

Nimitz Asks Strong Navy

By BLACKIE SHERROD

This morning—on the same day and almost the same hour that Japanese warplanes were loosing their sneak attack load on Pearl Harbor five years ago—Fleet Adm. Chester Nimitz called for a strong “navy insurance policy” for the continued good health of a U. S. global strength.

Admiral Nimitz told a small Fort Worth audience that the U. S. must take a slow year-by-year plan of national defense, build and maintain a navy such as the world situation demands.

The Texan said that the world is still in an unsettled state, with slow progress made in the United Nations meetings.

Not Good Targets

“Even if the treaties were signed the way we want them, it would be foolhardy not to keep enough men for our own defense—at least until we’re sure the United Nations will function as every peace lover wants it.”

“The atomic bomb did not make navies obsolete,” said the admiral. “Ships are not good atomic bomb targets because they will never be grouped together as were the test vessels at Bikini.”

Some people, including some members of congressional appropriations committees, think the push-button war is here, said the admiral.

Eu Route to Dallas

“The Buck Rogers war is not anywhere near. As long as oceans have to be crossed by ships, we need a big navy. We must take the place of Great Britain as a world naval power. England is forced by geography to concentrate on air power, but the United States will always remain a great maritime nation.”

Admiral and Mrs. Nimitz and a
(Continued on Page 2, (Column 6))

Nimitz

(Starts on Page 1)

four-man aide crew, local civic and military leaders were guests of Amon G. Carter at a Fort Worth Club breakfast today. The admiral was en route by plane to Dallas, where ceremonies today will unveil a bronze bust of him, cast by Felix De Weldon. The bust will be presented to the Texas Historical Society. He will address the Texas Philosophical Society there tonight.

Included in the admiral's party was youthful Cmdr. E. B. Fluckey, former skipper of the famed submarine "Barb," who won the Congressional Medal of Honor and four Navy Crosses for wartime exploits.

Admiral Nimitz proudly exhibited his "Texas Navy" buttons, cast from the original 1836 die, and presented one button from his collection to Mr. Carter.

Talk around the admiral's end of the breakfast table was of the recent Army-Navy game, whose publicized last minutes are a current heated sports argument. The white-haired Texan, chief of naval operations, reserved an opinion on the game's outcome (Army, 21-18), but Mrs. Nimitz ventured her view:

"We won a moral victory," she declared.