

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

DREW PEARSON

TIRE RATIONING

If you are an automobile owner in search of tires, here is one thing to keep your eye on. The tire industry is pulling all sorts of wires backstage to lift export restrictions.

At present they are permitted to export 400,000 truck tires and 100,000 passenger tires during the last quarter of this year. They would like to export a lot more. In the first place, they don't have to worry about OPA ceiling prices when selling abroad. Secondly, they can build up their postwar markets by getting in on the ground floor.

So they would rather sell more tires abroad. But if they do, they sell less tires at home. And today a tire certificate issued to a person desiring to buy a tire is nothing more than a hunting license. He can go out and hunt for a tire. If he's lucky enough to find one, his certificate entitles him to buy it.

DEPARTMENT OF PEACE

When the house foreign affairs committee heard testimony on the Randolph bill to create a department of peace, the star witness was a 64-year-old former mule-driver from Morgantown, W. Va.

Chairman Sol Bloom and members of his committee listened with rapt attention as Raymond M. Davis read a 16-page statement on why the United States should take the lead in establishing a new cabinet post to spread the gospel of peace throughout the world.

After he finished, white-thatched GOP Rep. Charles Eaton of New Jersey declared:

"Mr. Davis, you may be unschooled, as you tell the committee, but you certainly are not uneducated. That is one of the finest documents I have ever listened to."

World Peace is not just a hobby with the West Virginia coal man, though he describes it as such. It is a burning ideal. A self-made business man who now operates two coal mines employing more than 500 workers, Davis had made many speeches at his own expense throughout the country urging a government department of peace. He also has written a proposed constitution for the United Nations that has attracted wide attention.

The state department thought well enough of his ideas to invite him to the San Francisco conference as an observer.

Rep. Jennings Randolph of West Virginia, freely admits that Davis was the chief spark plug behind his peace resolution.

"When I was looking at the rear end of a mule all day in West Virginia coal mines," says Davis, "I never thought that one day I'd be instrumental in having such an important piece of legislation introduced in congress."

Note—The second initial of Davis' name stands for "Moses." Perhaps what we need are more plain, garden-variety Moses' of the Davis type, instead of striped-pants diplomats, to lead us out of the international wilderness.

BOWLES HOLDS INFLATION FLOOD

OPAdministrator Chester Bowles is one of the most abused men in Washington. Everyone is badgering him. Congressmen demand that their constituents increase the price of this or that. Farm groups want to raise the price of milk or cattle. Business groups want to abolish all ceiling prices.

Probably the common man doesn't appreciate it, but here are some things which will happen if Chester Bowles loses his battle to stop the inflation flood:

1. Every person putting his money in life insurance does so with the idea of getting his money back—100 cents on the dollar. But if there is inflation, the insurance dollar will be worth 75 cents, 50 cents, or even 30 cents.
2. Every person on a retired pension, whether a railroad employee, a college, a school or a big corporation employee, will see his income shrink if there is inflation.
3. Every widow living on money left by her husband will see that income shrink.
4. Every school teacher will have great difficulty having her salary move up when the value of the dollar moves down.
5. Every civil servant, whether working for city, state or federal government, will be in the same boat as the teachers.
6. Every college endowment, every charity or other enterprise with fixed invested capital stands ready to have its investment evaporate with inflation.

CAPITAL CHAFF

When Eugene Meyer, publisher of the Washington Post, celebrated his 70th birthday, his family gave him a party on Sunday. The Post staff gave him another one on Monday, and on Wednesday he was guest of honor at a luncheon.

One high government official is certain, from studying a list of Presidential appointments, that Harry Truman does not intend to run for President in 1948. "Obviously," he says, "Truman's preparing to run for governor of Missouri."

Veterans' SERVICE BUREAU

EDITOR'S NOTE: This newspaper, through special arrangement with the Washington Bureau of Western Newspaper Union at 1616 Eye Street, N. W., Washington, D. C., is able to bring readers this weekly column on problems of the veteran and serviceman and his family. Questions may be addressed to the above Bureau and they will be answered in a subsequent column. No replies can be made direct by mail, but only in the column which will appear in this newspaper regularly.

New Veterans' Hospitals

Enlargement of the facilities of the Veterans' administration for more adequate care of returning disabled war veterans is getting under way with the announcement recently that locations had been approved for 19 new veterans' administration hospitals and additions to 15 existing hospitals to provide a total of 15,276 new beds for Veterans' administration patients.

These beds are a part of the 29,100 bed program approved by President Truman on August 4, and funds for the construction program are to be requested for the current (1946) fiscal year. The new hospitals are to be located at or near:

New Haven, Conn., Albany, N. Y., Buffalo, N. Y., Newark, N. J., Baltimore, Md., Washington, D. C., Gainesville, Fla., Clarksburg, W. Va., Louisville, Ky., Decatur, Ill., Duluth, Minn., Southern Minnesota, Iowa City, Iowa, Omaha, Neb., New Orleans, La., El Paso, Texas, Oklahoma City, Okla., Phoenix, Ariz., and Cincinnati, Ohio.

In the meantime, Gen. Omar N. Bradley, Veterans' administrator, has announced appointment of Dr. Paul B. Magnuson, associate professor of surgery at Northwestern university, to be head of the research and post-graduate training program in the veterans' hospitals throughout the country. Dr. Magnuson is considered one of the country's outstanding surgeons and orthopedic specialists.

Questions and Answers

Q. I was inducted in the army and served seven months when I was discharged on account of age. Four of us asked officers if they wished we would get out and they answered, yes. So we went to an employment office in Tacoma and received a slip saying we were more vital to the war industry than in the army and on those grounds they gave us a discharge. Now they tell us we are not entitled to mustering-out pay. At that time we knew nothing about mustering-out pay. Also am I entitled to a serviceman's loan.—C. H., Hammond ave., Superior, Wis.

A. Probably you are not entitled to mustering-out pay. It may be that you were discharged before mustering-out pay was adopted, and if not, you were discharged for your own convenience to take a job in war industry, and without overseas service, are not entitled to mustering-out pay. You are entitled to benefits of the G.I. bill, however.

Q. My husband joined the marine corps in June, 1942. He spent 18 months overseas, received 3 bronze stars and the presidential unit citation, but because his record book was late in arriving at the islands, he has not been credited with the bronze stars. How can this error be corrected? He has just been sent back to the Pacific with 57 points. I have been told all marines with 40 points would not be sent over again. He should be credited with 72 or 77 points. How can this be corrected?—Mrs. L. L., Carpenter st., Northville, Mich.

A. Any superior officer who knows your husband's record could correct his record insofar as the bronze stars are concerned, the marine corps says. It is true that it is the policy of the marine corps not to re-ship men with 40 points overseas. It is also true that your husband has more than enough points to make him eligible for discharge. The marine corps, however, says there are many reasons why he may have been shipped back for duty, one being, he may have requested overseas service. Suggest you write direct to the marine corps headquarters, Washington, D. C., and ask for details concerning your husband's record.

Q. Can a serviceman stop his allotment to his wife and child?

A. If you mean his family allowance, which is made up of equal contributions from the soldier's pay and the army, no, he cannot stop that. He can stop his allotment, which is a voluntary contribution of the soldier to his dependents over and above his family allowance.

Q. When they start discharging servicemen with two years of service will they include only those already serving two years or will it be effective for all when their two years are up?—Wife, Chelsea, Kan.

A. Under the present ruling, men in the army must be 35, 36 or 37 with two years service before they are eligible unless they have the necessary number of points. The war department says a new ruling may be in effect by midwinter to release all men with two years service, regardless of age.

NEWS BEHIND THE NEWS

By PAUL MALLON

Released by Western Newspaper Union.

CURTAINED PRODUCTION CAUSES INFLATION

WASHINGTON.—The Baruch letter to congressmen lifted the veil about a foot on the whole inner picture.

Without mentioning the labor-management conference, the Attlee visit, the New York and Detroit elections or any other matter specifically, this now unattached elder advisor of the nation penetrated these and all other current economic arguments filling the papers with at least one fresh ray of light.

His flashlight beamed on the problem of production as the root of all economic evil. Delay and curtailment of it by strikes and otherwise boosts inflation, he said (as it does, because slack production makes more critical the shortage of goods, which in turn causes higher prices).

The current brakes upon production also should make us wary of giving away what goods we have to foreign nations, especially those like England, Czechoslovakia, France and Russia (he mentioned these specifically in his meagerly reported letter) because by giving-away, we reduce what production we have available to fight inflation.

He got off his own beam on two other points, it seems to me. He said tax reduction also threatens inflation, without recognizing that a reduction in the vast Truman spending budgets projected publicly for the next 20 months is the first logical way to curtail the government fiscal threat.

SPENDING REDUCTION

A spending reduction in an inflationary period like this is certainly more important than the meager tax reduction which continues war levies at nearly 90 per cent of war levels.

Also he lit once upon a rubbish argument when he worried about our farm and mineral resources along with Interior Secretary Ickes, who is nearly always bad company for a seeker of objective economic truth.

With all these nations owing us money, we should be able to stock up on deficient minerals (if the administration would devote itself to this); and most people are bragging about the ability of Agriculture Secretary Anderson to get the farm production straightened out from its war mess next year.

Mr. Baruch's gleaming eye could have gone further and the veil could have gone higher. Fundamentally, honestly and basically, what are the tap-root causes of the condition we are in? There is but one.

The world is being pressured into political economies, domestically and internationally. Here especially we are striving to do the right thing politically—but not the right thing economically.

In international affairs, some crusaders want us to give things away for political reasons. Mr. Attlee is coming over to urge us, according to his inspired press, to give away the atomic bomb.

WHAT ATTLEE WANTS

In my well-advised opinion, Mr. Attlee is not much interested in the atomic bomb, but primarily in getting the money, delayed, from us—anything up to over five billion dollars to set his financial house in order so his Socialist party can buy industries for his own purely political purposes.

He has never made out an economic case of government need of these industries for any other than his purpose to prove socialism. He has presented us with no prospectus of reconstruction for Britain showing how she could use our money to make more business for us or her—to expand production.

He has not offered his people any sincerely conceived production plan along these lines. Indeed, he does not think along these lines, but on Socialist political lines.

What this poor sick world needs is to get away from politics and back upon the beam of realism in economics. By throwing away the atom bomb or money in bad loans for political purposes, we can destroy the world.

I promised to try to demonstrate by objective analysis the same root causes of our own troubles domestically—namely that we are being high-pressured into political economies, into decisions for political effect rather than what is economically right and necessary.

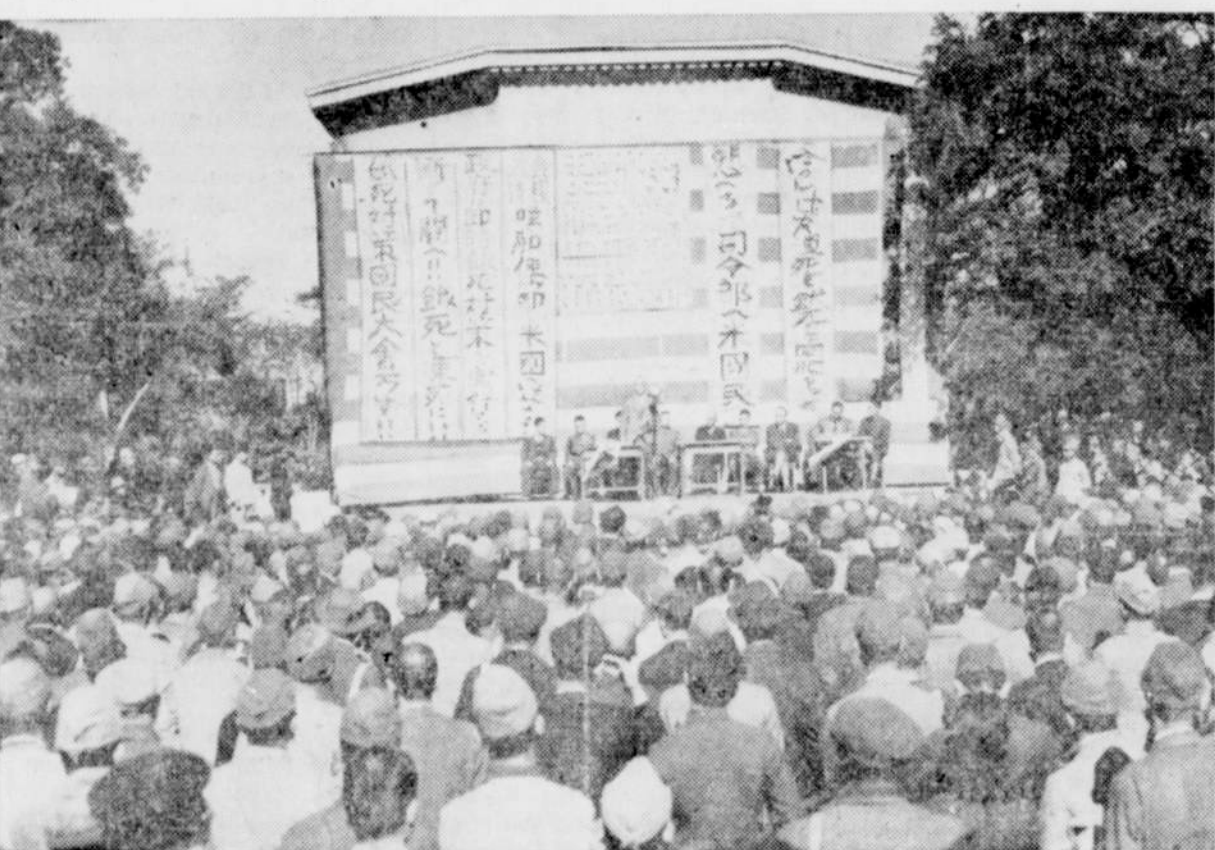
Mr. Truman's latest wage-boosting plan is a program to increase government employees by 20 per cent, congressmen, cabinet officers and others even more than this amount. At a time when the President is worried about inflation—an inflation caused by the shortage of goods.

Elephants Now Used to Clean Up Blitzed Hamburg



Kieri, 35 years old, is one of the elephants placed into service to aid in the cleaning up of much-bombed Hamburg, Germany. Kieri is being assisted in the job by Many, a 25-year-old mate, barely visible on offside. They are pulling the remains of an automobile from a blitzed building. An elephant can haul 3,000 pounds without much effort, and never seems to tire, even after long hours of work.

Japanese Object to Strict Food Control Program



A huge throng of Japanese face a bannered platform in Hibya park, Tokyo, during a demonstration against the current food shortage. The park is in downtown Tokyo, adjacent to the palace grounds. The Japanese objected not only to lack of food, but to any control over their food supplies.

Visible Speech Device for Deaf



At a demonstration at the Bell laboratories in New York, Edgar Bloom Jr., totally deaf man, talks with Miss Harriet Green over a telephone to which a cathode ray translator is connected. The device, known as "visible speech," translates sounds into patterns of light on the screen.

Hull Awarded Nobel Peace Prize



Former Secretary of State Cordell Hull has been awarded the Nobel Peace prize. Photo shows Mr. and Mrs. Hull as they read congratulatory messages in their Washington apartment. The former U. S. secretary of state was selected due to his outstanding work in the early organization work of the United Nations conference.

Chinese Army Styles



With his "G.I." umbrella protecting him from the rain, this grinning Chinese sentry of the 70th national army stands guard at one of the docks at Kiirom, where the Chinese troops were landed by units of the U. S. 7th fleet.

Truman's Big Turkey



President Harry S. Truman is shown with a 48-pound turkey presented to him on behalf of the turkey growers of Minnesota. It won first prize in Minnesota turkey show.