

ABC

EARL GODWIN

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THURSDAY

GODWIN:

The fundamental reason for the Pearl Harbor disaster, as revealed in every report made public so far, including the gone-with-the-wind volumes that were released yesterday, is that the Army and Navy are two separate teams. Had they been working together as one coordinated defense organization there might not have been the separated activities by which the Japs knocked that ball through all the infielders' legs. The Navy has put up with the greatest outcry against a single department of defense, but they have lost a lot of headway due to the splendid results of Army-Navy teamwork in the war... and the Pearl Harbor debacle simply takes the case right out of the Navy's hands.

That report which came out of the White House yesterday is an Army and Navy review of Army and Navy doings. Nobody else seems to be satisfied with it and there is still so much hidden from the public that I presume Congress will demand open court martials or a congressional inquiry with no holds barred. Briefly stated, the evidence seems to show that there was plenty of knowledge on Pearl Harbor that the Japs were about to attack, but that no one did enough about it to stave off the disaster.

The Army board which made the Army report was composed of three little-known officers, Lieutenant General George Grunnert, Major General Henry D. Russell, Major General Walter H. Frank. So it's just a three-man opinion.

GODWIN:
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They glossed over Roosevelt; they went haywire a mile in dragging in Cordell Hull; and they smeared George Marshall, one of the best soldiers the country ever produced; and they blame General Short and General Gerow .. and having done all that, they make no recommendations at all.

The Navy board pins blame on Admiral Kimmel and Admiral Stark .. and then, after both have been retired, the Secretary of the Navy says they shall not be restored to any Navy job requiring judgment. President Truman's masterful statement today shows he recalls vividly the pacifist state of mind of the whole country at that time. And he is dead right when he puts the general blame on the country at large and recalled how President Roosevelt was villified every time he started a preparedness program.

The most completely unjustified elements in the reports are side-swipes taken at former Secretary of State Cordell Hull and Chief of Staff General George C. Marshall.

The truth is that Cordell Hull, as Secretary of State, held back the crisis for many months to gain as much time as possible for the British and the Americans to get their forces in a state of preparedness.

The truth is that, had it not been for the insistent but quiet work of General Marshall, we would not have been even as strong as we were with all our weakness when Japan attacked.

Dragging in Cordell Hull's name as a part of the American weakness at Pearl Harbor is enough to show that the three officers who comprised the Army board had no idea what was going on in the world at the time of Pearl Harbor.

GODWIN:
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To put General George Marshall, Chief of Staff, on the spot is to give plain Americans the idea again that the Army's best West Point clique is trying to get back at Marshall because he is not a West Pointer...but a graduate of the famous VMI.. Virginia Military Institute.

The country's greatest military critic from a literary standpoint is Douglass Southall Freeman, Richmond editor, author of the monumental works on General Lee.

Says this wise southerner, speaking of Marshall:

"He is the living vindication of the power of high intellect amid contingencies of war."

President Truman's analysis of the real blame for Pearl Harbor takes us back to those years when Germany was getting ready; when the old umbrella man, Chamberlin, was befuddling the English situation; and when this country was closing its eyes to the facts of international life. President Roosevelt left the thankless task of preparedness in the Army to Marshall who had to gum-shoe his way through a morass of congressional pacifism -- which at one time nearly cost us all we had gained .. and by a single vote.

That was the vote in which the House of Representatives had to decide whether to keep on drafting and training men. And as I say, the national defense carried the day by one vote, thanks to Sam Rayburn of Texas, Speaker of the House.

Those were the days of the wooden guns and a poverty stricken Army. Every time Marshall wanted something for defense some flannel-mouthed would oppose it on the charge that the Army wanted to aggrandize itself.

GODWIN:
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Well, it was just a streamlined twentieth century version of the way the politicians treated Washington's Army at Valley Forge. If you want the real reason in government for the lack of preparedness, get the committee votes and the congressional votes on appropriations for the Army and Navy. Contrast the amounts granted with the sums and things asked for.

One day in April, 1941, General Marshall was called before the Senate Committee investigating the war effort. That was the well known Truman committee. Truman now being President. Here is an extract from the things Marshall told them at that session.. as to the state of the Army at the time Germany invaded Poland September first, 1939:

"In July, 1939," he said, "we had a reasonably adequate garrison in Hawaii, a very deficient garrison of about thirteen thousand men in Panama -- there are thirty thousand men there today -- some four hundred men I believe in Alaska, and a total of ten thousand Philippine scouts and white troops in the Philippine Islands. Within the USA we had no field army of any kind; we had the pieces of about three and a half divisions .. about fifty per cent complete as to personnel, with very little transportation... Each division constituted a force which would permit one regiment to train if all the other troops stayed in camp and loaned their transportation to that regiment."

Never was a nation so boastful, full of bunk, and so completely unprepared .. and it was Marshall who had the job of putting over the facts to a tongue-in-cheek Congress. Well, he did it, as he also built up American strength in South America in ways and in places which are still military secrets.

GODWIN:
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The way he built up strength in the Far East, including China.. which is still off the record. In addition to a statesmanlike broad view (which is rare in military men), this man Marshall can take on and dispose of more problems and more work than almost any other man in this generation. I think that, instead of smearing Marshall, the officers of the board should have recognized that the whole free world owes him their lasting thanks.

On the third of December - 1941, Raymond Brandt, noted Washington correspondent for the St. Louis Times Dispatch, wired his paper that the coming week-end would be the most critical in the country's history. The President has come back from Warm Springs and had talked to people high up in the international affairs. Just why the country was left out is just one more of those mysteries.

Secretary of War Stimson's diary, which contributes some interesting extracts, shows that November 25th, 26th, and 27th were given over to troubled conferences at the White House. The heads of government seemed to know there was trouble ahead... but somehow or other it seems to me they must have been thinking in terms of formal declarations of war. At any rate, nobody, at that time, told the Army and Navy on Hawaii to cock their triggers and get ready.

Seems to me, too, that enough stuff happened right out there on Hawaii and the immediate waters to warn General Short and Admiral Kimmel that the Japs were on their way. The F.B.I. intercepted messages which seemed to tell the Jap plans. But the Army and Navy pooh-poohed the idea.

GODWIN:
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A couple of young privates picked up Japanese planes by radar... and a Lieutenant told them to forget it. That Lieutenant is not a Lieutenant Colonel. The two privates have been promoted...a little.

Now let me open the door on another matter connected with Marshall and the American Army in Europe. He was a young officer on Pershing's staff in World War number one. At the time there was no unified command, and there was a big drive to take the American Army and mix it all up with the French and the British... so there would be no real American Army.

Pershing never was in full command. In fact, nobody could ever claim to have been the Eisenhower of 1918.

This time, when we declared war and started pouring in materials, money and men like a gigantic river of strength, Marshall demanded and kept on demanding that the top command, the over-all command, be American. He knew America would contribute the overwhelming strength, the mountain of material, the unstinted cash and credit. He knew the British strength had to be spread thin throughout the British Empire on which the sun never sets.

Marshall knew that American lend-lease would take care of every supply problem for the entire world against the Axis. And, in spite of difficulties that arose high as mountain ranges, he put over Eisenhower as top man. So don't forget that in this hysterical age of headlines and smears and gossip.

Now I want to offer the country a suggestion: It comes from a body of women who are as wholesome and as American as ham and eggs.

GODWIN:
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I mean the National WCTU, whose President, Mrs. D. Leigh Colvin, has suggested to President Truman a thirty-day period of mourning after V-J Day. Marked by flags at half staff. You know it is not all joy and whoopee, this victory. There are many homes saddened by the deaths which victory has cost.

Now before I turn to what seems to me to be the headline of the week, here is Brett Morrison, with a word from my sponsor, about a really old American principle...

And do you know what is coming back to American life? Courtesy on the part of the folks who wait upon you from behind the counter.. and at filling stations. As an Associated Press story from Washington tonight puts it..."No more sass from the lass behind the counter." The boss is fed up with her...or him...same as you are. This is the promise of Walter Morrow, President of the American Retail Federation.

There will be once-a-day deliveries again, fancy and gift wrappings, extended credit, and bigger retail advertising. Retailers made money in the war because they did a huge business and cut down their fancy services.

"But" says Morrow, "now the OPA has put the squeeze on us with its ceiling prices, so much so that many a firm won't be able to break even. You wouldn't think that we would return to services that will cost us plenty, would you? But we will, we will."

Morrow said there's a simple explanation for this. The fellow down the street decides the way to make money is to do lots of business.

GODWIN:

And the way to do lots of business is to advertise a lot and go in heavily for special wrapping, easy credit plans and other trade getters. So he does. So everybody does. As for courtesy, some trend already has been observed. A filling station attendant has been caught red-handed cleaning a windshield, a sure sign of peace.

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