

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

DREW PEARSON & ROBERT AILEN

My Week

by Eleanor Roosevelt



WHO'S NEWS THIS WEEK

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

NEW YORK.—When he made his first million at the age of 30, Bernard M. Baruch said he would indulge himself from then on by being a sort of doctor or diagnostician of politics, government and finance, rather than a self-interested participant. Although he did gather a few more millions, as a speculator, as he has frankly said, it was in the same mood of detachment with which he has appraised the social scene, and it is in this mood that he has been the adviser of every President since Taft.

Each day in the news brings some new demand that the tall, pleasant, snowy-haired Mr. Baruch, surely our elder statesman of such bottlenecked urgency as that of today, be given a free hand, in the courtroom, or perhaps the wheel-house, to steer our emergency defense course. Some of these nominations come from the established school of Baruch men, such as Gen. Hugh S. Johnson, Herbert Bayard Swope and George N. Peck; others from those who remember Mr. Baruch's achievements as head of the War Industries board, and his alert, speculator's awareness of what has been going on in Europe for the last few years.

As to this business of being a speculator, Mr. Baruch says, "I make no apologies. I am a speculator. The word comes from the Latin word 'speculari,' meaning to observe. I observe."

Like all seasoned speculators, he never pounds his desk or runs a temperature or inclines to high blood-pressure, although he is 70. He keeps fit by his own system of calisthenics, pragmatically arrived at, like his financial operations.

As head of the War Industries board, he toiled the 20-mile team of labor, industry, raw-materials and government deftly through many a narrow defile and hazardous passage, and a large section of his public would like to see him again in the driver's seat.

Naturally a skeptic as to the grand solution, like most speculators, he has stood at few, if any false dawns. He was a prophet of doom for the Dawes plan, from the first. In 1927, he predicted that it would be scrapped within two years. "A demand might be morally reasonable as a business proposition," he said.

As a foe of paternalism in business and a staunch states' rights Democrat, he has insisted that a means must be found to mobilize national energies without taking on the crushing overhead of a crippling and self-destroying bureaucracy. He has expounded these and kindred subjects in many economic treatises in dry-as-dust journals, for here is a Wall Street speculator who also wears the golden key of Phi Beta Kappa. He is an able evangelist of the school of pragmatism in government and business—again the speculator, whose judgments, if he is a good speculator, are never emotional.

His early definition of his attitude as that of a diagnostician might have denoted a sympathetic identification with his distinguished father, Dr. Simon Baruch of South Carolina, a widely known surgeon and health authority who took a leading part in developing the Saratoga spa. Born in South Carolina, Bernard M. Baruch took an earned degree at the College of the City of New York in 1889 and subsequently six honorary degrees from various other colleges.

For the last few years he has been calmly, but earnestly prescribing preparedness. Returning from Europe in 1937, he said, "Europe is hopeless." In January, 1939, he offered to supply from his own funds \$3,300,000 which the army lacked for certain equipment. An adjustment of an appropriation bill made this unnecessary. He has been friendly to the New Deal, but has chided and warned it on many occasions.

THIS reporter, on occasional trips to Washington, has noted that some of the heaviest hitters there are the least publicized. Here today is the amiable Harold N. Graves in charge of the new defense loan drive, which will start May 1. Mr. Graves, in his 33 years in the government service, has showed singular ability in getting things done without a lot of fuss and feathers. He is assistant to the secretary of the treasury, 54 years old, educated at Knox college and George Washington university.

Washington, D. C.
HOW BRITISH MEET RAIDS
FDR got a first-hand account of how British morale is maintained during the blitz when Surgeon General Thomas Parran, head of the Civil Defense mission, reported at the White House.

Dr. Parran's mission spent a month in England studying the people living under constant aerial bombardment, and reported that one secret of Britain's splendid morale is immediate government relief for bombed victims.

As soon as "all clear" sounds over a beleaguered city, rescue workers are on the scene with hot food, medical care, arrangements for shelter and ready cash.

Repairs on damaged dwellings are begun immediately. Furniture is salvaged and stored. Families whose homes were destroyed are billeted at government expense. Compensation is paid for injuries. Pensions are given dependents of killed civilians and rescue workers.

The mere fact that ready cash is paid promptly has tremendous psychological effect. Upon application and without red tape, bomb victims can get a cash grant to buy clothing, new furniture, and workmen's tools. Small shopkeepers can obtain up to 50 pounds to buy new stocks.

Disguised Plants.
Dr. Parran's mission was particularly impressed by the ingenuity of British civil defenses.

One scheme for protecting vital industries is an elaborate system of dummy factories to mislead Nazi bombers. These plants are duplicated even to position, color and markings. Old cars are towed to the yard of the fake plants to simulate workers' autos.

Some industrial centers even use great smudge pots, emitting huge billows of black smoke completely blanketing an area.

Industry has been completely dispersed into hundreds of small plants in Britain, each making separate parts for the war machine. Duplicate plants are ready to take over production of vital products.

The American observers declared that the famed balloon barrage has been highly developed and forces raiders to fly at great heights. Long steel cables dangling from the balloons are death traps for planes.

British confidence in their defense is reflected in the big drop in the number who go to bomb shelters. Fifty per cent of Londoners stayed in the shelters during the blitz attacks last fall, but only 5 per cent went to public shelters in January and about 20 per cent to private and communal shelters.

GREEKS ARE AIDED
Anything can happen in the tempestuous Balkans, but it seems certain that Roosevelt diplomacy and the lease-lend bill were responsible for delaying the Nazi attack on Greece for at least 10 days.

The big thing which the lend-lease bill did for the British was to permit tanks, anti-tank guns, and anti-aircraft guns to be landed at Salonika immediately. The British had only limited supplies of these, and had to keep some in reserve for use around Suez and other vital Mediterranean areas.

However, with passage of the lend-lease bill, they knew they could get reserves later from the United States, therefore threw all their present reserves onto the Greek front.

This type of munitions is what the Yugoslav army and the Turks have especially needed. They have plenty of rifles, machine guns and a reasonable amount of artillery; but few anti-tank or anti-aircraft guns to stop the advance of modern mechanized forces.

Note—The Balkans has been getting its American news chiefly from the official German DNB news agency, which had played up all the Wheeler-Nye speeches, gave the impression that the United States was against Roosevelt and that the bill could not pass. Final passage, however, could not be suppressed in the news dispatches and had a tremendous effect upon Balkan public opinion, which recalled how American entrance into the last war had turned the tables.

NO LABOR PEACE
It was expected that John L. Lewis' retirement from the C.I.O. would bring peace to the war-torn ranks of labor. But this has not been the case.

A. F. of L. and C.I.O. leaders are working effectively together in the defense administration, but otherwise they are still poles apart.

CAPITAL CHAFF
At the left on his desk, Vice President Henry Wallace has a telephone which communicates directly with the White House.

No less than three secretaries—a light blonde, a medium blonde, and a brunette—take stenographic notes of every word said at Steve Early's daily press conference.

Many a government clerk knows the Supreme court chiefly as an eating place. Its cafeteria, below the court room, serves 7,500 persons a month.

'THE DOCTOR'S DILEMMA'
We dined on a recent night in the Lafayette hotel in New York city, where one gets, I think, into the proper mood for a holiday evening. Then we went to see "The Doctor's Dilemma," which I much enjoyed. How young and lovely Katharine Cornell looks! Though it is hard to think of Raymond Massey as anything but Abraham Lincoln, he did give me a reminiscent feeling of being in Harley Street.

George Bernard Shaw gives one food for thought, even though it is not always pleasant thought. In this particular play at least, the weaknesses depicted are amusing, serious though their consequences sometimes are.

The next morning, after seeing a number of people with whom I had appointments, I went to the British War Relief Society, Inc., offices. I was impressed by the variety and efficiency of the work and the number of volunteers in the executive and administrative positions.

It seems to me that if all the varied organizations working for British relief could be joined under one head, the expense of administration would be greatly reduced and more money would be available for the actual needs of the sufferers in Great Britain. I hope that the new committee appointed by the President will succeed in doing this for all the different groups working for various countries. I went to see Mrs. Kermit Roosevelt's division, which is working with school and college people who want to help the youth of Great Britain. I also saw some of the Greek war relief work. The next time I have a few minutes to spare in New York city, I shall go to their headquarters.

I had a chance to talk for a few minutes with Miss Rachel Crothers, would have liked to go up to the theater division, which is also working in this same building for British relief. I shall try to do that also the next time I am in New York.

I caught the nine o'clock plane back to Washington. We had a very pleasant flight which, as usual, became a little bumpy a short time before we landed. However, I had already eaten my lunch, so I did not have to maneuver the soup and coffee carefully for fear of having them land in my lap instead of my mouth!

PAN AMERICAN FESTIVAL?
I was much interested the other day in talking with Mr. John Anson Ford of Los Angeles, and Mrs. Gertrude Knott of the American Folk Festival. They are eager to have a Pan-American folk festival in Los Angeles this year. The idea seems to me to have merit and to promise something beautiful and interesting, but as yet it is only in the stage of being planned.

I have just received a notice of a book about the Quakers. It is written by ex-President Comfort of Haverford, and called, "Just Among Friends." It is designed to give information about this particular religious group, their activities and philosophy. I think it will be of interest to a great many people.

With Laughlin Currie, back from China, the Generalissimo and Madame Chiang Kai-shek sent the President and me two interesting seals. I doubt if many would know if I used mine, that I was putting "Eleanor Roosevelt's" seal at the bottom of my letter, or that the President put "Roosevelt" at the bottom of his. Nevertheless, the Chinese characters will make a very impressive decoration.

'RANDOM HARVEST'
I have finished James Hilton's "Random Harvest." In the play of the imagination it reminds one a little of "Lost Horizons." The man who is always seeking his lost memories, is not very different from the rest of us, for most of us go through life seeking something.

We do not always find it, so that we can end our tale with the happy cry: "It is not too late." Mr. Hilton seems very familiar with the baffling situation that faces most people, either because of some lack in themselves, or surrounding circumstances which make the accomplishment of their desires unattainable.

I have also just read through the scenario for a motion picture written by Robert Van Sittert, an Englishman. It gives a remarkable picture of Czechoslovakia before and after Munich. Finally, it leaves you with the assurance that the people may be subjugated, but so long as the thing we call the soul of a people lives on, even in the hearts of its children, there is inevitably a day of resurrection and liberation.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING
I hope those who came to dine with me recently in the interest of the Young Men's Vocational Foundation, Inc., found the evening worth while. The stories which were told by the various speakers, seemed to give a very good idea of why we should be interested in lending a helping hand to boys who come out of our training schools.

Beyond that, everything that was said seemed to emphasize the importance of knowing conditions which the youth of our country face.

Picketing at Bethlehem Steel



Under the watchful eyes of Pennsylvania state troopers, C.I.O. pickets, some of them carrying American flags, demonstrate outside the Bethlehem, Pa., plant of the Bethlehem Steel company. Work-bound men, singly and in small groups, passed into the mill unmolested. The strike held up the production of defense materials.

Off to Prison



Earl Browder (left) shown leaving for Atlanta, Ga., en route to the federal penitentiary, where he is scheduled to serve a four-year sentence for passport fraud. Right: Robert Minor, who succeeds him as secretary of the Communist party.

Hitler Greets Japanese Foreign Minister



This radiophoto from Berlin shows Adolf Hitler greeting Japanese Foreign Minister Matsuoka. They discussed questions confronting the Rome-Berlin-Tokyo axis. Picture shows Hitler introducing the foreign minister to the crowds. Matsuoka is at the left, then Hitler and Ambassador Hiroshiohima.

Rules Jugoslavia



Seventeen-year-old King Peter of Jugoslavia, who assumed power from his pro-Nazi ministers, and ascended the throne in a bloodless coup d'etat.

New Might for the U. S. Navy



A striking photo of two powerful arms which go far towards making our navy the world's greatest. The submarine Triton, sister ship of the Squalus, and one of the navy's newest undersea craft, is seen from the navy Blimp, G-1, off Barnegat, N. J., light. One of the blimp's motors covers the upper part of picture.

Arrive in U. S.



The East Indies situation is becoming more tense each day. Above is Eelco Van Kleffens, foreign minister of the Netherlands in exile, shown on arrival in New York with his wife. He is on his way to discuss East Indian problems with President Roosevelt.

Foreign Propaganda Fed to Furnace



This is a scene at the Roncon Annex post office in San Francisco, Calif., as postal employees burn a big load of foreign propaganda consisting of magazines, pamphlets and books. Officials have been watching incoming propaganda for many months and thought it about time to consign it to the flames.

'Tummy' Victim



Gail Grochowski, 6½-pound girl, of Worcester, Mass., youngest victim of the "upside-down" stomach malady on record. She is now recovering, following an operation.