

EDITORIAL PAGE

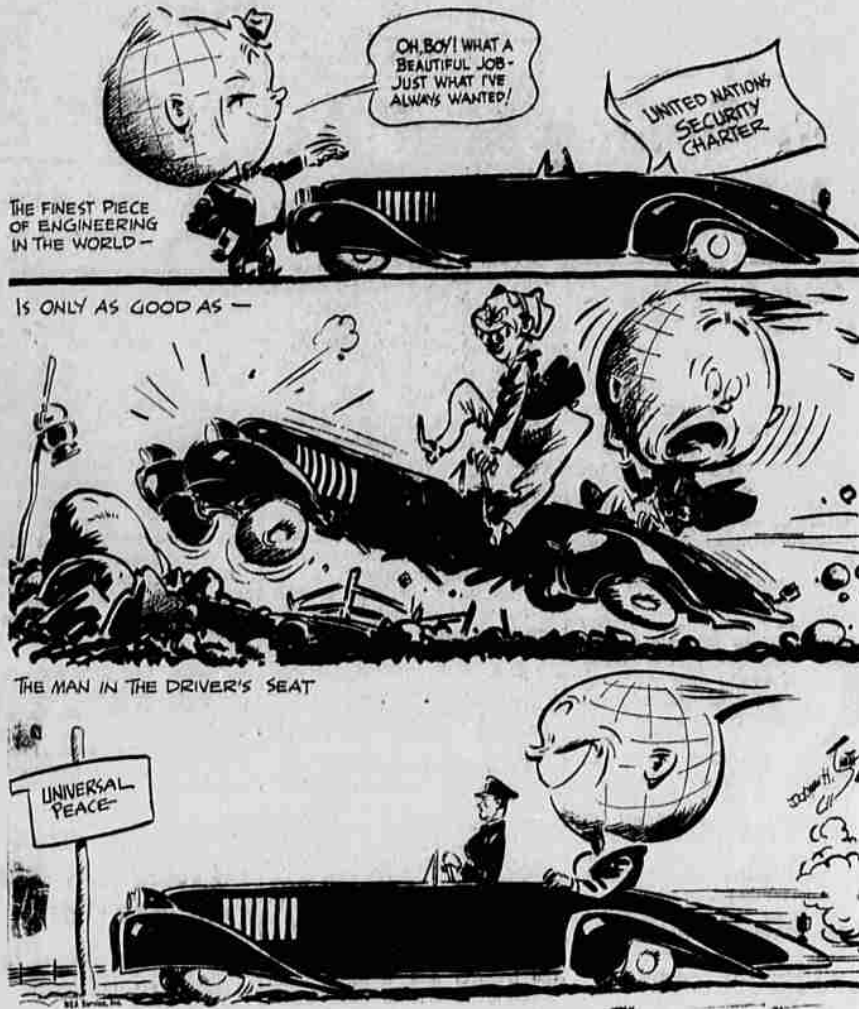
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It Will All Depend on the Human Element



Washington Merry-Go-Round

By DREW PEARSON

WASHINGTON—A significant, off-the-record meeting took place between Secretary of War Stimson, one-time republican candidate for governor of New York, and democrat Gov. Herbert Lehman, five times governor of New York, now head of UNRRA.

Lehman has been greatly troubled about the danger of acute starvation in Europe next winter, and fears the United States will get the blame. Actually, there is food in Europe; but it is unevenly distributed. Meanwhile, European railroads are overburdened.

Lehman, therefore, went to see Stimson to point out that U. S. army has 800,000 trucks in Europe, and he wanted to borrow 50,000 of them for food distribution.

Stimson listened briefly, but turned the subject to the political situation in Europe. He seemed much more interested in whether Europe can keep the peace, apparently forgetting people with full stomachs are more peaceful than those half-starved. Lehman got no definite answer, and still has been unable to get an answer from Stimson's generals. They keep saying they need trucks for "deployment."

Brass Hats in Hot Water

The same subject, plus other important matters, was debated in a secret session of the Mead committee last week. Present were representatives of UNRRA, the state department, war department, foreign economic administration, treasury and maritime commission. All got in hot water during the three-hour closed-door meeting except the maritime commission and UNRRA.

Gen. Brehon Somervell, who showed up with a small army of 60 aides, took the worst thumping.

Somervell admitted under questioning the army has at least 50,000 surplus trucks in Europe. New York's hard-working Senator Mead then asked Governor Lehman if he had been able to pick up any.

"Do you want any of these trucks?" said Mead.

"Do we want them?" replied Lehman. "The trouble is we can't get them. We can't seem to get them released. I've got a telegram from Yugoslavia here telling that one hungry Yugoslav city, Sarajevo, has only three trucks to feed thousands of people. Why, some towns are starving, while they're burning the food just a few miles away in

the same country because they can't move. A year from now the army will be begging us to take trucks. Then we won't need them. We want them now."

Several senators quizzed Somervell as to why UNRRA hadn't received the trucks yet. All the general could reply was, "The war department's working on it."

After more discussion, Lehman, whose anger was rising, stood up from the back of the room, looked straight at Somervell, and said:

"There's all that surplus army stuff, especially in Italy. Why can't we get it?"

Somervell hesitated. "We want to cooperate," he said lamely, "and we're going to."

German Equipment for Chinese?
Ohio's Bob Taft then took over the questioning.

"General, you're planning to arm thousands of Chinese troops. They've been trained by German officers. Why don't we use captured German equipment to arm them? You must have a lot of it by now."

"I felt the same way about it at first, senator," Somervell replied. "But it would only ball up our transport and create a lot of time-wasting headaches if we tried to send all that German stuff to China. In the long run it will be cheaper and faster to send new supplies from here. Besides we'd have to retrain those Chinese who've already been taught to use our equipment, and teach them to use German weapons."

Taft then moved in on Admiral Land of the maritime commission, asked him how the Russians were able to transport war material on American Liberty ships flying the Soviet flag without being attacked by Jap subs and aircraft.

"Senator," he replied, "I'll be damned if I'm going to let the Japs find out the inside story on that one."

Several senators then asked why our G. I. Joes were taking such a beating in France because of the unfavorable exchange rate.

"Since when does the G. I. have to carry the burden of inflation in France?" asked Senator Ferguson, R. Mich.

"They don't have to spend their money in France, you know," replied one of Somervell's aides. "They can ship it home."

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McKENNEY ON BRIDGE

By WM. E. MCKENNEY, America's Card Authority

THREE OR 4 HEARTS—THAT'S THE QUESTION

"Get yourself a partner and I'll play you for all you have, or I'll bet you five to one you are wrong." Wherever bridge players assemble you will hear one of the above remarks before long and, of course, that is where I rush, because I know there is a good bridge hand in the argument. I have only given you the East and West hands today, but before you check the bidding, I

hearts, and when the hand went down East said: "Couldn't you bid four hearts and take the strain off me?" Of course, in a few minutes, East wanted to bet five to one that he was right, but he was absolutely wrong—he almost has a free bid of two hearts.

IN FORMER YEARS

10 Years Ago

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hazer left this morning for Portland where they will remain until the first of the week. They will sail Tuesday on the Dorothy Alexander for San Francisco. They plan to be gone a week or 10 days.

Miss Vera Case, of near Aliceal, accompanied by Miss Cecil Small of Weston and Miss Doris Lieualen of Adams, left by automobile for Philadelphia, where they will attend the National Christian Endeavor convention. They also plan to visit New York City and to return by the northern route in about five weeks.

15 Years Ago

Miss Dorothy Eberhard has returned home from Seabeck, where she attended the Y. W. C. A. conference, and from Aberdeen and Seattle where she has been visiting friends.

Miss Mabel Doty has returned home from Los Angeles where she attended the meeting of the American Library association. More than 2,000 librarians from all of the states were in attendance.

E. D. Towler, principal of La Grande high school, and Mrs. Towler are taking a month's vacation in Portland, Eugene and other west coast points.

30 Years Ago

W. B. Sargent of La Grande has returned from a business trip to Portland.

Charles Playle and son of Alice were La Grande visitors today.

Rain today of short duration, but slow and soaking, delayed for a few days the crisis in the wheat situation. The storm was general over the state and did much good, though not enough to entirely remove danger of drought.

♠ A 7 3	♠ N	♠ 8 4 2
♥ A K Q J	♥ W	♥ A Q 8 5
♦ 10 9 3	♦ E	♦ 10 9 8 6
♣ A 4	♣ Dealer	♣ 2

Rubber—E-W vul.

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	Double	2 ♠	Pass
2 ♠	2 N T	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	Pass

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would like to have you cover up the East hand. Let's just look at the West hand.

South had opened the bidding with a spade, and I think you will agree that the double by West is the best declaration. Most of the experts agree on that. Of course, that two heart bid by North was certainly a surprise to West. When South bid two spades, what should West do? He can't bid three hearts because he is vulnerable and may go for the works. Once again most of the experts agreed that the two no trump bid was good. The question is: What should West do after East's three club bid? I am frank to tell you that most of the good players say that West should pass. He has done enough; he has doubled and then bid two no trump. However, you will notice that West has bid three

Questions & Answers

Q—What prize fight drew the largest gate?
A—The Dempsey-Tunney fight in 1927 in Chicago—\$2,650,000.

This Curious World



ANSWER: Monday, July 9. Path of totality starts in Idaho and extends northeast through Canada, to Europe and Asia. Outside this path, it will be seen as a partial eclipse.

NEXT: Mushrooms and garlic.

WE, THE WOMEN

By RUTH MILLETT

"Peaches are being fed to hogs because there isn't enough sugar for canning," an OPA employee told women of one southern city in an effort to persuade those who had received their canning certificates early to return all certificates over 10 pounds per person, the prevailing rate.

That statement was enough to make conscientious women who had been issued 15 or 20 pounds per person rush down and turn in the difference between what they had been given and the 10 pounds per person to which the canning sugar ration had been cut.

And then the OPA district director flatly denied the story. Said he: "There is enough home-canning sugar in the county to can all available fruits and vegetables. There is no record or evidence of a single complaint and I seriously doubt that anyone in the county has fed one peach to hogs. It is extremely difficult in this organization to prevent irresponsible statements—as was made about the peaches being fed to hogs."

Behind Scenes in Washington

By PETER EDSON, La Grande Evening Observer Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON, July 6—The director of the office of war mobilization and reconversion, which is an awful long title to hang on even Fred M. Vinson, sent the third quarterly report of his outfit up to congress June 30, as the law tells him to. It was a handy little pocket size pamphlet, 72 pages in big type with a gray cover, printed in bright red ink. The thing had a snappy title on it, too. "The Road to Tokyo and Beyond." If you get the idea this "beyond" is subversive and means Manchuria, Mongolia and Moscow, you're wrong. It means the great beyond—beyond VJ day.

To make it still more understandable there are 17 charts which look like kindergarten art projects of hills and valleys before they get the tree, cow and the barn put in, and one of the charts has an impressionistic title on it, "Elbow Room for Reconversion." Isn't that cute?

In spite of all this effort to make "The Road to Tokyo and Beyond" good, hot weather reading, it's pretty much on the heavy side. As a duty, however, this report rates a once over to see where Joe Doakes gets off in this Great Beyond after Tokyo. The picture looks something like this:

If Joe Doakes—and this goes for Jane Doakes, too—has been working in a war plant and gets laid off, the chances are good he'll be able to get a job in another war plant or in a laundry or restaurant, or working on the railroad.

Come Christmas, there will be ten big war production centers where there may be considerable unemployment. But, there will still be 20 areas, instead of the 63 areas as of today, where there will be more work than workers.

Wage rates for changed jobs in plants converted from war production to civilian goods production will have to be determined by collective bargaining, subject to war labor board approval to make sure the policy of economic stabilization or wage freezing is not upset. Any changes made by WLB will not be made retroactive. Over the long

The official who had the courage to deny a story that was working on women's consciences because he felt it wasn't true, ought to be a hero to American women.

For women have had to put up with all kinds of inconveniences in wartime, and they have been pretty good sports about it. Cheerfully, they have stood in line to buy food. They have made the best of shortages that have worked real hardships on their families, like the current meat shortage. They have taken on new homemaker jobs like gardening, canning, etc.

But just because they have been good sports, they shouldn't be imposed upon—as they often are. And certainly their sympathies shouldn't be played on by the use of untrue stories—just to whip them into line.

They have a right to know whether there is any real need for their sacrifices. And it is time they quit being docile and looked into every demand that they sacrifice and do without to see if there is any real reason for it.

EVENING OBSERVER'S PROGRESS PROGRAM

IRRIGATION—Complete the Grande Ronde Valley Irrigation project.

LA GRANDE — A city of 10,000 — Extend the city limits.

TODAY'S TEXT
But avoid foolish questions, and analogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain.—Titus 3:9.

So You Want a New Car!

Unpleasant reading for innumerable Americans doubtless was the recent statement of Col. J. Monroe Johnson, director of the office of defense transportation, that it will be at least three years before millions of persons are able to buy new automobiles.

Disliking the role of wet blanket, it would be pleasant to express the opinion that Colonel Johnson has leaned toward the pessimistic side, so as to avoid the disappointments, and the criticisms, that would result from a more optimistic prediction unfulfilled.

Unfortunately, anyone who examines facts and records won't be inclined to accuse the ODT chief of pessimism. On the contrary, his views smack of optimism. It will be a production miracle indeed, even for American industry, if all who want new automobiles are able to obtain them within the next three years. We won't go so far as to say it is a miracle impossible of achievement. But it doesn't seem likely, and let's examine some of the reasons why:

Motor vehicle registrations in the

Funny Business



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SO THEY SAY

We think they (Russians) play the game like we do—right out on the table.
—Gen. Jacob L. Devers, commander Sixth army group.

The Germans are conquered people, and have no right to demand anything.
—Col. Charles Keegan, military governor of Bavaria.

Because of its very immensity I was convinced in 1940 that Germany's victory was definitive, so I became a collaborator.
—George Claude, 75, on trial in Paris on charge of intelligence with enemy.

If a murder were to be committed in the area (southern shore of Potomac between Virginia and District of Columbia) tomorrow, there would be grave doubt that the guilty person would even be brought to trial because of the uncertainty over jurisdiction.
—Rep. Howard W. Smith, Virginia.