

# 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.

## Guard Against Rackets

Veterans' administration officials are urging discharged veterans to "stop, look and listen" before they engage in business. There are scores of rackets being worked against veterans who get out of the army or navy with cash in their pockets and with the privilege of borrowing money under the G. I. bill for purchase of a farm, a home or a business.

"We won't tell the veteran what to do," says N. D. Hathaway, director of contact service for VA, "but we will advise him to the best of our ability."

"The best advice we can give him is, 'Use your head. Don't rush into an investment. Seek good advice. Investigate until you are satisfied yourself. It is better to be sure than sorry.'"

In the meantime the veterans' contact service refers veterans to banks, or to the Better Business Bureau in the city or town where he plans to invest his money. They give him the address of the legal aid bureau where legal assistance is free to veterans, if they cannot afford to hire a lawyer. Contact advice always urges veterans to convert their national service life insurance. The VA does not tell the veteran where to invest or in what to invest his money. There are too many variable factors, so their only counsel is extreme caution.

## Questions and Answers

**Q.** My brother is 21 and has been in the merchant marine since December 4, 1944. When can he quit the merchant marines and not be drafted in the army?—Reader, Elmont, Ala.

**A.** Your brother has been deferred from the draft by reason of his service in the merchant marine and he will be eligible to be drafted until he is 26 unless he (1) has been in the merchant marines for not less than 32 months on or after May 1, 1940; (2) at least 75 per cent of his time has been in active service; and (3) he has applied for and received from the War Shipping Administration a certificate certifying he has completed his wartime service and is eligible to be relieved from further consideration as a draftee under the selective service system.

**Q.** I am the widow of a World War I veteran and haven't been receiving a dime of pension since his death, seven years ago. I've tried getting a pension at that time, but was told that we, in Wisconsin, did not get any. Is this true? If I am entitled to a pension what must I do to get it?—S. W., Ellsworth, Wis.

**A.** If you are the legal widow of a veteran of World War I, you are entitled to a pension wherever you live. Take your husband's record, his discharge papers and all available information you have and file a claim with the nearest office of the Veterans' Administration. Your local Red Cross chapter could help you file this claim.

**Q.** I would like to know if a boy is eligible for draft deferment who is the main tractor and truck man on a hundred-acre farm?—J. N., Fairhope, Pa.

**A.** That would be a question to be determined by the local selective service board. If the board determined that the boy was essential in raising food for the community or for the armed services, he could be given an agricultural deferment, as being of greater use on the farm than in the armed services.

**Q.** My husband enlisted in the Seabees and our son was born two months after he went overseas. I did not receive any allotment on our son until he was six months old. My husband is home and has his discharge now. Is there any way I could get the allotment now?—Wife, Glenwood Springs, Colo.

**A.** The navy says the most common reason for failure to receive allotments is that the serviceman failed to apply for an allotment when he became eligible for one. Yes, allotments are retroactive and may be obtained after discharge. Suggest you write to the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, Allotment Division, Navy Department, Cleveland, Ohio.

**Q.** Is it true that a serviceman can take a trip around the world or across the ocean free and only pay half-fare for his family?—M. B., Superior, Wis.

**A.** The war department has no knowledge of any such plan.

**Q.** My brother was discharged from the army November 9, 1943. Will he be eligible for pensions or anything under the G. I. Bill of Rights?—Worried sister, Guntersville, Ala.

**A.** Yes, if he received an honorable discharge he is eligible for all benefits under the G. I. bill.

# The Washington MERRY-GO-ROUND

by DREW PEARSON

## AMERICA'S OIL TWINS

WASHINGTON. — Many senators believe that the confirmation row over charming Ed Pauley as under secretary of the navy has taken on new significance now that Sec. Harold Ickes has offered Ralph Davies the job of under secretary of the interior.

It happens that Davies and Ed Pauley are bosom friends. Both are oil men. Both have followed the policy of "scratch-my-back-I'll-scratch-yours." This is important.

Recently, Secretary Ickes, who has a crusading record for guarding the nation's resources, recommended to President Truman that naval oil reserves be transferred from the navy to the interior department. It was just such a transfer by Albert K. Fall in the Harding administration that resulted in the teapot dome oil scandal.

No motive is attributed to the Ickes proposal except that of safeguarding oil. In fact, some people consider it significant that his proposal happened to coincide, by luck or otherwise, with the nomination of Oil Man Pauley to be under secretary of the navy.

But what senators consider important is that, with Pauley's friend Ralph Davies offered the job of under secretary of the interior, the navy's oil lands, no matter where they are located — in interior or navy—will be partially under Pauley or a friend of his.

## MEXICAN OIL DEAL

Relationship between Davies and Pauley has been extremely close. Davies was executive vice president of Standard Oil of California. Pauley sold him his own independent oil company. Later Pauley brought Davies to Washington, introduced him to Ickes, following which Davies became Ickes' deputy oil administrator. He did a good job.

However, state department officials say he continued to look out for "Ed Pauley."

When Pauley was trying to lobby his high-octane Mexican gasoline plant through the government, it had to pass the hurdle of Secretary Ickes' petroleum administration. Davies okayed it — not only okayed it, but pushed it vigorously. At first Ickes also gave it his blessing. The state department, however, was vigorously opposed.

Showdown came in a secret session between Ickes, Davies, a Davies aid, and the Assistant Secretary of State Dean Acheson. The full story of this session was never really told at the senate hearing. Acheson opened by giving Ickes a very careful diagnosis of why the Mexican high-octane gasoline plant should not be built by Pauley. He took up point after point, his main argument being that the Mexican government would have to pay such a high price to Pauley that it would sour U. S.-Mexican relations.

After Acheson had finished, Ickes turned to Pauley's friend, Ralph Davies, and asked:

"Why didn't you tell me these things?"

"I didn't know them either," replied the red-faced Davies. Then, turning to his aid, he allibied: "Why didn't you tell me these things?"

Ickes immediately reversed himself, threw his weight against Pauley. That is the real inside of how the Pauley octane plant for Mexico was stopped. Davies, of course, is an able, intelligent operator, too intelligent not to have known the main points of the Pauley plan. Pauley is equally able. He would be a good executive almost anywhere. But some senators want to think twice before putting these oil twins near the head of two departments controlling the oil reserves of the nation.

## PRESIDENTIAL HUMOR

President Truman has been taking recent criticism in excellent humor. The other day he was talking with a group of friends and said:

"Apparently, no matter what I do I'm always in the middle. I say something about Palestine, and the Jews and the Arabs holler. Labor and capital get in a fight, and I am in the middle. The Russians and the British have an argument, and I am in the middle."

Suddenly the President paused, walked over to the door of his office, which connects with that of his secretary, Matthew Connelly, and called out:

"Hey, Matt, where can I buy a copy of Dale Carnegie's 'How to Win Friends and Influence People'?"

## CAPITAL CHAFF

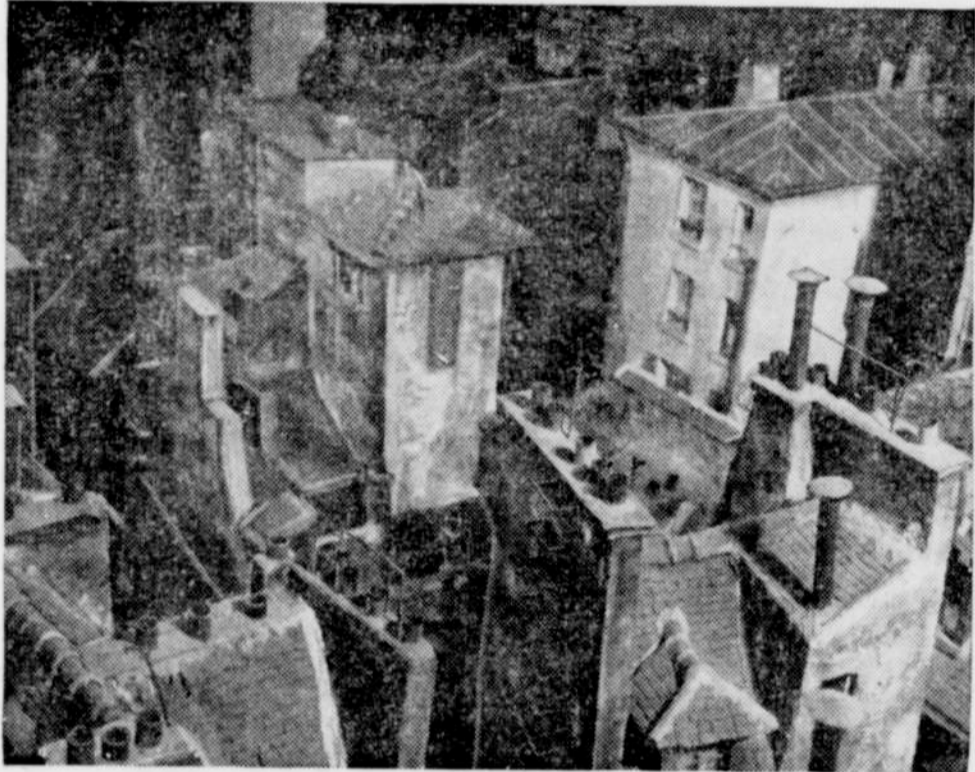
Assistant Sec. of State Spruille Braden is being muzzled by the cautious pink-tea diplomats regarding some sensational documents seized in Germany showing how certain Latin-American diplomats aided the Nazis during the war. . . . Forty-five small steel companies have now increased steel wages, thus sending more than 50,000 steel workers back to work. . . . Southern senators seem to like the filibuster method. Last week Senator Bilbo served notice he intends to use it against the British loan.



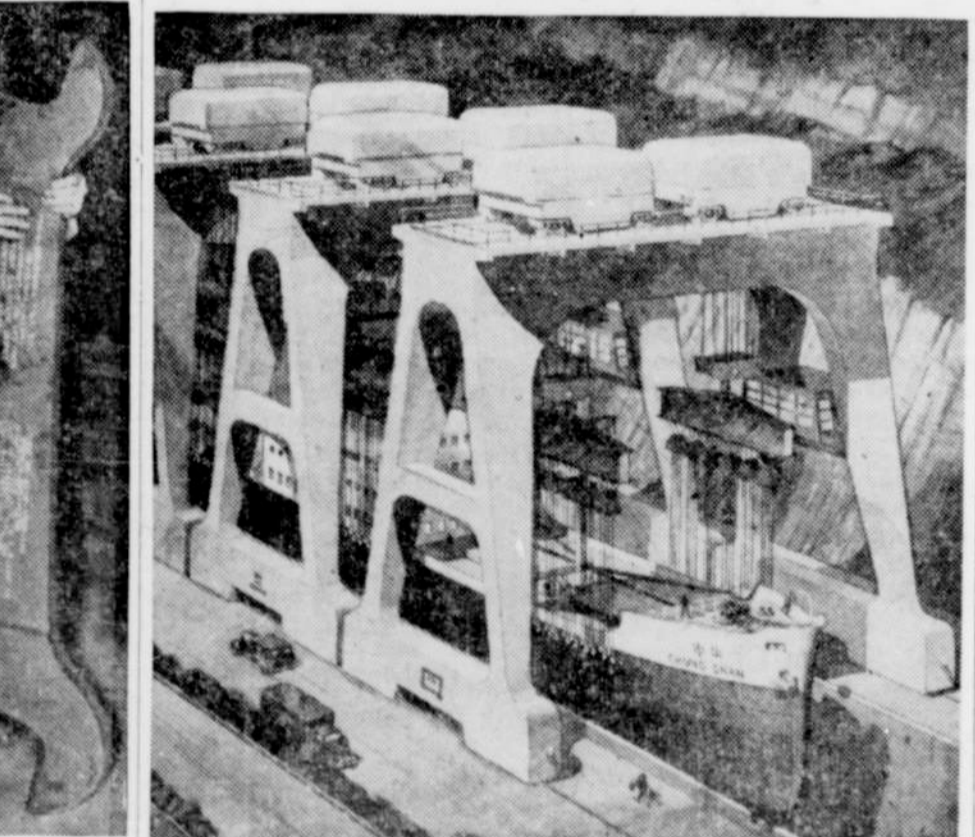
**WINTER IN FLORIDA OR NEW HAMPSHIRE . . .** Regardless of the weather, the younger generation finds plenty of amusement and body-building activities. At North Conway, N. H., the Eastern Slope Ski school, give more than 24,000 ski lessons annually to youngsters who contribute \$2 annually and write a school composition on skiing. At a cabana club pool in Miami, Mary Jane Coucel, New York, goes overboard, while Kent Merkle, Washington, and Mary Jane's sister Shirley watch in their "doughnuts."

## PARIS . . .

Look out your window in a modern Paris hotel and this is what you will see. Houses of crazy architecture and multitudinous chimney pots. George Alexander, Los Angeles, was so much in love with Paris that he reproduced it and brought it home in miniature. Entire streets and blocks of the picturesque quarters of the French capital are included in his collection. He fled Paris in 1936 without his "baby" which, by underground routes, finally caught up with him in Los Angeles.



**HANDY WRENCH . . .** Weighing 265 pounds, this wrench has been declared surplus by the U. S. army at the Lordstown (Ohio) ordnance plant. Ed Dolan of Warren, standing by the wrench, is six feet tall. Civilians may purchase such gadgets as these—to fix their watches.



**MORE POWER TO THE DRAGON . . .** China is to pump new life into the old dragon by building the biggest concrete dam, irrigation project and power plant ever known. Yangtze gorge project, with co-operation of the U. S. bureau of reclamation, builder of Boulder and Grand Coulee dams, is drafting overall plans. The mechanical lock facilities are shown above. They are capable of hoisting a loaded vessel of several thousand tons displacement capacity. John Lucian Savage is consulting engineer.



**INTERNATIONAL COURT . . .** Green H. Hackworth, 63, Chevy Chase, Md., has been elected one of 14 world judges by UNO. A native of Prestonburg, Ky., Hackworth served at the Hague.



**HORSEBACK PICKET LINE . . .** During the strike at the Los Angeles Union Stock yards, the pickets resorted to true Western style to picket the entrance to the yards. Mounted picket line, left to right: Margie Tavra, "Jug" Harrison, Tex Glover and Bessie Evans. This union was seeking a 25-cent-an-hour pay increase. Horsemen took turns at the entrance to stock yards.

# NEWS BEHIND THE NEWS

By PAUL MALLON

Released by Western Newspaper Union.

## "IKE'S" BROTHER MAY HEAD AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON.—All signs from within point to the food shortage continuing another year—or more. The man who came into the Truman cabinet so clear-mindedly to cure shortages, Agriculture Secretary Anderson, has run into the usual Washington dead end for the ambitious.

And, then, when he came out for a new program to abandon the parity price concept and to accept the world price theory in some respects, the farm folks and their lobbies here started letting him down. This is what is behind the rumors occasionally printed of late in some of the columns that he has lost Mr. Truman's confidence and may retire.

Indeed some who have their noses to the White House pane, suspect the old gang is grooming a successor, Milton Eisenhower, brother of the chief of staff. Eisenhower is more of a New Deal politico than the general. Certainly it is difficult to see how Anderson can survive. His novel price theory is contrary to what he does in his own milk producing business in Albuquerque.

## MINOR OFFICIALS SAID TO NOW RUN DEPARTMENT

There he sells what milk the market will take at the highest possible price, and lets his surplus go for whatever it will bring. The idea of abandoning the parity notion made the farm bureau federation right mad. And the opposing crowd in the farmers union turned against him when he named Lassiter instead of Hudgins to farm security.

So transit clear-minded new officials. When he was in congress, Mr. Anderson knew just what to do. The objectivity of his post then permitted him clarity of vision. But when he took the cabinet seat, to face the clique which ran his department (as cliques of subordinates dominate the top men of all these government departments), he immediately became involved, and each week plunged him into deeper involvement.

Remember how Mr. Truman came in announcing how closely he would work with congress. Now before his first year is out, he is involved in such a desperate struggle with congress, he is asking people to propagandize against them. The loudest cheer for his recent message came not from the chastised legislators, but from Sidney Hillman of CIO. The confidence of business which he enjoyed at the outset slipped perceptibly also with the rejection of his wage compromise by both steel and motors.

I have rarely seen this process to fail. The human personality rarely is able to surmount it. Outside of bureaucracy, men may see clearly and devise clear cut programs. As soon as they get in the seats of power, they fall under the spells of bureaucracy, adulation, and the politics of the self-perpetuating old gangs — or resisting, become involved in self-thwarting struggles.

## ABUNDANCE THEORY MEETS STRONG FARM OPPOSITION

The secret of Mr. Anderson's troubles, however, I suspect, are the same as the reasons why the food shortages will continue beyond another crop. His conflicts with the clique and lobbies are superficial reflections of a deeper cause, namely: farmers are afraid of abundance. The farm leaders think they can easily produce too much for this country, know they cannot sell much abroad, and hence by nature resist any abundance theory.

Winter wheat was hurt by weather and much of the seeding did not come up. Poultry supplies are being drained by the meat shortage. Eggs may be plentiful for a little while in the spring, but not for long. Vegetables fluctuate, but there should be enough if the weather is favorable.

Our loan negotiator, Will Clayton, is a cotton minded man. The old cotton theory was the basic inspiration of the Democratic tariff policy (sell Britain our cotton and provide free importations to enable her to pay for it), although our cotton price has long since gone too high to enable the low-economized British to use it as their base raw material. But Clayton is reported to have gone even beyond this basic theory in his visions of tariff destruction in the coming conference, and they say, he has taken State Secretary Byrnes along with him.