

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

DREW PEARSON & ROBERT ALLEN



GENERAL HUGH S. JOHNSON Says:

Washington, D. C.

LABOR AND MR. LEWIS

WASHINGTON.—Little known fact regarding Britain's attempt to aid Greece was that this time, the British were not caught entirely napping. Several weeks before the Italian advance, they had smuggled one division of Australian troops into Greece, and they are now reported to be holding the passes in the rugged mountains of Macedonia.

However, the total Australian force is not much more than 20,000 men, a mere drop in the bucket compared with Italy's 200,000 troops now advancing from Albania.

Biggest help the British can give the Greeks, of course, is at sea. There have been no major engagements between the British and Italian fleets chiefly because the Italians have kept pretty well out of sight. But now, with the necessity of sending a constant stream of supplies to a large army, the Italians are sure to run into some major engagements with the British.

Unquestionably, if the Greeks should fall, it would be Yugoslavia's turn next. With the support of the Yugoslav army, the Greeks would have a real chance, for the Serbs are among the best fighters in Europe. However, the Balkans seem to be following the same policy of the Dutch and Belgians; that is, letting Hitler pick them off one by one.

LABOR TRUCES

Defense Commissioner Sidney Hillman's crack labor advisory board is making use of an old adage, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" to overcome one of the most serious obstacles to preparedness—work stoppage.

Quietly, the board has adopted the rule of getting employers and workers together on a mutual agreement for the settlement of disputes before activity is begun on a defense project.

This new system ensures labor the protection of its rights, and at the same time safeguards the employer from loss through strikes or jurisdictional squabbles between rival unions.

Illustrative of the plan is the agreement arranged between the contractors building the new six-ways shipyard at Orange, Texas, for the Consolidated Steel corporation of Los Angeles, and the unions. It was negotiated by Charles MacGowan, able vice president of the A. F. of L. boilermakers and a member of the labor advisory board.

Before a spade was put to ground, MacGowan secured from Harry Morton, contractor representative, an agreement guaranteeing payment of prevailing wages, time-and-a-half for overtime, double time for Sunday and holiday work, and no lock-outs. In exchange, Morton secured from labor a no-strike guarantee and arbitration of jurisdictional differences.

U. S. BLANKETS

Cable dispatches have made no reference to it, but one factor credited by military authorities with helping to maintain the morale of bomb-battered Londoners has been several hundred thousand American blankets. They have been a life-saver for the harried men, women and children crowded into dank, subterranean shelters.

Some time ago the British Red Cross cabled a frantic appeal for blankets for use in air-raid shelters. The American Red Cross decided to buy the durable and warm blankets used by the U. S. army, which average around \$6 apiece in mass wholesale lots, but immediately ran into serious tangles.

One was the fact that the government was heavily in the market for blankets for the army and navy, and if the Red Cross also entered the market, prices would certainly skyrocket. So the Red Cross turned to the defense commission's business aces, who immediately called a conference of leading merchandisers from Macy's, Sears Roebuck, Filene's, Montgomery Ward and others.

By long distance telephone these experts immediately made a flash survey of U. S. mills, which revealed the discouraging fact that the mills didn't have 200,000 army-specification blankets on hand, even at \$6 per blanket. But there were ample "seconds" available, blankets rejected by government inspectors. These could be bought at around \$2 each.

And that was done. The British got blankets without delay and at a saving of \$800,000. Simultaneously American mills cleared their shelves and the domestic market was undisturbed.

CAPITAL CHAFF

To keep step with the new civilian army, the war department has added a civilian adviser to its press section. He is Harold Jacobs, veteran newsman, borrowed from the wage-hour division.

Dies Committeeman Joe Starnes of Alabama has come to the defense of Rep. John Coffee of Washington, who is being accused by his Republican opponent of opposing the Dies investigation. Starnes sent Coffee a letter commending his support of the committee.

Mr. Roosevelt's claquers maintained that he is the only friend of labor. John Lewis said not and so, to them, that makes him an "enemy of labor."

A worker who could swallow that must have been so far gone in emotion that he could be persuaded that black is white. The New Deal has depended upon Mr. Lewis more than on any other single laborite—until now.

Then Fiorello LaGuardia ranked him with the forces of evil.

Maybe as politics, that is understandable, but the back stabbing by leading lights of the workers can't be excused—especially in the C.I.O. Never before John Lewis was there any full and effective labor organization and collective bargaining in our greatest industries—steel, automobiles, rubber, oil, electrical, lumber and shipping. Never, except for John Lewis, would they ever have come.

Other labor leaders so opposed it that John could only do it by secession and the creation of the C.I.O. He believed in protection and organization for all of labor, the lowliest as well as the aristocracy of labor. They didn't. He parted company. The result was an addition to the ranks of organized labor of 4,000,000 workers and a tremendous improvement in wages and working conditions for all workers.

Exactly that was what I was trying to do in NRA. There is not a single advance in the condition of organized labor that didn't have its birth in the nest of the Blue Eagle—the acceptance by industry of the rights of labor to organize and bargain collectively free from the influence of child labor—the creation of a Labor Relations board for the settlement of disputes.

Mr. Roosevelt says that the men who opposed that oppose him now. Well, John Lewis and this writer oppose him now, and we helped do that when to do it was such pioneering and battle against both reactionary employers and reactionary labor leaders that sometimes I felt I hadn't a friend on earth.

I had at least two. One was John Lewis. The other was William Green. It is sad to me to see these two men split today. In those days I never asked either for a sacrifice of his position for the common aim that was not made. I never asked either for help that was not given. Neither ever gave me a promise that wasn't kept.

I can't say that those early efforts for labor had equal help from people who support Mr. Roosevelt now. His secretary of labor sniped at it constantly. Mr. Wallace's organization poisoned the farmers against it—said agriculture should get theirs before labor, and that higher wages under NRA raised the price of overalls and cotton gloves. Mr. Roosevelt himself countenanced a disloyalty in the organization itself which led to its downfall.

But here, as elsewhere throughout his whole line, John Lewis fought night and day with all he had to give for the common man in the ranks of labor—fought to victories that advanced that cause more in a few years than in all the years of the labor movement since its beginning. He never led labor astray in his life.

EMPLOYMENT CENSUS

The United States employment service of the social security board is taking a sort of census of skilled workers to provide information on the availability of laborers for defense industries.

The board announced that the enumeration and location of the workers is being carried on through 13 especially established regional offices—in Washington, Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Cleveland, Chicago, Birmingham, Minneapolis, Kansas City, Austin, Texas; San Francisco, Seattle and Denver.

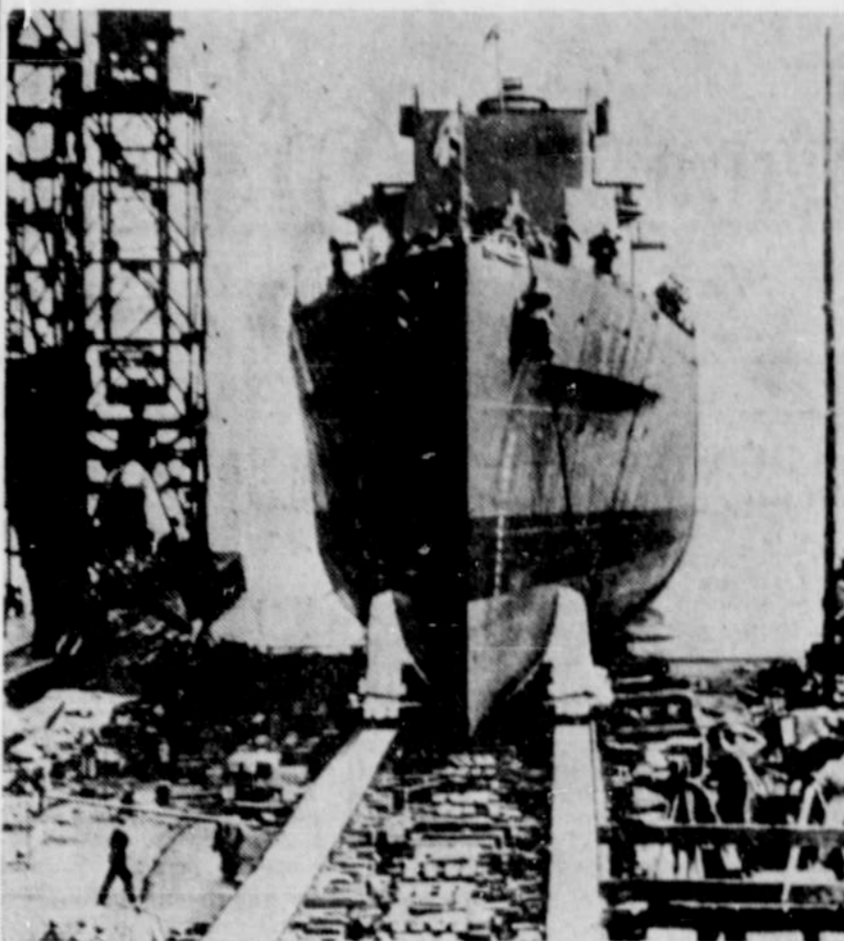
For the last few months the bureau has been obtaining from the state employment services comprehensive and detailed labor market reports, showing the number and type of workers who are registered with state employment services as available for employment in defense industries.

Other information, being obtained by direct canvass of about 20,000 employers in defense industries, covers each employer's current labor needs and his requirements for the next 60 days.

This material indicates the type and number of workers needed and the period of time for which they are expected to be employed. In addition, the United States employment service expects to have advance information on potential labor shortages in any area or occupation through reports on the kind of jobs which state agencies have had difficulty in filling locally.

The national labor clearance machinery is designed to minimize unplanned and unnecessary movement of workers from one area to another following rumors of jobs.

New British Cruiser Launched



A new British cruiser is here shown being launched at an undisclosed port in England, to increase the hitting power of the British navy. "As months go by the British navy is becoming increasingly powerful." So states the British caption which accompanied this picture—which is truly remarkable considering the "strafting" of the embattled Isle.

Three Killed in This Wreck



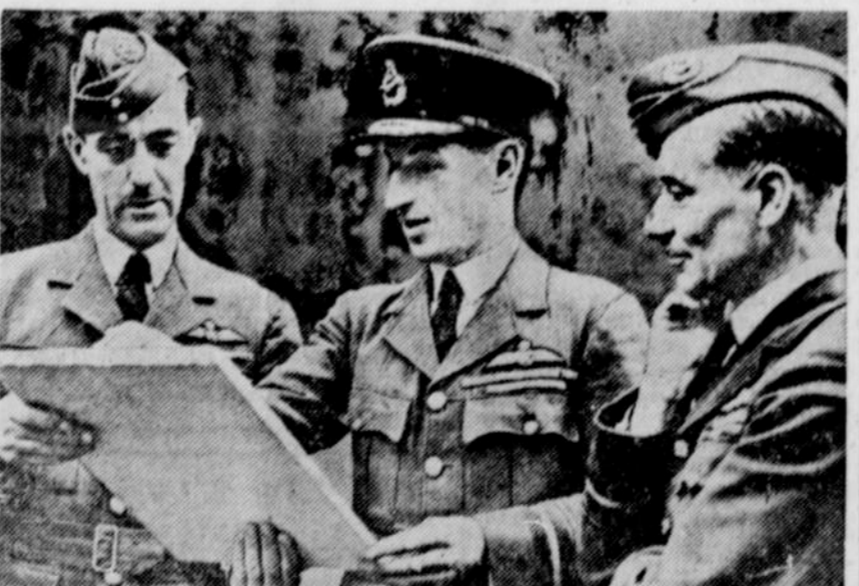
This soundphoto shows a general view where a northbound Atlantic Coastline passenger train was wrecked when it hit an open switch near Lake Alfred, Fla. The engineer and two firemen were killed.

Kennedy Says Farewell to Churchill



U. S. Ambassador to England Joseph Kennedy, left, is shown as he bids good-bye to Premier Winston Churchill at No. 10 Downing street, London, before he left for the United States by clipper plane. Following his return the ambassador conferred nearly four hours with the President. Mrs. Kennedy accompanied him to the White House.

New Chief of R. A. F. Takes Over



Air Marshal Sir Charles Frederick Algernon Portal, new chief of Britain's fighting air force, takes over. Sir Charles succeeded Air Marshal Sir Cyril Newall as chief of the British air staff, stepping up from his post of chief of the R. A. F. bomber command. He is shown (center) going over plans with members of his staff at an R. A. F. station.

Fights Mussolini



King George of Greece looking over his troops. Greek naval, air and land forces combined under the king's leadership to resist the invading Italian army.

Embassy Aid Arrives



Herman Merten, former translator of the U. S. embassy in Berlin, shown on arrival in New York. Unlike most returning observers, he praised Nazi government reforms.

Shake on Pact



Heinrich Starmer, special German envoy who arranged the Tokyo end of the Axis deal, shaking hands with Japanese Foreign Minister Yosuke Matsuoka after the deal.

Bomb Inventor



Antonio Pannutte of Warren, Ohio, inventor of a new bomb that can be guided to the target by radio from the plane that drops it. It has wings and a rudder.

Transforming a Box Into Smart Ottoman

By RUTH WYETH SPEARS

PAD the top of a box and slip-cover it; then add a separate cushion three inches thick. The result will be a smart ottoman that either may match or contrast with the cover of your favorite chair. The little feet made of drawer pulls keep the ottoman from looking like a box. A corded seam where the skirt of the slip cover joins the top, and an inverted pleat at each corner of the skirt also give a professional touch. I



suggest tacking the slip cover firmly in place as shown in the sketch.

If down or feathers are used to fill the separate cushion, make an inner cushion of ticking with a top and a bottom piece the size of the box top; and a straight three-inch piece around the sides. If kapok is used for filling, this inner cushion may be made of muslin. The cover of the separate cushion has corded seams to match the box slip cover.

NOTE: These directions should be clipped from the paper as they are not available in booklet form. However, complete directions for making slip covers and for making corded seams are in SEWING, Book No. 1, No. 3 also contains valuable slip cover suggestions. These 32-page booklets are 10c each. Send order to:

MRS. RUTH WYETH SPEARS
Drawer 10
Bedford Hills New York
Enclose 10 cents for each book ordered.
Name
Address

INDIGESTION

may affect the Heart
Gas trapped in the stomach or gut may set like a hair-trigger on the heart. At the first signs of distress (heart pain and swollen chest) on both sides Tablets to eat are free. No laxative but made of the fast-acting medicine known for acid indigestion. If the "FIRST AID" doesn't prove full-on better, return bottle to us and receive DOWDILL Money Back, 25c.

Knowledge
That jewel knowledge is great riches, which is not plundered by kinsmen, nor carried off by thieves, nor decreased by giving.—Bhavabhuti.

ACHING-SORE STIFF MUSCLES

For PROMPT relief—rub on Musterole! Massage with this wonderful "COUNTER-IRRITANT" actually brings fresh warm blood to aching muscles to help break up painful local congestion. Better than a mustard plaster! Made in 3 strengths.



Most Blind
There's none so blind as they that won't see.—Swift.



Sunny Mood
It is good to lengthen to the last a sunny mood.



As You Walk
Religion lies more in walk than in talk.

IN SAN FRANCISCO
ENJOY REAL LUXURY
Distinguished in name and service; finely appointed rooms... all with bath.
Ideal downtown location.
RATES FROM \$2.50
Twin Beds from \$4
Family Rooms for Four... \$4
HOTEL DRIVE-IN GARAGE
Maurice
POST NEAR JONES