

EDITORIAL PAGE

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'Thanks for the Grand Job, Son—and Carry On'



Washington Merry-Go-Round

By DREW PEARSON

WASHINGTON—Members of congress returning to work today are swamped with G. I. mail. It has been pouring in—particularly from returned veterans in the U. S. A., who have been kept marking time, waiting for the brass hats to let them go home. The storm of protest is terrific. So much so the 1946 congressional elections, in fact the re-election of President Truman, may be won or lost in the next few weeks—all hinging on one thing:

"Was Governor Dewey right in his charge that the democrats wanted to keep men in the army and navy after the war?" Politically the problem is TNT.

Meanwhile, many congressmen have become convinced army brass hats haven't been playing fair with them regarding discharge figures, and junior officers who do the statistical work will tell you privately this is true. Army chiefs have been giving figures to congress which are completely off-base.

For instance: Last June the army told congress there were only 160,000 men aged 38 and 39 in the army. This low figure was given to quiet the congressional demand that men of this age be released. The army claimed that congress was being stampeded by a lobby of only a small number of men.

But, in August, the army turned round and announced that there were 300,000 men aged 38 and 39. Congressmen point out 160,000 doesn't equal 300,000 in any arithmetic book. And the number couldn't have increased between June and August, because men over 30 were not being drafted.

Marshall Scolds Congress
Example No. 2—After the German war ended, the army announced its 85-point system and the plan to discharge 1,388,000 men under it. But now it has turned round and admitted to congressmen there are fewer than 500,000 men with 85 points in all war theaters including the U. S. A.

Again congressmen point out 1,388,000 doesn't equal 500,000, and they suspect the army gave out the higher figure last May with no real intention of living up to it.

Certainly the army made no effort to reduce the 85-point score between V-E day and V-J day, despite its promise to do so. That promise was announced officially and publicly, but apparently it was never meant. For, on Aug. 7, chief of staff general Mar-

shall held a press conference in which he stated most emphatically that the point score would remain "as is" and there would be no lowering of it.

Marshall's press conference was held just after the atomic bomb was dropped on Japan, after peace feelers already had been received from Japan, and one day before Russia came into the war—Marshall knowing in advance that she was coming in. Yet the chief of staff spent at least half his press conference telling why the army must keep 7,000,000 men and denouncing congress for wanting to have less.

Suggestion to the war department:

Why not arrange a system of furlough for men marking time in U. S. Camps, so they can go home for several months if the discharge centers are now swamped with the job of mustering men out?

At present veterans with battle ribbons actually are being used to pick up matches to keep them busy until the discharge machinery is speeded up. Let them go home to their families! Picking up waste paper and going through close-order drill is bringing G. I. blood to boiling point and the lid may blow off at the next elections or sooner.

Mrs. Pauley Travels

There are several thousand G. I.s in Europe, now finished fighting the war, who would like to have their wives living near them in France or Germany—but they can't. President Truman explained that this was impossible, and the explanation was accepted with good grace.

However, when ex-treasurer of the democratic national committee Ed Pauley went to Moscow as reparations ambassador, President Truman loaned him his own private plane and Mrs. Pauley went along.

Mrs. Pauley was a most charming companion for her husband everywhere he went, and seemed to enjoy the pleasure shared by few other wives. However, as if this special privilege was not enough, Mrs. Pauley was listed as an official member of the mission, with an allowance of \$25 a day while overseas.

Members of the mission testify Mrs. Pauley was extremely pleasant, but acting pleasant was all she did. Meanwhile the Russians paid for virtually everything members of the mission needed. They provided housing, food, and servants without charge.

WE, THE WOMEN

By RUTH MILLETT

All right, post war world, come on and give. Remember all we were told about you when you were only a rosy dream of the future? Well, we do.

And now what are you going to offer that will give us half as great a thrill as these little wartime triumphs:

Discovering that you had one more unused gasoline coupon than you had figured on?

Coming across a pair of nylon stockings you had discarded in the good old days that were worth being mended and, with careful nursing, might do for special occasions for another year?

Finding a steak and having red points to cover it at one and the same time?

Producing some small article with the

proud announcement, "This is pre-war?"

Having a likely applicant turn up in response to a "help wanted" ad?

Going into a restaurant and finding roast beef on the menu?

Having a week-end houseguest say, "Just go ahead and use all my blue points. I never cook a meal at home."

Finding training pants for the baby with elastic instead of ties?

Coming home from a shopping trip with a couple of sheets or a box of facial tissues under your arm?

Finding a boy to mow the lawn or put on or take off the storm windows?

Finding a place to live in an army town? Or even finding a place to live?

Behind Scenes in Washington

By PETER EDSON, La Grande Evening Observer Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON—The question is whether your Uncle Samuel could continue to mind the baby. During the war, the general government did a lot of this subsidized baby-sitting. Uncle Sam had to play nursemaid so that mama could take a job in a war industry. The total cost to the taxpayers over the past three years has been nearly 45 million dollars.

Having got into the baby sitting business on such a vast scale, the government is, of course, finding it difficult to let go. When it was recently announced that the government would have to liquidate its day nursery program as of Oct. 31, the yowl that went up from working mothers was louder than the combined crying of all their progeny. The thing finally got to President Truman, and he has just asked Maj. Gen. Philip B. Fleming, federal works administrator, to find out how many of these babies he has been taking care of are the offspring of men in uniform, and then to ask congress for some more money to continue taking care of the infants till all their pops get home.

This makes government baby sitting a live issue in Washington. A question on which you should be fully informed if you want to be considered up on every little thing that goes on in your nation's capital.

During the war, this government nursery business could be justified. There was a man-woman power shortage and it was considered necessary to get every pair of cradle-rocking hands on a riveting gun. If that meant that every mother in a war center had to park her offspring in a private school nursery for an eight or ten hour shift, okay. The cost of changing and feeding the youngster its cod liver oil at the correct moment could be charged to the war effort. No congressman in his right mind begrudged a nickel of this expense, even if the total of the nursemaid bill did come to 45 million bucks.

As of the end of the war, there were over 110,000 youngsters being taken care of in government supported day nurseries of nearly 3,000 war production centers. Washington has 24. San Diego and Detroit had 'em the score. The way it worked out, the Federal government paid about 80 percent of the cost, local communities and the parent shar-

ing the other 40 per cent. The ceiling charge to the parent was at first 50 cents a day, but towards the end of the war this was raised to 75 cents a day, that was supposed to cover the cost of the feedings. Local communities usually provided the quarters—a room or two in a school building. The federal government furnished everything else at a cost ranging from 90 cents per infant day in Mississippi to as much as two dollars a day in Los Angeles and Detroit. It was pretty nice.

All of this was according to the program administered by federal works agency under the Lanham Act which provided money for war housing and such supplementary services as schools, hospitals, sewers, recreation facilities and such necessities of life in new war production center not able to provide their own.

A year ago, General Fleming as FWA administrator advised all the state governors that baby tending was really no business of the federal government. He suggested that plans be made to have this activity taken over by the public school systems of each locality. Nobody did anything. The sudden end of the war, bringing with it an end of Lanham act grants—in aid of baby sitting and other such war-time luxuries, caught everyone unprepared. Particularly the mothers who have become accustomed to the practically free baby-checking service and want to keep on working.

But it is now argued that a lot of these mothers will soon be quitting their jobs and going back to housekeeping. For the wives of servicemen and widows who must work to support themselves and dependent children, there should be other solutions.

For anything approaching normal times, a case can be made that this is a job for public school systems, for state and local governments, for employers who must hire women with children or for paying these mothers such ventures on a cooperative basis. Unless, of course, you want to argue that the federal government can do a better job of child-raising than the parents. When such federally subsidized baby-sitting become state socialism, which is one of the things the war was fought to end, is something for the experts.

Side Glances



"Everything happens to me, mother—hay fever season, and so many service men coming home!"

McKENNEY ON BRIDGE

By WILLIAM E. MCKENNEY

America's Card Authority

SUIT-DIRECTING PLAY CLICKS OFFTEN

Bertram Lebar, Jr., and Simon Rossant of New York led the field for the first two sessions of the masters pair championships this year. In the third session they were overtaken by M. A. Lightman of Memphis, Tenn., and Pfc.

ruffed. The return of the deuce indicated to his partner that Appleyard's only chance of getting in the lead was in the lower of the two suits not trump, which in this case was the diamond suit. Lightman had bid diamonds and was looking at the ace-king-queen, but he had sufficient confidence in his partner to return a small diamond. Appleyard won with the jack and gave his partner another ruff, defeating the contract.

IN FORMER YEARS

Thirty Years Ago

Construction of a viaduct across the main tracks of the switching yard in this city has been ordered. Material for the footbridge is already ordered through the office of Storekeeper Martin. Architects have the plans drawn and everything is in readiness.

Harvesting in the Grande Ronde for this year is on its last legs. Scores of big wheat ranchers shut off on combining today; some have odd jobs to finish up, it is true, but the big job is done.

Fifteen Years Ago

Chimes in the St. Peter's Episcopal church will be installed sometime the latter part of this month according to present plans announced yesterday afternoon.

In the play-off of a tie between Sheriff Jesse Breshears, J. B. Smith, La Grande, and Mr. Marty Pendleton, for second place in the Eastern Oregon horseshoe tournament Monday, the Union county sheriff took the honors.

Ten Years Ago

If the works progress administration in Washington looks with approval upon an Armory building program for Oregon, La Grande is scheduled to receive \$52,861 for construction of a national guard home here, it was learned today.

Providing SERA crews can be maintained at their present level, the relaying of 11,000 feet of the Beaver creek pipeline over the Beaver creek pipeline over the two Whiskey creeks and Rosebud flats by the city of La Grande probably will be completed by the last of this month.

♠ QJ2
 ♥ AKJ 109
 ♦ 8
 ♣ 10976

Lightman
 ♠ 1094
 ♥ 864
 ♦ AKQ9
 ♣ 76
 ♣ 3

W
E

S
Dealer

♠ AKJ5
 ♥ Q
 ♦ 1042
 ♣ KQJ4

Appleyard
 ♠ 78
 ♥ 7532
 ♦ J53
 ♣ A852

Duplicate—E-W. vul.

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	2 ♦	2 ♥	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening—3.

Robert Appleyard of Randolph Field, Tex., who went on to win the title.

Lightman and Appleyard used the suit-directing play to good advantage on today's hand. Appleyard won the first trick with the ace of clubs and returned the deuce of clubs, which Lightman

BARBS

There'll be no tire relief in the September quotas, says the OPA. Leaving a lot of careless drivers flat.

As butter points get lower and lower, we wonder if folks realize that it's a very good substitute for oleo.

The top Nazis have had their tribulations—now come their trials!

Shoe rationing is expected to end shortly and we're all ready to jump in with both feet!

Bigger and better bath towels won't be available for several months. There's the rub!

One undamaged major Jap ship remained at the end of the war. Maybe there just wasn't any more room in Davey Jones' locker.

This Curious World



BABE RUTH
HIT A BASEBALL
OVER THE
SEVEN FALLS,
AT
COLORADO SPRINGS,
COLORADO, A
HEIGHT OF
266 FEET.

THE RING AROUND THE MOON
IS NOT AROUND THE MOON,
BUT IN THE ATMOSPHERE... ONLY
A FEW THOUSANDS OF FEET
ABOVE THE EARTH'S SURFACE.

Whiz Korner

The name of this western state was taken from a beautiful valley in the northeastern mountains of Pennsylvania.
Yours,
Burt Elmer

WHERE'S ELMER?

ANSWER: Wyoming.

TEXT: The bird that came to Rickenbacker.

EVENING OBSERVER'S PROGRESS PROGRAM

IRRIGATION—Complete the Grande Ronde Valley irrigation project.

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

The Sino-Soviet Treaty

The recently signed 30-year treaty between China and Russia holds every promise of becoming another mighty bulwark for peace and security both in the Far East and in the world as a whole.

It was a highly significant and most important document for a great many reasons. But if there is any one fact in connection with the treaty that is more significant than any other, it was Russia's action in conducting the negotiations and in signing the treaty with the central Chinese government headed by Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek instead of with communist elements which dominate a large portion of north China.

Thus, an immediate result of the treaty appears to have been a termination of a condition approximating civil war between the central Chinese government and the communist elements in that nation. Deprived of the support they may have expected from the Soviet, the Chinese communists immediately agreed to go to Chungking to confer with the generalissimo, thus accepting an invitation they had rejected flatly on at least two previous occasions.

On the whole, the treaty seems to reflect a broad and generous attitude

by the Soviet toward China. The Russians could have taken just about anything they might have wanted in China, and it is unlikely that anyone would or could have stopped them.

As one example, they might have taken Manchuria. Instead, the Soviet recognized China's full sovereignty over that huge and tremendously rich area. The Russians might have taken possession of Darien and Port Arthur. Instead, Darien was made a free port open to all nations for the next 30 years and Port Arthur will be operated jointly by the two nations as a naval base.

Everything considered, Russia seems to have demonstrated and acted upon the sort of foresight which should make for an enduring peace in the far east. The Russians could have taken a great deal more than they did, but if they had done so, they might have sowed the seeds of another war in the future.

The treaty appears to have created the sort of atmosphere between China and Russia in which peace and good will can thrive. There is nothing in first reactions to the treaty to indicate that the agreement is distasteful to either nation.

It holds every promise of being the sort of foundation upon which a real peace can be built—a peace not alone between Russia and China, but for every nation which might be affected by suspicion and clashing between these two dominant powers of the Asiatic continent.

Funny Business



SO THEY SAY

We have this international organization (United Nations Charter) because a great individual called Woodrow Wilson walked into the world of thought with the majestic idea of universal harmony.

—Dr. Daniel L. Marsh, president, Boston University.

Instead of agreeing with the Washington die-hards who say President Truman has failed because he ditched some New Dealers and New Deal policies, we would be inclined to say he has succeeded, insofar as he has succeeded, because of that action.

—Peoria, Ill., Morning Star.

Although maintaining prosperity on a permanent basis is admittedly a tough task for which no dependable formula has yet been found, there certainly is nothing to be gained by fatalistically taking it for granted that the thing can't be done.

—Kalamazoo, Mich., Gazette.