

## The Washington Merry-Go-Round

By DREW PEARSON

### TRUMAN DUCKS QUESTION OF SECOND TERM

WASHINGTON.—Pres. Harry Truman isn't sticking his neck out on the 1948 political race—yet.

Democratic Rep. Edward Herbert of Louisiana and Mayor Robert Maestri of New Orleans discovered this when they called at the White House the other day.

Maestri reminded Truman that the Louisiana delegation was among the first to support him for vice president at the 1944 Democratic convention in Chicago. Then he added:

"We hope to cast our votes for you for President at the next convention."

Truman chuckled good-naturedly but that was all.

"All I can say to that," he replied, "is that I'm just doing a job here from day to day and letting the future take care of itself."

### CLOTHING FOR VETERANS

Chief dilemma faced by the returning war veteran when it comes to new clothes is that either he will get clothes or his wife and sweetheart will get them. There aren't going to be enough for both.

In this choice between man and wife there is no question as to where the U. S. government stands, at least in theory—on the side of the man. He has been away fighting, his old clothes are moth-eaten and he deserves something to wear. Getting them for him, however, may be another matter.

Bottleneck of the entire problem boils down to linings. Wool clothing for men must have linings. This means rayon and cotton. At present the wool and worsted situation is improving and there probably will be enough for 1946.

But rayons and cottons are different. In the first place most of their production was allocated to war uses and it takes some time to get mills reconverted. Second, and here is where the sex problem comes in, most of the rayon and cotton now available for civilian use has been going to women.

In other words, women are getting the rayon blouses, the slips, the undies and other things they like to wear. Meanwhile the much more prosaic but absolutely necessary lining for men's suits is left out in the cold. In addition, the hosiery manufacturers are even asking for, and getting, a lot of rayon poundage for stockings, despite the fact that nylon is coming back.

### WHY WOMEN GET BREAK

Chief reasons for this channelling of clothes to women, despite the needs of veterans, are:

1. Higher prices and more profits in women's apparel. Men's clothing manufacturers blame this on OPA.

2. The War Production board last fall issued priorities on cotton and rayon in order to spur production of medium-priced clothing, but for some strange reason entirely omitted the bottleneck of men's suits—linings.

Since then the WPB has been abolished, but its successor, the civilian production administration, if anything, perhaps, has done a little worse. Well-meaning Herbert Rose, head of the CPA textile division, who has sublime faith in the efficacy of priorities under any and all circumstances, has proceeded to grant priorities to "hardship" cases for coat linings. By the end of November, 160 "hardship" cases had received lining priorities from Washington alone with scores of other priorities issued by CPA branch offices, making the whole situation more snarled than ever.

Meanwhile, Frank Chester Bowles, who has done more to protect the American consumer than any one else in Washington, readily admits that he has made a mistake in clothing. His problem, however, is whether to get an army of women's clothing dealers on his neck by decreasing the ceilings on women's clothes, or whether to boost the price of clothes for men by allowing higher price ceilings on their clothes.

One or the other probably will be necessary even in addition to the plan for voluntary rationing of men's clothing and the issuing of clothing certificates to men at separation centers.

Now we in this country have a great form of government and a great basic concept of getting along with our neighbors. And it's time we went out as Christ did and tried to sell our American religion.

### CAPITAL CHAFF

"I've been reading the platforms of the two major political parties for the past 40 years," remarked Con. Carter Manasco of Alabama, who did so much to sabotage the full employment bill. "Well, if everything called for in those platforms had been carried out, the country would have been ruined now." . . . "Most significant thing about the Republican's Chicago convention to me," remarked "Cap" Harding, secretary of the Democratic congressional committee, "is the excellent planning."

## 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.

### Unemployment Increases

The veterans' administration has paid out approximately \$102,750,000 as of December 15, for unemployment compensation to approximately 331,000 veterans of World War II.

For the week ending December 1, the total of jobless veterans was 247,360 out of about 4,000,000 discharged from the armed services. But according to records of the veterans' administration, each week sees an increase in the number of jobless in all states except three. These three are Michigan, where as of November 24 and the week ending December 1, unemployment had decreased from 18,414 to 13,770; Ohio, where the decrease was from 3,952 to 1,337 and in Oklahoma where jobless decreased from 2,430 to 1,434.

In New York unemployed veterans increased from 32,000 to 52,000; Texas from 12,000 to 22,000; New Jersey from 11,000 to 16,000; California from 10,000 to 14,000; Illinois from 9,000 to 13,000 and Massachusetts from 13,000 to 17,000. All other states showed a proportionate increase.

### Questions and Answers

Q. My boy entered the army in June, 1943, and went overseas early in December of the same year. I am his aged and crippled mother, all the dependent he has. Is he entitled to a discharge? — M. W., South Edmiston, N. Y.

A. Not necessarily. If you wish to apply for his discharge on a dependency or hardship basis, consult with your local Red Cross about inaugurating such a discharge.

Q. Would a discharged soldier with 40 months' service, 27 months overseas, be eligible for the \$20 per week income, where he has rented a farm and moved to same, is married and has no regular income? — A. L., Winfield, Kans.

A. No. The veterans' administration says you must register with the USES and apply for a job in order to be eligible for unemployment compensation. However, the law says that where a veteran enters business for himself and his earnings in the previous month were less than \$100, he may apply for an allowance equal to the difference between \$100 and his net earnings for that month. Suggest you apply to your nearest regional veterans' administration office to determine if farming is regarded as a business.

Q. My brother has served four years in the army, two in the states and two overseas. He is in the air corps and has 70 points. Why is he not already discharged? — Sister, Converse, La.

A. There is no reason why he is not already out of the army, if he wants to be out, unless he is in the Pacific theater where there is a shortage of transportation. Return of some high point men is being held up because of lack of transportation from this area.

Q. My husband was inducted into the army in July, 1942, at which time we had one child. For three months, August, September and October, 1942, I did not receive an allotment. Am I entitled to get that pay now? I wrote to them many times but never got an answer. My husband is now discharged.—Wife, Greenbush, Minn.

A. Write to the Office of Dependency Benefits, War department, Newark, N. J.

Q. If boys who had signed up for one year in the regular army are sent overseas, will they be returned to the states when their year is up or will they have to remain until they get enough points?—F. L., Lancaster, Wis.

A. If you mean boys who have re-enlisted in the regular army for one year after at least six months' service, they will be discharged at the end of the year's service.

Q. Is there any chance of my husband getting a discharge from the army on the ground of owning a small farm? He is over 25 but has only three points to his credit.—A reader, Columbus, Ohio.

A. There is not much chance unless he can prove that the produce from his farm constitutes a public necessity in his community.

Q. Please tell me why there are men walking around with discharges and 41 points and no children, when my husband is in Europe with 68 points and four children?—Mrs. L. H., Charlottesville, Va.

A. Your husband is certainly eligible for a discharge and the war department says he should be home by January 1, 1946, unless he has requested continued overseas service. All men with three children are eligible for discharge under present discharge rulings of army.

## NEWS BEHIND THE NEWS

By PAUL MALLON

Released by Western Newspaper Union

### BRITISH LOAN ACT RECEIVES ATTENTION

WASHINGTON.—The defense of the British loan deal is that there are only three things which can be done with the British:

- (a) Prop them up.
- (b) Let them fall.
- (c) Let the Russians take them.

On this basis the project was sold to the reluctant and discouraged congress—and will increasingly be sold. This is the argument which won congressional approval.

In its details, the arrangement is indefensible. A careful reading of the agreements will show that upon practically every agreed point, the British have contrived an escape clause or phrase—in short, an out.

In the matter of interest payments, for example, these will be waived unless British trade averages more than 1936-38 for five preceding years. Again, the British are to try to do something about the sterling discrimination pool against the dollar, but will only "make every endeavor" to do so. They agree to "relax," not stop.

### FEW BENEFITS FOR AMERICAN PEOPLE

Again, they agree to discuss a new de luxe super Bretton Woods arrangement to create a world trading and monetary system; they agree to work with us for this "international trade organization" at a world conference next year, but there nothing definite is provided beyond the "discussion" stage.

Again they promise to pay perhaps 750 million dollars in settlement of "lend-lease" (how ironical these two words sound now) but only 50 millions is to be cash within five years, and we will not take this money, but will use it to build educational or other institutions in the British empire.

There is hardly a line in the agreement which is not hedged thus with a legal escape for nonfulfillment.

For this, we are to throw 3 1/2 billions more after the 25 billions of "lend-lease" we are cancelling off—thus giving them title to remaining planes, guns, trucks, typewriters and what not, without trying to get the materials back for scrap or use. (Army claims we already have more than we can sell or use in surplus property, but they are thinking of peace, not yet restored.)

The best objective world finance authorities tell me the British carefully carved their excuses in advance, because they cannot expect to repay this "loan" any more than they could pay our war advances, given away under the disguised booby-trap phrase "lend-lease."

They have no raw materials on their island except coal. They cannot produce without raw materials, and they cannot pay for the materials except by production.

### BRITISH FUTURE DOES NOT JUSTIFY LOAN

With their prospects they would have difficulty getting anyone to say their amortization plan for this "loan" is sound. They can win a respite against fate with our money, but their 55-year future does not justify the deal financially.

But what could we do? The Byrnes people are already asking the senators in private. The senators are saying we could have taken title to the equipment we have given them and used it for storage against the future or scrap; we could have taken payment in materials of which our own stockpiles are low; we could have acquired territories needed for raw materials, and for civilian and military world air bases.

In short, we could have reached a fair and good business settlement "in kind," and closed the books on this endless dumping of the product of our toil into Britain these last 30 years. We could have reached a final settlement.

As it is, we have left the books open, to furnish more money when this "loan" is gone and cannot be repaid—money which really represents the sweat of our workmen, because our treasury has no "money" except as it drains that source.

We could have wisely prepared ourselves with territory, stockpiles and power for the new barter world of trade (which is coming as surely as borrowed international money is never repaid). We could have won the peace with this deal.

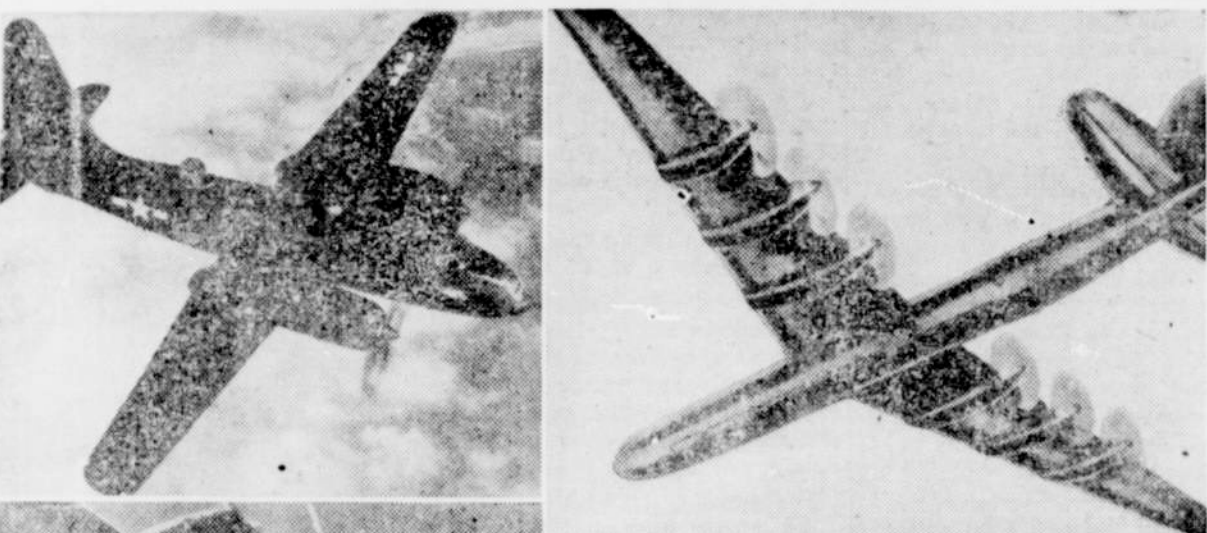
A few of the bravest administration congressmen said God loves everyone and the British loan agreement is a good one, immediately after it was announced.

The suspicious or knowing congressmen roundly denounced it.

But the bulk ducked and ran when they saw newsmen coming to seek comment. These detected a high aroma of unpopularity about the whole affair wafted in the first puff of the news from the state department. They did not know much of its vast unfathomable ramifications.



IN THESE UNITED STATES . . . At Miami Beach, Fla., they relax in the shade of palm trees (left), while the temperature soars into the 80s. But it is a different story on New York's Fifth avenue, where old man winter paid a visit. Right, shows Fifth avenue crowd fighting a 12-inch fall of snow which tied up traffic. Buffalo reported four feet of snow, while northern cities announced that they welcomed a white Christmas.



NEW AMERICAN KINGS OF THE SKY . . . The new "Peace Patrol" of the U. S. navy, upper left. This sky ship will guarantee law and order in zones of America's influence. Lower left: The army's "Block Buster" special was being tried out to carry 12,000 pounds of bombs to be dropped on Berlin, when war ended. Upper right: Drawing of army X8-36, six-engine superbomber of the pusher type, faster and more powerful than the superfortress. It is now in process of assembly by the army.



NAMED UNO DELEGATES . . . Secretary of State Byrnes, upper left, will head the U. S. delegates to the general assembly of the United Nations. Edward R. Stettinius Jr., upper right, will head the delegation during the absence of Secretary Byrnes. Senator Connally, lower right, Senator Vandenberg, lower left, and Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt were the other members of the delegation chosen by President Truman. Stettinius will also serve as the U. S. representative in the security council with rank of ambassador.



BEST DRESSED . . . Fashion critics have voted Mrs. Stanley Mortimer of New York the world's best dressed woman. Mrs. Mortimer calls herself a working girl. She is shown in one of her evening gowns.



SOLDIER IN IRON LUNG . . . Cpl. Walter H. Hargrave, Topeka, Kan., arrives at Hamilton Field, Calif., with Nurse Lt. Peggy O'Neal, Bridgeport, Conn. Corporal Hargrave made the 11,000-mile trip from Calcutta, India, via an air transport. This was the longest trip in iron lung.



MIDGETS WED . . . Waylon H. Galloway, 21, and his bride, Rose Cope land, 22, Vinita, Okla. Galloway is a messenger for the Texas senate. They were married at Austin, Texas, with many state officials present.