Eichelberger that the occupation of Japan need not last more than a year. Lieutenant General Barney Giles, ~~an~~ deputy chief of the Strategic Air Forces in the Pacific, who was in command of the three B-29s that flew from Tokyo to Chicago, nonstop, says we ought to occupy Japan for a hundred years. He points out that at the end of the war there were five million Jap soldiers who had never fired a shot, most of ~~whom~~ whom are discontented with the outcome of the war, and who are a menace to future peace.

General Giles' B-29 colleague, General Curtis LeMay, says the Japs could not have held out another two weeks. Le May, as chief-of-staff of the Twentieth Bomber Command, was in charge of the B-29 bombings.

He puts it this way: "The atomic bomb had nothing to do with it; neither had the entry of Russia into the war. The resources of the Japs had been destroyed on such a vast scale, that Japan had to quit."

From Tokyo we learn that the Japanese army has been demobilized at a great rate. They are being turned out of the Army at the rate of fifty thousand a day. Hirohito's army in the home islands, which totalled two million, two hundred and fifty-three thousand, has now been cut to six hundred and eight thousand. All of which makes it possible to send four U.S. divisions home, also Halsey's formidable Third Fleet. Eighteen of its units, including six battlewagons, weighed anchor and steamed out of Tokyo Bay today. At Okinawa more ships will join the squadron, which will then return to San Francisco. Admiral Halsey himself is flying to Pearl Harbor.

KOREA

~~The people of Korea have a grievance. The conquest of Japan has not brought them the relief and happiness~~

~~they expected. Their leaders complain that Korea has~~
Korean are ing
been divided into two zones without any consideration of the
for either
interests or the wishes of the *Koreans.* inhabitants. One, is the
industrial zone occupied by the Russians; and the other
the agricultural part of the country occupied by us.

~~You may recall that Korea has been cut in two~~
~~by an imaginary line, the Thirty-Eighth parallel of~~
TP latitude. The Russians *have* got the northern half, Uncle
Sam the southern. Actually, that line has split three
Korean provinces so that they are both under Russian
and American control. There is hardly any similarity

between the Russians and the American occupation
governments, and no liaison, ~~whatsoever.~~ In the Russian
zone, the Koreans are still under military control.

That zone
~~It~~ contains virtually all of the hydro-electric power
of Korea and most of the heavy industry. The part of

Korea that we ~~held~~^{hold}, produces rice, fish and other food, which ~~is~~^{not} supplies ^{to} the north.

The Korean leaders declare that the Japanese, over a period of thirty years, established the economy of Korea and did a pretty good job; it was working all right until the Russians and Americans went in and split the country in two. ~~In fact, Korea was almost~~

~~self-sufficient, and the provinces in the northeast were actually rich. They describe the ^{present} occupation set-up as nothing short of a crime. As the Allies are running things, the people in the south will probably be without sufficient coal to carry them through the coming winter.~~

The Koreans accuse the Allies of having broken faith with all small countries in the Far East. At the Nineteen Forty-Three meeting of President Roosevelt, Churchill and Chiang, they promised Korea would ~~be~~^{say the} become free and independent. Today they cannot see how their independence is going to be brought about by

~~splitting their country in two~~ They want to know how we would like it if somebody drew a line down the middle of the United States, leaving us with a Democratic government in the east and a Communistic set-up in the west.

EUROPE

For our soldiers in Europe, the lid is off on hobnobbing with the enemy. The doughboys may dance and dine with the frauleins as much as they like and as much as they can afford. General Eisenhower has just lifted the ban ^{that} ~~because~~ the M.P.'s found it impossible to enforce. ~~it~~ However, Eisenhower still forbids billeting American soldiers in German homes.

A lot of people are excited over the possibility of Americans marrying German girls. Until today, this was forbidden by the Allied Control Council, forbidden to any Allied soldiers. But the Allied Council has decided to cancel that prohibition effective October First. From now on it will be up to the individual commanders in the various zones. Nobody knows yet ^{Gen} what Eisenhower's attitude will be.

STRIKE

Still more labor trouble in Michigan. ~~You will recall that~~ ^Tthe Ford plants had to shut down because of a strike at the factory that made wheels for Ford cars, the Kelsey-Hays Wheel Company. ~~This~~ The officials of the United Automobile Workers tried to end that strike, which they described as an outlaw affair. Today the Kelsey-Hays Wheel Company cancelled its contract with the Union. The president of the Company said to the Union leaders: "You have failed to return the employees to work and admit you cannot control the actions of your representatives."

That throws a fresh complication into the industrial picture in Michigan. Nineteen officials of the Department of Labor are out there trying to mediate.

In the meantime, strikes are spreading in oil refineries and other plants. Workers there make the same demand as the automobile union, a thirty per cent

increase in wages. The situation is, most serious in Indiana and Texas.

In Detroit, a shortage of gasoline is not far off. Storage plants of two large companies are shut down.

Throughout the country, more than two hundred thousand workers are idle through strikes.

UNEMPLOYMENT

The Senate tonight passed an Unemployment Compensation Bill. It is not what President Truman wanted, but a compromise. It sanctions the use of federal money to increase the time during which the States will pay benefits to those who are unemployed. That bill now is up to the House.

TIME

No more war-time after the end of this month.

September Thirtieth the country will go back to the sun, Standard Time. The Senate passed a bill to that effect tonight, it had already been passed by the House, and all it needs is the signature of the President.

RESCUE

Last August Third, an American fighter plane was shot down over Tokyo Bay. The pilot, Captain Edward Mikes of Berwyn, Illinois, managed to bail out. And a couple of American planes dropped a light motor boat into the water to help him. Mikes climbed in and had just started his motor when four Jap Zeros came after him and started pouring lead at him. Native planes then came to the rescue, and drove the Zeros north before Mikes was seriously wounded.

Then came Uncle Sam's submarine Aspro. Though it was full daylight, the Aspro, under Commander James Ashley of Melbourne, Florida, steamed into Tokyo Bay on the surface, at full speed, which was about as nervy a thing as a submarine commander could do. Just as the Aspro came up alongside Captain Mikes, a Japanese bomber came in for a bombing run. So the Aspro was obliged to submerge.

The Japs dropped two bombs just seventy-five feet from the spot where the Aspro had dived. Mikes, as a helpless spectator, never expected to see that sub again. And he thought his own goose was cooked. But again someone came to the rescue, a couple of B-24 bombers, which appeared apparently out of nowhere. They chased the Jap bomber and shot him down a mile off. Then to the surprise of Mikes, the Aspro came to the surface once more, but when a second Jap airplane came into sight, he was obliged to dive again.

When that happened, Captain Mikes was really ready to ^{give up,} ~~throw in his chips, as he put it.~~ But the B-24s chased the second Jap off too. ~~So~~ Once more up came the Aspro to the surface and picked up Captain Mikes. And as he threw his foot over the rail of the sub, he said: "Let's get the blazes out of here." *And s-l-l-t-m*