

# The WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

BY PETER EDSON

WASHINGTON—Most important question to be decided at the Republican organization meetings to be held on Capitol Hill today will be the time-honored matter of "seniority" in other words, does the ablest man sit as chairman of a committee or the party hack with the "most-est" service?

This was one thing which handicapped Congress under the Democrats. The old-timers usually were Southern conservatives who, because of seniority, were given charge of important committees.

The Republicans have a real chance to change this. In the first place, a new broom can always sweep clean. Secondly, there was much talk when the congressional reorganization act was passed about abolishing seniority.

If committee chairman were picked on the basis of brains, not seniority, hard-working, trigger-brained Albert J. Engel of Muskegon, appropriations committee, instead of moss-black Mich., would be chairman of the important congressional John Taber of Auburn, N. Y. Engel's watchful eye on war Department spending of the healthiest influences on the army.

Again, it brains rather than age prevailed, all representative Daniel Reed of Dunkirk, N. Y., would become chairman of the ways and means committee instead of babbling bumptious Harold Knutsen of Minnesota.

### Brains Don't Matter

First test of seniority may come if Senator Joe Ball of Minnesota attempts to leap-frog over Vermont's George Aiken as chairman of the Senate Education and labor committee. This happens to be one case where the main with the seniority—Aiken—is thoroughly qualified for the job.

Ball, on the other hand, is branded by both AFL and CIO as the "friend of U. S. Steel." Senator Wayne Morse of Oregon, who had a fine record on the War Labor Board, might also be picked as chairman of the labor committee should seniority be cast aside.

If seniority prevails, chairmanship of the highly important new national defense committee merging the military affairs and naval affairs committees will go to Senator Cham Guiney of South Dakota, a brass-bait bellboy. Senator Charles Tobey of New Hampshire or Owen Brewster of Maine, both able men, would be logical choices over Guiney if brains were considered important. But, according to many souls in both parties, they aren't. The Republicans have a real chance to break with hide-bound precedent, but the betting odds are they won't take it.

### Will Rogers on Bench

Last Spring, California's popular Democratic Attorney General, Bob Kenny, was defeated in the state's gubernatorial primary by Governor Earl Warren. This week, Kenny received the following wire from defeated Democratic Senatorial candidate, Will Rogers jr.

"Dear Bob, please move over."  
Replied Kenny: "Dear Will, frankly there's no more room on the mourners' bench."

### War Secretary Entertains

Three G. I.'s from Walter Reed hospital are still talking about the big game weekend they spent with the Secretary of War at the Army-Notre Dame game.

Mrs. Robert Patterson, wife of the Secretary of War, works among wounded G. I.'s at the Army's Walter Reed hospital, and selected three of them to go with her husband to the game. The lucky veterans were Pfc. James O. Wilson, Winston Salem, N. C. Sgt. Gerald R. Groves, Meadville, Pa.; and Cpl. John English, Pittsburg, Pa.

Not only did they ride in Secretary Patterson's private plane to New York and see the game at his guests, but afterwards, Wall Street financier Floyd Odom and his wife Jacqueline Cochran invited them to lunch at their ornate Park Avenue apartment.

### Under the Dome

Retiring Speaker Sam Rayburn tells friends that he will serve in the House only one more term. Sam has been a Congressional fixture for 25 years now wants to retire. High up on the list to succeed Bob Hamegan as Democratic National Committee Chairman is astute Governor Bob Kerr of Oklahoma. His appointment will break a Democratic tradition that National chairmen must be Irish and from a big city.

Thirteen of the 9 Senators who voted against the Case Bill were up for reelection this year. Phil Murray, who planned to resign as head of the CIO at the CIO National convention in Atlantic City, now will stay on. He will attempt to unify left and right-wing CIO factions in order to resist the anti-labor trend in Congress.

Henry Wallace wasn't the only man who was asked to tone down his criticism of a leading C. O. P. Candidate—in his case, Vandenberg of Michigan. In Massachusetts, also, Senator Claude Pepper was asked by Governor Tobin's campaign leaders to gloss over the isolationist record of Senator Cabot Lodge. Top

Democrats met in New York after the Army-Notre Dame game for a "cocktail party," including Bob Hamegan, Mayor Kelly of Chicago, Boss Hague of Jersey City, Paul Fitzpatrick of New York, Jimmy Walker, ex-Mayor of New York, Frank Walker, ex-Democratic chairman, Ed Foley, Secretary of Commerce Averell Harriman, Attorney General Tom Clark, pianist Artie Duchin and singer Morton Downey. There was that not much politics was discussed. They were too weary.

Now that elections are over, the American farmer, like the laboring man, would like to know what is in store for him in the new G. O. P. controlled Congress. Here is a Merry-go-round forecast of what will happen.

There will be no major change in the government's farm program for the next two years—partly because the coalition of Republicans and southern Democrats will remain in the driver's seat.

However, you will hear the same hue and cry for parity prices on farm products in order to make them conform with higher living costs, and the first move will be to increase the price of potatoes.

There is a tremendous potato surplus this year, and though a considerable portion of the crop has been diverted to animal feed and alcohol, potato producers are protesting that they are receiving far below parity prices. Furthermore potatoes are a "G. O. P. Crop" from the rock-ribbed Republican state of Maine and the recently voted Republican state of Idaho. Pads, therefore, will get relief.

The new congress will also enact a law coordinating soil conservation functions now handled by the Soil conservation service, the Field Service branch of the production and marketing Administration, the extension service of the Department of Agriculture and other agencies.

Congress will vote a similar coordination of all agencies engaging in farm credit, including The Farm Credit Administration, the Federal Land Banks, intermediate credit banks and the farmers Home Administration. This means that all Farm Credit functions will be taken out from under the Democratic Secretary of Agriculture and will be administered by an independent board, which, of course, will include several Republicans.

### A Needed Warning

In the light of another threatened and particularly damaging coal strike, it is interesting to see that an editorial in the International Teamster, publication of the AFL Teamsters Union, had stated that "strikes have become a national menace."

"They must be curtailed," the editorial continued, "or the nation will sink into chaos and organized labor will perish."

In addition to this solemn warning the editorial affirmed the union's determination to stamp out wildcat strikes, and recalled that the international union could revoke local charters, annul fine, suspend or expel individual participants in such strikes.

All that is wise and commendable, but there seem to be some differences within the AFL's great family of unions between precept and practice. New York City was tied up for two months by a general trucking strike, plus a parcel delivery strike which lasted nearly as long. The Teamsters International sanctioned neither of them. Yet there are no indications to date of any punitive action against the wildcat strikers.

Elsewhere in the AFL, carpenters and stagehands have thrown the motion picture industry into confusion by a jurisdictional strike which the leaders of the warring unions have seemed unable or unwilling to settle. And now the miners stand ready to walk off the job again if the government fails to meet John L. Lewis's demands.

The International Teamster editorial apparently was written before election day, but its author was speaking prophetically when he called strikes "a national menace." For the vote on Nov. 5 gave unmistakable notice that the majority of voters agree with that estimate.

The vote showed clearly that the country is fed up with strikes that punish the public rather than management.

Oddly enough, it is the relatively conservative AFL, unencumbered with Communists and hence more popular with a great many non-union citizens, which is largely responsible for stirring up the public wrath. And if Mr. Lewis succeeds in bringing most of our national machinery to a halt with another "no contract, no work" strike, that wrath may turn into something really formidable.

It is not idle warning that the International Teamster has sounded. We hope that Mr. Lewis and other old-line union leaders, who have done so much for labor in the past, will read it and ponder it well. It would be tragic if these men, in their latter days, should sabotage the structure of organized labor by their arrogant, pompous, public-be-damned policies.

## THE MIDD LEMAN



## Shade of Sycamore

By PERCY MARKS Author of "The Plastic Age" "A Tree Grown Straight" Etc.

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place, I'd want to be sure—and now there just can't be any doubt at all."

Gayle wrote a note of thanks at once and told Mrs. Evans she appreciated her thoughtfulness and understanding greatly, but the letter gave her far more concern than it gave her comfort. Under normal circumstances, it would have made no difference to her where Holly Steele and Betty Kingston were, but their return to New York seemed to have some significance under the abnormal circumstances that existed at present.

"I wish I knew what they're after," Gayle thought over and over again until she was weary of thinking. Mrs. Bartlett had made Bart into a hero; but that apparently was not enough. She had some further plan, and Gayle formed an important part of it. She rubbed her aching forehead. "What can she want of me? What can she want of me?" Or was it Kent? In some subtle way was she trying to get control of him? Gayle's blood turned cold, and her hands trembled. It might be. It was the only thing that seemed even half way reasonable. . . .

GAYLE paced up and down the small living room. She could not read, she could not listen to the radio, she could not even remain in a chair. Fear had at last caught up with her, and she did not know what to do or to whom to turn.

Mrs. Mays sat with her hands in her lap and her blue eyes followed Gayle. Finally she spoke. "I'd like to say something. Do you think you can relax long enough to listen?"

Gayle turned and looked at her. "Of course," she said, sitting down in the chair opposite Mrs. Mays. "I'm sorry I'm so restless, but really I'm frantic."

"That's what I want to talk

about. I've been thinking. Maybe I'm all wrong, but it seems to me you're doing a lot of useless worrying."

"Useless?" Confused, Gayle stared at her. "Oh, no! Mr. Godfrey's just as worried as I am."

"I know. That's why I haven't said anything. He's a lawyer and knows a lot; but do you know, I think clever people like him often make a bad mistake; they forget most people aren't clever."

"You mean they overestimate their opponents?"

"Yes; that's it. Of course, I don't know Mrs. Bartlett, but she doesn't sound like a clever woman to me. She doesn't sound one bit clever. She offered you money, and that was stupid. No woman with good sense would have done that. And she was awfully stupid about bringing up her boy."

Gayle nodded thoughtfully. "Yes, of course. You're right, of course. She's not clever. I'm sure of that, but Joel Dwight's clever. Everybody says he is—and I'll bet anything he's the one who's running things."

"I'm sure Mr. Dwight's clever. I read an article in a magazine about him once. He must be very clever. But he wouldn't be honorable, too. He couldn't represent all those important people if he was sneaky and underhand—now, would he? And the newspapers must trust him. The article said they did. Maybe Mrs. Bartlett wants to harm you, but I don't see why Mr. Dwight would want to."

"No," Gayle agreed, "no, maybe not; but he's acting as if he wanted to."

"Maybe and maybe not. Maybe he's just trying to protect you for the sake of the Bartlett family. He could be, you know. Anyhow, you could find out. Besides, the right is on your side. They can't do anything if you just tell the truth. It's awfully hard to lick the truth. I know rich people have lots of power, but you haven't done anything wrong; so what can they do?"

Gayle sat very still and looked at her a long time before speaking. Finally, she said, "You've given me a new idea. I think you're right. I'm going to see Mr. Godfrey."

(To Be Continued)

## EDSON'S WASHINGTON COLUMN

BY PETER EDSON  
NEA Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(NEA)—Best guesses in Washington are that if all remaining government controls on wearing apparel were removed, prices would go up another 15 to 20 per cent above the prewar levels. They would level off at these new highs until the Easter trade is taken care of, then go down to seek more proper levels.

Clothing makes up about 11 per cent of the Bureau of Labor Statistics' index of consumer prices, commonly referred to as the cost of living. Clothing is now 60 per cent higher in price than it was in 1939. Another 15-point increase on top of that would mean that it would cost you \$175 to get the equivalent of every \$100 worth of clothing you bought in 1939.

Today wool clothing is 50 per cent higher, cotton clothing 92 per cent higher, natural and synthetic silks 45 per cent higher, and footwear 42 per cent higher than 1939 averages. The percentages will be above these figures when October prices are reported by BLS.

Wool is probably in better supply than is any other material. An average year's production used to be 20 million men's suits. This year 28 million suits are being made, and it's still not enough. The shortage is caused principally by a lack of labor in the men's clothing industry.

The supply of summer clothing now being made won't be normal. That is, you still won't be able to go into the stores and buy what you want when you want it, for prices you are willing to pay. Production is away up, but it may not meet the demand unless buying habits of consumers change.

While the average male shopper used to be content with a few white shirts, now he wants a dozen or more. And the average woman who used to be satisfied with one topcoat now has to have three or more.

High wages are said to be responsible for that. If there were an adequate supply of radios, automobiles and such consumers "hard" goods, they might soak up some of this purchasing power and relieve the pressure on "soft" goods like clothing.

Actually, there are few effective price controls left.

OPA's low-cost-clothing production program is still on, however, and OPA is authorized to offer a 5 per cent incentive to encourage manufacture of lower-priced lines. Also, CPA's priorities control is still in effect, and all textiles under allocation must go into low-cost clothing. About half the clothing made comes under this low-cost-line control.

The basic shortage in the apparel industry is shortage of textiles. Removal of CPA's loom-freeze order may help some. Shoes will apparently continue scarce for some time. But the low-cost shoe industry, which normally makes three-fourths of America's footwear, wants to keep its prewar market and may not try to cash in by raising prices for a temporary clean-up, taking advantage of the removal of ceilings on shoes, hides and leathers.

## South Bend

Mrs. Glen Kuhn

Miss Deloris Winqwest of Lincoln was weekend guest at the Glen Thiessen home.

Mr. and Mrs. Jess Fidler and daughters attended the football game at Wahoo Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. Lem McGinnis visited in Lincoln Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Haswell and Carol Streight called at the Jess Fidler home Sunday afternoon.

Wesley Smith of Ceresco was a weekend guest of Jack Kuhn.

Mrs. Kirk Fingan spent a few days in Lincoln last week.

Mrs. Bill Fidler spent Saturday with Mrs. Jess Fidler.

Lem McGinnis spent Monday in Omaha.

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