

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

DREW PEARSON & ROBERT ALLEN

BIBLICAL DESTROYERS

Washington, D. C. There were two reasons for that grin on the face of North Dakota's Gov. John Moses when he left the White House the other day. One was an assurance that the President would personally investigate why North Dakota has not received any of the new defense plants. Moses argued that his state was so far inland that it was ideal for defense industries. Roosevelt promised to look into the matter immediately.

The other reason was an anecdote the President told Moses "about a famous namesake of yours." It happened when Roosevelt was assistant secretary of the navy in the Wilson administration.

He was asked to select from a list of American naval heroes, the name of a new destroyer. He picked "Israel," in honor of a U. S. captain who distinguished himself in the war against the Barbary Coast pirates in 1815.

Some time later, Roosevelt was asked to approve the personnel of this destroyer. And while looking over the list of personnel, another aide entered with another personnel list for a destroyer named "Moses."

"This coincidence struck me as very funny," Roosevelt related, "and I leaned back and laughed. The young naval officer looked perturbed and inquired, 'Aren't those the right crews for those ships—Moses and Israel?' And then I laughed some more, because heading the lists of officers were the names of Murphy and O'Reilly."

Note—Moses, a Democrat from a rock-ribbed G. O. P. state, is the tallest governor in the country—6 feet 4 inches.

ALBANIAN MOUNTAINEERS HELP GREEKS

(Editor's Note—The Washington Merry-Go-Round's famous Brass Ring this week is awarded to the unsung allies of the Greek army, the peasants and mountaineers of Albania.)

Much tribute has been paid to the gallant Greek army and royal air force for winning one of this war's most crucial battles, in that wildest and most remote corner of Europe—Albania.

But little has been written about the Albanian peasants and mountaineers who have provided the Greeks with the most amazing intelligence service of this war, so accurate that the Greeks have known down to the last detail just how many Italians were located behind each hill, where their guns were placed, and the exact nature of their fortifications.

An army without eyes is helpless. And the Albanians, who have never forgotten the manner in which Mussolini drove their queen and her day-old son out of the country two years ago, have contributed materially to the surprising succession of Greek victories.

STATE DEPARTMENT WIDOWS

There was not much Christmas joy this year in the homes of 124 "blitzkrieg widows" of the American diplomatic service. Their husband diplomats are still on the job, but the wives are prevented by official regulations from joining them.

From Warsaw, from Berlin, from Copenhagen, from Oslo, from Brussels, from the Hague, following the spread of the war, these "blitzkrieg widows" came trekking home—on government order—with children by the hand.

A few capitals, such as Moscow and Helsinki, have now permitted wives to rejoin their husbands, but meanwhile, a new warning has gone out affecting citizens in the Far East, and the ranks of the widows are swelling still further.

This separation is much more than a sentimental problem. It creates a strain on the budget of each family, for they are obliged to maintain two establishments, and the salaries of the foreign service are not gauged to meet living costs in this country. The state department has had so much grief from the "widows" that a move is being considered to lift the ban and allow them to return to their husbands' posts.

CAPITAL CHAFF

The state department is getting a heavy volume of mail from all parts of the country urging strong U. S. assistance to Greece.

Josephus Daniels, ambassador to Mexico, is the only ambassador appointed by Roosevelt in 1933 who still remains at the same post.

Experts of the house migrant investigating committee estimate that at least 4,000,000 job-hunters are constantly on the move in the country.

Some American women have switched to cotton stockings as a protest against Japan, yet in the first nine months of this year, the United States imported \$66,000,000 worth of silk from Japan.

MERRY-GO-ROUND

Two former editors of the "Ame-ro News," daily paper of the 1918 U. S. army of occupation at Coblenz, Germany, are now on active duty at the war department. They are Col. Fred J. Mueller and Lieut.-Col. B. B. McMahon, both assigned to the public relations staff.

GENERAL HUGH S. JOHNSON Says:

Washington, D. C.

WITCH HUNT?

Has the witch hunt actually begun? I haven't heard it, but several letters and telegrams inform me that a conspicuous radio news commentator is warning the public to "watch carefully" members of the keep-out-of-war committees because they are "appeasers" and "are trying to make us afraid."

Gen. Bob Wood, who was honored by congress for his work in helping to build the Panama canal, and brought back from an important post in France in the AEF to spark the American war production efforts as quartermaster general, is being put on the pan. Col. Charles Lindbergh, who brought home the greatest honors American aviation ever knew, and who first jolted American and British complacency by revealing the tremendous hidden powers of German air armament, is now under the wand of the professional witch finders. Even his lovely, fearless quietly philosophical wife has taken a dirty dig or two from such professional breast-beating Boadicea's as Dorothy Thompson.

What goes on here? Most of the people who want to dress up Uncle Sam as something more canny than his old role as the world's prize fat boy with the bag of candy in a world of Dead End urchins, were awake long before these tardy tom-tom beaters, witch doctors and Sioux Sun Dancers were even aware that there was a vast, sinister and growing danger in the world.

Some of them had been hammering at the inexcusable indolence of England, the equivocal horse trading of France and, above all, the spineless inactivity of America, long before the "cloud no bigger than a man's hand" became a thunderhead and began to belch lightning. All of them are, and have long been, for all-out defense of this country. All are against hysterical dissipation of it. Who speaks for America—they or their half-crazed critics?

If they were so much more nearly right before, maybe they are more nearly right now, when they question whether we should rush headlong into a gun fight with our gun not even loaded and, as a first act, give away our guns. Our greatest lack right now is Will Rogers, who said: "America never lost a war or won a conference." We can wonder what he would say about "Let's take the silly fool dollar mark from aid to Britain."

From how many billions have we taken the "silly fool dollar mark" for foreigners it would be hard to say. We took them off from the bill we footed for the last World war to a present total, with interest of about 14 billions.

BIG FOUR

The four-man control of industrial mobilization, consisting of the secretaries of war and navy, Mr. Knudsen and Mr. Hillman, may do some good, but it is not, as some have said, the equivalent of the War Industries board plan that worked in 1918 to provide the fastest re-arming ever recorded by a great nation. It violates an essential and basic principle of that plan. It takes nothing from experience. It is an experiment.

There are four great and insistent demands in time of war. They are those of the army, the navy, the allies, if any, and greater than these and just as important, the needs of civilian population. Heads of the army and navy are under heavy responsibilities for two of those needs. With the best intention in the world it is only human nature for them to grab and fight each for their own — to seek in extreme cases even monopoly control of all the best sources and supplies of material, manufacturing, storage and transportation facilities, power and labor.

That isn't a guess. That happened early in World War I, and continued to happen until it was stopped by the War Industries board. We are rushing into a program of production just as great. To have that happen without any regulation is a very bad thing. It creates unnecessary shortages to the great prejudice not only of all the people but the armament program itself. It unnecessarily tangles and disrupts the whole industrial machine. It multiplies cost, reduces speed and makes doubly difficult the eventual shift back to a peace economy.

For that reason and many others, the director of mobilization should not have to work under the control of the army and navy as he must do if he is one of a committee of four in which a division of opinion would result either in a deadlock or a domination by the purchasing departments.

Our experience in the World war and the experience in every other country indicates that the director of mobilization should be independent of any statutory purchasing agencies. It is his part of the job to co-ordinate all purchasing programs with each other to prevent confusion, delay, waste and loss; but that is only part of his job and not even the most important part. The other part is to co-ordinate, organize, speed, aid and supervise the whole industrial structure for maximum efficiency and production.

WHO'S NEWS THIS WEEK

By LEMUEL F. PARTON

(Consolidated Features—WNU Service.)

NEW YORK. — Simultaneously, Chancellor Hitler and Mme. Elsa Schiaparelli renounce gold and extol the fruits of the spirit. Preparing to return to France

Schiaparelli Says Cost Fetters Our Art of Creation maker finds that Americans are too much given to money-grubbing to appreciate the beautiful art of couture. "The Paris designer is free," she says, but here in America "in creating a costume you must think about cost." So she's going back to Paris where art is unfettered and nobody worries about money.

Molyneux fled, to make gowns in London, but Lucien Lelong, the new Judge Landis of the French fashion industry, remains in the service of art—not money of course. The latter implication might suggest that Paris as a continuing world style center is somehow geared into Chancellor Hitler's jug-handled economy, and that, of course, is a rather gauche idea. In Herr Hitler's new order, it's art for art's sake.

Soon after the occupation of Paris, Mme. Schiaparelli arrived here to begin a national lecture tour. We seemed to be suffering from much misapprehension about France. It was business as usual in Paris, and anyone who fancied that New York might become the world style center had another thought coming. However, she reserved her apostrophe of art against money for the last.

Addressing the Junior League of Los Angeles recently, she said: "All of us in Paris are impressed by the generosity of American men regarding their women. American men have a world-wide reputation for the money they spend on women. "I say bravo to you! Go right ahead."

I had an idea that the French felt that way a few years ago when I was privileged to see some of the inner workings of Lanvin's establishment in Paris, to talk to the vendeuses and witness the deference to a Texas oil magnate, when he came in to help his wife choose a gown.

Mme. Schiaparelli lived five years in New York. Her daughter, Marisa, was born in her Ninth street house in Greenwich Village. That was before the days of her fame and opulence, and she thought about money a great deal in those days.

Taking an unheated flat in Patchin place, a dingy little nubbin of a street off Jefferson Market court, she found a \$20 bill on the floor. It was a good omen. Other money came and she returned to a garret in Paris, to write poetry. A sweater design brought her into her career. For one who scorns money she is a masterful and diligent business woman, her huge establishment turning out around 10,000 garments a year at prices up to \$5,000. Of a distinguished Italian family of astronomers and scholars, she has been described by Edna Le Fevre as "a woman nobody can know, absorbed with books on metaphysics, aesthetics and philosophy."

ELMAN B. MYERS, inventor of the new "jet expulsion" motor which is expected vastly to increase the range, speed and fighting effectiveness of war planes, is a Newburgh, N. Y., boy who just happened to be a self-starter and finisher. Without benefit of any academic seminars, he became a hay-loft radio inventor. This, incidentally, was in the Bronx where there weren't any haylofts; but make it a cellar and the result is the same.

After 32 years he appears with his critically important invention. He got a job with a wireless station in Sacramento, and was soon throwing his voice farther than anybody else in those parts. He later worked with Lee De Forrest and by 1932 had brought through a "cold light" radio tube. He started work on his jet expulsion or "rocket" motor four years ago. Engineers say it may increase the speed of fighting planes by 200 miles an hour.

IT WAS not until they began work in strengthening the roofs of the Capitol at Washington that most Americans were aware that an architect was regularly attached to a structure of which George Washington first laid the cornerstone in 1793. He is David Lynn of Hyattsville, Md. Lynn in 23 years of service had ample opportunity of learning all the ins and outs of the famous building. He served 10 years as civil engineer of the Capitol and in 1927 became architectural supervisor.

House of Commons Damaged by Bombs



View of part of the damage wrought by German bombs in Britain's historic house of commons in recent raids. Public parts of the building were untouched, and nearby St. Stephen's chapel also escaped, but the cloisters in the crypt and the public bill office were hit. The private bill office was struck by high explosive and oil bombs.

New Sub Grampus



Uncle Sam's newest submarine, the 1,475-ton Grampus, sliding into the water at New London, Conn. The craft, one of eight similar type ordered under the Vinson act in 1939, is named after a common type of killer whale.

New Nazi Army Moves Into Rumania



German troops arriving in Bucharest, Rumania. A total force estimated at 20 divisions, or 300,000 men, with artillery, bridge-building equipment, tanks and motor transports formed the vanguard of a new German expedition into the Balkans. Hungary's grant of right-of-way stirred up many conjectures as to what this move might mean.

Seized as Spy



Oscar Stabler, German barber on the American export liner, Excambion, who was taken from the ship at Bermuda by the British and held under suspicion of espionage. Stabler became a U. S. citizen in 1933.

Our Newest Bomber in Flight



The newest and best of the U. S. medium bombers is B-26, shown here taking off (above), and in the air (below), during a test flight at Baltimore, Md. Product of the Glenn L. Martin factory at Baltimore, this high performance dealer of destruction will soon be rolling off the production lines at mass production rate.

Power for Defense



John C. Garand, inventor of the army's famed semi-automatic Garand rifle, is shown at work in his model shop at the Springfield, Mass., armory, where his grand gun is in mass production to arm our defense forces.

President Awards Collier Aviation Trophy



President Roosevelt awarded the Collier trophy, principal aviation award of the year, to 15 representatives of commercial airlines for the safety record achieved last year. Three physicians were also honored for developing an oxygen mask. They are L. to R., standing (front), Dr. W. Boothby and Dr. W. Lovelace II, of the Mayo Foundation, and Capt. H. Armstrong of the army medical corps, Wright field, Dayton, Ohio.

Sees Fascism's End



Count Carlo Sforza, former Italian premier, who is credited with the statement that the Italian people are dissatisfied with Fascism. He is now an exile in the U. S.