

Moore Tells Of Visit to Japan; Saw Hiroshima

(Editor's Note: The following is the third in a series of excerpts from the travel diary of Charles E. Moore, president of Joshua Hendy Iron Works and director of the National Association of Manufacturers, who was a member of a labor-management-government panel that visited Pacific bases to discuss post-war problems with service men.)

By CHARLES E. MOORE

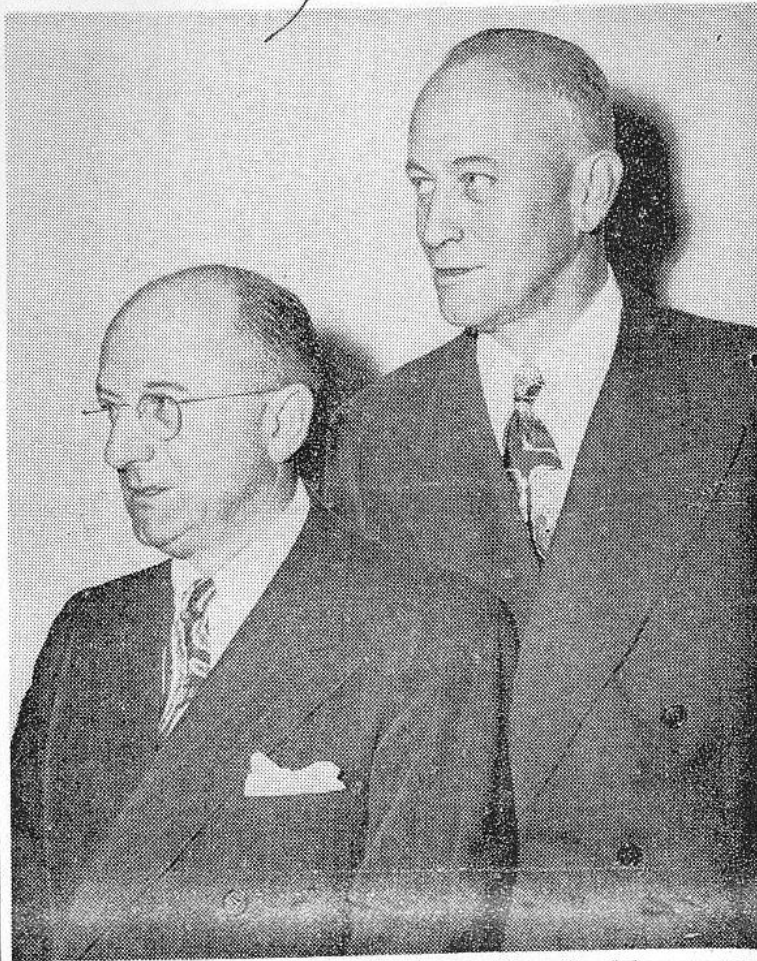
JAPAN

On to Atsuki Air Field near Yokohama where we were met by General Eichelberger, now in command of the Eighth Army and a few years ago the Colonel of San Francisco's own Thirtieth Infantry. In my opinion he is doing a superb job . . . is proving to a totally defeated enemy that American justice and retribution, while neither vengeful nor hysterical, is both stern and fair.

Last night in Tokyo we spent several hours with General MacArthur, and my admiration for his skill and statesmanship in the tremendous job now on his hands is almost beyond description. When he arrived in Japan, we had no more than a token force of a few hundred there, and yet he drove for miles through crowds of fully armed Japanese, any one of whom could have sent a treacherous bullet into his heart. Whatever the radicals may charge against him; and whatever the so-called liberals may put into any present or future indictment, it is my firm conviction that Douglas MacArthur will emerge from his war-time duties as one of America's truly great men, as a man who has combined firmness, wisdom and extraordinary technical skill in imposing the will of the conqueror upon the completely conquered.

ON RADIO TOKYO

We broadcast this evening from Radio Tokyo, the same station from which Tokyo Rose tried so hard and with such utter futility to break the morale of our fighting men as they moved up, island by island, toward the vicious heart of the rising-sun empire. We used an enormous studio, probably 50x100 feet in size, and talked over a 16-station network which covered all the home islands of Japan. Thanks to General Eichelberger we were flown from Atsuki Airport, near Yokohama, to Osaka, second city of the empire. Later, and this time through the courtesy of General Walter Krueger, commander of the 6th Army, we circled Nagasaki and at such a low level that we could get a very clear picture of the horrible destruction which the second bomb



This picture, taken at Hamilton Field before the labor-management-government panel took off on a tour of Pacific bases, shows Charles E. Moore, president of the Joshua Hendy Iron Works and director of the National Association of Manufacturers, and W. A. Klinger, representing the United States Chamber of Commerce.

wreaked upon that city. Hiroshima was our next stop, and after circling this city we landed and devoted almost two hours to a close-up inspection of what was once a thriving industrial center. Here again the atom bomb had done a job—a job so terrible that wood, metal and all organic materials were completely disintegrated and only an occasional concrete abutment survived. With no claim to scientific knowledge, it is my own opinion that sun-high temperatures rather than concussion count largely for almost unbelievable destructive power of our atomic weapon.

The further I go in talking to our GIs, the more I am convinced that they want to return to an unchanged America. In intimate and off-the-record contacts with them, I am sure that not more than 5 percent are what any of us would term radical. All the rest of them like their native land, love its traditions and its opportunity, are

eager to preserve it from every foe, either within our borders or beyond. They do not want any revolution no matter what silky words are used to disguise the reality of a change in our form of

government and economics. This does not mean that they are uncritical of things as they are. There is a great deal that they would like to see improved. But basically, they are good Americans, and those who have served in Europe and are now on the Oriental front are the ones most interested in keeping any and every foreign ideology outside the boundaries of the 48 states.

Other stops here in Japan included Kure, Japan's Annapolis, Nagoya, Kyoto, and Fugiyami. The desolation here in Japan, thanks to American B-29s, is beyond de-

scription. Truly the sins of the fathers are visited upon the children. Civilization as we know it simply does not exist. Tens of thousands of families are living in wretched sheet-iron lean-tos with no protection from winter wind and weather. The next year is going to bring starvation on a wholesale scale to these islands. The men, ill-nourished, unhealthy looking, and seemingly unable to cope with their economic problems, are an unpleasant and unsightly lot.

(Tomorrow: More about Japan.)