

Times - Herald
Dec. 15, 1941

Sen. Tydings Says U. S. Knew Of Plans for Hawaii Attack

Senator Millard E. Tydings (D.) of Maryland asserted in a radio address from Baltimore yesterday that Japanese plans for last Sunday's attack on Hawaii were in the hands of United States authorities weeks ago but despite this advance information the American forces were caught unprepared.

"The plans stated," he said, "that the attack would come in the first week of December as it did. They outlined how it would be made, and carried other information concerning Japanese plans for the future, some of which have already transpired and some of which they still hope to achieve."

First Blood Drawn

"The truth is that our forces in Hawaii were caught off guard. The Japanese drew first blood and considerable blood at that."

Nevertheless, Tydings went on, the Administration's policy of withholding information on the incident is advisable.

"It should be abundantly clear," he said, "that the price of informing the nation's understandable curiosity and telling the world now of everything that happened would be to handicap further our own fighting forces. It would give

the most vital information to an enemy who we must relentlessly fight and defeat."

The explanation Tydings offered for the success of the attack on Pearl Harbor was that the Japanese were familiar with the routine of the American air patrols in that area and anticipated their movements.

Wait for Return Trip

"With this information," Tydings said, "the Japanese airplane carriers steamed up to a point well out of vision of the farthest distances our scouting planes covered. The Japs knew about when our scouting planes would reach the farthest point, report by radio that no enemy was in sight and start the return flight back to the islands."

"When the Japs estimated that the return flight of our planes had begun, they had their bombers take off from the carriers and in effect follow our ships back to Hawaii. Believing that all was well, our own forces were caught off guard."