

# The Washington Merry-Go-Round

DREW PEARSON & ROBERT ALLEN

## WALLACE TO PLAY STRONG ROLE

For about 160 years, the vice president of the United States has been either a pure figure-head or else a trouble-maker in the family of his chief, the President.

Tom Marshall, vice president under Woodrow Wilson, is remembered only for his remark: "What this country needs is a good five-cent cigar."

Charles G. Dawes, vice president under Coolidge, became famous when his alarm clock allegedly failed to go off and he arrived at the Capitol too late to change a tie vote.

Charley Curtis will only be remembered because of his social war to place his half-sister ahead of Alice Longworth at dinner. And Jack Garner will go down in history because of his private refrigerator and his covert opposition to Roosevelt.

None of these vice presidents was an active worker for the head of his administration; many of them deliberately hindered it.

Now, however, for the first time in recent history, we have a vice president who will be a right hand of the President. Wallace was trained under Roosevelt and can be counted upon to be a great asset, not a deterrent.

It is not supposed to be known yet, but already Wallace has discussed ideas with the President whereby he will work on three important problems. They are:

1. To act as liaison officer between the White House and congress. This is the most important job of all.
2. To act as a sort of ambassador-at-large in cementing Good Neighbor relations between the United States and Latin America, especially where congressional affairs are concerned.
3. To formulate plans for shifting the nation's industrial economy from armament to a normal basis, after the war is over.

### PATRIOT BUSINESS MEN

Behind that irate outburst from the New England Shoe Manufacturers association at the army's new method of buying shoes was an untold story of how a group of business men working for the government saved the taxpayers about \$8,000,000.

The manufacturers were indignant that the army, under Defense commission guidance, had scattered its orders for 4,000,000 pairs of shoes instead of giving this juicy business, as in the past, to a few big firms. But by this new method the army was able to obtain shoes at \$1.50 a pair less than they cost during the World war.

A group of business executives, working devotedly in the procurement division, in the past six months not only have saved the government several hundred millions on defense supplies, but have not disturbed market conditions or caused consumer prices to zoom. The shoe deal was only one item in this remarkable record, but it is a typical one.

Because of the long battle in congress over the Selective Service act, the army was not sure until the very last moment whether it would need shoes for 400,000 regulars, or for 1,000,000 additional draftees. So it was September 16 before Brig. Gen. Clifford Corbin of the quartermaster corps rushed to the Defense commission with his requirements. The procurement aces were all ready for him.

For weeks they had quietly surveyed the shoe industry. They knew the capacity of every plant, from the giants capable of turning out thousands of pairs a day to the smallest factory in a Boston loft. Also, they had carefully studied World war experience, when the price of shoes had sky-rocketed as a result of the placing of big orders with a few firms.

So, discarding the army's system of asking for bids on the entire 4,000,000 pairs, the commission experts quietly asked every reputable manufacturer in the industry for a price on the number of shoes he was capable of producing. The results of this wily trading were remarkable.

During the World war, the army paid \$4 a pair for shoes. Through the procurement division's method of negotiated contracts, distributed among 25 factories from New England to St. Louis, the army was able to get its 4,000,000 pairs of regulation shoes at \$2.50 a pair.

Note—Chief of the procurement division is quiet-spoken Donald Nelson, the former Sears, Roebuck dynamo.

### MORE G-MEN

Along with the speed-up in production of airplanes and tanks, there is a much less-heralded speed-up in the production of G-men.

J. Edgar Hoover is now turning out special agents of the FBI at the phenomenal rate of 40 a week. Formerly, the Federal Bureau of Investigation had only 90 special agents, but a recent congressional authorization boosted the figure to 1,500. Hoover now has almost attained that mark, with 1,340 trained and 160 more to be produced.

# GENERAL HUGH S. JOHNSON Says:

Washington, D. C.

**DANGER OF 'INFLATION'**  
The greatest danger before us now is "inflation." In barnyard American all that means is high prices. Since they are not as spectacular as the bombing of workers' homes, they usually don't get attention before it is too late.

War inflation is about the deadliest bearing of war upon the poor. Wages in war never have advanced as fast as the cost of living. The price of anything is mostly the cost of labor to produce it. The higher they go, the higher the cost of living.

War inflation (high prices) is the worst bearing of war upon the helpless. Germany is bombing the homes of England's poor non-combatants and seeking to cut off the supply of milk to babies and food to adults. England is hell-bent on the same process—to blockade Europe and starve into submission even her most gallant defenders: France, Finland, Poland.

I do not counsel otherwise. We, ourselves, invented war frightfulness in our blockade of Southern ports and our destruction of food supplies in Georgia and the Shenandoah. It must make the wounds of Christ bleed again, but so it is and we must accept it.

But let's not be blind to a similar war of starvation against our own people—high prices. If they go too high they will destroy the practical living value of every insurance policy, social security benefit, wage, salary or pension in the United States. This is not because they will reduce those payments. They won't. But those payments will buy so little in a high price structure that they will become chaff.

I hear that Wall Street pundits say that it will be only a "mild inflation." I honor the sincerity of their opinions but I suspect their knowledge. Once you start this deadly process it is like a snowball rolling down hill. You can no more suffer it "gradually" than you can fire a gun gradually. It is a progress that feeds upon itself.

With much actual experience in war inflation, I have made a study of this thing for years—from the beginning of history. War price inflation always grinds the face of the poor, not only during hostilities, but for years thereafter. It lowers the buying power of their wages. It also doubles or multiplies the cost of war, not merely while it is going on, but for years thereafter in the toil, sweat and taxes in which workers and their children must pay for the vastly increased cost.

So far, we have only the symptoms of war inflation. But the germs are so plain that it takes no microscope to see them—terrific governmental spending and increased debt and deficit, capacity production, a sellers market and a desperate disposition for counter-bidding in a congested market with expense no object.

It has been said that high taxes will stop it. I shall write another column on that. It is crazy nonsense. Do high taxes of as much as 10 cents a gallon prevent the price of gasoline from going up as high as 18 cents in some states when it should be 6 cents? High taxes are not the answer. Mad as it may seem, I am for deficit financing of this war and not for higher taxes.

This may come strangely from me, who hates personalized power, but I am also for giving the President a complete power of priorities to stop competitive bidding and to ration production not to the longest purse, but to the most necessitous use. The latter can only mean skyrocketing prices. If necessary, I am for giving him complete authority over the price structure to prevent its rising above reasonable levels. Everybody knows it is high enough now for reasonable profit.

### TWO PARTY SYSTEM

It is suggested that Mr. Willkie should be appointed to Mr. Roosevelt's cabinet and accept. I think not. We must stand united in preparing this country for defense, but that doesn't mean that we should give up the principal instrument of our democracy which we are preparing to defend—our two-party system.

We are not at war and even if we were, we would commit suicide for Americanism if we abandon the institution of political debate by responsible leaders of opposing schools of thought. For the present, Mr. Willkie is the titular leader of the party of almost half of the American people. That half is in opposition to many of the policies of this administration. He now acts as their appointed spokesman and advocate. If he abandons that part, he would certainly be derelict in the duty he owes to them for their trust.

Mr. Willkie so far gave away at the outset the greatest asset of his party—the strong opposition of millions to any involvement in Europe's quarrels—that I sometimes wonder at his decision to run and his Philadelphia acceptance.

There were pre-convention candidates who did represent that opinion. He didn't challenge them on that vital point then. If his beliefs on that question were those of so many people in opposition to this administration's, he should have fought for them more openly.

## Atlanta Armory Destroyed



A view of the early-morning fire that swept through and destroyed the 179th Field Artillery National Guard armory in Atlanta, Georgia. The damage to the building and to equipment for the army was estimated to be about \$500,000. Pending investigation, authorities would not comment on the possible cause of the blaze.

## City of Flint Aground in Storm



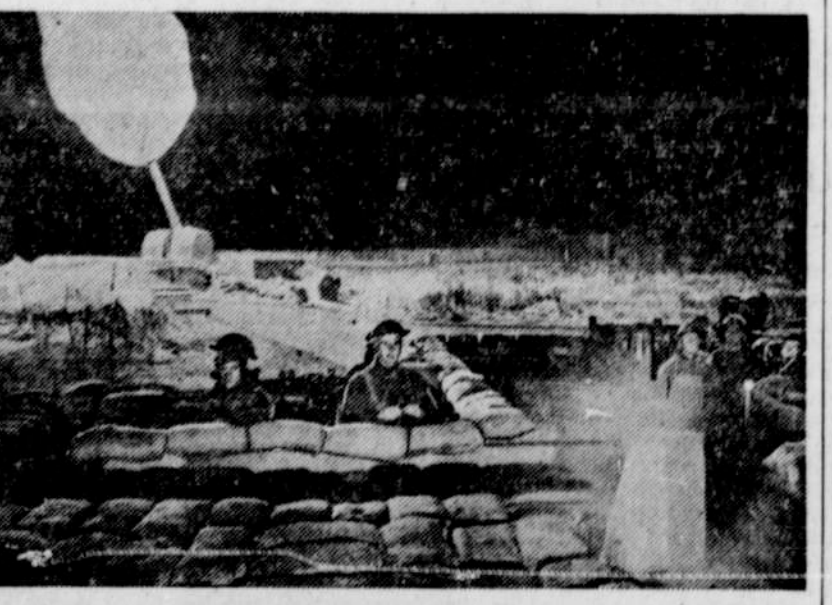
This picture shows Ludington, Mich., coast guardsmen rigging a breeches-buoy in an effort to remove crew members of the City of Flint, flagship of the Pere Marquette Railway car ferry fleet. The City of Flint went aground during the terrific gale which swept the Midwest, and in which 75 men were known to have perished on Lake Michigan.

## 'Marching as to War'



Father, mother, brother and sister joined the parade of the marines down Constitution avenue, Washington, D. C., as the Fifth battalion, marine corps reserves, marched to the Union station. Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Smith, Elizabeth, 18, and Robert, 8, tramp alongside their own Henry Smith, who is one of the contingent departing for a year's training, probably in the West Indies.

## Nazi Bombers Overhead



A scene repeated night after night throughout England as Nazi bombers, taking advantage of darkness, stage raids meaning death and destruction. A 4.5 anti-aircraft battery of the western command goes into action. An elongated flash from the gun in the background knifes through the blackness. In the foreground are the predictor and range-finder.

## 'Glamour Girl!'



Mary Lee Abbott, of Boston, who was picked from a host of debutantes as the "Glamour Girl of 1940" by a committee of pulchritude experts in New York.

## Alive After Blast!



Kate Sandor, employee of the United Railway Signal corporation of Woodbridge, N. J., shown in hospital after the explosion which destroyed the plant.

## Hi-Jinks in Gotham



The big town "went to town" in a big way to celebrate election night. Here is a joyous scene at Times square in the heart of New York's white light district.

## Panamanian Consul

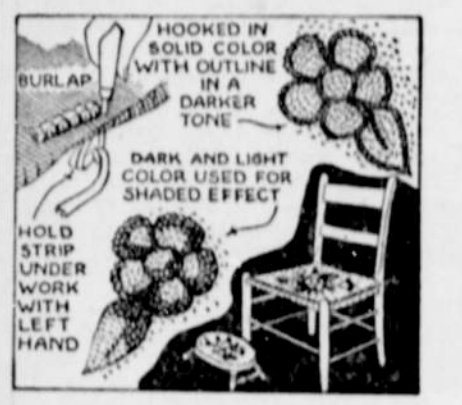


Miss Josefita Arias, sister of President Arnulfo Arias, of Panama, shown as she arrived in New York to take over the post of Panamanian consul general.

## Hook Posy Pad for Chair or Foot Stool

By RUTH WYETH SPEARS  
WHEN I made the sketch in Sewing Book 5 showing the method that our Grandmothers used for making original hooked rug designs, I forgot that Grandmother did not wear silk stockings every day. There have been dozens of letters saying, "I would like to hook the flower designs for which you give directions in Book 5. Will you please tell me if I can use old silk stockings for these?"

Silk stockings may be used for hooked rugs but they do not wear as well as woolen materials. They



are perfect for hooked chair pads, foot stool tops and wall hangings. All the popular stocking colors may be dyed soft green, red and brown tones, without first removing the tan color. "White dye" should be used first if bright colors are needed. After dyeing, cut a strip around and around the stocking spirally, making it from 3/4 inch to 1 1/2 inches wide according to how fine the work is to be. When your design has been marked as described in Book 5, draw the stocking strips through the burlap with a rug hook.

Flowers may be hooked in outline or in a shaded effect, as shown here. And here is good news for all of you rug enthusiasts. Book 6 is now ready for mailing. There is still another book rug design in it; also a braided and a crocheted rug and dozens of other things that you will want to make. Send order to:

MRS. RUTH WYETH SPEARS  
Drawer 10  
Bedford Hills New York  
Enclose 20c for Books 5 and 6.  
Name .....  
Address .....

## INDIGESTION

may affect the Heart  
Gas trapped in the stomach or gutlet may act like a hair-trigger on the heart. All the best of doctors, smart men and women depend on Bell's Gas Tablets to act as fire. No laxative but one of the fastest-acting medicines known for acid indigestion. If the FIRST DOSE doesn't prove Bell's Gas Tablets, return bottle to us and receive DAVILET Money Back, 50c.

**Dominion Over Self**  
You can never have a greater or a less dominion than that over yourself.—Da Vinci.

## "SPECIAL" CHILDREN'S HELP FOR CROUPY COUGHS

Due to Chest Colds  
Rub chest and throat with Mild Musterole (made especially for children) to quickly relieve distress of bronchial and spasmodic croupy coughs.  
CHILDREN'S MUSTEROLE MILD

**Beauty and Sadness**  
Beauty and sadness always go together. Nature thought Beauty too rich to go forth upon the earth without a meet alloy.—George MacDonald.

## THE AWFUL PRICE YOU PAY FOR BEING NERVOUS

Read These Important Facts!  
Quivering nerves can make you old, haggard, cranky—can make your life a nightmare of jealousy, self pity and "the blues."  
Often such nervousness is due to female functional disorders. So take famous Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound to help calm unstrung nerves and lessen functional "irregularities." For over 60 years relieving Pinkham's Compound has helped tens of thousands of grandmothers, mothers and daughters "in time of need." Try it!

## Last Refuge

Patriotism is the last refuge of a scoundrel.—Dr. Johnson.

TO RELIEVE MISERY OF **COLDS** quickly use **666** LIQUID TABLETS SALVE NOSE DROPS COUGH DROPS

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