

TRUMAN

L.I. - Sunoco. Thursday, Sept. 6, 1945.

Congress reconvened today to hear one of the most formidable messages ever sent by a President of the United States to the Legislature of the United States. President Truman's recommendations to the Senators and Representatives on reconversion add up to sixteen thousands words. They cover virtually every field and every group of human beings involved in this tremendous job ahead of us all.

He began by complimenting the National Legislators on the energy and patriotic devotion they have applied to the problems of war and of peace. He regretted they had been obliged to cut short their well earned vacation. He pointed to the fact that they are reconvening at a time of great emergency. However, he added, we need have no undue fear if we exercise the same energy, foresight and wisdom for peace as we did in carrying on the war and winning the victory. In fact, he went on to predict the greatest peacetime industrial <sup>period</sup> ~~plan~~ of activity in the United States that we have ever seen.

~~Naturally,~~ I can only give you a ~~tightly~~

compressed version of the highlights of <sup>his</sup> sixteen thousand words. ~~and I'll have to do it with rude brevity.~~ <sup>Here</sup> Here are some of the things the President wants of Congress: An extension of the second war powers act, to Nineteen Forty-six, to enable the Government to steer an orderly, stabilized reconversion course. The Attorney General has advised the President that the war powers act still is in force and will be until the cessation of ~~hostilities~~ hostilities is proclaimed. He proposes to defer that proclamation as long as necessary.

Then, he wants to demobilize <sup>all</sup> ~~the~~ Armed Forces no longer needed, as quickly as possible. At the same time, he wants the draft continued <sup>in order</sup> to provide replacements in the occupation forces. ~~He~~ He wants to cancel and settle war contracts as quickly as possible and clear the war plants so as to permit manufacturers to proceed with peacetime production. <sup>R</sup> He asked <sup>S</sup> Congress to provide unemployment compensation for twenty-six weeks at a maximum of twenty-five dollars a week, in cooperation with the State Governments. He wants this extended to Federal

employees, the Merchant Marine, and fifteen million others ~~that are~~ not now covered. He <sup>also</sup> asks for a National Service Life Insurance Act for veterans, increased compensation or pension for the disabled, <sup>and</sup> more hospital benefits. <sup>Also</sup> Vocational and educational training. <sup>And —</sup> Mustering out pay, from a hundred to three hundred dollars ~~per man~~, <sup>and</sup> legislation to protect the veteran's right ~~to~~ to get ~~back~~ back his pre-war job if he wants it. One clause of his message would give veterans twenty dollars a week for fifty-two weeks, if they become unemployed <sup>at</sup> any time within two years after their discharge.

<sup>Post Truman</sup> He wants to start as soon as possible on public works ~~that~~ have been postponed for almost four years on account of the war, <sup>new</sup> federal buildings, other federal projects, and highways. Congress has already appropriated money for highways, but has not yet released the funds. <sup>He</sup> Mr. Truman wants those funds released immediately, <sup>to the tune of</sup> half a billion ~~of them~~.

Then, ~~he~~ he wants a comprehensive, tremendous housing program to be spread over the next ten years. This <sup>to</sup> ~~would~~ include slum clearance at a cost of from six to seven



billion dollars a year.

*And* the important item of taxes, *he* recommends a transitional tax bill as quickly as possible to provide a limited tax reductions for the calendar year 1946. ~~There cannot be a general reduction of taxes all along the line.~~

*the President. But*  
~~Mr. Truman~~ the transition tax bill should remove barriers to speedy reconversion. After that he hopes for a moderatization of the entire federal tax structure.

In spite of all the ~~ag~~ arguments, ~~OPA the President is evidently sold on it. He wants~~ the powers of *OPA* Chester Bowles *will* continued until at least 1946, so as to hold down prices in certain lines, also wages where an increase of pay might create inflation. *The Pres.* ~~He~~ wants early legislation for full employment. ~~He~~ wants to hang onto the employment services of the several states until at least June 30, 1947, these agencies to be consolidated under the United States Employment Service. *And - he* ~~He~~ wants to increase the forty-cents-  
*an* hour minimum wage. He said it was inadequate when it was enacted, and now quite obsolete.



*the President*

Incidentally ~~he~~ also wants Congressmen to raise their own pay to twenty thousand a year each.

Carrying out the policies of President Roosevelt he wants to establish agencies like the TVA in the valleys of all our great rivers.

He also warns us that he will soon recommend to congress a national health program to provide medical care for every man, woman and child in the country, also protection against financial loss and hardships resulting from illness and accident. He also wants the Social Security system expanded, as well as more and better education for everybody. Finally, he wants the repeal of the Johnston Act which forbids the lending of money to European Countries that have been in default. He wants ~~to~~ half a billion dollars more for UNRRA, the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration. He proposes that the ~~For~~ Federal Government shall put up billions in grants to states and municipalities for public works.

That's about as far as I can go in one evening.

## PEARL HARBOR

There is to be a complete and impartial investigation of what happened at Pearl Harbor. The Senate today voted this, unanimously. And there is little doubt ~~th~~ that the House will concur. Speaker Rayburn promises quick action in the House.

Although, G.O.P. Congressmen have been clamoring for a full inquiry into Pearl Harbor, Democratic Leader Barkley today made the proposal himself. He says he wants a special joint committee of five Senators and five Representatives, to investigate every phase of the disaster and have the report ready for Congress by January Third.

And not a whitewash, said Barkley. Also, not with any view to smearing the record of men who have rendered outstanding service to their country, meaning presumably, General Marshall, Cordell Hull and Admiral Stark. Then he referred

indirectly to the charges against the late President Roosevelt. The investigation, said <sup>Sen.</sup> Barkley, should not gratify the misanthropic hatreds of any persons toward any person or past public servant, high or low, living or dead. **I**t should not smear any innocent man, high or low, living or dead, nor provide ammunition for any political party or any person now in office, or who wants to be in office.

The Senate suspended its rules in order to adopt this resolution immediately.



## OCCUPATION

The latest MacArthur communique discloses that the Japanese ground forces capitulating in the home islands and on the mainland of Asia, total seven million! Said MacArthur: "This is believed to be the greatest force to surrender in the history of warfare".

An advance guard of Americans has already landed in Korea, an amphibious force under the command of Vice Admiral Barbey. The main body, for the occupation of Korea, will land at Jinsen.

At Yokohama, MacArthur was getting ready today, for the formal entry into Tokyo on Saturday. The General announced today that he will occupy Japan and southern Korea with eighteen United States combat divisions. With them, of course, will be service troops and others; altogether a total of between four hundred and five hundred thousand.

~~From~~ the flag staff <sup>at</sup> the American Embassy <sup>in Tokyo,</sup> an historic flag, ~~It is~~ the flag <sup>that</sup> flew over the capital in Washington on Pearl Harbor day, <sup>will be raised,</sup> When President Truman inspected the troops in the American occupation zone in Germany, <sup>that flag</sup> it was raised over Berlin. Last Saturday it flew over the battleship Missouri in Tokyo Bay at the signing of the final surrender.

<sup>billeting</sup> American officers are having <sup>their troubles</sup> ~~through~~ tough

~~Time~~ finding quarters for ~~the~~ incoming troops in Tokyo.

The terrific destruction of buildings by our planes has created <sup>much</sup> ~~a formidable~~ congestion in the Japanese capital.

Consequently, it may be some time before the complete force of MacArthur's Headquarters establishment can

be moved from Yokohama. <sup>TP</sup> The Japanese authorities have warned all civilians to remain indoors from twilight

Friday to <sup>on</sup> dawn Saturday. They have forbidden the sale of intoxicants. Police are to carry lanterns at night and civilians are to show due respect for American troops.

Japanese civilians are forbidden to buy clothing, food, tobacco or any other supplies from American troops.

## EXECUTIONS

The latest about Japanese treatment of American Prisoners is a revelation by the Navy that the Mikado's officers executed five Navy flyers shot down over Borneo last January thirteenth. This is the third case in which the yellow men executed airmen who surrendered honorably as prisoners of war. The Navy gives no details nor the names of the men who thus perished. But we do have the story of four men who survived. They were part of a crew of ten in a Liberator bomber shot down in a ~~dog~~ fight with four Jap fighter planes near Brunei Bay.

Junior Lieutenant Robert Graham of Rosemont Pennsylvania, with Aviation Chief Machinists Mate Reuben ~~A~~ Robbins of Omak, Washington, and Aviation Machinists Mate James ~~A~~ Shepherd of San Diego, California, comprised one of the group. For days they went through the jungle without rations. Finally they reached a village on a mountain stream. Lieutenant Graham said it looked for a while as though malaria would ~~take~~ <sup>take</sup> them all. His comrades lost from fifty to



sixty pounds apiece in weight. They had to leave that friendly village and wandered further through the jungles. For a hundred and seventy nine days they plodded through the wilderness. Finally they obtained a boat and made their way to an advance base in the Philippines.

A fourth survivor of the crew of that Liberator, First Class Seaman Alvin Harms of Holley, ~~Emil~~ Colorado, made his way to safety all alone. The Navy gives no details of that.

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We may ~~expect to~~ hear at any time that ~~General~~ MacArthur has called upon the Emperor to investigate and report what happened to three of the men who went with General Jimmy Doolittle on his historic raid over Tokyo, the three of which there still has been no accounting.

Today we also have the direct testimony of an American General Officer about the treatment of prisoners. He is Major General Albert M. Jones, Commander of the Thirty-First Division on Bataan. He

was imprisoned in the same camp that held General Wainwright and British Lieutenant General Percival, who was in command at Singapore. Several Generals, he says, were stripped naked on parade and publicly slapped by Japanese privates. Jones added: "We were forced to pray three times a day to the Emperor and bow not only to Jap privates but also to civilians". And he said further: "I saw 'skinny' Wainwright beaten by a Japanese sentry who hit him repeatedly and knocked him back on his heels".

"Skinny" has been General Wainwright's nickname since childhood. And now they have more reason to call him that than ever before.

I wonder how long it will take for Americans to forget how our people were treated by the Japs?

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So far MasArthur has recovered eight thousand Allied prisoners out of the thirty-two thousand, five hundred which the Japs held in their home islands. Many of these are being evacuated by air. All repeat the same stories about Japanese cruelty.

## SINGAPORE

More than three and a half years ago, Japanese soldiers in an irresistible stream flowed over the causeway that separates the great city of Singapore from the mainland of Malaya - over that causeway from Johore. Today eighty-five thousand Japanese soldiers, disarmed and dejected, went the other way, with British troops lining the road to watch them. Many Japs tried to carry off what they had ~~had~~ looted from the city when it first surrendered to them. But all were caught. The British stripping them of their booty.

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Several Jap officers protested, saying it was disgraceful that they should have to move north of the causeway because it would oblige them to live in native huts - out of the homes of Singapore - where they have been living. They were overruled.

The British are back in full possession of Singapore today. And they are investigating the cosmopolitan population, trying to get a line on those who collaborated with the Japs. The word is that there



has been a good deal of fighting between underground leaders who worked for the Allies, and Jap collaborators with more than a hundred killed. I'd like to be in Singapore tonight. Long ago I lived there in that polyglot city on the island just above the Equator. And I'd like to be at Raffles Hotel right now on the terrace there, watching events.

It will be ~~ix~~ interesting to see what the British will do now ~~ix~~ with the city that once dominated that part of the world. The elaborate fortifications they had installed before the war of course proved useless; and the rapidity with which the British garrison was forced to capitulate in nineteen forty-two was a shock not only to the British Empire, but to the rest of the world, also.

And now, what is going to be the next chapter ~~ix~~ in the history of the city of Sir Stamford Raffles?

## McNUTT

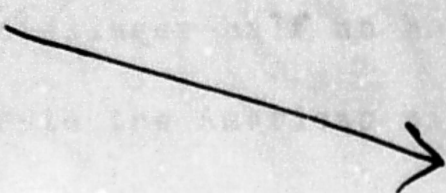
Paul McNutt goes back to the Philippines as High Commissioner. President Truman told the newspaper men today that he is sending McNutt's name to the Senate.

Uncle Sam, has turned all civil affairs in the islands over to the people of the Philippines themselves. But, it is necessary for us to have a representative at Manila, so McNutt goes back to the job he held from Nineteen Thirty-seven to Nineteen thirty-nine.

## ARRESTS

The British have hauled in a big batch of Nazi sympathizers in Germany. <sup>including</sup> ~~it consists of~~ some forty industrial ~~ist~~ tycoons of the Ruhr, <sup>the Rhineland</sup> ~~District and the Rhine~~ and Westphalia. Heading the list is Hugo Stinnes, who became a multimillionaire during the German inflation period in the 'Twenties and for a while seemed to own most of Germany.

One of the agreements at the Potsdam Conference was that all persons hostile to the aims of the Allied occupation forces in Germany would be removed both from public office or from influential positions in private enterprise. Hence the arrest of Stinnes and his <sup>colleagues</sup> ~~party~~. They were arrested at midnight, all of them living in luxury.





ADD ARRESTS

*And, a Nazi war*  
~~But a far more badly wanted Nazi~~ criminal  
~~than any industrialist~~ was caught in a peculiar fashion.  
An American reporter was dining at a hotel in Japan  
with a couple of Germans. *And* They told him that living in  
that <sup>very</sup> hotel was Joseph Alfred <sup>Meissinger</sup> ~~Meissinger~~, the Gestapo  
officer who carried out the massacre of the Jews ~~of~~  
the Warsaw ghetto. The Germans warned the American  
reporter that this Meissinger was a dangerous fellow,  
heavily armed.

The reporter merely sent a note to Meissinger,  
told him his whereabouts were discovered, and he had  
better surrender. After a delay, Meissinger agreed,  
said he would surrender to Americans but not to the  
Russians. The reporter gave Meissinger half an hour  
to pack and then took him over to the American military  
authorities.

Meissinger said that his original plan was to  
shoot five Americans and then kill himself, sooner than  
be taken alive. So far there is no ~~explanation~~ explanation  
of how this desperado reached Japan.

*an S-P-U-T-m*