GENERAL HUGH S. JOHNSON Says:

United Features — WNU Service

Washington, D. C.

FAR EASTERN 'CRISIS'

What is the great crisis off the coast of China which so plainly threatens us with war with Japan?

It is that Japan, Germany and Italy have agreed that if any other nation makes war on any one of them, the three will join to defend each other. There is nothing new about that kind of defensive alliance. That is the kind of agreement that France and England had with Poland which brought on this new world war when Germany attacked Poland. That turned Hitler's threat west when it was headed east. It is the kind of agreement that France had with all the small nations around Germany which were created by the Treaty of Versailles—the so-called Cordon Sanitaire, which didn't work except to destroy Europe.

But now it is said that a war between us and Japan is immediately threatened because of this very usual, but not very sensible, triple alliance. Why? Because our people want to fight a war against yellow men in Asia? Ninety-nine per cent of them don't, 80 per cent wouldn't even know what the issues are.

We are told that our great danger is eastward, in Europe, that Hitler is our menace. Yet here is a "situation" that threatens to embroil us 12,000 miles from the heart of that danger—6,000 miles westward from our own coasts.

What American interests are threatened there? Principally some Standard Oil properties and, so far as China is concerned, not $200,000,000 altogether—that plus an insignificant annual trade total. Our principal trade is with Japan. Such a war would cost us that and uncounted billions more, and get us nothing. Our flag is in the Philippines—with our promise to the Filipinos made at their request, to withdraw it. Our interests there are almost negligible. The argument of our dependence on Indo-China and Malayasia for rubber and tin is a light makeweight for war, recently greatly discounted or completely exploded.

Why then are we being shoved to the edge of war without the will of the people or congress, and with no more reason than has been stated here; largely on the support of a few cocky professional admirals and a fewer amateur military kibitzers?

Reasons other than "political expediency" are advanced. Our great naval strategist, Walter Lippmann, calls what is going on the battle of oceans. Mr. Winston Churchill seems to assume a British-American naval alliance already in being. Several others of like mind say it is up to us to destroy the Japanese navy before it can grow further or receive aid from any other navy.

Why? We are committed to a navy large enough for hemisphere defense. England may need absolute naval supremacy not only in a hemisphere but around the world. She needs it because the "Sun never sets on the British domain." She needs it to keep weaker peoples in subjugation. Is it our policy to do that for ourselves?

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ELLIOTT'S CAPTAINCY

Elliott Roosevelt says I am a "disgusting old man," and now, in the same connection, Ernest Lindley says I am a Mexican jumping bean. In criticizing the appointment by obvious favoritism of draft-eligible young Elliott to a soft, non-combatant job as kiwi air captain, I didn't call any names. I didn't even assess any blame to any of the Roosevelt family except inadvertence. This column has opposed attacking the President for the errors of his kin and has consistently defended the latter.

I still insist that Mr. Roosevelt did not originate the error of Elliott's appointment. For one reason, he is too good a politician to permit this bitter and unnecessary affront, directly or indirectly, to almost every home and mother in America.

Even that political conclusion is a little bit unfair. F.D.R. likes to emulate T.R.'s boys, who in 1917 or before, rushed to combat service. Some served in England's armies before 1917. I forget the exact record, but, as I remember, all saw front-line service; all, I seem to recall, came away bearing honorable scars; one, I think, was wounded three times; one was gassed, and one, I know—the youngest and best-beloved—shot from the skies in flaming death, lies buried by his chivalrous enemies in the fields of France. When they sought to bring the honored little that was left of him home to his mother, T.R. wrote Gen. Peyton March, who had also lost a son, "Where the tree falls, there let it lie."

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This was the kind of service and sacrifice, without "favor or affection" on which the success of both the World war draft and the World war army depended absolutely.

You can't make me believe that the President doesn't feel all this. Nobody who knows him can fail to respect his great personal gallantry. This action of Elliott's must have made his heart cringe. He has suffered more hurt from such errors of others than from anything he himself ever imagined.

Kathleen Norris Says:

Has Any Father the Right to Do This?

(Bell Syndicate—WNU Service.)

They play cribbage by the hour, talking all the time; they are late for meals, slow about everything, fussy, and with long explanations and requests. We are both getting horribly nervous about it.

By KATHLEEN NORRIS

"DEAR Mrs. Norris," writes Blanche B., from a suburb near Dubuque, "my problem is so serious that it threatens to wreck my married happiness. I'm not a fool, I've been a business woman, I'm running a home comfortably and economically, but I can't work this one out. Please tell me what you'd do in my place.

"Frank and I were engaged for four years before we could marry, because his mother was dependent upon him, and his two brothers calmly refused to do anything for her support. But when I had a good bank account and we were buying a home we felt that we could risk it, and we were married four years ago. I was then 28; Frank 33. At the time my wonderful mother was running a successful small grocery, with my father as assistant. Dad drove the delivery wagon, answered the telephone, and SEEMED to be what she called him, her 'partner,' but it wasn't long after her death that we discovered that she had been carrying him all along as a liability, not an asset. The business rapidly went to pieces, Dad sold out for half its value, bought a cottage, and said he was going to retire.

Dad Definite Handicap.

"He made only seven payments on the cottage which he lost, and in 11 months had spent the more than $2,000 the business had brought. Then he came to us. That was a little more than a year ago.

"Shortly afterward my uncle, Dad's brother, came to see us, and Dad hospitably invited him to stay, paying me $7 a week board. This Uncle Dan gratefully agreed to do. I was at the time earning $16 a week in a part-time job, but it didn't work. The two old men got everything at home into a mess while I was away; pipe dribbles, dirty dishes, icebox left open, bathroom disgraceful—they were worse than children. I would have had to pay a maid what I was earning, and we had no room for her, so it seemed wiser to do things myself. I like housework, and am a good manager and cook.

Husband Plays Sad Role.

"Now my life is simply that of a board-house keeper for two rather exacting old men. Uncle Dan scrupulously pays me a dollar a day; if he goes away for three days to see his married son, he deducts that money. Of course this doesn't pay me, and of course my husband doesn't like finding the bathroom occupied when he gets home; the evening paper scattered about; the comfortable chairs pre-empted. He differs with both the others politically, and they argue and taunt him, and if he holds his tongue they feel triumphantly that they have scored. They play cribbage by the hour, talking all the time; they are late for meals, slow about everything, fussy, and with long explanations and requests. We are both getting horribly nervous about it, and it is especially trying to me because I want a child, or children, and it would be impossible to have a baby in the house with one bath, two bedrooms, and four adult occupants.

"Uncle Dan is rather sweet and willing, but Dad is exacting and critical, and never says an affectionate or appreciative word. But what can I do? He is 64, and slightly lame from sciatica. I have a brother who can send me $10 a month for Dad's keep, but he demands that for tobacco. My brother's wife will have nothing to do with Dad, so he can't go there, even for a visit. He has not one cent of his own. To put him in an institution would break his heart, and also mine. I couldn't bear to tell people where he was. But it does seem like a deadlock as things are now; Frank is constantly annoyed about it, and I hate to have the best husband in the world burdened with my folks. Can you think of a way out?"

> ***PERMANENT 'GUESTS'***
>
> *It seems cruel to deny beloved parents the comforts of your home during their old age, but Kathleen Norris strongly believes that sometimes this must be done. She explains that no parent has the right to ruin the happiness of his children through his own self-indulgence. If the parents are that selfish, Miss Norris recommends that they be told—not asked—to live somewhere else.*

Get Rid of Him.

The answer is that the only way out is a hard one. But I have known many cases in which it has worked, and it will work for you. Immediately, without any argument, put this worthless annoying old man into an institution. Borrow on his insurance, if need be, to pay the charges at some partly endowed home, or put him straight into the poor-house. That will bring him to his senses for the first time in his life.

In one case that I knew an aged man-of-the-sea got a job at the county farm, found that he was a natural vegetable gardener, was permitted to sell surplus produce for is own profit, and eventually turned into a useful member of society. In another case an old woman made herself so helpful that the good nuns placed her in the position of head cook, and she was able to send money to a daughter who was in financial difficulties. A man of 64 can be busy and happy if he wants to be, and if your father is persistently critical and miserable despite all that a good daughter can do, he deserves nothing better than the poorhouse.

Or better, find some country farm where a woman will board him for $25 or $30 a month. There are many such places. Let her wrestle with his peculiarities. Ask your brother for another $5 and make up the rest yourselves.

Don't Discuss It, Do It.

Don't discuss it with him at all. Just drive him there and say: "Dad, your things are all in the back of the car. Here's where you get out."

If Uncle Dan decides to go with him, so much the better. But get rid of them both with the same speed that they would have gotten rid of burdensome old relatives some 40 years ago. Old fathers and mothers can be delightful and contributory members of the family; but if they don't choose to be, then surely you and your Frank are not the persons to shoulder the ensuing unpleasantness. It all depends upon you, now, and upon your capacity to face a few unpleasant hours rather than a lifetime of slavery.

Every human being ought to plan for his or her old age, work for it, definitely arrange for it. Only a part of such foresight need be financial; the keeping of friends, the privileges of service, the capacity for earning a modest living are all as possible at 60 as at 26. No human being has a right to inflict his company upon a young married pair, be his claim that of father, uncle, mother, mother-in-law or any other. Nothing destroys the security of marriage so quickly as to have an uncongenial person planted in the home, a person whom only death will remove. It will be a poor satisfaction to Blanche, 20 years from now, to realize that she not only sacrificed Frank, but her children and her home to this spoiled old despot.

HALLOWEEN PARTY SUGGESTIONS
(See Recipes Below)

Household News By Eleanor Howe

Halloween provides a good excuse for an unusual party. The theme you may select should be the basis around which the party is built. "Black Magic Party," "The Haunted House," Buried Treasure Hunt," "The Witches' Rendezvous," "The Ghosts Gambol" are all suggestive names for the party you may be planning for All Hallows' eve.

A Halloween party without decorations just isn't a party. They may be so simple that it takes very little time to put them up; pumpkins, cornstalks, and lighted jack-o'-lanterns. Or you may decorate with witches, owls, black and orange crepe paper streamers, black and gray crepe paper moss dripping from the ceilings, or ghosts standing in spooky corners with eerie lights thrown upon them.

The invitations should, of course, be indicative of the type of party you are giving.

"On Halloween the ghosts will dance,
The gnomes and goblins will sing and prance;
So don your masks and costumes gay,
To the Haunted House be on your way.
The door will be open till the clock tolls eight,
So take my advice and don't be late."

In keeping with Halloween we must not forget the traditional games and pranks. The chamber of horrors, with clanking chains, damp hands clutching the guests, and dark tunnels should put the guests into the spirit of the party. Bobbing for apples, fortune telling and guessing games are all old favorites. These suggestions may bring to your mind others that may be old-time Halloween games.

Last, but not least, a party is never rightly ended without proper refreshments. If it is a small group, buffet supper may be served; and if it is a large group, simple, but delicious refreshments will finish the evening with the necessary zip!

Orange Date Cake.

½ cup shortening
1 cup brown sugar
1 egg (well beaten)
1 cup sour milk
2 cups cake flour
1 teaspoon soda
1 teaspoon baking powder
¼ teaspoon salt
1 cup dates
1 whole orange

Cream shortening, add brown sugar slowly, and beat well. Add beaten egg and sour milk.

Mix and sift flour, soda, baking powder, and salt. Grind dates and orange together through food chopper and add alternately with the sifted dry ingredients. Bake in a loaf pan in a moderate oven (350 degrees) for 50 minutes.

Halloween Ice Cream Clowns.

Place a ball of ice cream on a butter cookie and use raisins, tiny gumdrops or candied cherries to make the eyes, nose, and mouth in the ice cream. Place an ice cream cone upside down on the ice cream for a cap, and place a ruff of whipped cream on the cookie around the clown's neck.

Pumpkin Ice Cream.
(Makes 1 quart)

¾ cup sugar
½ teaspoon cinnamon
½ teaspoon ginger
Pinch of salt
1 cup coffee cream
2 egg yolks (beaten)
¾ cup pumpkin (canned)
½ teaspoon orange rind (grated)
½ cup pecan meats
½ cup whipping cream

Combine the sugar, cinnamon, ginger and salt. Mix well. Add the cream slowly and scald over boiling water. Mix beaten egg yolks and pumpkin, and add to the cream mixture with the orange rind. Return to heat, and cook for 5 minutes, stirring constantly. Chill, fold in the nutmeats and whipped cream, and pour into the freezing container of an ice cream freezer, filling it not more than ⅔ full. Assemble and cover the freezer. Surround with a mixture of 3 parts of crushed ice to 1 part rock salt. Next turn the crank slowly and steadily until turning becomes difficult. When the mixture is frozen, carefully remove the dasher and pack down the cream with a spoon. Replace the cover, draw off the water, and replenish the ice and salt. Let stand for an hour.

Orange Sauce.

1 tablespoon cornstarch mixed with 1 tablespoon cold water
5 tablespoons sugar
5 tablespoons hot water
5 tablespoons orange juice
½ teaspoon lemon juice
1 teaspoon butter

Make a paste of the cornstarch and cold water. Add sugar and hot water and cook for 15 minutes, stirring frequently. Add fruit juices and butter.

Goblin's Dessert.
(Serves 4 to 5)

2 eggs (separated)
7 tablespoons sugar
1 tablespoon butter (melted)
⅛ teaspoon salt
¾ cup orange juice
1¼ cups stale bread (cut in pieces)

Beat egg yolks until very light, and gradually beat in the sugar. Add butter, salt and orange juice. Pour over the cubed bread. Beat egg whites until stiff, and fold into the first mixture. Pour into buttered baking dish and bake in a moderately slow oven (325 degrees) for about 30 minutes.

Ginger Snap Pie Crust.
(Makes 2 crusts)

Make 3 cups ginger snap crumbs by rolling ginger snaps on bread board or crumbling through food chopper. Combine with ¾ cup melted butter and blend lightly. Then press mixture into pie plate, shaping firmly all around, and place in refrigerator to chill until firm.

Pumpkin Chiffon Pie.
(Makes 2 pies)

3 tablespoons gelatin
½ cup cold water
6 eggs
2 cups sugar
2½ cups strained pumpkin
1 cup milk
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon ginger
1 teaspoon cinnamon
½ teaspoon nutmeg
½ teaspoon cloves
1 cup whipping cream

Soak gelatin in cold water 5 minutes. Separate eggs and beat egg yolks. Then combine 1 cup of the sugar, the strained pumpkin, milk, salt, and spices with the egg yolks and cook slowly, stirring constantly, until thickened. Remove from fire, add gelatin, and stir until dissolved. Cool. When mixture begins to thicken, stir in the remaining cup of sugar and fold in the beaten egg whites. Pour filling in the chilled ginger snap pastry shells and chill in refrigerator until set. Before serving decorate pies with whipped cream faces, using chilled pastry tube.

(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

BETTER BAKING

Most of us are prone to be a little inactive and unambitious during the warm summer months. Our appetites for heavy, hot foods become dull and we readily accept and enjoy cool, refreshing salads and beverages. Just as we put on heavier clothing when the temperature drops, so do we discard using salads as the main dish and dessert of the menu.

Miss Howe's book "Better Baking" includes many fine recipes, tested in her own kitchen. It will prove not only an incentive for "better baking" but also for better and more satisfying meals.

You may secure this book, "Better Baking," by writing to Eleanor Howe, 919 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, enclosing 10 cents in coin.

HOUSEHOLD QUESTIONS

When making iron holders put in one layer of leather from an old glove, as it is a nonconductor of heat.

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Lubricate the meat chopper and electric mixer with salad oil. This will prevent any disagreeable taste which might occur if regular lubricating oil were used.

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Half an hour is ample time to allow for baking of medium-sized apples.

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Keep flowers out of drafts as much as possible; they are more susceptible to a chill than humans.

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Cottage cheese, mixed with orange marmalade, grape jelly or raspberry jam, makes a good filling for graham bread sandwiches. These combinations are tasty as well as nutritious.

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To give crunchiness as well as added flavor to meringues for pies, add one-fourth cup shredded nut meats to each two egg whites. Sprinkle the nuts over the top or add them to the meringue just before it is spread.

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Giving and Taking

We should never remember the benefits we have conferred, nor forget the favors received.—Chilo.

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Discontent

Discontent is the first step in the progress of a man or a nation.—Wilde.

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Common Sense

A handful of common sense is worth a bushel of learning.

Watch Your Kidneys!

Help Them Cleanse the Blood of Harmful Body Waste

Your kidneys are constantly filtering waste matter from the blood stream. But kidneys sometimes lag in their work—do not act as Nature intended—fail to remove impurities that, if retained, may poison the system and upset the whole body machinery.

Symptoms may be nagging backache, persistent headache, attacks of dizziness, getting up nights, swelling, puffiness under the eyes—a feeling of nervous anxiety and loss of pep and strength.

Other signs of kidney or bladder disorder are sometimes burning, scanty or too frequent urination.

There should be no doubt that prompt treatment is wiser than neglect. Use *Doan's Pills. Doan's* have been winning new friends for more than forty years. They have a nation-wide reputation. Are recommended by grateful people the country over. *Ask your neighbor!*

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