

NEWS BEHIND THE NEWS

By PAUL MALLON

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UNEMPLOYED BILL LACKS

WASHINGTON.—The left wing political-aggressors (the Pepper-Truman-Hillman-CIO crowd) tried to find Mr. Roosevelt for leadership and support when their Murray-Kilgore bill and its \$35-a-week federal unemployment pension for war workers was sinking to defeat in the senate.

He was nowhere to be located—on that subject at that time. He was traveling, or he was busy, or telephone connections were busy. They never got him. At least so they now say in private.

Their story leaves the burden of promoting that unpopular notion of a greater relief for high salaried war workers than soldiers will get, upon the drooped shoulders of Senator Truman, the vice presidential candidate. Vice presidential candidates and vice presidents exist chiefly to take blame (see career of Vice President Wallace).

It is difficult to believe a fresh vice presidential candidate would take such responsibility of fostering such legislation without orders from the top, but Truman is being quoted in the usual off-the-record way that always leaks out, to the effect that he alone was responsible.

Whatever Mr. Roosevelt now says or whatever is done, the Murray-Kilgore bill, accordingly, is doomed to fate worse than death also in the house.

The ways and means chairman, Mr. Doughton, will not take it, and yet he has been in no hurry about the George substitute bill which would make the existing social security set-up take care of postwar unemployment through state action (maximum payment about \$18 a week, average \$13 and \$14).

Less and less publicity is attending this major issue, probably because it will split the administration right down the middle, if it is pressed.

BYRNES MAY RETIRE

War Economic Administrator Jimmy Byrnes may not have told the Doughton committee in executive session that he was quitting his right-hand job to the President in anger, as has been reported by one newspaper. Other papers did not pick up that possibly apocryphal story because they could not fully confirm it.

His hearers seem agreed Byrnes at least said he would not be the postwar demobilizer although he now has that title by presidential award, and he sharply opposed the Murray-Kilgore bill.

Also, a South Carolina newspaper, friendly to Byrnes, earlier wrote for their native state papers that he would quit all his right-handing for the White House January 1, and retire to private law practice, an amazing suggestion for a man who relinquished a life term on the Supreme bench to be of war service to the President.

Byrnes received personal treatment at the Chicago convention which has not yet been publicly appreciated. He went to Chicago with more votes than anyone else had for the vice presidential nomination, including Wallace. Mayor Ed Kelly was privately for him. Boss Hague was willing, but Flynn was doubtful. In the midst of promotion work for him (and he would have been nominated, in my opinion), suddenly withdrew.

Observers blamed CIO's Hillman and his related Negro group, whose policy was that no Southerner could be chosen. It is hardly conceivable to me that Byrnes would have retired without instructions from the only man who is his boss.

Thus is the way of the new aggressors in politics, the CIO-Hillman leadership, meeting inner defeat within the party of its choice. Indeed, valid question now is arising whether Hillman can control the CIO, or whether his overzealous - overfinanced leadership may demoralize his own union.

At Salt Lake City, CIO locals 65 Bauer and 872 Toele broke from the Hillman leadership. Their members resigned from CIO-PAC, announcing:

"We feel that regardless of belonging to any committee, church, union or other organization, no one has the right to demand that we vote the straight Democratic ticket. This action frees us to work and vote throughout the state for the candidates we feel will best represent us."

A CIO worker in East Moline, Ill., has complained I have committed an injustice to CIO members by assuming Hillman was their leader, saying:

"I had no more part in having Hillman and his committee appointed or paying them than you have in appointing Supreme court judges, and don't like them any better."

Strong-arm John Lewis could not control his mine workers' vote four years ago. Wise old labor sage Sam Gompers once said:

"No one can control the labor vote."

The Washington MERRY-GO-ROUND

By DREW PEARSON

Washington, D. C.

PRESIDENT AND WILLKIE

Only insiders know it, but after the President held his press conference denying he had sent a letter to Wendell Willkie, Judge Sam Rosenman and Steve Early rushed up to his desk and remonstrated that he had made a bad mistake. They were afraid FDR had rebuffed the man who had gone down the line for him 100 per cent on taxes, foreign policy and the war.

"They caught me a little unprepared on that one," the President admitted ruefully. "However, I tried to tell them it was a personal question. I didn't want to embarrass Willkie by letting people think he and I had a political deal."

Later, the President repeated to some of his cabinet that he hadn't expected the question at his news conference. Explaining that he wanted to talk to Willkie about postwar peace plans and foreign policy, not politics, he indicated that he would go ahead with his plans for the talk regardless of what had happened.

The President was quite irked that news about his letter to the former Presidential candidate had leaked out. Only a few people knew the letter existed. The carbon copy was not filed with his regular correspondence, and the first draft of the letter had been written in his own handwriting for Grace Tully, his secretary, to copy.

Despite this, Willkie began to get queries about the letter two weeks after he received it. The news men making the inquiries cited White House sources, said they had the tip from Presidential secretaries. Willkie made no comment, never admitted receiving the letter, but he got the impression that the White House wanted the story out.

Therefore, you could have knocked him over with a feather when the President replied to news men last week that he didn't know anything about writing Willkie a letter.

Immediately after the White House denial appeared in the press, Willkie's phone began buzzing with Republican friends warning him that Roosevelt would always kick him in the teeth. They urged him to come out for Dewey.

ARMY DEMOBILIZATION PLAN

Here is the inside story on White House-war department plans for demobilizing part of the army after the defeat of Germany. The war department is planning to release about 2,000,000 men immediately after a German armistice.

Under this plan, the army will set up a point system for every man in the service, and men with sufficient points will be retired. Here is how the points will be calculated:

1. For each month in the service, every man will receive one point.
2. Each month overseas will count an additional point.
3. For each battle honor, a man will receive four points.
4. The congressional medal of honor or legion of merit will count four additional points.
5. Each bronze star denoting service in battle will count four additional points.
6. For every child, a soldier will receive eight points.
7. Married men without children will also receive eight extra points.

There are still several important gaps in this program which the army and the White House have not yet filled in. There still is no special credit for age. However, it is already decided that, because the army will have a greater need for air men in the Pacific, a separate system will be set up for discharging air corps veterans. Of course, the basic point which everybody wants to know is: "How many points will a man need to get out?" That has not yet been determined.

It has been determined, however, that at the end of the Atlantic war, the navy does not plan to release any of its men.

It can also be revealed that President Roosevelt is anxious to discharge hardship cases first.

When the President discussed this plan recently with several senators, they asked him how he planned to handle the problem of policing Germany and other occupied enemy territory after the armistice. He replied that he hoped to do so by using men who have learned to like the army, plus professional soldiers who were in the army before the selective service program got under way. He also plans to use men who have had no overseas experience and want to volunteer for it now.

CAPITAL CHAFF

Busman's holiday: Walter Winchell sitting in the Stork club until all hours of the night—on a vacation.

Seen at the Capitol: Senator Russell of Georgia carefully teaching a stray dog to go through the revolving doors of the senate office building. The pup had got penned up inside the senate.

Politicos are watching the campaign of Colorado newspaper publisher Arthur Wimmell against GOP Congressman Chenoweth.

Shaves and Shines Given to Invasion Yanks



Because few Chinese have any hair on their faces until they reach an advanced age, the shaving engaged in by American soldiers seems to be a most unusual operation. Here, Corp. Harvey H. Powell, a horse-shoer with a veterinary company in China, but a barber on the side, exercises his tonsorial art on Pvt. Stanley C. Phillips of Dayton, Ohio, to the amusement of Chinese soldiers. Pic. James P. Royle, Boston, Mass., wants to look neat during the invasion, so Italian youngster shaves up his shoes. Italian youngsters soon found that they could earn good money with a shoe shining kit in almost any camp.

American Troops Continue Advances Into France



This railroad bridge, east of Toulon, was demolished by the retreating Huns as Allied forces continued to push steadily inland on the southern coast of France. The Nazis left little in the way of railroad tracks or bridges or highway for the advancing Allied armies. Engineer units were soon able, however, to repair or rebuild bridges and roads so that operations were not materially slowed down. The Yanks march past an eight-foot steel and concrete wall that runs the length of a beach in southern France.

All They're Fit for Is Hanging



American soldiers examine pictures of high ranking Nazis discovered in a French hotel, formerly occupied by German officers. In nearly all former German officers' quarters captured by the Allies, large collections of photographs were found. In removing their personal effects they made no attempt to save photographs of Nazi leaders.

Japanese Prisoners of Chinese



The picture of defeat, these Japanese soldiers who surrendered to the Chinese rather than be killed, are being led down to the Salween river, southwest China, to be ferried back to headquarters for questioning. They are only a small part of the prisoners who have been taken during the present Burma road campaign, which attests to its success.

Hero of Children



French youngsters throng about Lieut. Gen. Omar Bradley, commander of U. S. forces in northern France, as he tours St. Brice. Any American soldier is a subject for hero worship with these children, a general is "something special."

Takes Small Army



Sergt. Alexander Baizer of Pittsburgh, Pa., a mighty-talking fighting man. He smooth-talked 400 Nazis to surrender their three strong points on the outskirts of Brest.

ASK ME ANOTHER?

A General Quiz

The Questions

1. What conquering armies have marched through the streets of Berlin within the last two centuries?
2. How many Presidents of the United States have been under 50 when inaugurated?
3. The Bible tells of a man who fastened firebrands onto the tails of foxes and sent them into the cornfields of his enemies. Who was he?
4. By what method do the members of Finland's parliament vote?
5. Who delivered the famous Cooper Union address?
6. What do the British call our baby flat-tops or escort carriers?

The Answers

1. The Russian troops of Catherine the Great in 1760, and the Old Guards of Napoleon in 1806.
2. Six.
3. Samson (Judges 15:4, 5).
4. They press a "yes" or "no" button on their desk. Thus they can pass a bill within 90 seconds.
5. Abraham Lincoln.
6. "Woolworth carriers."

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SNAPPY FACTS ABOUT RUBBER

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Jersey Shaw

B.F. Goodrich

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