The Washington MERRY-GO-ROUND

By DREW PEARSON & ROBERT S. ALLEN

Washington, D. C.

BULLITT MAY STUMP FOR BRITAIN AID

Ambassador Bill Bullitt, most versatile and volatile of all Roosevelt's diplomats, probably will go on the stump throughout the country campaigning for "national unity" and urging American support for Great Britain.

His tour will be divorced from the New Deal, and he will not return to his embassy in France.

Many of the men around Roosevelt now are far ahead of him in proposing aid to Britain, and some of them may co-operate with Bullitt in this movement. Some are definitely critical of the President, though close friend Bullitt is not. They feel that Roosevelt has been holding back, and that the country is ready to go much further than he.

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DEFENSE BLOW-UP

If certain legislative and administrative snarls in the defense program aren't cleared up quickly, there is going to be a blowup in the defense commission that will knock a dent in the Roosevelt administration. Some fast footwork and placating White House palaver has kept the explosive situation under cover so far, but it is very serious.

Inside fact is that William Knudsen, who gave up a $300,000-a-year General Motors job to become defense production chief, is getting restive over the delays he is encountering. He has made no threats, but he has also made it clear that unless he gets action he does not intend to continue in a position where he could be blamed for lack of production.

A "plain operations man," as he describes himself, Knudsen worked out a schedule of production for tanks, guns, planes, armor plate, and the other vital essentials for defense. But these plans, partly because of tax delays, partly because of business sit-downs, have encountered repeated obstructions.

For example: Knudsen was first told that the amortization problem, which has held up the construction of several new defense plants, would be handled in congress in a separate bill. But at the last minute, treasury tax experts objected to this and insisted that the matter be included in the excess (war profits) tax bill.

Next Knudsen was assured by congressional leaders that the tax bill would be passed by August 17. But first the Republicans recessed to attend the Willkie acceptance ceremonies at Elwood. Then it managed to get other delays.

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RFC LOAN DELAYS

While this dilly-dallying was going on at Capitol Hill, Knudsen was having other difficulties with Federal Loan Administrator Jesse Jones.

The RFC was given wide powers by congress several months ago to make loans to industry for defense purposes. But when Knudsen submitted a list of plant expansions that needed financing, Jones balked.

He objected on the ground that one-third of the output of the plants would go to fill British war orders. Knudsen pointed out that this was not impairing U. S. preparedness, but on the contrary was providing the country with vital productive capacity at the expense of the British.

Still Jones, despite the President's policy of extending every assistance to the British, didn't like the idea of lending U. S. government money to aid factory expansion for the British.

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BLITZKRIEG

It remains the firm conviction of Secretary of War Stimson and General Marshall, his chief of staff, that if Hitler is to invade this country it will come this fall before we are prepared. They are inclined to think that as soon as Hitler is finished with the British, he will move here. Stimson and Marshall have indicated this view to congress, but they are even more positive in their private conversations.

Despite the large air force guarding the canal, military authorities admit that it would be impossible for them to prevent an enemy air armada from getting over the locks. One well-placed bomb can put the locks out of commission for about three months.

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MERRY-GO-ROUND

Pointing to the Willkie headquarters in Washington on the first floor of the Woodward building, directly under the TVA offices on the third floor, New Dealers wisecrack that "Willkie is still under TVA influence."

Significant of the extent of the split between John L. Lewis and his co-C. I. O. founder Sidney Hillman, labor defense commissioner, is the disappearance of Hillman's name from the letterhead of Labor's Non-partisan league.

Wendell Willkie and Edith Wilk (now Mrs. Willkie) attended Indiana university together—without meeting. They met in later years at the wedding of a friend.

The corn stalk discovered flourishing in a commerce department grass plot was no accident. It was planted by Lee Wood,.

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS — By Roger Shaw

Nazi Long Range Guns and Bombers Blast Southeast Coast of Great Britain; Mussolini Seeks Greek Naval Bases; Japan Pushes English Out of Shanghai

(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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Pictured above is the United States representation on the joint Canadian-American Defense Board now meeting in Ottawa and working out preliminary steps in planning hemisphere defense measures. This photo was taken as the board met with President Roosevelt before proceeding to Canada. Members of the group (reading left to right) are: (Back row) Capt. Harry W. Hill, Lieut. Col. Joseph T. McNarney; Capt. Forrest P. Sherman, Lieut. Gen. Stanley D. Embick, John D. Hickerson. (Front): Mayor Fiorello H. La Guardia of New York City, chairman of the board, and President Roosevelt, seated.

THE WAR: *Long Range*

Long-range German guns, posted in France along the channel shore, banged away at England, not so many miles away. These were the famous Big Berthas of song and story, but they failed at first to prove much. They shot at ship convoys, but their bore wore out quickly, and they were clumsy and expensive. In the last war, the famous German "Paris gun" was a waste of time, and these promised to be the same. Their objective, of course, was to cut across the channel, and close it tight as a drum. This maneuver failed to worry the increasingly cheerful British.

In their first air attack on Berlin, British bombers swooped out of a night sky directly over the heart of the city, were driven off by anti-air craft fire and dropped their explosives on the city's outskirts.

The German aerial losses had been terrific, well over 1,000 planes, and maybe many more of them. The land invasion threat appeared to be "out"—for dictators cannot risk the chance of a bloody setback or repulse, especially one of so spectacular a nature. It seemed that the so quick-acting Germans were just a bit puzzled about what to do next. They continued to tighten their blockade of the British Isles by land and sea and air.

The British banged back, by bombing the Heinkel, Messerschmitt, Junkers and Dornier airplane works, and the Zeppelin works on Lake Constance, where the famous Mercedes-Benz air motors are manufactured. Other big industrial plants, in the Germanies, "got" it too, and German nerves (like those of the Americans) are nowhere near as good as stolid Britannic neurology. It began to look like a much longer war, which did not help Willkie's chances for the presidency any.

Italics

The Italians continued to bully the Greeks, in quest of Greek naval bases to use against England in the Eastern Mediterranean. Greece was tied to Turkey, Russia, and England in one way or another, and all three of them expressed interest and sympathy. Would the war spread still further, the critics wondered? Would Greece turn into an Italic Finland? Meanwhile, the Italians took British Somaliland on the Red sea, in an effort to cut the ocean route between England and her treasure-house of India. The British garrison got away, by flight and skill, as it had done already at Narvik, Dunkirk, and elsewhere. They said it was another "moral victory" for the Bullmen. All England had had in Somaliland was some South Africans, the local camel corps (partly mechanized, partly camelled, partly horsed), and a section of the ubiquitous royal air force. The R. A. F., as usual, gave a good account of itself. Not so, the camellaries. The Italians-in-Africa didn't look so good either, although they were in there fighting and making the usual big noise (so the critics declared, en masse).

Chamberlain

Old Chamberlain was on the way out, in politics, and so were Duff Cooper, the stylish propaganda expert, Sir Kingsley Wood, the budget maker, and Cockney Herbert Morrison, the economic bigshot. (Lloyd George, who won the last war, was on his way in, they said.) Lord Halifax, a Chamberlain partner, the one-armed foreign minister, was fading away, and the Laborite Hugh Dalton was scheduled for his ticklish job.

CAMPAIGN: *Squabbles?*

Willkie found that his ardent supporters consisted of two groups: the independent Willkie clubs, and the dissident Willkie Democrats. His less ardent supporters were a good deal more basic. They consisted of the Republican party regulars, in and out of congress. The regulars were grumbling like Napoleon's Old Guard before Moscow.

Willkie himself is an ex-Democrat and very independent of the regulars in his ways and habits. He is disinclined to lean on the Old Guard, although the Old Guard begs to be leaned against. Old Guardisti complained that the candidate was too casual about consulting—and obeying—them. Then again, many of the O. G. are isolation-minded, while the independents and Democratic refugees are inclined, like Willkie himself, to be interventionists. Despite all the Hoosier getup, Willkie definitely, they said, has an eastern outlook (and maybe he has).

Some of the regulars, too, thought that "their man" Willkie was too New Dealish. He did not denounce many of the Roosevelt reforms, but adopted them in principle. He merely promised to "improve" the administration of what the regulars thought was a racket. In fact, the New Dealers said that Willkie was, substantially, "their man," too. This made the regulars—the O. G.—huffier than ever.

F. D. Bonaparte

F. D. Roosevelt-Bonaparte found himself in the same position as Napoleon, in the decisive year 1815. Bonaparte proper had then served two terms, and he wanted a third one. His first term had lasted for 14 years. Then came Elba. His second term lasted 100 days. Then came Waterloo. But the point was this:

Bonaparte (like Roosevelt) depended on the proletariat, as against the economic royalists and Bourbons. The French proletariat hated the Napoleonic conscription like poison, and many American proletarians dislike the prospect of conscription, too. But regardless of their anti-conscript attitude, the French plebs rallied round Napoleon, because they feared the Bourbons would repeal all the Napoleonic social reforms. The American plebs, against conscription though they may be, have the same attitude. They fear that if the "Bourbons" recapture the White House, even though they would scrap conscription, they might also scrap the Roosevelt reformation. Hence, the man in the street is for Roosevelt-Bonaparte.

DEAD: *R. I. P.*

They died like flies, the bigshots did. Sir Oliver Lodge of England was one of them. He was the great scientist, mental telepathist, and spiritualist. He was 89, and much beloved by everybody in all countries. Then there was LeonTrotsky, or Comrade Braunstein. He was the organizer of the Red army, the brilliant author, the mortal foe of Stalin, Hitler, Churchill and others.

He was pickaxed by a "good friend," down Mexico way. Everybody blamed it on Stalin and his dread secret Gestapo, but this was really rather unlikely. Trotsky was no longer of enough importance to pester, and Stalin is no fool, or time-waster.

There was also the notable Max Steuer that died. He was New York city's best-known lawyer—though not its best-loved legalist. Senator Wagner of New York indicated that he was such a philanthropist and humanitarian, but many people shook their heads.

Doleful Duo

These seven-year-old twin refugees from Brussels, Belgium, Johannes and Franciscus De Baat Doleman, sit and survey the future after landing at Jersey City, N. J., from the child refugee ship the S. S. Exeter. Their trip from Europe was only the first leg of their journey as they expect to continue on to Java in the Dutch East Indies. Many refugee children from Europe are finding homes in the United States.

WHAT THEN? *If and How*

People began to wonder whether Russia might eventually enter the war on the British imperial side. Critics thought it may be likely, if the war dragged on long enough—and it might. Stalin fears Hitler and Mussolini in the Balkans, and wants to keep his rich Ukrainian province, the No. 2 Russian federal state. But if the Soviets helped England, whither America? It became a moot question.

For strong American business groups hated the communism of Russia, while even stronger religious groups hated the Soviet atheism. Would these people co-operate with an England that boasted a red, red ally. That was the point. Or, if Russia became an English ally, would we start to pamper the American Communists, who would also be the allies of Mr. Churchill?

Spain, Too

Then again—it appeared extremely probable that General Franco's Spain might go in on the German side. What then? Franco is the idol of the ruling class in Spanish America because he saved the Spanish church and crushed the Spanish reds. If our state department started to razz Franco, the ally of Hitler, the South Americans would be infuriated. Then, what would happen to Secretary Hull's "good neighbor" policy? Franco is also a special favorite of the Vatican. If Franco joined the Germans, what effect would that have on the American faithful? Would they not become increasingly isolationist? They would still dislike Hitler, of course, but they could hardly help but admire the great Spanish crusader of 1936-39—the conqueror of Moscow-in-Barcelona. The whole subject was worth detailed American pondering: From Washington to Wala Wala and Yonkers.

POLAND: *Tyranny*

There was more German tyranny in conquered Poland. The iron military heel was crushing down old Polish customs and ways of life. There came a new decree, of an unheard of nature. It rocked the steppes, the towns, the metropoli. It was this:

Every taxicab driver in Warsaw and Cracow, Poland's No. 1 and No. 2 cities, must shave at least every other day. The edict declared that it was just as important for cabdrivers to curry themselves as for these cabbies to curry and groom the good old dobbins. Here was an example of the usual combination: German oppression and German cleanliness.

BIG: *Bomber*

The biggest airplane ever built is nearly finished. It will be the property of the army air corps. The Douglas air factory, near Santa Monica, Calif., has been at work on it for four years. The whole project is astonishing.

This giant plane can fly from New York to Europe, back to New York again, and then out to California—all non-stop. It will have four 2,000 horsepower engines, a wing spread of 212 feet, and 112 feet long.

SHOES: *In la France*

La France nationalized all the shoes in the republique. It was done this way: oui, oui. The republique standardized and streamlined its totalitarian footwear. It was to be a standard shoe, manufactured in eight sizes, and it will be the only one permitted on the market. This will cut industrial production costs, lower retail prices, and speed up production. It will cut out all the foot-fripperies a la Parisienne, of yester-year.

GENERAL HUGH S. JOHNSON Says:

United Features — WNU Service

Washington, D. C.

AIR BASES FOR U. S.

Getting air and naval bases, from Iceland to the South American "bulge" should have the unified support of this country. It is a move in the direction we must go—which is to make our defense independent of the strength of any nation but our own. The only criticism of it is the inexcusable delay and lack of foresight in not having done it long ago.

But what we are giving for them is something else again. It has not been revealed. Neither have the details of our defensive deal with Canada. Canada is a nation at war. She has gone across the sea to attack a European power. It puts us in a position of saying to Europe: "American nations can attack you but if you counterattack them we will fight you."

Perhaps in view of our geographic and strategic problem, that can't be helped. But do our Canadian and British secret understandings go further? There was some implication in Mr. Churchill's recent peroration that they do—British and American "co-operation" in war rolling along the Old Man River, which is a symbol for fateful inevitability—the "flotillas of 1941," which sounded like a promise of American naval intervention.

Mr. Roosevelt is reported to have scouted the idea that there is anything in the deal for bases about our detaching a part of our insufficient navy—50 destroyers—to fight on the side of Britain. But things that Mr. Roosevelt scouts, like his third term ambition, have a curious and tortuous way of promptly coming true.

No matter how it may be disguised or how warlike lawyers now split hairs, the detachment of those destroyers is so clearly direct participation in this war that two years ago, examining the question coldly, there is not an international lawyer on earth who would not have regarded a contrary view as preposterous.

From his Chicago "quarantine" speech to the present moment, there has not been an act of the President inconsistent with an inference of his willingness, if not his intention, to mix this country up in the wars of both Europe and Asia. On the contrary, with increasing tempo and intensity, every act has been completely consistent with precisely that aim.

Mr. Ickes, Mr. Wallace and others have emphasized Mr. Willkie's "endorsement" of "our foreign policy." Mr. Ickes has suggested that this is like the God-awful 1936 campaign where there were no issues except "The New Deal is good but I can deal it better." The New Deal boys, hell-bent-for-a-war-crisis-before-November, had better look that thought over carefully.

Some of Mr. Willkie's Republican and Democratic supporters in New York are also minded to involve us in foreign war. But most of this country isn't. Especially that great stretch of America from the Alleghenies west isn't and, as I read his utterances, Mr. Willkie isn't.

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WHAT DO WE DEFEND?

Step by step in the rapidly expanding policy of intervention everywhere, our general staff has been confronted with new and lightning-like changes in policy. There is this difference between the harnessing of Nazi foreign policy with Nazi military preparation — that Hitler planned nothing on foreign policy that his general staff hadn't been told to prepare in military strength and wasn't given time to prepare. In our case, the whole surprising brainstorm shift in a constantly increasing foreign policy of threat and aggression has proceeded with no regard whatever to our military preparation to make it good and with no sufficient allowance of time and money to do so.

General Marshall's talk about an army of 3,000,000 to 4,000,000 men was wholly based on a new diplomatic theory that we are to police every American country from the North Pole to Cape Horn. That theory is utterly fantastic and impossible. We can't afford it, couldn't do it and have no business indulging in any such popular deceits and ludicrous international posturing.

It is about time that this government settled down and decided exactly what its foreign policy is going to be and, more precisely, as controlling that, exactly what policy it can enforce, without absurdity and possible disaster, within the realistic and reasonable limits of its present and immediately potential strength of arms and men on land, sea and in the air.

In that connection, the immediate controlling nubbin is naval and political policy in the Pacific. As between our necessary defensive policy of remaining dominant on both American coasts as far as Natal in Brazil and in addition to that of maintaining a threatening attitude in Asia, Indo-China and the East Indies, there is a difference of unestimated billions of dollars of expense and of comparative safety as contrasted with sprawling all over the map and constantly risking not only our prestige but our peace and even our existence.

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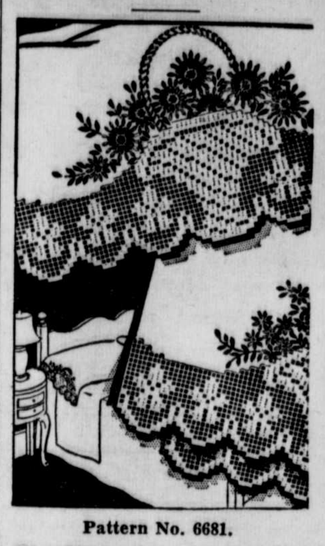

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"Ladies and gentlemen," he began.

That was as far as he got. An overripe tomato sped from the second floor of a tenement house and landed squarely in his face.

The startled speaker looked up and discovered a sullen-faced woman glaring down at him.

"Madam,' complained the politician, "what's the idea of assaulting me with a tomato?"

"That will teach you, mister," she scowled, "to take your hat off when addressing a lady!"

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