

TRUMAN

C.I. - Sunoco. Thursday, August 16, 1945.

This was the busiest news day for President Truman since he took office. He issued a proclamation, held a press conference, and broke three important stories besides.

His proclamation was to set aside next Sunday ^{as} a day of Thanksgiving for victory. ~~The point of it~~ ^{The President} ~~was to~~ ask all the people of the United States, ^{or} whatever ~~their~~ ^{on Sunday,} faith, to unite ⁱⁿ offering thanks to God, and ⁱⁿ prayer for his support and guidance in the paths of peace. And he added: "I also call upon my countrymen to dedicate this day of prayer to the memory of those who gave their lives to make possible our victory".

~~But~~ ^{But Sunday} ~~will~~ will not be V-J Day. That he will announce in another proclamation the moment Japan has signed the documents of surrender. ^{Now will} ~~the~~ V-J Day ~~will~~ ~~not~~ be a national holiday. Americans have had their victory holidays today and yesterday, and Mr. Truman thinks that's enough.

The President then made it known that he

will probably dissolve the war labor board soon. That's

not exactly the way he put it. What he said was
that ~~it~~ ^{the War Labor Board} will continue to exist for a short while.

~~For the time being there still appears to be some need~~
~~of it, and~~ The Labor Department, under the new Secretary,
Schwellenbach, is making a complete study of the
situation, ^{trying to work out} ~~or working on the formulation of~~ a national
labor policy.

Not long after Labor Day, Mr. Truman will
call a conference of labor and management. This is
one of the measures by which the President hopes to
encourage an era of peace - no strikes - while the
country is going through the throes of reconversion.

And here is a bit of news which will interest
everybody and please almost everybody. ^{On the subject of taxes} ~~taxes.~~

^{the} President ^{tells} us ~~that~~ he has ^{put} government experts
to work figuring out how taxes ~~can~~ ^{can} be adjusted to
make ^{our tax} ~~the~~ burdens easier ^{on all the people.} ~~on business and industry.~~

The President declined to set any date for ^{this}; but,
John W. Snyder, Director of Reconversion, told

newspapermen that tax revision will be one of the first subjects ~~that~~ Congress will be asked to consider after reconvening September Fifth.

The President also had something to say about Palestine. He indicated clearly that he approves of Zionism, and is convinced that Palestine should become a Jewish national state. He disclosed the fact that at Potsdam he had suggested both to Winston Churchill and to Prime Minister Attlee that as many Jews as possible should be admitted to the Holy Land. Reporters asked him whether he had discussed this also with Marshal Stalin. *He said he hadn't,* ~~to that Mr. Truman replied no,~~

because it's ^{one} problem about which the Soviet Dictator *do little if* ~~cannot do~~ anything.

The President then disclosed another fact which ~~on any ordinary day~~ ^{a big} would have been a story all by itself. *President Truman today* ~~he~~ announced that plans for the occupation of Japan are well under way, but that there will be no separate zones for the Allied powers as there are in Germany. *And that all* ~~All the~~ Allied forces will be merged

under General MacArthur.

Newspapermen ^{then} asked him whether he expected to go travelling in the near future. Meaning would there be another meeting of the Big Three. The President replied that no such meeting has been scheduled yet, ^{and} ~~that~~ ^{that} he has no travel plans.

One of the matters ~~to be taken~~ he will take up with ~~the~~ Congress, in September, will concern the development of ^{atomic} ~~the~~ energy ~~derived from atomic fishing~~. He will ask the lawmakers to make it possible to continue research at the great plants in Washington, Tennessee, and New Mexico where the atomic bombs were manufactured. Congress, he said, will have to decide what's to be done with those plants. ^{And that} ~~they~~ ^{they} should be used for the welfare and benefit of the world.

The question of atomic power led to the issue of peacetime military training. President Truman is in favor of it. But, he insisted, we must not call his program peacetime conscription. He will propose to Congress to authorize a universal training ^{program} ~~XXXXX~~

for American young men. But, he repeated that it ^{will}~~could~~
not be ~~an~~ conscription.

That there is
and consistently taking the position that Japan is
giving us a hard time and that we should be
stronger and that the time is coming when we should
get revenge.

President Truman answered the question
question publicly. He assured the country that neither
will, and quite certain the Japanese will never
to undertake another war.

Later in the day, the White House announced
that the issue of some workers may be raised during
the next few days. President Truman today
authorized the War Relocation Authority to permit limited travel
leaves. He also publicly urged managers and labor
to make the problem of periodic and to strikes,
and stated that he would continue to supply of their
own accord. He said in the presence of the War Relocation
Board.

One White House Correspondent pointed out that radio commentators in Tokyo were not talking like people who accept their defeat. *That they've* ~~many of them are~~ *been* ~~mm~~ unmistakably taking the position that Japan is giving in now, for the time being, in order to grow stronger and ~~wait~~ *wait* the time to start another war, and *then* get revenge.

President Truman answered the implied question quickly. He assured the country that MacArthur will make quite certain the Japanese will not be able to undertake another war.

~~Later in the day, the White House announced that the wages of some workers may be raised during the reconversion period. President Truman today authorized the war labor board to permit limited wages increaas. He also publicly urged management and labor to renew their promise of no lockouts and no strikes, and asked them to ~~mm~~ continue to comply of their own according ~~ix~~ with the ~~mm~~ orders of the War Labor Board.~~

SURRENDER

The message which General Douglas MacArthur received from Tokyo today ~~leaves open a lot of questions~~

For one thing, the Japs did not comply with MacArthur's instructions to use the code word "Bataan" as identification. MacArthur made no comment on that.

~~The general~~ ^{He} received two messages, one from the new Japanese government and one from ~~Japanese~~ imperial headquarters. Although they ^{of} complied only partially with MacArthur's instructions, he replied to them in these words: "Your messages have been received and are satisfactory".

First, and most important of course, MacArthur was notified that Emperor Hirohito had given the order to cease fire. However, the Japs ^{went on} ~~pointed~~ ^{to} out that the fighting is scattered over such a huge part of ~~Asia~~ ^{the Earth} that it might take all of twelve ~~in~~ days to stop hostilities, everywhere.

Even while MacArthur was reading the communication from Tokyo, severe fighting continued in northern Luzon, →

although Major General Fred Irving, commanding the thirty-eighth division omitted no steps to inform the Jap soldiers that their Emperor has ordered them to surrender. *Artillery observation* Piper ~~Cox~~ planes are dropping leaflets and also carrying Nisei, Americans of Japanese blood, to broadcast messages to the enemy.

In Manchuria and Korea, the Japanese *still* garrisons [^] are fighting fanatically, although there can be no doubt that they have heard from Tokyo. So said the Soviet radio at Khabarovsk. Accordingly, three strong Red armies are continuing their triumphant advance into the heart of both Manchuria and Korea. *And* They will continue to advance until the Japs lay ~~xa~~ down their arms.

The Japs ^{quest} have a different version of *this*. They complain that the Kwantung Army is willing to surrender and ~~begging~~ ^{is} begging the Russians to stop their attacks. *All of which* ~~this~~ the Russians deny.

One piece of information in the Japanese message to MacArthur is particularly interesting,

especially in view of the conjectures it opens up. For it notified our general that the Emperor is sending members of his own family to the Commanders in Chief of his principal armies, that is to Manchuria, to China and French Indo-China. Hirohito is doing this to make sure that his commanders in the field obey his orders. At the same time, the Japanese radio broadcast the dramatic news that the Emperor has formed a new cabinet. What is more, for the first time in the history of Nippon, the head of it will be a member of the Imperial family, the Emperor's cousin, General Prince Naruhiko Higashi-Kuni.

Another extraordinary feature of this procedure is that the Emperor took the step without consulting ^{Japan's} ~~the~~ elder statesmen as he has always done in the past. However, it is noticeable that three members of the new cabinet were members of the outgoing Suzuki Cabinet, and that a Minister without portfolio is former Minister ^{Prince} Konoye.

The presence of a cousin of the Emperor

as Premier and ^{the Mutsudo's} ~~his~~ action in sending members of his family to make sure his orders are obeyed, ^{all this} raises the ~~fascinating~~ ^A question whether the imperial family has cast off the warlords completely, as well as the imperialistic minded industrialists of Japan. It has been announced that the Imperial Rule Assistance Society, which is the totalitarian party of Japan, has been dissolved.

————— 0 —————

Getting back to the ~~the~~ message to MacArthur, in one sentence they ^{Japanese} ~~asked~~ the General's indulgence for inability to obey his instructions. He had told them to leave Kyushu ^{for the meeting with him} on August Seventeenth, and to that they reply: "I quote, "We feel greatly embarrassed as it is impossible for us to arrange for the flight of our representative on August Seventeenth due to the ~~xx~~ scarcity of time allowed us". Then they add: "We will, however, proceed at once with necessary preparations and notify General MacArthur as to the date of the flight ~~xx~~ of such representative, which will take place as soon as possible".

Gen. MacArthur, ^{as I mentioned,} ~~as we heard,~~ accepted their apology and granted them more time. However, it is generally understood in Manila that he is quite annoyed with them. ~~He knows them of late, having been a military attache at Tokyo in Nineteen five and Nineteen Six~~ And he believes their latest action may, quote, "possibly be just a gag for purposes of delay." ^{MacArthur} ~~He~~ wants the surrender party in Manila as soon as possible. And, he made it clear that he will not ~~permit~~ any prolonged negotiation. ^S Officers in Washington believe General MacArthur may insist upon the final surrender papers being signed by the Japanese high command ^{and himself} ~~himself~~ in the imperial palace of Hirohito ^{in Tokyo.} But that ~~is~~ unofficial, ~~and~~ a mere guess.

0

Timmy Young, so many years an American newspaperman in Japan — and once a prisoner of the Japs, came into the studio a moment ago. Timmy, you know the new Jap Premier. What about him?

JIMMY YOUNG -

The new Japanese premier is a professional active officer who has at three different times commanded important divisions in Japan - at Sendai, Nagoya and Osaka. His particular specialties are field artillery, cavalry, and aviation. While he was commanding the famous third division at Nagoya, Japanese businessmen in that aircraft city/ interested Prince Higashi-kuni in the manufacture of a fighter plane, ~~known to us as the famous Zero~~ known to us as the famous Zero planes.

The city of Nagoya is his home town. He boasted for a number of years that he would make that area an inner fortress of Japan, which he did. ~~The~~ ^{The} home was located in Yoshinocho, ~~in~~ in the northeast part of the big industrial city. Nearby was the Kinjo Girl's School, operated by missionaries of the Southern Presbyterian Church. Down the street just two blocks lived an American Missionary, Rev. Floyd Roberts who today ~~lives~~ ^{lives} in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. I talked to him on the phone this afternoon, Lowell, ~~and~~ and We were recalling to each other ~~the~~ the characteristics

of ~~the~~ ^{the} new military premier of Japan Reverend
Roberts knows him well. The Prince plays golf; likes
to drive fast automobiles. He is a tough disciplinarian,
with a quick mind. His first task ~~is to~~ ^{today} ~~is to~~
~~get~~ Japanese field commanders to acknowledge
receipt ~~of~~ orders to stop fighting.

GREW

Jimmy Young - here's news about the man who got you out of Prison.

News from the State Department: Under-Secretary of State Joe Grew resigns. *And that's*

~~nature of~~ a surprise. There had been talk *of his* ~~might become~~ *as a special* political advisor to General MacArthur.

In such a job he would, *we presume, be* ~~have been~~ invaluable after his ten years as Ambassador to *Mr.* ~~Japan.~~ Grew told the

President that he thought that after forty-one years in the Foreign service of the United States, *that it's* ~~it is~~

~~about~~ time *to* gave up the responsibility of public office.

The new Under Secretary of State will be Dean *Acheson*, who resigned only the other day as

Assistant Secretary. ~~Dean~~ *Acheson* ~~is a new dealer of almost twelve years in the government service.~~

THAILAND

Early today, the radio at Bangkok announced the surrender of Thailand, formerly known as Siam. As

a matter of fact, the government of that picturesque country went even further, ^{it} repealed its declaration of war against the United States and Great Britain.

~~By this afternoon, a considerable force of~~ ^{A force of} British troops ^{is headed for} ~~is on its way to~~ Bangkok to undertake the

~~occupation of the country, incidentally, it will also~~

^{and} accept the surrender of ~~any~~ ^{that} Japanese troops ~~so~~ ^{are there,}

~~in Thailand.~~

In Ceylon the headquarters of Mountbatten's command were trying to get into communication with ^{the}

^{Jap} General ^{in Burma} ~~Kuruma~~, to arrange for the surrender of the sixty thousand Jap troops ^{there,} ~~in Burma.~~ The southeast

Asia Command wants that surrender to take place at

Rangoon, the Burmese capital, and the surrender ~~take~~

of all enemy forces in Thailand ~~will~~ take place in

Bangkok.

~~It is estimated that Japanese troops in the~~

~~theatre which includes Burma, Malaya, the Dutch East~~

~~Indies, Thailand and French Indo-China number something like eight or nine hundred thousand. It will take some time before the Allied forces can complete the necessary operations of disarming these legions.~~

It may
~~For instance, it would~~ take something like three weeks to finish the business of freeing Malaya and Singapore, ~~and~~ *and* relieve some forty or seventy-five thousand allied prisoners *there,* British forces *also* will have the job of occupying the Dutch East Indies, ~~when the Straits of Malacca are cleared of enemy mines and warships and enemy commanders obey the orders of their Emperor to surrender.~~

CHURCHILL

cut loose in

Winston Churchill today ~~opened up with a~~
his battle against
~~hang his fight on~~ communism; ~~it was~~ his first move

as leader of His Majesty's loyal opposition, ~~on the~~
In so doing he
~~floor of the House of Commons.~~ He made the broad
statement that dictatorial Communist forces are trying
to dominate Europe "by terroristic methods." And he
demanded that the secret of the atomic bomb be
restricted to the United States and Britain.

Winston Churchill gives
~~Incidentally, he gave~~ it credit for having

saved the lives of at least a million Americans and ~~at~~
least
two hundred and fifty thousand British fighting men.

By no means, he said, should ~~be~~ the secret be shared
with any other country. ~~And~~ there was no mistaking

In saying what he said he
the ex-Prime Minister's meaning. ~~He~~ meant Russia, and

he meant Stalin with whom up to a month ago Churchill
was on friendly, even intimate, terms.

Also say he
brought out into the open *that matter*
~~the position~~

of Professor Harold Laski, Chairman of the National
Executive Committee of the British Labor Party, as

the power behind the throne. *He was referring to*
~~He called~~ Laski's

declarations on British Foreign policy, particularly *re*
Spain. And he wanted to know whether the Communist
professor ^{— meaning Laski —} was talking for ~~the~~ *His Majesty's Govt.*

That nettled Churchill's rival, Prime

Minister Clement Attlee. ~~He caught the speaker's eye~~

Who immediately ~~and~~ took the floor to deny ~~what Churchill~~

the ~~implication about~~ *Prof.* Laski ~~was~~ the real boss of the

British Labor Party and of the ^{new} Government. Attlee

declared that Laski had spoken solely as an individual

and that none but his Majesty's Ministers determined

the policies of his Majesty's Government.

now H. — back to you.
~~Churchill's bitterest words were directed~~

~~at the new governments of Eastern European Countries,~~

~~the governments that were sponsored, in fact put into~~

~~office, by Moscow.~~