

# The Washington Merry-Go-Round

DREW PEARSON & ROBERT ALLEN

### DOLLAR-YEAR-TROUBLE

WASHINGTON. — Defense chiefs aren't advertising it, but they are quietly trying to ward off a blow-up over the host of dollar-a-year men now working for the government.

Some of the One Dollar men are conscientious and sincere public servants. Others are less scrupulous. While representing the government they have sold goods to the government, exerted inside pressure in favor of their industries, represented clients before government agencies.

All this has been no secret on Capitol Hill, where the steadily growing corps of One Dollar moguls has been eyed with increasing resentment. Recently this undercover indignation took form in a bill by Sen. Kenneth McKellar, veteran Tennessean, to ban such business men from government service and to probe their operations.

McKellar's plan is to await enactment of the lend-lease bill before pushing his measure, but meanwhile defense chiefs, seeing the handwriting on the wall, have quietly started cleaning up the situation themselves.

This has been done in a series of apparently unrelated moves. Under cover of transferring the original defense organization to the new office of production management, several One Dollar men have been eased home with the high-sounding, face-saving title of "Advisory Consultant" pinned to their coat-tails. Others have been shifted to jobs not directly connected with their own industries.

Also, several non-commercial experts have been brought in to replace One Dollar men in important sections of the OPM. And more house-cleaning is still to come.

**Note**—Among non-commercial experts who have been brought into the OPM are Dr. Ernest M. Hopkins, president of Dartmouth college; Dexter S. Kimball, former dean of Cornell university engineering school; William E. Wickenden, president of Case School of Applied Science; Dr. W. S. A. Pott, president of Elmira college; and Dr. S. S. Stratton, Harvard professor of economics.

### MR. SMITH GOES TO LATIN-AMERICA

It looks as if Senator Barkley was right when he denounced the box office smash movie, "Mr. Smith Comes to Washington." That film is now causing all kinds of headaches for the U. S. A. in South America, where it is used by the Nazis as one of their deadliest propaganda weapons.

John Hay ("Jock") Whitney has just made this report to the Rockefeller branch of the national defense commission. The story of a grafting senate ganging up on a young reformer, Whitney says, is being circulated through Latin America as an illustration of U. S. government graft.

Whitney has been pressuring Hollywood moguls to halt further foreign distribution of the film.

Another big problem for Whitney is newsreels. Just how damaging a newsreel can be to the "Good Neighbor" policy if even a slight detail of sequence is overlooked, was illustrated in a recent report to the state department by Norman Armour, ambassador to Argentina.

In a Buenos Aires theater one night, Armour was witnessing American newsreel shots of an air raid on Great Britain. Immediately following the raid pictures a bathing beauty contest in California was flashed on the screen.

"The letdown of the audience was terrific," Armour reported, pointing out that the newsreel made it appear that United States had its mind on bathing beauties instead of defense.

### THE TAFT BROTHERS

William Howard Taft's boys, Bob and Charley, are at odds again, Charley having been in Washington more than a week in his new job before he got together with Bob.

Reason is the job Charley has taken from the hands of Roosevelt. It sounds harmless enough—"Assistant Co-ordinator of Recreational Activities for Defense"—but it's a sufficient tie-up with the administration foreign policy to leave anti-interventionist Bob a bit chilly.

What hurt more, perhaps, was that Charley, who has long quarreled with his brother over domestic policies, accepted the job just the week before the historic lease-lend debate opened in the senate. Bob knew where brother Charley stood long before, namely with the Committee to Defend America by Aiding the Allies. But this brought the split into the public gaze.

"You don't have to agree with your brother all the time, do you?" is Bob's shrugging comment.

### MERRY-GO-ROUND

You can reach hard-working John R. Steelman, head of the U. S. Conciliation service, practically any midnight in his office working on some labor dispute, but not between 7 and 7:15 p. m. He always takes this time out to listen to a favorite daily radio program.

The budget is full of unique little items, such as \$6,000 for a fence on the Texas-Mexican border, \$76,000 for personal funds for inmates of federal narcotic institutions, \$10,000 for sea food inspection.

# GENERAL HUGH S. JOHNSON Says:

Washington, D. C. WAR POSSIBILITIES

In a friendly debate with Major George Fielding Elliot on war possibilities, two of the principal schools of so-called thought were seen in pretty clear profile.

On a few basic guesses there was complete agreement; that this country is in no danger of invasion in the measurable future, that Germany will not be successful in an invasion of England this year and that her chance of doing it later will probably decline, that there is no prospect that England will lose her mastery of the ocean this year.

So much seems to be a pretty general consensus of opinion among fairly well informed students of the problems of war as they affect us.

Beyond that, there is disagreement. Major Elliot, who is one of the most painstaking of our military critics, is also one of the leaders of those who feel that it is to our interest to "keep the war as far away from our shores as possible." He quotes the authorities to the general effect that the real line of defense of a great sea-power "is the coastline of its possible enemies."

Between the two nations, as he correctly says, is control of every dominating point on all the oceans; England itself, Gibraltar, Suez, Aden, Singapore, Corregidor, Cape Town, the Falkland Islands, Panama, Honduras, Hawaii and all the great American bases on both coasts. Coupled with the superiority of the two fleets, he thinks no land power can at length prevail. To all this he adds, and his adversaries agree, that England alone could never retake on land, the German conquests in northern Europe; that it could be done, if at all, only with a new A.E.F. of millions, which he does not favor, and that Russia is no great threat on the German east flank.

To most of that, the opposing argument is: "O.K., but how is the war then to be won by Britain?" His premises leave only the one answer and he makes it frankly—economic strangulation of Germanized Europe by a British blockade and battering of Germany from the air, naval frustration of Japan in Asia and the Indies.

The opponents say: "Economic strangulation unaccompanied by military attack never yet won a war. A combination of both did beat our Confederacy and whip Germany in 1918. In both cases it was a long slow process. In this case, without constant military pressure requiring of any enemy the consumption of tremendous quantities of scant supplies, it would be interminable and extremely doubtful of result. Furthermore, since we are undertaking to finance this world-wide military, naval and economic strategy and to become not only the arsenal but the larder, banker, guardian and good neighbor to half a world, it would work our economic ruin. It is another "great experiment noble in motive," but it takes in too much territory for even our resources.

"If we perfect our own defenses and shorten our lines, our naval, military and air strength will be multiplied in comparison with a strategy of butting them thin so across the whole globe. We can become impregnable. Half a planet is enough for one nation to undertake to finance and defend. The difference in cost is tens of billions. The difference in risk of war and disaster is immeasurable. Aid Britain? Yes, up to two very definite limits: That it does not weaken our own defense, that it does not involve us in a world-wide war the cause of which we can't control. The Elliot argument does both."

There are two proposals. "You pays your money and you takes your choice."

### CONVOY SHIPS TO BRITAIN

We are going to convoy ships carrying aid to Britain. There is not much doubt that a provision in the lease-lend bill prohibiting the President from using American armed forces on the high seas to protect American property, would be an unconstitutional congressional interference with his constitutional power as commander-in-chief of the armed forces. Except for some psychological popular effect, it would be useless, null and void.

Just now, popular opinion is so much against convoys, which would be a direct venture into war, that it probably would not be attempted at present. But a most skillful job has been done of leading popular opinion closer and closer to war, and also of so timing action as not to offend it. It is easy to see how a change to favor convoys could occur.

Some time later in the year our industrial mobilization will begin to disgorge vast quantities of supplies. The British demand for them will be great. The lease-lend bill will be a law and there will be no financial or other hindrance to sending them. Also Hitler's major effort to blockade Britain on and under the sea will be at its peak and cargo sinkings will multiply.

Then we shall hear: "Are we just building ships and supplies for Hitler to sink? A ton of supplies on the docks of Liverpool can help win this war."

# WHO'S NEWS THIS WEEK

By LEMUEL F. PARTON (Consolidated Features—WNU Service.)

**NEW YORK.**—In 1918, there was a tall, gangling young man in charge of a crew of men who were making lewisite gas, in a hide-out near Cleveland. A veteran officer advised him to give orders in a low tone of voice and speak slowly and cautiously. There were human and chemical tensions there, intermingling, and a sharp word might twitch a workman's nerve and cause trouble.

That might have been good training for a college president-to-be. At any rate, they made Dr. James Bryant Conant president of Harvard, in 1936. He has continued to speak softly and to get results without anything blowing up, and now President Roosevelt picks him to head a scientific mission to Britain.

He was a major in the newly organized chemical warfare service in the days when he was making lewisite gas. Within a few years of the day when he took his Harvard doctorate, in 1917, he was famed here and abroad as one of the world's leading research chemists. If our leasing and lending includes specialized brains, we could not have sent a scientist more competent to devise defenses against gas attack, or, perhaps to solve some new Nazi chemical ruthlessness, of which, it is reported, the British war office has evidence.

He is a pioneer and expert in gas warfare and defense, but he hates war and as an educator has worked diligently to out-mode and banish forever his war gases. He hastened to enlist when we entered the World war. A friend persuaded him that he would be much more useful in gas research for the bureau of mines. From this bureau he later was transferred to the chemical warfare service.

He is an Alpinist, still climbing mountains at the age of 48. In 1937, he scaled North Palisade mountain in the California Sierra, a hazardous climb of 14,254 feet. During the previous winter, he had broken his collar-bone while skiing. He is blue-eyed, with rather severe pedagogical spectacles, which make him look scientific, and a warm, ready smile which makes him look human.

His father was a photo-engraver of Dorchester, Mass. There was some sniffing among the Brahmins when the professor of chemistry became president of Harvard. But Charles W. Eliot had been a professor of chemistry and had scored heavily in the humanities—as did Dr. Conant. So there was precedent for that appointment, but possibly not for his present appointment. The tradition of the absent-minded professor fades in an era of highly specialized knowledge.

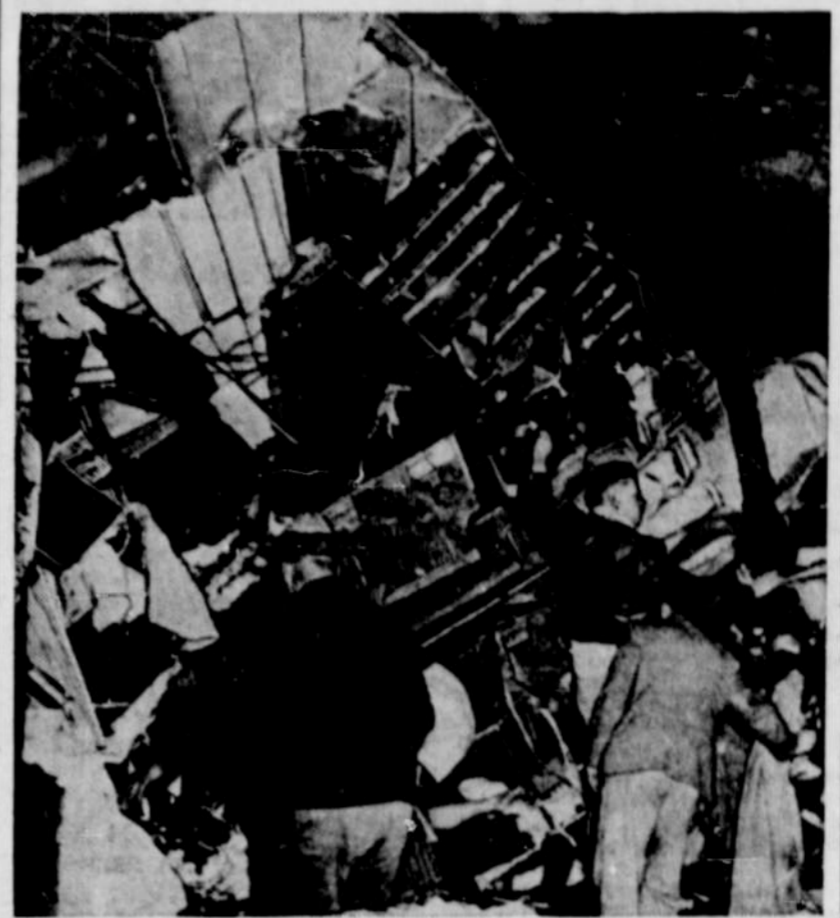
PERHAPS more than any other one man, Sir Robert Brooke-Popham saw the need for wings over the British empire and worked hard **British Far East** and long to provide them. As commander-in-chief in the Far East today, with tension mounting hourly on land and sea, he may take credit for strengthening air defenses to the farthest outpost of Britain's dominions.

He attended Sandhurst and entered the army. He was at the front in France from the first to the last gunshot.

Twenty years ago he began campaigning and agitating for an empire matrix of commercial and military airlines, predicting an hour of peril when only such unity and co-operation of scattered air forces could hold the empire together. He was one of the originators of the British commonwealth air training plan; established the Royal Air Force college in London and became commandant of the Imperial Defense college. He built Canada's \$600,000,000 empire air force which just now is greatly strengthening Britain's hopes with its 40,000 students and its daily yield of skilled fliers for the defense of Britain.

A lean, hard man of clipped, astringent speech, comparable only to a blow-torch in his powers of concentration, he is in his general make-up a planned personality. He is 63 years old, hard as nails and as whippy as a pole-vaulter. He was born Robert Moore, the son of a country clergyman. For reasons of his own, he was not satisfied to be Robert Moore. Characteristically, he did something about it. He procured royal dispensation to become Robert Brooke-Popham. Then, possibly in some pattern of numerology, came a career to fit the name.

# Seven Killed, 9 Injured, in Plane Crash



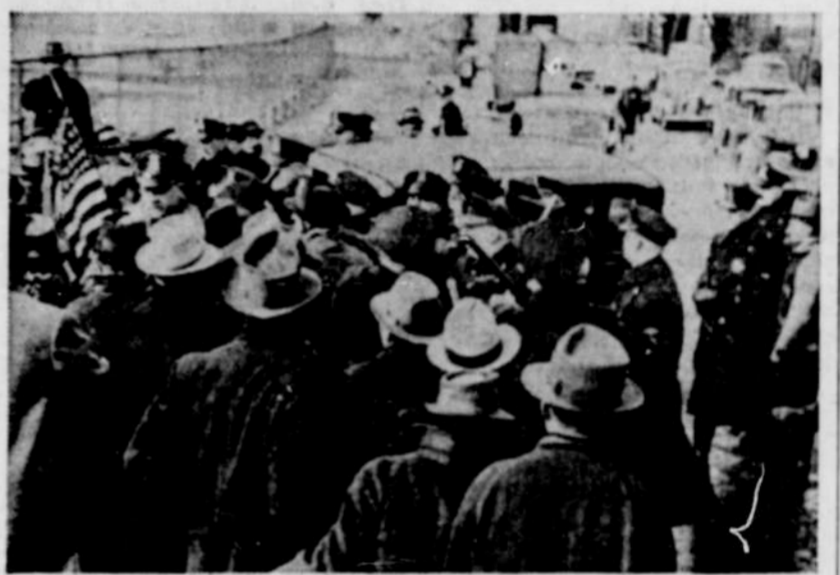
Seven persons were killed and nine were injured when this Eastern Airlines plane crashed near Atlanta, Ga. Rep. William D. Byron, of Maryland, was one of the seven killed. Among the injured was Capt. Eddie Rickenbacker, World war flying ace and owner of the airline. Photo shows rescuers searching in the debris for bodies.

# Win Film Awards



Ginger Rogers, who won the annual Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences award for her performance in "Kitty Foyle," and James Stewart, who was voted 1940's outstanding actor for his work in "The Philadelphia Story."

# Police Clash With Pickets at Steel Plant



Police try to force hole through pickets to allow car to pass through Number 1 gate of the big Lackawanna plant of the Bethlehem Steel company, near Buffalo, N. Y., during the C. I. O. strike, which periled defense production. The Bethlehem company has 1 1/2 billion dollars' worth of military orders.

# Flies to Post



John G. Winant, U.S. ambassador to Great Britain, going aboard the Atlantic Clipper at La Guardia field, New York, en route to Great Britain, via Lisbon.

# Land at Boston Army Base



The first U. S. army transport since 1918 has just landed 1,200 soldiers at the Boston army base. Some of the 1,200 are shown above debarking from the troopship General Hunter Liggett en route to Camp Edwards and Fort Devens. These men have just completed five weeks' secret maneuvers in the Caribbean.

# On Special Mission



Dr. James B. Conant, president of Harvard university, aboard the S. S. Excalibur, as he sailed for Europe on a mission for President Roosevelt. Dr. Conant is head of a special new mission to England to collect defense information.

# Australian Troops Arrive in Singapore



"Berlin or Lust" was the chant of these crack Australian troops as they arrived in Singapore to strengthen the British defenses. They were equipped with great numbers of fighting planes and bombers.

# Defense Expediter



Averell Harriman, New York financier, whom President Roosevelt named as aide to Ambassador Winant, as a step in aid to British under lend-lease bill program.