

# The Washington Merry-Go-Round

DREW PEARSON & ROBERT ALLEN

## ENGLAND'S POSITION IMPROVES

Little by little the British position has improved. Gallant Greek victories, the triumphant march of British forces across North Africa, the daring of the royal navy in the Mediterranean, all have helped to balance the scales of war.

In addition, Admiral Leahy's seadog diplomacy in Vichy is reported to have had some effect upon General Weygand, to whom he has promised American gasoline and oil; while the passage of the lease-lend bill is found to have tremendous reverberations throughout all Europe.

Furthermore, preliminary reports indicate that the trip of Wendell Wilkie had a stirring effect, not only upon British morale, but upon Germany. The fact that the son of a German sent an anti-Hitler message to the German people is bound to percolate beneath the surface.

Germany cannot forget that it was American entrance into the World War which finally turned the tide and defeated the kaiser. And that is why the Wilkie visit plus the lease-lend bill are so important. Both indicate an American people united regardless of politics.

### Second Battle of Marne.

Hitler's position today is not unlike that of Germany after the Battle of the Marne in World War I. In the first Battle of the Marne German troops came within 14 miles of Paris, could have taken the city had they not stopped to consolidate their forces. But not knowing what lay ahead, they waited for reinforcements, giving General Joffre time to send his "taxicab army" from Paris.

German defeat at the Marne turned back the tide of the war in 1914, and by the time the German army had come back for the second Battle of the Marne in 1915, the Allies had mobilized sufficient strength to stop them.

Similarly, Hitler's forces last summer probably could have taken England had they pushed immediately across the channel to the disorganized British Isles after the fall of France. But uncertain of what lay ahead, Hitler waited, and with typical German efficiency consolidated his position on the Continent. This gave the British just enough time to hold back a Nazi invasion last September in the first "Battle of the Marne," 1940 version.

Soon will come the Second Battle of the 1941 Marne—the second attempt to invade England. Into that second attempt Hitler is going to put more than ever before. He may succeed. But on the other hand, the British are in a far stronger position now to withstand invasion, and if they do withstand it, sooner or later the war will veer toward them.

### \$30 PENSIONS

Mrs. Roosevelt's recent statement in a pension magazine, favoring a \$30-a-month federal pension, tips off what the President has up his sleeve on broadening the Social Security act.

During the 1940 campaign and in his annual message to congress, he advocated a revision of the law by which a flat federal pension would be substituted for the existing state-contributory system. Also he proposed enlarging the scope of the law and adding medical features. He gave no details, but here is what he is planning:

(1) A federal annuity for all "senior citizens" over 65, without a "means test"; in other words, regardless of their financial condition. (2) In states where a larger pension already is paid, as in California, which pays \$40 monthly (half from the state and half from the government), the difference between \$30 and the larger sum would be made up by the state. This would apply only to California, the only state paying more than \$30. The next closest is Colorado with \$29.68. Twenty-one others pay \$20 or slightly more.

(3) Extend unemployment insurance to groups not now covered, such as seamen and farm workers. (4) A nation-wide program of medical and hospital service for low-income groups.

Roosevelt will submit his recommendations in a special message to congress sometime this month. He already has had several private discussions with Sen. Sheridan Downey of California, No. 1 Townsendite on Capitol Hill, and Sen. Jimmy Byrnes, astute South Carolina legislative adviser.

Personally, Downey favors a pension of \$60 after 60, but realizes that he has no chance at this time.

### CAPITAL CHAFF

Average taxes in the United States are \$96.75 per person, of which \$40.10 goes to the federal government and \$56.65 to state and local governments.

The government now has the greatest force of sleuths in all its history: a total of 10,200 divided among the FBI, Secret Service, Postal Inspection, Internal Revenue bureau and Narcotics division, to say nothing of Harold Ickes' and Paul Appelby's sleuths in the interior and agriculture departments.

# GENERAL HUGH S. JOHNSON Says:

Washington, D. C.

## WINDOW DRESSING

The lease-lend bill, as it passed the house amended, carries a lot of meaningless window-dressing but it meets one principal objection of those whose only real opposition was because, in its original form, it almost completely transferred the power of the purse from the congress to the President.

It has been said that no such power was intended or would ever be used. So—well, why grant it? The good faith of the administration in disclaiming any such wide purpose or intent was pretty well evidenced by permitting the amendment limiting the value of certain defense articles to be disposed of "procured from funds heretofore appropriated shall not exceed \$1,300,000,000."

Of course, there is no limit on future appropriations, but as to them congress still keeps the "power of the purse." The important point is that without that amendment, the total field in which this authority could have been executed might have exceeded \$50,000,000,000. What is it now?

As to articles "procured from funds heretofore appropriated"—guns, planes, ships and the like—clearly it is 1.3 billions of dollars of value. But how about that gold hoard of billions for example? Was that procured "from funds heretofore appropriated?"

A similar objection probably applies to other commodities which were not "procured from funds heretofore appropriated"—a field too complex to discuss in this limited space. I am informed by some congressmen in charge of the legislation, that the 1.3 billions is a limitation designed to cover all these things and if it does not, it will be made to do so.

If that is done, it would deflate 75 per cent of the valid objection to this bill. It is hard to see why it should not be done. The obscurity as to the true effect of the limitation in this regard is very real and this is no time for obscurities.

### NEW ANGLE ON LEASE-LEND

Mr. Arthur Krock's column in the New York Times recently was more important than Mr. Wilkie's testimony on the same day, even though it will not receive one-tenth the publicity.

Arthur, who rarely writes until he has sifted out the possibilities of error, cried "unclean" of the provision of the lease-lend bill which terminates the extraordinary powers it grants the President if and when congress shall pass a concurrent resolution quashing them. He says that, according to constitutional lawyers, this provision "was writ in water on the atmosphere." In other words, it is a deceptive fake—splendidly null.

This is a very serious matter. The question is not too technical from the legalistic angle for lay discussion. The central point is this: Without a congressional delegation of its own war powers, the President could not possibly exercise them. Such a delegation can be made, within flexible constitutional limits, by a majority vote in both houses. As matters now stand, the very wide proposed powers of the lease-lend bill could obtain such a majority vote. They could not conceivably obtain a two-thirds majority vote.

But if they are once granted, according to Mr. Krock's legal advisers, they could never be retaken by congress over the opposition of the executive except by a two-thirds majority.

Mr. Krock's reason is that the President, under the Constitution is, by his veto and approving power, a part of the law-making machinery, that while a concurrent resolution of both houses does not require the action of the President, yet, if it "contains a legislative proposition" it does require full presidential action under the Constitution.

Concurrent resolutions usually govern only the business of congress with no application in the general statutory sense. The point of view of Mr. Krock's advisers is that, since repealing a law is as much a legislative action in the general statutory sense as enacting a law, no concurrent resolution can repeal a law except subject to veto.

It is a strong point and one never decided by the courts, but it certainly would be a strange result if congress can, in part, suspend the Constitution by a majority vote, but can't restore it by less than a two-thirds majority, when the Constitution itself provides that an amendment may not even be proposed except by a two-thirds majority ratified by three-fourths of the states.

The contrary view is that whenever congress grants an extraordinary power, it can condition what it grants. It can put a time limit on it and thus work its repeal without any legislation whatever.

It can make it depend on any contingency it likes, such as some administrative finding of fact or future conditions of time, tide and weather. If those conditions do not occur, it does not speak. It speaks while they continue. It becomes silent when they cease—regardless of presidential veto power and with no new vote.

## Eject Protesting Women From U. S. Capitol



About 500 members of the Mothers Crusade of America went to Washington to oppose the pending lend-lease bill. Carrying American flags, they chanted "kill the bill, not my son." They were ejected by Capitol police for creating a disturbance in the senate chambers. Photo shows police removing the leaders.

## Two Killed, 15 Hurt in Rail Wreck



Here is a view of the wrecked baggage and mail cars of the Canadian National railroad passenger train, which struck a freight train some distance east of Ternton, Ontario. The engineer and fireman of the passenger train were killed, and 15 passengers were bruised.—Soundphoto.

## 'All Quiet on the Western Front'



A German anti-aircraft gun and its crew are shown somewhere in occupied France. One gunner is having his hair cut by a battery mate; the others are taking it easy around the gun position. In the background may be seen an anti-tank gun in position, and, in the foreground, rifles and helmets laid out in readiness—for what?

## Knox-Knox, Who Goes There?



The navy and war department employees, from the office boy to the secretary, have to show identification badges carrying their picture before they can enter the departments. This new ruling is now in effect. Photo shows the Navy Frank Knox showing his badge to guard on duty at entrance to navy department.

## Historic Meeting



This picture was sent to New York via radio and to Chicago via sound-photo, and shows the historic meeting of Mussolini, right, and Gen. Francisco Franco, near Italy's frontier. Franco was accompanied by his foreign minister, Ramon Sener.

## To Be Spain's King?



Don Juan, 27 years of age, prince of the Austrias, who may become king of Spain. His father, former King Alfonso XIII, has renounced all right in favor of his son.

## One-Man Stretcher



This new type of stretcher, invented by an Australian, is being demonstrated on the beach at Sydney, Australia. It is designed for use in bombed buildings by one-man rescue expeditions. The stretcher's straps and footrest will hold a patient firmly, even when tilted at a sharp angle as shown here.

## Anti-Tank 'Cocktail'

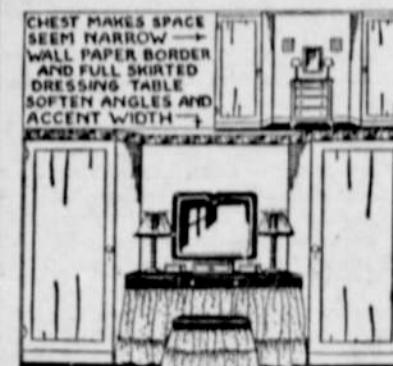


An Australian soldier examines two anti-tank bombs, taken from Italians at Bardia, Libya. The bombs are made of gasoline-filled bottles attached to hand grenades.

## That Space Between The Built-In Closets

By RUTH WYETH SPEARS

WHAT could be a greater luxury than two extra closets in your bedroom? That is exactly what a young friend of mine thought. But, when they were built in, she was painfully conscious of their angles and the room seemed much narrower. This sketch shows you how the feeling of width was restored and the angles were made to melt away. A wallpaper border all the way around the room helped to soften down the angles of the closets also



added an exciting color note to the plain painted walls. The chest of drawers in the upper sketch was moved to another part of the room, and the long spacious dressing table was built into the space between the closets. The top of the table and stool and the frame of the mirror were enameled porcelain blue which was one of the colors in the wallpaper border. Dotted swiss skirts were fastened on the inside of the finishing boards across the front of the table and around the stool with snap fastener tape—one side tacked to the wood and the other sewn to the skirt tops.

NOTE: Directions for making three types of dressing tables are illustrated in booklet No. 1 of the series which Mrs. Spears has prepared for our readers. Details for making the frilled lamp shades illustrated today are in No. 5, which also contains a description of the series. Each booklet illustrates 32 home-making projects and may be ordered direct from Mrs. Spears by sending her your name and address with 10c in coin for each number requested. Send order to:

MRS. RUTH WYETH SPEARS  
Drawer 10  
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Enclose 20 cents for Books 1 and 5.  
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## Man Is Affected

Histories make men wise; poets, witty; the mathematicians, subtle; natural philosophy, deep; morals, grave; logic and rhetoric, able to contend.—Bacon.

## Do Your Meals Talk Back?

This is often a symptom of acid indigestion. Sour stomach and heartburn frequently follow unwise eating and drinking. ADLA Tablets relieve quickly. Get ADLA from your druggist.

### As Is Enough

Those who seek for much are left in want of much. Happy is he to whom God has given, with sparing hand, as much as is enough.—Horace.

## Beware Coughs from common colds That Hang On

Creomulsion relieves promptly because it goes right to the seat of the trouble to help loosen and expel germ laden phlegm, and aid nature to soothe and heal raw, tender, inflamed bronchial mucous membranes. Tell your druggist to sell you a bottle of Creomulsion with the understanding you must like the way it quickly allays the cough or you are to have your money back.

## CREOMULSION for Coughs, Chest Colds, Bronchitis

### One Science a Genius

One science only will one genius fit, so vast is art, so narrow human wit.—Pope.

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