

W. C. DOWD, JR.  
PUBLISHER  
J. E. DOWD, Editor  
DUNKE DAVID ASSOCIATES, Editor

DECEMBER 6, 1944

## The Big Raid

In the year 2070, or thereabouts, an editor on *The Electronics Daily Flash*, casting about for something to lambast in the next instant's issue, may happen to be looking for the Congress of 1944, and pitch in. For the Congress of 1944, lame duck postscript of the 77th, is about to put through legislation creating a special class of beneficiaries for the survivors of the war, even unto 2070, be with us yet, be with us yet.

Four times has the House of Representatives passed and sent to the Senate a bill to pay general pensions to the widows and orphans of World War I veterans. Not, mind you, to the widows and orphans of men killed in battle or dead from a cause remotely traceable to their service—they are provided for—but a general pension, a pension to the widows and orphans of any man who saw as much as 90 days' service and who thereafter may have lived to a ripe and hale old age.

These House bills have never reached the Senate floor, not because Senators stopped to question the propriety of such bills, to count the ultimate cost, and to observe that a couple of pensioners of the War of 1812 were still drawing down a few hundred dollars a year. But this week the Senate not only took up a House bill to grant general pensions to the widows and orphans of World War I veterans; it increased the scale of House benefits and passed the bill, though by a vote vote rather than a vote recording the stand of each Senator present.

After all our major wars there has followed, in due course, an orgy of pension-paying, which was excessively costly, by susceptible of abuse and a plaything of politicians (remember the G. A. R.). Whatever excuse existed for such largesse in the past was invalidated by the social security legislation which came along in the 1930s—legislation designed for the people of the country as a whole, not for a class.

And that general pensions are the wrong approach to the problem of insecurity, we have seen in the case of less an authority than President Roosevelt himself. Addressing a convention of the American Legion in October, 1933, he put it to 'em straight:

"The first principle, following inevitably from the obligation of citizens to bear arms, is that the Government has a responsibility toward and toward those who suffered injury or contracted disease while serving in its defense. The second principle is that no person, because he was a uniform, must thereafter be placed in a special class of beneficiaries over and above all other citizens."

## A Solid Front

Something is happening to our war, and from a distance it has an unhealthy look. For even where the fighting has passed by, and the victory is behind, there are men who think that the bloody, wearying struggle has been fought for nothing. And, strangely enough, the very men who, under Nazi occupation, fought, bled, and died, are now, in the date, up to this point, they have unanimously resisted governments which sprang up in the wake of enemy retreat. Look at the list.

There was trouble in Italy, where the combined political parties which spoke for the people rebelled first against the King, second against Badoglio, Patriots said the new government was Fascist, and they wanted no part of it. In France, there was trouble when the soldiers of the Free French were commanded to turn in their arms; they wanted to keep them, seeing things not to their liking in the provisional government. There were demonstrations. And in Belgium it was almost the same. Members of the underground demonstrated against orders to disarm them, and blood was spilled; they charged the Perlot government with Fascism, with refusing to punish collaborators.

And now it is the same in Greece. That was inevitable. Members of the EAM, that valiant Greek volunteer army which fought throughout Nazi occupation (sometimes despite British

interference) do not like what they see of the Papandreou government. Six leftist EAM cabinet members resigned when their figures were ordered disarmed. There is bitterness in Greece, and what is the trouble?

All these who protest are of the left. Are they so uniformly impractical as to hope that they might start off with a perfect government? Do these roughnecks wish to carry arms forever, and defy the power of any government? Or do they simply see that, in every country, and that their fighting, so far as their cause is concerned, has been in vain? Do they see a continuation of the old, evil status quo, and thus regard the new order in Europe with revulsion?

## Wage Demand

The next voice you are likely to hear will be that of the Congress, asking for a raise. In the cloakrooms the underpaid ladies and gentlemen are already murmuring they want the Little Steel Formula to apply to them, too, and they'd like to slip in some overtime pay. And this increasing demand is not far from alone. It is not a recurrence of the "Buddies For God" which the soldiers dropped like a hot potato when the public got wind of it; it is part of a trend. It belongs to the program of modernizing and streamlining our Congress.

Congressmen should be paid more. They were right in that "Buddies" issue, and need not have qualified before possible public reaction. Their present salary of \$10,000 a year is not sufficient to meet Washington's living costs, long since risen above Congressional needs. That salary was set in 1924, in a far different era.

Under the Little Steel formula, just as a measuring stick, Congressmen should be drawing \$11,500 a year—but they'd like to make it \$15,000. John T. Flynn, who has done a valuable critique on Congress, says it should be boosted to \$20,000. The boys themselves, of course, will hesitate to mention the subject publicly. It would be ideal if they could just persuade that Man in the White House to come out with the suggestion.

## Broken Dreams

About all we've been able to get out of Hollywood's latest brawl is disillusionment. It was a bitter enough pill to learn about Tommy Dorsey. That mild little gate, whose music had been forever been a soothing lullaby, came to the quick when he put aside his slip stick and, with the aid of his spouse, gave big Jon Hall the licking of his life.

It was Jon himself who jerked the scales from our eyes. Big Jon, the over-sized heartthrob, many's the time we've seen him thump that manly chest like a tom-tom, emit a blood-curdling call of the wild, and go hopping, island by island, to woo some dazzling beauty. More than once have we seen him battle heroically against the raging seas, typhoons, and the fiercest denizens of deep and jungle. We recall, in fact, having seen him clinging desperately to a tossing mast in a gale, peering eagle-eyed through the storm, sighting precious land some 376 miles dead ahead.

And the payoff came in court. Poor Hall, with his specs off, can't see his hand before his face; hence the Dorseys made mincemeat of him and redebated his lawsuit. He'll never do again, big John. Not only does he see nothing at all, when he cups his hand over his eyes and gazes far away. When he snuggles those delectable bunnies in his arms and makes South Sea love, he even tells who's holding.

A slowdown in the birthrate is predicted in the year ahead. This will be bad, as there would be no point in passing the debt along to a posterity that isn't there.

## Statesmen At Work

(Excerpts From The Congressional Record)

Rep. Snyder of Pennsylvania was explaining to the House his scheme for building super-highways through the nation (from East-West, and six North-South). He aroused certain objections.

Mr. SMITH of Ohio. Will the gentleman explain to the House where the money is to come from for this multi-million-dollar highway program?

Mr. SNYDER. May I say, and I say this mildly, not sarcastically, that I will have to come from the same source that for the other money comes from for the highway building program, that is, the Federal Government. The bill I am introducing today calls for private industry to build these roads.

Mr. SMITH. Will not most of this money be practically all of it have to be raised by deficit financing, and if so, how?

Mr. SNYDER. We built the Pennsylvania super-highway, and we have told. If the war had not come, we would have been paying 24 years to pay off the \$400,000,000 we would have paid off in 10 years.

Mr. SMITH. The gentleman is not talking into consideration the Federal grant that was involved in the construction?

Mr. SNYDER. That was \$20,000,000 grant involved, but we do not have to pay that back. It is a good-paying proposition as long as you do not have to

bother about paying back the Federal grant.

Mr. SNYDER. That is right. I say, Mr. SMITH, I believe in buying the best, but I also believe in paying for it. Most of course he had the Garden of Eden and that, but he was kicked out of the Garden of Eden because he reached out.

Mr. SNYDER. Oh, out of the Nation's pocket, which is the same thing. Mr. HOFFMAN. Why do we want to put the Nation in debt—in debt for billions and billions of dollars?

Mr. SNYDER. Permit me to make this observation to the gentleman: If the gentleman has any big business, such as the United States Steel Corporation or General Motors or Chrysler, and asks to see the President, he will be given a very good business (he'll find) they borrowed.

Mr. HOFFMAN. Adam did not have any money. He had the Garden of Eden and all that, but he was kicked out of the Garden of Eden because he reached out.

Mr. SNYDER. Of course, he had Eve there.

Mr. HOFFMAN. Yes, and he got the apple, and the snake got him. That is what I am afraid of, too, many snakes around, trying to give too many apples, which is going to get us in trouble.

## The Merry Go Round

By Drew Pearson

A LONG Philadelphia's snark Main Line, where the terminus of Wales, while dining among Quaker City bluebirds, was asked: "Would you like to meet Biddle?"

By which the Prince replied: "What's a Biddle?"

Ever since the Biddle-Littell row broke the Justice Department wide open, a lot of people are asking the same question. "What, who and how is Francis Biddle?" If you talk to his old friends on the Philadelphia Main Line, they will tell you he is a traitor to his class. If you talk to Norman Littell, his former Assistant Attorney General, he will tell you Biddle is merely the stooge and puppet of Tommy Cochran. If you talk to some of the newspaper publishers against whom Biddle is bringing suit in the Associated Press case, their remarks are almost unprintable.

But if you talk to the men who work with him in and out of the Justice Department, 90 per cent will tell you he is a shy, hesitant person, who sometimes waits before making up his mind but, once he is sure he is right, will fight harder for the right and for the underdog than any other Attorney General in recent years.

FDR tells how, when Biddle was proposed as head of the National Labor Relations Board in 1933, he feared Biddle was too reactionary. In Philadelphia Biddle had been attorney for the Pennsylvania Railroad, biggest railway property in the world. His last law case before he entered the Government was to defend the Pennsylvania against Wendell Berge of the Justice Department in a radio case.

Biddle and the railroad won. Today Berge is Assistant Attorney General under Biddle, and today they are both prosecuting one of the biggest anti-trust cases in history against the railroads.

### Almost Too Liberal

Biddle proved he got the best of the fighting for the underdog partly from the late Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, whose secretary he was; partly from Mrs. Biddle.

As Attorney General, Biddle has done a lot of things that made his bluebird front in Philadelphia wither. He is prosecuting the insurance companies, seizing Montgomery Ward, bringing more anti-trust cases than any other Attorney General in history.

But there is one thing about which not many of them know, with which they probably would agree.

## Ready For A New Season



## FR Is Getting Set

By Marquis Childs

A GREAT deal has been written about the delay in holding another conference of the Big Three—Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin. Much of it has been irrelevant, since it has ignored Roosevelt's own attitude toward the forthcoming meeting.

Here, from a sound and long familiar with the trends that shape policy behind the scenes, is a close-up of the present mood of the man who faces at the start of an unprecedented fourth term, what may well prove to be the greatest task of his long and colorful career.

The President has not desired to force the issue at an early meeting. To begin with, he is very well aware of the vital decisions which must be made where once again the three world leaders sit down around a conference table. By comparison, as the President well knows, the hurried call for two or three more conferences was simple. The major problem then was one of strategy and the hurried call for two or three more conferences was simple.

Most of the decisions taken at Tehran a year ago have been implemented. The battle is drawn, and it will go on until victory is won. The President has complete faith in General Marshall and Admiral King, and they will remain in command to the end. Very little time need be taken up at the coming meeting with military strategy. Even the pattern of Russian co-operation in the second phase of the war, after the defeat of Germany, is fairly well defined.

## The People's Platform

Editors, The News.

In the statement made in your paper on November 18, initiating the campaign for the election, you were led into making some rather inaccurate statements, and I am sure that you will be impressed by the fact that the propaganda of the promotion of the union in the states of Florida and Arkansas. You say:

"The only way an orderly process could be maintained in the working agreements with employers. War production could never have been successful without the forces, and our next most active group into the Seabees. Then came the war, and the forces were in the war."

Not only was an orderly process could be maintained in the working agreements with employers. War production could never have been successful without the forces, and our next most active group into the Seabees. Then came the war, and the forces were in the war."

Not only was an orderly process could be maintained in the working agreements with employers. War production could never have been successful without the forces, and our next most active group into the Seabees. Then came the war, and the forces were in the war."

WASHINGTON

Though little publicized, Biddle's greatest achievement has been his preservation of civil liberties. A lot of people at the beginning of the war demanded that Biddle prosecute Father Coughlin. Biddle refused, saying it would arouse religious prejudice and appear to be a witch hunt. Instead, he let the Church silence Coughlin. Even the White House at one time prodded Biddle because he did not crack down on the radio priest.

The War and Navy Departments at one time wanted Congress to pass a "Dora" or Defense of the Realm Act similar to England's, under which two members of Parliament have been jailed without trial. But Biddle has blocked such an act here.

He also blocked the Army regarding martial law in Hawaii. Norman Littell, now quarreling with him so bitterly, did exactly the same thing. In fact, Littell took the lead in the fight for civil law in Hawaii, with Biddle's support.

The inside of this violent clash of personalities is that both men stand for the same things, but Biddle is a Jew, more cautious, believes in winning over his fellow Cabinet members in the War and Navy Departments by persuasion if possible. But Littell, brilliant, impatient, belligerent, seems persuasion is never happier than when publicly rowing with the Army or Navy.

For instance, the late Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox, as honest as the day is long, nearly fainted when Littell told Congress that the Navy had perpetrated another Teapot Dome scandal in leasing Elk Hills to Standard Oil of California. Littell was right about the lease not being good policy, but it was a honest lease, and there was no "little black cat" connected with it, as in Harding's day. Knox never got over this rebuff in his honesty.

Again, Littell wanted to condemn the Savannah Shipyards and claims that "Tommy the Cork" Cochran lobbied with Biddle against condemnation. But the fact is that Littell lost money for the Government in that case. Cochran had proposed a settlement whereby the Government would pay the shipyard owners \$1,000,000 for their property. Littell opposed. And in a joint conference, Biddle sided with Littell, as he nearly always did. He told him to go ahead and try the case. Whereupon Littell told a Savannah jury: "The Government paid not \$1,000,000 but \$1,278,368.36. The Government was out over \$278,000."

Those are some of the facts which Littell, brilliant, but emotional, did not make clear in his public battles at his chief, the Attorney General.



"I don't know whether my wife is really worried about my weight or thinks I'm outdoing her in meat and butter when she asks me every day what I had for lunch!"

## Everyday Counselor

By Herbert Spang, D.D.

WHAT about the churches in Germany? Many thoughtful people are asking that question. The World Council of Churches, through its staff in Geneva, Switzerland, gives the following summary:

Discouraging facts: "Three fourths of the members of Germany have been pressed into military service. The churches have been mentioned in the numbers in prison camps, and large numbers have been killed in battle."

There has been almost a complete stoppage of religious life. This means that over the last five years there has been a shortage of about 2,000 recruits needed to fill the normal vacancies. Many clergymen still have their freedom of movement to travel or preach. Religious instruction in schools has been greatly curtailed. The church has been suppressed. Publication of religious books is forbidden. So is the sending of religious literature to soldiers at the front. A vast amount of church property has been confiscated or was purloined.

Encouraging facts: "Persecution has been met by a deepened consecration of church leaders, espe-

cially among the laity. Hundreds of laymen have qualified as lay readers who conduct services where there are no pastors. Some of them go out from the large cities as missionaries to the rural districts. Church attendance is increasing, and large groups of Germans have discovered the emptiness of the official Nazi ideology."

"Soldiers who have gone through the unpeakable horrors of the eastern campaign, and civilians who have lost homes and families through the allied bombings, are turning to religion for comfort and strength. Yes, the Nazi members, tired of their own ideology, are seeking in religion some solace and healing. Evangelical campaigns in industrial cities, which are attended by thousands, are bringing new contacts between the church and the worker. These are attracting young people, especially army men of all ranks."

"Effective church membership is probably stronger than it was ten years ago. The upheavals of war have developed a greater unity among Protestant churches and a greater co-operation with Roman Catholic Churches. United Church leadership has been maintained, tested directly and indirectly against measures contrary to Christian convictions in national life. It has spoken out against mercy killings and other violations of rights."

If Germany is to be saved at all after the war it will be through the Church.

## Who's For Order?

By Samuel Grafton

I always enjoy these editorials in the New York Times, and other newspapers, which explain that the purpose of British policy in Belgium and Greece is to keep order. The result of British policy in both countries has been disorder, which reduces these editorials to whimsies.

The gentlemen cry peace, peace. They explain that while the governments of Perlot in Belgium and Papandreou in Greece may not be democratic, at least they are better put up with them, because they serve the function of preventing disorder. Letting us rest with the war. It is a good, practical explanation. One finds oneself nodding his head in agreement. Very good argument.

But what is that red stuff on the cobblestones? Twenty-one United States soldiers were killed Sunday in Athens, and a general strike followed. Let's stop discussing the Greek situation, and let's really look at Belgium and at Greece. The plain truth is that in both countries there has been disorder, both unrepresentative governments and disorder. We are getting nothing.

Why should we keep them in business when they can't deliver the only thing they're supposed to be good for?

If the British continue to support these two governments, then it will become clear that the British mind disorder, so long as they have Perlot and Papandreou. It will be clear that they don't really want order; they want P. and P. As the story unfolds, the original argument for support of P. and P. disappears; the British are left without an argument; and all they have is P. and P.

Some of the newspapers which are being so strict about putting down disorder in Greece, are the same newspapers which had their doubts about recognizing the Greek Republic. They don't know whether all Frenchmen were for him.

## The Best Soldiers?

By Hal Boyle

FIRST ARMY HEADQUARTERS—(Delayed)—How do American demoralized soldiers measure up in battle?

William Smith White, veteran Associated Press writer, is in position to judge. Since the invasion of France, Bill has served as correspondent with the First Canadian Army, the Second British Army and the First U. S. Army. He enlisted himself earlier in the war, but a critical illness prevented completion of his officers' training course and he received a medical discharge.

I asked Bill what he thought of Johnny Doughboy and Tommy Atkins, the American and British soldiers in combat. This is his reply: "Nobody who has been with Allied troops in Europe would care to generalize by saying that troops of such and such a nation were best."

"From my experience with both British and American Armies I should put it about like this: 'If I were a commander and was told that I must take a ridge ahead of me in eighteen hours, even though by every normal rule it was a 24-hour job at the very best, I would turn to the British. I would because they have less reverence for the life of an infantryman. And, very likely, once it had been explained why that was, they would be more likely to perform things that aren't really possible by normal reckoning.'"

"But if again I were a com-

mander and I was ordered to hold a position—any position, however unpopular and unattractive, and pointless—through Spring and Summer and Fall and Winter if need be, I'd take the British Tommy."

"He is the world's most persistent soldier, the world's most patient and under his immortal beeping—he's the world's most cheerful. It's not that he lacks an offensive spirit—it's simply that his greatest role in all history has been to hold the bag of the world in every continent and sea, so something that England must have."

"The American soldier is enough to go on performing a seemingly hopeless and seemingly hopeless and hopeless job. Tommy is much more philosophical. His morale for the long pull is the best in the world."

"So I should say that John Doughboy and Tommy Atkins are perfectly comradely and brave in the dash and time impatience to set a campaign rolling. Tommy—on the whole, I believe Tommy is a little more expert as a soldier—whose of course is only natural, but I believe he has been at it far longer."

"In the more specialized arms, and in the more specialized arms, I believe the American soldier is well along toward becoming the ablest in the world. The qualifications in my knowledge is far higher than any other soldier. He might not always find it as good as the British soldier, but he will always maintain it better and longer and keep it rolling over small hills."

"British tank that would push forward."