

The Merry-Go-Round

By Drew Pearson

WASHINGTON (UPI)—The inside story can now be told of how the Big Three conference was postponed from last November to the present date.

It is longer a secret that the President was supposed to meet Stalin and Churchill on Nov. 23, immediately after the election. The man who especially wanted the meeting at that time was Churchill. Roosevelt at first tentatively agreed to go, but Stalin was not willing to meet any place outside of Russia.

The Soviet chief said that he was not willing to leave Russia territory, even for so short a distance as Tehran. Also when he went to Tehran before, he caught cold and was laid up for a week. So this time Stalin politely refused to budge out of Russia.

Roosevelt, meanwhile felt that Stalin should at least be willing to meet him part way, inasmuch as he had already traveled half way 'round the world to meet Stalin.

More important in the President's mind was the argument of some of his advisers that FDR would find himself sitting in the middle between Stalin and Churchill, serving in the difficult capacity of mediator between the two.

Harry Hopkins, for one, thought his Chief should sit in the middle, at least, until Russia and Britain had made further attempts to iron out some of their conflicting interests.

Churchill Hit Ceiling

Third reason for Roosevelt's delaying the conference was the fact that he had just coming through a stiff election campaign, needed a rest and time to clean up some of his domestic problems.

Result of the postponement, however, was that Churchill hit the ceiling. He felt the President was pretty much walking on him, and the cables exchanged between the two men at that time lost their usual cordality.

It was at this time that some of Churchill's Cabinet members expressed their disapproval at the Chicago air conference in order to avoid a deadlock with the United States. But he refused, and the conference ended in a dead-end.

Later, things drifted from bad to worse as far as British policy in Greece and Italy was concerned. So that just before his inauguration, the President became easier and readier to leave immediately for the Big Three conference in order to solve these problems.

In fact he was so restless that he proposed to his naval and military leaders that they depart on Saturday afternoon, Jan. 20, just an hour or two after he was inaugurated. They replied that they could not possibly get the proper traveling facilities ready by that time, so in the end, the President departed a little later.

Vice-President's Aide

Hard-working Harry Truman has worked out a new wrinkle for Vice-Presidents. He now has a military aide—Col. Harry H. Vaughn of Missouri.

This is the first time in the memory of Capitol servants that the Vice-President has had a full-fledged commissioned officer assigned to him as military aide. Other members of the Cabinet, with the exception of the Secretary of War and the Secretary of the Navy, are not entitled to any gold braid, and no recent Vice-President preceding Truman has ever had any brass knobs around him.

Henry Wallace even objected to Secret Service men accompanying him around the country. The last time a military aide attended on a civilian member of the Cabinet was during the Hoover Administration.

Intercession when Secretary of State Stimson brought back Capt. Evens Regulator from the Philippines and had his eyes as military aide in the State Department. This caused considerable furor on Capitol Hill, where Democrats, then in control of the House of Representatives, inserted a special provision in the War Appropriations Bill cutting off Regulator's salary.

Mayor Fiorello La Guardia, then a member of Congress, strongly supported the amendment and it took a special appeal by Senate Republicans to kill it.

Today, however, it is doubtful whether the Democrats will raise a protest against a full-fledged colonel as aide to Vice-President Truman.

Texas Humor

Archibald McNeill, retired Connecticut publisher, was talking the Mead Committee how his partner in a corporation which was set up to deal in surplus war materials had formed a new organization which excluded McNeill.

"A new deal," prompted portly Senator Tom Connally, assumed complexion of fellow Texan Jesse Jones, recently fired by the President.

"That's right," McNeill agreed. "A new deal, and it is." "Well," said Connally, with a grin at the audience, "that's not the first time the New Deal has let people out."

Hard British Winter

American householders who grumble about temperatures of 68 degrees should keep in mind conditions in London. There, luxury hotels only are able to maintain temperatures of about 60 degrees.

This has been one of the coldest Winters of the century in England and one of the most serious shortages is gas. There has not been nearly enough to replace the thousands of windows blown out by buzz-bombs and rockets. Cardboard and an electric component provided by the Government are offered as substitutes, but with a serious shortage of fuel, the sixth Winter of war is proving the coldest yet to the British.

Buzz-bombs and rockets have spread the suffering in London among all classes. During the blitz most observers had a very definite impression that Hitler had ordered his bombardiers to concentrate on the east side of London, where most workers lived. He wanted to break the spirit of the British working man, they believed. But rocket bombs are not so easily controlled, and with the result that their damage is fairly well spread throughout the city.

The subways are still "home" to many thousands of Londoners during this extremely cold Winter. These simply isn't enough housing, even with the additional shelter provided by the U. S. Army.

Capital Chaff

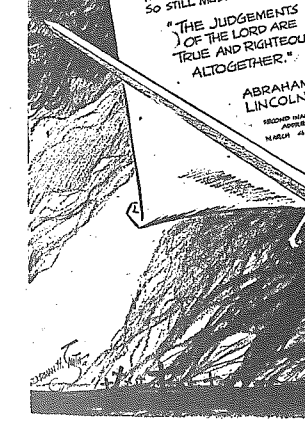
Democratic Chairman Hannegan had a lot to say solidifying both wings of the Democratic Party by the way he worked for Henry Wallace's confirmation. He was heavy on bird-dog baiting Senators for Wallace. Since Hannegan's opposition to Wallace at Chicago was resented by liberal Democrats, his current support healed the breach.

Vice-President Truman who defeated Wallace at Chicago, also pulled potent wires for him as Secretary of Commerce. . . . So did Democratic Treasurer Ed Pauley, though Wallace declined to consider him as Federal Loan Administrator. . . . Shipbucker Louis Ruppel of the Chicago Herald-American is doing a real job for returning survivors by focusing public attention on the veteran's problem. The public hasn't really become allergic to the button yet.

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Hark, the Voice From Another Great War

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SIDE GLANCES



"I'm your oldest customer, so don't tell me the world has got so complicated you haven't got a pound of butter! Are the cows any more complicated than they used to be, too?"

People's Platform

Editors, THE NEWS: It was most very painful for Senator Clyde Hoey to join Senator Bailey and Senator Byrd in opposition to the appointment of Henry Wallace.

Editors, THE NEWS: I do not wish to further bore the public with the Blaine incident. But I crave enlightenment. I must have gotten my signals mixed in referring to C. N. Blaine (to Blaine) as "a Hitler baiter."

A Correction On Blaze

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More Lines For Fala

Editors, THE NEWS: Fala is a bitred ground. And a wretched one is he. For Ma and Daddy picked a shrew, as vicious as could be.

Foxhole Diggers

Back in California, Young used to scribble through the ropes under the ring name of Billy Ryan. Six-foot Capt. Roy G. McCracken of Pueblo, Colo., saw five German paratroopers dig their way up behind a tank-order to clear a road of enemy mines.

Sidetracked

We suppose that, if the millennium ever comes, it will not make much of a stir in the halls of Congress. As major as the executive labors to purify her body or even to guarantee that its majority will make sense, day to day, there will forever be a margin of error. And among the little group which insists upon its little amusement, and thus drags down the level of Congressional performance, there is a burst of frenzied activity, these days.

There is the matter of the ban on conventions, imposed by the Office of Defense Transportation. So far as we know there has not been a murmur in the country when that ban was imposed. Business, civic and fraternal groups and orders were busy announcing their compliance with the order, day after day. It was presumed that the country was the sense of giving relief to overburdened transport, and didn't even have to ask whether the measure was necessary to the war effort.

But that didn't go with the sideshow boys in the House. Last week Pennsylvania's Rich, Republican, was aroused when he learned that ODT had, among other things, prevented a conference of the Methodist Church. He was off in a flash. Religious discrimination, this was. And Congress would have none of it. Any church, Methodist, Catholic or Jewish, must be allowed to have its meetings; otherwise, it will be retarded. We trembled on the brink of ruin.

Two regulars in the art of heavy-handed badinage rushed to his aid. Rankin of Mississippi, was aroused by a strange and shabby clothing, cried that the same fate had overtaken the Masonic Lodge in his state. He cried for immediate action to save the fraternal orders of the country. And Michigan's Glass, Republican, inevitable Memphis topholes of House debate when things get out of control, rose with a leer on his face.

"You've been asking for it. This is a typical New Deal invasion into the churches. What more can you expect when Earl Browder in the same political bed as the President of the United States?"

It took Major Bulwinkle to get them back on the reservation. Patiently, and without fanfare, he used the quiet force of war statistics, and mentioned the fact that there was a war on. The boys surely could not accept so simple a statement as that, but they quieted. And that, considering everything, was a blessed improvement.

More Of The Same

Dewey, Dewey. Dewey. The name had a familiar ring, somehow, and it all came back to us last week when the Governor made his first big speech since the debacle in November. He sounded like a new man, we'll tell you. Here he was using vehemently that the United States get in there and pitch in the building of a peace, that we root in on the ground floor of international order. Republican Congressmen who heard him declared immediately, as if tentatively inspired, that he was a good thing for us. It seemed to us as if we was still building 'em for '44, a good three months too late.

For he was certainly taking the line he should have taken from Chicago onward. If he really meant business. And whether he referred to support that he offered for personal reasons, or was restricted by old-guard control within his party, last week's speech revealed once more the inadequacy of Republican leadership.

The report of reaction to his speech stirred that no change has been working among Republicans. A good two-thirds of the audience, the story went, was disappointed. Those people wanted some fire-eating, some Wallace-baiting, some high old invective. As in the Fall they preferred verbiage over analysis.

But, there were others among the listeners who applauded vigorously. Vermont's Senator Austin said the speech was "as sound as a nut," and good Republicans do not care to insist on what he meant by that last remark, for Governor Dewey's plea for all-out international co-operation, going even beyond Administration utterances, was

Statesmen At Work

(Serious, facetious and comic excerpts from the Congressional Record).

DURING debate on the farm census in the House when it appeared that the project would be crippled by a vote from the Benkin of Mississippi arose: I want to talk to the opponents of this measure for just a moment. I think you are making a serious mistake, and I am going to tell you why. I am on the Committee on the Census. I was on that committee when the first agricultural census was taken. It is more important today than it has ever been. Since 1936 farm life in America has changed more than it had in 50 years prior to that time. There are now over 100,000,000 acres of rural power lines and have electrified more than a million farm homes.

No Free Choice

Not too many North Carolina employers, for all the enlightenment that has been spreading around in the last few years, would cling to unemployment insurance if the compulsion for it were removed. The benefit of it are acknowledged. But the cost of it (starting at 3% of payrolls and scaling down only after a large reserve has been built up) is quite an item in most businesses.

Unemployment compensation was not the States' idea to begin with, anyhow. The ready-made bill was rammed down the State's throat by the Federal Government's blithe announcement that it was going to impose the tax, and if North Carolina wanted to pass the proper measure and to adopt the proper system, it could share in the proceeds. But the tax was going to be applied regardless. So said the Federals.

Since that time the Federals have given several passes at taking over the whole system. The States' men in Congress have held them off so far, but the prevailing opinion, and it is a decided one, is that unless the States increase the benefits paid under unemployment insurance and extend the coverage, the Federals will be back again.

Hence, when you read that a bill has been introduced in the Legislature to increase unemployment compensation from \$3.00 to \$4.00 a week for 20 weeks instead of 16, and to take in all employees of most kinds, instead of eight or more as at present, please do not look upon it as a sheer outburst of generosity on the part of the solons. Their choice is not wholly a free one. They have to add, or think they have to add, whether they say North Carolina's system, or by doing nothing to invite the Federals to take over, in which case unemployment insurance would really become expensive.

New Departure

We were as stumped as the next one, to hear what Judge Phillips had done in his civil court. We were with a high and fine disregard of honored tradition, he moved to outlaw liturgy in the court. When litigants failed to appear on schedule—as they have from time immemorial—he calmly set back the calendar a full week, and that was that.

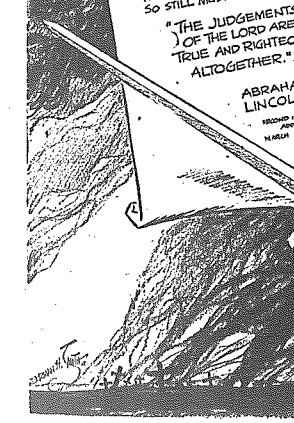
The Court House buzzed with the news next day. The most grizzled veterans, if not aghast, were taken aback—way back. This thing wasn't in the books. Courts don't behave that way in Mecklenburg, or elsewhere in North Carolina. They move along on a leisurely course of live-and-let-live, mostly. And calendars are as haphazard and informal as can be. But no more, not under Judge Phillips.

In so simple a matter as promptness of attendance, litigants will not henceforth be given an inch. The Judge made it pretty plain that he wasn't singling out Mecklenburg alone. He knew well enough that such conditions existed throughout the section. But when he called 'em to task, he meant it.

And it was the background against which this action took place which stirred the Contention. If you are not yet amazed at this turn, just reflect what conditions have been, and are still, in John Carpenter's criminal division of Superior Court down at the other end of the building. There is the court where anything can go wrong, any way. Heedless Collector John can stagger in with bundled hundreds of cases and calmly ask for no process on great batches of them; for one in one year (1940) three out of four matters were not heard, where cases are continued and prayers for judgment drag on and on into limbo.

And now, no more laxity in civil court. The shoe would fit the other foot.

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Life With A Bomber Group

By Marquis Childs

That is how he explains the record established by his group—getting the right men in the right places. The overall picture—how much air power has contributed to the winning of the war—is not their concern. In any event, that appraisal can come only after final victory, when a thorough and impartial study will be in order.

Life With A Bomber Group

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The executive officer of the base is Major J. L. Eppinger, who comes from John Nance Garner's home town, Davids, Texas. Eppinger is responsible for all the housekeeping for several thousand men on the base. He is responsible for bombs and fuel, as well as the minut details of living.

In London and in Washington you hear a great deal about "publicity for the air forces. I don't think these men are interested in publicity as such. But they do want the people back home to have some understanding of the magnitude and importance of the job they are doing. They do not want it taken for granted.