The Washington MERRY-GO-ROUND

DREW PEARSON & ROBERT ALLEN

Washington, D. C.

ENVOY LEAHY NO 'APPEASER'

French appeasers who favor co-operation with Germany, particularly Vice Premier Laval, are going to have a rude awakening on the arrival of Admiral William Leahy, new U. S. ambassador to Vichy.

Officially inspired French newspapers received Admiral Leahy's appointment as an indication that the United States had decided to play ball with Germany and was veering away from Britain.

But they were so wrong. Inside fact is that Admiral Leahy is one of Roosevelt's most vigorous advisers in favor of helping Britain, and has even urged that a large part of the American navy be sent to Singapore in order to keep an eye on Japan, and serve as a silent warning against Japanese penetration down to the Dutch East Indies.

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BRITISH SUDDENLY FRANK

What is happening in England today is a barrage of truth. Suddenly, British censors have passed a succession of news stories which admit what U. S. military observers long ago knew, that the damage in England was terrific, that airplane production had slowed down, and that British shipping was in a more desperate predicament than during some of the dark days of the first World war.

These facts also have been admitted by responsible cabinet officers on the floor of parliament. The sudden frankness means only one thing—the British are telling us that unless they get even greater help from the United States, they may face defeat.

Actually the situation has not changed materially, except for the willingness of the British to talk about it. The odds definitely have been against the British from the very minute France surrendered. But thanks to the Greeks and the failures of the Italian fleet, British odds have improved considerably, though they are not yet 50-50.

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NEW MEXICAN PRESIDENT

In the dispatches about the inauguration (performed December 1) of Mexico's new president, Manuel Avila Camacho, nothing is said of his mother, who stands upright in her grave in the state of Puebla.

Senora Camacho de Avila, mother of four sons, was one of the most colorful and dynamic women in the history of Mexico. She died only a year ago, and her last words were to direct that she should be buried upright in the ground. "The Avila Camachos," she said, "have always stood on their feet."

Accordingly, the coffin was put into the ground in an upright position, in the town of Tezuitlan, state of Puebla.

The people of that state needed no such graphic action to remember her. For her sons will not allow her to be forgotten. One now becomes president of the country. Another, Maximino Avila Camacho, is governor of the state of Puebla, actually is a stronger figure than the president.

He is the Mussolini of Mexico—powerful, lusty. The owner of 100 full blooded horses and an amateur bull fighter, he stages private bull fights for the amusement of distinguished visitors.

Chances are that it is this mother's son, rather than Manuel who will run the government of Mexico.

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AID FOR GREECE

The mail sack arriving at the Greek legation these mornings at last is showing evidence of popular support for the Greek cause. Letters are pouring in, many with enclosures of cash.

A Mississippi school teacher sends five dollars; an unknown man from Arkansas sends six dollars; Oscar L. Johnson and Harry L. Carpel, both of Washington, send $100 each. The total has reached $40,000, all forwarded to New York, where a special committee is handling contributions.

One letter comes from a retired army engineer in Atlanta, who says, "I could still pass for 40," and asks to enlist in the Greek army. In New Brunswick, N. J., a group of young aviators who flew for Finland now want to fly war planes for Greece.

Authors of these letters get answers signed by the longest name in Washington's diplomatic corps—Diamantopoulos. He is the minister of Greece, and he gratefully accepts both the money and the men.

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CAPITAL CHAFF

Justice Frank Murphy's recipe for keeping fit at 50 is to walk to and from the Supreme court, and ride horseback every afternoon. Justice Murphy walks the long way round to his office, going first to the Washington monument.

The 25,000 government workers who daily lunch in government restaurants in Washington consume annually 187,000 pounds of butter, 187,000 dozen eggs, 135,640 pounds of coffee, 2,446,336 bottles of milk, and 43,266 gallons of ice cream.

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS — By Edward C. Wayne

Nazis Widen Scope of Bombing Attacks On Vital Ports and Industrial Cities; Italian and British Naval Forces Clash; Weird Stories Told of Rumanian Purge

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

(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

BUCHAREST, RUMANIA — Shortly after this picture of King Michael and his mother was taken, the streets of this city ran red with blood. This is the last picture taken of the king and his mother before the outbreak of the Iron Guard blood purge of political enemies. Now Michael has fled into hiding and his mother is reported to be in Italy.

MEXICO CITY, MEXICO—Smiling a dazzling smile, General (Also-Ran) Almazan, defeated candidate for the presidency of Mexico, is shown as he arrived at Mexico City airport and renounced all claims to the high office following U. S. recognition of Manuel Camacho, who was inaugurated at ceremonies attended by U. S. vice president elect, Henry Wallace.

RUMANIA: *Haywire?*

Bringing to mind the French revolution, the downfall of Tsarism in Russia, and other rarities of human experience of similar ilk, Rumania went haywire following abdication of Carol and anschluss with the Axis.

Guns barked in public squares of half a score of towns, including Bucharest, where the enemies of Iron Guards found themselves perforated and laid in row upon row of corpses in bloody streets.

In vain did Gen. Ion Antonescu order peace and quiet, death followed death; jails and other refuges were entered and victims dragged forth to the general slaughter.

The Germans, who had touched off the inner revolt to the Nazi way of life, were aghast at their handiwork, fearing lest all value of their new acquisition would be swept away in an avalanche of anarchy.

King Mihai fled into hiding; his mother, Queen Helen, who had returned to Bucharest joyfully as soon as Carol and Mme. Lupescu decamped, hastened off to Italy and the comparative safety of exile there.

None could tell where Rumania was headed. Revolution immediately spread to the recently Sovietized Bessarabia, its dwellers crying out for "food, lower prices, fuel and medicines."

Weird stories emanated from the madness within Rumania, perhaps the oddest of all the story that 30 Iron Guardists, the ones who slew the 64 "enemies" who were held responsible for the prior assassination of Codreanu, had immediately committed suicide after the slayings.

Another yarn told how during the slayings a loud-speaker blared forth the voice of Codreanu, words of a threat against his enemies made during a famous speech when he was at the zenith of his career.

BOMBS: *For Industry*

After the British had been wondering what new line German bombing would take, the Germans made it instantly plain by starting a new type of attack on a long series of industrial centers of Britain with results the reports of which varied according to the source.

The test tube for these attacks was the relatively small town of Coventry, but this was followed with smashing bombings of Bristol, Manchester, Liverpool, Southampton and other cities of greater size.

In general the industrial heart of England lies in the Midlands, and on many nights the bomber waves passed up London entirely to smash away at towns in this territory.

German accounts of damage done are optimistic, the British call them "highly exaggerated," but apparently the Nazis didn't know and the British wouldn't tell how extensive the damage has been.

Berlin claimed and London admitted that Southampton was in flames after a bitter day and night attack by the Nazis. England's chief southern port town, Southampton, is 80 miles southwest of London. Once the main port of call for transatlantic liners it was the object of the constant pounding by the feared dive bombers. While German dispatches stated that the city was in flames, London admitted that many fires had been started but that they were put under control within a short time.

Of interest to war observers, however, was the adoption by Germany of the tactic which has been earmarked by the R. A. F. since the commencement of the "all-out" air war.

From the first the R. A. F. has concentrated on objectives of two types, despite the widespread popular demand for bombings of Berlin. The R. A. F. planes have deluged the "invasion ports" with explosives, and also the industrial and munitions centers of Germany.

This attack also has been extended to industrial Italy, with devastating blows at Turin, Naples and Leghorn among other centers. Before the war, military observers predicted that of the three nations, Germany's industrial cities were best protected against air attack, England's next best and Italy's most vulnerable. All predicted, however, that if Germany held mastery of the air she conceivably could cripple British industry.

GREEKS: *History Makers*

Generations to come will find in their history books the story of the defense of their nation by the Greek armies under General Metaxas, who continued their successes, though at somewhat slower pace as they proceeded many miles into the difficult Albanian terrain.

Study of military maps showed the dangers of the Italian position, but reports tended to show that although badly beaten and knocked back on their heels into Albanian territory, the Italians were still planning to make a fight of it.

Greeks were taking their victories calmly, General Metaxas giving the United States to understand that little Greece could not hope to "go it alone," but would need expanded American aid in addition to liberal help from British land forces and airplanes.

The Grecian armies were fighting a brilliant and vigorous campaign, with much of the drive that goes with repeated successes. Dramatic sidelights were the fighting of the Macedonian women, who told how they gathered on a mountain plateau against orders of Greek commanders and started avalanches of heavy rocks down on Italians trapped in a ravine below them.

Another dramatic sidelight was provided by the Italian radio, which broadcast a bitter denunciation of the Greeks for use of the bayonet, calling it a "barbarous weapon."

Leslie Hore-Belisha, writing of the Greeks, said real test would be reached when Italians reached the coastal plain, where Fascist mechanized equipment would get a fairer test. Greeks were promising to make no stops in driving Italians into the Adriatic.

DIES: *Vs. Administration?*

Martin Dies, foe of the fifth column, whenever and wherever he finds signs of it, ran into a snag when President Roosevelt handed him an admonitory telegram at his Orange, Texas, home. President warned Dies that his "White Paper" and "Red Paper" were premature and hampered work of the G-men.

Dies, taking a leaf from the Rooseveltian book, declared he has a "mandate" from the people for continuation of his committee's work, and promised two more "papers" as his answer to presidential objections.

He went to the nation over the air-waves, urging a radical change in American methods of spy-fighting. Army and navy heads admitted Dies' charge of Communist members in the armed forces, and promised to "crack down" if any of them became active.

AMERICANA

¶ Graduates of the Coast Guard academy will now be given degrees of "bachelor of science," just like college men, it has been decided.

¶ Louis Tracy is a barber and volunteer fireman of Ponca, Neb. He was half through a customer's shave when the alarm sounded. Tracy fought the fire, returned, and finished the shave. His customer was the deputy fire marshal.

New Senator

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA — Berkeley Bunker, above, appointed by Governor Carville to be United States senator from Nevada to succeed the late Key Pittman. Bunker, 34, served two terms in the Nevada legislature and was speaker of the house, last year.

AMERICA: *A World Banker*

The United States, digging deep into the taxpayers' pockets to finance preparedness for the national defense, now has become the world's banker, reverting to the American status of 1914-1918, when this nation put out $24,000,000,000, not much of which ever returned.

Present requests for war credits came presently from Lord Lothian, representing Great Britain, which will want some sort of credit status in 1941; from Greece, which says its need for aid is immediate; and China, who has been needing more and more right along.

China was first to get hers, the U. S. okaying $100,000,000 in credits of which one half is secured by Chinese "metals," to be delivered during the next two or three years. Part of this will be the priceless antimony the world supply of which is highly restricted. It will pass from China to U. S. via the Burma road, under the hail of Nipponese bombs.

China got her credits on the very day when, as Japanese and puppet state envoys were getting together to sign a treaty of "peace," guerrillas blew up a train—estimated dead and injured, 400.

Sumner Welles announced the United States had agreed to Grecian aid "in principle," and that exact details would be worked out, and munitions sent.

Britain's first maneuverings for credit, however, met with a storm in house and senate circles, strongest opponent being Hiram Johnson, author of the neutrality act. But from embassy circles and also across the water came the plea:

"Send us planes, lots of planes, and we'll blast Germany out of the skies."

The planes, paid for in cash and motors, are on the way.

TO SEA: *Goes the War*

Naval activity, which has furnished some of the best stories of the war thus far, spruced up, with British, Italian and German naval units clashing on the high seas.

One observer said "battles appear to have been on a large scale if we ever find out what happened," recalling that they are still telling the story and publishing pictures of the Battle of Oran—way back early last summer.

Sketchy accounts show these facts:

British Mediterranean fleet met strong force of Italian vessels, headed by two battleships, off Sardinia. British say firing started at "extreme range" (probably about 15 miles) as ships were "hull down" on the horizon. Italian cruisers fled for harbor under smoke screen.

British cruisers followed and met heavy fire from heavier-armed battleships, then veered away themselves for safety. They say that battleships also fled from the engagement, pursued by aircraft, which caught up with them and torpedoed at least two vessels, one of largest size.

British admit that Italian airplanes made three attacks on their fleet, admit that one cruiser was hit by a naval shell and eight killed, several wounded. Observers told how Ark Royal, aircraft carrier, vanished in spray from 30 bombs, which hit nearby, but came up firing and drove off planes.

Italian story checks with British in major details, but with opposite result.

British battle with German vessels took place in the channel, Germans claiming two naval vessels damaged and two merchant ships sunk, making it apparently a convoy engagement. British were mum on this meeting.

FOREIGN SCENE

¶ That Norway is far from happy under Nazi conquerors was seen in story of huge landslides at half a dozen locations which started simultaneously, giving rise to German charges that dynamite explosions were responsible. Vital supply roads were cut by landslides.

¶ Tahiti, home of glamour girls of a slightly dusky hue, has joined the "free French" forces of DeGaulle.

GENERAL HUGH S. JOHNSON Says:

United Features — WNU Service

Washington, D. C.

TAXES AND ARMS

This town is humming with two great discussions. They are not related in the talk but they are in fact. One is the question of our financing British armament. The other is of the very great increases in taxes to finance fully at least the regular expenses of our government—perhaps nine billions a year.

The cost of our defense program, if our World war experience means anything, has not even yet been dimly imagined. General Marshall once estimated that to parallel the German land armament alone would cost $100,000,000,000. Fortunately, we do not have to do that if we stick to our idea of hemisphere defense. But, in addition to a very great land armament, we have undertaken the most ambitious sea program ever attempted.

It is profitless to try to foresee all these costs. No one has ever had enough facts or taken enough trouble to make an accurate statistical comparison of what it costs us, as compared with England or Germany, to provide and maintain military and naval defense, including care of participants in former wars. It probably runs double as to the British and surely triple as to Nazis.

We properly spare no costs on our defenders, but even we can't escape the fact that the fiscal factor itself is important in national defense. It is doubtful whether we can prepare to defend the Western hemisphere at a cost of less than $50,000,000,000. Nobody can tell what will be added to that if the present trend of administration sentiment continues and we also undertake to finance a part of the British effort.

Those who advocate this policy estimate that the British reserve of funds to buy in this market has ebbed to about $1,000,000,000. If that is true, at their present rate of spending, it will scarcely last four months and, since that rate is accelerating and nobody can foresee the trend of war, it might rise to figures at least half as fantastic as our own prospective bill for national defense. Let's be conservative and say $20,000,000,000.

There are two schools of thought in Washington as to how best to meet these astronomical figures without impairing or destroying our economic structure by the time-proved (if no time-honored) explosion called inflation.

One says to do it is to "pay-as-we-go." That means taxes higher than we have ever dreamed of in our philosophy, even by a disguised levy on present capital. The theory there is that, by making it practically impossible to gain profits, nobody will speculate and, therefore, prices will remain stable.

The other idea is that there are plenty of other ways to control runaway prices—such as priorities to govern supply rather than frantic counter-bidding confiscatory taxes on profits due to speculative buying of commodities or common stocks and, if necessary, a legislative "ceiling" over prices with sufficient flexibility to prevent absurd results.

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DRAFT AFTERMATH

Dr. Dykstra, administrator of selective service, is alert to one of the greatest mistakes of the World war draft. That had to do with the demobilization of drafted men, rather than with their selection. The present organization of local and appeal boards for selection follows faithfully that earlier model which worked beautifully in selection.

In 1918, the selective service system planned to use exactly the same machinery for returning the boys to civil life. They were to be sent back to the boards that had taken them. There, as in their taking, they were to be clothed, housed, fed and receive their army pay until, with the assistance of local boards, they were re-employed.

The powers that were said: "No!" They wanted to "liquidate" the war—instantly. The whole backbone of war regulation was withdrawn suddenly. That left a structure of artificially high prices and industry paralyzed by quick cancellation of billions in war contracts. Our whole business system went into a coma. Into these economic doldrums, the selected men were kicked—given "travel money" home and there abandoned.

It created bitter resentment. The boys found that, while they had been away, somebody else had gotten their jobs, made much more jack than they had and, in some cases, married their best girls—and they couldn't get work. Their government had taken them with glittering promises. They came home to find these were forgotten.

The major complaint about this draft is that it is moving too slowly. The same sort of criticism in 1917 forced the war department into an almost fatal blunder, to order men to camps before they were ready to receive them. Let's not again be bums-rushed into that tragic error.

It's a lot better to take whatever criticism there may be for not having proper housing, clothing and food and to tell our people the exact truth, than to try to cover it up at the expense of the health and welfare of these kids. It can't be covered long.

WHO'S NEWS THIS WEEK

By LEMUEL F. PARTON

(Consolidated Features—WNU Service.)

NEW YORK. — Also bulky and muscular, but less belligerent than John L. Lewis, his predecessor in office as president of C. I. O., is Philip Murray. He is of Scottish descent and therefore given to fewer words than Mr. Lewis, and has been a powerful offstage figure in the sensational rise of the C. I. O. in the last four years.

Murray of CIO Silver-Tongued; Checks Hard Fist

Conservative labor opinion sees in his selection an augury for improved labor relations under the urgency of our defense effort. He has been a negotiator and labor pacifier for three Presidents. President Wilson made him a member of his War Labor board. In 1921, President Harding used him to sidetrack a civil war in the West Virginia coal fields, with 10,000 miners in revolt. President Roosevelt asked his cooperation in the successful adjustment of the threatened steel strike of March and April, 1937. He has been a hard-hitting foe of the left-wingers, both in the old craft unionism and "vertical" unionism days. A month ago, he wrote to Eugene G. Grace, president of the Bethlehem Steel corporation, proposing a conference, "for the establishment of orderly industrial relations."

In his native Lanarkshire, Scotland, he was a breaker boy in the mines. He arrived in America with his family when he was 16 and went down in the pit for the Keystone Coal and Coke company in Westmoreland county, Pa. He started a small civil war when he punched the weighmaster in the nose. That, he has said many times, was one of his greatest mistakes. Thereafter he kept his temper. But the nose-punching started his career as a labor leader. The miners made him president of their newly organized local of the United Mine Workers of America, at the age of 18.

He educated himself by a correspondence course and now he is a master of flawless grammar and diction. Restraining his powerful fist has not always been easy and he enjoys vicarious milling as an eager boxing fan. He is silver-haired, slow-spoken, with a bit of the old Scottish burr on his tongue, and deliberate in speech and action. In behalf of his organization, he has pledged labor's full co-operation in defense. He is married and has a 21-year-old son.

GUTZON BORGLUM, 73-year-old sculptor, recently made the radio presentation of awards in national poster contest of the William Allen White Committee to Defend America by Aiding the Allies.

Gutzon Borglum, Sculptor, a Man Of Varied Talents

Apparently taking this personally, Adolf Hitler orders the destruction of Mr. Borglum's statue of Woodrow Wilson in Posen, Poland. The Nazis call it an "artistic eyesore, with the legs too short, the body too long and the head too large."

They wouldn't talk that way to his face. The big, knobby, Danish-American citizen once mixed with "Ruby Bob" Fitzsimmons, without getting hurt. He is not only a sculptor, but an amateur boxer—still good for his age—a politician and engineer, a writer and a painter.

He likes a lot of elbow room in whatever he does and has been having the time of his life with his Black Hills sculptures of the Presidents. Standing up, his mountain-side Abraham Lincoln would be 465 feet tall. He's never so happy as when he has a steam shovel for a chisel and a carload of dynamite for a mallet. He has a hair-trigger temper, riding any big political cyclone that may happen to kick up. His first attempt at gargantuan mountain carving, for the Confederate memorial at Stone Mountain, Ga., broke up in a row, in which models and plans were destroyed.

With a number of other distinguished artists he has been active in the poster contest and has helped stir public excitement over the competition. Born in Idaho, he was educated in Fremont and Omaha, Neb., and studied art in San Francisco and Paris.

IN THE war-planning, which daily takes on more and more of an emergency aspect, whippy little gray-moustached Gen. George V. Strong is the diplomat of the army. His recent mission to Great Britain is said to have yielded much basic information on which the army and navy are working out hemisphere defense. He is chief of the war plans division of the war department's general staff. General Strong is one of the few high-ranking army officers who started their careers fighting Indians.