

EDITORIAL PAGE

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Maybe He Picked a Bad Time to Go Visiting



Washington Merry-Go-Round

By DREW PEARSON

WASHINGTON—Those who sat in on the drafting of JCS 1067, the blueprint for governing Germany, say it was one of the most carefully conceived plans ever prepared by government agencies. The army, navy, state department, treasury and foreign economic administration all participated.

Their aim was to draft a set of rules which would stamp out nazism and make sure never again could Germany plunge the world into war.

What now concerns some of these officials is that several cardinal points in the blueprint for occupied Germany are being ignored. This may be due to military expediency, or to the soft-peace crowd in the war department, or to plain ignorance. That is one reason why publication of the rules has been urged, so every American soldier in Germany shall know them.

For instance, the order for occupied Germany specifies that the foreign assets of German cartels shall be seized by the U. S. army. But when Gen. Lucius Clay wired the war department proposing the seizure of I. G. Farben assets in Argentina and Switzerland, the war department, ignoring the blueprint, said no.

Again the blueprint for occupied Germany provides no munitions plants shall operate. But the U. S. army has given permission for a German hydrogen peroxide plant to make fluid for U. S. buzz-bombs, while the Ford plant at Cologne is making trucks for the U. S. army. While these are for the United States, officials here point out that the army has a tremendous surplus of trucks, and if we didn't need the hydrogen peroxide for a two-front war, we don't need it now for one front.

It was the building up of German industry after the last war, they emphasize, partly to pay reparations, partly through the connivance of American-British industrialists, which paved the way for Hitler's amazing war capacity.

San Francisco Munitions Menace
Three members of the house military affairs committee are hopping mad at the army for "utter disregard of civilian rights"

and common safety precautions in connection with the construction of an ammunition loading pier at California points in San Francisco bay.

Hard-headed Gen. Brehon Somervell's army service forces began in June 1944 to plan for an additional ammunition pier in the bay area, since facilities for shipping explosives were inadequate. Finally in April of this year the army announced that it planned to build in the California point area—residential district of fine homes. In mid-June it gave notice to residents in a 235-acre area they should vacate—in some cases giving only two or three days notice.

The army-navy explosive safety board, as well as residents of the San Francisco bay area, urged that the pier be built farther along the coast in a less congested area. California point is only about three miles across water from Richmond point, where Standard Oil has one of its largest gasoline storage plants, and where there is a giant high-octane gasoline refinery.

In the event of explosion at the army ammunition pier, experts say, these installations might easily be touched off. In addition, the army site is close enough to the huge Golden Gate bridge, pride of the west, and to San Quentin prison, with 4,000 criminals of all types, so that the possible loss from explosion would be terrific with a possibility that desperate criminals might be loosed near San Francisco.

If the pier should ever blow, experts say, there will not be a pane of glass left whole in the entire city of San Francisco.

But the army has gone ahead just the same and the pier is now about one-quarter finished.

Representatives Sparkman of Alabama and Hollifield and LeRoy Johnson of California cannot demand that construction stop, because of the importance of getting munitions to the Pacific war front. But they will insist that the installation be temporary only, that it not be finished if the war ends soon, and that if a permanent loading dock for munitions is desired, the army build it in a safer, less congested spot along the coast.

WE, THE WOMEN

By RUTH MILLETT

There has always been a certain amount of infidelity among husbands. But time was when "the other woman" stood to lose all, since a husband—even an unfaithful one—felt that he had to protect his wife's position.

But apparently the idea of chivalry is changing. Today the married man who gets in a scrape is anxious only to protect the name of "the other woman" and let the wife look out for herself as best she can.

The American soldier who had quadruplets by an English girl—at the time the story came out in the papers—was concerned only with marrying the girl and giving the kids a name. He didn't even speak of the humiliation he had brought upon his young wife back home.

And several times stories have come out about married service men who wrote their wives to please give them a divorce, so that they could protect the name of some girl they had been living with overseas. One "gentleman" even wrote his wife and the mother of his child that he didn't love the girl he had been living with, and loved only

his wife. But he felt he was honor bound to marry the other woman, and would the wife please give him a divorce.

And now comes the story of the army captain who, with a wife and two children in this country married a WAC sergeant in Germany and now says: "I want more than anything else in the world to clear the name of the most wonderful person I have ever had the pleasure to meet—Kay." Kay is the WAC sergeant.

If this new idea of chivalry takes hold generally, parents will have to back down on one of the beliefs they have always instilled in their daughters. That is, that the wife's position is unassailable, and that the girl who becomes "the other woman" in a triangle can't expect any protection from the man in the case. That when it comes to a showdown, he will stand by his wife.

The only protection a wife will have is in the courts, if it becomes generally accepted that it is more important for a husband to protect "the other woman" than the wife. Strange idea of chivalry, isn't it?

Behind Scenes in Washington

By PETER EDSON, La Grande Evening Observer Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON, Aug. 9 (UP)—Prospects for a change in the government's wage policies within the next month or so lead to some fancy speculation.

That the little steel formula will be openly broken seems doubtful, even though V-E day has some and gone, though 70 congressmen signed a petition to President Truman asking that it be done, though labor leaders have been clamoring for it over two years.

Instead of being frank about it, however, ways will be found to bend, not break the little steel formula. The new adjustments are being planned to permit the office of economic stabilization, office of price administration and war labor board to save their faces and maintain the fiction that the good old line is being held.

Artful economic dodging of this kind has been going on for some time, though how it kids anyone is hard to see. For instance, the top men tell you the coal wage agreements approved this spring by WLB and OES did not break the little steel formula. True, there was no increase in basic wage rates, but the miners got increased travel time for all work after 35 hours a week, more money for second and third shifts and vacations with pay.

What usually isn't mentioned in the same breath is, that as a result of these fringe adjustments, OPA had to allow an increase in the price of coal. So is this holding the line or isn't it?

The popular theory around Washington now is that certain wage increases can be granted without increasing prices and that some price ceilings can be raised without necessarily increasing wages. They're both good tricks if they can be done, but how?

One proposal is to remove from WLB authority any wage agreements made between employers and employees, providing the new contracts do not call for higher prices of the product. That would ease the problem off the WLB doorstep and out from under the little steel formula ceiling. But where do such situations exist?

Labor leaders have recently become quite alarmed over OPA's new price policies for the reconversion period. The original idea was to have manufacturers start producing

consumer goods for sale at 1942 prices. But the way it works out, most manufacturers will be allowed to add allowances for increases in the cost of production which have occurred since 1941. Aluminum utensils markers, for instance, may charge up to six percent more. Clock and watch makers, five percent more. And so on.

What all these authorized price increases will add up to, no one can tell. But they are bound to make some increase in the cost of living that gives the labor leaders more ammunition in their fight for higher wages. And that puts it up to the war labor board to find other ways to approve wage increases and still say it is not breaking the little steel formula.

At the end of May employers were told they could raise minimum wage rates up to 35 cents an hour without WLB approval. This might be extended by raising the authorized minimum to 65 cents. Davis is known to favor this step for certain low paid industries.

Removing regional wage differentials might be another means of increasing pay. That would bring southern wage levels up to northern averages, though it wouldn't help the high bracket men in the northern industrial centers where living costs are highest.

Taking a look at an industry's profits might offer another escape. If it were found that any industry could pay higher wages and still make more money than it did in pre-war times, pay increases could be wrung out of the earnings. Along this same line, some employers won't have overtime to pay when they get back into civilian goods production. It is argued they might therefore pay higher base rates and still sell their goods for less than the wartime price.

Finally, there might be an admission that the bureau of labor statistics cost of living index on which the original little steel formula was based does not accurately measure the war time rise in living costs. Whereas BLS now admits to a wartime increase of less than 30 percent, labor groups contend the actual increase is closer to 45 percent. If the government stabilization experts ever admit to that variance, the way will be cleared for a lot of pay raising.

Side Glances



"Maybe I was wrong about the movie, Junior! Here's a dollar—run along, and you can have a soda, too!"

McKENNEY ON BRIDGE

By WILLIAM E. MCKENNEY America's Card Authority

PASS OF 8-CARD SUIT FOOLS FOES

I always admire a player who has sufficient nerve to pass a seven- or eight-card suit. Today's hand came up in a recent rubber

♠ K J 10 3	♥ Q J 6 4	♦ 9 8 5 4 2	♣ None
♠ Q 6 4 2	♥ K 10 8 7	♦ K 10	♣ J 9
♠ A	♥ 7 2	♦ A 3	♣ K Q 8 7
♠ 8 7 5	♥ A 3	♦ A Q J 7	♣ A K 4
Rubber—E.-W. vul.			
South	West	North	East
1 N. T.	2 ♠	Double	Pass
2 N. T.	Pass	Pass	3 ♣
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass
Opening—♥ A. 10			

was kibitzing and nearly gasped when East, with his eight-card club suit, passed—but it worked! South, afraid he might be done out of something, bid two no trump. When the bidding came round to East after two passes, he nonchalantly bid three clubs. South quickly doubled. If South had allowed the two-heart double to stand, he would have defeated the contract, but he did not have a chance to defeat three clubs.

He opened the ace of hearts and continued with a heart, but declarer won in dummy with king and led a club. At this point, South made a desperate play to beat the contract. He led the seven of diamonds. East, remembering South's strong no trump, went right up with the king and led the club. All South could win was two clubs, a diamond and a heart.

IN FORMER YEARS

Thirty Years Ago, Aug. 9

Because Frank Bay and L. L. Snodgrass captured a live stork on the N. K. West ranch by many miles of running they are to be properly immortalized. Window Decorator Haskell arranged a window display with the stork as the central figure. It was to be trained to hold a baby in its beak.

Fred A. Holmes was elected president of the new band organization and Aaron Omsted was selected secretary. R. M. Wright was to be the leader.

Fifteen Years Ago, Aug. 9

One thousand persons attended the band concert the night before at Riverside park, featuring a piccolo solo by Dolph Siegrist.

Boy scout camp, with W. C. Perkins in charge, was to close that day at Lake Anthony. A camp court of honor was presided over by F. L. Meyers, H. E. Coolidge and Dr. W. T. Phy.

O. L. Bodenhammer of Arkansas, commander of the American Legion, visited here Monday night.

Ten Years Ago, Aug. 9

A big forest fire was reported on Catherine creek. It was the first of major importance for the year.

This Curious World

The PACIFIC OCEAN IS SO LARGE THAT BOTH ITS EASTERN AND WESTERN LIMITS CANNOT BE SHOWN ON A SINGLE HEMISPHERICAL MAP!

Quoting Odds
"A LONG DISTANCE CALL IS USUALLY SHORT," SAID AUDREY LEVY, San Francisco, California.

The WORD "CLABBER" COMES FROM THE IRISH "CLABA" MEANING THICK MILK.

NEXT: What tree has the largest trunk diameter?

Funny Business



"But we did it in the army when 5 o'clock came!"

SO THEY SAY

To meet the challenge of a world struggling with unrest, bewilderment and heathenism is the task set the Christian Church today.

—Montreal Daily Star.

It is an interesting comparison and significant that a year ago at Kohima (Burma) the proportion of Japanese prisoners to dead was one to 40. Today it is one to nine.

—Lt. Gen. Sir Montagu Stopford, commander, British 12th Army.

The (American) women who have not been true are driving their men into the arms of European women.

—Grace Moore, opera singer.

We intend to use our influence to erase plague spots (in Europe), above all, the plague spot represented by the Franco (Spanish) regime.

—Prof. Harold Laski, adviser to Attlee British government.