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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1943

### Missing Armies Two of Them May Be Bound For the Biggest Invasion

The mysterious disappearance of the American Seventh and the British Ninth Armies is likely to develop into one of the most thrilling stories of the war. It may be that the two forces, or one of them, is already approaching objectives on the Continent. In the Balkans, perhaps, a blow is about to fall. Wherever the armies strike, there will be quick and violent reaction. Germany, according to the only available reports, has replaced Italian troops in the Balkans with her own, and is prepared to meet opposition.

But a thrust at the Balkans would find the enemy unprepared for a major attempt. To meet full-scale invasion, reserves would have to be flooded in from other points, certainly from the Eastern Front. And the mere presence of Allied troops in the Balkans would change the war overnight. The entire Eastern flank of the Nazi Army would be placed in peril, and attempts would have to be made by Hitler's staff to withdraw in Russia, to realign against the new threat.

With that accomplished, the Allies would have the enemy pinned down closely in Eastern and Southern Europe, with the bulk of his forces strung from Leningrad to Northern Italy, in a great half-circle. In other areas, defense would be of necessity much lighter. There would be the chance for a wedge drive. And, as the wedges are driven deeper into Italy and the Balkans, a consolidation of the two fronts will be inevitable. Faced with such a situation, Hitler would be forced into his greatest withdrawal. Perhaps his final retreat.

The course of history goes with the hidden armies. If they are striking even now, then the campaigns of Winter will have begun, we will be committed to fighting in the North and the long-awaited big drives into the German wall will be underway. The Seventh and Ninth go with destiny.

Something in a two-way stretch would be the rubber check drawn on what used to be a Hamburg bank.

### Two Dry Weeks Distillers Cheated Out of Two Weeks' Whisky, But . . .

It sounds as if some of the Dry forces have jumped into the synthetic rubber program, of all things, and are having things their own way. At least, the yelps of the big distillers give that impression. There is the report that, with synthetic rubber needs being met, the government declared a two-week "vacation" for producers of industrial alcohol—which has been furiously produced for rubber-making.

The distillers, it seems, were not happy about the enforced layoff. They could use the rest, apparently, but they'd rather have been busy during the two weeks, turning out alcohol for consumption by the nation's thirsty. The distillers cry that the drinking men and women of the United States have been robbed by this domestic attitude on the part of the War Production Board. "Two weeks' work," they say, could have wiped out a slight shortage in the dwindling stock of drinkables.

Be that as it may, we can feel little sympathy either for distiller or the anxious multitude of the burning thirst. First, the distillers almost certainly have been guilty of playing a vast shell-game with their customers, closing out familiar brands of high standards and replacing them with inferior whiskeys sold at high prices. That, as has been charged, has been going on for some months. And as for the thirsty, we are of the opinion that their need for alcohol is relatively unimportant in the drive for war.

We will not join the throng in mourning for the wasted two weeks, when more drinking alcohol might have been produced. We think the course of the war will not be visibly affected, one way or another, and can't imagine how the steady, uninterrupted gurgling of the drinking people could be of great benefit to the war.

Here's a great day coming, when the military manufacturer resumes for the usual trade, and the flashlights go on again all over the world.

### Delaying Action Airline Decisions Should Be Made Now in Charlotte

The Charlotte visit of American Airline officials brings the future of this area much clearer. It also brings a genuine demand for action. The News does not and cannot speak in the interests of American or any other single air line. It can and does urge that the views of these aviation experts be heard. To date, they have not been able to convince officials in Charlotte that the city must take some immediate steps in its own behalf.

In short, the City must decide what kind of air service it wants most for the future, and what the needs are. All facts should be assembled, together with the local wishes, and made ready for presentation to the Civil Aeronautics Board. We should be in a position to talk with airline representatives intelligently. The need for this is urgent.

Within a year, the CAB is likely to make a decision upon airline service through Charlotte. Once given, the service will be continued on a permanent basis, and the pattern will be set. If the needs of the section are not accurately judged, and our wishes presented, then we stand the risk of inferior service and poor routes. The time for these decisions has arrived, and the men charged with their making bear a real responsibility.

Officials who have listened to the airline experts have not taken great interest. Planners have taken no definite steps. The Civil Aeronautics Board regards the Charlotte problem as purely local. That attitude will not suffice. The airline routes of tomorrow will be of vital and vast importance, and will link loosely all parts of the country. Not every city and town can hope to be on the big routes. The problem of Charlotte is inextricably tied in with those of other cities in the section. Soon, we hope, there will be official action in the matter.

### Still Complained Russia Can't Keep Quiet, Even at Eleventh Hour

Pravda, the authoritative Russian journal, is not going to keep a wise silence—or a silence of any kind, save that of Russian intentions. That paper announces solemnly, at the height of the crucial battle for Salerno, and as the British Eighth Army rushes North through Italy, that the Allies have still not opened the second front.

The paper has taken a count of German divisions in the Eastern Front, and reports that 212 of them are still there. So, another complaint. We do not think the complaint wise, or calculated to promote good feelings between the Allied nations. It seems an inexplicable attempt to continue the gap between Russia and the British-American combine. If this is not an official line of thought, then it is certainly permitted by officialdom.

As we've said often before, this sort of nagging reminder is poor propaganda, in the most realistic sense. If this be a campaign to lure the Germans into insecurity, it is certainly a childish one. If the Russians do not actually complain of Allied effort, they are going far astray to cover their true feelings. This continued harping upon the paltry aid proffered by the most powerful of nations is not in keeping with the times. Just as America begins the payment of her great price, and as there are airings all over the battlefronts, Russia goes on record again with her threadbare cry. It is gratifying to hear no official reports from American and British—and perhaps significant. If this is a game cooked up between Washington, London and Moscow, we'd sooner they call it off, tell the waiting Germans the hard truth about coming operations, and have on with the war, and done with bickering. It clashes with the growing sound of battle.

A Detroit report that a lot of shirts just back from the laundry are now out of style.

If Der Fuehrer gnawed his nails when things were good, the fellow should presently have no more arms than the Venus De Mil.

# The Merry-Go-Round

By Drew Pearson

THERE'S an interesting angle about Mrs. Roosevelt's trip to Australia which only the Australians, the White House and Wendell Willkie know about. It is the fact that Willkie was invited to go.

"I guess I am partly responsible for the First Lady's 'Goodwill Voyage,'" he recently joked to a high-ranking Republican friend.

What happened was that Australian Minister for External Affairs Herbert V. Evatt had several talks with Willkie prior to his visit to Australia. Then the President's headliner, who stepped into the picture to have Mrs. Roosevelt go. Apparently he wanted to head off Willkie. Willkie began some time ago to make his trips through the United States to London. He told Willkie that it was important that the Australian and American peoples get to understand each other and that working together as a team, they could dominate the Pacific after the war.

Willkie said he would be delighted to make the trip if it were cleared with the White House and State Department. Evatt said he would arrange for all this, including the transportation. This was the last Willkie heard about the matter until he got a phone call at his old home in Rushville, Ind., the other day from an Australian newspaper. He told Willkie that when the Australian Government had taken the matter up with the White House, President Roosevelt suggested that Mrs. Roosevelt go instead. Naturally, the Australian Government had to bow to the President's wishes.

Note: High-up Republicans who know about the White House play are more certain than ever that the President is going to run for a fourth term. They figure that he did not lose by grabbing the International spotlight by a trip to Australia. However, White House intimates still are not convinced that the President will run again.

### Gray Specialists

Capitol Hill gray specialists do a lot of tricks with the taxpayer's dollar. Sometimes they quarter relatives on the payroll, sometimes they get by others for not working, and negotiate salary "kickbacks."

But here is the latest wrinkle, this time from the office of Representative March, Republican of Wisconsin. Congressman Smith has an employee on his payroll who is also a member of the Wisconsin State Assembly. He is Ora R. Rice. Hired as a clerk on Smith's office staff at \$1,500 a year, thus Rice knucks down a Federal salary of \$1,500 and then turns around and gets a State salary of \$1,200 a year. He spends all of his time in Wisconsin on State matters, and what he does in Washington remains a mystery.

This isn't the only case of absentee payroll-peddling in the Wisconsin delegation. Thomas F. Davis, former State Highway Commissioner of Wisconsin, has been holding down a \$3,000-a-year salary as "secretary" to representative Harry Southoff, Wisconsin Progressive, since last February. Davis works only two weeks in the office in March, and has been AWOL ever since. Asked about Davis's whereabouts, Southoff replied bluntly: "He's in Madison. But expect he'll show here before long in case you want to see him about something."

### A Paving Job To Be Completed



By Dorman Smith

### No Slackening! Battle Has Only Begun

THIS ghastly news about the American Fifth Army at Salerno gives a far more sober cast to the future of the war. It should put a stop to the silly business reported around here of Government employees throwing up their hands and rushing home to get going in private life before the war comes to a sudden end. They will have a year, or two or three, we may very well be able to drive the Nazis out of Italy—if they do not drive us out.

It is a battle for all or nothing in Italy. Hitler must keep us from using airfields around Rome from which to bomb his most modern war factories in Southern Germany, which are out of reach of bombers from England. This is the opportunity to slash to pieces our best divisions and set us back for many months. Italy may well be a war of attrition and Hitler has more than his usual share of air at hand to throw in than we have.

Our best way of saving the situation is to cut his lines by bombing. He has only one double-track railroad from Italy now—the Jugoslav one over the Brenner Pass. Now, if ever, Allied bombers must do their stuff. So dangerous is Hitler's position in this respect that he may very well be able to give up and seize her routes into Italy. What is another neutral nation to Hitler? Switzerland is in mortal danger.

In face of this dangerous situation which may set the Allies back for months, Canada begins Italy now—this Jugoslav one over the Brenner Pass. Now, if ever, Allied bombers must do their stuff. So dangerous is Hitler's position in this respect that he may very well be able to give up and seize her routes into Italy. What is another neutral nation to Hitler? Switzerland is in mortal danger.

Gen. Marshall and Admiral King are to state their arguments about drafting fathers before the Senate Military Affairs Committee at once. It will be difficult, regardless of what arguments they advance, to convince both Senators and Representatives, and many others, that it is necessary to go on drafting fathers for the time being. The main question is whether more soldiers can be used at the moment. We have many divisions that are trained and awaiting transportation.

Until transportation catches up with the divisions we have on hand in this country, there must be question about further stripping down industry now—which is what the drafting of fathers means. Needs now are more troop transports, more landing craft, more of the items that make it possible to transport divisions and armor from across the ocean. And more bombers. With West Coast bomber plants losing production because of manpower trouble, that might seem at the moment to have priority over drafting fathers, to add to the congestion of troops in this country.

It is true that replacements and special units must be provided. There is danger also that political motives might carry Congress too far in restricting the power the armed services obtain necessary men. The country has supported the Army and the Navy in whatever they have felt was needed. That support should continue. In turn, the Army and Navy must restrain their demands to what they can use.

But there is sufficient ground to indicate that at least a serious question arises as to whether the best interests of a balanced war effort would not be served by a temporary halt in drafting fathers into a corresponding pack of manpower. Into the special types of production that will enable divisions already trained to be transported overseas to face the enemy.

The foregoing question is raised not on the assumption that the war is almost won, but on the contrary, one that the hardest fighting is yet to come, requiring the maximum use of manpower whether in uniform or in overalls.



You've been raving for years about the gorgeous dinner we'd have on our 25th anniversary—now all we can get is liver!

### Everyday Counselor

The Old Values

By Rev. Herbert Spaulgh

BEWARE what you throw out simply because someone calls it old-fashioned. At your age you may even think it's old-fashioned. Look at the houses furnished today with "old-fashioned" things thrown out by people of yesterday. Look at the antique dealers doing a land office business reclaiming the castoffs of another generation.

Most young people go through a period of considering their parents, and anything connected with them, old-fashioned—even their religion. What many of them throw away then, you will often find them in later life trying to retrieve. I am still very sad over the sale of two of my father's heirlooms, a secretary and a grandfather clock, which went for a song, because some of my family thought them "old-fashioned."

How bitterly I learned that lesson in the early days of my ministry. While I was in the Theological Seminary, upon recommendation of my father, a finer scholar than I ever was, I bought a standard set of religious reference books, of 51 volumes. The fact of graduation, coupled with association with certain modern and up-to-date theologians and magazines, led me to the conclusion that this set was old-fashioned and out of date. I expressed this opinion one day in the presence of an older clergyman who immediately asked if I wanted to sell the set.

The clericality with which he made the offer gave me a premonition that I felt I would be unwise to sell. However, I had talked too much, so I felt I had to live up to it. As soon as I admitted the set was for sale, he asked the price. I named, very nearly, what the set cost.

As soon as he pulled out his checkbook and commenced to write I was sure I had made a mistake, but my pride wouldn't let me back out. I almost sorrowfully I saw him pick up the books there—he was taking no chances on my changing my mind.

As soon as the old-fashioned books were gone, I commenced to try to find something to take their place. I bought a standard set more convinced I was that I had made a mistake in selling. I tried to buy another set like the one I had sold, but couldn't do it without paying a premium. I was disgusted with myself. Finally, I read in the newspaper of the unexpected death of the minister who had purchased the books. I bought them back from his estate. Now just let somebody try to buy that set again.

For personal reply address The Everyday Counselor, The Little Church on The Lane, 222 Marston Lane, Charlotte 4, N. C., enclosing a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

### Retreat? Living Costs

OPA has announced that it is about to beat back the cost of living in every single city across the country.

From the outbreak of World War II on Sept. 1, 1939 to Sept. 15, 1942, the cost of living in the United States rose 19 per cent—an average of 6 per cent per year. Between September, 1942 and August, 1943, the rise was 4 1/2 per cent. The increase since 1939 has been greatest in food prices, almost 30 per cent. Other items have risen about 25 per cent in clothing and house furnishings, 10 per cent in fuel and electricity as a single item, only about 3 1/2 per cent in the third successive month.

The figures are for commodities purchased by wage-earners and lower-salaried employees in large cities. Figures for small war-boom centers, for small towns generally, and for rural districts are not available. For the large cities covered a somewhat remarkable conformity is shown. In none has the total cost of living gone up as much as 35 per cent since 1939; in none has it gone up less than 20 per cent. In every single city across the cost of living is slightly higher than a year ago.

The recent three-month decline in the living-cost index has been cited to approximately the level of a year ago. A variety of methods will be utilized. In the meantime the monthly cost-of-living figures of the Department of Commerce, as of Aug. 15, show a slight decline, for the third successive month.

While retail prices thus have shown an average rise of only 4 1/2 per cent in the last eleven months (3 1/2 per cent in food), wholesale prices also have risen only slightly. Between September, 1942 and September, 1943, the average level of wholesale prices (Leather Department Index) rose only 3 1/4 per cent.

In June Congress added to the bill extending the life of the Commodity Credit Corporation a provision to end the OPA subsidy programs to roll back retail prices in certain foods. There was no vote on the House side in the Senate. In the Senate 61 Democrats and 20 Republicans voted for the bill. President Roosevelt on July 2 voted the bill, which he called a pro-inflation and pro-higher living cost device. The House failed by votes 207-197. The bill would only 4 per cent of the Republicans voted to sustain the veto; 26 per cent of the Democrats voted to override it.—Editorial Research Report.

### Quote, Unquote

I HAVE every reason to believe we can so destroy critical objectives in Germany that German military communications, transportation and production will be disrupted to such an extent that it will be impossible for her to continue as she is now doing.

—Gen. Henry H. H. Arnold, Army Air Force Chief.

A New Dealer is an individual who believes that privileges shall be within the attainment of anyone who has the ability and character to get his hands on them.

—Interior Secretary Harold I.

With wages and prices stabilized at September (1942) levels, workers will break all previous records for steady, uninterrupted and increasing production.

—A. F. of L. President William Green.

The toughest battles are ahead. The tide will go together and longer as we catch through the outer fringes of the Axis defenses and attack their main bastions.

—Rear Adm. C. H. Woodhead.

This is the condition we in all parts of the country are in. Your government is spending more than the cost of the entire American revolution. From this point on it will be even more expensive.

—Treasury Secretary Henry Morgenthau, Jr.