

# EDITORIAL PAGE

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## Too Bad They Have to Be Contaminated With It!



833 Seven St.

## Washington Merry-Go-Round

By DREW PEARSON

WASHINGTON — With President Truman's announcement regarding the new atomic bomb, some of the background behind the nation's most carefully kept secret can now be told.

If the nazis had known the details of this secret and developed it before V-E day, the results of this war might have been just the opposite. As it was, there is reason to believe that the nazis knew we were working on such an invention, because the eight nazi saboteurs, under cross-examination, admitted that they were instructed to find out what they could about this experiment.

Those who have studied the new bomb say its discovery is just as revolutionary as the Chinese invention of gunpowder. It will not only revolutionize warfare, but might wipe out civilization if nations continue to resort to war. One new atomic bomb, if dropped on New York city by a transatlantic rocket, would wipe out the city completely.

Actually, the inventors of the bomb are not entirely certain what its future strength may be. While the details are still highly secret, it is reported that the effect on atmospheric pressure is such that the bomb's destructive force travels in waves in the atmosphere surrounding it. It is also reported that, if dropped in a bay or confined body of water, the bomb could start a tidal wave capable of inundating whole cities.

Part of the experimentation for the bomb was performed at the University of Chicago; part also by British scientists at Oxford. While the bomb was in the process of being developed, trusted workmen had to sign an oath that they would work in the secret desert bases without visiting their families.

The danger of the bomb to future civilization is almost beyond belief, once the secret becomes known. For instance, it is estimated that a bomb hidden in a safe deposit vault in a New York bank could explode 24 hours later with such terrific force that it would destroy most of the city.

One complication is whether the bomb secret should be given to our other allies. At Teheran it is understood that preliminary arrangements were made for Russian entrance into the war against Japan

and that in return the United States was to give Russia knowledge of all our secret weapons.

Now, many military men, believing the war can be terminated soon, doubt the feasibility of handing over this secret to the Russians. Others believe, however, that an invention of this kind is sure to leak out, just as every military weapon sooner or later becomes known.

### Passing the Buck

One reason for the terrific senatorial blasts leveled at the army is the constant and deliberate run-around given the senate by war department officials.

Senate military investigating committee members recently figured out brass hats summoned to testify have a regular set of "football plays" they use to dodge questions.

The favorite brass-hat play is known as the bucking half-back play. The witness is asked a question by a senator. He pauses, looks anxiously to the left and right to the numerous junior brass hats who accompany him, fails to get any assistance, then turns back to the legislator and says:

"We just don't know the answer to that one, senator. But with your help, we'll certainly find out."

Senators describe another favorite as the statue of liberty play, fashioned after the old Notre Dame trick of concealing the ball. When a brass hat is asked an embarrassing question, he replies with a carefully phrased answer intended to arouse another senator to question the meaning of the first senator. In this play, the two senators get into a tremendous argument between themselves with the witness trying to act helpful, but actually sitting back delighted.

A third play, one of the most frequently used, senators call the lateral pass. The witness, being asked a tough question by a senator, replies:

"We don't have that information with us today, senator, but we can get it in several days. I'll be glad to send it up to you and have it entered as a part of the transcript." The senator can do little but say "yes." Generally, by the time the answer does come up, the committee is working on an entirely different subject and the reply goes unnoticed.

## WE, THE WOMEN

By RUTH MILLETT

By the way, whatever become of: Hostesses whose guests invariably wound up with indignation because second and third helpings were urged on them with such persistence?

Articles that used to tell us how to spend our leisure time?

The persons who smoked only a particularly brand of cigars?

Renters who made the landlord redecorate before they moved into a house or apartment?

Articles that urged a yearly separation of husband and wife, via the separate vacation plan?

The fast talking salesman who tried to shame you into buying his brand of vacuum cleaner by showing you how much dirt he

could get out of your carefully cared-for carpet? (He used to dump the dirt in a little round pile on the middle of the rug, remember?)

Steak fries? The dogs whose owners bragged they were finicky eaters, and had to have their hamburger cooked just so?

The man who raised Cain if his shirts weren't done exactly right? The folks who used to get on trains with six or eight pieces of luggage?

The dear little dressmaker who charged "practically nothing"—and the second-hand furniture women were always picking up for a song?

The people who used to say "I never travel except by Pullman?"

## Behind Scenes in Washington

By PETER EDSON, La Grande Evening Observer Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON, Aug. 8 — A great race between Senator Bob Taft of Ohio and Senator Bob Wagner of New York came down the stretch on the last day congress was in session. It ended in a photo finish, or maybe Wagner by a nose. It was a race to develop a post-war housing policy.

Senator Wagner is of course the author of nearly all the New Deal legislation on housing destiny of any new housing legislation that comes up.

Taft is a minority member of the banking and currency committee, but he is also chairman of a senate postwar subcommittee on housing. That has made him top man in the long series of hearings on post-war housing policy. They began in June 1944 and ran until February 1945. They enabled Taft to steal the housing spotlight from Wagner. A natural rivalry, as well as a traditional policy rivalry developed.

Twice during the Taft committee hearings Wagner rose to announce that this was only an advisory subcommittee and had no authority to do anything about legislation, which would have to be referred to his, Wagner's banking and currency committee later on.

Taft went ahead, however, and took five months to prepare a report which he filed on the 1st day the senate was in session. The report is one of the most liberal and far-reaching programs for the development of public housing ever to get before congress. Taft has a reputation as a conservative who is sometimes called a reactionary. He has been the Republicans' number one critic of many Democratic proposals. Knowing these facts, any Washington observer will pick up the Taft report and read with amazement what the senator from Ohio proposed for a long-range government housing program.

A single agency with a single head to promote all government housing activities. Tax reductions to corporations owning housing developments. Downward revaluation of property in new housing. Development of more rural housing. More assistance to cities in rebuilding slum areas. Disapproval of the rent certificate subsidy for low income families. Review of the antitrust laws to eliminate monopoly and racketeering

practices of both business management and labor organizations which conspire to restrict housing productivity.

Taft includes statements public housing should not compete with private housing. He favors state and local government cooperation with the federal government on future housing developments. Also, he does not believe that public housing should be imposed on communities that do not want it. But anyone reading this report and not knowing the author would never guess it was written by Senator Taft. It is that liberal. It is everything the public housing advocates have been asking for. It is a striking demonstration of Taft's abilities, once he turns his attention to constructive development in which he sincerely believes instead of devoting his energies to obstruction.

It would be too much to expect the Democrats would allow Taft to steal this dream house right out of their own back yard. While Taft was writing his report, Senator Wagner, in collaboration with Senator Allan J. Ellender of Louisiana, representing the Senate committee on education and labor, were busy preparing a new housing bill. Having sat in on all the Taft subcommittee hearings, Wagner and Ellender were able to write into their proposed bill many of the reforms advocated by Taft and a few others besides. And the two Democratic senators also filed their bill on the last day the senate was in session, providing the aforementioned photo finish.

The Wagner-Ellender bill gets the play because it is a step further along—a definite proposal for legislation. But it is 65 pages long and it takes a lawyer to figure out. That Taft report, on the other hand, is only 23 pages long and extremely readable.

Both are recommended reading for for anyone interested in public housing and postwar private housing, too, builders, contractors, realtors, landlords and building trades union leaders who start reading before bedtime shouldn't count on getting too much sleep. There are things in these proposals to keep them awake and worrying for some time to come.

## Side Glances



"She'll be famous some day, watch and see—every time I start singing to her she joins in and harmonizes perfectly!"

## McKENNEY ON BRIDGE

By WILLIAM E. MCKENNEY America's Card Authority

### LEADS TO SLAM

We in New York were all deeply shocked by the sudden death of Erno Rapee, the great orchestra leader and father of George Rapee, one of the Life Masters of bridge. He was quite proud when George won the individual championship in 1944. In my opinion

Rapee			
♠ None	♥ QJ943	♦ 7	♣ AKQ10762
♠ AQJ9	♥ 86	♦ 2	♣ 1075
♠ A985	♥ 43	♦ 43	♣ KQJ10
W		E	
S		Dealer	
♠ K432	♥ AK1065	♦ 64	♣ J5
Duplicate—Neither vul.			
South	West	North	East
1♥	1♠	Double	2♦
2♥	2♠	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	7♥	Pass
Opening—♠ A			

George Rapee is one of the greatest players in the country today. He puts a tremendous amount of spirit into a game of bridge and his daring and maneuvering have a great deal of thought behind them.

When his partner on today's hand opened the bidding with one heart, Rapee immediately began to plan how to get a grand slam.

### BARBS

Enlisted men may get 30 gallons of gas at the time of discharge. It'll take more than that, however, to get them any place—a job, for instance!

Even if you spend your vacation in your own back yard you can do it up good and brown. Just sit in the sun!

Plenty of people will question Goering's heart attack. Since when has he had a heart?

A busk, which does a neat job of squeezing the waist line, is back on the market. And the women don't mind being taken in!

The question is, how long will the Japs prefer to have our B-29s overhead to our G. Is on the ground?

He doubled one spade to lead the opponents to believe that he held something in that suit. East's two-diamond bid was exactly what Rapee had hoped for.

When South bid two hearts, showing a sound heart suit and a rebid, Rapee made his one-bid of three diamonds. Having doubled spades, his cue-bid in diamonds gave the ace opponents the impression that he had no diamonds. For his opening, West selected the ace he thought more likely to win a trick—the ace of spades—and the hand was a spread for seven-odd.

## IN FORMER YEARS

### Thirty Years Ago Today, Aug. 8

Officials hoped to stop permanently the petty thievery of chickens, etc., by removing campers who occupied during the summer vacant tracts of land in the valley. Transient campers were not to be bothered, but anyone who camped out for any length of time would have to account for his diet.

Some excellent catches of fish were being made in nearby waters by the Wing, Fin and Fleet-foot club members, including 14 inch trout caught by Roll Baker and Ed Boylen.

Elgin branch of the railroad was 25 years old and an anniversary celebration was planned.

### Fifteen Years Ago, Aug. 8

About 800,000 trout and salmon were liberated in Union county streams, announcements by the game warden said. Trout were placed in the Grande Ronde, Minam, Catherine creek, Mill creek and Looking Glass creek.

Drum corps and drill teams of La Grande and Baker paraded for a half hour, in practice for the state American Legion convention to be held the next week at Baker.

### Ten Years Ago, Aug. 8

First aid auto donations climbed to \$886.25 today, with donations from the theater employes.

American Legion officers nominated included C. J. Shorb for commander, Dr. Fred Eams, vice commander; Clarence Green, chaplain; Homer Lefell, finance; C. A. Rosenbaum, adjutant.

## Funny Business



"My wife's on vacation!"

## SO THEY SAY

I want to stress the fact that the worst part of the redeployment problem is still ahead. It is expected that by December 1, 500,000 soldiers will be using trains and that the peak of military freight movements will come next year.

—John W. Snyder, War Mobilization Director.

All that can help tomorrow is the citizen who does his duty. May there be a lot of him.

—Cleveland, O., Press.

Should the war in the Pacific end soon, it will find us largely unprepared to overcome our domestic problems.

—Sen. James M. Mead, of New York.

Generally, men who run their own business work six full days a week—and many of those days stretch into nights.

—From Department of Commerce pamphlet.

## This Curious World



THE OPPRESSIVE ATMOSPHERE JUST BEFORE A RAIN ACTUALLY IS LIGHTER THAN THE AIR ON A CLEAR, CRISP DAY.

ANSWER: Horace Greeley.

NEXT: How big is the Pacific?