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We recognize, however, that speed in getting this work of rehabilitation under way may be even more important at this time than the specific amount of the claims recognized. The Senate passed the Tydings rehabilitation bill on December 5 by unanimous consent. Unless the House acts before the beginning of the congressional recess this week the year in which the war ended will pass without anything tangible being done toward Philippine rehabilitation. That would be a tragic set-back for American policy in the islands. Consequently, we urge the Insular Affairs Committee and the House itself to speed the enactment of this humanitarian measure before the Christmas holiday.

In part, this proposed aid to the Filipinos represents turning over to them surplus war materials which cannot be returned to this country without heavy expense. A large part of the cash outlay will be covered by the \$220,000,000 collected by the Government in war-damage insurance premiums. It is quite reasonable that the insurance fund be used for this purpose, since most of the war damage in American territory was sustained in the islands. Senator TYDINGS pointed out, moreover, that General MacArthur ordered the Filipinos to destroy their bridges, machinery, and other property in order to cripple the Japs while the war was on. Certainly we have a clear obligation to make good these losses.

Senator TAFT expressed confidence that "throughout the Far East we shall receive from our contribution, because of our accomplishment in finishing the great job we have done in the Philippine Islands, a credit which will amount to far more than any money which we are called upon to spend under this bill." Part of that credit will be lost, however, if the House haggles over the bill or permits it to drag over into next year. The war is over; the work of reconstruction ought to be under way. Don't let it be said that we have weakened the faith and determination of the Filipino people and their neighbors by either indecision or inaction at the right moment. The Filipinos have years of hard reconstruction work ahead of them and only 6 months to go before their independence will come into effect. For their sake and our own, we ought to crowd into each of those 6 months a maximum of cooperative effort.

Mr. Speaker, the American organs of public opinion have expressed themselves vigorously in favor of quick action on the Philippine legislation now pending before us. Two American newspapers, one the Oregonian, representing the viewpoint of the Pacific coast, and another the Rochester Times-Union, voicing the opinion of the east coast, published as their leading editorials a few days ago the following articles:

[From the Oregonian, of Portland, Oreg., of December 7, 1945]

OUR DEBT TO THE FILIPINOS

There is one debt which the people of the United States will pay gladly and gratefully, and that is a bill for war damages to the Philippines. The Senate has passed and sent to the House a measure authorizing \$450,000,000 for that purpose. The Senate's Territories Committee scarcely needed an eloquent appeal from Gen. CARLOS P. ROMULO, Filipino war hero and Resident Commissioner, to increase the original figure of \$100,000,000.

Money will never repay our obligation to the Filipino people, who were our wards and whom we left defenseless to suffer the brutal occupation of the Japanese. Our brave allies never lost faith in the United States, nor we in them. In battle beside American soldiers on Bataan, in guerrilla bands raiding from the hills, by assistance and protection of

American prisoners of the Japs, and by the intelligence they provided to prepare for the return of General MacArthur, the Filipinos have forged unbreakable bonds between their nation and ours.

With our help the Philippine Commonwealth will restore its economy and become one of the great small nations of the world. In the world history of empires, colonies, and protectorates, the relations of the United States and the Philippines stand out as a beacon.

[From the Rochester (N. Y.) Times-Union of December 11, 1945]

LIBERATING PHILIPPINES IS ONLY HALF OUR DUTY

The lecture visit of Brig. Gen. CARLOS P. ROMULO, Resident Commissioner of the Philippines, reminds us of how often the course of history has been changed by inaction. A case could be made out that neglect, indifference, and unconcern have changed relations between peoples more profoundly than more dramatic actions.

There should be no indifference or unconcern about the Philippines. Nowhere under the American flag at any time have all the horrors of war been written in the people's blood as in the Philippines. Their men fought at our side, their women and children were bayoneted, their cities ravaged.

Okinawa was bad. But if the Filipinos had not been the loyal people that they are, the Okinawa campaign, so costly in American lives, would have been repeated 10 times over.

So next July 4 the Philippines will be free, not as a reward, but as the logical culmination of a long-time policy.

That by no means ends our responsibility. The independent Philippines will still occupy as close a relation to the United States as any State in the Union.

Under the joint resolution of June 29, 1944, the United States will construct and maintain in the Philippines great sea and air bases which will push the spearhead of our defense 5,000 miles west.

These bases limit the independence of the Philippines in foreign policy and in the power to declare war or even to remain neutral. And they impose on us the duty of keeping our bases operating in an economically strong and loyal area.

Two island measures are before Congress. A Senate bill proposes payment of about a half billion in claims for war damage. Actual war damage is believed to be about twice that total. Except for claims of collaborators the total bill should be paid.

A House bill is open to dispute. It recognizes that the Filipino's standard of living is the highest in the Orient because of American tariffs. It seeks to soften the jar of independence upon Philippine economy by gradually imposing our tariffs after 8 years of free trade.

We do not believe that Congress can say that 8 years from July 4, 1946 or at any other given time, the Philippines can stand alone against the competition of the whole Orient.

Their special position in our defense scheme suggests an integrated economy, too, with free trade between us indefinitely. Meanwhile close economic cooperation should develop a division of labor between us so that products of each would supplement the other, rather than compete.

That will not be easy, for the dairy farmer doesn't want the competition of coconut oil and the beet sugar farmer doesn't want duty-free cane sugar competition.

But there are tropical staples needed here which the Philippines can produce. Patient development of complementary rather than competing trade is the only way we can fulfill our obligation and protect our bases.

Only White Woman Taken Prisoner on American Soil During World War II

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

OF

HON. WILLIAM R. THOM

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 1945

Mr. THOM. Mr. Speaker, under leave to extend my remarks, I am inserting the following press release from the United States Department of the Interior:

Mrs. Etta Jones, the only white woman to be taken prisoner on American soil during World War II, has received from Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes a check for \$7,374.21, representing back salary as Indian Office teacher on the island of Attu, where she and her late husband, C. Foster Jones, were captured in 1942 when the Japs seized that Aleutian outpost.

Included in Mrs. Jones' check was a salary increase which was awarded her last year upon the recommendation of the Interior Suggestions Committee when she and Mr. Jones won the Award of Excellence in absence for outstanding valor in the face of danger. From the day that Attu was captured, their fate was never known until Mrs. Jones was found alive and well last August at Totsuka, a village near Yokohama, when General MacArthur's forces roared through after the Japanese surrender.

Mrs. Jones, now at the end of her 3½ years of wanderings as a prisoner of war, including many harrowing experiences during the few hectic days following the capture of Attu, confirmed to Secretary Ickes that her husband lost his life at the hands of his captors, although the details were never vouchsafed to her.

In her story to the Secretary and to other associates of the Department of the Interior she emphatically corrected an earlier hearsay account to the effect that her husband had trained a small band of Attu natives to resist the Japanese landing. "Of my own personal knowledge," she said, "there was never any resistance of any kind. There was nothing to resist with. My husband and one native had a shotgun apiece for game shooting, but I know that neither of them ever fired a shot at the Japs."

While Mrs. Jones' memory as to dates during her long and complete isolation from the outside world is frequently somewhat hazy, the details on the capture of Attu are indelibly stamped in her mind.

"When a Jap ship was sighted in the outer harbor on that Sunday morning, June 7, 1942," she narrated, "we were not in the least disturbed. We had been warned some weeks previously by the Navy at Dutch Harbor that Attu was a danger spot and were told to be ready for an American naval vessel to pick us up for evacuation. Naturally, everybody thought that what we saw was the long-awaited American ship.

"Pretty soon, however," she continued, "some native fishermen came in and said they had seen a lot of little ships surrounding the big ship. These, we learned later, were landing barges and had not been visible at first. Also about the same time, some natives spotted a reconnaissance plane with red circles under its wings. Then we began to suspect that something was amiss, but still we had nothing definite that invasion was near.

"About 11 o'clock we suddenly saw Jap soldiers swarming down the mountainside coming from all directions, shooting wildly as they ran. In a twinkling they were upon

us. Some shots rang through the windows of our little house, shattering the window panes. One or two natives were wounded, but there was absolutely no resistance.

"My husband at the time was at the radio sending the weather report to Dutch Harbor, as was his daily habit as operator of the radio weather station. I rushed to him and cried:

"The Japs are here!"

"He repeated that cryptic remark on the radio, but we never knew whether it was received, since weather conditions were bad, for sending radio messages and he was broadcasting the weather report 'blind.'

"A moment later a young Jap officer entered our house, just as I was going out to give myself up. The first thing he did was storm to the radio and put it out of commission. Then he shouted to both my husband and me:

"Come outside, and bring nothing with you! I did manage to pick up my glasses on the way out.

"After a complete search of our house, as well as those of the natives, we were all herded into the schoolhouse for a talk by the commanding officer. The officer gave quite a suave talk about their having 'come to release the Aleuts from American tyranny' and that they would be allowed to carry on their 'normal life'—provided—and this was repeatedly emphasized—that they obeyed orders. The Japs started right in teaching us how to bow low three times each time we met an officer.

"Late that first day the Aleut natives were allowed to return to their homes, which they found stripped of everything valuable. But my husband and I were not permitted to return to our house. We were told to go to an empty house, because, ours being the best house on the island, the Jap officers wanted it for themselves.

"I was permitted to have my own bed, but was forced to carry it myself. My husband was cuffed to one side when he tried to carry it for me. As I was lugging it along in the dark a Jap guard constantly prodded me in the back with the butt of his rifle. Once I fell down in the slippery mud (it had been raining), and then the guard kicked me in the stomach until I thought I would faint. During that trip I saw them knock my husband down three times—for no reason at all.

"That night my husband and I spent together in this barren house, with no lights or other comforts. Neither of us mentioned to the other about how we had been treated. It was simply a subject that we didn't talk about.

"Next morning the commanding officer sent for my husband to come to headquarters. I never saw him alive again. From then on my temporary abode was strictly guarded every minute, and the natives had been instructed not to talk to me.

"A day or two later, however, some of them managed to get near enough to me to whisper:

"We buried Mr. Jones near the church."

"I whispered:

"Did you have a box?"

"No," they whispered, "we were not allowed to have a box."

"Each day thereafter, as was his daily custom, my Jap guard would say:

"Your husband is well. He sends his love.

We've got him where it's warmer."

One week later—on June 14—Mrs. Jones, still not having been told by the Japs the true fate of her husband, was taken away to Japan on a Jap ship, which evidently had been converted to war service from a tourist vessel. Mrs. Jones, in contrast with the brutal treatment on Attu, was given every consideration, even to having a well-appointed cabin to herself.

During the first few months of her captivity she was lodged at the Bund Hotel in

Yokohama, and thereafter at a yacht club until she was transferred about a year ago to Totsuka.

She had been evacuated from Yokohama, she said, because the Japs had correctly suspected that Yokohama would be bombed.

During her whole time as a prisoner, Mrs. Jones said, she was never once permitted to write or receive any private messages of any sort. She and the others interned with her were never even allowed to have a radio. They were permitted to buy the Nippon Times, an English-language newspaper published in Tokyo. Naturally, all the news they got was to the effect that Japan was winning the war on all fronts.

"When the Americans retook the Philippines," said Mrs. Jones, "the Nippon Times saved face by saying the Japs had retreated from the Philippines, since they no longer had any strategic importance. Our capture of Okinawa was given similar news treatment."

Mrs. Jones and her fellow-internees used to spend considerable time at night trying to count the number of American bombers over Tokyo, where the huge incendiary fires were plainly visible.

"In the morning," she continued, "when we would ask the guards what that was lighting up the Tokyo sky last night, they would invariably reply:

"Oh, that was American planes burning after being shot down by Japanese anti-aircraft guns."

"We would just smile. Of course, we knew better."

In spite of being constantly fed with Jap-victory propaganda, Mrs. Jones said she never had a moment's despair over the final outcome or of her eventual rescue. Only at Attu did she ever suffer any brutality or indignity at the hands of her captors.

National Service Insurance Benefits

REMARKS

OF

HON. BEN F. JENSEN

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 1945

Mr. JENSEN. Mr. Speaker, almost all servicemen are concerned these days about their national service insurance. A number of plans have been proposed to correct the present situation in regard to the national service insurance benefits. I understand a subcommittee of the House Committee on World War Veterans' Legislation is now making a study of this problem. I have here a statement submitted to me by a man who is in close touch with servicemen of this war. He recommends a number of changes in the national service benefits. For the benefit of the Congress and particularly the committee now studying the problem, I include this statement, together with the accompanying table:

PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE PAYMENT OF NATIONAL SERVICE INSURANCE BENEFITS

Question. Should the provisions of national service insurance, which now provides for the payment of benefits on a monthly installment basis only be changed?

Reason for suggested change: A change permitting the insured to elect whether benefits under his policy are to be paid out

to his beneficiary in installments or in a lump sum should be immediately made.

To understand fully the reason for this let us look at the original motive which caused the present provision for the payment of benefits in monthly installments only to be put in force. During the First World War Government insurance provided for payment to beneficiaries in a lump sum only. It was later found that in all too many cases, where benefits were so paid, the money was either squandered or lost through unwise investment in a short period of time thus defeating the basic purpose of the Government in providing such insurance. Therefore, in order to protect the veteran's dependents and to assure them of assistance over a long period of time the present plan was set up whereby benefits are paid only in monthly installments.

During the war this was a wise and sound policy. The sale of national service insurance was universal throughout the armed forces. Virtually every man carried the full \$10,000 maximum policy allowed him. The average serviceman was pleased and satisfied with the arrangement for he knew that if he was killed his widow would receive a monthly pension—entirely separate from his insurance—of \$50 per month with additional allowances for his children, and this amount plus the monthly benefits from his \$10,000 insurance policy would help materially to provide a permanent livelihood for his family. At that time he had no worry over his death causing an immediate expense of doctor's bills, hospital bills, and funeral expenses.

Now the situation is entirely changed. In the first place no pension is now provided for widows of war veterans who die of non-service-connected causes. Her immediate needs for ready cash with which to pay bills and funeral expenses can only be met from whatever cash—if any—and old-line insurance her husband leaves her. Her national service insurance is of no value here. From it she can expect only small monthly payments depending in amount on her age at the death of her husband and the size of the policy he was financially able to keep in force.

Obviously, even if the husband was able to keep the full \$10,000 policy in force and to pay the premiums upon it the benefits his wife would receive from it would not support her or even come close to it. If his income prevented his carrying the full amount of insurance and he was forced to reduce the amount to less than \$5,000 (as most veterans will have to), the monthly payments his widow would receive would be a mere pittance.

In other words, the situation that exists now and the one which existed during the war are entirely different in these respects:

1. During the war nearly every serviceman carried the full \$10,000 policy and was in a financial position to do so. After conversion, with the higher premiums involved, a majority of veterans will be able to pay for only \$2,000 or \$3,000 policies.

2. During the war benefits were supplemented by pension payments which together would provide the serviceman's family with the bare necessities of life. There is now no such pension provision.

3. During the war the death of the serviceman did not create additional expense for his family to pay.

It is clearly apparent that the function the veteran's insurance is now called upon to perform is entirely different than it was during the war. In the first place, the average GI cannot carry more than \$2,000 or \$3,000 of this insurance. He needs every penny of this protection and would like to get it from National Service Insurance, but he needs to have it payable immediately upon