

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

By DREW PEARSON

SELLING STEEL INCREASE

WASHINGTON. — Most of President Truman's appointments are very brief. Senators get five minutes with him. Congressmen get from 5 to 15 minutes. Cabinet members frequently get only 15 minutes.

So recently eyebrows went up when the White House bulletin board listed OP Administrator Chester Bowles for a full hour with President Truman. Observers knew that the heat was on to increase the price of steel, and sell to inflation's No. 1 enemy on giving the nation its first big inflationary shot in the arm.

When Bowles entered the President's office, the die was already cast. Truman had decided that steel prices were going up. His job was to sell the idea to Bowles. Truman himself had been sold by his old friend, Reconversion Czar John Snyder of St. Louis, who in turn had been wined and dined by the steel people in Pittsburgh.

Chester Bowles also had talked with big steel leaders. His talks were far more energetic, more persuasive than Snyder's. Bowles once ran one of the best advertising firms in the nation, is an excellent salesman. All his salesmanship was turned on big steel leaders.

"You are going to have a bigger margin of profit than you realize," he told them. "You are now working 44 hours in the mills and 52 hours in your captive mines. When you drop to 40 hours, you will net a big saving in overtime. The price of scrap iron is now at ceiling. It will drop in the spring, which means more saving. Production per man went up to 10 per cent after the last war. It will do the same after this war, which will save you 100 million dollars alone. You can't tell what your profits will be. So why not try out a new increased wage scale without a sharp price hike? Try it out for six months—then come back and we'll examine the whole question again. If you need a price increase then we'll give it to you."

Bowles is a persuasive talker. He has more charm than any Washingtonian since Franklin Roosevelt. But he made no impression.

"After the last war, steel wages soared even without union pressure," Bowles summarized. "So did prices. And once inflation gets going, you'll have labor coming back until they get, not a 30 per cent increase in wages, but 50 per cent or even 75 per cent. You can't tell where this thing will stop."

EUROPEAN REFUGEES
Some of Jimmy Byrnes' expeditors have really pepped up old-line state department diplomats when it comes to admitting European refugees.

When President Truman first proposed filling unused U. S. immigration quotas by admitting homeless refugees from Europe, state department diplomats said they had neither funds, nor the personnel—nor perhaps even the disposition.

However, some of the South Carolina blood which Byrnes has injected into the state department (men who drink Coca-Cola instead of tea) decided that Presidential orders should not be kissed off so airily.

Though no money was available, they finally went to the bureau of the budget and squeezed out enough cash money to hire new consular personnel. Already they have started flying supplies to Europe to set up special offices to screen refugees and give them visas.

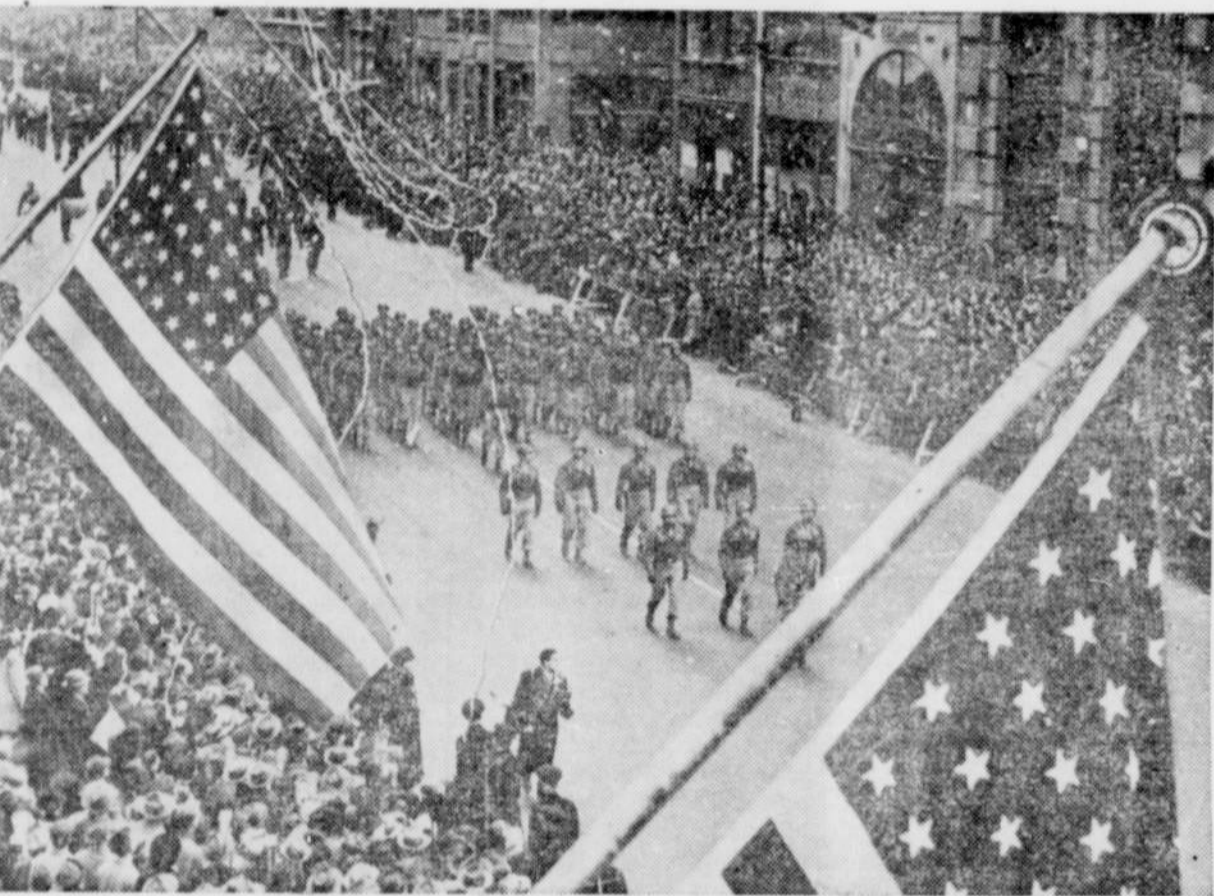
Old-line diplomats are leaning back in amazement. They have never seen so much speed before.

THE MERRY-GO-ROUND
Last spring the department of agriculture quietly agreed to advance France 750,000 tons of sugar from the Cuban crop. French colonial crops at that time were down to practically nothing and even what we loaned the French permitted a per capita consumption of only 22 pounds annually, compared to our 64. This friendly move is paying off now, however; because under the terms of the agreement, practically the entire French West Indies crop for this year comes to us. It is somewhat larger than was anticipated, and current estimates are that we will receive about 900,000 tons. . . . Henry Morgenthau's book on Germany, which appeared last fall, is not the only book the former secretary of the treasury will write. During his 12 years of close association with President Roosevelt, Morgenthau made painstaking notes on every conversation he had with FDR — and except for Harry Hopkins he probably had more than any other cabinet officer.

CAPITAL CHAFF
The radio time for Senator Taft's attack on Truman's address to the nation was reserved for him by the Republican national committee. . . . When Henry Kaiser signed his new contract with the auto workers, he remarked: "Dick Thomas (UAW president) is the man who came to the west coast last year and convinced me that I should take over the Willow Run plant and make automobiles. That puts the responsibility on his shoulders to see to it that I have the men to do the job."



SAVES PERSONAL BELONGINGS AS FLOOD WATERS RUSH ON . . . A high hat, battered cage containing pet cat, and several pails and containers which held her most cherished possessions, were saved from the home of Mrs. C. W. Voyles, Atlanta, Ga., as the swollen Chattahoochee river flooded her home.



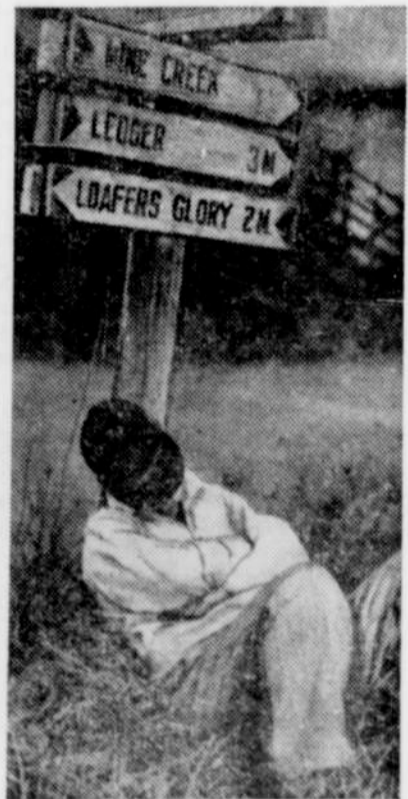
AIRBORNE DIVISION HAILED IN NEW YORK CITY . . . Maj. Gen. James M. Gavin, 38-year-old commander of the 82nd airborne division, and his staff lead the parade of his 13,000 battle-seasoned troops up the canyon of Fifth avenue, New York City. Thousands hailed the troops, symbolic of our victorious fighting forces. Most of them have since been discharged, although more than 1,000 have re-enlisted. This is believed to be a postwar re-enlistment record and has proven a big boost to new enlistments in the armed forces.



G.I.'S LIFE INSURANCE GIVEN TO COLLEGE . . . Mr. and Mrs. Robert S. Johnstone, Downingtown, Pa., are pictured in their home looking at photograph of their son, Robert S. Johnstone, 18, who was killed on Luzon. His parents have established a scholarship at Lafayette college, using his insurance money, with the provision that a Japanese student be given first consideration. They will add some of their own money.



YOUTH CARVES A CAREER . . . Bill Burnham, 17, Encino, Calif., has made his wood carving hobby pay. Using life animals for models, Bill has begun to cash in on his excellent work. His latest order was from a motion picture studio working on scenic background for a new picture. Bill has three live deer, a buck and two fawns at his home.



LOAFER'S GLORY . . . This fellow was on his way to Loafer's Glory, N. C., when he decided to turn this crossroads into his own private loafer's glory. The name was given by more or less spiteful neighbors of former days. The name took hold and stuck.



WINNING FRIENDS . . . Mrs. Arthur Vandenberg, wife of the U. S. senator from Michigan and delegate to the UNO, is shown making friends with a London tot. Mrs. Vandenberg is spending her sojourn in London studying social conditions.

NEWS BEHIND THE NEWS

By PAUL MALLON

Released by Western Newspaper Union.

CHANGE AGAINST FACT-FINDING PROPOSAL

WASHINGTON. — An editorial surveyor has reported 72 per cent of the newspapers approved Mr. Truman's fact-finding solution for labor claims at first, but suddenly turned around and in one week during December (22 to 29), 65 per cent attacked the plan.

This he considered a strange and inexplicable turnover of public opinion, or press opinion, and he criticized it. He said the change came about when the Truman fact-finding board for General Motors was confronted with the union proposition of going into company profits to set future wages on this basis.

My analyst friend has simply been confused, as have most readers of the current labor news, by the emotion of opposing factions. The truth behind the matter is evident.

Mr. Truman advocated the fact-finding solution out of the experience of the railroad union brotherhoods, who have enjoyed its operation for more than 15 years. The idea of establishing a public concept of the facts, with 30 days' cooling down before strikes, in the case of the brotherhoods, never entered the question of how much the railroads were making.

PROBLEM OF DETERMINING FUTURE REAL PROFITS

The idea of going into company profits of the past for a wage scale for the future was developed by the union in the General Motors case, merely because the company had war profits and the union wanted bigger wages. In the every-way-similar steel case, the same CIO unions have taken an opposite stand because there were no steel profits.

Mr. Truman is now moving to increase the price of steel through Mr. Bowles in order to create money by which the steel companies can raise the union wages.

The simple truth is thus shown to be that the unions want a wage increase — for whatever reasons they can concoct, for the reason of profits in the General Motors case, for the opposite reason necessitating a price increase in the steel case.

This is the essence of the matter, and anyone who indulges himself in any economic reasoning about the matter is wasting his time.

Thus the newspaper editorialists are proven by the facts to be right in changing their stand. The Truman fact-finding solution has been headed by union pressure into ascertaining company profits in the General Motors case. These are past profits, based on war business, and the manufacture of different products.

The union would be entirely logical if it demanded a distribution of these profits to the workers. That would make sense, but it is entirely illogical in contending that these past profits should measure the future wage scale, because the same profit is not guaranteed for the future.

FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE ALL WAGE CONSIDERATIONS

Indeed, the profits of General Motors henceforth will be measured by entirely different considerations — the volume of production, the future cost of materials, the extent of sales, the effects of advertising, efficiency and a thousand other factors. Past profits on war business have absolutely nothing to do with the case.

When the Truman fact-finding was turned into that illogical vein, naturally its advocates turned against it. They could not, in justice to simple reasoning, do otherwise.

Indeed, the unions themselves concede the falsity of the profits basis of establishing future wages by repudiating their own motors doctrine in the case of steel.

A straight-forward, just application of fact-finding would have followed the principle of the brotherhoods example in the case of motors, steel, electrical workers and all others, computing the increase in living costs, measuring what increases in wages had been granted, subtracting these, and proclaiming a just, sound wage increase.

The result could be done by simple arithmetic. A principle could have been established which would be a yardstick for all cases.

The trouble with the union case and the sympathetic administration handling of it is that no principle has been established. In one case the unions make one economic claim; in the other they make the opposite; and the administration tries to do their bidding in both instances. How then, could there possibly be anything else but confusion and strife?

What the situation requires is the establishment of a just principle, a common yardstick based on simple truths. The war administration had one in the Little Steel formula.

An Attractive Chair From Odds and Ends

A BATTERED side chair, a scrap of plywood, part of a can of flat paint, and a can of delphinium blue enamel; a piece of blue and white ticking and a strip of coarse white material that was



raveled out to make narrow fringe. Combined, these odds and ends made an attractive chair.

The old chipped white enamel was rubbed with coarse and then fine sandpaper until smooth. The new seat came next; then flat paint which was allowed to dry twenty-four hours before applying enamel. Next, the cover was made with a straight two-inch fringe trimmed hand and ties around the uprights of the back.

NOTE — This chair seat is from BOOK 10 which contains more than thirty other thrifty homemaking ideas. Books are 15c each postpaid. Write direct to:

MRS. RUTH WYETH SPEARS
Bedford Hills New York
Drawer 10
Enclose 15 cents for Book 10.
Name _____
Address _____

Pull the Trigger on Lazy "Innards"



WHEN CONSTIPATION makes you feel punk as the dickens, brings on stomach upset, sour taste, gassy discomfort, take Dr. Caldwell's famous medicine to quickly pull the trigger on lazy "innards" and help you feel bright and chipper again.

DR. CALDWELL'S is the wonderful senna laxative contained in good old Syrup Pepsin to make it so easy to take.

MANY DOCTORS use pepsin preparations in prescriptions to make the medicine more palatable and agreeable to take. So be sure your laxative is contained in Syrup Pepsin.

INSIST ON DR. CALDWELL'S—the favorite of millions for 50 years, and feel that wholesome relief from constipation. Even finicky children love it. CAUTION: Use only as directed.

DR. CALDWELL'S
SENNA LAXATIVE
CONTAINED IN SYRUP PEPSIN

Beware Coughs from common colds That Hang On

Creomulsion relieves promptly because it goes right to the seat of the trouble to help loosen and expel germ laden phlegm, and aid nature to soothe and heal raw, tender, inflamed bronchial mucous membranes. Tell your druggist to sell you a bottle of Creomulsion with the understanding you must like the way it quickly allays the cough or you are to have your money back.

CREOMULSION
for Coughs, Chest Colds, Bronchitis

Buy U. S. Savings Bonds!

One of the best home ways to BUILD UP RED BLOOD

if you lack BLOOD-IRON
You girls and women who suffer so from simple anemia that you're pale, weak, "dragged out"—this may be due to lack of blood-iron. So try Lydia E. Pinkham's TABLETS—one of the best home ways to build up red blood—in such cases. Pinkham's Tablets are one of the greatest blood-iron tonics you can buy! At all drugstores.

WNU-13 05-46

That Nagging Backache

May Warn of Disordered Kidney Action

Modern life with its hurry and worry, irregular habits, improper eating and drinking—its risk of exposure and infection—throws heavy strain on the work of the kidneys. They are apt to become over-taxed and fail to filter excess acid and other impurities from the life-giving blood.

You may suffer nagging backache, headache, dizziness, getting up nights, leg pains, swelling—feel constantly tired, nervous, all worn out. Other signs of kidney or bladder disorder are sometimes burning, scanty or too frequent urination.

Try Doan's Pills. Doan's help the kidneys to pass off harmful excess body waste. They have had more than half a century of public approval and are recommended by grateful users everywhere. Ask your neighbor!

DOAN'S PILLS