

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

DREW PEARSON

Washington, D. C.

PRESIDENT LISTENS

The President did the listening, instead of the talking, when he conferred on farm manpower and food with three prominent farm leaders—Albert S. Goss, master of the National Grange, H. E. Babcock, vice president of the National Council of Farmer Co-operatives, and Ezra T. Nelson, its executive secretary.

The farm spokesmen spent about 30 minutes of the 37-minute conference expounding their views on what caused the food shortage now facing the country and what has to be done to remedy it. The President confined his remarks chiefly to asking questions.

He began by telling his visitors that the food situation was "extremely serious."

"That's why I invited you gentlemen here today—to get your opinions on what has to be done," the President said. "Go ahead and be as frank as you like."

The farm leaders accepted the challenge. They charged the administration with "shortsightedness" in dealing with farm labor deferments and contended that government price policies also had contributed to the farm manpower shortage.

Local Draft Problem.

"If you want my views, I'll give them to you, Mr. President," spoke up Ezra Nelson. "Two things have to be done and done immediately. First of all, someone in authority here in Washington must tell these local draft boards where to head in."

"They must be told that they have almost as much responsibility to see to it that we have sufficient manpower to produce food for the war effort as they have to provide men for the fighting forces. Food is just as important as munitions in my opinion. We can't fight the war without it, and we can't let our civilians starve."

"A lot of these local draft boards still feel that they must fill their induction quotas," Nelson continued. "The boards have been assigned quotas, but they don't have to meet them, at least not in sections where there is a crying farm labor shortage. You, or someone else should tell them this."

The President pointed out that many young farmers don't want to be deferred.

"This isn't the fault of the draft boards," he said. "The young men themselves are so patriotic that they do not want to remain on the farm while a war is going on."

It was agreed that steps would have to be taken to convince selectees that they could serve their country as well on the farm as in the army. Goss suggested that one "way out" would be to induct farm hands and then "furlough" them back to the farm at prevailing farm wages, instead of army pay. This would require legislation, but the President said it was an idea worth considering.

Stop Selling Cows.

"The second thing that has to be done is for the government to step in and stop the widespread selling of dairy cows and other stock and farm equipment by farmers who are unable to continue in business at present farm price levels," Nelson continued.

"I'm as much opposed to inflation as you are, Mr. President," he added, "but we have got to make it possible for farmers to operate at a fair profit if we are to lick this threatened food shortage. They have got to be assured fair prices in order to pay wages that will keep their help from migrating to jobs in industry."

The co-operative official contended that farms had lost two-thirds of their manpower to war industries because of low farm wages.

The President said that he, too, was deeply concerned about this factor, suggested to his callers that they get together with Secretary of Agriculture Wickard and map out a program embracing their recommendations.

"Then come back and see me again," urged the President. "I want to continue these discussions."

CAPITAL CHAFF

Ⓔ The super-cabinet's careful consideration of how big our armed forces should be was actually a sham battle. FDR has the "old dutch up" over the size of the armed forces and wouldn't take anybody's say-so on this point, except the army's own plan, conceived way back in 1938. . . . The army in 1938 had no idea whether we would have the ships in 1943 to transport troops abroad, but is sticking to its original plan just the same. And FDR is 100 per cent behind it.

Ⓔ John McClintock, assistant co-ordinator of inter-American affairs, is off to the Amazon, to inspect food and health programs for rubber tappers.

Ⓔ When General Marshall turned down the rank of "Field Marshal" he also knocked over a carefully laid plan whereby Admiral King would become "Admiral of the Fleet" . . . To date only three men have won the title "Admiral of the Fleet"—Dewey, Farragut and Porter . . . Tipoff on the proposal to make King Admiral of the Fleet was so he could outrank Admiral Leahy.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS

Do not sprinkle all your linen napkins when preparing for ironing. Dip every third napkin into clear warm water, place one between two dry napkins, fold and roll together. Napkins dampened in this way are ironed easily.

Leaking faucets can waste gallons of hot or cold water in a few months. See that faucets are tight.

Never leave egg white after it has been beaten stiff. If left stand it will flatten and will not beat up again.

To remove whitewash from ceiling, dissolve one pound of alum in one gallon of strong vinegar. Apply with a brush and let it soak in well. Then scrape and wash as usual.

To prevent bacon curling notch the edges, before cooking, with a knife or scissors.

Never empty the water in which spinach and other sandy vegetables are washed into an enameled sink if you wish to keep it looking well.

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Intensive Scientific laboratory and clinical studies proved this startling fact . . . proved that additional B Complex Vitamins are used by the body cells in feverish illness. With those deficient in these vitamins, the feverish stage of a cold demands an extra supply. If you're suffering with the fever of a cold, perhaps your limited diet does not supply enough vitamins! Don't risk a deficiency. Start taking GROVE'S B Complex Vitamins immediately. Unit for unit, you can't get finer quality. Potency guaranteed and they're distributed by makers of famous Bromo Quinine Cold Tablets. And you get the wonderful benefits of these amazing vitamins at a sensationally low price. Only 29¢ for the regular size. Only \$1.00 for the large size—over a month's supply. For such a small cost, you can't afford to risk deficiency. If you reach the feverish stage of a cold, start taking GROVE'S B Complex Vitamins!

Find the Scrap to Eliminate the Jap

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TABASCO

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SNAPPY FACTS ABOUT RUBBER

Laboratory tests demonstrate that rubber can be made to stretch from 80 to 1000 per cent or to have no stretch at all, as in hard rubber.

A cubical piece of about half an inch of the substance we now know as rubber was selling for three shillings in London art shops in 1770. It was then called rubber because it could erase pencil marks.

The first articles of rubber to be manufactured were clothing and shoes.

American seamen are now equipped with rubber life-saving suits weighing slightly over 14 pounds. This new buoyant suit features a whistle, flashlight, knife and yellow hood and gloves to attract rescuers. Weighted shoes keep the wearer upright in the water.

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PATTERNS SEWING CIRCLE



8363 1-5 yrs. Tot's Wardrobe

WHAT the well-dressed young lady of 1 to 5 years will wear this spring is right here—a gaily printed ensemble consisting of playsuit, overall and dress. Everyone's going to be the happier because they are so pretty and sensible and her mother because they are practically no bother at all.

Pattern No. 8363 is in sizes 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 years. Size 2 dress takes 1 1/2 yards 35-inch material, overall 1 1/2 yards, playsuit 3/4 yard; 8 1/2 yards binding.

Pigeons Being Trained In U. S. as Commandos

Several hundred pigeons now being trained as carriers of messages for the United States forces are undergoing a strenuous Commando course.

To get them accustomed to the black-out the birds, which normally roost at night, are sent out in the darkness to make two-way flights. They are also trained to return to roosts mounted on trailers which sometimes remain only a few days at one station.

To get them ready for battle conditions aeroplanes are used to dive at them, and they fly amid exploding firecrackers. They are given medical attention, and, like the troops, they get leave.

Mother and Dad Can Make This Gay Coffee Table From Odds and Ends

IT ALL started with a bright idea for making a simple, painted coffee table from odds and ends. The sketch at the lower left gives the dimensions and shows the simple construction. Two end sections were made first; the top and sides of these being fastened together with metal angles, as illustrated. A shelf was then nailed in and a 1/2 by 3-inch board nailed across the back of it. Two boards for the top of the table were then screwed to the end sections.

So far the table was substantial but crude and that is where the lady with the needle came in. The table was to be painted putty color and then waxed. She bought a yard of slightly darker tan sateen and applied a design of bright blue and red morning glories and green leaves on it with stems and tendrils in green outline stitch. This was placed over the table top and tacked around the edge. A piece of

glass was then cut to fit and 1/2 by 3-inch pieces were screwed to the sides flush with the top of glass.

NOTE—Mrs. Spears has prepared a sheet—17 by 22 inches—giving complete dimensions and directions for making this table. Even the gal who is just learning to do small chores with hammer, saw and screw driver can follow these simple, clear directions. To get a copy ask for Design 254, address:

MRS. RUTH WYETH SPEARS Bedford Hills New York Drawer 10 Enclose 15 cents for Design No. 254. Name Address

This Aerial Freight Line Has Flying Oil Tanker

The world's largest carrier of aerial freight is the TACA line (Transportes Aereos Centro-Americanos), which serves the seven countries of Central America with 56 planes, 30 radio stations, 126 offices and 200 airports, says Collier's. Each day over its 7,000 miles of scheduled routes, are carried such articles as dynamite, chicle, mahogany, foods, heavy machinery, household goods and work and meat animals.

Incidentally, it is the only airline in existence that owns a flying oil tanker.

Smile Awhile

Not This Time A woman, visiting the movies, could find only two aisle seats, one behind the other. Wishing to sit with her sister, she cautiously surveyed the boy in the next seat. Finally she leaned over and whispered: "I beg your pardon, but are you alone?"

Without even turning his head, but twisting his mouth and shielding it with his hand, the youth muttered: "Cut it out, my aunt's with me."

Another View "Is Jack conceited?" "Is he conceited? Why, he joined the navy to let the world see him!"

Just Imagine "George, why do you close your eyes so tight when you kiss me?" "I'm trying to imagine you're Dorothy Lamour."

No Limit "A dollar doesn't go as far as it used to." "No, but see how much faster it goes."

Hair-Raising "I told Jim all my past history yesterday." "What did he say?" "Oh, nothing. He just took out a comb and smoothed his hair down."

Retentive Minds Many psychologists believe that everything we have heard, said or experienced in our lives is retained in the subconscious mind, but that most of these details rarely return except under exceptional circumstances.

Classic case cited is that of an illiterate servant girl who, while delirious, repeated numerous passages in Hebrew, Greek and Latin which she had overheard a former employer recite in his study.

Settles It "They say brunettes have better dispositions than blondes." "Bunk! Jean has been both, and I never noticed any difference."

Their Source "Your husband ought to be more generous with you, my dear. Now, every time I'm in the dumps, I just get myself a new hat." "Is that so, darling? I often wondered where you found them."

Going Along A well-known author met an old Negro called Uncle Joe, who was always cheerful in spite of having had more than his share of life's troubles.

"How have you managed to retain your calmness and cheerfulness in spite of them all?" asked the author. "Well, sah, Ah'll tell you," replied Uncle Joe, "Ahse jest learned to co-operate wid de inevitable."

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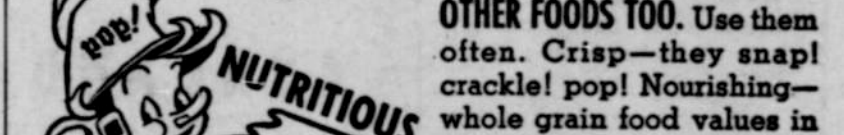
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BETTY'S PRETTY PROUD OF HER NEW RECIPE FOR BUNS. YOU CAN MAKE THEM EXTRA FAST...AND THEY HAVE EXTRA VITAMINS, BESIDES!

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