

## Merry-Go-Round

## Diplomacy Our Chief Weakness

WASHINGTON, D. C. September 25, 1942

Major Robert S. Allen, Third Army Maneuvers, Leesville, La.

Dear Bob:

My brother-in-law has been visiting us and I am in a bad humor. I suppose I shouldn't be, because he is a swell guy, but every morning he gets on my nerves. He doesn't know how to read a newspaper. He sits at the breakfast table and musses the paper all up. He gets the sports pages mixed up with the society news, and the comes next to the war news. It's like seeing your best friend tortured. Then if he doesn't leave the paper in the bathroom, he jams it in his pocket and takes it downtown.

It seems to me that if he realized all the time and effort which goes into a newspaper, all the cable toils that are spent, all the lives that are risked on battle fronts, all the work we go to to double-check a story, he wouldn't be so disrespectful.

I admit he comes by it honestly, because his sister-in-law is always complaining about the newspapers that get stacked up in the basement which I won't let her throw out. Once or twice when I have been out of town she has thrown them out anyway, causing me to go all the way up to the Library of Congress for duplicates. But the other day I was reading through some of these old papers and the columns you and I wrote on the Spanish Civil War, its history now, but sometimes you can learn a lot from history. It saves you from repeating mistakes.

## U. S. Aided Hitler

Everyone realizes now that the Spanish Civil War was a miniature rehearsal of this war, and that if we could have stopped Hitler and Mussolini in Spain, it probably would have stopped them from starting the big show.

They were testing out the democracies. And the democracies failed in the test.

You remember that the great majority of the American people saw the Spanish war very clearly as the opening battle between the dictators and the democracies. The Gallup Poll showed this. The newspaper editorials showed this. The delegations of people who came to Washington to demand the lifting of the arms embargo showed this. The country, as usual, was far ahead of Washington, but the country couldn't do anything about it.

Despite this overwhelming sentiment, the public could not get Roosevelt, the great leader of democracies, to act.

I remember that you, yourself, went to the White House and arranged a luncheon between the President and Senator Borah, in which Borah begged and implored that the Spanish Government be given the right to buy arms here to protect itself. Hitler and Mussolini were pouring arms in to help their fellow dictator, yet the anti-fascists in Spain could get no help from us, the greatest democracy.

And not even Borah's eloquence could change the President.

You remember also that I went up to Hyde Park to talk to the President on this. He seemed to be sympathetic, but nothing happened. At the time we thought the State Department was sabotaging the White House, and there was no question but that a great many of the umbrella-carrying boys

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around Mr. Hull were heart and soul with France and believed that the dictators should have a better place in the sun.

## U. S. Follows Britain

However, there was another factor, and it was, certainly, the Church—though that counted too. It was the fact that for years it has been State Department policy to follow the lead of the British on all things pertaining to Europe. And the British Government waited France to win.

Lord Halifax and Sir Eric Geddes and Sir Simon Hoare and Sir John Simon and Chamberlain all were thinking of British investments in Spain, were worried about the Blum Socialist Government in France, were scared to death over the effect of a Spanish Republican victory on British labor.

So we followed along with them. We followed the traditional policy the State Department has always followed—that in regard to all things European we take the cue from Britain.

Not many people outside Washington, or even in Washington, realize how deeply that policy is imbedded in our system. For years it has been the first rule of the State Department in the morning, and the last rule at night. For a while it was based on sound logic, namely that we had no fleet in the Atlantic and we must depend on the British.

But now things have changed, and I think it's time for the policy to change. I think it should change not merely because of our tragic mistake in following the British in Spain, not only because we now have a Navy equal to Britain's in the Atlantic, but because we want to win the peace after the war.

## Will This Be Lost War

That peace, as I see it, has got to be one in which we play a very important part. We can't back out of things immediately after the war is over as we did last time. We've got to stay in and make sure that war is not going to crop up again in twenty years. If we don't do that, if we don't make sure that there isn't going to be another war for a long, long time, then what's the use?

And the time to begin exercising our own independence regarding foreign policy is right now. Partnership in this war means shouldering political headaches as well as military headaches. But at least, we have to help defend India, we have nothing to say about the very difficult political factors which may bring the defeat of India. God knows we won't want the responsibility. But we have it whether we want it or not. And since British policy affects our policy in the Philippines, and our own color-policy here at home, and in all the Pacific Islands, we might as well get in and pitch now.

This is not criticism of the British people—though it may be critical of the old reactionary cabinet clique which bailed things up on Spain and which still seems to be thinking about "business" rather than winning the war.

Of course, the President has a lot to do, and can't attend to everything. But someone, somehow has got to get in and show the public that we can have the British fight for the British, but not be the tail on the British political kite.

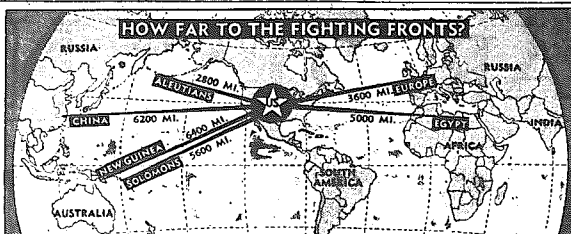
For if we don't join this out fight now I'm afraid that immediately the ink is dried on a peace treaty, reaction will set in. Our political friends around Chicago will begin twisting the British lion's tail again, and we will find ourselves going it alone—and heading for another war twenty years later.

—DREW.

**Buchanan Quits Command Of Sanford Guard Outfit**  
SANFORD—Captain Edwin J. Buchanan has resigned as commanding officer of the Sanford company of the Sanford Guard because of pressure of private business. No successor has been named as yet.

In the meanwhile First Lieutenant T. W. McDonald is in command of the company.

Afghanistan has a general election of nearly a mile.



It's a long way from home to the six major fronts where American soldiers, Marines or airmen are in action. Map shows distances as the crow flies; actually sea or air routes are much longer. The Navy, of course, is fighting in practically all of the world's waters.

## UNC Opens Its Fourth Wartime School Year

CHAPEL HILL.—For the fourth time in history, the University of North Carolina opened its doors today for a new

## Oil Shortage Already Noticed In This Case

KANSAS CITY.—(AP)—It was chilly in his window shade company office, so Phillip Kaufman told the janitor to turn on the heat.

The janitor said he had already tried—but failed. Someone had stolen the fuel oil tank which supplied the furnace.

scholarship year with the nation at war.

President Frank P. Graham, president, who is serving on the War Labor Board in Washington, was to fly down to speak before the new study body.

About 3,200 students have already registered for the Fall quarter. Freshman enrollment to date is about the same as that of the corresponding period last year.

From the tallest peak to the lowest ocean depth on earth is a vertical distance of twelve and one-half miles.

## Miserable With A HEAD COLD?

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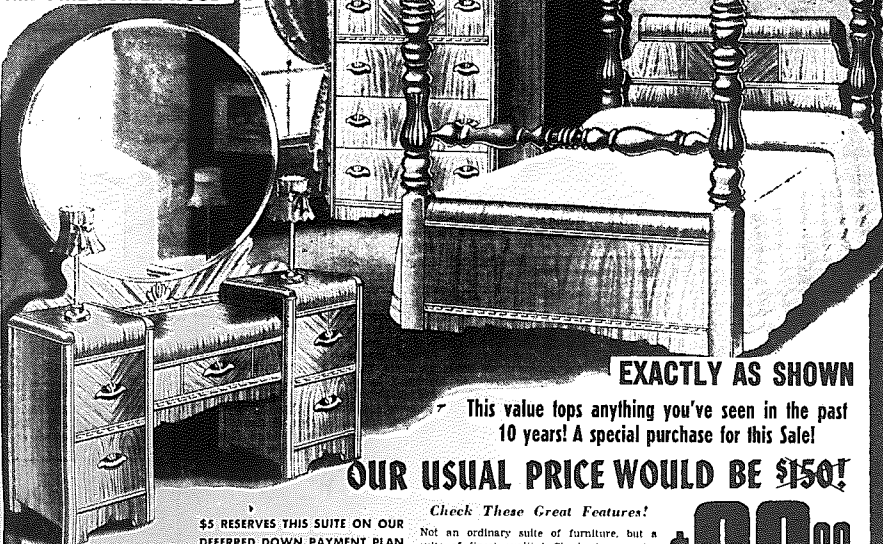
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