CAPI[illegible] STUFF

By [illegible] NNELL

MRS. ELEANOR ROOSEVELT is one of our fellow or sister members in good standing, dues paid up, etc., in our CIO Newspaper Guild. The First Lady of the Land joined our union right after she got her job of pounding out a daily column.

Now with all modesty, of course, but because we are an older hand at the reporting business than Mrs. Roosevelt, we have to point out that Mrs. Commander in Chief has just scooped herself on the inside White House story of Pearl Harbor—how she and her husband expected the attack all along.

Mrs. R. doesn't make it clear why the White House didn't tip off the Army and Navy defenders at Pearl Harbor but she comes out cold turkey with the revelation that she and her husband (Franklin Delano Roosevelt) expected the Jap attack all along, unlike the ordinary citizens of the Republic, and, incidentally, our armed forces.

NOW in this case, Mrs. Roosevelt was dealing with political explosives in this presidential campaign. The mystery of Pearl Harbor and the successful efforts of the Fourth Termers to shut off any honest investigation and the White House blocking of public trials of Admiral Kimmel and General Short, is an issue which Republican Dewey has used effectively already—and will pound at more furiously in the closing day of the campaign.

Now comes the bland statement via the First Lady.

A fortnight ago, Mrs. Roosevelt was interviewed by competent, experienced Reporter Kathleen McLaughlin of the New York Times. Mrs. Roosevelt's interview was printed last Sunday in the New York Times Magazine. It is a much better piece of writing and tells more news than anything sister Guildswoman Eleanor Roosevelt ever wrote in "My Day."

WAY back in the story (this should have been up in the lead, Miss McLaughlin) the wife of the Commander in Chief goes back to her memories of Pearl Harbor day. Reports the Times interviewer:

"One of the memories she (Mrs. Roosevelt) will take with her from the White House, no matter what the date of her ultimate departure, is its relatively normal atmosphere on December 7, 1941.

"Actually, she (Mrs. Roosevelt) recalls, there was only a little more commotion than usual following receipt that morning by the President of the historic message from Pearl Harbor."

Then the reporter tells the story of the White House on Pearl Harbor day and quotes the wife of the President as saying:

"December 7 was just like any of the later D-Days to us. We clustered at the radio and awaited for more details—but it was far from the shock it proved to the country in general.

"We had expected something of the sort for a long time."

NOW we thoroughly agree with these words spoken by the wife of the President that both she and her husband received the news of the Pearl Harbor attack with far less of a shock than the ordinary citizens of the Republic—and the Army and Navy commanders at Hawaii.

As the President's wife says, "We" (meaning, we gather, she and her husband) "had expected something of the sort for a long time."

Of course, it might have helped out the Army and Navy command at Hawaii in those days if Mrs. R. had written a small piece for her day, saying that she and her husband were expecting something to break—expecting, we mean, in the sense that both of them knew that the secret ultimatum tossed on August 17, 1941, by the President into the teeth of the spokesmen for Japan meant war.

This was kept secret, of course, and it might have made a good paragraph for Mrs. R.'s My Day column, back in those days of veiled peace.

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