

# Senator Chavez Flays Pacific War Policy

*(Allied wharves of Europe and the Near East have been stacked with reserve materials of war for a year while General MacArthur has gone without his barest needs for substantial victory over the Japanese, Senator Dennis Chavez, New Mexico Democrat, shows in this article. Written exclusively for the Washington Bureau of the Los Angeles Examiner, the article is a blistering attack on the entire Administration policy toward the war in the Pacific.)*

By DENNIS CHAVEZ

United States Senator from New Mexico

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31.

**T**HE recent release by the War and Navy Departments concerning the horrible conditions suffered by American boys in the wake of Bataan and Corregidor has stirred the nation and the world to a complete realization of the barbaric nature of the Jap, and has projected before our vision the shocking picture which is the Pacific theater of war.

Just why the War and Navy Departments waited so long to afford the American people this information is far beyond the borders of comprehension.

It is particularly advisable to make this observation in view of the nature of our democracy, which embraces in its fundamental structure the right of every citizen to be informed.

It is manifest that the War and Navy Departments have had this information for over a year, but even in the face of this blood-curdling fact our military strategists have continued to bend every economic sinew of the nation for the purpose of sending men, munitions and supplies to other areas, and in the process considering the Pacific battle line a secondary operation.

**O**NE year ago American industry was producing at such a high level that the docks of our Eastern seaboards and those of reception centers throughout Europe and the Near East were stacked with reserve materials of war.

Military opinion to the contrary notwithstanding, I cannot, and I speak in all sincerity, I cannot see why some of these planes, tanks, foods, munitions and other supplies could not have gone to General MacArthur.

The War and Navy Departments stated, incident to the release of the information referred to, that this was made public only when the Government had lost all hope of relieving in some fashion our boys who are still in the hands of the Japs.

**THIS IS THE SINGLE EMBELLISHMENT OFFERED BY OUR MILITARY LEADERS!**

The reaction of the average American, armchair strategist if you please, would have been to tell the American people that from now on there is no quarter and that supplies of all kinds will be placed in the hands of General MacArthur and Admiral Halsey in quantities sufficient to give the Japs an answer to their uncivilized conduct.

If we can expect anyone to know, and to have known, the disposition of Japanese military facilities, it is the War and Navy Departments.

**This leads to the logical thought that the appalling conditions which face us in the Pacific should never have been allowed to prevail in the first instance.**

The many telegrams and letters being received by me from New Mexico mothers, fathers, wives, sisters and brothers all tell a tale whose pathetic lines indicate a dramatic sequence of shock, heartache, disappointment, discouragement and finally resentment.

As stated by one New Mexico father who has already lost a son in a Japanese prison camp:

**"When I think of the attitude of our Government authorities in considering a disclosure of this kind necessary to increase the sale of bonds, I wonder to what low ebb the morals of the nation have fallen and what our boys are fighting for."**

And in today's press is the unworthy announcement by the Treasury Department that the week of February 2 will be observed as "Avenge Bataan Week."

Of all the Gargantuan gall! To tell the American people to avenge Bataan, and TWO YEARS LATE!

**I**NSTEAD of saying, "I will use my office to see that MacArthur gets what he needs," the Secretaries of War and Navy made statements as devoid of significance as are the hearts of American mothers of joy.

***We all know that the sale of bonds is necessary, but who in the world will deny further application of such weight in men, munitions, weapons and supplies to the Pacific battle line as will result in the complete destruction of the Japanese military machine?***

It does not require the mediations of a soothsayer to visualize this event, for with the increased wrath of the American people, our over-all strategists will be forced to modify their plans to the extent necessary.

I want to end this statement by admitting the fact that all of my rhetoric and oratory, or the rhetoric and oratory of anyone else, will NOT bring back THE BOYS WHO HAVE ALREADY GIVEN EVERYTHING FOR YOUR COUNTRY AND MINE.

Let us pray that out of the embers of the Pacific tragedy there will arise a determination on the part of future Americans to so plan the affairs of the Republic that never again will any enemy, near or far, be stupid enough to challenge the will, the determination and the power of the American people to provide for the protection of their lives, their homes and their honor.

To our military authorities I say:

**GET BUSY IN THE PACIFIC! NOW!**

## U. S. Jap Policy Scored

By SENATOR H.  
STYLES BRIDGES

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(Written Especially for International News Service.)

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31.

**T**HE MURDER and torture of American prisoners of war by the Japanese is a black page in the history of civilization. But what are we going to do about it?

We cannot, of course, disregard our own obligations to society and refuse to obey the international conventions for treatment of prisoners. We cannot allow ourselves to sink to the Japanese level.

But we can adopt a realistic policy toward Japan. We have not done that and it is time that we take stock of the situation and unite on such a policy that will bring us victory in the shortest possible time.

**A**RE WE doing everything we can to intensify the warfare against Japan?

First of all, it is evident that there still is too much division of authority in prosecuting the warfare against Japan. The sphere of operations of General Douglas MacArthur, who not only has shown a genius for modern warfare but whose heart and soul is in the utter defeat of Japan, is not sufficiently defined nor broad enough to make full use of his talents.

We have separate theaters of war for the Burma area, for China, for the South Pacific and for the Central Pacific.

**I** BELIEVE a unification and clarification of our plans for defeating Japan would inspire greater confidence among our people. It would remove the suspicion on the part of many that possibly political considerations affect our designation of commands and our operations.

We cannot, of course, weaken our forces in Europe, but our war production has reached such a vast total that hours of labor in the ship building industry have been reduced and there have been cut-backs in production. Before we curtail our production, let us make sure we have adequate ships, weapons, supplies and planes on the Japanese front.

Second, we must give the people a true and vivid picture of the foe we face. We now learn officially for the first time in two years of the despicable murders by the Japanese.

**T**HIRD, let us through diplomatic channels ascertain the true intent and purpose of Russia with regard to the war against Japan. There is a general belief that we lack any knowledge as to Russia's position and intentions in the Orient. We should know and, I believe, can ascertain without offense.

Fourth, let us all review the unrealistic policy our officials took toward Japan for many years, an attitude which misled our people and which contributed to our own defeat in the Philippines. I recall that as far back as 1937 I sought to prevent shipment of scrap iron to Japan. Administration officials cried "Don't let us offend Japan."