The Washington MERRY-GO-ROUND

By DREW PEARSON & ROBERT ALLEN

NAVY TEAMWORK

WASHINGTON. — On March 20, 1917, a tall, husky young man from Perth Amboy, N. J., heard Theodore Roosevelt speak at a rally in Madison Square Garden, New York. When the youngster left the meeting he was so fired with patriotism that he stopped at the first recruiting station and enlisted in the navy.

He rose quickly. Because of his knowledge of seamanship, gained as a kid on the Jersey coast, he began his service as a bosun in command of a coast patrol boat. A little later he was commissioned an ensign and ordered to a transport which carried thousands of troops to France.

Today this youthful patriot sits at a desk in a second floor office of the great, sprawling, white stuccoed Navy building on upper Constitution avenue, the acting boss of the navy.

That Lewis Compton is acting boss of the navy is known to few even

LEWIS COMPTON
'All you need is a good assistant.'

in Washington. He is not a politician. He is a business man who believes in running public affairs in a businesslike manner. He didn't seek out the job. It sought him out and was offered to him strictly because of his qualification.

It happened this way: In the fall of 1936, when Roosevelt persuaded Charles Edison, son of the famed inventor, to take the post of assistant secretary, the first man to congratulate him, in his office in East Orange, was Lewis Compton.

"Thanks, Luke," said Edison, "but I have no business taking this job. I don't know the bow of a ship from the stern."

"You don't need to," said Compton. "In the navy there are plenty of men who do. All you need is a good assistant. Count me in."

"Do you mean it?" said Edison.

"Sure," was the reply.

"What are you doing Monday?" said Edison. "Come down to Washington with me and we'll fix things up."

Won Edison's Admiration.

The two men had become acquainted only the year before, when Compton was state director of relief in New Jersey. Edison, president of Thomas A. Edison Industries, Inc., was also starting a laboratory experiment in federal housing in New Jersey, and needed some white-collar relief workers.

Compton assigned relief workers to the housing project in a way that evoked Edison's admiration. Instead of handing him a lot of butchers and bakers, he allowed Edison free range to select skilled men, regardless of politics, with the result that the New Jersey FHA had the most efficient record in the country.

This was the beginning of a mutual admiration between the two men.

A clear-sighted perseverance lies behind Compton's work today in reorganizing the navy department. He and Edison, both with the background of business men, insist that the shore establishments of the navy, which employ 100,000 civilian workmen — riveters, steam-fitters, electricians, designers — cannot be well directed by an officer trained only in commanding a ship.

In other words, you can't build submarines by throwing a steamfitter into the brig if he doesn't salute and say "Aye, aye, sir!" The navy's shore establishments constitute one of the largest industrial enterprises in the country, and Compton and Edison hold that they should be directed by men trained in industrial management.

These and other administrative reforms of Edison and Compton are regarded as heresy by the brasshats, but they have the support of President Roosevelt and they are being put through.

MERRY-GO-ROUND

Experts say that airplane types change so rapidly that a new plane is out of date in almost six months. Therefore , British and French purchases are enabling the United States to develop both types and factories, giving the army and navy the cream of the crop.

When the Germans got an offer of Red Cross aid from Norman Davis, they said, "No, thanks."

Dave Dubinsky will take his powerful International Ladies Garment Workers union into the A. F. of L. in May.

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

Nazi Invasion of Scandinavia Draws Berlin Closer to Reds; Europe Awaits Rome Reaction

(EDITOR'S NOTE—When opinions are expressed in these columns, they are those of the news analyst and not necessarily of this newspaper.)

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The above photo was taken when Sumner Welles (right), U. S. undersecretary of state, visited Paris. With him are Premier Paul Reynaud (left), then finance minister, and another French official. When the photo appeared in the French magazine, L'Illustration, Nazi secret agents immediately charged that the map in the background showed a plan for partition of Germany. Issuing a denial, the French foreign office said the photographer had merely done a poor job of "touching up." At Washington, Sumner Welles said he hadn't even noticed the map at the time.

INVASION:

Europe's long dormant warfare suddenly sprang into action. First sign was a North sea battle in which a German troop transport was lost. If the world wondered how troops happened to be moving in the North sea, the answer was not long in coming. Fatalistically, Danes watched their little nation occupied by Germans. A few hours later Nazi troops, planes and warships descended on Norway, which immediately declared war and asked for British-French aid. Neutral for the moment were Sweden and Finland, caught between the Russ-Nazi pincers. Immediate object of the German attack: To defeat Britain's North sea blockade and safeguard Swedish steel shipments bound for Germany.

Immediately the European air was filled with question marks. Would this sudden turn of events draw Russia and Berlin closer together in a common drive against Scandinavia? Most important, what reaction would this abortive Nazi attack bring from Italy, sole major European power still at peace?

THAT TALKIE WAR:

Everybody was making speeches in England, France, Germany, Canada, and elsewhere. Mainly, they were fight talks, intended to convince neutrals, enemies, and home publics that this was not a phoney war. Premier Reynaud of France was especially insistent that the war was gen-u-ine, and broadcast as much by radio to the United States. He assured Americans that the allies would win, and would inaugurate a "real" peace.

In Germany, Airmaster Goering, Fibmaster Goebbels, and Labor-boss Ley also talked their heads off. The usually well-balanced Goering said, in a speech to some of his student flyers, that Germany was going to strike a deadly blow in the western theater of war, whenever Herr Hitler decided to finish off the allies. It all sounded very impressive. Pudgy Dr. Ley, ever bellicose, got off some of his generally pungent observations, which tend to take an anti-capitalist angle.

Prime Minister Chamberlain said he was "10 times" as confident as he was last September, and he and his generals gave the impression that, somehow, they had out-bluffed the Nazis on the western front. According to these gentry, Hitler had lost his golden opportunity for an overwhelming Blitzkrieg attack, and that from now on the Fuehrer was going to get it, economically, in the neck. Intensification of the blockade, the English chieftains stressed. Chamberlain re-shuffled his cabinet, but seemed to satisfy nobody very much. Winston Churchill, first lord of the admiralty, who now wears a yachting cap, was made director of all three unified armed services. Churchill and Chamberlain never have been friendly, and Churchill's elevation was received with mixed emotions.

Following young Minister Cromwell's "boner" in Canada, came another "unfortunate" speech by Gordon Conant, attorney general of Tory-minded Ontario. Conant spouted that the allies might lose if the United States did not enter the war, and that Canada had better exert every effort to snare Uncle Sam in the toils of Mars. Secretary Hull was annoyed, as were congressmen,

Gordon D. Conant, attorney general of Ontario, who urged Canadians to help enlist active support of the U. S. in the allies' cause.

and also many Canadians, who believe ardently in handling the Santa Claus next door with consummate tact. Said one Canadian parliamentarian: "That's not the way!"

Chamberlain's talk of increased economic warfare threatened Jugoslavia in the Adriatic, and Norway's coastal waters, bauxite and iron destined for Germany being the primary English objectives. Norway said she would defend, with arms if need be, the freedom of her shipping. Italy was infuriated by the Adriatic situation (Mussolini considers the Adriatic as his lake); and Japan, in the Far East, growled against John Bull. And speeches were made, too, in Norway, Jugoslavia, Italy, and Japan.

COUNTING SHEEP:

Roosevelt told census-takers that his income was more than $5,000, while Senator Tobey continued to attack the personal-financial census data. He charged that some of the census "snoopers" were communists, others the creditors of their victims, and still more the enemies of the well-to-do. Secretary Hopkins, badgered on all fronts, had sent forth 120,000 of these so-called creatures, to "prey" on the estimated 135,000,000 Americans. Hopkins told his census-takers to act polite. How polite they would act with Senator Tobey, remained to be seen.

WEAPONS:

¶ The U. S. battle fleet eased out of its San Diego Pacific base, for seven weeks of maneuver on Fleet Problem 21—activity designed to teach the boys in blue how to protect our West coast and Pacific outposts. A Japanese admiral protested, but nobody paid much attention to his ire. The navy, also, had under construction a flying boat boasting 84 tons and 9,000 horsepower, which will be good for a round-trip to Japan, where the hostile admirals grow.

NAMES *in the news*

Mahatma Gandhi, in India, told some of his more troublesome followers that, if they started up a civil disobedience campaign before he gave the word, they could get along without him as leader. This was exactly what some of the younger, more radical Indian leaders—like Subhas Chandra Bose—wanted to do. Bose was very vocal, in favor of complete independence for India, and that right now!

Wang Ching-wei, Japanese puppet chief in China, was burned in effigy in New York's Chinatown. Some 3,500 local Chinese participated. Wang Ching-wei and his rival, the patriot Chiang Kai-shek, were the two bright young men of the Chinese George Washington, Dr. Sun Yat-sen.

Finland and Russia resumed diplomatic relations, and Ivan Zotov was named as new Russian minister to Helsinki. He was moved there from the same job in nearby Latvia. Zotov is considered hostile to the allies.

BATTLING TITANS:

Secretary Ickes accused Vice President Garner's campaign managers of talking like Republicans, because the managers said that the Wisconsin Democratic primary result showed third-terming to be a poor bet. In the Wisconsin race, Garner made a stronger showing against Roosevelt than was expected, just as Dewey's striking victory, over Senator Vandenberg, surprised many. But old-line Democrats got back at the pugnacious Ickes by asking just when Honest Harold became a Democrat, anyway. This reminded Ickes that he used to be a progressive Republican.

Postmaster Farley took a trip to Texas, where he fraternized with Garner enthusiasts, and everybody seemed happy enough. Farley said Garner was one of the great all-time Americans, and Garner did not say very much in return. Farley indicated that he still wanted to be President, but there was talk of a combination Garner-Farley ticket of anti-New Dealish tendencies. Wendell Willkie, the Republican utilities magnate, sometimes mentioned as presidential timber, declared that he didn't have a look-in, but that he would take a nomination if it blew his way. Willkie also indicated that the present administration was out to "get" him, and kept a dossier about him into the bargain.

Down in West Virginia, John Lewis made the potent threat of a third party: that ever recurring phenomenon of quadrennial American history. Lewis sketched out a not-so-streamline vehicle consisting of Negroes, "professional" youth, "professional" old age, farmers, and laborites, unless the Democratic party snaps to attention and produces an "acceptable" platform. Landon of Kansas said that it was a Republican year, and Senator Wheeler of Montana said he was willing to run for President, but not for vice president. Wheeler ran for vice president, on the LaFollette ticket, back in 1924.

As to Third Termism, the President's wife and mother made statements that told—little or nothing. Mrs. Roosevelt, senior, said she would like to have Franklin home again. Mrs. Roosevelt, junior, cheered for Tradition. Definitely, electoral-year chaos was on the increase.

SQUIBS OVERSEAS:

Holland is shipping valuable art objects and pictures to peaceful Portugal. Twenty paintings arrived, from a Dutch plutocrat in Amsterdam, to brighten up Lisbon.

George VI, King of England and Kaisar of India, announced that his old military uncle got the Canadian job. John Buchan, novelist, had died, and that left the Ottawan governor-generalship wide open. Uncle, a bald Buchmanite, took the vacancy by storm. He is well-liked, on the whole. His full name runs: Alexander Augustus Frederick William Alfred George Cambridge, first lord of Athlone.

Some 36 French parliamentary deputies, with communist views, got five-year jail terms, fines, loss of civil rights, and there was serious talk about the death penalty for red propaganda in Paris. Night-invasion of private houses, hitherto banned, now was permitted to the police.

Fritz Thyssen, big German Rhenish industrialist, who financed Hitler to power, once underground Nazi No. 1, arrived in Paris from Switzerland, en route to Portugal and the United States. Communists always used to claim that Hitler was Thyssen's stooge, but Thyssen thinks different, as does Hitler. Thyssen opposed the war last fall: hence the break. Thyssen's vast properties, allegedly, were confiscated. In Paris, too, were Fritz Mandel, Austria's former No. 1 industrialist and ex-husband of Hedy Lamarr, and Prince Starhemberg, Austria's ex-No. 1 landlord. Starhemberg once had been a Nazi.

MISCELLANY:

Mayor LaGuardia of the Big Town persuaded John Lewis, C. I. O. bigshot, to avert the threatened N. Y. C. subway strike, which would have tied up everything in the metropolitan belt. The Mayor assured Mr. Lewis that the city's transit unification plan would take over private-company bargaining contracts, subject only to judicial decision. Lewis came to town, and it was a close call, with police reserves mobilized, and the buck teeth of plain citizens on edge.

Lepke Buchalter, convicted by "D-A" Dewey in his New Yorker cleanup operations, got a life term in General Sessions. Judge Freschi did the good deed. Abraham Kid Twist Reles cleared up 20 Brooklyn murders: one victim, it was disclosed, was buried alive in the dread Canarsie marshes. Reles was trying hard to save himself from "boiling" — that is, from the electric chair.

Seventeen rough young New Yorkers, of the anti-semitic Christian Front, under indictment for planning to overthrow the United States government and for alleged smuggling of weapons out of armories, were to be tried by jury under a middle-aged Hausfrau, officiating as fore-woman.

Glenn Guertin, age five, is learning to be a hobo. His first solo jaunt (in a snowstorm) was 12 miles. His second away-from-home was a 15-mile affair. But his third vagrancy was tops: 150 miles as stowaway on a bus.

THAT THIRD TERM

Our Founding Fathers Found The Baby on Their Doorsteps

Kept Uncle Samuel in Stew 153 Years—Hamilton Wanted Presidents 'During Good Behavior'—One-Term Bills Pop Up Frequently.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Between now and the summer day when the Democratic party nominates its candidate for President, the third term issue will be one of the most discussed questions of the 1940 campaign. That discussion may continue until November 4, increasing in intensity as election day draws near. To help our readers judge for themselves the merits of the arguments for or against a Presidential third term, this newspaper presents herewith the first in a series of three articles which give some of the historical background of that issue. It is neither FOR nor AGAINST a third term; it simply scans the past and gives an impartial report of its findings.

I. THE FOUNDING FATHERS AND CONGRESS

SHALL the President of these United States be elected for a certain term of years and thereafter be ineligible?

What shall that term be? Six years? Seven years? Twenty years?

Or shall he be permitted to serve "during good behavior"?

Those were some of the questions which the Founding Fathers, meeting in Philadelphia 153 years ago, tried to answer as they struggled with their gigantic task of devising a frame of government for the new republic.

Considered Seven-Year Term.

On May 29 Gov. Edmund Randolph of Virginia and Charles Pinckney of South Carolina both presented resolutions providing for an executive "to be chosen by the national legislature for a term of . . . years and to be ineligible a second time." Three days later a vote was taken on a seven-year term for this executive. Five states voted for it and four against it.

The next day a motion to make the executive ineligible after seven years also was carried, by a vote of 7 to 2. Apparently that matter was settled. But two weeks later it was brought up again and Alexander Hamilton proposed that the supreme executive authority be vested in a "Governour" to be elected to serve during good behavior.

The delegates turned thumbs down on this idea and on June 19 voted for a seven-year term for the President who should be ineligible for re-election. A month later, however, they changed their minds and struck out the ineligibility clause. Then followed a long debate.

'During Good Behavior.'

Once more the "during good behavior" clause bobbed up but again it failed to pass. There was a suggestion that the Chief Executive be elected for 20 years and another that he be chosen by the legislature with the provision that no person be eligible for more than six years in any 12 years. Both of these plans were rejected and eventually they went back to the seven-year term with its ineligibility-a-second-time proviso.

This was in July and for the next two months the presidential term was repeatedly debated. On September 4 it was brought up again with the suggestion that the President's term be made four years. A motion to change this back to seven years and another to six years were defeated and on September 15 it was finally agreed that the President should be chosen by an electoral college for four years, no limit to his re-eligibility being fixed.

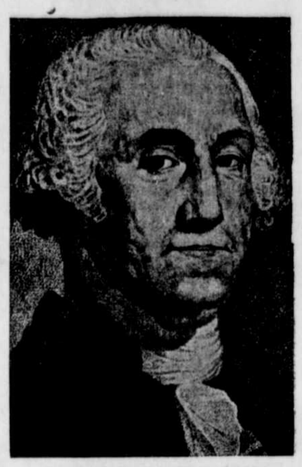
Problem Bobbed up Again.

Although the adoption of the Constitution on September 17, 1787, apparently settled this question of presidential tenure satisfactorily, it was a question that was destined to come up again and again in future years—especially in the legislative branch of our government. After the contested election of 1800, a resolution was presented in the senate "that no person who has been twice successively elected President shall be eligible as President until four years elapse, when he may be eligible to office for four years and no longer." But the senate rejected this by a vote of 25 to 4.

Twenty years later, however, the senate passed a joint resolution by a vote of 36 to 3, providing that no man should be chosen President for more than two terms. But the house failed to act on this resolution so nothing more was done about presidential tenure until the contested election of 1824 brought it up again. Then no less than 10 amendments to the Constitution, intended to limit the President to one term were debated in congress.

Many Resolutions Offered.

During Jackson's administration 21 joint resolutions, dealing with a limitation of the presidential term, were introduced in congress but none was acted upon. Some of these recommended a single term of four or six years, others prohibited a third term and still others were against more than two consecutive terms. In Van Buren's administration 10 one-term joint resolutions



GEORGE WASHINGTON

were introduced but failed to pass.

For the next 30 years the third-term issue was dormant, mainly because there was a succession of one-term Presidents. But during the administration of Andrew Johnson there were 12 joint resolutions recommending single presidential terms without any action being taken upon them. But in 1875, when it seemed likely that Grant would be a candidate for a third term, William M. Springer of Illinois introduced a resolution in the house.

That in the opinion of this House, the precedent established by Washington and other Presidents of the United States, in retiring from the presidential office after their second term has become, by universal concurrence, a part of our republican system of government, and that any departure from this time-honored custom would be unwise, unpatriotic and fraught with peril to our free institutions.

This resolution was adopted by a vote of 234 to 18, with 38 not voting.

Two years later, after President Hayes in his inaugural address had recommended a constitutional amendment limiting the President to a single term of six years, Springer offered another resolution embodying Hayes' recommendation and other reforms. But no action was taken on the resolution.

The third-term issue remained in the background until 1892, when Grover Cleveland, who had been first elected in 1884 and defeated in 1888, was again elected. Then no less than 13 amendments were introduced in congress to limit the presidential term in various ways.

Brought up in 1912.

Again there was a lull of 20 years until 1912 when the house committee on the judiciary submitted a favorable report on a resolution proposing a constitutional amendment limiting the President to a single six-year term but no further action was taken. During this year some 21 such amendments were introduced in the house and in 1913 the senate passed a joint resolution, by a vote of 47 to 23, proposing a similar amendment but the house refused to act upon it.

In 1927 when talk was started about the possibility of Calvin Coolidge seeking re-election, the anti-third term resolutions began to come thick and fast. The first one, offered by Rep. Beck of Wisconsin, a Republican, was practically the same as the Springer resolution of 1875, suggesting a constitutional amendment against a third term. Then Senator LaFollette introduced a similar resolution in the senate.

Resolutions Not Acted Upon.

In the meantime, Representative Fairchild of New York, a Republican, had offered a constitutional amendment that "No person shall be eligible to the office of President who has previously served two terms, whether by election or by succession due to the removal, death, resignation or inability of the President where the term by succession shall have continued for a period of two years or more."

No action was taken on any of these proposals by the Sixty-ninth congress but they came up again in the Seventieth culminating in LaFollette's resolution being reintroduced on January 27, 1928, amended and passed by the senate on February 10 by a vote of 56 to 26. It said:

"Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that the precedent established by Washington and other Presidents of the United States in retiring from the presidential office after their second term has become by universal concurrence, a part of our republican system of government, and that any departure from this time-honored custom would be unwise, unpatriotic and fraught with peril to our free institutions."

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