

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

By DREW PEARSON & ROBERT ALLEN
Washington, D. C.

FARMER PRICE VICTORY

Louis J. Taber, National Grange president, and other farm leaders didn't come away empty-handed from their conference with the President on price control.

While he would not agree to their proposal that wages be included in the price control bill drafted by Price Administrator Leon Henderson, Roosevelt did make one important concession. He said he would have no objection to a "parity averages formula" being put in the bill to limit the dumping of government-owned wheat and cotton when the prices of these commodities threaten to soar out of bounds.

Under this formula, to insure farmers an average parity price for the full crop year, restrictions would be placed on the amount of wheat and cotton that could be sold. Also, the dumping could not begin until prices reach certain above-parity levels, to be worked out by Henderson and the department of agriculture.

Taber and his colleagues had to do some fast talking to sell the President on this plan. At first he seemed in no mood to accept any changes in the bill and told his callers that if they had come to debate the question of controlling farm prices they were wasting their time.

"We have simply got to head off inflationary trends," the President declared grimly, "or face the worst depression the country has ever known after this emergency is over."

The farm leaders finally won him over to their plan with the assurance that they would not oppose Henderson's system of selective price controls, providing the parity gains won at this session were not lost.

Taber pointed out that though the prices of wheat and cotton are now only slightly below parity, and livestock above it, farmers get only 43 per cent of the consumer's dollar spent for farm products, as against 60 per cent in 1917, when defense production was geared to the peak it has reached today.

NEW LABOR HEADACHE

Strikes are still a serious problem, but the big labor headache currently harrasing defense chiefs is the complex and mounting difficulty of employment dislocations.

Almost every day brings new reports of workers let out due to lack of materials, forced curtailment of production or other defense causes. Official estimates of such dismissals put the number at between one and two million.

And the end is not in sight. Some experts anticipate that in the auto industry alone 200,000 workers will lose their jobs.

Aware of the serious economic consequences of such dislocations, OPM heads are making strenuous efforts to overcome them. So far only partial answers have been found. Originally, OPM tried to handle such dismissals by local absorption. This worked all right in towns with industries engaged in defense work. They could use the displaced hands and gladly took them on. But in communities where this condition did not exist, other solutions had to be found.

Various methods have been used. In some instances defense orders have been granted to reopen shut-down plants. In other cases, where conversion of a plant wasn't possible, an entire new defense plant has been erected in town. In still other instances, workers have been given "retraining" instruction and moved to places where labor was needed.

Defense chiefs count on Floyd Odum's reorganized subcontracting division to take up most of the slack on defense dislocations.

Odum originally estimated it would take two months to set up administrative machinery, but OPM chiefs are urging him to turn his attention to getting subcontracts now and rounding out his organization as he goes along.

MERRY-GO-ROUND

The American Association for Economic Freedom has reprinted an address made more than 10 years ago by Federal Judge Robert N. Wilkin of Cleveland on "A New Social Order" in which he advocated a union of the English-speaking countries to resist the totalitarian aggressors.

Heavyweight champ Joe Louis, soon to be drafted, is tackling what he describes as "the biggest fight of my career." He has sent a circular letter to every member of congress asking them for help to raise a fund for a movement to improve the economic condition of Negroes.

It isn't advertised, but the army now has a regular military air service across both the North and South Atlantic, operating on schedule, just as punctually as any commercial airway in the U.S.A.

Good news for the troops eaten by chiggers in the Louisiana maneuvers: Denton Crowl of Toledo had just discovered a chemical which will make them as scarce as American heavy bombers.

Jesse Jones is angling to get John Hertz, original king of the Yellow Taxis in Chicago, appointed to the Maritime commission.

The Once Over by H.I. Phillips

THE PAPERS OF PRIVATE TURKEY

Dear Ma—

I got your clipping about 200,000 jeeps to be released by Christmas and you are no more anxious about me being one of them than I am. I wish I had helped out more at home so I could claim somebody was dependent on me without laughing. I have checked and double checked to see if I couldn't dig up some evidence of what a help I was to you and pop but I did not have no luck to speak of.

All I could get down on paper was these three cases:

1.—Once about three years ago when pop was sick ten days I took care of the furnace and chipped in about \$4 to help pay family expenses. (This is subject to error. It may have been \$4.50, but I kept no papers.)

2.—In 1938 or 1939 I forget when he was on an auto trip we had a blowout and I did not let you and dad get out and change the tire. I did it myself.

3.—Last year the radio went on the fritz just when you and dad wanted to hear some favorite program and I fixed it for you. Also I went to the delicatessen store for you a couple of times when dad was two tired.

I do not think this is enuff to get the army to send me home as a dependency case, so if you can think of anything let me know and you better make out a affidavits and have it sworn by a notary public as the officers is very suspicious.

The paper says some units will lose 30 per cent of their men through releases but if all the boys in my unit who are trying to get out are successful mine will lose at least 99 per cent. Otto Bixby's folks have dug up evidence that he is over 28 years old and that they put him down as 26 because they lived two years in Brooklyn witch don't count.

Otto also says his family is suffering without him as his mother can't carry up coal and wood three flights like she used to. He also says his sister has arthritus and can't mow the lawn, wash the flivver and do all the washing and ironing. Al together his being away from home leaves the family in a awful fix he says.

Another boy in my outfit says he is needed right away at home as two new saloons have opened up near his house and his old man is less a help than ever. I am still trying to get out on the ground I am a hardship case and two new things happened by way of evidence this week. First I had two front teeth pulled the same day that we had steak for dinner. If that ain't a hardship I don't know what is. Next I am innoculated so many times that to look at me you would think woodpeckers had been working all over me. And Nellie Petersen ain't wrote me in over a hole week all of witch makes me feel more like a hardship case than ever.

Of course if was married I could get out of the army in the Christmas releases and I am now convinced that early marriage is a good thing for every boy. Not that I wood be such a heel as to get married to dodge the draft, but I just wish I had got married to a nice girl four or five years ago when I had some fine chances. If I had my life to live over again I wood get married by the time I was 18 and no later.

If I was anywhere near 28 I might stand a show of getting out, but unless you made a mistake in the berth certificates there is no hope that way. Could you check up all over again and be sure. I always used to hate to think of being as old as 28 or 30 but after a year in a army no age seems so swell, in fact with the world as cockeyed like it is today I wood have no complaint if I was 50.

Well this will have to be all for now and do not worry as I am beefing just because it feels good and life in a army is not so bad when you get used to it.

Love,
Oscar.
P.S.—I hear Mildred Donaldson has moved back into our neighborhood. Do you know her address?

ONE RESULT
Though "War Is Hell" one thing I see:
It has taught us geography.

—Edna G. Groskin.

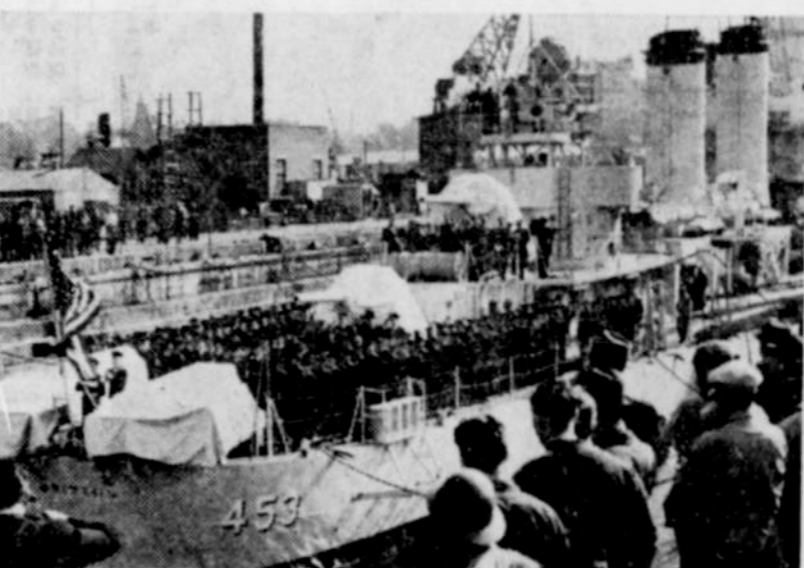
Due to priorities, drug stores will have to cut by 15 to 25 per cent many of the items they now carry, it is predicted. Well, that's okay with us. We're tired of dropping into an apothecary shop for a pill and coming out with a roll of linoleum, a percolator, a wrist watch and a new painting for the hall bedroom.

'Local' Comes to Grips With Express



Wrecked engine of a Philadelphia-New York local train is shown spilled over on its side after crash with the crack Embassy express, new New York-Washington flyer, outside Pennsylvania station, Rahway, N. J. Twenty-five persons were injured in the crash, most of them passengers on this local train.

Commission New Sentinel for Uncle Sam



Ceremony at the Brooklyn navy yard, as the raising of the stars and stripes symbolized the official commissioning of the U. S. destroyer Bristol, sister ship of the torpedoed U.S.S. Kearny. The commissioning addresses referred to the dangers that might lie ahead. The ship is commanded by Lieut. Com. Chester C. Wood.

Ruins of London Town



This photograph, just released by the British censor, shows some of the devastated sections in the great business center of London after air raid clearance work. An entire block of demolished buildings has been completely removed, leaving nothing but vacant lots, as shown in the picture. Hardly a building escaped damage.

At Neutrality Hearing



Secretary of State Cordell Hull, left, is shown talking with Rep. Sol Bloom, chairman of the house foreign affairs committee, during the neutrality hearing on Capitol Hill, on the affairs of merchant ships. The attack on the U. S. destroyer, Kearny, gave impetus to the hearings on revision of the law.

\$5,985,000,000 Bill



Acting with determined speed and unity, the senate, by a vote of 59 to 13, passed the new \$5,985,000,000 Lend-Lease bill to send a new torrent of planes, guns, tanks, etc., to the nations fighting Germany, including Russia. Photo shows Sen. Alva B. Adams of Colorado, chairman of the subcommittee of the senate appropriations committee, writing date on bill.

Commands Russ



Gen. Gregory Zhukov, who has been placed in charge of Russia's central defense zone, which included the Moscow area. He succeeds Marshal Timoshenko.—Soundphoto.

Loyal to School



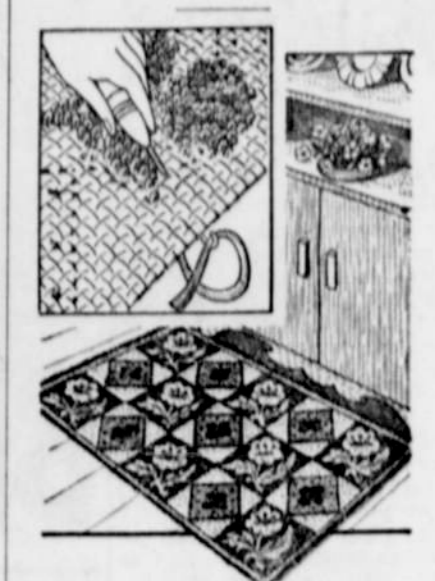
Five hundred students of the Georgia university came to the capitol in Atlanta to protest to Governor Talmage because their school had been dropped from the Southern university conference. Governor Talmage was not in town at the time of the demonstration. Note students mounting bust of Talmage.

Protests Seizure.



U. S. seizure of 18 Douglas light bombers bound for Peru and possible use against Ecuador, was protested by Col. Armando Revoredo (above), air attache of the Peruvian embassy in Washington, who termed the seizure an unfriendly act.

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Walking Lighthouse

In a wonderful world there are many queer professions, but ranking high among the strange ones is that practiced by a Chinese coolie living in Chungking.

At night he can be seen walking around the dark streets with a lighted candle measuring some eight inches stuck in the top of his skull. In return for a small fee he will guide you to your destination.

When very young his parents, apparently, had cut the top of his skull, inserted a candle which they held in position by sealing-wax, and sent him out on to the street as a guide to travelers.

For many years now he has done this queer job, and must surely be the only human "lighthouse" in the world.

Don't worry about what to send the man in Uncle Sam's services for Christmas. He's told the country himself in any number of surveys. Cigarettes and smoking tobacco top the list of what he wants first of all from the folks back home—and first of all is Camel Cigarettes. Actual sales records from service men's stores—in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard—show Camels the largest-selling brand, with Prince Albert Smoking Tobacco a stand-out favorite. Local dealers are featuring Camels in a handsomely wrapped carton and in a novel Christmas package of four "flat fifties"—either way you give 200 cigarettes. Prince Albert is featured in the pound tin and pound glass Humidor all Christmas gift wrapped.—Adv.

Progress
"And has your baby learned to talk yet?"
"Oh, yes. We're teaching him to keep quiet now."

As Usual
Father—Remember, my child, curiosity killed the cat.
Janey—How, daddy?

Hopeless
"Even a worm will turn."
"What's the use? It's the same both ends."

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