NEW YORK, April 17.—(AP)—Tokyo's great and sprawling mass is a tempting target for our Army and Navy strategists to study for the not-too-distant day when we may have bases from which to launch a really devastating air attack.

That day, of course, is yet to come for now we have no base closer than 2500 miles (Midway), with the exception of a few exposed spots in unoccupied China. And I haven't even heard a whisper that Russian-held Vladivostok, 700 miles away, ever will be made available for such a purpose. President Roosevelt has promised action, but the utmost secrecy surrounds any preparations.

Yet Tokyo's warehouses, army posts, trunk railway lines and government personnel are the heart of her war effort against the United Nations. Some way must be found to hit that city and hit it hard—before the Japanese homefolk will even know they are in a war that can end for them only in defeat.

ONE YEAR AGO

It has been a year since Jimmy Doolittle led a squadron of raiders over Japan's cities. The effect of that attack probably has been reversed long before now by adroit propagandists. They could easily hammer home the theme that we haven't been able to repeat.

I was in prison in Tokyo that mild, sunny April 18, 1942. My only way of telling time was through the food cart which was trundled through the corridor three times a day.

It was about noon. Suddenly there was a flurry of excitement, terse commands and hurried footsteps. The cell doors were double-locked. That had never happened before except at night.

I was annoyed. This, I thought, was a fine time to hold an air raid drill—just when it was time to eat. Outside in the areaway a grim line of guards took up their stations.

WASN'T RELISHED

They wore papier mache helmets good enough to ward off a glancing blow. Overhead was the circular roar of a few planes, but none my neck as I would I never could see them. Finally a guard beneath the window growled:

"Da-me!" which means bad.

For two hours we waited. Then it was over. The night locks were lifted, and we had lunch.

I didn't hear a bomb during the raid, nor an anti-aircraft gun. It was two months before I even knew it was a real raid. That was when I went to the internment camp in June and talked to the men there. They had seen one of the few planes involved.

Other planes were over other Japanese cities—Yokohama and Kobe and Osaka among them—but there is no way of determining how much damage was done.

However, the time will come when we really will raid Tokyo.

U.S. PROBE ASKED OF POWER PROJECTS SPONSORED ABROAD

By ALEX H. SINGLETON

WASHINGTON, April 17.—(AP)—The inquisitive 78th Congress, demonstrating by more than a score of investigations its determination to keep a finger on the pulse of the Nation's war program, may probe the Government's part in developing huge electric power projects both at home and beyond U.S. borders.

Creation of a special 10-member joint committee is sought by Rep. Coffee (D., Wash.), to study the subject and, it was learned today, his proposal has drawn strong support among members of the powerful House Rules Committee.

Under his plan, the committee would focus its attention on the Government agencies "concerned with scheduling, production and disposition" of equipment and facilities "for furnishing electric power and energy for war or defense purposes."

In his initial appearance before the Rules Committee, Coffee declared the proposed committee should "inquire into circumstances surrounding a loan to the Aluminum Company of Canada for development of a power plant in that country to produce the metal."

He maintained that material from the United States had been furnished for that project under priorities higher than those granted similar projects in this country, and argued that the Canadian country after the war would have the finest aluminum plant in North America.

Supporting the move, Rep. Vinson (D., Calif.), told the committee that the power division of the War Production Board was "dominated" by dollar-a-year men from the biggest public utilities in the country as he, too, urged formation of a special committee.

Oakland Legionnaires Hosts at Luncheon

The American Legion Service Club of Oakland will play host tomorrow to Legion members from Alameda and Contra Costa Counties at a luncheon meeting at the Athens Athletic Club.

"Going to War by Proxy" will be the topic of Mrs. E. A. Hugill Jr., publicity director of the American Red Cross, who will be the principal speaker.

C. Stanley Wood, past president of the club, and Mel McDonough, acting president, are in charge of arrangements.

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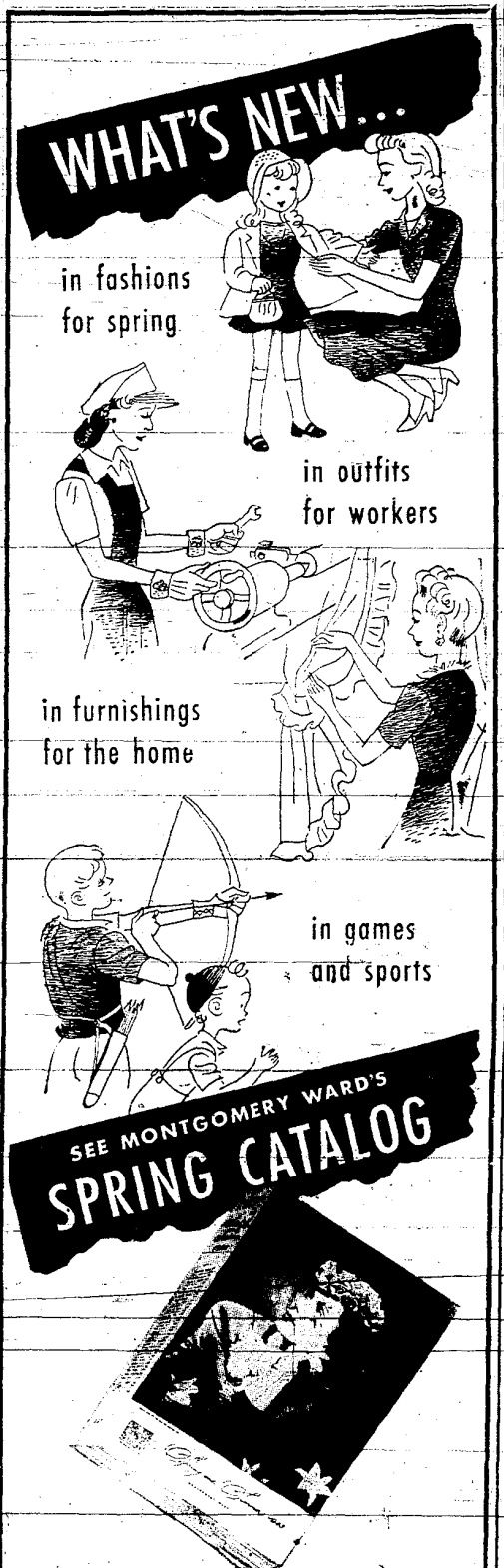

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