

## As Individuals, We're Slow To Feel Real Urge To Fight

**F**ROM many quarters the American people are urged to adopt an aggressive mental attitude; to change the course of thought from terms of defense to terms of war. The psychology of this is that defense is primarily to prevent disaster and defeat, while nothing short of the grim satisfaction of victory is implied by war.

Until recently the greater number of the people of this country were under charge of indifference to war. Even since Pearl Harbor, it has been said that many people seem unaware that war is going on. And even yet the war effort is impeded by petty demands and squabbles, and by delays and confusions in leadership.

More recently, however, it has been conceded that the American people, as a whole, are thoroughly aroused to the fact of war and fairly well informed of what must be done. The urge now turns to mental attitude and terms of thinking in order to clear up the question of whether the American effort should be for national and possibly hemispheric defense, or whether the United States should set forth to win.

Positive action by government already has settled that question. The commitment to aggressive war is irrevocable. And if the government, in this respect, has outrun any considerable body of public opinion, the reason is not far to seek.

The truth is that most Americans regard this war impersonally, except as members of their families may have been called to active participation. War is the nation's business. They expect the nation to fight and win it. But there is reason to doubt their appreciation of what it means to each of them as individuals.

In this there is no reflection upon the loyalty of the people. It is simply that they have never known defeat; never suffered the consequences of enemy invasion, occupation and rule. The onset of war caught the British in similar state of mind. Their islands had never been invaded since William of Normandy came across; their navy was mistress of the seas; their strongholds everywhere impregnable.

First rumblings of war found most of the people of Europe reliant upon scant defenses; upon non-aggression treaties and the determined neutrality of their countries. One after another, their countries went down. These were not merely national defeats; they were highly and intensely individual. The consequences visited upon every man, woman and child in those countries have been and continue to be appalling.

There is no more reassurance or comfort in the idle thought "It can't happen here." What once seemed incredible has happened. The United States is at war. The lives of millions called into active service are at stake, along with the future and fate of the nation, as such.

But that is not all. See what has happened in Europe and Asia; and you will see much more than the overthrow and exile of governments—the robbery, persecution, degradation and slaughter of innocent, inoffensive, peace-loving people. Seeing and knowing of this, the people of this country surely must sense the extremely personal issue in war.

### Stalin the Appeaser

**S**OVIET RUSSIA and Japan have just extended their fisheries agreement, whereby the Japanese may continue to fish in Siberian waters. Japanese Ambassador Taketaka tried for another long-term agreement, such as that which ran from 1928 to 1936, but Foreign Commissar Molotov held firm for another annual pact, and the new one is for only the remainder of this year.

Under a series of agreements, Japan has long been getting a large part of her food supply from Siberian waters, and still more, without any agreement, from American waters. With American waters now made risky for Japanese poachers, the Russian concession is all the more important.

The concession means no profit for Russia; the advantage is all on Japan's side. The new agreement again reveals Stalin's willingness to indulge a potential enemy to the last point of endurance. It also suggests that Tokyo again may be playing the pretense of desire for amity until ready to strike. A safe forecast is that there will be something other than fishing in Siberian waters before the year is out.

### Let Japs Build Our Military Roads—But Pay Them

**G**IVEN the belated consent of the Ottawa government, the United States is now committed to construct and pay the costs of the new highway, running all the way through Canadian territory, to a junction with the American highway system in Alaska.

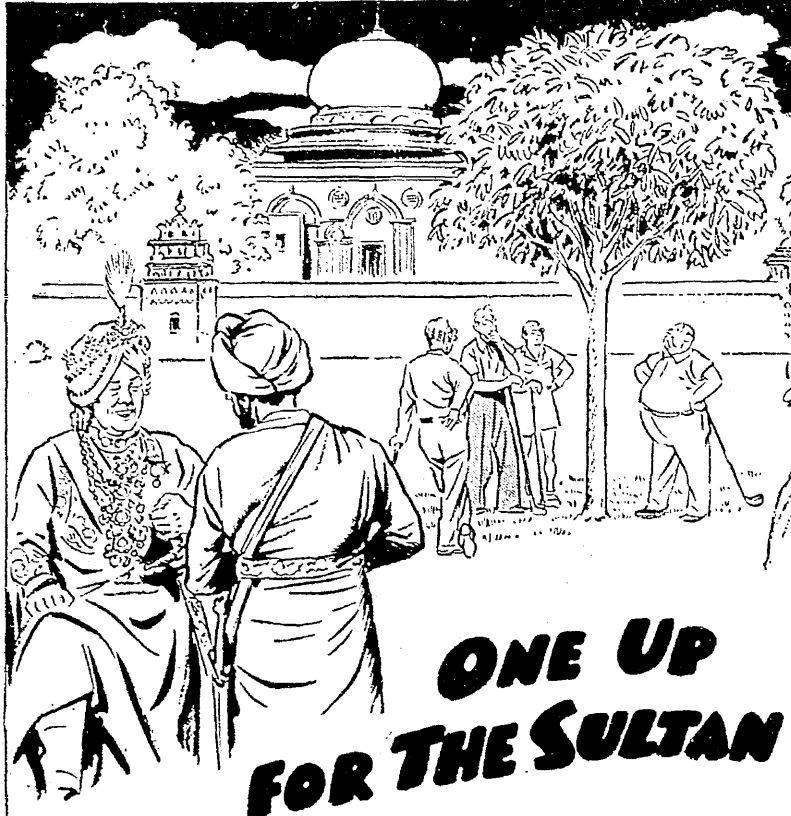
The military necessity and general desirability of such a road is recognized everywhere. There is also general realization that it must fall short of full peace-time usefulness unless ultimately linked in, through British Columbia, with the highway system of Pacific Coast States.

Leaving routes and other details to be settled by those who think they know best, we venture to suggest that this project affords at least partial solution to another problem made acute by war.

Much labor will be required. There is no labor supply in the country to be traversed. Virtually all manpower in the United States and Canada is otherwise engaged. Federal, state and local authorities are wrestling with the question of what to do with the Japanese who must be moved from coastal areas.

Almost to the last able-bodied man, these Japanese are industrious, accustomed to hard work. They are to be taken from their homes anyway. Why should not a considerable number of them be employed on the new highway? Not, of course, as prisoners or peons; but fairly paid for the work they do; this would be better for all concerned than to keep them interned in idleness.

### PRIVATE LIVES



**ONE UP FOR THE SULTAN**

BEFORE THIS YEAR'S GREAT BATTLE IN MALAYA, SINGAPORE'S ONLY SKIRMISHES WERE SOCIAL ONES—SUCH AS WHEN THE SULTAN OF JOHORE FELL OUT WITH SOME RESIDENT EUROPEANS WHO WERE ACCUSTOMED TO PLAYING REGULARLY ON HIS PRIVATE GOLF COURSE. NEXT TIME THEY ARRIVED TO PLAY, THEY FOUND THAT THE CUP ON EACH GREEN HAD BEEN REPLACED OVERNIGHT BY A SMALL TREE.

### By Edwin Cox



**DO-RE-MI FOR THE DOUGH!**  
 WHEN SHE RECENTLY WANTED TO CASH A CHECK AT A STRANGE BANK, FORMER OPERA STAR ROSA RONSELLE IDENTIFIED HERSELF BY GIVING OUT WITH AN ENTIRE ARIA FROM TOSCA!



**ALSO-RAN**  
 JUST FOR FUN, CHARLIE CHAPLIN ONCE ANONYMOUSLY ENTERED A CONTEST IN WHICH THE COMPETITORS, COMPLETE WITH BAGGY PANTS, DERBY, AND CANE, DID IMITATIONS OF THE WORLD'S MOST FAMOUS MOVIE COMEDIAN. CHARLIE PLACED SECOND!

### The Press in War—Mr. Roosevelt Versus MacArthur

By DAVID LAWRENCE

**W**ASHINGTON—Out in Australia, to an assembled group of newspapermen, General MacArthur said the press is a valuable and influential medium in wartime and that it is an essential instrument in fighting the war.

Here in Washington, President Roosevelt, speaking to an assembled group of newspapermen said, in another connection, that he didn't think the press has much influence and seemed inclined to belittle its usefulness.

THESE are not to be taken on their face as contradictory statements. They merely reflect two contrasting aspects of the present war.

For General MacArthur is fighting only a foreign war and President Roosevelt is still fighting a domestic war as well as a foreign war.

Mr. Roosevelt still reveals himself in the role of political campaigner codding the labor vote and New Dealer fighting on for reforms, irrespective of all else. Attorney General Biddle gave the keynote of this policy when he said in a public address—never denied or disavowed—that the New Deal fight must go one even during wartime.

THE President has made no secret of his dislike for the press. The reason, of course, is that the press criticizes him and his acts and few people in public life enjoy criticism. Lately, the press has been a bit outspoken concerning the overtime penalties that employers must pay to accelerate industrial production. The President chose to impute that the effort to substitute straight-time for overtime may not have been sincere or spontaneous but somehow artificially created.

HIS own spokesmen have endeavored to tell the people that the campaign for removal of overtime penalties is connected with efforts of the enemy to promote friction in our midst.

The enemy must be pretty stupid about its own interests. For if it doesn't know that 40-hour week and penalties for overtime will slow up America's war production, it is badly informed as to which side of the argument will help it more.

THE representatives of the press have no easy time of it, of course. With an administration in office that resents criticism, the public doesn't suffer in peace-time, because the truth can be ferreted out and printed.

But in war-time, the administration has a powerful weapon—news suppression, the threat of jail, and the easily offered excuse that the enemy would be aided or comforted by the news.

THIS has now gone so far that the President, by executive order No. 9103, has forbidden any agency of the government to give out any statistical information whatsoever except through the bureau of the budget.

Just what the budget bureau knows about the relationship of fiscal matters to enemy comfort is problematical, but it is apparent that hereafter the American public will not be told about the details of its expenditures and receipts or any of the major items of the way the spending program is being conducted unless it suits the official purposes of the administration to give out such data.

The cutting off of this main source of figures for the economist and statisticians of the country is an adventure in useless censorship. Yet within the political background of the war the censorship policy, it is understandable.

GENERAL MACARTHUR, on the other hand, speaks of the importance of letting the people know the truth. He says it is essential to morale.

HE called to newspapermen in Australia that he was the press relations officer at the War Department. The United States Army, at the time, had sent a punitive expedition into Mexico under General Pershing. It was a delicate period in our foreign relations.

## Soviet-Jap Battle Sure To Come in Siberia; But Right Now Each Is Too Busy Elsewhere

By CONSTANTINE BROWN

**W**ASHINGTON—An ultimate clash between Japan and the U. S. S. R. is inevitable, but for the time being neither the Russians nor the Japanese are willing to cross swords. In fact, they fear each other and are doing their utmost to avert any possible fiction.

The agreement regarding the rights of Japanese fishermen in Russian waters is expected to be followed by other agreements of "mutual friendship." The Russians feel confident their vessels bringing raw and manufactured materials from the United States will pass Japanese lines unmolested.

The reason for the courteous attitude of the two governments toward each other is that the Russians must worry, for the time being, about checking Hitler while the Japanese have other more important problems than tackling the weak, but distant Russian defensive forces in the maritime provinces.

THE Soviet High Command has withdrawn from Siberia the best available divisions and the bulk of the air force. These additional forces have enabled the Soviet general staff to operate successfully against Hitler during the winter.

During that time they received but scant assistance from the United States and substantial, but not sufficient, help from Great Britain. The large air force stationed for several years in Siberia between Vladivostok and the Urals has been reduced to a skeleton. The best Siberian divisions—all well-trained professional soldiers with more than nine years active service on the Manchurian border—enabled Marshal Timoshenko to begin last fall's offensive against the Nazis and to push them back after they had reached the gateway to the Caucasus.

Whatever divisions remain in Siberia are neither sufficiently equipped nor trained to start an offensive against the Japanese Kwangtung army and the forces of Manchukuo.

A SIMILAR situation exists in Japan. The bulk of its aviation is now engaged in far-flung operations in the South Pacific. As the resistance of the United Nations to Japanese aggression increases, the Tokyo High Command must throw into battle everything it has in order to obtain a decision both in Australia and in India before the end of summer.

## Heaven Save MacArthur From His Friends

By BRIG. GEN. HUGH S. JOHNSON

**W**ASHINGTON—May heaven save Douglas MacArthur from his loving friends.

The Australian request for his services as the clock of doom registered the 11th hour and the 59th minute tends to make him personally responsible for what the President says is—"Everything from here to Singapore." This is all messed up with some kind of British Empire politics involving Mr. Curtin and Mr. Churchill.

ON top of this, some little American groups are forming under the slogan "MacArthur for President" which tend to push him, willy-nilly into American politics.

## Because Some Fail, No Reason To Condemn All

By DALE HARRISON

**N**EW YORK—Family Dialogue:  
 HE: If I should get killed, or something, in an air raid, baby, I wish you'd do me one last favor.  
 SHE: Certainly, my dear. What do you want me to do? Play Chopin's Funeral March on the piano?  
 HE: If you wish, you may do so. I was thinking of something more practical. I desire that if disaster befalls me you hasten to telephone my office the news, as I would hate to be scooped in my own newspaper on my own demise.  
 SHE: Very well, but it seems a trivial matter, really.  
 HE: Trivial to you, perhaps, but to a newspaper man it is the big moment. Only then can he die with something akin to peace, for he will know that the world will be informed of his passing.

SHE: The world will hardly be holding its breath, my little chickadee, even if every one in this block were killed. Death is too commonplace in war.  
 HE: Well, skip it, then. I'm merely trying to make arrangements to have my office know the worst promptly so it can make prompt arrangements for assigning my chores to other willing hands. If you should get killed while away from home, I certainly would appreciate being informed promptly.  
 SHE: Sure you would. You would hardly wait until my flesh was cold before marrying some hussy. You are definitely the type. I have no doubt, but that you secretly have wished me gone from your life many times.  
 HE: Goodness, that sounds wicked. If they are divorced, they have no business liking each other—certainly not liking each other better than when they were married.  
 SHE: I see nothing wrong with it. She says she made a splendid financial settlement, and that now she doesn't worry about anything.  
 HE: Why don't those women mind their own business? Having failed to make their own marriage succeed, they want to spread the poison among others.  
 SHE: I do think, though, that many wives would be better off away from their husbands than with them.  
 HE: But the nasty fellow would be expected to send her chunks of golden alimony every month, eh, darlin'?

SHE: Only a brute would do less.  
 HE: (The conversation continued an hour. P. S.—They are still happily married.)

### Hits and Misses

One thing the great national figure of a bygone age would say, if he were here today: "Boys, there are some statues of me in the parks you can still put up for guns."—The Walla Walla Union Bulletin.

Although the rubber shortage may not be boosting the spirit of diligence, it is making even the laziest motorist a tireless worker.—The Bremerton News-Searchlight.

Worth thinking about: The tighter closed our trap the less the news to reach the Japs.—The Everett Daily Herald.