The Washington MERRY-GO-ROUND

By DREW PEARSON & ROBERT S. ALLEN

Washington, D. C.

SAVING MONEY

One of defense price regulator Leon Henderson's staunchest supporters is Donald Nelson, dollar-a-year OPM purchasing chief.

At a meeting of his lieutenants, Nelson said: "We've got to watch price advances like a hawk. Our national economy won't stand for any price skyrocketing. I want you to catch every bid where prices are out of line, and if we can't scale them down, we'll turn the case over to Leon."

Several days later an assistant, examining cotton gauze prices submitted by three companies holding army contracts, smelled a mouse and showed the figures to Nelson. The prices of two of the firms were okay, but the third had boosted its bid 10 cents. Checking, Nelson found that wages in mills had not advanced and that a large stock of cotton was on hand.

So he called the manufacturer and firmly informed him that unless his price was put back into line the fur would fly. Next day the company submitted reduced figures.

Note—Nelson's biggest problem in keeping defense prices from soaring is the military brass-hats, who are rated chiefly for their ability to get materials for the army and navy, and not on the price the government has to fork out.

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BILL OF FRILLS

Press gallery wits have taken to referring to the stymied $150,000,000 emergency defense housing measure as the "bill of frills." This is a soft impeachment. Not in a long time has an important piece of legislation suffered more from congressional obstruction and inconsistency.

Introduced several months ago to meet an urgent defense situation, the bill was stalled for 10 days in the house rules committee by a noisy row over the installation of "frills," such as refrigerators and gas stoves, in homes for defense workers.

Finally, after inserting an amendment barring these appliances, the House passed the measure and it went to the senate. There it ran head on into another "frill" tangle—in reverse. This time a "frill" was put into the bill.

Brick makers protested that the $3,000 limit specified for each housing unit barred the use of bricks, and demanded that the ante be raised to $3,500. One of the chief pro-brick spokesmen was Sen. Bob Taft of Ohio, a leading economy advocate, who sought to slash the lend-lease appropriation on the ground that it was excessive.

On the argument that savings in paint, repairs and heating through the use of brick would more than offset the $500 difference, the senate approved the boost—and added another delay. For now the amended measure has to go back to the house for it to decide whether bricks fall in the same "luxury" category as refrigerators and gas ranges.

Note—In an effort to make up some of the time wasted by the frill-conscious boys on Capitol Hill, Defense Housing Co-ordinator Palmer has gone ahead with plans for a number of projects, ready to start the moment the bill becomes law. One will be the largest low-cost housing project ever undertaken by the government.

* * *

MERRY-GO-ROUND

Mrs. Roosevelt has been invited to address the national Townsend Plan convention in Buffalo early in July. Meanwhile, Sen. Sheridan Downey of California, chief Townsendite spokesman in congress, has told leaders of the movement that he will force a vote on their old-age pension plan in the senate by offering it as an amendment to the tax bill next month.

Justice Stanley Reed follows the practice of the late great Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes in picking a new legal clerk every year, explains that he does it chiefly for his own benefit, to get the different viewpoints of bright young men.

Feature of the latest issue of the Republican, monthly party magazine, is an article by a Democrat on "What's Wrong With the G. O. P." In a poll of 5,765 college students on the "greatest weakness" of the Republican party, 35.2 per cent answered "Lack of touch with common people"; 24.4 per cent held "No co-ordinated program"; 25.6 per cent "Divided leadership"; and 14.8 per cent "Other reasons."

The late Sen. Morris Shepard of Texas was known to the public chiefly as the father of prohibition, but on Capitol Hill he was considered a great worker for preparedness as well as a tolerant, kindly friend.

Veteran New Dealer Leon Henderson, defense price regulator, rates OPM Production Chief John Biggers, one of the country's biggest glass manufacturers, and Priorities Chief Edward R. Stettinius, former U. S. Steel executive, as two of the fairest and most enlightened big business men in the defense organization.

To Wall Street the No. 1 "nasty man" in Washington currently is hard-hitting Joe Winer, head of the SEC's utility division, who is doing something about enforcing the holding company act.

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS — By Edward C. Wayne

British and Greek Retreating Action Inflicts Heavy Loss on Nazi Troops; Convoying of Ships to British Isles Receives Careful Study by Congress

(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.)

GREECE: *And Britain*

Backs to the wall, with the Swastika flying on historic Mount Olympus, Greeks and British fought side by side a continuing rear-guard action which was costing the Nazi forces dearly for each mile of territory gained, but which even the Greeks and British believed could have only one finish—ultimate defeat.

The Germans were seeking this victory to give it to Der Fueher as a fifty-second birthday present, but this was denied them. Yet the latter days of the fighting were marked by a curious attitude on the part of the British press—many of the papers calling for a withdrawal of the troops while the daily reports told of marvelous resistance, of heavy toll from the attackers' columns, and long lines of prisoners and wounded in Nazi uniforms pouring into Athens.

Generally speaking, there was little, if any, bombing of the historic Greek capital, cradle of modern civilization, filled with priceless relics of the days of Pericles. The Germans claimed they were bombing Athens not at all. There were, in fact, small reports of damage, much smaller than would have been the case if bombing of the capital were a part of the German plan.

KOSTAS KOTZIAS
He faced a difficult task.

The first German success in Thrace and Macedonia was followed by a general and continued advance toward strategic points, and culminated in a break-through, which forced the abandonment of the Mount Olympus line, and the entrance of the attackers into the vast Thessalian plain.

The Nazi tactic seemed to call for picking out one or two vital weak spots in the defenders' positions, and attacking these with furious pincers assaults, exactly similar to the method used in the Battle of France.

That they were not immediately successful in a larger measure was a tribute to two things—the fighting qualities of British and Greeks, and the absence of panic-jammed roadways, interfering with orderly military transport.

Not repeated were the awful scenes of Poland, where the Nazi tanks advanced to their triumphal entry of Warsaw over the terrified and broken bodies of thousands of Polish civilians—men, women and children.

And these also had been the scenes enacted in the Low Countries, where the Nazi Panzer operators themselves were said to have been sickened as the caterpillar tractors ground noncombatants' bodies into the pavements of the roads on which they swarmed in their forward march.

Yet the outcome of the battle was hardly expected to be favorable to the defenders. This was seen in the earliest statements of Churchill himself, in the continued demand that the British defenders take to their ships and escape while they might, in the sudden "suicide" of Alexandros Korizis, premier of Greece, who, it was announced officially from Athens, took his own life in anguish at the failure of his country's defense.

The turbulent character of the news caused this death to be reported as a mystery for nearly 48 hours, with German sources claiming that the British had murdered Korizis "because he had wanted to surrender the Greek army," and other sources claiming that he was murdered by Nazi agents who wanted his natural successor, said to be more pro-Axis, in his place.

But King George II foiled any such plot, if plot there was, by taking the reins of government in his own hands, and forming a military cabinet to take the place of that headed by Korizis.

Kostas Kotzias was named vice premier and charged with the difficult task of forming the new cabinet.

In the midst of this gloomy outlook, President Roosevelt said that one of the dangers of the entire American setup for the national defense and aid to embattled democracies was that the people "are not sufficiently aware of the serious character of the European war situation."

This condition, the President said, it will be his purpose to attempt to rectify, though how he was to do it was not immediately apparent.

CONVOYS: *And Mr. Tobey*

Senator Tobey of New Hampshire got onto the front pages with a bang when he, the original foe of convoying, openly declared that he had been informed by certain persons whose anonymity he protected, that the United States already was engaged in convoying aid-to-Britain materials on Atlantic waters.

This was immediately and categorically denied by two authorities. These were Secretary Hull and Admiral Stark. The administration rested on these denials, and administration spokesmen said they certainly believed the public should believe the positive testimony of these two men rather than the unsupported and anonymous evidence presented by Senator Tobey.

However, though this apparently spiked Tobey's verbal guns, Senator Nye stepped into the breach and took up the fight and always in the background were Senator Wheeler and other isolationists to keep kicking the anti-administration ball around.

Wheeler's slogan was that the public wanted to keep the country out of war, but the Gallup poll found that 27 per cent of the people were even willing to send part of the navy and part of the air force overseas right now, though only 17 per cent were interested in sending part of the army.

But there seemed a definite dissatisfaction with the British convoy method, that of sending 30 or 40 ships with a couple of small naval vessels as guard, and no guard at all until the forty-second parallel of latitude was reached.

SENATOR CHARLES W. TOBEY
"Front pages with a bang."

The American method, of parallel lines of naval vessels guarding the whole route, and each ship moving at its natural speed, gained more favor, yet how Britain could spare the ships without more aid from the U. S. navy appeared the major problem.

And this brought the convoy question popping up again and again.

JUGOSLAVIA: *Gesture*

The sudden capitulation of the entire Jugolsavian army after nine days of brave fighting against insuperable odds and under impossible conditions, made of the Serbian and Slovene resistance simply a noble gesture that brought a sympathetic response from watchers on both sides of the Atlantic.

Maj. George Fielding Eliot, one military columnist, said the Jugoslav sacrifice was not in vain, and pointed out the military advantages it gave to Greece.

Yet to the man in the street it had been a vain sacrifice, they were unable to understand its benefits, and all that emerged was the gesture of bravery, of independence, of hoping against hope that their autonomy, their homes, their nation and their freedom might be saved.

Many expressed themselves puzzled that the Jugoslav nation should have resisted at all.

Highlights ... *in the news*

CARACAS, VENEZUELA: President Contreras has given up the presidency voluntarily, being the first person in 40 years so to do. He is the successor of the late General Gomez. An election will be held to determine his successor, during the interim he is continuing to act as President.

Military Medal

LONDON, ENGLAND.—Corporal Harold Sims, grandson of Admiral William S. Sims, commander of the U. S. navy in the World war, is shown leaving Buckingham palace after he had been decorated with the Military Medal by King George.

U. S. ARMY: *Training*

The early contention of many army experts that America could not hope to train men in modern warfare in one calendar year, starting with the raw civilian, brought from many sources the word that it would be more than borne out now that the troops were proceeding into advanced training.

The army had now reached, in numbers, well past 1,200,000 men, and in this group were 27 infantry divisions alone. These men, it was said, already had been given a good course in basic discipline and ordinary infantry training, but even this was entirely preliminary to serious consideration of modern warfare, and was not finished yet.

One American officer, in the Army Journal, criticized the war department for permitting delays in the training of troops. It was said that there was a good deal of irritation expressed in high department quarters over the frank words of this officer.

One of the chief bottlenecks, of course, has been the lack of equipment of the newest types with which to train the men, assuming that their basic course is soon finished.

But the article in the Army Journal and another in the Cavalry Journal commenting on the first, revealed that our army is lagging in instruction on the use of flame-throwers, on defense against chemical warfare and in many other fields, particularly as to modern combat.

A plan to cut the draft age down to 18 met early antagonism in congressional circles, but that the administration had not abandoned the idea was seen in facts and figures later made public.

For instance, the Census Bureau estimated that the lowering of the age limit would place 3,645,267 more men within the range of the selective service law.

But if the maximum age limits were lowered to 30 years, more than 5,000,000 would be taken out of the law's scope, it was said.

LONDON: *Really Blasted*

Lest Britain might think that Hitler had moved all his air force into Africa and the Balkans, the German Luftwaffe started a terrific series of raids on London, doing the British capital damage on such a large scale and causing so many casualties that accurate estimates were not obtainable a week later.

Lord and Lady Stamp, the former honored repeatedly in this country, were killed, removing an important figure from the government. City block after city block was demolished. Hundreds and hundreds of persons were wiped out in underground shelters, struck by direct hits.

The first raid lasted 10 hours. The second, Hitler's "birthday blitz," was only slightly less severe.

Britain came out of it with Londoners fighting mad, walking about the streets, looking at the wreckage, demanding "Bomb Berlin, Bomb Berlin!" They scrawled these words with chalk on the sidewalks, on the walls of torn buildings, they chanted it in the canyons of their wrecked city.

The R. A. F. had stormed Berlin a few days before the first big raid, and the raid itself had been a reprisal—but the British forgot this and demanded more reprisals. This the R. A. F. did the following day, the air ministry announcing that bombs of a larger caliber than ever used before had been dropped on the German capital.

German admissions of damage were small. Only 15 had lost their lives in the first raid, Berlin said, and no casualties and minor damage was reported in the second. How true this minimizing of the damage was, no official report revealed, but returning British airmen claimed the result of the reprisal was "extensive."

The slamming attacks of the German air force continued all over the British isles with one foray over northern Ireland, with Belfast hard hit.

GRASSROOTS

by WRIGHT A. PATTERSON

(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

A NEW STORY ON CAL COOLIDGE

FROM CHILDHOOD Gen. Newton E. Turgeon of Buffalo had been a close personal friend of Calvin Coolidge. They were born in adjoining homes in Vermont, had played together as children, attended school and college together and remained close friends while they lived.

When the Peace bridge across the Niagara river, between Buffalo and Black Rock, Ont., was to be opened, people of Buffalo wanted the President to attend the opening ceremonies. General Turgeon was sent to Washington to get him.

"Cal, you simply must come. The people of Buffalo will be terribly disappointed if you do not," said the general.

"Who is going to be there?" asked the President.

"The lieutenant-governor of Ontario," replied Newt.

"Who else?" asked Cal.

"The governor-general of all Canada," said Newt.

"Anyone else?" queried Cal.

"The prime minister of England," said Newt.

"Will the king be there?" asked Cal.

"No, but the prince of Wales will," answered Newt.

"Then I will send John," said Cal—and he did.

General Turgeon told me the story just after the Peace bridge was opened as illustrative of the Coolidge taciturnity, and insisted that was the full extent of their conversation on the subject.

It is a Coolidge story which has never before been printed.

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COLONEL HOUSE'S STORY OF BREAK WITH WILSON

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT sent Harry Hopkins to Europe, presumably in the same capacity—that of personal representative—as President Wilson sent Col. Edward M. House during the first World war.

I knew Colonel House and frequently called on him at his home, a small six-room apartment on East Fifty-second street in New York city. My last call there was shortly after his return from the peace conference, and I learned from Colonel House the reason for his break with President Wilson.

On the way to Europe, the President announced to other members of the American delegation that he would do the talking when anything was to be said to heads of any of the other four delegations. When the peace treaty had been completed, the day for Germany to sign designated, and the delegations arranging to leave France, Lloyd George asked Colonel and Mrs. House to pay him a visit before returning to America. The Colonel and Mrs. House accepted that invitation.

The day before the treaty was signed, Colonel House dropped into Lloyd George's apartment to ascertain what train they were to take and to make final arrangements for the visit. While he was there, President Wilson called at Lloyd George's apartments and finding Colonel House present, at once turned and walked out. He did not speak to the Colonel after that incident.

Colonel House believed Mr. Wilson imagined he was talking to Lloyd George on some forbidden subject, but he was never given an opportunity to explain.

"On my return to the United States," said the Colonel, "I advised the President of my arrival and told him I would be glad to serve him in any way he might wish, but I did not receive any acknowledgment of that note."

So ended one of the most unusual friendships in history.

Mrs. Wilson has claimed that it was her efforts which turned the President against Colonel House, but the above is the finale of the Wilson and House association.

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MAGIC IN PANTS

A PARAGRAPH for men only.

Ever really sick, flat on your back for weeks that seemed like years, clad in only a short-tailed night shirt and with no opportunity to help yourself? Then came the time when you were permitted to sit up for a few minutes at a time, still clad in that night shirt and a blanket wrapped about you. Later you were told you could get dressed in real clothes—a shirt and pants, socks and shoes and a necktie. You pushed your wobbly legs inside a pair of trousers and, oh boy! How good it did feel. You were a man again. You stood on your hind legs, looked the whole world in the face and dared it to do its worst.

What curative magic there is in a pair of pants.

* * *

FRIENDLY SMILES

CLASS DISTINCTION can be prevented by friendly smiles and cheery good-mornings from one to another, strangers or friends. Smiles and cheery good-mornings are the rule, not the exception, in rural America, and class distinctions are unknown among rural people.

* * *

A bit of cheerful (?) news for the citrus growers: Brazil asks the United States to take 800,000 cases of Brazilian oranges in exchange for American apples.

Things to do

Pattern 6896.

A BRIGHT decoration in any room, this rug crocheted in four strands of string, candlewick or rags looks like a large chrysanthemum. Use two shades of a color, with white, gray, tan or three colors.

* * *

Pattern 6896 contains instructions for making rug; illustrations of it and stitches; materials needed; color schemes. Send order to:

Sewing Circle Needlecraft Dept.
82 Eighth Ave. New York

Enclose 15 cents in coins for Pattern No.....
Name .....
Address .....

Household Hints

Cream cheese mixed with a little chili sauce or catsup makes a piquant filling for sandwiches. They are especially appealing with a hot beverage.

* * *

Never allow cold water to run into an aluminum pan while it is hot. If done repeatedly, this rapid contraction of metal will cause pan to warp.

* * *

A large banana and two ounces of cream cheese mashed and mixed together makes a delicious spread for crackers.

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If you do not have a special board for pressing sleeves, here is a convenient substitute: Roll up a large magazine, fasten it with rubber bands and tuck it into the sleeve.

MOVIE STARS CAN'T LOOK SKINNY

No woman can afford to. If you have unlovely haggard hollows and are thin, you may need the Vitamin B Complex and Iron in Vinol. Vinol has helped thousands.

AT YOUR DRUG STORE

Best Administered

For forms of government let fools contest, whatever is best administered, is best.—Pope.

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● When you feel gassy, headachy, logy due to clogged-up bowels, do as *millions* do—take Feen-A-Mint at bedtime. Next morning—thorough, comfortable relief, helping you start the day full of your normal energy and pep, feeling like a million! Feen-A-Mint doesn't disturb your night's rest or interfere with work the next day. Try Feen-A-Mint, the chewing gum laxative, *yourself.* It tastes good, it's handy and economical ... a family supply costs only

FEEN-A-MINT 10¢

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He is no wise man that will quit a certainty for an uncertainty.—Samuel Johnson.

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TENDER FEET — CUTS & BURNS — HEAT RASH

ANTISEPTIC—MEDICATED—SOOTHING

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WATCH the Specials

You can depend on the special sales the merchants of our town announce in the columns of this paper. They mean money saving to our readers. It always pays to patronize the merchants who advertise. They are not afraid of their merchandise or their prices.