

# The Washington Merry-Go-Round

DREW PEARSON & ROBERT ALLEN

### ROBOT PLANE SCORES HITS

WASHINGTON.—No military secret is more closely guarded than a sensational new robot airplane now being tried out secretly by the navy in both Hawaii and Langley field, Va.

Navy experts have been working for more than 10 years to develop a reliable "pilotless" plane operated by radio control. Observers who have witnessed some of the latest tests, pronounce the device as near miraculous. A robot bomber takes off, discharges its bombs over a distant target, returns to base and lands without being touched by a human hand.

The distance of the target is calculated in advance, and when the robot reaches it a device automatically releases the bombs. Naturally the aiming is largely a matter of chance, but in the tests a number of direct hits were scored. The cruising radius of the robots is limited only by fuel supply and the radio frequency range.

While most effective at short distances, the robot can be used for long-range bombing in conjunction with piloted planes or by a so-called system of "relay control," that is, by radio stations along the line of flight.

So closely is the invention guarded that navy officers have been warned that any talk about it will be considered a violation of the Espionage act, and make them subject to court martial and dismissal.

### DEFENSE 'INFLUENCE'

There was a hidden brickbat in that sharp warning issued by Assistant War Secretary Robert Patterson that no one has an "inside track" in the awarding of army defense contracts.

What the mild-mannered former U. S. Circuit court judge didn't say was that he is planning to insert a little clause in every army contract, requiring contractors to swear they paid no commissions or any other fees to obtain the order. Penalty for doing so is cancellation of the contract.

Under the law Patterson is legally responsible for the entire industrial mobilization program and passes on every large army contract. The boasts of certain lobbyists and high-pressure promoters that they can get army orders through "inside influence" are, therefore, a direct reflection on him. He doesn't like it one bit and has no intention of putting up with it.

Some of the "influence" operators have even told officials of cities they could deliver defense projects which had already been located elsewhere by the war department for strategic reasons.

### DUTCH PRINCESS

Inside story of the expected White House visit of Crown Princess Juliana of The Netherlands is that she and Mrs. Roosevelt have kept up a correspondence ever since the princess arrived in Canada six months ago with her two baby daughters.

The visit to Washington might have come sooner, but the princess put it off because she didn't relish a round of extravagant entertainment. She wants to avoid being dined and wined while her own people, now under German domination, are living on rationed food.

The princess, with her two children, has been living in a rented house in Ottawa. Her husband, Prince Bernhard, is in London as aide-de-camp to Queen Wilhelmina, and her brother is reported to be in a German concentration camp.

In Ottawa, the princess has not entertained, has amused herself by walking and playing tennis. She will be a White House guest for two days, beginning December 18.

### CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS

The man responsible for the light sentence given the eight divinity college students who refused to register for the draft was not the New York court, but Attorney General Robert Jackson.

The young men, who were students of Union Theological seminary, were about to receive a three-year sentence. But as a result of Jackson's intervention, they got a year and a day.

Jackson polled the judges in advance of the decision and found they were all in favor of a long, stiff sentence. Partly for humanitarian reasons, and partly because he didn't want the boys to become martyrs who would arouse wide popular objection to the law, Jackson instructed U. S. Attorney Cahill to ask for a short sentence.

The students now may get out in even less than a year. The short sentence makes them eligible for White House reprieve, whereas with a longer sentence, the President would not have felt free to intervene.

### MERRY-GO-ROUND

Mrs. Roosevelt isn't the only White House devotee of square dancing. Another enthusiast is handsome young Jimmy Rowe, White House secretary, who belongs to a club staging square dances once a week. Jimmy's favorite is the "cowboy stomp."

## GENERAL HUGH S. JOHNSON Says:

Washington, D. C. WAR EFFORT

It is being said with increasing repetition and insistence that a democracy can't fight a dictatorship without creating a dictatorship in itself. It is not true but, like so much other sloganeering, things constantly repeated have a way of getting themselves accepted even without much debate, especially if they have some truth or an appearance of truth.

It is true that complete involvement in major war requires increased centralized power in government and temporary surrender of some civil right, but what is thus necessary falls far short of a domestic dictatorship.

What this country did in industrial mobilization for our last war was so effective that most warring nations have copied the general plan with their own variations—especially, Germany. Woodrow Wilson got about what he asked for, but the statutory dictatorial powers he used were very slender.

As far as industry was concerned, the whole structure was built on two powers—one was the power to commandeer factories, the other was the prescribed "priority lists"—statements of government needs for the products of industry which the administration decided must be filled before any other orders. Commandeering differed very little from the peacetime power of eminent domain—if the government needs a property and the owner is unwilling to sell, the administration takes it over and the courts determine what is "just compensation" to be paid to the owner.

It was not the use of these powers, but their existence and the threat of them that enabled the government to get what it wanted. In almost all cases, a mere request with no threat or use of power was all that was needed. In time of war, in this country nearly all of business is eager to do its part.

But as in all such community efforts, there is always a little "chiseling fringe" of slackers who try to take advantage of the burdens borne by their more unwilling competitors. Both to make the combined effort effective and to protect the patriotic from the greedy, it is advisable sometimes to get tough with this gentry and it is necessary to be able to do so.

Except for the railroads and a telegraph company, which rested on a different basis, outright commandeering was used only once. That statement once before made in this column has been challenged. It is correct. The case was that of the Smith and Wesson Manufacturing company for refusal to accept an award of the national war labor board.

There was no press censorship except the willingness of the entire press voluntarily to comply with suggestions of the administration. There was a tight control of exports, as there is now. Food supply was pretty thoroughly regulated by a control of profits rather than of prices and of a licensing system governing distribution.

That was as near as this country came to dictatorship in the greatest military and industrial effort ever made up to that time. It is as near as is necessary now.

### AID TO BRITAIN

William Allen White, who is chairman of the Committee to Aid Britain, thinks congress should pass some kind of a resolution announcing which side we are on in the present world conflict—not a declaration of war.

There isn't much doubt which side we are on in our hearts. Actions speak louder than words. By our actions, as the President has said, we are sending Britain all the aid we can just now—unless we decide to finance her war. Short of a declaration of war such a declaration of sympathy seems unnecessary and, at first glance, not very important.

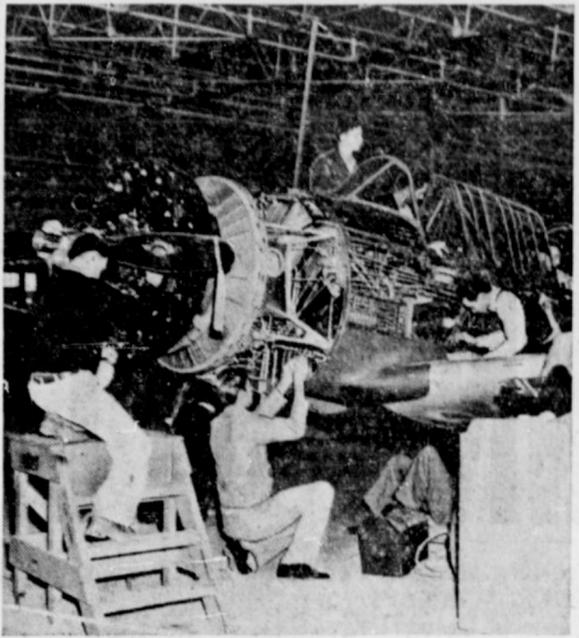
On the other hand, many people in this country fear the direction in which we are headed as a path leading straight to war. They are for aid to Britain—with two important qualifications. First that we do not weaken our own defensive preparations, second, that we do not do such things as will make war inevitable.

In this state of affairs and uncertainty about public opinion and in this fog of misinformation or no information about just what is involved in this question, I doubt if Mr. White's idea about a congressional resolution is as unimportant as it seems. There is yet time and there is not yet any such hysteria as would prevent a full and fairly free debate.

Congress is closer to the sentiment of this country than any sampling poll or any other branch of government can possibly be. If our present course of conduct and the purposes of Mr. White's people are, in fact, leading unnecessarily toward war, the debate on such a resolution would reveal both that fact and the popular judgment on it.

For all these reasons, while this column doesn't agree with what it thinks Mr. White's committee stands for, it does agree with his recent suggestion that congress be consulted in the way he describes.

## Vultee Plant Resumes Warplane Output



Returning to work after a 12-day strike at the Vultee Aircraft plant, at Downey, Calif., workers are shown engaged in production of an army trainer. The workers won raises and signed a 10-month no-strike clause. Before getting back to the plant each employee was given as careful an examination and re-check as he was subjected to before he was hired.

## Undersecretary



Wayne Chatfield Taylor, of Chicago, buckles down to work in Washington after being sworn in as undersecretary of commerce, succeeding Edward Noble.

## Rescue Texas Flood Victim



Torrential rains caused much havoc and heavy damage throughout Texas, where many concrete roads and bridges were destroyed. After sitting in a tree for 12 hours awaiting rescue, Jerry Zaskoe, of Sealey, Texas, was rescued by searchers who had been combing the flooded district. The picture shows Jerry being rescued from a tree.

## Injured in Riot



Comdr. W. M. Dillon, U. S. naval attache to the embassy in Mexico, beaten in riot of Almazanistas as Henry Wallace, vice president-elect, arrived in Mexico City.

## Plumber's Helper Nation's First Draftee



John E. Lawton, 21-year-old Everett, Mass., plumber's helper, shaking hands with Maj. Gen. James A. Woodruff, at the armory in Boston, after winning the signal honor of being the first man in the U. S. to be accepted for the army under the selective service program of 1940. He passed the stern physical examination with flying colors.

## Here From Orient



More than 200 American evacuees from the Orient arrived in San Francisco on the "President Pierce." These youngsters from Hong Kong and Shanghai were aboard.

## Desert Fort Now in British Hands



Somewhere in Africa . . . These British soldiers are shown occupying the ruined Italian fort which was captured by the western forces of Great Britain while fighting Mussolini's army in Africa. A fierce shelling reduced the fort to so much rubble. This official photograph was approved by the British censors.

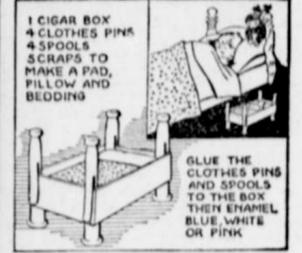
## Escape Nazi Bomb



Mrs. Ann Haltrecht and her son, (shown on arrival in New York) who had narrow escape in their English home when a bomb pierced the cot in which the boy was sleeping, continued through the floor, and exploded in the basement.

## Four-Poster Doll Bed For Santa to Bring

By RUTH WYETH SPEARS  
NOBODY knows better than I how many willing helpers good old Santa has. Hundreds of you have written me that you have made gifts from directions in this column and in SEWING BOOKS 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. Book 6 is now ready and as it goes into the mail I want you all to know that I have a very real feeling of friendship for you who find joy in making things with



your hands. Your letters keep me posted about the things you want to know. Refurbishing old furniture, curtaining difficult windows, new slip covers, rug and patch work designs, lamp shades, dressing tables, smocking, gift and bazaar novelties—you have asked for these and they are in the new Book 6. It also contains a description of the other booklets in this series.

And here is something that is not in any of these booklets. This tiny four-poster doll bed will be just the thing for Santa to leave beside some one's big bed on Christmas Eve. After the cigar box, spoils and clothes pins are glued together and enameled you will have a grand time making the bedding, pillow and coverlet. Send order to:

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

## There's a Good Reason You're Constipated!

When there's something wrong with you, the first rule is: get at the cause. If you are constipated, don't endure it first and "cure" it afterward. Find out what's giving you the trouble.

Chances are it's simple if you eat the super-refined foods most people do: meat, white bread, potatoes. It's likely you don't get enough "bulk." And "bulk" doesn't mean a lot of food. It's a kind of food that isn't consumed in the body, but leaves a soft "bulky" mass in the intestines and helps a bowel movement.

If this is your trouble, you should eat a natural "bulk" producing food—such as one as the crunchy, toasted, ready-to-eat cereal, Kellogg's All-Bran. Eat it often, drink plenty of water, and "Join the Regulars." All-Bran is made by Kellogg's in Battle Creek. If your condition is chronic, it is wise to consult a physician.

Majesty in Simplicity  
There is a majesty in simplicity which is far above the quantities of wit.—Pope.

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

Prolonging Trouble  
Dwelling on troubles doesn't help to remove them.—B. C. Forbes.

## Is your child a NAIL BITER?

It isn't always "nerves" that makes a child bite his nails. Often it is because of a reason few mothers suspect—WORMS! If, along with nail biting, there are signs of uneasy stomach, finicky appetite, fidgeting, restless sleep . . . take heed! These may be the symptoms of round worms; a nasty infection that can cause real distress.

JAYNE'S VERMIFUGE is the best known remedy in America for expelling round worms. It has been used by millions of mothers, for over a century, and is backed by the most modern scientific study. JAYNE'S VERMIFUGE has great ability to drive out large round worms, yet it tastes good and acts gently. JAYNE'S does not contain Santonin. If there are no worms it works merely as a mild laxative. Ask for JAYNE'S VER-MI-FUGE at any drug store.

FREE: Valuable medical book, "Worms Living Inside You." Write to Dept. M6X, Dr. J. Jayne & Son, 2 Vine St., Philadelphia.

## "All the Traffic Would Bear"

There was a time in America when there were no set prices. Each merchant charged what he thought "the traffic would bear." Advertising came to the rescue of the consumer. It led the way to the established prices you pay when you buy anything today.