

Now Honest Harold Desires
To Be Columbia Basin Czar

HONEST HAROLD ICKES picked Groundhog Day to come out from where-
ever he has been and take a look around. It betrays no military secret
to say he seems to have found the weather and other conditions propi-
tious for an approach to Congress.

The secretary of the interior wants some fresh legislation. He asks Con-
gress to pass a bill, already drafted to suit his ideas, which would authorize the
government—i. e. Secretary Ickes' department—to acquire all privately-owned
lands in the 1,200,000-acre Columbia Basin, at prices fixed by the government's
—i. e. Honest Harold's—own appraisers.

The bill would empower the government, through the same agency, to sell
all basin lands, at its own prices, in tracts of varying size, none to be larger than
160 acres, to settlers selected by the Interior Department.

A high-light of the bill is a provision designed to prevent speculation. Pri-
vate landowners disinclined to submit to confiscation, would be denied use of
water for irrigation, leaving their lands as arid as ever; unfit for use and un-
salable. Water would also be withheld from
any land a settler might wish to sell at a price
higher than he had contracted to pay.

Grand Coulee Dam, originally projected
for the sole purpose of irrigating basin lands,
is complete, and abundant water is in storage.
Some surveys have been made, but no work
has been done on an irrigation system. There
is no indication of when work may begin.

Secretary Ickes looks well ahead. He
presents his bill as "a program to promote
orderly settlement and development." Or-
derly settlement and development are what
everyone in this part of the country would
like to see. But what most of them see in the
Ickes Bill is an attempt to extend govern-
ment ownership and perpetual control over
the whole basin area.

Some time ago, Mrs. Roosevelt said she
thought it would be fine to have the 1,200-
000 acres of the Columbia Basin occupied
exclusively by settlers of the type depicted
in John Steinbeck's "Grapes of Wrath."

Under the Ickes plan, every settler in the
basin, financed by federal loans, would be
partly a tenant and partly a ward of the
government for an indefinite term of years,
maybe always.

Under the guidance of Mr. Ickes, the
Columbia Basin Project seems to be moving
farther and farther away from the vision of
an agricultural paradise which inspired its
original promoters.

Can't Take the Joke

MEMBERS of Congress are not always sen-
sitive to serious criticism and censure,
which they can turn off as inspired by po-
litical enmity. Ridicule makes them squirm.
Just now they are squirming en masse, the
while emitting noises indicative of distress.

All this Congress has brought upon itself
in passing the act providing retirement com-
pensation or pensions for all its members.
Some senators and representatives who voted
for this measure now try to explain that all
prospective beneficiaries must contribute to
the pension fund.

This does not alter the fact that the gov-
ernment—the government of the people, by
the people and for the people, by the way—
would put up the bulk of the money to keep
comfortable and happy for the rest of their
lives all senators and representatives who vol-
untarily retire or fail of reelection.

Railery of Congress started in Spokane.
It has spread over the country, waxing in
hilarity, though not in heat. Perhaps for very
lack of malice it has been more effective than
ponderous denunciation. Congressmen begin
plaintively to admit that their self-protective
plan is not so good.

Representative Ramspeck of Georgia,
author of the pension bill, unconsciously
contributes an extra laugh. "I don't think it
serves any good purpose," says he, "to make
sport of Congress at a time when the people
ought to have confidence in their govern-
ment."

Congress really should be grateful for the
sportive mood. This is also a time when Con-
gress should be most careful to deserve the
confidence of the people.

Not as Many Japs in U. S. as Some Persons Say

DISCUSSION, with or without prejudice, of Japanese residents of this country, reveals
a considerable lack of information. Those who assume most glibly to say how
many Japanese there are in this country simply don't know what they are trying to talk
about. Current registration of Japanese, German and Italian aliens should give, when
completed, fairly approximate figures.

The Japanese government keeps close track of its nationals in other lands. For the
last few years, Tokyo has been secretive about this. But the 1937 Japanese Year Book
located 115,000 Japanese in continental United States and 150,000 in Hawaii.

Our own alien registration records to this time show only 58,000 Japanese in con-
tinental United States and 41,000 in Hawaii. The Japanese count includes all offspring
of nationals born outside Japan. Our count covers only those of alien birth.

The 1937 Year Book lists about 568,000 Japanese in what are now enemy coun-
tries. This does not include China. It reports 228,000 in South and Central America;
26,000 in North America, other than the United States; Australia, 3,000; East Indies,
6,500; Philippines, 25,000, and Oceania 155,000.

The Japanese program of infiltration since then has largely increased the number
of Japanese in countries from which they were not barred by law. Due to our immigra-
tion restrictions, there can have been little increase in the number of the alien-born.

Though all the figures given, except as taken from our own registration records,
come from the Japanese government, they are sufficient to show that there is much exag-
geration. From some of the talk going around, it might be surmised that at least a mil-
lion alien Japanese were resident in the United States today.

PRIVATE LIVES

By Edwin Cox



Allies May Save Singapore With Relief
Forces Landed Behind Japs in Malaysia

WASHINGTON, Thursday, Feb. 5.—With the British withdrawn from Malaysia to the island of Singapore, Washington officials are anxiously asking whether the beleaguered fortress can hold out against Japanese land assault and how long.

The consensus of American and British military experts appears to be that the great British base can hold out for a while but not long. Unless substantial assistance is sent immediately, it is bound to suffer the fate of Hongkong.

Singapore would have been impregnable if the Japanese had not penetrated through the Malay jungle, and besieged the island from the mainland. It could have resisted indefinitely assaults from the sea.

AS was the case at Hongkong, the question of water supply is of paramount importance. Besides the garrison, Singapore has a population of some 650,000. The main water supply comes from the mainland, across the strait of Johore.

The Singapore river was dammed some years back and contributes a certain amount of water, but the dam could be bombed and destroyed by Japanese planes. Should this happen, it is doubtful whether the defenders could hold out more than a few weeks.

Military quarters are confident that less expensive Corregidor Island will hold out longer than Singapore because the fortress at the entrance to Manila Bay is a purely military station with no civilians except a handful of refugees from the Philippines. It has adequate water to resist Japanese assaults as long as ammunition holds out.

THE British government still hopes, of course, that Singapore may be saved, and this hope is based on the possibility that reinforcements rushed to the South Pacific during the last four or five weeks may be able to land in the Malay Peninsula and attack the Japanese from the rear. The Japs have not yet had time to fortify their positions sufficiently to oppose strong landing parties.

If the United Nations should be able to send to their remaining bases in The Netherlands Indies a sufficiently strong air force backed by the necessary light naval forces, it is not impossible that transports bearing American, British, and imperial forces would

Dollar-a-Year Men or \$10,000 a Year,
They Must Keep Their Records Clean

WASHINGTON, Thursday, Feb. 5.—The first re-
corded dollar-a-year man in our history was
George Washington. As is usual in such political
capers, the hullabaloo about dollar-a-year men in Mr.
Donald Nelson's war-production top-side crew is due
to a misunderstanding.

There is not a cent never has been anything
to be criticized in a man donating his services. When
Washington accepted from Congress his command of
all our armed forces (and that included Navy), he
stipulated that while he expected reimbursement for
his out-of-pocket expenses, he would accept no com-
pensation. So he served for seven years, and it was
considered a brilliant example.

Going even back of that in our pre-Revolutionary
history, most of the great British explorers and
colonizers were operating at their own expense.
There was this difference—the latter had some pec-
uniary personal financial interest in the outcome.
Washington had none.

IT is the latter circumstance and not the service
without pay—or dollar-a-year—that makes us
look askance at the appointment of the heads of big
business or their close associates to guide the dis-
bursement of billions in public money. Are they
dealing directly or indirectly with themselves?

If they are, it won't do.

Mr. E. M. Baruch set the precedent for that. He
was associated with the management of no business,
but as soon as he was appointed, he filed a statement
of all his private holdings. He sold every valuable in-
terest. He invested nearly all the proceeds in Lib-
erty bonds.

His friends thought this was quixotic or going
further than was necessary, but in a few years the
pay-off came.

When Senator Nye's committee started its witch-
hunt for 1018 dollar-a-year men, great disclosures
were expected from this woolly lamb. His books were
intact. They disclosed all this. They disclosed more.
Instead of making any money out of the war, he had
lost millions.

DONALD NELSON'S problem was slightly differ-
ent. He is not a wealthy man. But he had a
whopping salary from Sears, Roebuck & Co. (\$70,000
a year). They were willing to lend him to the gov-
ernment and continue his pay.

But in the all-embracing activities of his new
job and of that company, it was improbable that he

West Doesn't Like Playing
Squat Tag With the Japs

SAN DIEGO, Thursday, Feb. 5.—Mr. Biddle is the attorney-general
in Washington, but he could run for office in California and not even
win the post of third assistant dog-catcher in charge of liver-spotted
Airedales. That's the way they feel about Mr. "Blueblood" Biddle
out here.

Maybe the feeling is all wrong. Maybe they have the man pegged
incorrectly. I wouldn't know about that.

All I know is that Californians have the feeling that he is the
one in charge of the Japanese menace, and that he is handling it with
all the severity of Lord Fauntleroy playing squat tag.

I've been here a week now, and have traveled a few hundred miles
up and down the coast, and have yet to meet a man, woman or child
who doesn't think that Mr. Biddle's handling of the bow-legged sons
and daughters of the Rising Sun is mighty ridiculous.

THEY all got a laugh out of the latest action from Washington—the
action that said that by February 24 Japanese in certain sections
must leave their homes and move deeper into the interior. That's a
stirring bit of action, isn't it?

Don't tell them to move away from defense centers now. No, oh
heavens, no. Give them time to perfect their time bombs, complete
their infernal machines, and generally prepare for the exodus. It
would be a shame, wouldn't it, and an affront to civil liberties, to
move the Japanese from defense centers without proper warning. It
might even upset their plans of sabotage.

HERE'S another angle for you to figure out. There is much talk
about moving all the airplane factories out of California; take them
inland for protection. Sabotage, and that sort of stuff.

Why move the plants and leave the Japs? Is it easier to move a
gigantic factory than it is to move a family of Rising Sons of—well,
Rising Sons?

Does it make sense to heave and haul a bomber factory miles
and miles instead of lifting the Japs and their shacks and shoving them
closer to the Rockies?

THE government isn't playing fair with California. It shuts down
race meetings. It calls off the Rose Bowl. It prohibits large gather-
ings of citizens. It asks that the roads be kept clear. Why?

Well, the general guess is that the government wants to be able
to move the Army quickly against any uprising by the Japs. But
nothing is done about the Japs.

It's like a guy standing by with a lot of first-aid equipment to
help the victims of an accident which is expected to happen, but doing
nothing to prevent the accident from happening.

THE government is treating the Japanese out here so nicely that a
fellow is almost afraid to know them. He might wind up being
accused of being a fifth columnist.

But at the risk of having the F. B. I. collar me for being unfriendly
toward a national enemy, and throw me in the calaboose for inciting
unfriendliness among a race that hates us, I am going to keep ham-
mering on this typewriter until the boys in Washington realize how
California feels.

California wants the Japs put away until this thing is over.
California figures that the true Americans among its Jap popula-
tion will be willing to undergo a bit of undeserved hardship in order
to forestall any dangerous action by the ones who aren't. And that's right.
I have talked to enough of them to know that they are willing to be
kicked around if it will help this country from being kicked around.
The more I hear of them, the more I like them. One more paragraph and I'll be getting
mad—not as a Californian, mind you, but as an American.

Waiters Closely Watched
In Hunt for Enemy Spies

NEW YORK, Thursday, Feb. 5.—It has been remarked, upon how
good authority it is difficult to say, that the greatest place for
espionage in New York is in the dining rooms, lounges and bars of the
hotels. The spies, say these sources of information, are either the
waiters or eavesdroppers from nearby tables.

In the first World War this was true, and doubtless is true to some
extent in this. This correspondent has been advised that the life of
every employee of one East Side hotel has been carefully and quietly
scrutinized, and that a constant check is kept upon the activities of all
of them about whom there is the slightest doubt.

The P. O. knows, for example, that one head waiter shares living
quarters with a member of the German Bund. It knows that certain
other waiters associate from time to time with persons whose pre-war
sentiments smelled of Nazism.

THIS drive against the spies within is excellent news. It means that
one of the biggest leaks of valuable information to the enemy is
being promptly plugged; that the barn door is being locked before the
horses can get a chance to run away.

We are a loquacious folk. With the blood of freedom flowing full
in our veins, we are inclined to be more talkative at times than we
should, and it does not always occur to us that what we say may be
woven into a pattern of valuable information by spies.

As Americans we can't conceive that there could be people living
in America, benefitting and profiting by the American way of life, who
would be so vile as to connive against the safety of our country.

A HOTEL bar or dining room will hear more talk about what is going
on in the country than any other place. Business men meet at
lunch and talk over important matters, not realizing that words they
speak to each other may be overheard by the waiter who serves them
or by the sleepy-looking fellow or the beautiful woman within earshot
at an adjoining table.

Washington keeps urging us not to be lulled by over-confidence,
but the more I see of the men in the several armed services and of the
splendid manner in which they conduct themselves, the more convinced
I am that this is another war the United States cannot lose, because the
men who bear its arms simply aren't the losing kind.

MOVIE actresses have died before, but somehow the passing of
Carole Lombard in an airplane crash last month was a genuine
shock and bereavement to many people. Carole was so gay, so happy;
there was a brightness, an Americanistic happiness about her which
stepped from the screen and shook hands with us who sat down front
in the darkness.

She wasn't the greatest actress of the screen, and would have been
the last to have claimed to be; but she was surely one of the pleasantest
and loveliest.

On the day she was killed—almost at the moment the news was
being flashed across the wires—I was idly thumbing a newspaper, and
I came upon a story in which an astrologist was predicting what the
stars foretold during 1942 for the movie colony. For Carole Lombard
the prediction was:
"There will be a temporary marital separation."
There is nothing temporary about death.

THE NEIGHBORS

By George Clark



Sentence Sermons

EVERY MAN MUST SURRENDER—
—Some prejudices if he ever hopes to live
in peace.
—Some grudges if he is ever to have any
friends.
—Some liberties if he is ever to win great
liberties.
—Some rights if he is to be granted the
greater rights.
—Some privileges if he is to live in an
organized society.
—Some vanities if he does not want to be
a laughing stock.
—Some fears if he ever hopes to achieve
great results.