The Washington MERRY-GO-ROUND

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Washington, D. C.

SENATORS DEBATE TO EMPTY CHAMBER

Big words, such as "momentous," "historic," "crucial," have been common in describing the senate debate on the lend-lease bill. Defending themselves against the charge of filibuster, the opposition maintained that the issues are so grave that national interest demands weeks of discussion.

Daily throughout long weeks the front pages reverberated with the senate's embattled thunderings. The headlines and crackling statements have given the impression of fierce struggle. But the reality was far different.

There was no blood shed. The senate never presented a more peaceful, more indolent appearance. If a great battle was raging, there were few signs of it on the floor of the "greatest deliberative body in the world."

Most of the time it looked more like the lounges of a ritzy club than a council chamber where history was being made. At times there were no more than a half dozen members in the chamber.

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TURKS VS. BULGARS

Inside reason why the Turks signed a non-aggression pact with the Bulgars has been given U. S. diplomats by the British foreign office. It is this:

Some months ago the British themselves suggested that the Turks and Bulgars sign a treaty of friendship and non-aggression. But negotiations dragged. Then suddenly, just at the wrong moment from a psychological point of view, the pact was completed. Its announcement to the world was construed as meaning Turkey would not penetrate Bulgarian soil to oppose Germany.

The British say this interpretation is all wet.

Tip-off to the situation is that the British have been rushing reinforcements to Salonika to backstop the Greeks and the Turks—if they cooperate. And co-operation in the Balkans usually goes to the strongest side.

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DRAFTED INDIANS

There are about 700 Seminoles in Florida, divided between north Florida farms and the southern Everglades. In recent years many tribes men have left their swamp homes to set up lucrative tourist shows along the Tamiami Trail, featuring wrestling matches between Indians and crocodiles.

Came the draft, and Seminoles of the swamps and farmlands all registered. But the tourist-show Indians were told by white friends that they weren't subject to the draft, since they never made peace with the U. S. government, owed it no allegiance. So they went on a draft-strike.

And selective service officials, not anxious to disrupt Indian relations, have refused so far to turn their names over to the department of justice for prosecution. Upshot is that Everglades Seminoles are leaving the swamps in droves, thinking they, too, will be exempt if they live on the Trail.

Word also is spreading to their brethren in the north on stock farms provided by the government, that if Seminoles want to escape military service the thing to do is to open a tourist show.

On the hot spot is kindly John Collier, commissioner of Indian affairs. But fearing cries of discrimination from other tribes, he has served notice that slackers will be prosecuted if they don't fall in line.

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UNDEPORTABLE PRINCESS

"Will anybody take a deported princess?" This, in effect, is the plea of Attorney General Jackson regarding Maria Waldenburg-Schillingsfurst, Princess Stefanie Hohenlohe, a German who came here from England on a Hungarian passport.

The department of justice has ordered her deported, but has found, to its embarrassment, that it's impossible to deport somebody when nobody will have her. Jackson has deported her by act of law, but can't get her out of the country.

England won't have her. So she will have to remain in San Francisco unless Germany decides to take her back, in which case she might get there by way of the Pacific and Vladivostok.

As a result the justice department is drafting a bill for submission to congress, whereby an undesirable alien could be held in custody, or restricted freedom, or parole—depending on the character of the person.

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MERRY-GO-ROUND

The war department isn't advertising it, but it has assigned one of the army's brainiest officers, Maj. Gen. Robert C. Richardson, to make a detailed survey of its press relations and organization.

Most sensational specimen of isolationist propaganda barraging congress is a postal card with a nail fastened to it, and the statement that a vote for the lend-lease bill "will drive a nail into the coffin of every American boy." The cards bear a Chicago postmark.

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS — By Edward C. Wayne

U. S. Maps New Ways to Aid British As Senate Passes Lease-Lend Bill; Nazi Spring Offensive Gains Speed With Balkans as Center of Activity

(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.)

Following Senate passage of the Lease-Lend bill, providing a method of extensive aid to Britain, these senators get together for a united handclasp. They are (Left to right) Senator Barkley of Kentucky, majority leader; Senator Wheeler of Montana, opposition leader and bitter foe of the bill, and Senator George of Georgia, foreign affairs committee chairman. The vote was 60 to 31.

(See Below: Lease-Lend, Finally.)

LEASE-LEND: *Finally*

The passage of the lease-lend bill, called many names by its opponents, including the lend-spend bill and the lend-give bill, suddenly was passed by the U. S. senate by 60-31.

The action seemed sudden after the long and vituperative debate which found Democrats leading the opposition and many Republicans finally in the favoring fold.

As the vote neared on the final day, almost exactly two months to a day from the time when it was jointly introduced in both houses, leading opponent Wheeler (Mont.) declared angrily:

"I have been told by New Dealers who get their information direct from the feed-trough that the United States will be at war by April 1."

Within the hour, however, the bill had passed, and the same Senator Wheeler grinningly was posing for pictures amicably patting the joined hands of Democratic Leader Barkley of Kentucky and George of Georgia, the bill's leading proponents.

Many amendments were added in the senate, but those which were passed did not arouse as much comment as those which went down to defeat.

Chief among these were three, the Ellender amendment which would have kept the President's hands tied on the movement of U. S. troops, the anti-convoy measure, and the Taft substitute for the entire bill, which would have made two billions available immediately for Britain, but which would have nullified most of the general intent of the British aid measure as originally framed.

The seven amendments added in the house, which limit the size of the aid to $1,300,000,000 without further authorization by congress, and which limit the life of contractual obligations, and which make it mandatory for the President to advise congress of steps taken, and which make it possible for congress to terminate the arrangement under certain circumstances, seemed generally acceptable to the senate, at least to the majority of senators, and materially shortened the fight against it in the upper house.

The solid Democratic South was strongly in favor of the bill and chief opposition generally was more marked from the Middle and Far West. The eastern senators were generally in favor, and of the 10 Republicans who voted "Aye," six were from New England and New Jersey, while only Aiken of Vermont, Danaher of Connecticut and Tobey of New Hampshire made the three out of seventeen Republicans who voted "Nay." Of the thirteen Democrats who voted against the bill, only one, Reynolds (N. C.) was from the South, and only one, Walsh (Mass.) was from the East.

The issue was clear-cut, the opposition saying in effect two things:

(a) the measure was frankly a war measure;

(b) it would give the President dictatorial powers.

The proponents took two positions:

(a) the bill was our best protection against active entry into the war because it would aid Britain in holding the Nazi menace away from our shores;

(b) amendments adopted in both houses provided sufficient safeguards against dictatorial powers, and strong single and central power in the President's hands was needed in order to make the aid swift, certain and considerable.

What Next?

Aside from Senator Wheeler's daring prediction of "War by April 1," Washington observers began to ask themselves what would be the natural aftermath of the passage of the bill.

The bill frankly created one huge arsenal out of this country, and it was anticipated that the first act of our government would be to begin the transfer of huge stocks of war material already on hand across the Atlantic to England.

Much of it, too, could be expected to be transferred to Mediterranean ports, where many of the American-built airplanes are now in service.

Another step certain to be taken, it was said, would be the awarding of certain proportions of American defense contracts now being executed to Britain, and making arrangements for delivery. Some more American freighters, it was felt, would be given to Britain, and probably some more destroyers, of which Willkie stressed the British need.

SPRING: *Offensive*

The Nazi spring offensive was gaining momentum, and the chief early activity was in the Balkans where, on the face of reports, if they could be believed, Germany was making a determined bid to pull Italy's Albanian chestnuts out of the Greek fire.

The reports of activity were voluble and confusing, as might be expected from activities that were at least 50 per cent diplomatic and the other 50 per cent actual motion of troops and materials.

First step was the German infiltration into Rumania, with its terrific and chaotic aftermath; then came the "mufti-invasion" of Bulgaria, closely followed by an actual taking over of that country and the massing of troops and munitions in force on the Greek-Bulgar frontier.

The number of these troops was variously estimated, the highest figure being about 600,000.

The throwing of 600,000 men of German blitz caliber against Greece, most military men agreed, would be fatal to the Hellenes if they had at the same time to continue to defend against a counter-attack of Italians bolstered by Nazi officers in Albania.

That is, it would be fatal unless Greece had substantial help. This, on the other hand, if reports again could be believed, England was about to send. On the face of things, Britain had already given Greece considerable and substantial aid in the Albanian battle, had vigorously engaged and whipped the Italians in Africa, and was strong in her promises to aid Greece on the northern front when, as and if the German attack materialized.

This aid was going to come, it seemed obvious that it would have to involve Turkey, which would have to get in the war on the side of England and Greece.

Visits by Eden and General Sir John Dill were followed by their moving over to Athens; the landing of British troops at Salonika, reputedly a full motorized division, and the formal request, a few days later, by the Greek authorities, for a formal assurance by Turkey that her treaty commitments would be met.

The stand of Russia at the moment was dubious enough, but most observers believed she would act in the same manner she did in the case of the invasion of Poland, namely, hold off until German success was sure.

QUOTES...

MEXICO CITY—Foreign Minister Padilla: "Let us go forward proudly to our defense, convinced that we are defending a great cause."

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WASHINGTON—Miss Harriet Elliott (National Defense Council): "It seems unlikely that American women will be able to have a field day by sacrificing their aluminum pots and pans to the nation's defense as did the women of England."

At Home

CAMP UPTON, LONG ISLAND, N. Y.—This striking warlike scene brings battle picture close to home as a corporal of the 198th Coast Artillery waits his turn to insert a shell into a 3-inch anti-aircraft gun during artillery drill.

TIT FOR TAT: *Italy-U. S.*

Washington was mildly inflamed, if such a term can be used, when Mussolini, without any diplomatic interchange, ordered U. S. consulates at Naples and Palmero closed.

Also all of the American embassy and consular officials in Italy were ordered practically to be "confined to quarters"—that is, their diplomatic rights to move about the country were denied, and they were given categorical orders to stay within the areas to which they were assigned.

Cordell Hull acted promptly in reprisal. The Italian consulates at Detroit and Newark were ordered closed and Mr. Hull added to these actions the same type of restrictive order regarding the movements of Italian diplomatic officers and members of the consular service here.

Mostly Americans were amused by this interchange, particularly in the comparison of Detroit and Newark with Naples and Palermo.

However, Mr. Hull's orders carried with them one additional item which carried a somewhat sinister note, and that was that he especially restricted the Italian military and naval attaches.

NIGHT CLUB: *And Death*

There were many who believed that Hitler was merely putting on a sideshow in the Balkans, attempting to lure England away from Africa and the Suez, thus permitting two things—a drastic attack on the canal and Gibraltar at the same time; and, second, a strong invasion attempt on the British isles with England's head turned the other way.

That this might be so was seen in the fact that the Nazi Luftwaffe launched almost its bitterest air night attack on London that the war has seen.

Many civilians walking along a road were killed and wounded; a direct hit was scored on a night club with many casualties; and two bombs hit streets on each side of a cafe, collapsing the building and burying many who were dining there after dark.

Cables carried pathetic stories of the night-club bombing, telling how the bomb landed in the midst of the band-stand, killing the band-leader and many of his musicians; scattering death and desperate injury among a gay group of dancing men and women, the latter expensively gowned.

Though with customary British censorship the location or name of the club was not cabled, it must from the description have been an exclusive recreation spot for the well-to-do, showing that the East-Enders have not been the only sufferers from the air blitz.

ODDITIES ... *in the news*

BARCELONA. — A hitch-hiking farmer got a ride from a truck which was carrying an empty coffin. He got inside. Two other farmers were picked up and rode sitting alongside the coffn, unaware a third passenger was within. Suddenly the lid was raised and the farmer said: "Why, it's stopped raining." The two other passengers leaped in terror. One was instantly killed.

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WASHINGTON. — New Federal regulations have been issued that hot-dog sausages must have listed on their outsides what is inside, in the order of predominance.

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FRANKFORT, KY.—The Employment commission in Kentucky has ruled as to the status of two important members of the working classes. A pin-boy in a bowling alley is an employee. But a caddy is his own boss—he being listed as a contractor, and hence exempt from the wage and hour law minimums.

GRASSROOTS

by WRIGHT A. PATTERSON

(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

YOU ARE MORTGAGED FOR $538!

SECRETARY OF COMMERCE Jesse Jones reports the income of the American people for 1940 was $74,000,000,000, including what was paid by the government for relief and farm subsidies.

That is just about what it would take to pay what the federal government, which is us, owes. We are in the red, including appropriations that have been made but not yet spent and including the obligations of the several government corporations for which the government is responsible, something over $70,000,000,000. To pay what we owe would take all the income of all the American people for the entire year of 1940, the highest income year since 1929.

Former President Herbert Hoover told me some three years ago that he believed the nation could carry an indebtedness of close to 70 billions before going broke and becoming the victim of extreme inflation. If that is correct—and I believe Herbert Hoover comes nearer knowing than most men—we are on the verge of bankruptcy and inflation.

Who is responsible?

The congress of the United States, the men we elected as senators and representatives.

No dollar can be taken out of the national treasury until congress has approved the expenditure. The President cannot spend our money unless congress has authorized the expenditure. The billions that have been spent on foolish boondoggling projects and for other things had to have the consent of the men we sent to Washington to represent us in the senate and house of representatives.

That mortgage of more than $70,000,000,000 means some $538.00 for each one of us to pay, or about $2,690 for each family of five.

When the time comes for us again to select senators and representatives, it behooves each of us to examine the records of those asking for our votes, and to turn thumbs down on those who have put us in the red to the extent of our entire income for one year.

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FORTY-NINTH STATE

SEN. WILLIAM H. SMATHERS of New Jersey proposes that we make Cuba the forty-ninth state, but Cuba very definitely does not want to be either the forty-ninth or any other state in the Union.

Out in the Pacific ocean, standing as the outer guardian of our western coast, is Hawaii, an American territory that does want, and has repeatedly asked, to be made the forty-ninth state. In the last World war, Hawaii produced a larger percentage of volunteers for military service than any one of the present 48 states. The islands were offered to, and accepted by, the United States under a promise of statehood. If we are to have a forty-ninth star in the flag, why should it not represent Hawaii? Vernon Yap, a Chinese I know in the Islands, does not feel that he will be an American until he can vote for a President.

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'QUEEN BESS'

MRS. BESS CROSS of Deering, Alaska, has been paying her every-fifth-year visit to the States. Sounds prosaic, but to her sourdough friends in and out of Alaska, and to the fashionable feminine apparel dealers in New York, it is an event eagerly awaited.

To every sourdough—miner, trapper and those in other lines, to every Eskimo, in fact, to all Alaska, Bess Cross is known as "Queen of the Arctic." She went to Alaska as a bride of 16. Her first husband operated a trading post and she assisted him. When he died, Bess carried on, and expanded. Today she has a large string of such posts all over the Alaskan wilds, and especially along the shores of the Arctic ocean.

In Alaska, Bess wears a fur parka, walrus-hide boots, sealskin trousers as a matter of necessity, not from choice. She is definitely feminine, and about once every five years she comes to the States, always traveling by plane. She goes to New York and indulges in a regular orgy of clothes buying. She selects the daintiest, most luxurious of feminine apparel; lives in a fine suite at the Waldorf; entertains lavishly for a period of from two to three weeks, and then flies back to her string of Alaskan trading posts, to the white men and Eskimos who love and respect her, and to whom she is always "Queen Bess of the Arctic."

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A GREAT WINDOW DISPLAY

THERE IS A window display in Wilmington, Del., which I look at every time I visit that city. In it there are always a considerable number of things, each one of which represents an addition to the comfort and standard of living and an increase in employment in America. All of these things are the products of an industrial laboratory operated by private capital. The maintenance of such laboratories means continued prosperity in America. And it's no government job.

Indians and Turkeys

The Pueblo Indians kept turkeys long before the coming of the Pilgrims. Rooms in the pueblos were assigned to the turkeys, which were regarded as sacred and kept mainly for their feathers.

Valuable Musk

A pound of natural musk would be worth approximately $40,000. Synthetic musk, which is widely used in the manufacture of perfumes, costs only a few hundred dollars a pound.

Military Influence

The military influence is reaching far afield. A new toothpowder company has put out dentifrice in a container which, when empty, can be used as a toy soldier.

Alcatraz

In October, 1933, the department of justice took over the control of Alcatraz and it became a federal penitentiary. Prior to that it was a military prison.

First Church Broadcast

Rev. Dr. Edwin J. Van Etten, pastor of the Calvary Episcopal church of Pittsburgh, was the first to preach a sermon in Station KDKA's Church of the Air.

Lemon Juice Makes Meat Tender

A tablespoonful of vinegar or a teaspoon of lemon juice added to tough meat while it is boiling or roasting will make it more tender.

Hospitals in U. S.

According to the 1939 report of the American Medical association, in 1938 there were 4,286 general hospitals and 425,324 beds.

Fulton Market Largest

According to the Fishery Council, Inc., Fulton Market in New York city is the largest fish distribution center in the world.

Fluffy Mashed Potatoes

Hot milk added a little at a time while mashing potatoes will make them light and fluffy. Heat, do not boil, the milk.

Softening Glue

A tablespoon of vinegar poured into glue that has become hard in a bottle will soften it.

Italian Theaters

Most Italian theaters are owned by organizations such as Fascist and religious groups.

Auto Operating Costs Decrease

The cost of operating an automobile has decreased 50 per cent since 1926.

Film Attendance

The average weekly attendance of film theaters in 1938 was 85,000,000.

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