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## The WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

By NEW FRAMSON

WASHINGTON—HARRY TRUMAN has received a lot of criticism for not surrounding himself with higher type men in the White House. The reason of course is that Truman is generally fond of the poker-playing, joke-telling, dissipated and dissipated who are around him.

On the other hand, few except those on the inside know how hard Truman has tried to get others to join his staff. He begged Franklin Roosevelt Jr. to become Assistant Secretary of the Navy, he urged Bob Vandenberg, former brain trust for the war production board to become an economic adviser.

One of his most significant talks was with Robert Lubin, a white house secretary under Roosevelt. The talk indicates that Truman at times has a sense of genuine loneliness. "I just can't afford to come back to work for you," Lubin gave as his excuse, when the president first invited him to return. "My daughter is growing up and my expenses are increasing. I just can't live on a government salary."

The president countered by saying that perhaps he could find means of meeting Lubin's financial requirements. This was Lubin's stumbling and he hesitated. Actually, he had other reasons for wanting to come back, but he didn't want to hurt Truman's feelings by saying so. Finally, he blurted out, "Well, Mr. President, there's something I sort of miss around here."

"You mean," suggested the President, "that you miss Roosevelt?"

"Yes," replied Lubin.

"Well, I miss him too," said Truman. From the tone of his voice you could tell that he very much meant it.

Most people have forgotten it, but the late President Roosevelt got into quite a controversy in 1939 over the relative merits of Argentine and American beef. Many people at that time said he was casting reflection on the honor of the American cow and claimed he had committed such a political blunder that he couldn't expect to be re-elected.

At that time, the idea of importing Argentine meat was pure political dynamite, much more so than today when the public is clamoring for meat. At that time there was ample meat in the USA, but despite the fact, Roosevelt ordered the U. S. Navy to purchase a mere dribble of a 21 tons of Argentine canned beef.

Immediately there was a hue and cry from as to introduce an amendment to the Naval Appropriations Bill whereby the Navy would be required to buy only American meat.

Roosevelt, however, stood his ground, even stated publicly that Argentine canned beef was better than American canned beef.

Under an agricultural department ruling, Argentine fresh or frozen beef cannot be imported into the United States because of hoof and-mouth disease. However, canned beef can and mouth disease. However, canned beef can be imported from Patagonia, southernmost end of Argentina, which is disease free.

During the war the British bought up most of the Argentine meat supply on a lend-lease agreement with the USA, whereby part of the Argentine meat was used for the American army board. However, there is no reason why the British could not be induced to divide some of this meat now, especially in view of the fact that it was purchased with American money.

The big boys operate so smoothly in Washington that the public seldom knows what's going on until it is called on to foot the bill. One operation that ought to be watched is the tug-of-war by the big steel companies to take over the government's new modern steel plant in south Chicago now operated by Tom Girdler's republic steel.

Built by Uncle Sam for war purposes, the South Chicago mill cost the taxpayer around \$90,000,000. It is one of the most streamlined in the country. The question now is: Who will get this industrial windfall?

After the last war, government factories were sold for a song to the private companies which operated them, and some years later, the army and navy found themselves needing increased armaments with few munitions plants at their disposal. At one time in May and June of 1940, even after France fell, some of the big industrialists deliberately stalled on armaments until the treasury promised them a tax bonanza on the depreciation of new war plants.

As a result, some army-navy men hope that all of Uncle Sam's war plants will not again be turned over to private industry for a song. However, Gen. Robert M. Littlejohn, the war assets administrator, has different ideas. He wants to get surplus war property off his hands as quickly as possible—a policy which frequently plays into the hands of big business.

third its original cost. Payments would be made over twenty years at \$1,500,000 a year. No interest would be paid to the government. Only bidder against Republic Steel so far is Henry Kaiser. Shut out of the steel market, Kaiser has decided the only way he can get steel for his automobiles is to make it himself. He has offered to rent the government's south Chicago plant at \$2,000,000 a year for the first three years.

Kaiser contends that the government would be able to take the plant back in case of increased international tension, and that, in the interim, it will get more money from him than from Republic.

Most interesting thing to watch in this deal will be the influence of George Allen, RFC director and one of the closest men to President Truman. Allen is a director of Republic Steel, is also considered the messenger boy for Viktor Emmanuel, who has an interest in Republic Steel. Thus company officials have a pipeline into the White House day and night.

On the other hand, trust-busting Attorney General Tom Clark is charged with discouraging monopoly in the sale of war plants. So it will be interesting to see whether George Allen's friend, Tom Girdler, or the Attorney General wins out. (Copyright, 1946, by the Bell Syndicate, Inc.)

### Mr. Wallace Explains

Henry A. Wallace, in a letter to the Washington Post, has belatedly explained the motive behind his atomic energy plan and, presumably, his Madison Square Garden speech. His explanation also seems to throw some light upon the cause of his consequent difficulties.

"What I am pleading for," he wrote, "is 'give' on both sides."

That may be Wallace's intention. But in actual practice he has been pleading for "give" on the American side. To be sure, he has made some mildly critical references to Russian intransigence in international negotiations. But we do not recall that he has made any direct pleas to the Russian government to "give."

What persuaded him not to is conjectural. Perhaps it was disinclination, or a fear that the plea might go unheeded. Or it may have been that he felt that his Cabinet did not warrant such action.

Some like the Wallace view, and some don't. But even his most ardent enthusiasts could scarcely make the serious claim that Wallace, either in his Madison Square Garden speech or in his opposition to the Baruch atomic energy plan, was pleading for 'give' on both sides.

It is clear that the only effective place where such pleading can be done is either face to face with Russian representatives across a conference table or in a meeting with the head of the Soviet government himself. Such pleading, to be successful, must be cloaked with authority.

Wallace, whatever his desires, was not in a position to make this effective plea. But he was a veteran and popular political figure with a large following. Even a one-sided plea, supported by this following, was certain to gain attention.

It may be that Wallace hoped that this unilateral plea to "give," if heeded, would move Russia to a similar softening attitude.

Obviously, it didn't. The Russian press gave prominence to the former Commerce Secretary's critical views of this government's policies. The Communist press in America applauded. Russian charges of an Anglo-American imperialistic encirclement, which Wallace had echoed in essence, echoed from Russia. And that was that.

Thus it appears that if what Wallace was pleading for was 'give' on both sides," he brought it off rather boldly. As a consequence he seems to have aggravated a situation which he hoped to cure.

Q—When did we first start using ice to preserve food?

A—In 1805. River and lake ice was chopped up for the purpose.

Q—How many phonograph records does the U. S. produce a year?

A—Record production rose from 33,000,000 disks in 1938 to 156,000,000 in 1945. Estimate for 1946 is around 200,000,000.

Q—What state has the highest accidental death rate based on population?

A—Nevada, 158.9 by the National Safety Council's scoring system, in its 1946 yearbook. Lowest, Rhode Island, 51.2.

## "Tut, Tut, Sam, Don't Get Excited"



### Nebraska Farm Notes

Clarke McNary Seedling Tree Blanks Available

E. G. Maxwell, extension lecturer, says that county agricultural agents are being supplied with Clarke-McNary seedling tree plantation blanks. Those who live in counties which have no county agricultural agent may obtain their tree application blanks from the Agricultural Extension Service, University of Nebraska College of Agricultural Extension Service, University of Nebraska College of Agriculture.

Available under the Clarke-McNary program this year will be the following broadleaf varieties: Russian mulberry, American and Chinese elm, Green ash, Honey locust, black locust, Cottonwood, Russian olive, Caragana, and soft maple.

Evergreen transplants available will include Ponderosa pine, Jack pine, and Red cedar. These deciduous will be available for all counties except Otoe, Cass, Saffy Washington, Nemaha, Douglas and Richardson.

Maxwell says that it will be necessary to limit orders for Red cedar to 1,000 trees per individual. The supply of this tree is short this year, hence the maximum limitation of 1,000 trees. The extension lecturer explained that in years past many individuals in the Sandhills country have thought nothing of ordering five, ten or twenty thousand of this variety, and there just wasn't enough to go around this year unless limitations are put on the number which can be ordered.

Soil Conservation Practices Make Wheat Harvest Easier

Soil conservation practices made it easier for one Nebraska farmer to harvest his wheat crop this year.

Earl Ringland, who lives four and one half miles southeast of Bennett, Lancaster county, says that his graded waterways and terraces made his wheat harvesting a lot easier.

A cooperater with the Lancaster county soil conservation district, Ringland recalls that but two years ago some of the gullies were deep enough to hide a truck. With such gullies in his wheat field, he was forced to farm the field in as much as four parts.

"Since working in the gullies," Ringland says, "and converting to graded waterways, I can drive a car almost anywhere in the field and cut the wheat all in one piece."

Terracing, the Lancaster county farmer explains, holds the rain and soil on the fields where they belong. He has not had to replant any corn since he started terracing and contouring three years ago.

Ringland has also established a soil-saving rotation program. Each year the rotation includes a generous acreage of sweet clover. The sweet clover is utilized as a temporary pasture and as a green manure crop.

"Conservation King" land" declares, "is the best way to keep this land productive for a long time to come. It is not hard to put into practice once you make up your mind to get a start."

Potato Harvesters Needed

L. R. Snipes, farm labor supervisor for the extension service, reports that potato growers in the Kimball, Scottsbluff, Bridgeport and Lincoln potato growing areas are in need of between 300 and 400 harvesters. The need for workers is labeled as immediate.

### Shade of Sycamore

By PERCY MARKS

Author of "The Plastic Age" "A Tree Grows Straight" Etc.

THE STORY: Back in New Haven, after the announcement of the engagement, Gayle finds herself a celebrity. Discussing plans for her new home, she hears the architect by insisting that the oak have a large room and bath next to the kitchen.

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AS the end of the term approached, neither Gayle nor Rose paid much attention to their work at the Art School; indeed, Gayle wondered at times why she had ever thought it necessary to finish the term at all. The wedding was set for the third week in June, and she was going to have a frighteningly short time in which to get ready for it. She had made a brief weekend visit to Sycamore to discuss the wedding plans with Mrs. Bartlett, who obviously was disappointed in Gayle's ideas. She seemed a little warmer than on Gayle's first visit, but she was still rosy making a decision.

"Bruce has a great many friends," she objected. "Will the Calvin College chapel hold them all? And is your home adequate for the reception?"

"I'm afraid," said Gayle quietly, "that the answer is no to both questions. Evidently I didn't explain very well. I don't happen to want a big wedding, and even if I did, my father couldn't afford it. I'm going to invite only a few friends. Some of my sorority sisters may be invited, but I can't help that. And Bart will be able to invite only a few. There's no place in Calvin to hold a mob, anyway. And we're not planning on a reception, Mrs. Bartlett. I wouldn't put my father to that expense for anything. I want a real wedding in a church, but it's got to be as simple as possible."

With the greatest delicacy Mrs. Bartlett hinted that every difficulty would be evaded if the wedding were held at Sycamore. Mr. Bartlett's health would be

ample excuse, and it would distress him greatly if he weren't able to be present—and, of course, a trip to Calvin was for him entirely out of the question.

"I KNOW," Gayle agreed. "I want him to be there. You don't know how much I want him to be, but we couldn't count on him, no matter where the wedding was held. If he was having one of his bad days, he couldn't come, anyway. Besides, it's my parents' privilege to have the wedding at home, and nothing would make me rob them of it." She felt quite self-possessed and without fear. Sycamore wasn't nearly so awesome on a second visit, and somehow Mrs. Bartlett wasn't awesome at all. She was simply a stranger attempting to usurp privileges that belonged to the Kents, and Gayle had no intention of surrendering a single one. If Jimmie had been present, he would have said, "Gayle's back is up. Look out, lady."

Still courteous, still regal, Mrs. Bartlett persisted. Equally courteous, and not real at all, Gayle stepped backward not an inch. "She can't run my life," she thought stubbornly, "and she might as well find it out right now." In the end the arrangements were left exactly as she and her mother had planned them, and she had two happy visits with Mr. Bartlett. His health, he said, seemed actually to be improving, though he was sensible enough to have little faith in the improvement. "Just the same," he said, "I'm not suffering as much, and that's something to be thankful for. Are the wedding plans all settled?"

"Yes," she told him how sorry she was he couldn't be present. Then she said, "I'm afraid Mrs. Bartlett is disappointed. She wanted something much grander, but I don't want to be grand. I'll

of course, and don't worry about my wife. She will accept the situation gracefully."

"I KNOW," Then Gayle took her courage in both hands and said something she had wanted for some time to say. "I'm awfully afraid, though, she's more disappointed in me even than she is in the wedding plans. I don't think I'm the kind of girl she wanted Bart to marry."

"You're wrong there, my dear," Mr. Bartlett was surprisingly definite. "I'm glad you said that, because you've given me a chance to say something I think ought to be said. Nell approves of you. She thinks you have style and dignity, and they mean a great deal to her—more than you might imagine. Just give her time. She isn't a woman who can show affection easily, and she's deeply upset about Bruce. His marriage is a great shock to her."

"A shock?" Gayle stared at him incredulously.

"Yes; I don't think that's too strong a word."

"Doesn't she want him to get married at all?"

"Theoretically, yes—actually, I don't know. You've got to understand her devotion to Bruce. Gayle, it's all-consuming, and she's always felt that she was first with him. It isn't going to be easy for her to move into second place. I don't think it's doubly hard for Nell." He smiled. "But once the wedding is over, she will accept the situation as gracefully as anyone could, and if there is a grandchild—" he paused and his smile deepened—"she will be the most devoted mother in the world. What's more, as the mother of Bruce's child, you'll be just as precious to her as he is. Give her time, Gayle. This isn't easy for her."

Gayle relaxed so suddenly that she felt weak. "You don't know how much better you've made me feel," she told him, sighing; "you just don't know."

(To Be Continued)

## EDSON'S WASHINGTON COLUMN

BY PETER EDSON  
NEA Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(NEA)—When CIO President Phil Murray cut loose on the Communists at the recent PAC convention of liberals in Chicago, it looked a little as if the labor leader had turned to a new leaf in his book of policy.



At a steelworkers' convention in Atlantic City last May, Murray had declared: "We must not and do not seek interference with the free and democratic right of each member to practice such religion as he chooses, harbor such views as he chooses, in his private life as a citizen. Our union has not been and will not be an instrument for repression."

That was hailed by the Communist Daily Worker as an indication that Murray was backing away from any showdown with the Commie leaders or any purge of the Commie members in CIO unions. But at Chicago, Murray threw away the text of a prepared speech to the PAC leaders after Harold Ickes had made a typical curmudgeon talk that rubbed the wrong way. Speaking extemporaneously, Murray confided that at the recent Washington meeting of the World Federation of Trade Union heads he had told the Soviet delegate, "We've got no use for any damn Communists coming over here and meddling in our affairs any more than you would welcome our meddling in your affairs."

CONSERVATIVE CIO officials today assert that the Communist influence in their unions is less powerful than before the war. In 1940 unions which were considered Communist-dominated made up 26 per cent of the membership. Today the figure is said to be 18 per cent.

The figure may be misleading. The decline is due to the fact that CIO membership has increased from four million to six million. The membership of the Communist-dominated unions has, therefore, stood still, at about a million.

This does not mean that all the members of these unions are Communists, but that the active heads are considered followers of the Communist party line and that they try to take their unions along that line. Generally considered in the Commie-bosser lineup are the United Electrical Workers, Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers, United Public Workers, Longshoremen, and a few smaller unions.

The big United Auto Workers union was considered in the left-wing group, but with Walter Reuther as president it is not so listed now.

THESE Communist leaders in a labor union are aggressive and they are smart. They make strong union officials. They will work for less money. They will serve on committees. They will attend meetings at night. And they will do everything in their power to unseat non-Communist or anti-Communist officers.

From the viewpoint of the old-time American labor leader, the trouble with the Communists is that they have no program whatever for strengthening trade unionism itself. Their primary concern is to build up organizations which will yell for the Russian foreign policy line—whatever that happens to be at the moment.

Chancellor R. G. Gustafson of the University of Nebraska was the principal speaker for the evening program.

New Premier STOCKHOLM (UP)—Tage Erlander, new leader of the social democratic party was formally named premier, succeeding Per Albin Hansson, who died last week end.

Use Journal Want-Ads

### BARBS

BY HAL COCHRAN  
MANY a husband already has decided upon his favorite winter resort—right around the kitchen stove.

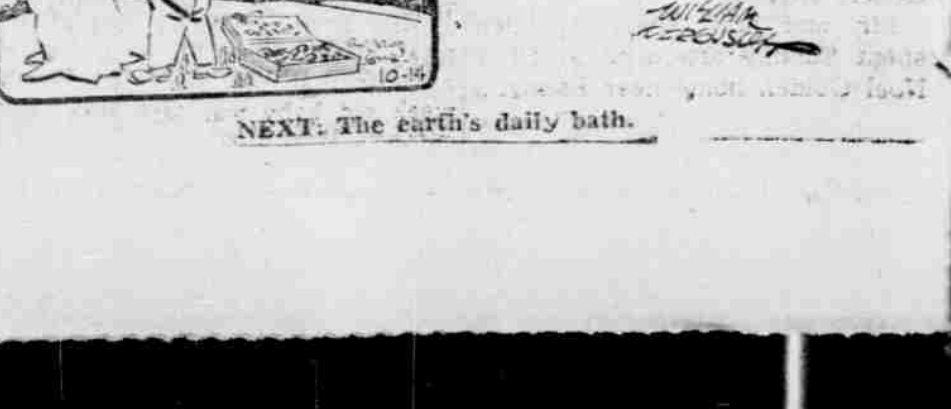
Some Chicago men have organized the "Keep Your Mouth Shut" luncheon club, which prohibits talking, speeches and gossip during meals. Women may attend if they keep quiet. Why don't they want women?

An Oregon mechanic, seeking to trace noises in the engine, lifted the hood of an auto and out flew a chicken. Maybe the spark plugs were fowled.

Lose interest in saving money and you'll lose interest in not saving it.

Installments would be a lot easier to handle if we could pay them by installments.

THIS CURIOUS WORLD By William Ferguson



A FIREFLY IS NOT A FLY, AND IT HAS NO FIRE.