

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

DREW PEARSON & ROBERT ALLEN

Washington, D. C.

STIMSON GIVEN FULL AUTHORITY

Henry L. Stimson, Republican secretary of war, and the only man in the United States who has served in three cabinets (Taft's, Hoover's and Roosevelt's) is proceeding cautiously. But he has been given complete authority by Roosevelt to reorganize the entire war department, even including the ousting of Democratic appointees.

The inside story of Stimson's appointment can now be told.

It so happened that he had just delivered a strong pro-allied address at the Yale university commencement exercises, when he got home and received the long distance call from Roosevelt inviting him to become secretary of war.



"Mr. President," replied Stimson, "I have just delivered an address which no man in high official position should make."

"I know all about your speech," Roosevelt replied in effect, "and I still want you to be secretary of war."

Stimson then replied that the decision was so momentous that he wanted two or three hours to talk it over with his wife and close friends.

"Take all the time you want, Henry," said the President.

Note—To get the full significance of this exchange, it is necessary to remember that Stimson and Roosevelt had fought each other in New York state politics ever since 1910, when Stimson ran for governor and Roosevelt, just out of Harvard, ran for the state senate.

After two or three hours Stimson telephoned the President and accepted the appointment. However, he added one condition.

"I'm not as young as I used to be," he said, "and I can't work 18 and 20 hours a day any more. Therefore I've got to have men around me whom I know intimately and can absolutely trust. A tremendous responsibility will be on my shoulders," Stimson added, "and I cannot afford to fail."

To this Roosevelt replied in bantering tone: "Appoint anyone you want, Henry. The only thing I ask is not to appoint too many Republicans at the very first."

Stimson apparently did not catch the joking note in the President's voice, for he replied: "You can rest assured, Mr. President, that whether Democrats or Republicans, they will be good men."

The first man Stimson asked to help him in Washington was a Democrat, Benedict Crowell, now president of the Central National bank of Cleveland and formerly assistant secretary of war under Woodrow Wilson. He is also a close friend of Roosevelt's, who was then assistant secretary of the navy. Crowell got to know Stimson when the war department was under bitter Republican attack in 1920, and Stimson, a Republican and an ex-secretary of war, defended him.

So this time Stimson asked Crowell to help him, by going to Washington and making a quiet survey of the situation inside the war department. Stimson had not yet been confirmed by the senate and could not make the survey himself. But he wanted to know all the facts in advance in order to waste no time once he took the oath of office.

Crowell made the survey and reported that the production of new war weapons and material was progressing most satisfactorily. However, he found the war department rent with feuds and the personnel situation badly in need of reorganization.

This is one of the first jobs Stimson is tackling. There will be an important shakeup in high rank army officers.

NEW NAVAL BOSS

Col. Frank Knox, new Republican secretary of the navy, already has been sized up by the admirals. They describe their new boss this way: "Hard-boiled and seems to know his stuff."

Naval officers frankly admit, however, that they don't like Knox—which is a good omen. For the admirals never like a secretary of the navy who really runs the show. And in the navy today they certainly need a two-fisted secretary.

Note—It is significant that Knox is clearing all naval changes through Roosevelt. The President still keeps the navy as his governmental pet.

MERRY-GO-ROUND

Ex-Senator George McGill of Kansas, lame-ducked in the 1938 G. O. P. cleanup, is hot after the Land Bank commissioners that will become vacant August 1, when incumbent Roy Green leaves to become president of the University of Colorado. McGill has the backing of American Farm bureau moguls who have bucked the administration on land bank policies—which won't help McGill's chances.

GENERAL HUGH S. JOHNSON Says:

LOANS TO FOREIGN LANDS
WASHINGTON.—Poor Mr. Hoover once set out to help our foreign trade to dispose of our surplus products by loans to "backward and crippled countries." Loans to bankrupts have a way of turning sour. These did, and what a panning Mr. Roosevelt in 1932 gave the Great Engineer for that suggestion.

Mr. Hoover was only proposing a policy of private loans—the money of risk-takers for profit. His project was relatively piker's chicken feed. Mr. Roosevelt now wants to take \$500,000,000 out of the treasury to lend to Latin-American countries to enable their governments to buy up and hold their own surplus of agricultural products. This is a price-pegging plan such as Mr. Wallace has practiced in American farm products. It has never worked in the history of the world although it has frequently been tried—notably in Brazilian coffee, East Indian rubber, Canadian grain and American wheat, corn and cotton.

It doesn't work because it is the presence (rather than the mere ownership) of unmanageable surplus and the certainty of oncoming crops that overhangs the market and depresses price. That was the basic fault with Mr. Wallace's "Joseph" or "ever-normal granary" day dream. Joseph could successfully buy and store the surplus of Egypt for seven fat years and then sell it at hold-up prices during seven lean years until he owned all of Egypt. He could do it because he had a dream-book and a direct wire to the Pearly Gates. Henry apparently has a dream-book but no direct wire, although the President says we are to underwrite the South American surplus only for one year. How does he know?

In the romantic days, when spices were the only practical food preservative and therefore invaluable, the Dutch controlled much of the East Indian trade. They had a rougher remedy for market gluts. If too much anise, cinnamon, pepper, nutmeg, cloves or what-not was congesting on the wharves, they simply sank the surplus in the sea. Mr. Wallace has tried variations of that also. That is why he killed the little pigs and cattle, plowed under the cotton, paid farmers for not producing and recently and more intelligently, through the food-stamp plan, sold farm surplus to the poor at a great discount in price and all the rest of us footed the grocery bill.

O. K. for our own people. This column is for a direct federal subsidy to a "parity price" to our farmers for all their products that can be consumed at home and also for the food-stamp or any similar plan to subsidize consumption of our food products to all low-income groups—not merely to help consume our farm surplus but to relieve us of the insufferable charge of permitting Americans to starve or be undernourished in the midst of rotting overabundance.

But it is absolutely opposed to pouring five hundred or any other number of millions of public money down any Latin-American rat holes to subsidize our own competition and possibly to find their way into Hitler's coffers or certainly, in no small degree, into the pockets of various satellites of the assorted dictatorships of the banana republics.

Sure, we need Pan-American solidarity and friendship, but we can't buy it. The only thing that will make it on any worthwhile basis, is cold-blooded community of interest.

If that isn't there, any amount of billions is just money thrown away. Mr. Roosevelt has neither right nor reason in calling this a "loan," intimating that one year's operation will do the trick, or limiting his request to half a billion.

It is well known in Washington that this first step is part of a two-billion dollar program to make Uncle Sam the international broker for all the products of the Western world. That, too, is grotesque fantasy.

Its cost would eventually take us out of the multiplication tables and into the field of logarithms.

The essence of all New Deal planning, statesmanship, diplomacy and solution of all public problems can be expressed in a single phrase "give us billions of dollars."

As statesmanship, that is about as realistic as Santa Claus and Aladdin's lamp.

LOUIS JOHNSON

I returned to Washington after the conventions to find a rumor that the new Tory Republican secretary of war had asked his vigorous assistant, Louis Johnson, to get the hell out of there.

Politics marches on—ruthlessly, respecting nothing, sparing nothing.

I have not always seen eye to eye with Mr. Johnson. At first I thought he was politicalizing and New Dealizing the army. My criticism was well-informed but it proved premature.

That job differs from any other sub-cabinet position. It is charged by statute with industrial mobilization of the whole nation in an emergency. My observation was that Mr. Johnson did not fully appreciate this vast problem in the beginning. He certainly does now. His work here is not paralleled elsewhere in government.



WHO'S NEWS THIS WEEK

By LEMUEL F. PARTON (Consolidated Features—WNU Service.)

NEW YORK—The first World War tipped over 20 reigning princes and dukes, four emperors and seven kings, in addition to a scattering of small-fry royals whose names are now all but forgotten. Carol of Rumania and George of Greece were the only kings who came back, and they aren't a good risk for Lloyd's—and perhaps Lloyd's isn't either.

If the Mayflower were still afloat, it could book a full passenger list of kings fleeing from commoners, seeking a haven in a new world—at any rate, kings and their consorts, their courtiers' and others of princely rank.

It is understood that the Empress Zita of Austria will be in America before long. The word "former" is omitted here, in deference to a clever, purposeful woman, who has never admitted that she isn't still the empress. Of her son, Archduke Otto, now living in a two-room apartment in New York, she once said, "If the time ever comes when he has but one servant, that servant will call him 'your majesty.'"

In early-day San Francisco a stately old gentleman with a splendid, kingly uniform announced that he was "Emperor Norton," and was pleased to make San Francisco his royal domain. Nobody knew who he was or where he came from, but he looked and behaved like an emperor, so they took him up on his proposition. He held court, for years, received homage and issued decrees, and when he needed revenue levied on the stock exchange, finding a handful of \$20 gold pieces always ready. He died sitting straight upright in his little cubby-hole room, wearing his full-dress uniform. The city gave him a grand funeral. San Francisco was proud of her emperor. They never did learn anything about him.

This department was never particularly partial to kings, but in addition to child refugees it might be a nice idea for each city over here to adopt a king, or a prince or duke. Hollywood, of course, would get Zog of Albania—now in London and fixing to sail for America, according to news reports—a "swingtime king" who installed in his Graustarkian palace a 40-piece American jazz band and became one of the best hoofers in his kingdom.

Philadelphia probably would put in a bid for the Grand Duchess Charlotte of Luxembourg, a thrifty homebody, now in Quebec. The news is that, if England falls, she and her six children will come to the U. S. A. She knits; plays the piano; is a fluent linguist and rears her children beautifully. There might not be any bidders for old Ferdinand of Bulgaria, the butterfly collector. He has a knack for pageantry, however, which might interest New Orleans.

In case the above should appear to be a callous reference to tragic unhappiness, the main idea is that this democracy might well accord a certain respect to fugitive royalty because it appears to have something it really believes in.

AT MIAMI, FLA., IN October, 1934, John Dwight Sullivan, then commander of the New York department of the American Legion, urged the Legionnaires to concentrate less on more and bigger bonuses and to center their efforts on understanding and supporting the government in constructive undertakings. He emphasized the need for co-operation as citizens rather than activity as a pressure group. His was a scholarly essay on citizenship.

Now Mr. Sullivan has placed before the convention of the New York County Legion a proposal, for a single, unified United States air force, in which all air arms of all services would be under a single command. Mr. Sullivan is chairman of the Legion's national aviation committee. He is a New York lawyer, and an alumnus of Princeton university. He has been active in the furtherance of civil and military aviation for many years and was appointed a member of the New York state aviation commission by Governor Roosevelt in 1930. He is 47 years of age, scholarly and ascetic in appearance, preaching social responsibility in the Legion for more than a decade.

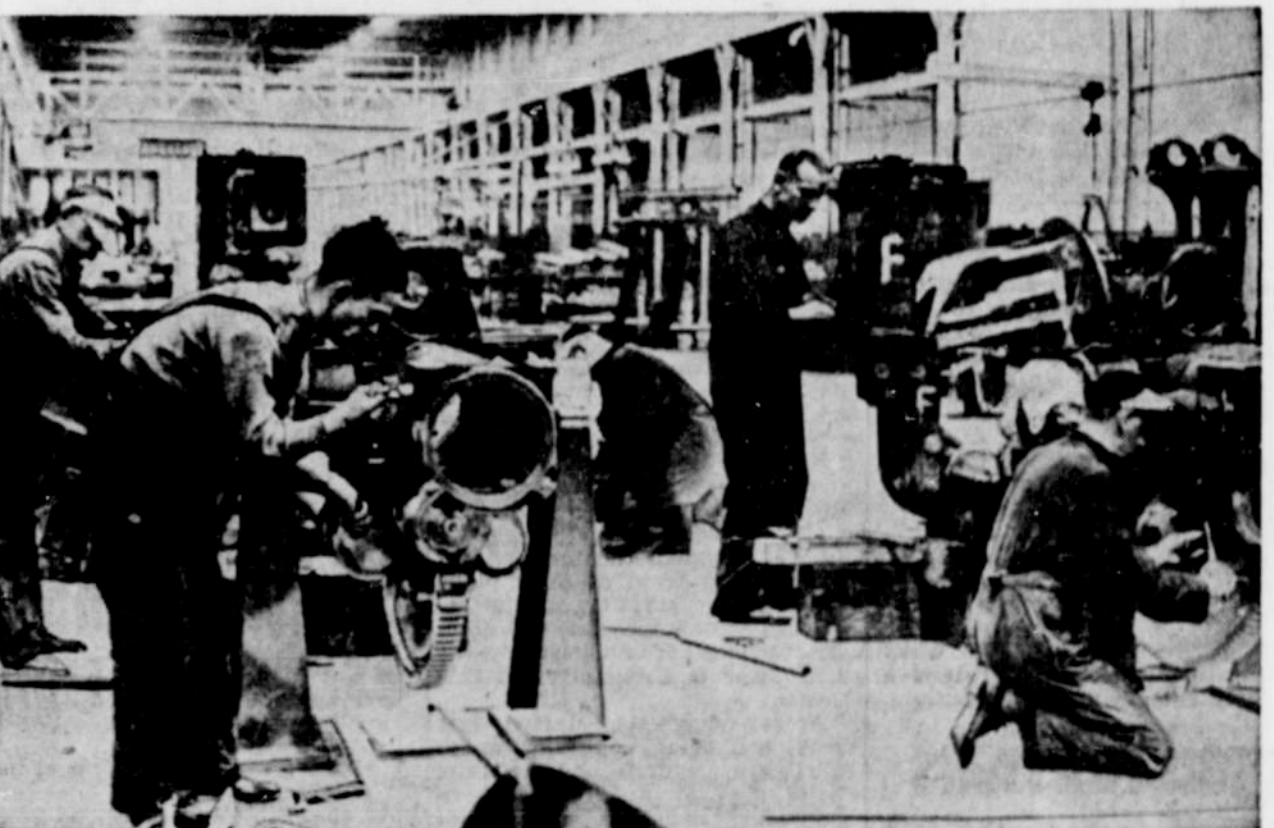
He insists that the organization cannot attain its high purpose without widening activities in political education, and an informed attitude on basic questions of domestic and foreign policy.

Landlubbers Will Be U. S. Ensigns Bye and Bye



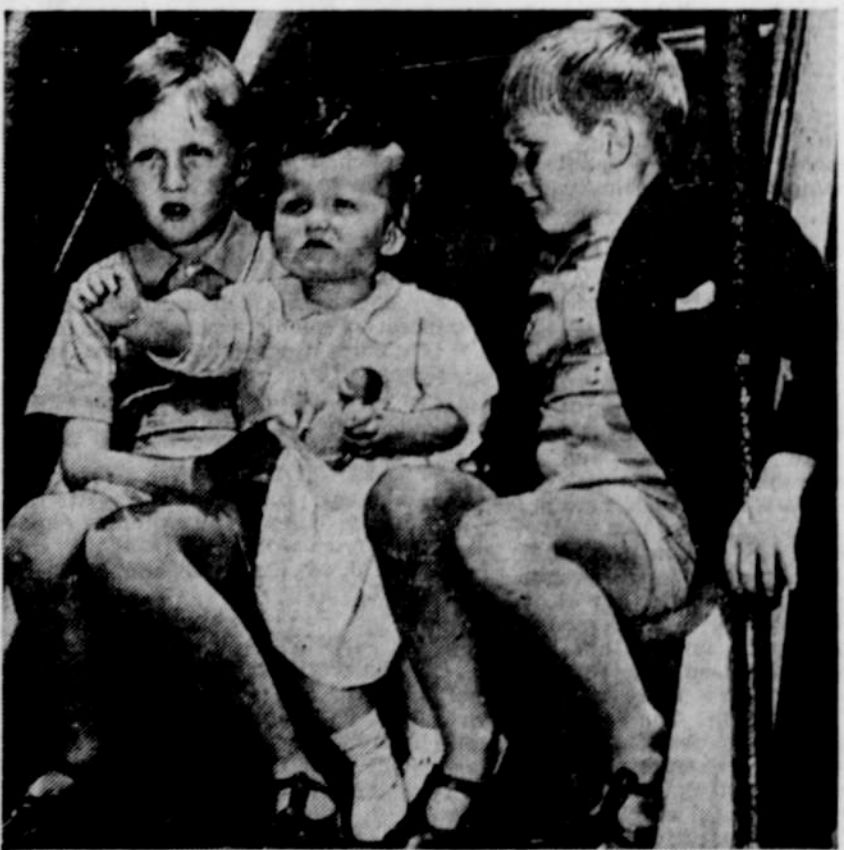
Landlubbers from colleges all over the United States (above left) are lined up in civilian clothes in New York city as they prepare to participate in a program of training 600 young men for naval reserve ensign commissions. A boatload of reservists (center) shown on their way out to the U. S. S. Wyoming, the training ship. Right, Robert Morgenthau, son of the secretary of the treasury, is pictured in formation with other reservists after donning the uniform of an apprentice seaman.

Australians Turning Out Guns for the Empire



Straining every nerve to aid the mother country in her hour of need, Australian factory workers are tolling day and night turning out tanks, planes, guns and ammunition that will be used in the defense of Great Britain. Above is a scene in a Melbourne factory where gun parts are manufactured for shipment by sea to ports in the United Kingdom where they will be assembled and turned over to the defending British army.

They're Ready to Learn American Ways



Safe from the horrors of war are these three children of Maj. Arthur Lockhart of the British army who landed in New York city recently. They were members of another band of refugee British children seeking a haven in the United States. Their father is an officer in the King's Hussars, now fighting for England against the Axis powers. The young refugees are being cared for by relatives in America.

Cleared by FBI



Carl Byoir, New York public relations counsel who was cleared of charges made by Rep. Wright Patman of Texas that he had engaged in un-American activities. The department of justice declared that an FBI investigation "disclosed no evidence whatever" to support the allegation.

Even the Experts Spill Sometimes



Proving that even the most expert of experts will spill once in a while, Ed Stanley takes a header during a practice run for the annual Catalina-Hermosa-Manhattan beach aquaplane race at Hermosa beach, Calif. Still upright and riding high is Bob Brown, who won the race three years ago. The event draws the champion aquaplanists of the Pacific coast each year.

Literary Exile



His long hair put up in a net, Maurice Maeterlinck, famous Belgian author of "The Bluebird," is shown soon after his arrival in the United States as a war refugee, following the German triumph.