

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

by DREW PEARSON

NO PLAN FOR ARMY

WASHINGTON. — After the last war, we let our best officers leave the army, were content to make the army a refuge for hundreds of misfits who couldn't adjust themselves in other walks of life, and settled down to complete complacency regarding the armed forces.

Usually history repeats itself. After this war, however, there is a little less complacency regarding the future — thanks to Russia. But there is almost as much do-nothingness regarding the internal organization of the army.

President Truman has now demanded that we have a big peacetime conscript army. But aside from Secretary of War Patterson's healthy board for probing caste, no steps have been taken to reorganize the army's long out-dated system of promotions, its methods of selecting officers, and, perhaps most important of all, its system of eliminating misfits.

A thorough re-organization of the army might make it more enticing to good men and thereby eliminate conscription. Even Sen. Chan Gurney of South Dakota, most ardent conscription enthusiast, will admit that a volunteer army is more efficient than one composed of men who are forced to serve.

COULD USE HORSE MEAT

An important debate has been taking place among food experts inside the administration regarding the use of horse meat for feeding Europe.

Horse meat is a type of food which Americans know little about. Within Europe it is standard diet and certain countries, especially France and Belgium, have repeatedly informed the United States that they would like to buy more horse meat here. If two and a half billion pounds of horse meat could be sold to Europe — which is the amount available in the U. S. A. — it would take care of most of Europe's feeding problems and eliminate any need for U. S. A. rationing.

Such a program has been urged by UNRRA officials and also by some experts in the army and navy. However, the plan has run up against several snags, chiefly that of U. S. meat packers.

The big packers don't want the American public to get the idea that horse meat is processed in their plants. They fear that the suspicion would linger in the consumer's mind. However, Harry Reed, who does most of the meat procurement for UNRRA in the department of agriculture, leans toward the big meat packers and they never have wanted small state packers to get into the inter-state business.

HORSE MEAT FEEDS ZOOS

Another source of opposition is expected to come from the many horse lovers throughout the country who probably would claim that the United States was being denuded of horses.

Officials point out, however, that several hundred horses are slaughtered weekly all over the United States to feed the zoos of the nation. Furthermore, the United States today has a larger surplus of horses than ever before in history. Agriculture department estimates are that three million surplus horses are now on the ranges and farms of the country. The grain which they alone consume would go a long way toward feeding Europe.

Officials estimate that these three million surplus horses would supply a total of two and a half billion pounds of meat, also give fats for soap, together with hides to ease the scarcity of leather.

NOTE—While prices of almost everything tended upward during the war, the price of horses did not. Government buyers purchasing draft animals for UNRRA report that the country has thousands of four to six-year-old horses which have never been harnessed. Farmers haven't had time to break them in, would like to sell them if prices were right.

BUMPTIOUS GENERAL VAUGHN

Twelve years ago, famous Filipino Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo sent President Roosevelt a 9½-foot carved table of Philippine hardwood designed to serve as a cabinet table. The other morning, however, Brig. Gen. Harry Vaughn, White House military aide, hurrying through the White House lobby, bumped his knee on a buffalo. Promptly the four carved buffalo heads came off.

CAPITAL CHAFF

Secretary of Labor Schwellenbach is secretly considering resigning from the cabinet, in order to again run for the senate.

Bernard Baruch is hopping mad at the state department for releasing its report on atomic energy before he, Baruch, could make his own investigation. Baruch has admitted privately that the state department report is an excellent one. However, it's not known as the "Baruch report"—which is important to Bernie.

NEWS BEHIND THE NEWS

By PAUL MALLON

Released by Western Newspaper Union.

PRODUCTION LAGS STILL PROVING SERIOUS

WASHINGTON. — Mr. Truman and his reconverter, John Snyder, have been bragging that the "production of civilian goods and services" has reached the peak of all time. They want to prove by some unexplained generalized figures on income and dollar volume that production has been more than restored and reconversion accomplished.



"Tain't so. There Pres. Truman are tricks in it, to wit:

A foremost weekly index of actual production from a non-governmental source places our output for the week ending March 23 at 131 compared with 143 a year ago and about 127 for 1941. Miscellaneous car loadings are less than a year ago, as are steel, electric power and lumber production, but "other car loadings" and paperboard production are above a year ago.

Messrs. Truman and Snyder did not tabulate actual volume of production but only dollar volumes and income, and they made no allowances for price increases. Furthermore, they said only that "civilian" production was at all-time peak. There is no way of telling how much of the above-cited production is still

army, navy and marine, but a portion must be. So the discrepancy is somewhat greater than the figures indicate.

MANY ITEMS STILL ON 'HARD TO GET LIST'

Producers themselves tell me the situation is bad. Ford publicly closed his plant for a week the very day the President spoke, because he could not keep enough steel on hand to warrant continuous operations. Every producer has that same trouble in one way or another. Manufacturers cannot get little things. An air conditioning maker finds his particular kind of steel for certain parts difficult to obtain because the steel companies will not manufacture much of it, saying they lose \$15 a ton on it because of the OPA ceiling. The steel companies are producing other more profitable lines. Then the air conditioning man finds for a time he cannot get motors, finds a shortage of bearings due to strikes, cannot get production of a special copper bolt which is essential. His production line operates off again, on again, off again—and the doctors are operating on the manufacturer.

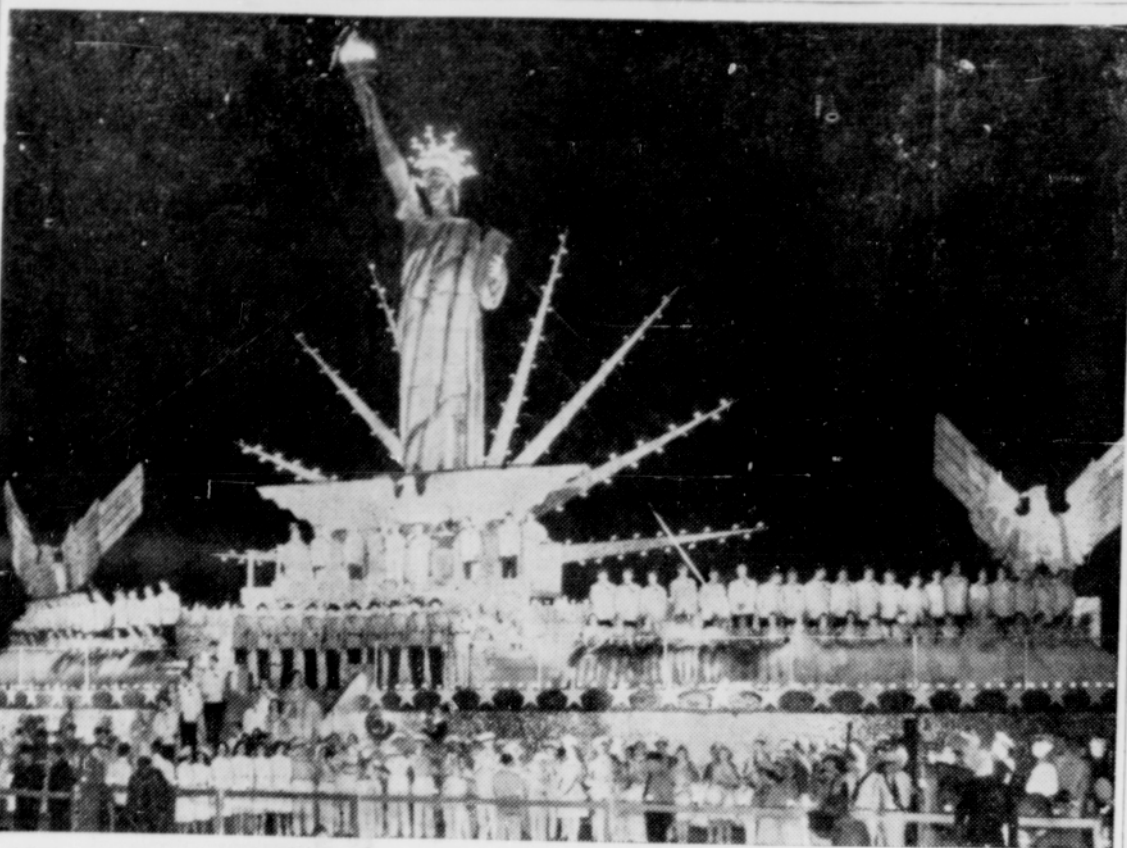
As far as "civilian services" are concerned, there are not any restored around here. Cleaners require three to six weeks to clean a suit, shirtmakers and many other lines inform their customers flatly: "We are not taking any more orders." They will not even consider delivery months hence. Parts for auto repairs are unavailable throughout the United States in some vital cases. A tailor took an order for a suit the first of last November and gave the first fitting at the end of March — five months later. He will not promise the suit by summer. Some outfitters are already stopping orders for summer suits — imagine it, next summer's suits. Meat supplies in Washington are getting bad again, only inferior grades of a few lines having been available the past few weeks.

There are no autos, coal, refrigerators, nylons and only a few radios. A considerable (say 10 to 15 per cent) improvement in sales stocks can be noted in many lines, and a bare beginning toward restoration is noticeable. The experience of the average citizen in these parts will strictly deny, however, any claim that production has been restored in "civilian services."

Now there has been a great acceleration in dollar volume of production in such lines as liquor (but not good liquor), department store sales and some particular food products, and these no doubt caused Mr. Snyder's figures to swell to the conclusions he induced the President to make from them.

But if you figure a 25 to 50 per cent increase in such items (I have noticed in my purchases price increases as high as 400 per cent) even the visible results of greater production in restricted lines do not loom formidably when compared with the job of sizing the production bottleneck up to demand. As measured with demand, we cannot yet begin to speak of "production."

Mr. Truman has a faculty of making the sensational appear to be commonplace. His army day dictum was a re-hash.



MEMPHIS COTTON CARNIVAL TO REOPEN . . . Dedicated to the past, present and future of the cotton industry, the Memphis Cotton carnival will resume this year after bowing out to the war effort since 1941. Photograph shows previous carnival which will be outdone this year. The 1946 carnival will sparkle with a series of parades depicting growth of the Mid-South, lively street dances and songfests. Exhibits will show uses of cotton as well as new applications and artificial fibers and plastics.



JAPANESE HOLD OPEN ELECTION . . . An estimated 24,000,000 voters went to the polls in Japan to select representatives for a new national house of representatives. Unheard-of—Japanese women exercised their right of suffrage. Typical of most voting places was the Votsuya ward office, Tokyo, where the women outnumbered the men. Final results will not be known for some time, but Red element has admitted defeat.



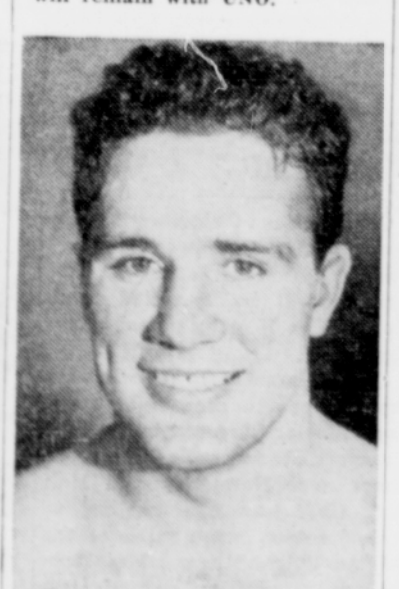
UNCLE SAM'S OLDEST REGIMENT . . . The color guard of the 3rd regiment, oldest in the U. S. army, with members wearing the costumes of the Colonial wars, is shown during colorful ceremony at Heidelberg, Germany, which marked the de-activation of the 7th army under Lt. Gen. Geoffrey Keyes.



GREECE HOLDS ELECTION . . . A voter of the future looks over the array of posters put up by various parties and candidates to boost their chance in the recent Greek elections. In contrast to the bitterness of the pre-election campaign, the voting itself was quiet, with Communists and left wing groups fighting a losing battle to persuade voters to boycott the election. Populist party won.



SOVIET AMBASSADOR . . . Nikolai V. Novikov, present charge d'affairs in Washington, who has been named to replace Andrei A. Gromyko as Soviet ambassador to the United States. Gromyko will remain with UNO.



SEARCH OF TITLE . . . Billy Conn, Pittsburgh Adonis, who hopes to wrest the world's heavyweight boxing crown from Champion Joe Louis, when they meet in New York in June.

Gems of Thought

IF A MAN be gracious and courteous to strangers, it shows he is a citizen of the world.—Bacon.

The best way out of a difficulty is through it.—Anon.

And light is mingled with the gloom, And joy with grief;

Divine compensations come, Through thorns of judgment mercies bloom

In sweet relief. —Whittier.

But love can hope where reason would despair.—Lyttleton.

A man of courage is also full of faith.—Cicero.

Talk not of wasted affection; Affection never was wasted.—Longfellow.

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Rats Getting Fat on Your Poultry? Mice Getting Fat in Your Home?

Rats kill thousands of dollars worth of valuable poultry each year. Rats are carriers of deadly poultry diseases . . . infectious bronchitis . . . fowl coccidiosis . . . don't take chances with rats or mice . . . BLACK TULIP will kill your rats and mice or your MONEY BACK. BLACK TULIP is relatively harmless to livestock or humans. BLACK TULIP IS DEADLY TO RATS AND MICE . . . (special offer—2 full size packages for just one dollar). SEND NO MONEY, just your name and address to—

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Burning, itching or too frequent urination sometimes warns that something is wrong. You may suffer nagging back-ache, headache, dizziness, rheumatic pains, getting up at night, swelling.

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